

**Supervisor BPAC Report**

**June 14, 2024**

**Submitted by Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor**

**February 16:** The Date Night Experience took place from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The fee was \$45.00 and included a catered meal from Sammy's Italian Bistro and Western couples dancing.

**March 2:** Back Forty Art Exhibit with cookout, live music, and 11 artists from all over the metroplex were featured in this Art Reception. Art Curator Annabelle Massey spoke to a crowd that were moved to purchase several pieces of art that night and continued online.

**March 16:** The canning class sold out. Participants delved into the safety techniques of the canning process, equipping themselves with valuable skills. Each attendee took home not only the recipe but also their very own jar of Spicy Pickled Three Bean Salad. The class ran from 9 AM to 12 PM with a fee of \$30.00, which covered all processing supplies.

**March 23:** Russell Farm hosted a successful Easter event featuring a free Easter Egg Hunt with over 3,000 eggs and Donuts with the Easter Bunny for children aged 4 and under. The hunt commenced at 9:00 AM, preceded by a \$5.00 breakfast event at 8:00 AM. The festivities brought together families for a joyful day of community celebration.

**April 6:** Show Me How Special Event - Artisans from various mediums showcased their talents, enriching our community with diverse art experiences. The Dutch Oven Society delighted attendees with outdoor cooking demonstrations, offering complimentary samples. Stained glass artists showcased to hundreds of guests and created mosaic artworks to enjoy. The event featured numerous demonstrations, including wood carving, basket weaving, spinning and weaving, and horse drawings. Artist Brad Smith enhanced the farm's aesthetics with an outdoor mural, engaging spectators with his process and insights.

**April 20:** The Carrot Cake Jam Canning Class reached full capacity, highlighting its popularity. Attendees gained valuable insights into canning safety techniques and each left with the recipe and a personalized jar of Carrot Cake Jam. The class, held from 9 AM to 12 PM, offered comprehensive instruction and all necessary supplies for a fee of \$30.00.

**April, May, and June:** A three-part series of Watercolor Classes unfolded from 12:30 to 2:30 PM, focusing on mastering techniques for working with watercolor paints.

**May 17-18:** Our annual Texas Heritage Festival celebrated our rich heritage with interactive demonstrations, including Native American showcases, Chuck wagon outdoor cooking with complimentary cobbler samples, Draft Horse Blacksmithing, Pottery, Hayrides, and Mini train rides. Guests enjoyed free arts and crafts and live music while exploring over 100 vendors, including the Children's Entrepreneur Market and artisans showcasing handcrafted goods. The historic Russell-Boren Home welcomed also visitors for guided tours.

**Upcoming operational items / updates:**

**Additional art space:** One of our major current goals and priorities is to repurpose the existing garage into a functional dedicated art space. Currently, we're in the process of relocating all existing storage to our Hay barn area, which has been enclosed to expand storage capacity and equipped with shelves. Our next step is sorting through items and coordinating a service project to aid in the transition to the new storage area. Our goal to complete this step is by July 2024.

**Dairy Barn/Charlie Boren Gallery:** After receiving feedback from visitors with limited mobility regarding entrance challenges to the Charlie Boren Gallery, we will be exploring options to enhance access. Currently, entry involves navigating two steps, but potential exists for an alternate entry toward the rear of the facility.