



The Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach Announces Landmark \$7 Million Gift from Kenneth C. Griffin for Phipps Ocean Park Campaign

(Palm Beach, FL — April 16, 2024) — The Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach today announced a landmark \$7 million gift from Kenneth C. Griffin, founder and CEO of Citadel and founder of Griffin Catalyst, to support the transformational restoration of Phipps Ocean Park. The gift will increase the park’s accessibility and appeal as a public space and recreational facility with the restoration of natural ecosystems and the addition of new features, including the Kenneth C. Griffin Coastal Conservancy, which will serve as a cornerstone for environmental and cultural education in the region.

The \$30 million restoration of the 20-acre Phipps Ocean Park is the Preservation Foundation's most ambitious project to date. By uniting the educational missions of the Little Red Schoolhouse, the town’s oldest landmark, and Pan’s Garden, the State’s first all-native botanical garden, the Preservation Foundation has adopted a holistic approach to protecting the island’s architectural, botanical, and cultural heritage. Phipps Ocean Park reflects the Preservation Foundation’s larger commitment to change how Palm Beach thinks about its landscape by increasing the prevalence of native plants on the island to reduce the use of pesticides and water while supporting wildlife and creating more resilient coastlines.

“Ken Griffin’s landmark gift will enable us to breathe new life into a resource that can serve our growing community and create new and exciting ways for every visitor to connect with nature,” said Preservation Foundation President & CEO Amanda Skier. “His outstanding commitment to supporting public-private partnerships that enhance public spaces and bring people together will significantly advance our efforts to create meaningful connections with historic places in Palm Beach.”

“I am thrilled to support the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach in its visionary renovation of Phipps Ocean Park,” said Griffin. “This project will elevate the park into a world-class public space and ensure that it remains an important destination in Palm Beach for families and friends to gather.”

Phipps Ocean Park is among the town’s hidden treasures, and it presents significant opportunities for additional utilization. Propelled by a desire to secure access to the beach in perpetuity, in a visionary act of civic philanthropy, the Phipps Family donated 1,200 feet of



ocean frontage for use as a public park in 1948. The park’s redesign by landscape architect Raymond Jungles honors the original vision with a bold new Master Plan that transforms a landscape currently characterized by aging infrastructure, invasive plant species, and an underutilized beachfront, articulating a vision in which sustainable plantings, unobstructed ocean views, and educational resources create an eco-park alive with promise and imagination.

Instilling in children a love of nature and inspiring the next generation of stewards are key components of the project. The relocated and restored Little Red Schoolhouse takes center stage in the Master Plan and is enhanced by new architecture designed by Fairfax & Sammons that captures the heritage spirit of the place. Relocation of the 1886 schoolhouse will protect the landmark and ensure that the schoolchildren of Palm Beach County have continuous access to the Preservation Foundation’s living history program, which takes fourth graders back in time to receive an 1890s education for a day and experience what it would have been like to study in a one-room wooden schoolhouse. Standing adjacent to the schoolhouse, the brand-new Coastal Restoration Center will function as a nursery and propagation facility for native plants that will support healthy beach dune ecosystems within the park and throughout the town while providing hands-on learning experiences for children and adults alike. A bespoke playground by Danish designer Monstrum will complement the park’s native flora and teach about local wildlife through elaborate, enormous play structures.

“The support Ken Griffin has provided to innovative organizations creating vibrant public spaces for their communities and engaging the next generation of learners is remarkable,” said Preservation Foundation Board Chair Betsy Shiverick. “His visionary gift positions us to create an international model for coastal park revitalization and environmental education that will benefit our community for generations to come.”

The Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach has collaborated closely with the Town of Palm Beach, which owns the park, to develop its plans for Phipps Ocean Park since the summer of 2020. The project is on track for a targeted start date of June 2024 and is expected to be completed in 15 months. Using the funds raised from the Preservation Foundation, this long-underutilized space will be restored into an extraordinary public landscape that fully realizes the Phipps family’s vision for their 1948 gift: a beautiful public beach and oceanfront park that celebrates the unique scenic quality of Palm Beach.



ABOUT THE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION OF PALM BEACH: The Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach is dedicated to preserving the architectural and cultural heritage and the unique scenic quality of the Town of Palm Beach. Through advocacy initiatives, educational programs, architectural resources, and cultural events, the Foundation’s goal is to encourage the community to learn about and save the places that make Palm Beach special. The Preservation Foundation has a history of town-serving projects that protect the heritage and enhance the beauty of Palm Beach. Since 1980, millions of dollars have been raised to fund the restoration of iconic landmarks like Seagull Cottage and Town Hall, the creation of green spaces including Earl E. T. Smith Park and Pan’s Garden, and the revitalization of historic parks like Bradley Park and now Phipps Ocean Park.

ABOUT GRIFFIN CATALYST: Griffin Catalyst is the civic engagement initiative of Citadel founder and CEO Ken Griffin, encompassing his philanthropic and community impact efforts. Tackling the world’s greatest challenges in innovative, action-oriented, and evidence-driven ways, Griffin Catalyst is dedicated to expanding opportunity and improving lives across six areas of focus: Education, Science & Medicine, Upward Mobility, Freedom & Democracy, Enterprise & Innovation, and Communities. For more information, visit griffincatalyst.org.

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