



**WORTHAM INSURANCE CENTENNIAL YEAR
CELEBRATED WITH \$750,000 DONATION
FOR BUFFALO BAYOU PARK**

HOUSTON, Feb. 17, 2015 – Wortham Insurance, with support from leading insurance carriers, is marking Wortham’s centennial year in 2015 with a \$750,000 gift to Buffalo Bayou Partnership for Buffalo Bayou Park.

Wortham is the largest independent insurance broker headquartered in Texas, and Wortham Chairman Richard M. Blades said the gift represents Wortham’s “thank you” for the opportunity to serve the Houston community for the past 100 years. Buffalo Bayou Partnership will use the funds to help create the **Wortham Insurance Visitor Center**, the primary visitor gateway to Buffalo Bayou Park. The facility is under construction near Sabine Street just west of downtown Houston and is scheduled to open later this year.

“Our 100-year anniversary gives our entire company a chance to ‘pay it forward’ and continue the tradition of community philanthropy established by our founder, Gus S. Wortham. We’re excited about supporting this important Houston initiative and being a part of Buffalo Bayou Park, a beautiful new amenity that will enhance the quality of life in Houston for generations to come.” More than half of Wortham’s 500 employees live and work in Houston, and Blades said many plan to provide volunteer hours to help maintain the park.

Joining Wortham in the donation to Buffalo Bayou Partnership were a number of insurance carriers, including Chubb & Son; American International Group, Inc.; Liberty Mutual Insurance; Ace Group; CNA Insurance; Texas Mutual Insurance Company; Zurich Insurance Services; Ironshore; The Travelers Companies, Inc.; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas; and The Hanover Insurance Group.

When it opens in the summer of 2015, the Wortham Insurance Visitor Center will serve as the primary gateway into Buffalo Bayou Park. Located in The Water Works area of the park near the Sabine Street Bridge and between Allen Parkway and Memorial Drive, the Wortham Insurance Visitor Center will include an information desk, restrooms and a bike rental facility. It will be topped by the Wortham Insurance Terrace that will offer views of an expansive lawn and the Houston skyline. Plans call for the Wortham Insurance Terrace to be available to host special events.

“We’re excited to add Wortham Insurance to the list of leading companies and individuals that are throwing their support behind Buffalo Bayou Park. The Wortham Insurance Visitor Center will be a centerpiece for the park and a gateway to everything our park offers, including hike and bike trails, kayak/bike rentals, an amazing dog park, a creative nature play area, and gathering places for residents and visitors to picnic, relax and attend live artistic performances,” said Anne Olson of Buffalo Bayou Partnership.

Click here for a rendering of The Water Works area featuring the Wortham Insurance Visitor Center:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/9izr33foue6dwr1/Waterworks_Revised%20Rendering_Final.jpg?dl=0

About Wortham

Founded in Houston in 1915, Wortham Insurance is among the nation's largest privately owned insurance brokers. Wortham specializes in insurance brokerage, risk management programs, and employee benefits consulting. In addition to its headquarters in Houston, Wortham maintains offices in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth and San Antonio.

Wortham annually places client premium of more than \$1.4 billion through its limited partnership – John L. Wortham & Son, L.P. – operating under the general partnership of Wortham, L.L.C.

About Buffalo Bayou Partnership

Founded in 1986, Buffalo Bayou Partnership is the 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization transforming and revitalizing Buffalo Bayou, Houston's greatest natural resource. For more information, visit www.buffalobayou.org.

The \$58 million Buffalo Bayou Park – Shepherd to Sabine project is a collaboration of Buffalo Bayou Partnership, the City of Houston through Houston Parks & Recreation Department and Harris County Flood Control District. For the first 30 years after the park opens, Downtown TIRZ #3 will contribute \$2 million per year for the park's maintenance and operations. The Kinder Foundation committed a \$30 million catalyst gift for the project, and Buffalo Bayou Partnership has raised the remaining \$23 million for the improvements. For more information about the park improvements, please visit www.buffalobayoupark.org.

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