



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **\$750K Donation by Estela Avery Funds Confluence Park's Education Center**

SAN ANTONIO, TX- Local philanthropist Estela Avery donated \$750,000 to fund [Confluence Park's](#) multipurpose classroom. [Opening January 17, 2018](#) on the South Side, Confluence Park's *Estela Avery Education Center* will be complete with modular classroom furniture, 20 laptop computers donated by Toyota Motor North America, and laboratory supplies. Through a separate \$1Million Education Endowment, the San Antonio River Foundation is able to offer this facility free of charge to school systems, including the availability of free transportation for schools that otherwise could not afford to participate. This convergence of technology and transportation resources addresses financial barriers, ensuring equal access to the park. Confluence Park is a [San Antonio River Foundation](#) project.



*Estela Avery facing the earthen berm which acts as the “green roof” of the education center*

Estela Avery has been involved with Confluence Park since the project’s genesis in 2013. As a San Antonio River Foundation Board Member and then Executive Director from 2010-2017, Avery has emphasized every step of the way the importance of having a classroom within the park, which by itself is a teaching tool. The Education Center will be the base of operations for the [San Antonio River Authority](#)’s established environmental education programs which have reached over 50,000 students since the 2013-2014 school year. Though located at 310 Mitchell Street on the South Side, the Education Endowment and use of the facility is extended to schools and educators in the region. “It’s not only for the immediate area, you’ve got the potential for students in other counties to come and experience the park,” says Avery.



*Rendering of the Estela Avery Education Center*

“The education center lies at the philosophical and literal heart of the park and the park’s mission,” says Robert Amerman, Executive Director of the San Antonio River Foundation. Designed by Matsys, Lake | Flato Architects and Rialto Studio, the *Estela Avery Education Center* has a green roof providing thermal mass for passive heating and cooling and a photovoltaic array that provides 100% of the energy use for the project when measured over a yearly basis. The center is located directly adjacent to the main BHP Pavilion with easy access to the park’s five demonstration ecotypes. Avery says, “You will be able to see how nature is blending together indoors and outdoors. I can hardly wait for it to open and hear the excitement in kids’ voices as they explore, learn and really let their curiosity show.”



*Estela Avery*

#### **ABOUT THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER FOUNDATION**

The San Antonio River Foundation is the nonprofit partner to the San Antonio River Authority. Established to provide amenities and enhancements along the San Antonio River and its tributaries not funded by public monies, the Foundation's mission is to enhance the San Antonio River Basin as a vibrant cultural, educational, ecological, and recreational experience.