



MEDIA CONTACT:
Joanna Singleton
Jackson Spalding
(214) 269-4401
jsingleton@jacksonspalding.com

Woodall Rodgers Park Foundation Announces \$9 Million in New Private Donations to The Park

*Dallas Families Name the Hart Plazas and Promenade,
Children's Park Gazebo and Restaurant Pavilion*

DALLAS (February 24, 2011) – The Woodall Rodgers Park Foundation announced at a press conference today more than \$9 million in new private donations to The Park, a 5.2-acre park that will bridge over the Woodall Rodgers Freeway and create public green space in downtown Dallas. Construction is also progressing quickly. After this weekend, 50 percent of the beams will be in place to form The Park's structural foundation.

Gifts from Linda and Mitch Hart to name the Hart Plazas and Promenade, the Richard Fisher Family to name the Nancy Fisher Restaurant Pavilion, Cindy and Bill Ward to name the Children's Park Gazebo, and gifts from Lyda Hill and two anonymous donors total more than \$8.5 million.

"We believe The Park will be transformational for our city," said Richard Fisher. "We are delighted with the opportunity to name the Pavilion for Nancy Fisher, a woman whose devotion to children is exemplary. The Park's stage, free educational programming for children, and shared green space, made possible by gifts from the Muses, the Harts, the Wards, and other generous donors, will make this Dallas' premier recreational space."

Other recent gifts from the Hillcrest Foundation, Hoblitzelle Foundation, Jackson-Warren family, Dr. Bob & Jean Smith Foundation, Bobby Lyle, Linda Owen, Lauren and John Zogg, and other anonymous donors total more than \$850,000.

Elaine Agather, Linda Hart, Mitch Hart and Bob Shapard joined the Woodall Rodgers Park Foundation in 2011. The Foundation has completed over ninety percent of its strategic development campaign, and is resolved to finish the final phase of the campaign, \$17 million in private donations, before The Park opens next year.

"The vision of capping the highway that slices through downtown dates back to the very design of the freeway. Thanks to Dallas' great dreamers and doers, the vision is becoming a reality," said Linda Owen, president and CEO of the Woodall Rodgers Park Foundation. "Momentum is building as this historic project takes shape. As the excitement grows, we are counting on the creativity and determination of other generous donors to embrace The Park, an incredible gift of nature and beauty to refresh our souls and nurture our city."

About The Park

The Park will serve as a central gathering space for Dallas and its visitors to enjoy in the heart of the city. The 5.2-acre park will create an urban green space over the existing Woodall Rodgers Freeway between

Pearl and St. Paul Streets in downtown Dallas. Plans include a performance stage, restaurant, shaded walking paths, a dog park, a children's park, great lawn, water features, an area for games and much more.

Connectivity is central to The Park's purpose. The Park will promote increased pedestrian, trolley and bicycle use between Uptown, Downtown and the Arts District, contributing to a more walkable city center.

The Park will create a front lawn for the surrounding cultural offerings including the AT&T Performing Arts Center, Dallas Museum of Art, Morton Meyerson Symphony Hall, Nasher Sculpture Center, Trammell & Margaret Crow Collection of Asian Art, Booker T. Washington High School for the Visual & Performing Arts and the future Perot Museum of Nature and Science.

Construction on the deck plaza began in October 2009. The Park is expected to be complete in fall 2012.

Design, deck and tunnel construction are funded through a public-private partnership including \$20 million in bond funds from the City of Dallas, \$20 million in highway funds from the state and federal government through TxDOT, and about \$36 million from private donations, including major gifts from Chase and the W.W. Caruth, Jr. Foundation. In March 2009, The Park was selected to receive \$16.7 million in stimulus funds that are specifically for transportation enhancement projects. The Woodall Rodgers Park Foundation is in the final phase of the campaign to secure private funding for amenities construction, operations, programming and endowment.

The Park will be privately managed, operated and programmed by the Woodall Rodgers Park Foundation. The Foundation has studied great urban parks across the country and will bring "best practices" to The Park's operations, programming and maintenance.

The Park's design is led by The Office of James Burnett, Thomas Phifer and Partners, and Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. The Texas Department of Transportation selected Archer Western as the contractor for construction of the deck plaza. Bjerke Management Services provides project management services to the Woodall Rodgers Park Foundation.

Jody Grant serves as Chairman of the Board of the Woodall Rodgers Foundation and is joined by President and C.E.O., Linda Owen, and board members Elaine Agather, Nancy Best, Garrett Boone, Leo Corrigan, Ed Fjordbak, Sheila Grant, Linda Hart, Mitch Hart, Jeff Jackson, John Muse, Bob Shapard, Rob Walters and John Zogg.

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