

Rothko Chapel

2024 Annual Report





Contents

2	Year in Review
3	Program Highlights
8	Expanding the Chapel's Engagement
10	<i>Opening Spaces: A Campaign for the Rothko Chapel</i>
12	INSPIRIT
14	Our Supporters
17	People Behind the Rothko Chapel

Dear Friends of the Rothko Chapel,

Exemplifying the Rothko Chapel's commitment to engage the heart, mind and soul, the 2023-24 program season featured artists, activists and spiritual leaders who led inspiring and transformational programs that made clear the inseparable relationship between creativity, spirituality and social justice.

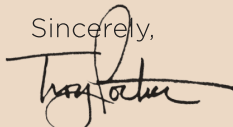
In observance of International Day of Peace, the season's inaugural program, *Morning Ragas and Poetry*, was developed through a new partnership with the Jaipur Literary Festival Houston and included poetry written and presented by students from The Fay School Houston. This program was followed by the Annual Sissy Farenthold Lecture; *Time of Remembrance: Contemplating Cycles of Life and Death*; *Neighborhood Community Day*, in partnership with the Menil and Ars Lyrica; and the ever-popular, season ending Summer Solstice Observance featuring Apollo Chamber Players and Kaminari Taiko.

The *Annual MLK Birthday Observance* was particularly powerful and timely as it focused on the multi-dimensional gun violence public health crisis that this country is experiencing. This integrative program featured David Hogg who shared how the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School inspired his activism for gun safety and sensible ownership. The program also featured health care providers and researchers, community organizers, former Texas Poet Laureate Lupe Mendez and an installation on the plaza by visual artist Sandeigh Kennedy that lifted up the impact of mass shootings in the United States in 2023 and those who were killed or wounded.

This year, the Chapel's Board of Directors approved "Rothko Chapel: Beyond 50" strategic plan—one of the most comprehensive in the Chapel's history. This plan emphasizes the role of the Chapel as a community building catalyst and the creator of multi-sector, interdisciplinary leadership learning opportunities for organizers and change leaders. It also sharpens the Chapel's public program focus and lays out a financial development plan to guide the Chapel into the future. This plan, along with the *Opening Spaces* campus expansion, will greatly enhance our mission.

As we look to the future, we do with excitement and a sense of awe as to the growing interest in and engagement with all aspects of Chapel life. We look forward to an expansive and transformative future and thank you for all you do in support of the Rothko Chapel.

Sincerely,



Troy Porter
Chair



David Leslie,
Executive Director

Program Highlights

The Rothko Chapel is a reflective space, presenting programs that promote spirituality, creativity, dialogue and action, leading to more equitable, empowered, and engaged communities. The 2023-2024 Program Season cultivated interpersonal connections to urgent justice issues and sustained the spirit through a series of meditative moments, contemplative concerts, and community conversations.



MLK Birthday Observance Public Health Crisis on Gun Violence

In the spirit of Dr. King's commitment to create a more equitable society through engaging in nonviolent tactics, this event created opportunities to learn more about the public health impacts of gun violence, and to delve into our collective responsibilities to address this pressing epidemic. The event featured keynote speaker David Hogg, Co-Founder of March For Our Lives, followed by a panel of local public health researchers and organizers including Dr. Jeff Temple, Dean of Clinical Research in the School of Behavioral Health Science at University of Texas Health Houston; Dr. Bindi Naik-Mathuria, Pediatric Trauma Surgeon at University of Texas Medical Branch; Karlton Harris, Executive Director of The Forgotten Third; and Kimberly Mata-Rubio, who ran for mayor of Uvalde in 2023 after her daughter was killed in the 2022 Robb Elementary School Shooting.

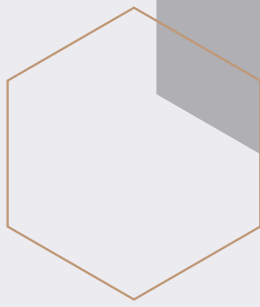
The program also featured a temporary memorial installation on the Plaza created by Sandeigh Kennedy to honor the victims of US mass shootings in 2023, contemplative music by DACAMERA Young Artists, and poetry by previous Texas Poet Laureate Lupe Mendez. Local partner organizations including Moms Demand Action, Daya, The Asian American Foundation, and the Jung Center were onsite to share information on ways to participate in efforts to prevent gun violence.



Religion in Society Book Release

Dr. Brad Braxton and Dr. Anthony Pinn shared deeply impactful reflections from their book, *A Master Class on Being Human: A Black Christian and a Black Secular Humanist on Religion, Race, and Justice* (Beacon Press, 2023), in conversation with moderator Tracie Jae of The Quiet Rebel. The book is an exploration of what it means to be human, drawing on each authors' expertise in religion, philosophy, and African American studies; it covers issues of social importance such as violence against Black Americans and the Black Lives Matter movement, and centuries-long tensions between Christian and secular humanist traditions. Their nuanced discussion lays the groundwork for constructive dialogue between all who wish to move from tolerance to celebration of differing opinions and perspectives.





World AIDS Day Observance

“The HOMEGOING Concert—a sonic memorial,” created by Ashon Crawley, PhD, focuses on the impact of the AIDS crisis in Black communities in the United States between 1980-2005. The music honored fallen Black queer musicians, choir directors and singers, with songs written to and about these victims of the AIDS crisis. The Houston-debut performance featured local vocalists from Phillip Hall Singers, percussionist Vernon Daniels, the William Grant Still String Quartet, and renowned Hammond organist Abdul Hamid Robinson-Royal. The performance brought the Houston community together to honor, remember and wish the fallen well on their journey to otherwise and beyond.

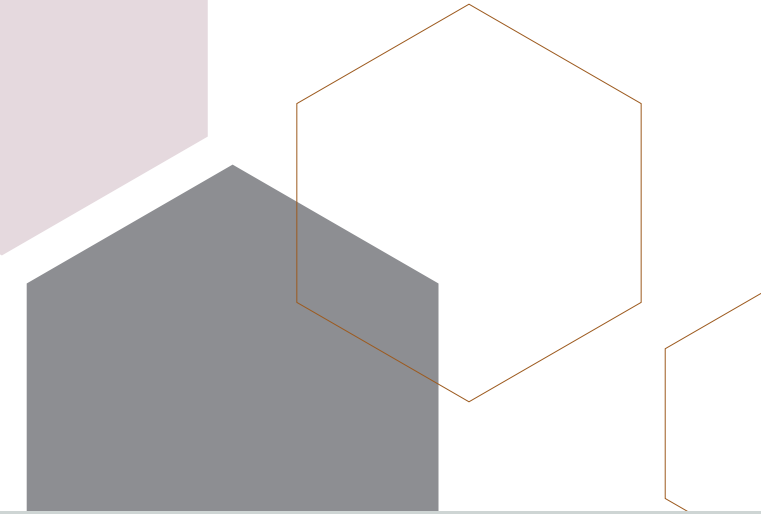




International Women's Day with Dolores Huerta

This year's program celebrated women's leadership in labor organizing movements, featuring keynote remarks by Dolores Huerta, American labor leader, civil rights activist, and co-founder of the United Farm Workers Union. Audiences heard from exemplary women leaders in unions and labor organizing movements who devote their efforts to continuing struggles for equal pay, anti-discrimination and equal protections. The panel included Linda Morales, Organizing Coordinator with Texas Gulf Coast Area Labor Federation/AFL-CIO; Elsa Flores, President of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Texas; and Traci Latson, HISD Career Pathways teacher leader & Vice President of Houston Federation of Teachers Union. Attendees learned how to get involved in and be supportive of organizing efforts and were inspired by the renewed spirit of labor activism demonstrated by the speakers.





Earth Day Observance

This year's observance provided space for learning, restoration, and renewal through a conversation and meditative moment that focused on youth organizers engaged in sustained actions toward climate justice and community health. Inspired by the 2023 ruling in the *Held v. Montana* case on the state's constitutional rights to health, representatives from Our Children's Trust, including staff attorney David Schwartz, relayed the development and success of this case and shared how their methods could be applied across the country. A community discussion followed, with Texas-based youth and grassroots activists, including Chanté Davis of Sunrise Houston and Armon Alex, Co-Founder of Gulf of Mexico Youth Climate Summit, about the links between environmental and community health. The conversation was moderated by Andre Segura, VP of Litigation at Earthjustice, and reflection time was facilitated by Aaron Ambroso, Co-Director of Houston Climate Justice Museum. The public program was followed by a community building luncheon with youth representatives from Texas-based organizations including PODER Austin, Sunrise Dallas, Amanecer People's Project El Paso, and The Border Organization. We extend special thanks to the Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation for underwriting support.





Expanding the Chapel's Engagement

On December 15th, the Chapel hosted a special gathering with the Consul General of France, Ms. Valérie Baraban, to commemorate 100 years of friendship between France and the city of Houston. France was the first foreign nation to recognize the independence of the Republic of Texas in 1839. Since the founding of the Alliance Française in Houston in 1923, France has played a key role in the economic and cultural growth of Texas's economic capital.

Over the years, the bond between Houston and France has deepened and grown more diverse. A symbol of this rich Franco-Houstonian connection is the French-American couple, John and Dominique de Menil. In this celebration of friendship, it was fitting to gather at the Rothko Chapel, especially as the Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris was concurrently presenting the first Rothko retrospective in France. The event was a meaningful occasion in the most diverse city in the United States.



Opening Spaces Groundbreaking Ceremony

On April 17th, the Rothko Chapel launched Phase II of its “Opening Spaces” campus plan— a \$42 million, multi-year restoration and expansion initiative. The groundbreaking ceremony featured remarks from the Chapel’s Executive Director, David Leslie, and

Opening Spaces Co-Chairman, Lee Lahourcade, alongside partners from the New York City-based Architecture Research Office (ARO), which designed the campus plan; Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects (NBW), leading the landscape improvements; and the

Linbeck Group, which will manage the construction. Phase II aims to introduce versatile indoor and outdoor spaces for programming, gatherings, and reflection, reinforcing the Chapel’s mission as a place for both contemplation and action.

The celebratory event brought together 60 supporters for the groundbreaking ceremony, set against the backdrop of the Rothko Chapel. Phase I of the project began in 2019 and concluded in 2021, accomplishing a complete restoration of the Chapel building.

Phase II is divided into two parts: Phase 2a involves the construction of a new Administration and Archives Building, as well as the Kathleen and Chuck Mullenweg Meditation Garden. Phase 2b will introduce a new Program Center, a guest bungalow for housing Chapel speakers and fellows, and a shaded plaza, all situated on the Chapel’s North Campus. Set for completion in 2026, this expanded North Campus—linked to the Chapel across Sul Ross Street—will greatly enhance the Chapel’s public programming capabilities. The new facilities and reimagined grounds will be more accessible, enrich the visitor experience, and advance the founders’ vision of the Chapel as an open sanctuary for contemplation and action. Balancing the distinctive presence of the Chapel with the character of the surrounding early 20th-century neighborhood, the new architecture and landscape design will uphold the de Menils’ vision of integrating the sacred into everyday life

Neighborhood Community Day

We participate annually in Neighborhood Community Day, hosted by the Menil Collection, to provide visitors with an afternoon of free art, music, poetry, and family activities in celebration of the museum’s vibrant neighborhood.

This year, families enjoyed a special bilingual, interactive music and theatre performance titled *Maria’s Magical Music Adventure*, co-produced by Express Children’s Theatre and Ars Lyrica Houston. Directed by Tim Fried-Fiori and adapted from Emma Kent Wine’s children’s book, the story followed Maria, a young girl, and her brother Carlos, as they traveled back to 17th-century Italy with the help of Allegra, a magical violinist. Along the way, they met composer Antonio Vivaldi and learned about the power of music and the importance of finding their own voices.

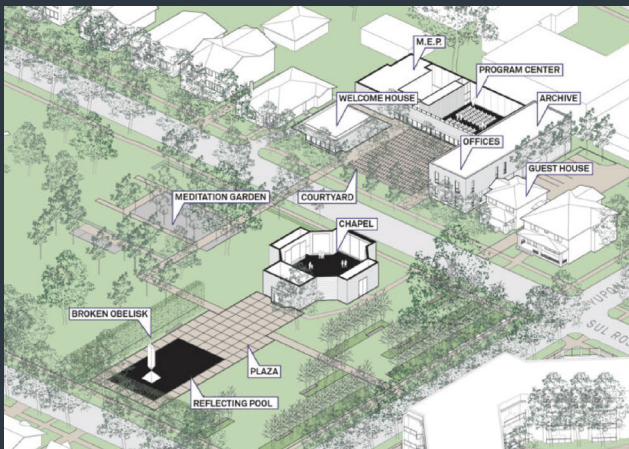
A talented cast of actors and musicians brought this story to life through a delightful mix of storytelling and live classical music, creating an engaging and joyous experience for both children and adults.



OPENING spaces

A Campaign for the Rothko Chapel

We have now entered Phase 2 of the project, which involves several key developments aimed at enhancing the North Campus facilities. Groundbreaking for the new construction took place on April 17th, and the projected completion date for this phase is set for 2026. This \$42 million project has raised \$27 million to date, and we continue to actively raise funds to reach our goal and complete the project. The major components of this phase include:



Construction of Two New Buildings

This phase will see the addition of two major structures on the North Campus—the Program Center and the Administration and Archives Building. The Program Center will serve as a hub for events, activities, and gatherings, while the Administration and Archives Building will provide essential office space and a centralized location for maintaining and preserving historical records.

Creation of a New Meditation Garden

A tranquil meditation garden will be established to offer a serene space for reflection and relaxation. This area will serve as a peaceful retreat for students, staff, and visitors, enhancing the campus's focus on wellness and mindfulness.

Rehabilitation of an Existing Bungalow

An on-site bungalow will undergo rehabilitation to transform it into dedicated housing. This refurbished space will accommodate Chapel speakers, research fellows, and other distinguished visitors, providing them with a comfortable and convenient place to stay during their time on campus.



OPENING spaces

A Campaign for the Rothko Chapel

Supporters

\$5,000,000+

The Rothko Family

\$2,000,000+

The Brown Foundation, Inc.
Houston Endowment, Inc.
Matt Mullenweg
Lynn Wyatt

\$1,000,000+

Anonymous
Suzanne Deal Booth
The Cullen Foundation
LVMH
Stavros Niarchos Foundation

\$500,000+

The Fondren Foundation
The Glimcher Family
Michael R. Piana
Texas Commission on the Arts

\$100,000+

The Cullen Trust for the Performing Arts
The John R. Eckel, Jr. Foundation
The Elkins Foundation
The MD Anderson Foundation
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Donna and Marvin Schwartz
Dr. Nancy Crown and Dr. Samuel Weisman

\$50,000+

Peggy and Richard Danziger
Cece and Mack Fowler
Goldman Sachs Gives / Michael S. Sherwood
The Rosenblatt Charitable Trust
The Vivian L. Smith Foundation

\$25,000+

Chinhui Juhn and Edward R. Allen III
Kristina Van Dyke Fort and Jeff Fort
Esther Friedman Family Foundation
Virginia and Lee Lahourcade
Marvy Finger Family Foundation
The Muriel Pollia Foundation
Linda C. Murray
Judy and Scott Nyquist
Paddle8 Inc.
Prometheus Charitable Trust
Radoff Family Foundation
Isabel and Ignacio Torras





INSPIRIT: The Rothko Chapel's Annual Evening of Inspiration

On Wednesday, March 6th, The Astorian was transformed into a vibrant hub of creativity and inspiration for “INSPIRIT: The Rothko Chapel’s Annual Evening of Inspiration,” a celebration of art, activism, and community. The event was made unforgettable by the presence of esteemed guests and the generous support of patrons.

The evening featured Melanie Lawson, an esteemed journalist and Rothko Chapel Board Director, who skillfully moderated a conversation with legendary civil rights advocate Dolores Huerta, acclaimed actor and art enthusiast Cheech Marin, and Vincent Valdez, honored as the Art League Houston’s 2023 Texas Artist of the Year. Their discussion explored personal interpretations of Chicano identity and the powerful connection between Chicano art and activism. The event left a profound impact, inspiring attendees and advancing our shared mission to promote universal dignity and respect.

INSPIRIT SUPPORTERS



Presenting Sponsors

Maire and David Baldwin /
The Muriel Pollia Foundation
Matt Mullenweg

Underwriters

Lori Cohen and Christopher Rothko
HEB
Virginia and Lee Lahourcade /
Judy and Scott Nyquist
David Roth
Ellen Susman

Sponsors

Architecture Research Office
Suzanne Deal Booth
Laura and James Chen
Cece and Mack Fowler
Esther Friedman Foundation /
Ann and J. Kent Friedman
Garfield Public/Private LLC
Linbeck Group
STOA Architects
Cyvia Wolff

Host Committee

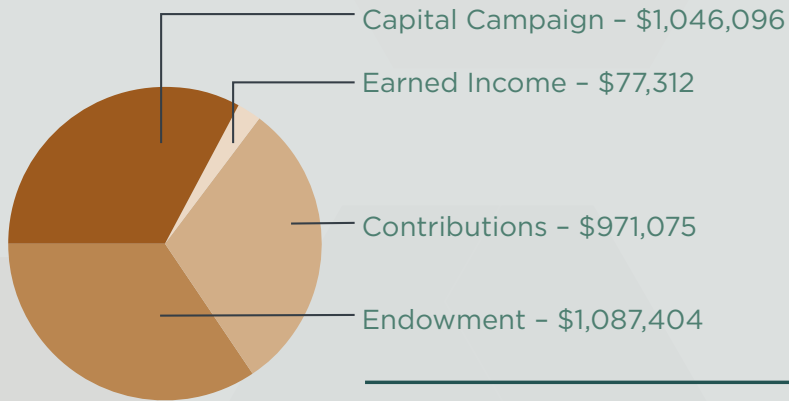
Fred Brieden
Gayle and Mike DeGeurin
Sanford L. Dow
Frances Castaneda Dyess
Cullen Geiselman and Robert Muse
Janet and Paul Hobby
Colleen Keegan
Michael B. Keegan
Teresa and Chao-Chiung "C.C." Lee
Dallas McNamara
Carol and David Neuberger
Michael R. Piana
Christina and Troy Porter
Karen Rosa
Kate Rothko Prizel
Suzette and Tim Walker /
The Neon Gallery
Mary Welch and Ernesto
Maldonado
Geraldina and Scott Wise
Lynn Wyatt, *Cultural Ambassador*

Additional Supporters

Abbot Benefits Group
Diane and Jason Aldridge
Surpik and Paolo Angelini
Bennie Flores Ansell
Jeff Beauchamp
Fredericka Brecht
Dolly Brenneman
Javier Chapa
Terry and Martin Cominsky
Erika de la Garza and Alejandro
Chaoul
Ellen Efsic and Scott Legg
Wanna H. Hadnott
Alecia Harris / JP Morgan Chase
Stephen Janda
Cody Johnson
Sara Kelly
William Kemp
Kirksey Architect
Dr. Milton and Gail Klein
Sheryl L. Kolasinski
Melanie Lawson and John Guess Jr.
David and Leigh Leslie
Christina Lyons
Laura Mayo
Linda Murray
Abhijeet Narvekar
Scott Pfeiffer
Mari Carmen Ramirez
Rebecca Roberts and Richard
Rodriguez
Michele Sabino
Bryan Scrivner
Domitilo Carlos and Brooke Silva
Nita and Dinesh H. Singhal
Nicola Springer
Emil B. Thomas
Thuy M. Tran and James Tiebout
Anne Tucker
Filemon Vela

By The Numbers

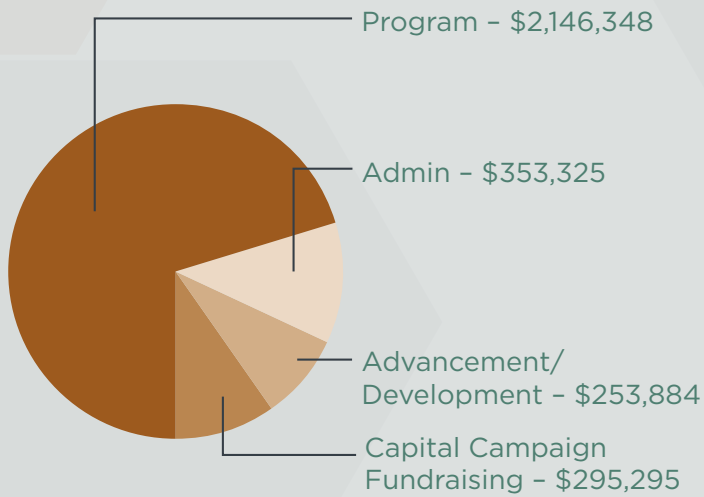
Fiscal Year 2024



Revenue

\$3,167,925*

*Includes loss on disposal of property - \$13,962



Expenses

\$3,048,852

Our Supporters

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

The Rothko Chapel would like to thank those who have contributed to the Annual Fund. For more information about making a gift, please contact the Advancement Office at 713.660.1409.

Chairman's Circle \$25,000+

Suzanne Deal Booth
The Brown Foundation, Inc.
Houston Endowment Inc.
Mid-America Arts Alliance
Cyvia Wolff

Director's Circle \$10,000+

Anonymous
The Cultural Heritage Preservation Fund
The Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation
Houston Arts Alliance
Sully Bonnelly and Robert Littman
Lori Cohen and Christopher Rothko
Kate Rothko Prizel and Ilya Prizel
Texas Commission on the Arts
Nancy J. Crown and Sam Weisman

Benefactor's Circle \$5,000+

Maire and David Baldwin
Jill and Jay Bernstein
Mary and Tony Gracely
Agnes Gund
George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation
Olive Hershey and AC Conrad
Holly and Josh Hudley
Karen Rosa and Jim King
Judy Munzig
Arwa and Aziz Shaibani
Lois and Arthur Stainman
Ellen Susman

Sustainer \$2,500+

Architecture Research Office
Marta E. Calleja and John Biggs
SK Foundation - Jan and Jack Cato
Sanford L. Dow
Cece and Mack Fowler
Melanie Lawson and John Guess Jr.
John P. McGovern Foundation
Clare Casademont and Michael Metz
Linda Murray
Christina and Troy Porter
Beth Robertson
Lillie Robertson
Nicola Springer
Sandra Tirey and Jan R. van Lohuizen

Patron \$1,000+

Chinhui Juhn and Edward R. Allen III
Anonymous
Gayle and Mike DeGeurin
Dominican Sisters of Houston
Lacey N. Dorn
Donna and Gary Freedman
John Gill
Alexander Gorlin
Marc E. Grossberg
Robert E. Hansen Family Foundation
Emerson Head
Heimbinder Family Foundation
Amanda McMillian and Benjamin Holloway
C. C. Lee
Leigh and David Leslie
Lily Liebel
Linda K. May
Darren Morris
Cullen Geiselman and Robert Muse
Duyen and Marc Nguyen
Chetan C. Patel
John Robertson
Mark H. Rosenberg
Select Equity Group LP
STOA International Architects, Inc.
Nancy and Steve Weissman
Ivy S. Yang

Supporters \$500+

Laurie A. Bane
Virginia and William A. Camfield
Kristin Clermont
Bray Creech
Joell and Thomas Doneker
Maria Otero and Joseph T. Eldridge
Helen Winkler Fosdick
Maria and Brendan Lee
Carol and Paul Liffman
Mary Welch and Ernesto Maldonado
Carol Mancusi-Ungaro Steen
Reverend Laura Mayo
Sonja Earthman Novo and Charles Novo
Judy and Scott Nyquist
Mari Omori
Patricia and Steve Rosencranz
Lois and George Stark
Paula Sutton
Ann Wales
JD and Kay Walther
Yield Giving
Sarah Abbey
Ken Adam
Honorable Charles A. Spain and John S. Adcock
AIG Global Corp
Anonymous
Anonymous
Susan and David Askanase
Edward Atkinson
Michael E. Bacon
Reverend Jim Bankston
Robin Bendler
Janet Benton
Lynn S. Bliss
Elise Boyan
Linda and Philip Boyko
Janet Caldwell
Natalye Appel and John J. Casbarian
Jesus M. Castillo
Sewell Chan
Jane Cho
David Clemmer
Cindy Clifford
John and Julie Cogan
Kathryn and Hank Coleman
Andrew Cropper
Jody Blazek and David Crossley
Robin and Anthony Davidson
Emma and Victor Del Frate
Matthew Detrick
Andrew Edmonson
Omar El-Halwagi
Martha and Blake Eskew
Julie Farr
Stephen Fox
Ed Gibbon
Dr. Lisa K Gilliam
Lisa Glosserman and Kim Glosserman
Sandra Goodnough-Hanneman
Nonya and Jonathan Grenader
Andrew Grohe
Carlos R. Hamilton Jr.
Judy and John Hartman
Craig Hauschildt
Catherine and Robert Haws
JoAnne and Doug Hillegeist
Wil McCorquodale and Mark Hitt
Beryl A. Hogshead
Alan J. Hurwitz MD
Bernard Kaplan
Sheryl L. Kolasinski
Katie Kitchen and Paul Kovach

Associate \$100+

Carmen Kovens
Jason Leach
Virginia Lew
Pamela Lewis
Eileen Kleiman and Peter Lurye
Krysia L. Lynes
Dylan McCullough
Amy Kugali McWilliams and Francis McWilliams
Terry and Bruce Merwin
Ruth Milburn
Suzy and Craig Minor
Richard Moore
Helen and Robert Morgan
Anne Tucker and Robert Morris
Janis G. Porter and Stephen P. Naber
Anne Loo and Brad Nyberg
Juan R. Palomo
Rajiv Pandya
Paypal Giving Fund
Carrie and Al Pepi
Eugenia and Victor G. Prieto
Macey and Harry Reasoner
Kate and Greg Robertson
Shari D. Rochen
Desmond Rogers
Elsa Ross
George H. Rothschild, Jr.
Ginger Clarkson and Mark Ryan
The Rev. and Mrs. Ben Sanders
Kathie and David Saucier
Nicholas Sawicki
Glenna M. Sharon
Linda A. Schmalstieg
Gail and Tim Schorre
Stephen Scranton
Bryan S. Scrivner
Varsha P. Shah
Dr. Wayne Shandera
Penelope A. Cerling and Jeff Skarda
Ashika Maima Skeeel
Jaspal Subhlok
Francis and Felix Tapp
Sarita Tennant
Emily Leland Todd
Christine and David M. Underwood Jr.
Cynthia Walker
Adam Yarinsky and Amy Weisser
Mary Ellen and Tom Whitworth
Janette and Randy Zercher



People Behind the Rothko Chapel

Board of Directors

Maire A. Baldwin
Sanford L. Dow
Omar El-Halwagi
Lee Lahourcade
Melanie Lawson
C. C. Lee (Treasurer)
Reverend Laura Mayo (Secretary)
Judy Nyquist
Troy Porter (Chair)
Karen Rosa (Vice Chair)
Dr. Kate Rothko Prizel
Christopher Rothko, PhD
Michelle J. Sabino, Ed.D.
Aziz Shaibani, M.D.
Domitilo Carlos Silva
Nicola Springer
Ellen Susman

Advisors

Rev. Jim Bankston
Jim Blackburn
Alejandro Chaoul, PhD
Gayle Ross DeGeurin
Ann Friedman, PhD
Linda May
Anthony Pinn, PhD
Lynn Wyatt (Cultural Ambassador)

Staff

Elia Adams, Chapel Attendant
Brian Buck, Facilities Associate
Kristina Cashin, Welcome House Supervisor
Will Davison, Director of Communications & Community Relations
Eren Eiswirth, Development Associate
Adriana Espinosa, Welcome House Associate
Itzel Garza, Chapel Attendant
Quezti Guadalupe, Chapel Attendant
Barbara Homann, Welcome House Associate
Michael Hudson, Director of Finance & Operations
Kelly Johnson, Director of Public Programs
Fannie Jones, Chapel Attendant
Cecelia Joseph, Chapel Attendant
Chiquita Jones, Operations Manager & Assistant to the Director
Kristi Kohl, Volunteer Archivist
Caroline Kroger, Chapel Attendant
David Leslie, Executive Director
Sabrina Maddin, Chapel Attendant
Ana Martinez, Program & Volunteer Coordinator
Samantha Nava, Welcome House Associate
Kit Saucedo, Chapel Attendant
Andre Soleto, Chapel Supervisor
Thuy M. Tran, Director of Advancement

Guild

Beth Arlington
Ethan Michelle Ganz
Kryisia Lynes
Ashika Maima Skeele
Oswaldo Martinez
Joe Sosa
Anne Morris
Juan Palomo
Laura Radcliffe
Sarita Tennant
Cynthia Walker
Kristin Clermont
Linda Murray

Rothko Chapel
1409 Sul Ross
Houston, Texas 77006



Visit

Rothko Chapel
3900 Yupon Street

Contact

Office

713.524.9839

Mailing Address

1409 Sul Ross
Houston, TX 77006

rothkochapel.org

info@rothkochapel.org

