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Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge Opening Celebration Set for March 2-4, 2012

DALLAS, Texas, June 21, 2011 – The final cable of the Margaret Hunt Bridge was installed this month. Now organizers are planning the opening of the steel bridge across the Trinity River with a celebration scheduled for March 2-4, 2012. Community leader **Lynn McBee, The Trinity Trust Foundation** and the **Trinity Commons Foundation** are leading the planning for this momentous occasion.

Lynn McBee, event chair, said, “The weekend of March 2nd will be a grand celebration for all of Dallas to take part in opening this signature bridge. We will light up the bridge for an exceptional ticketed party on Friday evening and continue with free public events and festivities throughout Saturday and Sunday. It will be a great time to walk on the beautiful Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge and to explore Santiago Calatrava’s work up close. Everyone is invited to mark their calendar and join in the celebration that will include food, music, family entertainment and fireworks.”

Schedule of events:

Friday, March 2, 2012

7:00 p.m. -- Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge Celebration Party

-This ticketed event will put party goers directly on the beautiful new Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge to toast its opening.

Saturday, March 3, 2012

Early morning -- 8th Annual Trinity River Levee Run

-Race fees are \$10 for Dallas Running Club Members; \$20 for non-members prior to the race, \$25 for everyone on race day.

-The 10K and 5K route will take runners directly across the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge.

Following the 8th Annual Trinity River Levee Run:

12:00 p.m. – Free public celebration begins on the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge.

Sunday, March 4, 2012

7:00 a.m. -- Early Morning Sunrise Bridge Blessing

9:00 a.m. -- Official Ribbon Cutting and other commemorative activities

12:00 p.m. -- Following the morning activities, the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge is open for the enjoyment of the public.

-Walk, run, cycle, take photos, relax, push strollers, skate, and enjoy the engineering feat and architectural beauty of this new postcard view for Dallas.

Please note, the times and event schedule may change slightly as the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge Celebration gets closer. Updates will be provided; visit thetrinitytrust.org for additional information.

The honorary event chairs for the opening weekend include the three Dallas Mayors who have worked, and continue to work, on The Trinity River Corridor Project: **The Honorable United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk, the Honorable Laura Miller, and the Honorable Tom Leppert.** As former Mayor of Dallas, Ambassador Kirk began the vision of reclaiming the Trinity River and the corridor along its course. Former Mayor Miller secured support locally, statewide, and federally and developed the Balanced Vision Plan. Former Mayor Leppert continued following the master plan of the

Trinity River Corridor Project including the Balanced Vision Plan that his predecessors began while implementing such visionary additions as the Interagency Office Plan and the Dallas Levee Remediation Plan. Newly elected **Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings** will officiate the weekend activities.

About The Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge:

The first steel bridge across the Trinity River is designed by internationally renowned artist, architect and engineer Santiago Calatrava from Spain. The Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge is Mr. Santiago's first vehicular bridge to be built in the United States. The world-class bridge is being constructed to seamlessly connect Singleton Boulevard in West Dallas across the Trinity River to Woodall Rodgers (Spur 366) in downtown Dallas and points beyond. Already an icon of Dallas, this gleaming 400-foot white arch, consisting of 25 steel segments, anchors the cable-stayed portion of the bridge with 58 cables ranging in size from four to eight inches in diameter. Each cable attached to the arch is secured back down into the center spine of the bridge bed itself, thus holding itself in suspension. This spring, the cables were completely installed on the bridge. Next steps include the removal of the false work (temporary supports under the suspension section), letting the cables rest, and completion of the roadway approaches on both sides of the bridge.

For more information on the weekend or underwriting opportunities, contact Melanie Ferguson, director of outreach and development at The Trinity Trust, at 214.740.1616 or visit www.thetrinitytrust.org.

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