



**Bicentennial
Amphitheater
Dedication
May 16, 1976**

**THE
BICENTENNIAL AMPHITHEATER
DEDICATED
TO THE RICHNESS OF OUR HERITAGE
AND OUR TRUST IN THE FUTURE
1776-1976**

**PLANNED AND CONSTRUCTED UNDER THE
FOLLOWING CITY ADMINISTRATIONS**

May 1971-1973

Ronnie Sizemore, Mayor
Charles A. Bonniwell,
Mayor Pro Tem
Roberto Bosquez, M.D.
Harold T. Branch
Thomas V. Gonzales
Gabe Lozano, Sr.
J. Howard Stark

May 1973-1975

Jason Luby, Mayor
James T. Acuff,
Mayor Pro Tem
Harold T. Branch
Thomas V. Gonzales
Ricardo Gonzalez
Gabe Lozano, Sr.
J. Howard Stark

May 1975-1977

Jason Luby, Mayor
Bill Tipton, D.D.S., Mayor Pro Tem
Eduardo E. de Ases
Ruth Gill
Bob Gulley
Gabe Lozano, Sr.
Edward L. Sample

CITY MANAGER R. MARVIN TOWNSEND

Corpus Christi's Cole Park has evolved from a rustic, bayfront retreat into an expansive playground for the entire community. The park encompasses a 43-acre area caressed by the waters of Corpus Christi Bay.

Land for Cole Park was dedicated to the city of Corpus Christi in 1928. The park was named in honor of E. B. Cole, who provided additional land for the park in 1933.

The City Park and Recreation Board and Bicentennial Commission deemed it appropriate to single out this park as the city's Bicentennial Park.

At the time the present-day Cole Park began to take shape, city officials visualized an outdoor, landscaped performing shell which would be used by civic, educational, cultural and religious groups.

Special provisions were made to allow for contouring the land to seat audiences for the proposed shell. Voters in 1972 approved bonds to build the structure. In 1974, construction of the performing shell was endorsed as part of this city's Bicentennial celebration.

Dr. Lawrence Weiner, Associate Professor in Music at Texas A&I University at Corpus Christi, was commissioned by the Bicentennial Commission, with approval of the Corpus Christi City Council, to compose "American Celebration" for this dedication.

Music for the ceremony is provided in part by a grant from Music Performance Trust Funds, a public service organization created and financed by the recording industries under agreements with the American Federation of Musicians, in cooperation with Local 644 A.F.M., the City of Corpus Christi and Del Mar College.

PROGRAM AIDES

Program Distribution

Corpus Christi Area
Camp Fire Girls

Guides

Boy Scouts of America,
Troop 7

BICENTENNIAL FLAG DISPLAY

Flour Bluff High School Band Flag Corps

PROGRAM

May 16, 1976

2 p.m.

American Music Concert

National Emblem Bagley
Selections from Music Man Wilson
American Salute Gould
Selections from Porgy and Bess Gershwin
Perry Horine, Vocalist
Stars and Stripes Forever Sousa

DEDICATION CEREMONY

Presentation of the Colors

Color Guard from the

U.S. Coast Guard Air Station

Corpus Christi, Texas

National Anthem Corpus Christi Municipal Band
Invocation The Most Reverend Thomas J. Drury
Diocese of Corpus Christi
Introduction of Guests Dr. Richard R. Moore, Chairman
Bicentennial Commission
Dedicatory Address Mayor Jason Luby

RIBBON CUTTING

and

PLAQUE UNVEILING

Presentation of Musical Composition "American Celebration"

AMERICAN CELEBRATION

COMPOSED

BY

DR. LAWRENCE WEINER

FOR SYMPHONIC BAND AND NARRATOR

TEXT BY

RABBI AUTHUR Z. STEINBERG

and

DR. HECTOR GARCIA

PERFORMED BY

THE CORPUS CHRISTI MUNICIPAL BAND

RICHARD KOLE, CONDUCTOR

NARRATED BY

RABBI SIDNEY WOLF

and

DR. HECTOR GARCIA

"America America! The dreams of our fathers the hope of our children.

Gathering from distant shores, from far-off lands, our fathers reached this haven, and first breathed the intoxicating air of promise . . . We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal

Outcasts of an old world, stirred by these words of liberty, of justice, of democracy, they gallantly led a nation through the birth-trauma and painful early growth of an unparalleled experiment in freedom.

Driven by the responsibilities of independence, and thrilled by their new self-respect, these brave men and women set the cornerstone of the American heritage freedom of speech freedom of the press freedom of religious worship right of due process trial by jury

So a mighty nation grew, a nation whose plains and mountains, prairies and fields continued to summon people from the four corners of the earth, in quest of the light of freedom This is the America that 200 years ago began as a model for human brotherhood, unique in the history of mankind

Human brotherhood, the dream of the past, the hope of the future the promise of America"

The Bicentennial Amphitheater is a culmination of the efforts of all citizens of the City of Corpus Christi.

The following members of the community are being recognized for their added contribution through service on official bodies involved with the planning and construction of the amphitheater.

SHELL FOR COLE PARK COMMITTEE

Mr. Chester Malins, Chairman
Mr. William W. Anderson
Dr. William R. Carline
Mr. Arley Cooper
Mr. Edward Galvan
Mr. Romeo Garcia
Miss Mary Lou Huffman
Mr. Richard Kole
Mr. Edward Olivares
Mr. Maurice Peress
Mr. William P. Witt

ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION JURY OF AWARDS

Mr. Maurice Peress
Mrs. G. Russell Kirkland
Mr. Frank Gamez
Mr. David Wilson
Mr. Oneil Ford
Mr. Walter Wiznia
Mr. David Woodcock
Mr. Romeo Garcia, architectural advisor

CONSULTING COMMITTEE FOR THE BICENTENNIAL MUSICAL COMPOSITION

Dr. Merton Johnson
Mr. Richard Kole
Mr. Chester Malins

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

Mr. Armando Saenz, Chairman
Dr. Henry Casillas
Mr. Tom Hetzel
Miss Mary Lou Huffman
Mrs. Gerald Langberg
Mr. A. G. Mejia
Mr. Roosevelt Porter, Jr.
Mr. R. C. Shults
Mrs. Dick Swantner
Mrs. Wallace R. Wilkerson

MARINA BOARD

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Mr. Lew Borden
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Mr. John Luby
Mr. Bruce Matson
Mr. W. A. Sky-Eagle, Jr.

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Mrs. Marvin L. Berry
Mr. Dick Bowen
Col. Floyd Buch
Mrs. John Chapman
Mrs. Roger Chavana
Mr. Raymond E. Freddie
Mrs. Eddie Galvan
Mr. Guadalupe V. Garcia
Mrs. Henry Hausmann
Mr. Jon Held
Mr. J. Carter Howard
Mrs. Alex Vaky
Mrs. Wesley Walberg
Mr. David M. Wilson

BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Executive Committee

Dr. Richard R. Moore, Chairman
Dr. Nancy Bowen
Mr. George Clower, Jr.
Mrs. Patricia Duaine
Mr. Eddie Galvan
Mr. Dan E. Kilgore
Dr. Richard Marcum
Miss Margaret Ramage
Mr. Celso Rodriguez

Commission Members

Mrs. H. C. Arbuckle	Mrs. W. K. Huber
Mr. Basilio Bachor	Miss Mary Lou Huffman
Mrs. Eddie Bolden	Mrs. Ali Kara
Dr. Roberto Bosquez	Mr. Henry Knolle
Dr. Eugenia Briscoe	Mr. Leopoldo Luna
The Rev. R. L. Brown	Mrs. Lola Le Blanc
Col. Floyd S. Buch	Mrs. Clay Moore
Mr. Joseph Cain	Miss Jean North
Col. John W. Campbell	Mr. M. L. Norvell
Dr. William Carline	Mr. Victor Lara Ortegon
Mrs. Jack L. Connally	Mrs. Yolanda Peronis
The Most Rev. Thomas J. Drury	Mrs. Alclair Mays Pleasant
Mrs. J. E. Garza	Mr. Harry Plomarity
Dr. Clotilde Garcia	Mr. Martin Rex
Dr. Hector Garcia	Mr. Oscar Reyna
Mr. Joe Garza	Mrs. Alvin Ritchie
Mrs. Richard Garza	Mr. Lavernis Royal
Ms. Cynthia Gutierrez	The Rev. E. M. Schaefer
Mr. Bert Haas	Mr. R. C. Shultz
Dr. D. Whitney Halladay	Miss Josephine Sparks
Dr. Donald Hanna	Mr. George Trevino
Mr. Aalbert Heine	Rabbi Sidney Wolf
Mrs. A. J. Hogarty	Mrs. Frank C. Young





Voters in Corpus Christi in 1972 approved bonds for a band shell, parking lots and walkways in Cole Park. Of the \$200,000 voted, \$150,000 was designated for a performing shell.

An architectural competition was carried out to establish a design for what developed into an amphitheater concept. The distinctive structure which resulted is a creation by winning architect Gale Garth Carroll. A total of twelve architects participated in the competition.

The design of the building was tied directly to a study carried out earlier by Christopher Jaffe, who made original recommendations for obtaining the proper acoustical benefits from the amphitheater.

The facility was constructed by the Marshall Company, under a contract totalling \$200,954.

The Bicentennial Amphitheater is a reinforced concrete structure, with 1600 square feet of stage area, storage sections and restrooms for performers. Lighting and sound systems add the finishing touch to the facility.

