

## LEONHARDT LAGOON WALKING TOUR

Walk along Fair Park's Lagoon



**Start your walking tour at the Old Mill Inn at First Ave & Grand Ave.**

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One of the enduring legacies of the Texas Centennial Expositions was Dallas' first permanent cultural district. The cultural district was a collection of museums and performance venues that designers loosely organized around a naturalistic water feature named The Leonhardt Lagoon.

Bracketed numbers correspond to locations marked on the Fair Park map.

### **[21] OLD MILL INN, 1936**

The Old Mill Inn was one of the few Texas Centennial Exposition buildings not to incorporate Art Deco styling in its design. Clad in fieldstone and incorporating heavy-timber construction, this was the exhibit building for the flour milling industry. It now serves Fair Park as a restaurant.

### **[31] MAGNOLIA LOUNGE, 1936 and (former) HALL OF RELIGION, 1936**

This little-known project by New York architect William Lescaze introduced European Modernism to Texas in 1936. The design of this hospitality lounge for the Magnolia Petroleum Company included elements commonly found in Art Deco architecture. However, the building's overall image was radically different from that of any other structure at the Texas Centennial Exposition.

The overall effect was avant-garde and exhilarating. The lounge now serves as the offices for the Friends of Fair Park and also contains the Margo Jones Theatre. Site of Theatre '47, the first professional, regional theater company in the United States, the small performing space pays tribute to the visionary founder of America's regional theater movement.

The Magnolia Lounge serves as the offices and home of Friends of Fair Park. The building can be rented out for theatre groups, parties, and corporate events.

Immediately adjacent to the Magnolia Lounge is the former Hall of Religion.

### **[1] AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSEUM, 1993**

The current museum building occupies virtually the same site as the Texas Centennial Exposition's Hall of Negro Life.

### **[36] THE LEONHARDT LAGOON, 1936**

South of the Midway, George Dahl arranged Dallas's future cultural institutions informally around a tranquil lagoon. This offered Texas Centennial exposition visitors peaceful respite and a romantic, naturalistic counterpoint to the intense activity of the exposition. A major earth sculpture became part of the Leonhardt Lagoon in 1986.

### **[6] MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE, 1936 and MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, 1936**

The westernmost building was once the Museum of Natural History and was designed for the Texas Centennial Exposition as a monolithic, rectangular box with little architectural detail. The entrance features three vertical window bays with decorative aluminum mullions. Flanking it are paired pilasters with shell-motif capitals. The rest of the building is conservatively clad in limestone. In 1988, workers excavated the northeast corner of the building, creating a delightful series of curvilinear, landscaped terraces. Today this building houses exhibits from the Museum of Natural History, and provides a work space for Perot Museum of Nature and Science research and collections areas.

East of this building and not marked with a number on the map is a historic building not currently open to the public. Originally the Museum of Fine Arts and, then, The Science Place, the easternmost building of the museum – a spartan building, clad in creamy Texas limestone and shell stone – was the centerpiece of the picturesque Lagoon area. Architects located it on axis with the plaza and entry to Fair Park Stadium (now the Cotton Bowl) on the opposite shore. In 1996, the museum's TI Founders IMAX® Theater addition gave the building a new, monumental entry that is shifted from the original, Texas Centennial Exposition axis.

In 2006, the Dallas Museum of Natural History, The Science Place and the Dallas Children's Museum merged, resulting in a new institution in these buildings: Museum of Nature & Science at Fair Park. This building closed when this new entity opened a new facility near downtown Dallas and began operating as the Perot Museum of Nature and Science.

### **[23] FAIR PARK BAND SHELL, 1936**

The concentric plaster arches of the Band Shell comprise an essentially Art Deco composition. You can see elements of the Streamline Moderne style, meanwhile, in the reinforced concrete backstage building. Lighting pylons surround the gently sloping, 5,000-seat amphitheater.

### **[5] TEXAS DISCOVERY GARDENS, 1936**

This was the original Horticulture Building for the Texas Centennial Exposition. It has since been altered by exterior renovations and additions, including the minimalist glass Blachly Conservatory. In the gardens behind the main structure, you'll see a model home that the Portland Cement Company originally built for the exposition.

### **[2] THE DALLAS AQUARIUM AT FAIR PARK, 1936 AND EDUCATION ANNEX**

The aquarium represents a highly complex building type still in its infancy in the 1930s. Many of the building technological advances, including the use of natural light over the exhibit tanks, are not apparent on the building's exterior. That exterior consists of the traditional, raised entrance pavilion and loggia with flanking wings. This entrance is interesting for its display of elements from both the Streamline Moderne and Zigzag Moderne movements.

The expanses of blank wall successfully include a series of alternating brick planes and recessed sculptural panels by artist Allie Tennant that impart a lively rhythm to the façade. Adjacent to the building is the aquarium's Education Annex.

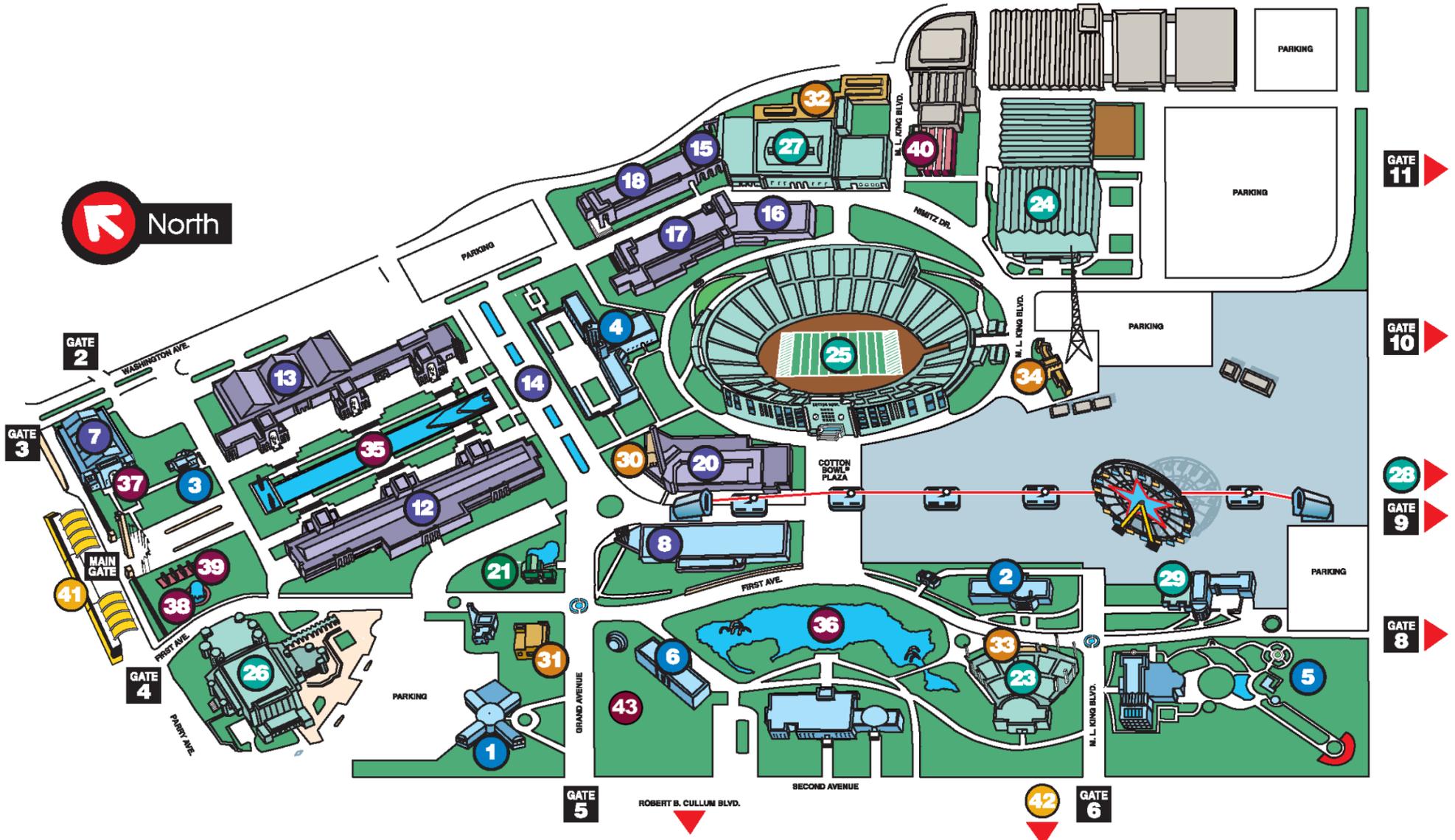
This served as the Christian Science Monitor Pavilion during the Texas Centennial Exposition.

### **[25] COTTON BOWL, 1930**

The original Fair Park Stadium was, literally, a concrete bowl. It was partially below-grade, giving it a distinctly different presence in the middle of Fair Park than it possesses today. With a seating capacity of 46,200, it was the largest stadium in the South. The capacity expanded with the addition of upper decks in 1948 and 1949 to accommodate enthusiastic crowds generated by Doak Walker, the legendary running back at Southern Methodist University. In 1994, the Cotton Bowl again expanded to host World Cup soccer; a 2008 expansion brought capacity to more than 90,000.

# FAIR PARK, TX

*One fun thing leads to another.*



## Museums

- 1 African American Museum
- 2 Children's Aquarium
- 3 D.A.R. House
- 4 Hall of State
- 5 Texas Discovery Gardens
- 6 Perot Museum Nature Building



## Exhibit/Event Facilities

- 7 The Women's Building
- 8 Grand Place
- 12 Automobile Building
- 13 Centennial Hall
- 14 Court of Honor
- 15 Crafts Village
- 16 Creative Arts
- 17 Embarcadero Building
- 18 Food & Fiber Pavilion
- 20 Tower Building



## Sports/Entertainment

- 23 Band Shell
- 24 Coliseum
- 25 Cotton Bowl Stadium
- 26 Music Hall at Fair Park
- 27 Pan American Arena
- 28 Starplex Pavilion
- 29 WRR 101.FM



## Special Interest Points

- 35 Esplanade Fountain Centennial Murals & Statues
- 36 Leonhardt Lagoon
- 37 Spirit of the Centennial
- 38 Smith Fountain
- 39 Texas Vietnam Memorial
- 40 Texas Woofus
- 43 Museum Green



## Dining

- 21 Old Mill Inn Restaurant



## Fair Park Support Facilities

- 30 Fair Park Administration Offices
- 31 Friends of Fair Park/ Magnolia Lounge
- 32 Mounted Patrol/ Canine Headquarters
- 33 Restrooms
- 34 State Fair of Texas Offices



## Transportation

- 41 DART Fair Park Station
- 42 DART MLK Station at Trunk