



NEWS RELEASE

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Bunker Hill 5th Graders and Amegy Bank Raise \$3,400 for Preservation of Hermann Park's Sam Houston Monument

What began ten years ago as a civic project recommended by the Mayor of Houston to Bunker Hill Elementary 5th Graders this year celebrates a milestone of personal and charitable achievement. The Houston Parks and Recreation Department will kick off the 10 Year Celebration of the Adopt-a-Monument Ceremony benefiting the Sam Houston Monument on Thursday, May 18th at 10:00 a.m. The ceremony will recognize Bunker Hill Elementary School students for their continued efforts to raise money for the preservation of the Bayou City's iconic Sam Houston Monument located in the heart of Hermann Park. Bunker Hill students, along with their new fundraising partners Amegy Bank of Texas, will participate in the ceremony by presenting a check for in the amount of \$3,400 as this year's donation. Events are scheduled to take place at the base of the monument on the south side of Hermann Park located at 6001 Fannin.

"This event celebrates a hallmark of community cooperation and involvement," said Joe Turner, Director of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "When elementary school students partner with representatives from Houston's business and financial communities to preserve our City's treasured monuments and works of art, it shows all of us the true meaning of civic and community service. We appreciate the work of Bunker Hill Elementary, Amegy Bank of Texas, and the Adopt-a-Monument program."

By participating in the Adopt-a-Monument program, Bunker Hill Elementary students adopted the Sam Houston Monument in 1997. The school will celebrate the 10th year of this school project recommended to the class by former Mayor Bob Lanier. This year, the students earned a record \$1,700 by organizing raffles, prize contests and letter writing campaigns.

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“This year, the desire to participate in this 5th grade project was so great that two committees were formed,” said Pam Ingersoll, Municipal Art Coordinator with the Houston Municipal Art Office. “The two groups also participated in the Municipal Art Office’s bronze workshops in which the students learned to clean and wax bronze works of art and actually treated 11 works of art, saving the City additional funds.”

The Houston Municipal Art Conservation Office developed the Adopt-a-Monument program in 1996. The purpose of the program is to provide Houstonians with the opportunity to preserve public art and monuments by adopting specific pieces for a five-year period. The Municipal Art Office currently has 30 area sculptures up for adoption. Information about this program can be obtained by visiting the [Houston Municipal Art](#) Office website.

This year, Bunker Hill Elementary welcomed their new partner in this charitable endeavor, Amegy Bank of Texas. Amegy Bank offered to match the donation raised by the Bunker Hill 5th graders bringing the grand total for this year’s donation to \$3,400.

“We are proud to support these hard-working students in their efforts to honor one of the most significant leaders in our state’s history,” said Mark DeVaney, Vice President, Private Banking for Amegy Bank of Texas. “As a proud parent of two Bunker Hill Lions, it is gratifying to see their school partnering with outside entities to achieve a common goal.”

Last month, the monument was restored and treated - an operation totaling \$18,000 that was completely underwritten by the school’s yearly contributions.

For more information on the Sam Houston Monument, or for information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department please call 713-845-1135 or visit our website at www.houstonparks.org.