Public/private partnerships have come to define the creation of the urban realm and will likely continue to be the template by which these spaces are created. The High Line in Manhattan and Houston’s Memorial Park offer two examples that have led to the creation of successful civic space.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• Offer two contrasting models for the creation of urban parks.
• Showcase the importance of communication and civic engagement in the creation of quality urban spaces
• Illustrate long-view approaches to the creation and maintenance of public space
• Bring together park advocates and lead designers to decode the process by which parks are created today.

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

I. Adam Ganser and Keith O’Connor
   a. Introduce Highline
   b. Citizen/advocate
   c. Civic engagement
   d. Partnerships
   e. Engaging the designer
   f. The design team
   g. Engaging stakeholders
   h. Successes and pitfalls

II. Chris Knapp and Thomas Woltz
   a. Introduction to Memorial Park
   b. Citizen/advocate/board member
   c. Civic engagement
   d. Partnerships – TIRZ, Memorial Park Conservancy, City of Houston
   e. Engaging the designer
   f. The design team
   g. Engaging stakeholders
   h. Successes and pitfalls
PRESENTERS

Thomas Woltz, FASLA, PLA, NZILA
Principal and Owner of Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects. Woltz and his firm have achieved a body of work that integrates the beauty and function of built form and craftsmanship with an understanding of complex biological systems, and has yielded hundreds of acres of reconstructed wetlands, reforested land, native meadows, and flourishing wildlife habitat. NBW’s designs reveal narratives of the land in places where people live, work, and play creating a sense of connection and inspiring stewardship. Current NBW projects include Houston’s Memorial Park, Centennial Park in Nashville, and the Hudson Yards East landscape in Manhattan.

Adam Ganser
Vice President for Planning and Design, Friends of the High Line. Adam Ganser’s professional and academic history has focused on advocating for, designing, building and managing urban scale, mission driven public private projects. As Vice President for Planning and Design at Friends of the High Line (FHL), Adam oversees zoning advocacy, City and real estate partnerships, planning, design and construction on the High Line. Prior to FHL, Adam worked for Enrique Norten at TEN Arquitectos in New York City and led the architectural design of Orange County Great Park, a 1,400-acre park on the decommissioned El Toro Marine Corps Air Base. The project received the National 2009 Institute Honor Award for Regional and Urban Design from the American Institute of Architects. Adam received a Master of Architecture from Yale University, a Master of Real Estate Development from Columbia University, and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Keith O’Connor
Principal, James Corner Field Operations. As the principal-in-charge of several of the Field Operations’ most ambitious urban design projects, Keith is overseeing the transformation of Chicago’s Navy Pier, revitalization of Hong Kong’s Tsim Sha Tsui Waterfront, and the open space development of NYC’s Manhattan West project. Prior to joining the practice, Keith worked in the NYC Department of City Planning, first as Director of Lower Manhattan and then as Chief Planner for Manhattan Special Projects. He worked with senior administration officials to advance high-priority projects, including the World Trade Center, National September 11th Memorial, Hudson Yards, the High Line, Applied Sciences NYC, South Street Seaport, East River Waterfront Esplanade, and the Financial District Streetscape and Security Project.

Chris Knapp
Houston Memorial Park Conservancy Advisory Board Member. Christopher Knapp is a native Houstonian with a deep commitment to seeing the city innovate and thrive in a way that connects all citizens. As Co-Founder and CEO of Chilton Capital Management, he is at the forefront of markets-driven impact investing that helps create positive change in the world while rewarding entrepreneurship and bringing important new ideas to help solve some of the world’s biggest problems. Locally, he has been integral to numerous projects that have shaped the face of Houston today, including the revitalization of Hermann Park, where he served as Board Chair for the Hermann Park Conservancy, and the new Master Plan for Memorial Park, where he chaired the committee to select the design team, Nelson Byrd Woltz. He has been dedicated to the creative, youth-driven programs at Workshop Houston for nearly a decade, and currently serves as Honorary Chair of the organization’s Empowerment through Creativity Capital Campaign. Chris’ focus on projects that improve life for all Houstonians and his vision for a place that supports an interconnected web of catalytic people and resources inspires us to present him with Workshop Houston’s 2015 Community Leader Award.