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OPINION

So Dallas — Klyde Warren Park's fountain will be brash and bold and we love it

A groundbreaking fountain is the perfect topper for a groundbreaking deck park.



Sheila Grant, left, co-founder of the Klyde Warren Park board, and Nancy Best, fountain donor, stand where a new \$10 million interactive fountain will be built at Klyde Warren Park in Dallas, on Dec. 2, 2020. (BEN TORRES / Special Contributor)

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By Dallas Morning News Editorial

11:50 AM on Dec 4, 2020



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Once again, Klyde Warren Park is making headlines and making Dallas better. This week, our business columnist **Cheryl Hall broke the news** that philanthropists Nancy and Randy Best are contributing \$10 million to the park for a project being billed as the world's tallest interactive fountain.

Let's deal with the critiques first. Or rather, we'll just embrace them. Yes, this project is flashy, splashy and over-the-top. A "super fountain" that will shoot water 95 feet high choreographed to music and colored lights could become the most Dallas thing in Dallas. Like big hair and 10-gallon Stetsons, it makes a statement. Supporters say it's destined to become Dallas' "blimp shot" — an iconic feature of the skyline.

But we're not afraid of big, bold statements. In fact, we encourage them. The donors and developers in our city who can afford to spray out \$10 million didn't get where they are without making bold moves. Dallas is a city of big hats, big ambitions, big money, and now big fountains. We say bring on the dazzle.



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BY PAUL O'DONNELL

But the real achievement to celebrate is less flashy. As **we've written before**, Klyde Warren is a success because of its unique public/private funding. It's a testament to what can happen when a city sees corporations as partners rather than simply revenue sources or, worse yet, adversaries. That partnership laid the foundation for a groundbreaking deck park, and it is enabling a high-flying ornament to top it off. If the city budget were funding such extravagance, we would raise the red flag. But the private sector has stepped up to build and maintain the fountain so it gets our support.

What's more, as another member of our **business news staff reported yesterday**, the Dallas area construction industry is weathering the pandemic storm better than any other metro area in the country. It will take months to build the world's tallest interactive fountain on a deck over a freeway, giving quite a few people much-needed work.

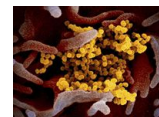
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And let's not forget what the finished product will bring: More families together outside where kids can splash in the water, parents can breathe fresh air, conversations can happen apart from screens, and the city can be more livable.

So during a holiday season when we really need a splash of good news, we celebrate this development for our city, and we thank those who have led the way in making this park a signature for Dallas.

This editorial was written by the editorial board and serves as the voice and opinion of The Dallas Morning News.



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