



Emergence

An Organization on the Rise.
A Park Coming into its Own.

LEGACY | DECATUR

2021 Annual Report

From the Executive Director



Dear Friends of Legacy Decatur,

It's been seven years since we received our 501(c)(3) status and yet, in some ways, it feels like we're just getting started. At the close of my first full year as Legacy Decatur's Executive Director, I'm thrilled to share with you our inaugural annual report detailing the activities, initiatives, and specifics that define our organization.

2021 was a challenging year — for the world, our city and, I suspect, you — but it was also instructive in helping us appreciate just how important community and shared experience can be in times of stress and uncertainty.

We demonstrate this appreciation through our support of community doers and the projects they champion. We were honored to be selected to serve as the fiscal partner for the Congressman John Lewis Tribute effort launched last year and look forward to seeing a public art installation in his honor erected on the courthouse square.

We reveal our commitment through our partnership with the City of Decatur, working together to implement the community's vision for Legacy Park. We concluded 2021 on track with — and in some cases exceeding — our ambitions. Weddings will continue to be celebrated at the historic Moore Chapel, community use of the park will grow, efforts to add affordable housing will move forward, and work to preserve natural assets and renovate historic buildings will press on.

We look forward to another active year in support of this city we love. When we began in 2015, it was with the intent of organizing a meaningful celebration of Decatur's 200th birthday in 2023. In addition to the many roles that now characterize our mission, we remain hard at work planning for this celebration and for the lasting legacy we'll leave behind. After all, what better gift could we bestow upon future generations than the preservation and activation of the 77-acre urban oasis we call Decatur Legacy Park?

We appreciate your interest in and support for the work we do and hope this report helps illustrate the positive impacts that result.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lyn Menne".



Staffer Madeleine Henner (left) completes Legacy Decatur's admin team. She joined us in April, 2021, then became our full time Director of Programs in January of this year.

A distinct nonprofit aligned closely with the City of Decatur and its community vision, Legacy Decatur provides an infrastructure for connecting elected officials with community champions, nonprofit partners and motivated citizens in support of legacy-oriented initiatives.

Such initiatives can require certain tasks — like grassroots organizing, fundraising, and leasing negotiations — that government itself is either ill-suited or not permitted to perform. Legacy Decatur provides an accountable, parallel means by which these functions can be appropriately addressed, grants and other forms of funding can be pursued, and individuals and organizations can personally contribute — as donors or hands-on volunteers — to meeting the city’s strategic goals.

In 2015, we received our 501(c)(3) status as the Decatur Legacy Project to facilitate the planning, community engagement, and fundraising efforts associated with the city’s 2023 bicentennial celebrations. Operating now as Legacy Decatur, we’ve since broadened our mission and, with that, our focus.

Who is Legacy Decatur?

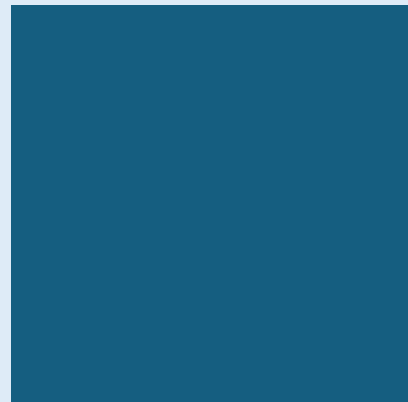
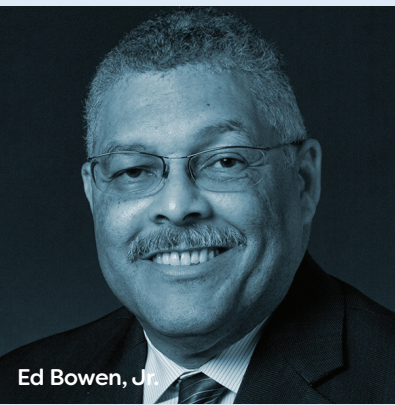
Today, beyond our origins, we cultivate a broadly-defined, tangible legacy for future generations — reinforcing community values through partnerships and programs that support the City of Decatur, Georgia.

To those ends, Legacy Decatur organizes its priorities around the city’s strategic goals, particularly as they relate to inclusive and attainable housing, community building, and environmental stewardship. These interests converge at the city’s 77 acre Legacy Park, a former United Methodist Children’s Home, where in 2020 ongoing management and implementation of the property’s master plan became our principal endeavor.



Did you know?

As an affiliated organization receiving support from the City of Decatur, all Legacy Decatur board meetings are open to the public, announced via our website, and routinely covered by local media.



Meet the Legacy Decatur Board

As Legacy Decatur has grown, so too has our board. In 2019, we expanded to seven members encompassing a mix of elected officials, city staff, and committed residents. In 2020, we expanded again with four additional at-large members.

Serving the promise of our organization today is a board of 11 members who, in accordance with our bylaws, include Decatur's Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and City Manager, as well as eight Decatur neighbor appointees with diverse skills, perspectives and expertise.

2021: *Finding Stability in an Unpredictable World*

Like everyone, Legacy Decatur entered 2021 in a world still mired in the challenges of the pandemic. But what we found as the year progressed was that, from our work at Legacy Park to the community projects we support, even a burden of global proportions was not enough to keep our small city down.

From generous contributions during times of uncertainty to simply showing up when it would be easier not to, the Decatur community truly came together in ways that inspire us all.

Volunteering

Perhaps nowhere was this more evident than in the boundless dedication of our volunteers — Eagle Scouts, Boy Scouts, Webelos and Brownies, neighbors, high school students, Agnes Scott staff, and a variety of committed organizations like Girls on the Run, Trees Atlanta, Global Growers Network, the Food Well Alliance and yes, Tito's Handmade Vodka. Add to that the volunteers we've helped recruit or corral for our various Legacy Park nonprofit partners and the prospect of real progress becomes evident.

Whether they were raking leaves, removing invasive plants, clearing debris, cleaning up trash, or pruning shrubbery, each played a pivotal role in 2021's ongoing upkeep and revitalization of Legacy Park.



Events

Among our responsibilities as stewards of Legacy Park is increasing the life and activity to be found here. To that end, 2021 showed no signs of slowing down. From bigger events like Truckin' Tuesdays in May and September, the BBQ Blues & Bluegrass Festival in August, and Oyster South's Landlocked 5 fundraiser in October, to more grassroots efforts like the L'Arche Atlanta Open Mic Night, the Treasure Maps traveling roadshow, and our DHS Bulldog Trail Race 5K, Legacy Park truly came alive last year.

Along the way, we orchestrated our first weddings at the Moore Chapel and further developed our location filming program with multiple episodes of ABC's *Wonder Years* reboot.

Photo: Jim Gossen

Upgrades

A number of planned Legacy Park upgrades came to fruition in 2021 — new farm fencing to help protect the more vulnerable areas of the park, a footbridge over the notorious wetlands bog behind the Kitchen Garden, a new roof on Sheddon Cottage, crafty enclosures for our trash receptacles, new picnic tables, and the completed renovation of Hawkins Dining Hall.



Leasing

Key to the future of Legacy Park is our ability to make productive use of its many buildings. We do this through the leasing of office and program space to local nonprofits. Not only does this help offset the care and maintenance costs associated with the many historic buildings of the Legacy campus, it provides an incubator-like atmosphere in which community-focused organizations can network and build complementary relationships.

2021 proved successful in this regard, with rental revenues exceeding projections and moving us closer to the goal of making the park self-sustaining.

Meet Our Tenants

The Frank Hamilton School

The Frank Hamilton School is a place where people of all ages can come together to share, learn, and celebrate music. Based on the idea that music is a natural birthright shared by everyone, the school strives to make learning accessible and enjoyable, bringing students and teachers together in a caring and supportive musical community. Students and teachers are often present at Legacy events and can frequently be heard freeform jamming on the grounds of the park. They're located in the Gillespie Education Center.

Read on! →

Meet Our Tenants [Cont.]

AJC Decatur Book Festival

The DBF encourage a love of reading, inquiry, and conversation in people of all ages. Over the years, they've brought world-class authors and book lovers together in the city of Decatur to celebrate and enjoy all things literary — their signature festival, book signings, author readings, poetry slams, writing workshops, and more. They're located in the Legacy Park Admin Building.



Decatur Education Foundation

DEF works together with the City Schools of Decatur, Decatur Housing Authority, and City of Decatur to bolster community efforts and ensure that all students have the resources, opportunities and experiences in order to foster their growth and ensure their academic success. They're located in the Legacy Park Admin Building.



Global Growers

Global Growers Network partners with people from diverse cultures to grow fresh food for their families and for local marketplaces. Together, they build and sustain networks of growers, land, resources, and markets in order to create a more equitable food system that is driven by cultural diversity, inclusive economies, and regenerative agriculture practices. They're located in the Legacy Park Admin Building.



Georgia Arborist Association

The GAA promotes safe and proper arboriculture practices in the state of Georgia through networking, training, and public education; and serves as a voice for the professional arborists who manage and care for Georgia's trees. They're located in the Legacy Park Admin Building.



L'Arche Atlanta

L'Arche envisions a world where everyone has a secure place of belonging in community, where people with and without disabilities can live in mutually transformative relationship, and where all people's gifts are valued and given a place from which to contribute to the wider society. They're located in the Legacy Park Admin Building.



Paint Love

Paint Love is a nonprofit organization bringing extraordinary arts programming to youth facing poverty and trauma. They partner with Title 1 schools and nonprofit organizations to empower youth through creative projects that are artist-led and shaped by trauma-informed standards. In 2021 they were located in the Legacy Park Admin Building.



The Refugee Women's Network

Created by women for women, the RWN serves refugee and immigrant families who have resettled in the state of Georgia. They are a women of color, immigrant, and refugee-led organization, with a mission to support women survivors of war, conflict, and displacement in overcoming cultural and systemic barriers to achieving healthy, self-sufficient, and fulfilling lives. They're located in Legacy Park's Williams Cottage.



Wild Nest Bird Rehab

Wild Nest Bird Rehabilitation mitigates losses in bird populations by rehabilitating sick and injured song-birds, as well as orphaned baby birds, for release back to the wild. In addition, the organization educates the public about bird conservation and simple actions they can take to help preserve and protect all birds. They're located in Legacy Park's Hemphill Cottage.



The Wylde Center

The Wylde Center supports resilient communities by connecting people to nature through environmental education and public greenspace. They're located in Legacy Park's Admin Building.



Supporting Good Works in Decatur

When neighbors step up to address community issues, all hands are welcome. We provide financial management, fundraising capability, and promotional infrastructure for citizen-led projects and initiatives that align with our values but lack the resources necessary to attain their own nonprofit status.

John Lewis Tribute

2021 presented us a unique opportunity to honor the legacy of John Lewis by assuming the role of fundraising partner in the ongoing effort to create an inspiring tribute installation at the heart of the district he served.

RAISED IN 2021: \$215,000
DONATIONS CONTINUE IN 2022

Friends of Decatur Cemetery

The Friends of Decatur Cemetery is a devoted volunteer group that works closely with the City and other community groups to preserve, maintain, and improve the cemetery as a historic and cultural resource.

RAISED IN 2021: \$16,000

Moore Chapel Gardeners

The Master Gardeners of Dekalb who attend to Legacy Park's Moore Chapel work to keep the gardens fresh and healthy, adding or replacing plants when necessary, and maintaining the gardens that honor this beautiful and historic 1906 stone structure.

A Season of Giving

A Season of Giving (Christmas Decatur) works to ensure that Decatur children and seniors in need experience the joy of the holidays with gifts matched to their wishes through the volunteer spirit of neighbors helping neighbors. 2021 marked the second year this effort has operated with a modified model due to the challenges of the pandemic.

RAISED IN 2021: \$70,000

Legacy Park Athletics & Recreation Coalition (LPARC)

The residents and community interests of LPARC raise funds and identify partners and foundations to achieve the track and field project outlined in the Legacy Park Master Plan.

Oakhurst Dog Park Committee

The Oakhurst Dog Park Committee augments City of Decatur maintenance efforts with additional upkeep, improvements, education, and dispute resolution for this prized piece of Oakhurst greenspace.

UMCH Alumni Association

Former residents of the United Methodist Children's home maintain their connection to this special piece of property and sponsor an annual homecoming for former residents.

Waddell Park Fund

This fund was established in 2021 by members of the Waddell Family to assist with the maintenance and upkeep of this small neighborhood greenspace. The family members who live out of state wanted to assure that signage and a bench placed in honor of the family were maintained.



2021: *By the Numbers*

Legacy Decatur operations are funded in a variety of ways, including support from the City of Decatur, leasing of the park's buildings and spaces, grants, weddings and other events, and donations from residents, supporters, and institutions.

Legacy Decatur	
January - December 2021	
	Operations Budget
Revenue	
Management Contract	181,040.01
Reimbursement Income	50,972.47
Rent Revenue	127,615.82
Sales	8,189.75
Total Revenue	\$ 367,818.05
Expenditures	
Business Expenses	2,079.00
Contractual Services-Building Maintenance	37,511.00
Furniture & Equipment Expense	7,843.00
Outdoor Furniture & Fixtures	14,326.01
Insurance	6,790.00
Operations	15,259.00
Other Business Expenses	2,787.61
Payroll and Expenses	66,793.00
Professional Services- design, legal, financial etc	91,619.00
Program Expense	7,602.00
Supplies & Materials	140.64
Travel and Meetings	659.11
Total Expenditures	\$ 253,409.37
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 114,408.68
Fund Balance for Legacy Park Capital Projects	\$ 114,408.68



Legacy Decatur

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Decatur, Georgia 30030

www.legacydecatur.org
www.decaturlegacypark.com