AN INTRODUCTION
Welcome to the first issue of the Hance Park Newsletter. This monthly electronic publication is intended to provide updates to the community about the Margaret T. Hance Park Revitalization Project. The 32-acre park is located over the I-10 tunnel in downtown, between 5th Avenue to the west and 3rd Street to the east. It is maintained by the City of Phoenix through a partnership with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT).

The newsletter is brought to you by the Hance Park Partner Coalition. The Coalition encourages everyone to share this newsletter with family, friends and the organizations in which they are involved to help provide information about this project that plays a major role in the transformation of Phoenix’s downtown core.

To receive the newsletter by e-mail or ask questions or share comments about the project, please contact Hance.Park@Phoenix.gov. It also can be read by visiting Phoenix.gov/Parks/HanceRevitalization. Additionally, that webpage is the best place to follow the latest updates about the project and park.

The Coalition thanks you for your interest and support in the project, and is excited to share its continuing progress.

ABOUT THE PROJECT AND HANCE PARK PARTNER COALITION
The Margaret T. Hance Park Revitalization Project is a public-private partnership led by the Hance Park Partner Coalition, consisting of the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department, Phoenix Community Alliance and Hance Park Conservancy.

Funding for the Hance Park Revitalization Project, estimated at $100 million, will come from public and private sources. A fundraising campaign is being led by the Phoenix Community Alliance and Hance Park Conservancy.

The project took an important step forward on May 21, 2018, when an updated park site plan and designs were unveiled to the community during a public open house held at the Irish Cultural Center, which borders the park’s south edge near Central Avenue.

A public meeting was held on November 13, 2019 at Burton Barr Central Library to share the latest project updates, and City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department staff have attended multiple meetings with stakeholders between August and November 2019.

The most recent site plans and designs, updated in November 2019, are viewable at Phoenix.gov/Parks/HanceRevitalization.

The final Hance Park Master Plan was approved by the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Board in March 2014, with refinements approved by the Board in April 2016. Construction on Phase 1A of the project, to include a multi-generational play area on the west side of the park, is scheduled to begin in spring 2020.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING
The next public meeting, to gather community input about the area around the historic Winship House near 3rd Avenue and Portland Street, is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 29 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Burton Barr Central Library’s second floor College Depot Auditorium.
ABOUT THE DESIGN TEAM
HargreavesJones (previously Hargreaves Associates) is leading the design of the Hance Park Revitalization Project in conjunction with Lake Flato Architects.

HargreavesJones has been at the forefront of landscape architecture and planning for more than 30 years. It is globally renowned for the transformation of neglected urban sites, waterfronts and campuses into memorable places that have become icons for their cities. The firm has won more than 100 national and international awards.

Earlier this year, Lake Flato Architects was ranked as the No. 1 firm in the nation by Architect Magazine, being recognized for its ability to combine design with sustainability. The rankings include 128 of the country’s top architectural firms that were judged based on business, sustainability and design.

Local firms Norris Design, Ritoch-Powell and Associates, Structural Grace, Wright Engineering Corporation, Atek Engineering Consultants, Affiliated Engineers, Meyer Borgman Johnson, Aqua Engineering and Thinking Caps Design are part of the extensive design team. The project’s construction manager at risk (CMAR) is Haydon Construction.

FIESTA BOWL COMMITS $2 MILLION TO REVITALIZATION PROJECT
On August 19, 2019, Phoenix Community Alliance announced a seven-figure financial donation made by the Fiesta Bowl toward the Hance Park Revitalization Project. Long celebrated as a leading local community organization, the Fiesta Bowl is the first major financial supporter of the project.

The $2 million Fiesta Bowl legacy gift will be used specifically for the newly developed “Fiesta Bowl Play at Hance Park,” which will be constructed on the west side of the park and open in late 2020 in conjunction with Fiesta Bowl’s 50th anniversary season.

The 20,000-square-foot play area will include a variety of unique features, including climbing structures that resemble a black-tailed rabbit, kit fox and great horned owl; a climbing wall and climbing net; a water play feature and sand play area. Several shade structures are incorporated into the design, and much of the play area will be bordered by mature shade trees and other vegetation. The north edge of the play area will join with an escarpment that will run through the middle of the west side of the park. The latest play area design was updated in October 2019 and can be viewed at Phoenix.gov/Parks/HanceRevitalization.
AGREEMENT WITH THE JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Representatives from the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department met multiple times in recent months with representatives from the Japanese Friendship Garden to address concerns about the location of the Fiesta Bowl Play Area. City staff is thankful for the time spent by garden representatives to meet, find a solution and strengthen the long-standing relationship.

Modifications made to the design of the play area include:

- Shifting the entire play area 14 feet to the north
- Moving the entrance from the south side to the east side of the play area
- The walking path along the south edge of the play area was widened
- A planted buffer was added along the west and south edge of the play area

ON OCTOBER 29, 2019, THE ORGANIZATIONS FINALIZED AND SIGNED THIS JOINT STATEMENT:

“Representatives from the Japanese Friendship Garden and staff from the City of Phoenix met multiple times in recent weeks to discuss modifications to the approved master plan for the Hance Park Revitalization Project, specifically discussing the park’s new play area that will be located near the Garden. The City and the Garden have been working together as partners to reach mutually acceptable design and operation plan modifications related to the play area. The purpose of the modifications is to help preserve the Garden’s tranquil environment while fulfilling the continuity of the park’s master plan. Both organizations are excited to continue their work together as the Hance Park Revitalization Project progresses.”

ON NOVEMBER 13, 2019, THE ORGANIZATIONS SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING THAT INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING FIVE AGREEMENT POINTS, IN SUMMARY:

1. Within one year of completion of the play area, an acoustician’s analysis will be performed by a mutually agreed upon consultant to determine if a wall is needed to mitigate noise generated by use of the play area. If scientific evidence (no more than 60 decibels) supports building a wall to mitigate noise from the play area, the City will pay for the wall to be constructed.

2. Once construction of the play area is completed, the City will work with Garden staff to post signs and position City staff near the entrance to the play area when notified by Garden staff of wedding ceremonies being held in the Garden.

3. The City agrees to continually assess the status of parking lot space near the Garden and in other areas of Hance Park.

4. The City agrees to install LED lighting for the play area and will work to ensure that positioning of light fixtures will not affect the Garden.

5. As part of construction of Phase 1A, Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) will need to do repair work on joints that are located within the area of the Garden. Following joint repair, ADOT will bear the financial burden of replacing the Garden to pre-construction conditions.
PHOENIX COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
Phoenix Community Alliance is excited to be leading the fundraising campaign for a revitalized Hance Park. The improvements to this signature park in downtown Phoenix will be another demonstration that Phoenix is thriving as we continue to evolve as a world-class city.

Thank you to the Fiesta Bowl for its tremendous commitment with the revitalization project’s first major donation, funding the “Fiesta Bowl Play at Hance Park” multi-generational play area. Thanks also to other organizations that are supporting the fundraising efforts: Arizona Community Foundation, True North Studio, Okland Construction and Dig Studio.

For more information on Phoenix Community Alliance, visit our website or email: info@phoenixcommunityalliance.com

HANCE PARK CONSERVANCY
The Hance Park Conservancy was established in 2010. It is a community-based, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is the catalyst for a new chapter of public space renewal in Phoenix, advocating for the park and protecting its future.

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