





The Mortimer Levitt Foundation is a private family foundation, founded in 1963 by Mortimer and Mimi Levitt. Its mission is to transform neglected outdoor spaces into welcoming destinations where the power of free, live music brings people together and invigorates community life. Each Levitt Pavilion shares the common mission of building community through music, by presenting 50 free professional concerts in a relaxed open lawn setting.

Levitt Venues are publicly owned facilities located in public spaces, typically parks. Levitt Pavilion locations include: Westport, Connecticut; Los Angeles and Pasadena, California; Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; Memphis, Tennessee; Arlington, Texas; and Denver, Colorado.

Levitt Venues are each managed, programmed, and supported by a local *Friends of Levitt Pavilion* 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which operates according to the best practices and standards set forth by the Foundation. The local *Friends* of each Levitt Pavilion leads the capital campaign to raise funds to construct the new Levitt Pavilion and also raises funds to sustain operations and annually produce fifty free professional concerts. The primary responsibility for these efforts is the venue's Board of Directors. Levitt Foundation provides capital funding and annual core operating grants to *Friends of Levitt*. The success of a Levitt Pavilion is based on the close collaboration of the local *Friends of Levitt*, local government, and Levitt Foundation.

Levitt Pavilion Houston at Willow Waterhole Greenway, will be part of the Levitt Foundation network of outdoor music venues. This site was chosen by Levitt Foundation and the City of Houston after a site-search in 2012. In addition to the beautiful setting provided at Willow Waterhole, the search concluded that the area provided strong socio-economic diversity, great accessibility, enthusiasm from an engaged community, and a clear need for economic revitalization along South Post Oak. Additionally, the adjacent Westbury Neighborhood is zoned to elementary, middle, and high schools, each featuring a highly-regarded "*music magnet*" program. Willow Waterhole Greenway is a \$75M, 291 acre, detention project and greenspace, owned by Harris County Flood Control District. Levitt Pavilion

Houston will be built on South Post Oak, 1.3 miles south of Loop 610, on the west side of South Post Oak, between South Willow and Gasmer. Using detention pond excavation, a bowl for performance will be sculpted, creating a stage at waters edge and a hill to mute traffic noise. The stage will face east and the 120,000 square foot lawn area, providing seating for 5,000 attendees, will face west. Raising the stage support function on columns is one way that has been proposed to address the periodic flooding issue. Approximately 200 parking spaces are planned on-site and entry drives for shuttle buses. There are a variety of shuttle sites available including Westbury High School, churches, businesses, and the "*park & ride lot*" at South Post Oak and South Braeswood. The Foundation will provide Levitt Pavilion Houston \$500,000 to pay the cost of designing and constructing the facilities. Levitt Pavilion Houston will provide \$9,500,000, thru its Capital Fundraising Campaign, to pay its portion of the cost of designing and constructing the facilities.

Levitt Pavilion Houston will present an annual series of fifty free concerts, featuring a diverse professional lineup of entertainment from acclaimed, emerging talent to seasoned, award-winning artists. Levitt Pavilion Houston is targeting Spring, 2020, for its opening. For the first five years of operations, The Foundation will provide a total of \$750,000 in grants to Levitt Pavilion Houston. The Foundation will also provide to Levitt Pavilion Houston \$50,000 in additional grants for capacity building in each of the initial five years. Thereafter, the Foundation will provide Levitt Pavilion Houston \$100,000 for operational support annually and \$50,000 annually in capacity building grants. With the Willow Waterhole location serving a diverse population, Levitt Pavilion Houston will provide consistent access to the arts in an area that lacks cultural offerings available

in other parts of Houston. Everyone, including those who typically cannot afford the cost of a concert ticket for themselves or their families, will have access to high quality live music experiences while enjoying the outdoors and the beauty of nature at Willow Waterhole.

Music inspires cultural understanding, a shared sense of community, and tolerance among people of all ages and backgrounds, which is why concerts at Levitt Pavilion Houston will feature a broad range of music genres—from country, jazz, classical, and rock to Latin, funk, children’s, blues, and more. Programming at the Levitt Pavilion will be unique to Houston, reflecting the diversity of the neighboring communities and the entire city. In addition to a rich array of music genres, multiple cultural performances will also be part of each annual concert series with the Levitt Pavilion also serving as a stage for cultural exchange.

The concerts will be produced by the local, *Friends of Levitt Pavilion Houston* - a nonprofit organization, which will have a professional staff with expertise in booking acts and all aspects of concert production. Every year the *Friends of Levitt* staff will curate a concert series of local, regional, national and international performers — showcasing Houston’s celebrated homegrown talent, while also exposing audiences to acts from across the country and around the world. The Levitt Pavilion will have first-rate sound and lighting systems, supporting performances of the highest caliber. Throughout each concert series, Levitt Pavilion audiences will experience iconic music legends, discover new artists, and expand their cultural horizons.

Combined with current ongoing programming and planned major amenities to make Willow Waterhole an active community destination, Levitt Pavilion Houston aligns perfectly with this vision and the venue will be an anchor for the Greenway’s events and amenities. In addition to the annual series of fifty free concerts, the Levitt Pavilion will be available for use by schools, community groups, and other arts organizations and nonprofits for their programming and activities, as well as for community celebrations and events. Levitt Pavilion Houston will fulfill its fifty free concerts between April 1 and October 31 of each calendar year. The facilities will be available to third parties and the City during the balance of the year. These Non-Levitt Events will also be managed by Levitt Houston.



With the spirit of community at the heart of both music and Levitt Pavilion Houston’s programming, this new venue at Willow Waterhole will become a favorite gathering spot where friends, families, and neighbors will come together to celebrate the arts, nature, and community.



WILLOW WATERHOLE GREENWAY

