

Buffalo Bayou to get boathouse

Houston Business Journal - 12:39 PM CST Tuesday

The Texas Dragon Boat Association plans to build the city's first boathouse along Buffalo Bayou.

The non-profit association organizes the Houston Dragon Boat Festival on the bayou each May to carry on the tradition of dragon boating and increase awareness of Asian and Asian American culture.

The Houston Endowment donated \$75,000 to build the boathouse at 501 N. York Street, which will be used to store dragon boats. The association will also use the new facility for training and as a launch site for community-based teams.

Construction is expected to begin in the summer.

"We supported the project because of the year-round team-building, youth boating education and breast cancer survivor programs," said Ann Hamilton of Houston Endowment. "Dragon boat racing is a great way at-risk populations can engage in healthy activities on one of Houston's most historic waterways."

Houston City Councilman Adrian Garcia says the boathouse will encourage more Houstonians to take advantage of Buffalo Bayou.

The 2007 Houston Dragon Boat Festival is scheduled for May 5 at Allen's Landing. Last year's event drew more than 25 teams.

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