

Rothko Chapel



2019 Annual Report

Contents

Fiscal Year 2019 / July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

For 49 years, the Rothko Chapel has been a beloved and internationally recognized Houston landmark.

The Rothko Chapel's mission is to create opportunities for spiritual growth and dialogue that illuminate our shared humanity and inspire action leading to a world in which all are treated with dignity and respect.

OPEN YOUR MIND

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Photo by Caitlin Ferrell



Dear Friends,

This past year can be aptly described as “What a year!” Although the Rothko Chapel closed its doors in March 2019 for the restoration of the Chapel and the initiation of the first phase of the *Opening Spaces* site development plan, more than 67,000 people visited the Chapel from over 88 countries. Our public programming engaged more than 3,119 people from all parts of the world and addressed critical issues such as the climate crisis, the power of nonviolence and social change and immigration reform. Through art and meditation, visitors to the Chapel discovered opportunities to renew their spirit, disconnect from the fast pace of life and escape the cacophony of the city. While this year was characterized in part by scaffolding and earth movers, it was also an exciting time when the Rothko Chapel discovered new partnerships to further its mission of illuminating our shared humanity while working at the intersection of art, spirituality and human rights.

We are particularly grateful for the numerous collaborative partners who helped make this year successful and impactful. As this annual reports details, having the opportunity to develop and present programs in different parts of Houston and beyond the city environs ensure that we expand the Chapel’s reach, share resources with other organizations and learn from people of diverse backgrounds who are at the forefront of spirituality, art and social change. Thanks to the support from universities and museums to consulates and community organizations, the Rothko Chapel was able to reach far beyond our campus making clear that the Rothko Chapel is a unique organization that is both a transformative place and a source of ideas and principles that transcend the physical space. We are particularly thankful for those places that opened their doors when the Chapel closed.

As we look forward to 2020, we do so with great anticipation knowing that in not too many months, the Chapel will reopen complete with a new skylight and entry sequence that will enhance the engagement with Mark Rothko’s paintings, as well as the overall meditative quality of and visitor experience in the Chapel. The Welcome House is scheduled to open in the Spring of 2020 and will include a gift shop and new educational resources focused on the Chapel’s history and future plans. Enhanced landscaping around the Chapel will provide a greater sense of sanctuary on the Chapel grounds and will include beautiful plantings and improved seating around the reflecting pool that features Barnett Newman’s *Broken Obelisk*. These are exciting times and we are so grateful for everyone who has contributed to the *Opening Spaces* campaign to date and continue to welcome your gifts as we raise the \$30 million needed to complete this important project.

Since its inception, the Rothko Chapel has always looked outward with a commitment to build community, further justice and provide the sacred space where each of us can discover through art and spiritual practice the truly important aspects of life that lead to a more resilient, ethical, sustainable and equitable world. As this report highlights, it is through the gifts of hundreds of individual and institutional donors that the Rothko Chapel is able to be open to all every day of the year, free of charge, and present the type of programming that enhances mutual respect, understanding and collective action.

We thank you for your support and look forward to our future work together.

Sincerely,

Michael Piana
Chair

David Leslie
Executive Director



Symposium participant adds a reflection on ways to address climate change to the Poet-Tree provided by Writers in the Schools (WITS). Photo credit Scott Dalton.

EXPLORING PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT Highlights

Spirituality and Mindful Living

The Rothko Chapel continued to offer a variety of experiences throughout the year that explored our shared humanity and provided opportunities for reflection, conversation and community building.

“Twelve Moments: Experiencing Spiritual and Faith Traditions” featured a contemplative practice from one of Houston’s diverse religious communities each month. The series explored universal themes such as resilience, difference, forgiveness, justice and renewal through the lenses of Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism and more. The season began with a community gathering held in conjunction with the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Harvey, providing space for story sharing, facilitated by Houston Playback Theater and The Jung Center’s Mind Body Spirit Institute. The series concluded with a meditation on environmental stewardship in the Zen Buddhist tradition, led by Houston Zen Center’s Dharma teacher and environmentalist, Mary Carol Edwards.

The Chapel observed four of the United Nations’ International Days of Recognition in partnership with local community organizations. Observations included an inspiring concert by the Silkroad Ensemble on International Day of Peace; a community gathering in solidarity with The oH Project: Oral Histories of HIV/AIDS in Houston, Harris County, and Southeast Texas on World AIDS Day; a breakfast and lively panel discussion on gender equity at the Houston Area Women’s Center on International Women’s Day; and a morning mindfulness walk commemorating World Environment Day at the Houston Arboretum & Nature Center.

Another highlight of the season was the Chapel’s 34th Annual Houston Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Founded thirty-four years ago in response to the bombing of a storefront mosque, leaders and members of nine religious traditions gathered to share prayers, readings, chants and reflections on the theme of ‘care for creation.’ A milestone in the development of interfaith dialogue in Houston, this year’s service included representatives from Baha’i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian traditions.



Transformative Power of Art

The Rothko Chapel collaborated with artists, musicians and dancers to present site-specific performances that animated a range of spiritual and social justice issues, including intercultural and interfaith exchange, criminal justice reform and climate change.

The 2018 Summer Sounds series brought world music to the Chapel and its grounds, including a lively performance from Austin-based Arab-Brazilian fusion band, Arazeel, and traditional, upbeat sets from Mariachi Imperial de America, a local mariachi family band. The fall season debuted with a special concert on International Day of Peace by Silkroad Ensemble, in residence at Moody Center for the Arts at Rice University and in collaboration with the Aga Khan Council. The concert lifted up the importance of

intercultural understanding needed to build a more peaceful and hope-filled world.

Continuing the discussion on criminal justice reform, San Antonio artist and professor Mark Menjivar presented the *Open Letters* project, engaging Texas communities in dialogue around capital punishment issues. Participants responded to letters written by prisoners on death row that described their experiences post-conviction. *Open Letters* was presented in conjunction with *Walls Turned Sideways: Artists Confront the Justice System*, an exhibition at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston featuring works by artists around the country that address the criminal justice system, mass incarceration, and the prison-industrial complex.

Total programs: **51**

Total program presenters: **123**

Total Attendees: **3,119**

Leading up to the Spring 2019 Symposium on the climate crisis, the Chapel and DiverseWorks co-presented *Dancing on Thin Ice* with Chicago-based dance company, The Seldoms. A discussion on climate change and the lasting impact of Hurricane Harvey followed the performance.

The season concluded with "Poetic Reflections" by Gerling-Mut Duo in celebration of World Interfaith Harmony Week. The performance featured music selections based on meditations, sacred texts and religiously inspired poetry by composers of different religious backgrounds and nationalities. Dr. Ingrid Gerling on violin and Dr. Andreea Mut on piano shared a universal experience of spirituality through music.

2018-19 Program Partners

Bayou Bliss Yoga
Bering Memorial UMC
Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center
for Human Rights and Justice at the
University of Texas School of Law
Compassionate Houston
Consulate General of India – Houston
Contemporary Arts Museum Houston
DiverseWorks
Gerling-Mut Duo
Houston Arboretum & Nature Center
Houston Area Women's Center
Houston Grand Opera Co
Houston Immigration Legal
Services Collaborative
Houston Museum of Natural Science
Houston Playback Theatre
The Jung Center's Mind Body Spirit Institute
Living Well Therapies
Mahatma Gandhi Library-Houston
Moody Center For The Arts-Rice University
The oH Project
Phillip Hall Singers
Ryan White Planning Council
The Seldoms
Silkroad Ensemble
Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy
Services (t.e.j.a.s.)
Transart Foundation for Art & Anthropology
University of Houston
University of St. Thomas, Houston
UPROSE
Writers in the Schools



Inspiring Action for Social Change

Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration

In honor of the life and work of the Rev. Dr. King and coinciding with the Houston-wide Gandhi Sesquicentennial Celebration, the Chapel hosted a conversation with former Indian Ambassador Nirupama Rao and civil rights activist and organizer Rev. Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr. Presented in partnership with the Mahatma Gandhi Library-Houston, the program explored the influence of Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy and strategies of nonviolence on Dr. King and the civil rights movement in a discussion moderated by Melanie Lawson, journalist and Chapel board member. A classical Indian music performance by Indrajit Banerjee

on sitar and Shantilal Shah on tabla introduced the program, and opening remarks by Mayor Sylvester Turner and Consul General of India, Houston, Dr. Anupam Ray, highlighted Gandhi's lasting impact on social justice movements in the US and around the world. Ambassador Rao and Dr. LaFayette emphasized the relevance and resurgence of nonviolent practices in youth and women's movements across the globe, and described techniques for diffusing conflict and advocating for justice. The insightful program concluded with an acapella performance of freedom songs by the Phillip Hall Singers.

“Gandhi and King’s actions caught the imagination of humankind, creating a path for future generations and inculcating a culture of peace. They were forthright, courageous, teaching self-discipline, ethical, embodying self-sacrifice and spirituality, appealing to the spirit of service in each of us.”

—Nirupama Rao, Former Indian Ambassador to the US



Immigration and Family Separation Crisis: A Call to Understand, Connect and Act

In response to the ongoing human rights crisis at our country's southern border, the Rothko Chapel and the Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative (HILSC) partnered to hold a thoughtful, non-partisan community gathering. The discussion engaged Houstonians on why Central American families are fleeing their homes to seek refuge in the US, and how family separation and detention further the unjust criminalization of migrants. Program attendees heard first-hand accounts of the dynamics on the border and in Houston-area immigration detention centers, and learned about actions we can take on local, state and national levels to address this pressing human rights issue. Other participating organizations included Iglesia Episcopal San Mateo, Tahirih Justice Center, American Bar Association Children's Immigration Law Academy, Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance of Catholic Charities, and the *Houston Chronicle*.

“We talk about climate change as if we need to heal the planet, but we really need to fix ourselves, our internal lives.”

– Steve Kolmes, *Navigating Climate Change: An Interfaith Panel*



Photos by Scott Dalton

Spring Symposium Toward a Better Future: Transforming the Climate Crisis

February 28 – March 2, 2019

Following the success of the 2017 symposium on criminal justice reform, in spring 2019 the Rothko Chapel partnered with the Biology Department at the University of St. Thomas to host a three-day symposium focused on the critical topic of climate change, its impact on vulnerable communities, and mitigation efforts taking place on local and national levels. Over 240 attendees participated in ten programs with topics ranging from “Legislation and Public Policy Strategies” and “Communicating Climate Change” to “Environmental Injustices Faced by Frontline, Indigenous, and Vulnerable Communities” and “Impact of Climate Change on the Mind, Body, and Spirit.” Through plenary presentations, panels, film, and engagement with presenters from diverse sectors, the

symposium explored ways to achieve an equitable zero emission, low carbon economy.

Timely keynote addresses given by *New York Times* international climate reporter Somini Sengupta and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner revealed the interrelated dimensions of local and global climate change, including the personal, institutional and public sector practices and policies needed to create a more livable and sustainable future. The symposium explored existential and spiritual dimensions of climate change through poetry, morning meditations, an interfaith discussion, and an art installation reflecting on destruction after Hurricane Harvey presented at Transart Foundation for Art and Anthropology. A screening of a film on Iceland’s melting glaciers by Rice University

professors Dominic Boyer and Cymene Howe, and Icelandic filmmaker Ragnar Hansonn was also featured. The weekend concluded with a panel of Texas-based environmental policy experts, providing attendees with updates on current policy initiatives and advice on how to effectively advocate for our neighborhoods and cities.

Inspired by the speakers’ knowledge, diversity of topics, and the use of art to address both the scientific implications and human impact of climate change, attendees left the three-day event with renewed and deepened commitments to engage in local environmental advocacy and support green energy in Houston and beyond. For the Chapel, the symposium reinforced the need to increase educational and organizing efforts, and to continue to prioritize climate change action in its public programming into 2020.

“This has to be an inter-generational movement. There is no way youth can change it by themselves. We have to work together to figure it out.”

–Juan Elizondo, *Young Activists Speak Out Panel*



Photo by Chiquita Jones

Annual Frances Tarlton “Sissy” Farenthold Endowed Lecture Series in Peace, Social Justice and Human Rights

In 2018, the Rothko Chapel began a two-year programmatic initiative to support advocacy and activism on climate change. Presented in partnership with The Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice at The University of Texas School of Law, a lecture and discussion with renowned Puerto Rican attorney and climate justice activist Elizabeth Yeampierre kicked-off the initiative at the Chapel. As executive director of UPROSE, Brooklyn’s oldest Latino community-based

organization, and co-chair of Climate Justice Alliance, Yeampierre spoke about the urgent need for community-led action to counter the mounting forces of climate change, which disproportionately impact poor communities of color. During her lecture and follow-up conversation with Houston environmental activist Bryan Parras, Yeampierre explained that her advocacy emerged from necessity, following her own community’s exposure to pollutants and environmental threats.

“The path to climate justice is local and frontline-led... We must focus on community control of land [and] manufacturing of renewable energy, providing direct benefits to the local community.”

- Elizabeth Yeampierre

Toxic Tour of Houston

In early spring, Juan Parras and Yvette Arellano of Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (t.e.j.a.s.) hosted a bus tour that visited toxic sites in and around the greater Houston community, focused in the East End. t.e.j.a.s. originated the toxic tour over 20 years ago as an educational tool for individuals to gain a hands-on understanding of environmental justice issues. Tour attendees were introduced to some of the largest refineries and chemical plants surrounding Houston’s neighborhoods and schools, gaining a new awareness of community health concerns and environmental inequities and injustices.



Photo by Lexi Tsien-Shiang

EXPANDING THE CHAPEL'S REACH



Rothko Chapel in the Community

The Rothko Chapel's mission emphasizes engagement with the community beyond the physical boundaries of its site. Through fellowships, workshops and interfaith convenings, the Chapel took part in conversations across a wide range of issues, disciplines, communities, and locales.

Highlights in the fall and winter of 2018 included Chapel participation in a fellowship at Fordham University in New York City and the Shaker Museum in Mount Lebanon, New York, that explored Shaker Art, Design and Religion with experts from around the country. The experience brought many insights into relationships between art and religion in museum spaces. In November of 2018, staff members presented workshops at the Parliament of World Religions in Toronto, including a session with colleagues from Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (t.e.j.a.s.), the

Institute for Spirituality and Health, and the Interfaith Environmental Network of Houston, titled "Now We Rebuild: Hope, Resiliency, and Social Justice Post-Hurricane Harvey."

The Chapel entered 2019 by joining the United Religions Initiative and a select group of young leaders from across the country to attend the fifth annual Symposium on "The Role of Religion and Faith-Based Organizations in International Affairs" at the United Nations in New York City. In March, Chapel staff participated in a conversation about "Spirituality and Public Action," sponsored by Rice University's Religion and Public Life Program and The Jung Center. The Chapel contributed to the Texas Association of Museums' 2019 Annual Meeting in El Paso by collaborating with fellow presenters from the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas and the Chinati Foundation in Marfa, to present "Building As You Go While Keeping Them Inspired: Creating Engaging Volunteer Programs for Unique Spaces."

After closing the Chapel for restoration in March as part of the *Opening Spaces* campus development, a robust offering of off-site programs were presented with wide-ranging content that strengthened the Chapel's connections to its community of artists, spiritual seekers, activists, supporters, partners and friends. In April, the Chapel partnered with the Hines School of Architecture and Design at the University of Houston to present "Texas Light: The Art and Architecture of Rothko Chapel," featuring internationally renowned lighting designer George Sexton of George Sexton Associates, architect Stephen Cassell of Architecture Research Office (ARO) and *Opening Spaces* campaign chair Christopher Rothko. Exploring the role of light in creating intentional experiences, the discussion was moderated by UH Art Historian and professor Dr. Sandra Zalman.

In May, the Chapel collaborated with the Houston Museum of Natural Science to present an illustrated talk by Rothko Chapel board member and neurologist, Dr. Aziz Shaibani. "Neuroscience and Visual Art: The Complex Relationship of Light, Color and the Brain" focused on the physical properties of light and the way the brain processes light and color, providing insight into the complex relationship between light, perception and art.

In conjunction with Pride Houston, Inc. and the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston's exhibition *Stonewall 50*, Chapel staff and Guides facilitated moments of self-guided reflection with prompts to promote contemplation and a deeper engagement with the exhibition. Attendees' take-away included ways each can further equality in the community.

Rothko Chapel Ambassadors: The Guild and Guides

Guild

The Chapel Guild, comprised of 46 dedicated individuals, reflect Houston's diverse professional, cultural and religious communities. Volunteers include artists, engineers, educators, business owners, parents, retirees, students, and more. The energy, commitment, and talents of Guild members enhance every aspect of the Chapel's work. The Chapel is fortunate to rely on Guild members to extend hospitality, assist with public programs and private services, and to fulfill essential off-site roles as ambassadors at community events.

During the temporary closing of the Chapel, Guild members helped extend the Chapel's presence in the community as they hosted an information table for visitors outside of the Chapel offices, supported various off-site programs, and participated in group volunteer activities at the Houston Food Bank, The Women's Home, and Plant It Forward Farms.



“My world has widened since I became a Rothko Chapel Guild member. I am constantly amazed by the visitors who come from all corners of the world. I particularly remember volunteering on Christmas Day, when I met a couple who had traveled from Belgium specifically to spend part of their holiday at the Chapel. I now feel more connected to the entire world and plan to continue playing a small role in helping others appreciate this spiritual space.”

- Guild Member Joan Schauer

“For a long time attending the Chapel gave me strength and support, and being a Guild member means being able to participate in giving back those efforts or to help pass along a sacred space to those who need it too.”

- Guild Member Ozzy Martinez

Guides

Over the past year, Chapel Guides cultivated deeper explorations of the Chapel through guided experiences for individuals and groups including the University of Houston Language and Culture Center, patrons of the Art Gallery of New South Wales, and the Council of the North American Society of Jungian Analysts, along with numerous schools, universities and local senior communities. Guides collaborated with the Chapel's Executive Director to present a guided reflection and discussion for a group of Israeli and Palestinian youth from Jerusalem Peacebuilders, as well as a class from the Yale School of Architecture led by Adam Yarinsky of Architecture Research Office (ARO), principal architect of the *Opening Spaces* project. Guides continued their training and education through an interpretive skills workshop and guided visits to local institutions such as Brazos Bend State Park and the de Menil's home.

Guild Volunteer Hours: **1,524**

21 guided visits with **376** total visitors

99 group visits with **1,924** total visitors



Photo by Daphne Yuanidis



Photo by Houston Jewish Federation

Sharing Life Events and Religious Experiences

Since its opening and dedication in 1971, the Rothko Chapel has hosted significant life events such as weddings, memorials, blessing ceremonies, christenings, and bar and bat mitzvahs. The Chapel provides a spiritual space to create memorable moments and bonds that can be rekindled and relived in the simple act of visiting the Chapel. This year's life events welcomed over 950 guests to the Chapel.

In addition to providing a memorable and unique space for significant life events, the Chapel hosts religious services and interfaith events. As an interfaith, non-denominational sanctuary, the Chapel offers an open, sacred

environment for services and experiences of diverse faith traditions.

This year, these included Jewish Shabbat services for Congregation Shma Koleinu, the concluding ceremony of a Catholic-Jewish Youth Summit with the Emery/Weiner School, St. Agnes Academy and Strake Jesuit Preparatory, a Jewish Shabbat service and dinner for the Houston Jewish Federation Young Adult Division, and a Christmas caroling experience with the St. John's School Kantorei.

WEDDINGS
10 Services
650 Guests

MEMORIALS
4 Services
313 Guests

BLESSING CEREMONIES
1 Service
31 Guests

RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCES
7 Services
352 Guests

“We couldn’t be happier with this experience. Our guests frequently mentioned how moved they were by the beauty of the space and the smoothness of the service. Somehow, this managed to exceed our (pretty high!) expectations.”

“My love of Rothko’s work and the desire to be there in the Chapel fulfilled a personal experience of a lifetime! The silent but moving paintings and the stillness I found in the room will be with me always.”

“Rothko embodies all that our friend held dear: spirituality, inclusivity, social justice, art.”

“Having visited the Chapel before, we knew that the ceremony would be quite a different experience for everyone involved. With the Rothko Chapel, we knew that the space and the ceremony would be respected to deliver a poignant and meditative experience.”

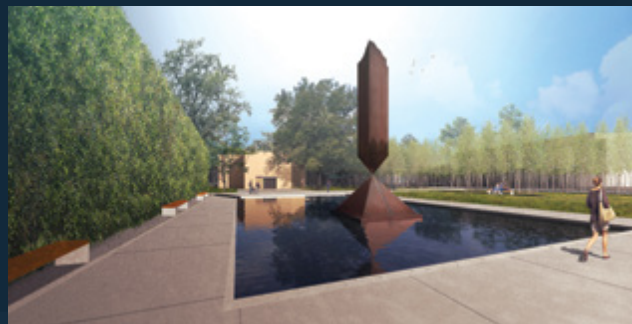
“I couldn’t be happier that the Rothko is even closer to my heart after our perfect day there. I hope to have a vow renewal here in sometime in 20/30/50 years to remember the beautiful moments that we were privileged enough to have for our wedding.”



OPENING spaces

A Campaign for the Rothko Chapel

In March 2019, the Rothko Chapel closed to the public to begin executing the *Opening Spaces* Master Plan. The centerpiece of the master plan is the restoration of the Rothko Chapel to enhance the visitor experience and accommodate growing audiences. In addition to the Chapel restoration, the expanded and redeveloped campus will result in new and upgraded facilities and greenspaces that reflect its stature as a world-class destination. This \$30 million project seeks to realize the artist's and founders' original vision for the Chapel, while growing the Chapel's organizational and programmatic capacity.



Rendering of the new plantings and improved seating around the *Broken Obelisk*



Rendering of the expanded campus

Opening Spaces elements include:

- Restore the Chapel in order to enhance the meditative quality of the sanctuary allowing for the paintings and space to be experienced as they were intended by the artist. The building interior will be restored to its original proportions, with a reconfigured skylight, lighting design and reimagined entryway. In the sanctuary, louvers will provide a gentle light that will preserve the paintings while enhancing their presentation.
- Construct a north campus featuring new collaborative public spaces developing land owned by the Chapel on the north side of Sul Ross Street:

Welcome House, which will house didactic and historical displays, a bookstore and gift shop, and serve as a gathering point for groups and tours.

Administration and Archives Building, which will foster research and support expanded operations.

Program Center, which will accommodate an enriched range of public programs, receptions and presentations, including dance, music, exhibitions and film screenings, as well as symposia, lectures and workshops.

New energy facility that employs second floor placement of mechanical and control equipment and a new back-up generator will ensure that the Chapel will be protected from weather disasters. Landscape and drainage improvements will also work to safeguard the campus.

Guest House, a renovated bungalow which will host Chapel speakers and special guests, as well as artists or scholars in residence.



Rendering of the expanded North campus

- Enhance the Chapel's landscaping and greenspaces, creating a unified campus that preserves and defines a sense of quiet sanctuary:

Tranquil new garden spaces for reflection.

Redesigned landscaping to provide for a fluid transition between the Chapel grounds and Menil Park.

New plantings and improved seating around the *Broken Obelisk*.

The addition of more than 300 new trees planted in groves on the grounds and along the street to provide welcome shade and screens from increased commercial activity in the neighborhood.

- Fortify our endowment in order to maintain restored and new properties while supporting expanded programming and operations.

The entire \$30 million *Opening Spaces* campaign consists of two major fundraising phases, each set at \$15 million, with construction goals and targets associated with each phase. Phase I of the project includes the Chapel restoration, landscaping enhancements, construction of the Welcome House, and the energy facility. Upon completion of Phase I, we will begin Phase II, which includes the construction of the Administration and Archives Building, Program Center, Guest House and meditation garden additions.

The first phase of the *Opening Spaces* campaign is nearly complete with the new Visitor Welcome House opening in March 2020 and the newly restored Rothko Chapel reopening in June 2020. Phase II of the project will then begin with the total completion projected by 2023.



Rendering of the new Program Center interior

Opening Spaces: A Campaign for the Rothko Chapel Supporters

As of June 30, 2019

\$5,000,000+

Rothko Family

\$2,000,000 - \$4,999,999

The Brown Foundation Inc.
Houston Endowment, Inc.

\$1,000,000 - \$1,999,999

Lynn Wyatt

\$500,000 - \$999,999

The Cullen Foundation
The Glimcher Family

\$100,000 - \$499,999

Donna and Marvin Schwartz
The John R. Eckel, Jr. Foundation

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Peggy and Richard Danziger
The Rosenblatt Charitable Trust

\$20,000 - \$49,999

Maconda O'Connor Abinader and
Sacha Abinader
Kristina Van Dyke Fort and Jeff Fort
Ann and J. Kent Friedman/
Esther Friedman Family Foundation
John P. McGovern Foundation
Paddle8 Inc.
Donna and Marvin Schwartz

\$10,000 - \$19,999

Anne and Albert Chao
Mary Ann Crossley Detering
Virginia Dwan
Ehrenkranz & Ehrenkranz LLP
Molly Gochman
Fredericka Hunter
Karen Rosa and Jim King
Jo Backer Laird
Michael R. Piana
Clifford Ross
Sotheby's

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Joan and Robert Feitler
Carolyn Pardue & Michael Foulard
George and Mary Josephine
Hamman Foundation
Frances Lummis
The Muriel Pollia Foundation
Dr. and Mrs. German Ferrand Newall
Joyce and Mohammed Salhoot
Stainman Family Foundation
Carol Mancusi-Ungaro Steen
Marlene Hess and James Zirin

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Wes Anderson
Cemex Foundation
Charina Foundation
Kathryn and Hank Coleman
Gayle and Mike DeGeurin
Victoria Goldstein
Sheri and Wayne Gross
Patsy and John Howard

Illumination: The 2019 Rothko Chapel Gala

The *Illumination* Gala transformed the Astorian for one special evening in May into a space that celebrated those whose efforts advance art, spirituality and human rights.

Honored that evening were three luminaries: Reverend William Lawson, founding pastor of Houston's Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, who has served as a spiritual leader in the city of Houston and led a life dedicated to furthering justice, human rights and a spiritual approach to peace. Joining Rev. Lawson, was Ballroom Marfa co-founder Fairfax Dorn and her husband Marc Glimcher, CEO of Pace Gallery, who have both led prolific careers furthering art and activism in Texas and around the globe.

The event was only the fourth gala in the Chapel's history, and the most successful one to date thanks to the efforts of three of Houston's socially engaged couples who graciously chaired the event— Melanie Lawson and John Guess Jr., Nancy and Erik Littlejohn, and Tatiana and Craig Massey.

Over 350 guests enjoyed a stellar dinner by A Fare Extraordinaire along with a finale set led by Austin-based composer and bandleader Graham Reynolds, who took a break from his time at the prestigious Rauschenberg Residency to fly in and perform.



Photos by Jenny Antill



Photos by Jenny Antill

Illumination: The 2019 Rothko Chapel Gala

Major Underwriters \$25,000+

Fairfax Dorn and Marc
Glimcher/Pace Gallery
Matt Mullenweg
Nancy Brown Negley
Lori Cohen and
Christopher Rothko

Underwriters \$15,000+

Suzanne Deal Booth
H-E-B Grocery
Louisa Stude Sarofim

Benefactors \$10,000+

Lisa and Josh Oren
Isabel and Ignacio Torras

Sponsors \$5,000+

Chinhui and Eddie Allen
Cherryhurst House
Gayle and Mike DeGeurin
Sanford L. Dow
Mr. and Mrs. Gus Dwairy
Rachel and Brian Foley
Melanie Lawson and John
Guess, Jr./Rev. William
Lawson and Family
C.C. Lee
Linbeck Group
Nancy and Erik Littlejohn
Tatiana and Craig Massey
The Muriel Pollia Foundation
Judy and Scott Nyquist/
Lea Weingarten/
Weingarten Art Group
Jessica Phifer, CHRISTIE'S/
Kristina Van Dyke Fort
and Jeff Fort/
Katharine Barthelme

Michael R. Piana
Kate Rothko and Ilya Prizel
Beth Robertson
Regina Rogers
Joyce and Mohammed Salhoot
Arwa and Aziz Shaibani
Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church
Joyce Echols and Steve Wyatt

Individual Underwriters \$1,500+

Dolly Brennehan
Cece and Mack Fowler
Ludmila Golovine
Agnes Gund
Virginia Lebermann
Gordon VeneKlasen
Lynn Wyatt

Individual Benefactors \$1,000+

Maconda and Sacha Abinader
Architecture Research Office
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Cooper
Susan and Francois de Menil
Christina and
Emmanuel Di Donna
Kate and Holbrook Dorn
Lisa and John Dorn
Cullen K. Geiselman
Louise Jamail
Charles Ruger
Courtney and Christopher
Sarofim
Leigh and Reggie Smith
Laura and William M. Wheless IV
Emilee Whitehurst

Individual Sponsors \$500+

Bennie Flores Ansell
Carrie and Sverre
Brandsberg-Dahl
Alejandro Chaoul
Tatiana Sorkin and
Michel Coret
Gayle Blakeley Farris
Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza
Helen Fosdick
Wil McCorquodale and
Mark Hitt
Holly Hudley
Rabbi Samuel Karff
Karen Rosa and Jim King
Atul Kothari
Virginia and Lee Lahourcade
Jenny Laird
Candace and Robert Leslie
Irina and Boris Litvak

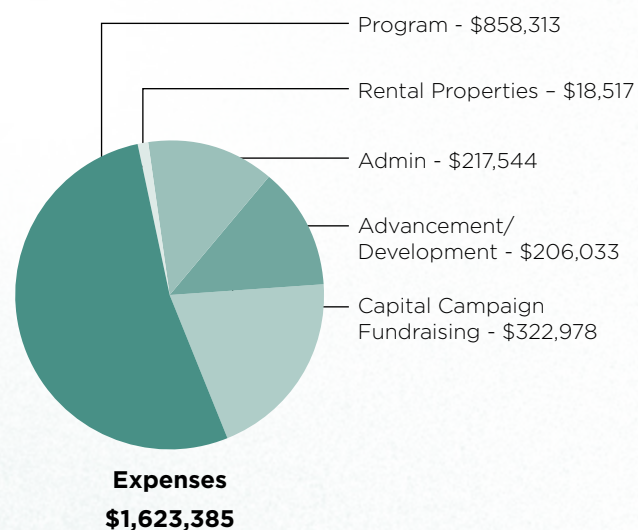
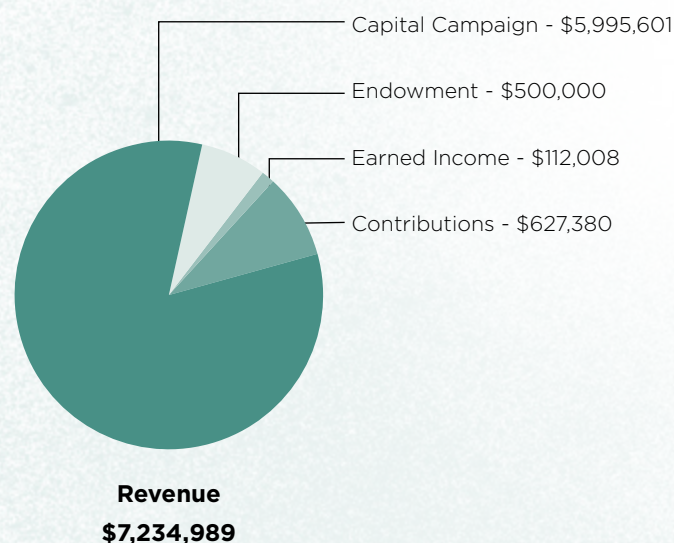
Mary Welch and
Ernesto Maldonado
Marion McCollam
Hannah Sibiski and
Stuart Nance
Duyen and Marc Nguyen
Guy Nordenson and Associates
The Projects Group
Michele Sabino
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For Fiscal Year 2019
July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019



The data are derived from the audited financial statements of the Rothko Chapel as of June 30, 2019.

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“We can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful.”

– Mother Theresa

Together, with great love and spirit, the individuals listed here work to preserve the Rothko Chapel as a sacred art space open to all, every day of the year. From leadership and administration to interns and volunteers, the Chapel's mission is well-supported and facilitated at every level. Thanks to great teamwork and dedication, the Rothko Chapel is able to create a vibrant collection of public programs, engage with visitors, preserve the artwork, building and grounds, cultivate a community rooted in acceptance and respect, and provide an environment for the illumination of our shared humanity.



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Rothko Chapel
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Contact

Office

713.524.9839

Mailing Address

1409 Sul Ross
Houston, TX 77006

rothkochapel.org

info@rothkochapel.org

