



**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Angie Bertinot / Downtown District / [angie@downtowndistrict.org](mailto:angie@downtowndistrict.org) / 713-650-3022  
Whitney Radley / CKP / [whitney@theckpgroup.com](mailto:whitney@theckpgroup.com) / 832-930-4065 x106

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BREAKS GROUND  
ON SOUTHERN DOWNTOWN PARK, ANNOUNCES NAME  
AND PUBLIC ART PROGRAM**

**HOUSTON, TX** – Today, the Downtown Redevelopment Authority (DRA) hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on the future site of a new neighborhood park located at 1515 Fannin Street. DRA and Downtown District board members, Mayor Turner, Councilmembers and special guests were on site for the occasion, which also marked the unveiling of its official name: Trebly Park. (The park has previously been referred to as Southern Downtown Park.) Construction will begin immediately, with estimated completion in March 2022. The park will

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## **Downtown Redevelopment Authority breaks ground on Southern Downtown Park, announces name and public art program**

include Tout Suite, a fast-casual cafe operated by La Vie de St Concepts, the restaurateurs behind Tout Suite in EaDo and SWEET; large- and small-breed dog runs; tranquil seating areas; a flexible event lawn; and a robust public art program, including an inaugural gateway installation by Quintessenz and a playscape by Brooklyn-based art duo Chiaozza.

“We aim for Trebly Park to become a destination that reflects the character of this emerging Downtown neighborhood,” said Curtis Flowers, DRA board chair. “The genesis for the name was inspired in parts by location, shape and the fun factor. Trebly Park is located on Block 333 of Downtown Houston, on a site defined by three city block corners. Trebly, meaning ‘three times as much,’ is fresh in spirit, rolls off the tongue and is not moored in convention. By its definition, Trebly Park implies that the park has much to offer those who visit it in terms of experience with ‘three times as much’ fun, play, interaction, relaxation and deliciousness. We also hope the grounds will serve as a ‘third space,’ or communal space, for area residents, students, workers and visitors.”

Public art will be a defining feature of the new park: Visitors will be greeted by a dynamic gateway installation at the northern entrance near Fannin and Bell that will rotate every two years. German artists Thomas Granseuer and Tomislav Topic of Quintessenz, known for site-specific works that distill the essence of art to color and form, have been selected to create the inaugural installation. Featuring layers of PVC mesh painted in different color gradients and suspended at canopy height over a square frame, *Porta Pigmenta* will visually and functionally draw visitors into the park; a “floating art” installation, the fabric will create waves of color that constantly change with the wind and the light. Quintessenz will partner with local artist Kelly O’Brien of Fenris LLC who will be providing engineering support, fabricating the structure and assisting with installation.

The L-shaped property will serve as a “backyard” for neighborhood residents and employees, with a central lawn framed by lush garden zones with seating and water features on the north (bordering Bell Street) and the south (bordering Leeland Street). Its design focuses on accessibility for cyclists and safe pedestrian connections: the park will feature a BCycle station, bike racks and a bike repair station and distinctive zones will be connected by a broad, curved, Live Oak-lined walkway stretching from the southeast corner to the northwest corner.

Trebly Park will be home to La Vie de St Concepts’ second outpost of Tout Suite, their popular EaDo cafe. The all-day cafe will offer counter service for breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks daily, along with weekend brunch. Tout Suite will also serve coffee, juice, craft beer, wine and bubbly along with its signature pastries and baked goods, which will be prepared at the Commerce Street commissary and delivered fresh daily. The 2,400-square-foot cafe will feature indoor seating for approximately 70 guests and outdoor seating for approximately 48 guests under a canopy of trees.

Just beyond the outdoor seating area, a whimsical playscape by Chiaozza will provide entertainment for children. *Whale Bone Dinner Party*, a multi-piece sculpture made from hand-

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painted fiberglass, features a series of “curious fragments” that are meant to evoke the feeling of discovering oneself on a remote island after being lost at sea. The playable, patterned pieces invite interaction and discovery.

Programming at Trebly Park will take a cue from the changing demographics of Southern Downtown, which has seen an increase of more than 1,700 new residential units since 2012. A schedule of events such as live music, movies and art will attract the area’s prominently young-professional residents. Once open, Trebly Park will be managed and programmed by the Downtown District, similar to the operation agreement between the Downtown District and the City of Houston for Market Square Park.

Structura has been selected as the general contractor. Lauren Griffith Associates developed designs for the park based on a site programming report by Project for Public Spaces (PPS), which established recommendations for activities, amenities and events based on extensive public engagement in 2018. Gensler is providing architectural services for the on-site cafe and other structures; Gandy<sup>2</sup> Lighting Design is providing lighting design services; electrical engineering by Hunt & Hunt engineering; structural engineering by Henderson Rogers, Inc.; mechanical engineering by T&D Engineers; Kuo & Associates is providing civil engineering; and kitchen food service consulting and design by Ala Carte Consulting and C&T Design & Equipment.

A press kit with park renderings, a site plan, aerial maps and additional background is available at <http://bit.ly/TreblyPark>

**ABOUT DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

The Downtown Redevelopment Authority (DRA) facilitates positive development of the area within the Tax Increment Zone #3 (TIRZ #3) boundaries. Tax increment dollars collected within the boundaries of the Zone are reinvested back into the Zone through the Board of Directors. It accomplishes this by providing financial incentives through public/private sector partnerships designed to make Downtown Houston a place where Houstonians and visitors want to live, work and play. For more information, visit [downtowntirz.com](http://downtowntirz.com).

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