



Overview: The Animal Campus at Gragg Park is a 5.5 acre city-owned tract in Gragg Park along Brays Bayou and Wayside Drive which will include a state-of-the-art, environmentally-sensitive 30,000 square-foot adoption facility, veterinary clinic and a 3-acre public dog park. The campaign, led by a task force appointed by Mayor White, has a goal of approximately \$10-million. Construction is expected to commence in early 2011.

Background: The City of Houston operates an animal control and shelter operation known as BARC—the Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care. Each year, around 25,000 cats and dogs enter BARC’s shelter, located at 3200 Carr in an industrialized area of the City. Many of these animals are healthy and would make great pets. Unfortunately, the shelter’s location and configuration are not conducive to successful adoptions and, as a result, too many animals are euthanized. For years, the City and the animal welfare community have wanted BARC to have a new adoption facility, but the cost was prohibitive.

Funding: In 2007, a friend of BARC named Ann Slemons Young left approximately \$1.7 million of her estate to BARC for the purpose of building an adoption center. To maximize the impact of this gift, the City began planning for the construction of a new animal welfare campus, with Ms. Young’s bequest as the lead gift. The City has committed \$1.2 million in Capital Improvements Plans (CIP) funding and has donated the land for the facility, valued at \$1.3 million. An additional \$3.3 million has been designated in the City’s CIP to renovate the existing BARC facilities to complement the Animal Campus initiatives. The Young bequest and the City’s commitment to the Animal Campus total approximately \$4 million, leaving an additional \$6 million to raise through generous donors within the community.

Operations: While the Animal Campus will be owned by the City of Houston, it will be operated by an independent non-profit organization. In the interim, Houston Parks Board will be serving as the 501c3 lead agency for this project. The City anticipates that the new non-profit will generate the majority of its revenues from adoption and veterinary services but will have an annual operating shortfall that will require fundraising. An operating reserve for the non-profit organization is included in the campaign budget.



For more information on this campaign, please contact campaign manager Cara Pauloski at animalcampus@andrisinabbey.com or call 713.568.2832.