

## **Russell Farm Supervisor Report: January – May 2025**

Submitted by Mary Ann Spaun

BPAC Meeting: June 13, 2025

### **Russell Farm hosted 22 rentals for private parties: Total attendees 1,586**

- Anniversary: 100
- Baby Showers: 375
- Birthdays: 360
- Wedding Showers: 180
- Church gathering: 227
- Circle of Friends Valentine Party: 50
- Retirement: 50
- Graduation: 50
- Wedding: 170
- Writers Workshop: 24

### **Class and Program Attendees: Total attendees 747**

- Monthly Adult Art Classes: 53
- Weekly Youth Art Classes: 98
- Art Reception: 55
- Canning Classes (2): 30
- Date Night Experience (2): 86
- Show Me How Festival 149
- Russell Boren Home Tours: 27
- Homeschool First Friday Field Trips: 32
- BISD Adult Transition Students with Disabilities: 96
- Center for ASD Students with Disabilities: 34
- Garden Educational Workshops (2): 33
- Story Time: 35
- Volunteer Service Projects (2): 19 volunteers with 38 hours
- Volunteer Hours: 1,189 hours with 173 visits to the farm

### **Class and Program Summary**

#### **Art Programming**

- Adult Art Classes: Karen Kaiser (KC Arts) offers monthly watercolor classes (ages 10+ with adult, all experience levels). \$30 per session, supplies included.
- Youth Art Classes: Kid Create Art Studio provides weekly classes for ages 2–12, including "Mommy and Me." Hosting three summer camps in 2025.

- Art Reception: The Red Chair Lecture (March 22) featured artist Mick Swidall. 55 attendees; art sales totaled over \$3,000 (25% to the farm).
- SCBWI Workshop: On May 3, the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators hosted a workshop. Visitors praised the venue and booked 2026's event.

#### Culinary Programming

- Canning Classes: January – Pear Habanero Preserves; May – Roasted Tomato Chipotle Salsa. Both classes nearly full with strong repeat attendance. \$30 per class, all supplies and samples included.
- Expanded Culinary Offerings: Upcoming classes include Refrigerator Bread (June), Pasta & Pesto (July), and Curry Chicken Salad (August).

#### Community Engagement: Date Night

- Country Western Dance Nights: February and March events sold out (86 total attendees). Includes dinner, dance instruction, and s'mores. \$55 per couple.

#### Annual Events

- Show Me How Festival: Free vendor demonstration event. Activities included blacksmithing, weaving, gel painting, and live music. Thunderstorms impacted turnout.

#### History, Nature & Agriculture Programming

- Russell Boren Home Tours: 27 guests toured the historic home and museums. Volunteer docents share artifacts and family stories dating back to 1877.
- Homeschool Fridays (March–May):
  - March: History theme – home tours, butter and tortilla making
  - April: Nature theme – hikes, plant ID, garden tours, seed giveaway
  - May: Farm animals – hands-on with donkeys, cows, and chickens
  - \$5 per child. Plans to expand into electives like woodshop and art

#### BISD Adult Transition Program

- Weekly visits (16 weeks, 96 students total). Students learn job-readiness skills including event setup, gardening, animal care, and woodworking.

#### Center for ASD

- Ongoing art, culinary, and nature programming for youth and adults. \$5 per class.

#### Gardening Workshops

- April topics: Storm Water Gardening and Spring Gardening 101. 33 total attendees.

#### Story Time in the Garden

- Weekly program every Friday at 11 AM. Includes garden tours, sensory garden experiences, and donkey visits. Popular among families with young children.

#### Volunteer Recognition

- April 24: Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast
- November: Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon

- Supported by Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, BISD students, and Friends of Russell Farm.

### **Upcoming Summer Programs**

#### June Highlights

- Brick Summer Field Trip (June 3)
- Fun on the Farm Camps (June 5–6, 10–12)
- Autism Resource Fair (June 7)
- Culinary: Bread Dough Class (June 7)
- Watercolor: Birds & Blooms (June 14)
- Horse Camps (June 17–20)
- Basket Weaving Family Day (June 24)
- Field Trips: Children's Place & Mathnasium STEM Camp (June 24–26)
- Summer Art Camp with Misty Gifford (June 24–27)

#### July Highlights

- Culinary: Pasta & Pesto (July 5)
- Survival Camp for Teens (July 8–10)
- Kid Create Art Camps (July 15–18, 29–31)
- Watercolor: Book Fairy (July 12)
- Birdhouse Family Day (July 19)
- Watermelon Day at the Farm (July 25)

#### August Highlights

- Fun on the Farm Camp (Aug. 5–7)
- Culinary: Curry Chicken & Pasta Salad (Aug. 2)
- Watercolor: Fruity Cuties with Gouache (Aug. 9)

### **Russell Farm Supervisor Report – Operational Updates**

#### Project Updates

- Chesapeake Building – Project update
- Garage Conversion – Project update
  - Staff will begin drafting operational guidelines for the new Art Studio. These guidelines will address programming, events, rentals, and day-to-day operations, and will be presented to the Art Advisory Committee for input and discussion.
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Project update
  - Russell Farm Master Plan – Project update
  - Dairy Barn Access / Gallery Expansion – Exploring future gallery expansion to accommodate additional Charlie Boren pieces
  - ADA Compliance: Accessibility Issues (Roadways, Driveways, Sidewalks)
- CR 714 Widening – No update; timeline still anticipated to be 5 years out

## Facilities

- Dairy Barn Flooring & Toilet – Flooring completed; toilet replacement planned for next fiscal year
- Office Restroom Fixtures & Painting – Received quote to remove and install donated toilet and sink, \$310.
- Hay Barn Toilet & Sink Replacement – Donated items not suitable; to be considered for FY 2026 Capital Improvement Project
- Russell Boren House Repairs (HVAC, Condensation Switch, Closet Repairs) – Completed

## Maintenance & Improvements

- Community Garden Repairs & Improvements – Completed
- Worm Bed in Community Garden – Project discontinued

## Engagement & Marketing

- QR Code Project – Content received from Historical Committee; meeting scheduled with Communications Team
  - Sculpture Documentation (Pete McCaskill Interview) – Interview completed; awaiting transcript
- Public Calendar of Special Events – Completed

## Administrative & Planning

- Use Agreement Updates – Tabled until the Master Plan is finalized
- Donation Receipt Tracking – Spreadsheet completed
- Onsite Signage & Maps – Map added to website (included in QR code meeting); potential donor for new entry sign identified; signage discussion to continue after we have more information
- Promotion Opportunities (Local Life, Newsletter, etc.) – Follow-up needed with Charlsa to explore adding “Fresh off the Farm” to Friday Report
- Russell Farm Website – Stand-alone site link completed and working toward a more user-friendly site for non-residents

## Emergency Planning

- Disaster Recovery Plan (Buildings, Furnishings, Artifacts) – Working with Risk & Claims Administrator to appraise furnishings/artifacts; buildings are insured under the city plan

## Budget & Staffing

- Russell Farm Priorities in City Budget Process – Update on the CIP