

Millennium Park Foundation

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Our Letter Of Gratitude

“Facing what seemed insurmountable obstacles, Millennium Park overcame the challenges of 2020 and remained as Chicago’s free and open cultural space for all to enjoy.”

Donna LaPietra, Chair and President,
Millennium Park Foundation

Millennium Park opened in 2004 to very different world than the one we live in today. In 2020 and through this year we have all been affected by a brutal pandemic. Millennium Park was not exempt from the effects of COVID-19. Like the human spirit, Millennium Park has adapted to today’s challenges and has continued to thrive. Facing what seemed insurmountable obstacles, Millennium Park overcame the challenges of 2020 and remained as Chicago’s free and open cultural space for all to enjoy.

Despite Millennium Park’s closure from March until June, incredible work happened behind-the-scenes. Considerable work was accomplished as part of the Park’s arboriculture program, including the pruning of all trees along Michigan Avenue and the main entrances to the Park. The Park’s landscape received additional attention with the completion of the new North Gardens. And, Lurie Garden received extra attention during the flowering of spring bulb display.

Millennium Park safely re-opened in June as Chicago entered a less restrictive phase of pandemic mitigation. Mask wearing, metered entry, and limited access to certain artworks allowed the public to enjoy the Park throughout the remainder of the summer, fall, and winter. While no in-person programs occurred, the Park served as a beautiful space for visitors to experience physical and mental healing. The Great Lawn opened, and social distancing circles were created for guests to enjoy.

Millennium Park Foundation ventured into new horizons in 2020 — online virtual public engagement. Building on the partnership between the Foundation and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, students from the School developed, directed, and delivered a virtual arts engagement event featuring the work of Edra Soto and Christine Tarkowski. Works by Edra and Christine are on display in the Park’s Boeing Galleries through Spring 2023.

Continuing the rich tradition of summer music festivals, Millennium Park created virtual festivals and programming in lieu of in-person events. The *Millennium Park at Home* series welcomed a diverse set of artists to perform for virtual Jazz, Blues, House, and Gospel Festivals. Chicago Children’s Choir, Grant Park Music Festival, a special Music Series, and Summer Workouts occurred virtually as well.

Another highlight of 2020 was Millennium Park’s winning of two prestigious awards. In September, Millennium Park was awarded the American Society of Landscape Architects’ 2020 Landmark Award. This award recognizes a public landscape project that has both maintained its design excellence and helped to redefine public park and public space projects. In December, the Park was awarded a silver medal for the World Urban Parks, International Large Urban Parks Award. This silver medal recognizes the Park as one of the best all-around public parks in the world.

Millennium Park continues to set new standards for public space design and landscape as well as arts and culture activities, and all thanks to the vision and generosity of you — our Founders of Millennium Park. I thank you for your continued support of Millennium Park Foundation. Your support has helped see the Foundation and Millennium Park through a year unlike any before. We are proud to call you a partner with Millennium Park Foundation. Together, we will continue to adapt, create memories, and enrich the lives of Chicagoans and visitors alike.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "D" and a trailing flourish.

Donna LaPietra
Chair and President

Connecting and Sharing Through Health & Wellness

Millennium Park Foundation, through the generous funding provided by the McDonald's Active Lifestyles Endowment, supported a series of free virtual workout and fitness sessions in 2020.



12

LEAD CHICAGO
INSTRUCTORS



12

FREE VIRTUAL
WORKOUT SESSIONS



70K+

VIEWERS

Movement In A Time of Stillness

Millennium Park Foundation, in partnership with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, produced "Movement in a Time of Stillness," a virtual art experience enhancing the works of Edra Soto and Christine Tarkowski currently on display in Millennium Park's Boeing Galleries. The special event included a commissioned dance and music piece by Ayako Kato and Mabel Kwan.

"The collaboration with Ayako and Mabel was such a creative moment. The collision between different works of different artists has brought a new spark to Edra's Screenhouse and created more possibilities for the exhibition."

Saijun Wang, SAIC student



AYAKO KATO & MABEL KWAN PERFORMANCE
CLICK TO VIEW VIDEO



PARK ENHANCEMENTS

Landscape Excellence

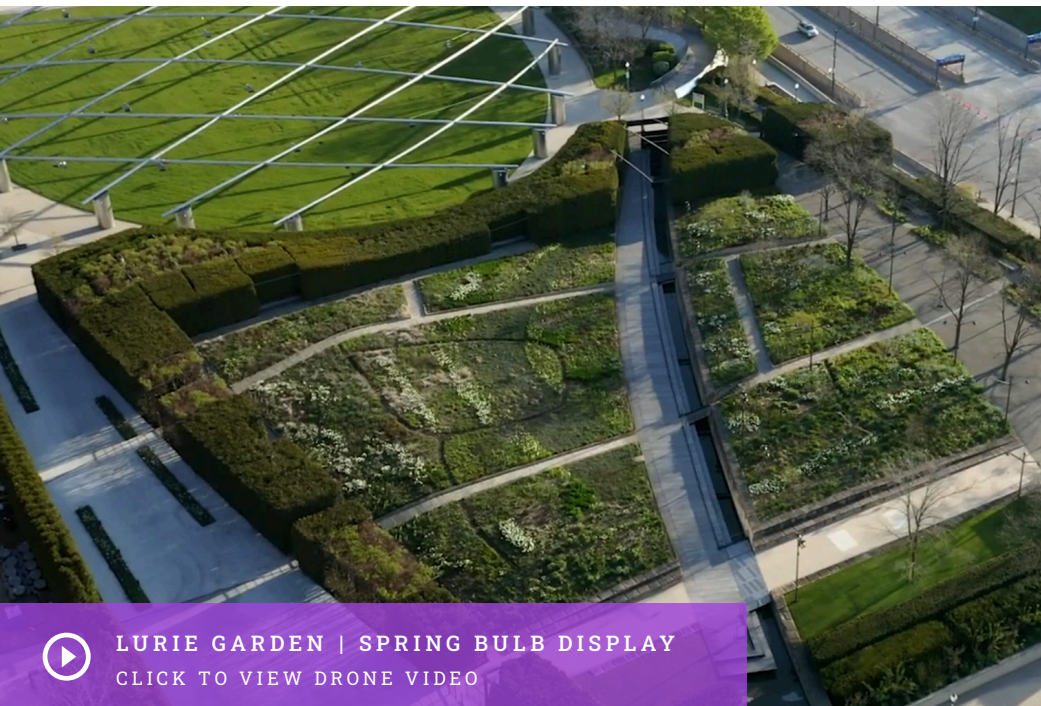
In 2020, Millennium Park Foundation continued efforts to elevate the horticultural arts throughout Millennium Park. Over 30,000 square feet of new gardens were completed—adding a higher standard of landscape artistry and ecology to the Park.




LURIE GARDEN

Nurturing A World-Class Urban Garden

Lurie Garden, Millennium Park's urban public garden, showcased the floriferous display of tulips and other spring bulbs by bringing the experience to the public through virtual tours and special online events with the Garden's bulb designer, Jacqueline van der Kloet.




65,000+
 SPRING BULBS BLOOMED FROM
 2019 PLANTING DESIGN INITIATIVE


8 NEW TYPES OF BULBS

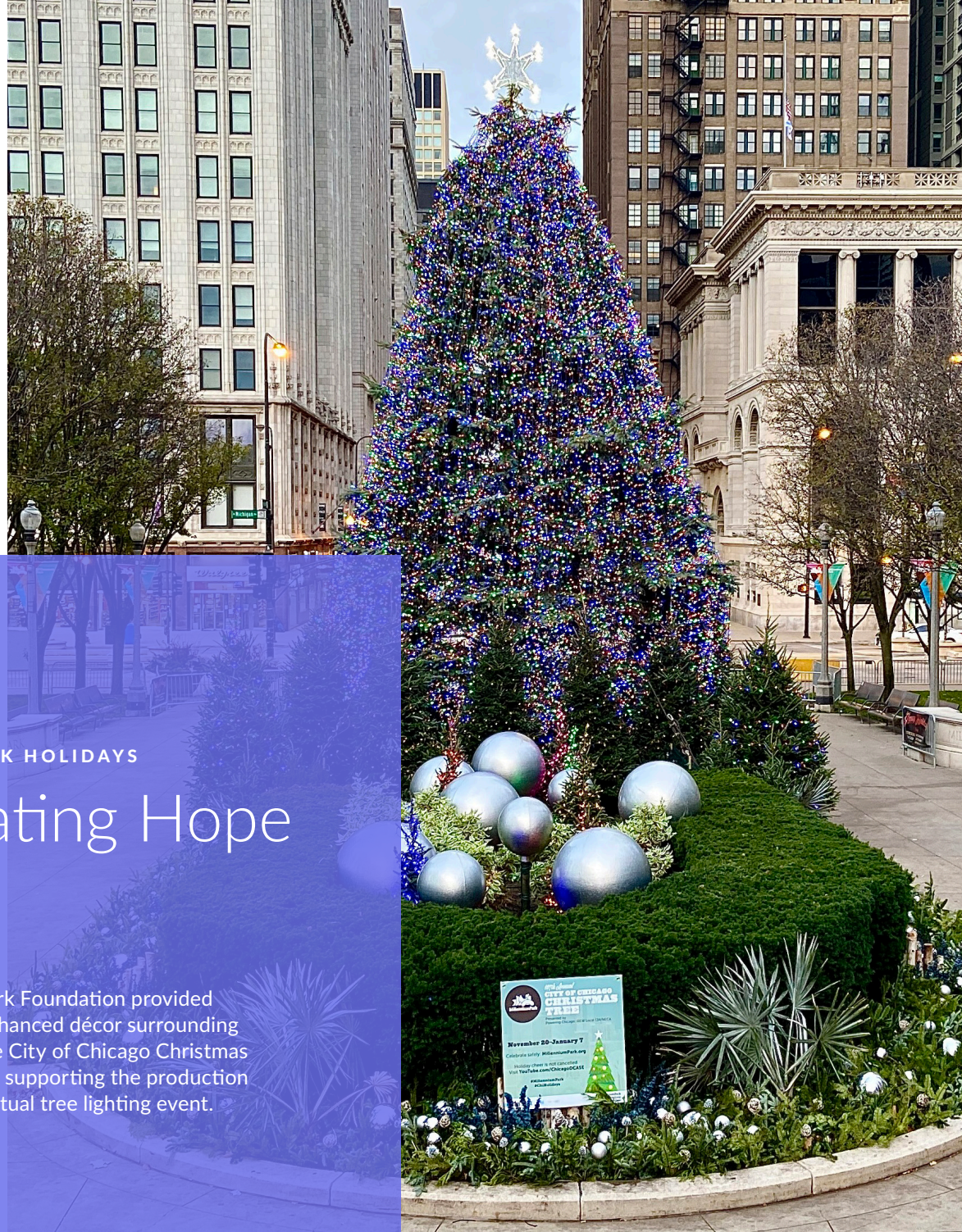
pictured, right: Jacqueline van der Kloet, world renowned
 garden designer from the Netherlands, oversaw the planting
 of her spring design initiative at Lurie Garden in Fall 2019.



MILLENNIUM PARK HOLIDAYS

Celebrating Hope

Millennium Park Foundation provided support for enhanced décor surrounding the base of the City of Chicago Christmas tree, as well as supporting the production of DCASE's virtual tree lighting event.



pictured, from top: Installation of Chicago's 2020 Christmas Tree, Sones de México Ensemble's Holiday Program performance, and 2020 Christmas Tree Lighting.

Excellence and Impact

2020 Landmark Award | ASLA

In September 2020, Millennium Park was awarded the American Society of Landscape Architects' 2020 Landmark Award. The award recognizes a public landscape project that has both maintained its design excellence and helped to redefine public park and public space projects.



American Society of
Landscape Architects



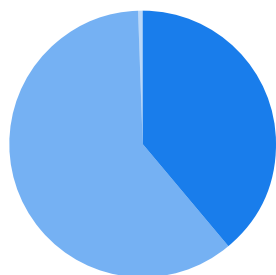
Silver Medal | World Urban Parks

In December 2020, Millennium Park was awarded a Silver Medal for the World Urban Parks, International Large Urban Parks Award. The Silver Medal recognizes the Park as one of the best all-around public parks in the world.



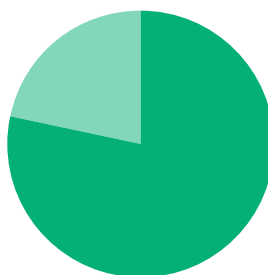
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

| | Without Donor Restrictions | With Donor Restrictions | Total |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| SUPPORT AND REVENUE | | | |
| Contributions | | | |
| Annual Appeal and Founder Contributions | \$372,590 | \$30,886 | \$403,476 |
| Other | 3,676 | 0 | 3,676 |
| Interest and Dividends | 24,588 | 597,906 | 622,494 |
| Net Assets Released from Restrictions | 1,521,950 | (1,521,950) | 0 |
| Total Support and Revenue | \$1,922,804 | (893,158) | \$1,029,646 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Program Support | 1,457,457 | | 1,457,457 |
| Administrative and Fundraising Costs | 402,003 | | 402,003 |
| Total Expenses | \$1,859,460 | 0 | \$1,859,460 |
| NET ASSETS | | | |
| Change in Net Assets from Operating Activities | 63,344 | (893,158) | (829,814) |
| Net Realized and Unrealized Gains on Investments | 360,908 | 1,717,033 | 2,077,941 |
| Beginning Net Assets | 9,815,450 | 31,957,814 | 41,773,264 |
| Ending Net Assets | \$10,239,702 | \$32,781,689 | \$43,021,391 |



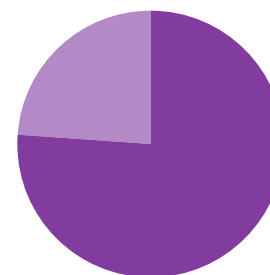
SUPPORT AND REVENUE

- 39.19% Annual Appeal & Founder Contributions
- 60.46% Interest and Dividends
- 0.36% Other



EXPENSES

- 78.38% Program Support
- 21.62% Administrative and Fundraising Costs



NET ASSETS

- 76.20% With Donor Restrictions
- 23.80% Without Donor Restrictions

The December 31, 2020 Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activities have been audited by Baker Tilly US LLP. Copies of the complete report are available upon request.



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Credits

ORGANIZATIONS

Austin Eischeid Garden Design, Bartlett Tree Experts,
 Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special
 Events, City of Chicago Public Art Program, JPL
 Design & Production, Kobotech, MB Real Estate,
 Mission Accounting, Janet Hanley, School of the Art
 Institute of Chicago

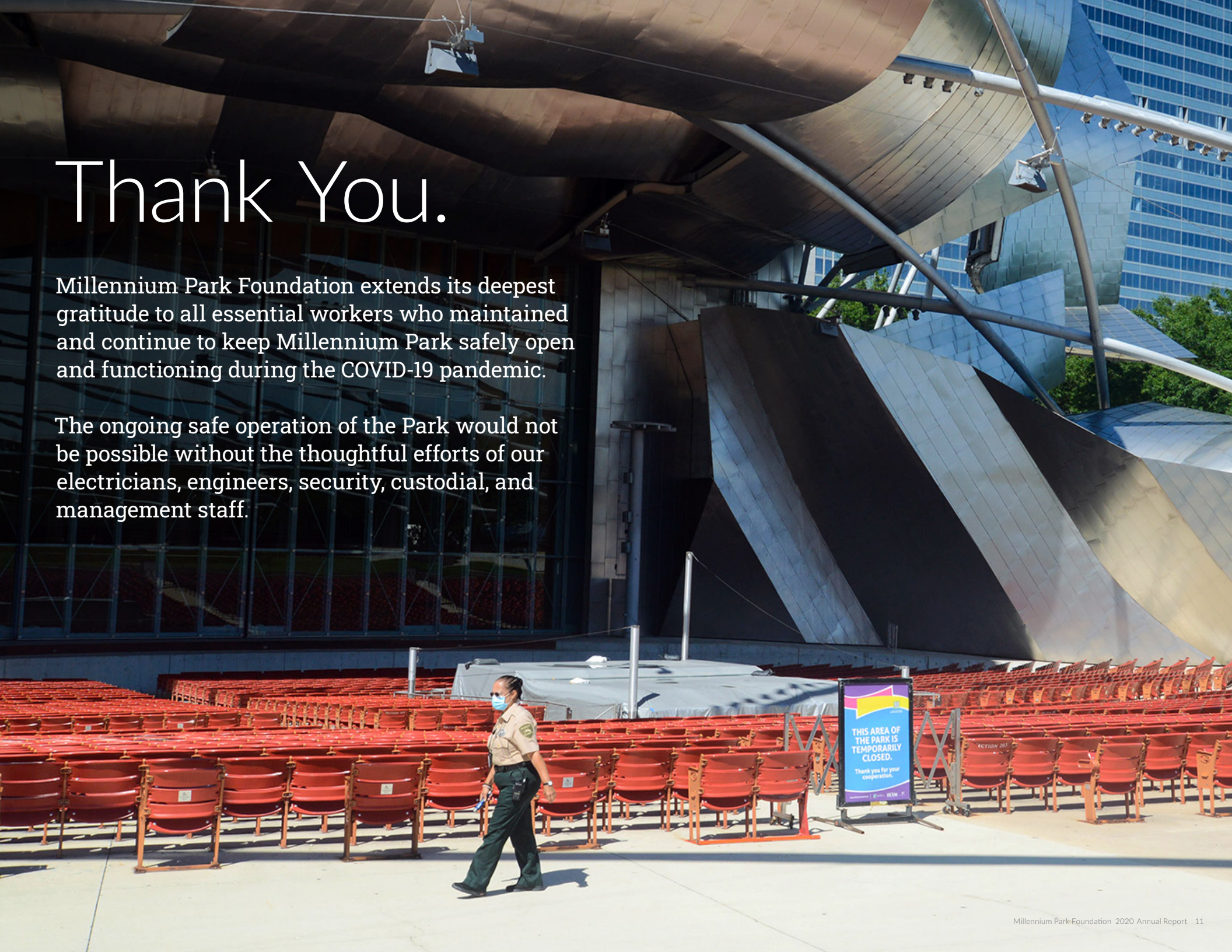
PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

Austin Eischeid Garden Design, Chicago Department
 of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Georgia
 Hampton Photography, Great Lakes Media, Kurtis
 Productions, Ten12 Productions, Tick Tock Filmworks

Thank You.

Millennium Park Foundation extends its deepest gratitude to all essential workers who maintained and continue to keep Millennium Park safely open and functioning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ongoing safe operation of the Park would not be possible without the thoughtful efforts of our electricians, engineers, security, custodial, and management staff.





“Millennium Park has become the most visited and recognizable destination and visible public space in Chicago...I have every confidence and belief that it will come roaring back with the opening of our city and economy to take its place of preeminence that it has always had. I’m so proud to be affiliated with this unique and most important Chicago asset and destination.”

Douglas Mabie, Director, Millennium Park Foundation



MILLENNIUM PARK FOUNDATION
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