

# Smither Park

Building A Better Community – Creatively



## WHAT'S NEXT FOR SMITHER PARK?

**G**reat news! The City has approved plans for construction of the sculptural elements and we can move forward to the next phase. As work continues on the 400 foot long Memory Wall, Steve Goodchild of Goodchild Builders and his contractors will begin installing drainage, irrigation, electrical and landscaping. That work will have a big impact on the property.

In the meantime, we need landscaping experts to help make the right decisions about the backdrop for the Memory Wall. We've received many suggestions but need the right mix of experience and enthusiasm to help figure it out. Remember our commitments to sustainability, environmental impact and low cost.

We hope, with your help, our fundraising efforts are successful enough so we can build the sculptural elements – grotto, tunnels, meditation garden, swings and interactive tower – in 2013. All sculptures will be covered in mosaics so if you haven't come out to help on the Memory Wall, there's still plenty of work ahead.

As you think about year-end giving, remember Smither Park. The excitement about the Park and the positive impact it will have on our community continues to grow. The magic on Munger Street is becoming a reality.

Keep up to date at [orangeshow.org/smitherpark/](http://orangeshow.org/smitherpark/).

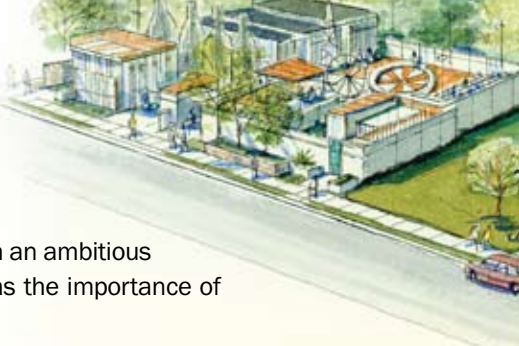


# GOING FOR THE GOLD, GIRL SCOUT STYLE!

To cap off her 12 years in scouting, Katelyn Wallace is aiming to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award with an ambitious project that is benefiting Smither Park! She hopes to create awareness of Smither Park as well as the importance of recycling.

Katelyn and fellow Girl Scouts and volunteers from Memorial High School came to Smither Park on two of the regular Saturday workdays to lead and be a part of a recycle training workshop. While many of the students sorted and organized materials in the warehouse, others worked on decorating the “ribbon” that runs through the entire 400 foot memorial wall. It was an incredible experience for all.

The three-part project includes: a donation drive for materials for the artists’ mosaics, bringing in everything from broken china to 50 aluminum baseball bats; a recycling workshop for the volunteers, helping them understand the many objects that could be used to build Smither Park; and a photography exhibit of the artists’ work displayed at The Raven Grill. All the photographs sold for \$100 each, with all proceeds



benefiting Smither Park. A couple of her photos were also on display at the TEXAS CONTEMPORARY Art Fair at the George R. Brown Convention Center from October 18 – 21, 2012.

Katelyn is also shooting a video of the workdays, posting artist and volunteer stories on YouTube (check the link on the Smither Park website).

And finally, to continue to create public awareness, her story was featured in her high school newsletter, The ANVIL, read by 4,000 Memorial High School students.

That’s golden, Katelyn!



# SMITHER PARK RAISES OVER \$14,000 FOR THE SWINGS

Community support for Smither Park has been an important focus for the project since the beginning. Developing a diverse and engaged donor base is a great way to create lasting awareness and excitement beyond just the Houston city limits. To achieve this, the Smither Park steering committee ran a 40-day campaign through Kickstarter in an effort to raise \$9,800 for the Swings at Smither Park. An online fundraising platform, Kickstarter is designed for individuals to donate small amounts of money toward a total goal, through which they receive a “reward” for their contribution. The concept is called crowdfunding, and since its inception in 2009



video. “[Smither Park] has been a Houston project... we want it to be an international project because we believe it’s going to be an international destination in the future,” said Langley. “Where art flourishes, community flourishes.” This sentiment clearly resonated with the 119 individuals who made a contribution to the project, many from outside of Houston including New York, Oregon, Washington and even Melbourne, Australia. Those who contributed will receive a variety of different rewards



based on their level of contribution. This could include a Smither Park sticker, t-shirt, handmade jewelry, limited-edition art objects by Smither Park artists, and even a special tour

Kickstarter has helped over 30,000 creative projects raise over \$350 million. “Swing for Smither Park,” as the campaign was called, not only met its \$9,800 goal but exceeded it, taking in a total of \$14,343.

Ashley Langley, the daughter of Smither Park founder Stephanie Smither, served as the face of the campaign, appearing in the main

of the residences in Huntsville, TX created by the park’s head designer Dan Phillips.

The success of Swing for Smither Park ensures that the Swings will be built, and will create a lot of smiles for many years to come. Huge thanks to all of our fantastic donors helping us to Swing for Smither Park!

## A GREAT COLLABORATION



Over the years Mayte Porris has photographed stills for movies, television shows, magazine features and newspapers. Her work has been included in group exhibitions around the country. She also considers herself an “emerging artist” in shadow box assemblages.

Her collaboration with her husband, Luis Lara, began nearly 30 years ago. Lara was working on his bachelor’s thesis about Mexican laborers in Nebraska and Porris photo-documented the immigrants, forging a new path for her as a photographer.

Now thanks to a recommendation by Lawndale Art Center’s exhibitions and programming director, Dennis Nance, the couple’s artistic journey continues. They are working and collaborating in a totally new media – concrete, bones and recycled objects.

“Nobody can stop me,” Porris said, adding that she’d like to decorate the entire park.



## FINDING INSPIRATION IN DAILY LIFE

Since she was a child in Mexico, Corazón Rodríguez has been developing her artwork. Rodríguez’s mother, Dr. Ivonne Govea, was a pupil of master muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros and collaborated with many artists, including sculptor Octavio Ponzanelli. Rodríguez learned many techniques she still uses today from observing these accomplished artists.

These skills, along with inspirations from nature, other cultures and her family, translate into Rodríguez’s work. Handmade ornamental tiles, fountains, sculptures and paintings reflect her intention to accentuate the beauty in life.

“My artwork is an interpretation of a parallel universe in which the emotions overcome the reality of average circumstances,” Rodríguez said. “When people view my artwork I like them to connect to my understanding, in the exchange of the conception they perceive towards my artwork.”

Rodríguez is founder of the D’ Vintage Code Art Company and the Instituto Genealogico A. C.

## FLYING OVER SMITHER PARK



Broden and Stockton Schipul, with their quadcopter video camera, created a fly-over video of Smither Park that can be seen at our website: [www.orangeshow.org/smitherpark](http://www.orangeshow.org/smitherpark)



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# Smither Park

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[orangeshow.org/smitherpark/](http://orangeshow.org/smitherpark/)

## OUR PARK IS PROGRESSING SO CREATIVELY BECAUSE OF YOU.

For the Park to continue on its beautiful journey, we need donations of materials as well as monetary gifts, fully tax deductible. Checks should be made to the Orange Show Center for Visionary Art/Smither Park and mailed to:

Smither Park  
2941 Chevy Chase  
Houston TX 77019

Or you may donate securely online through our website:  
[www.orangeshow.org](http://www.orangeshow.org)

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