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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Olmsted Parks Conservancy to Build New Performance Venue in Tyler Park**

Long time parks supporter Frances Alden leaves a legacy supporting arts and parks

**LOUISVILLE, KY – February 28, 2023** – A transformative gift to Olmsted Parks Conservancy will bring a new outdoor performing arts venue to Tyler Park.

The Frances N. Alden Charitable Trust has generously donated the full amount needed to build a stage on the west side of the park. The stage is the last capital improvement of the Tyler Park Restoration Plan that was initiated in 2018. Olmsted Parks Conservancy and Louisville Parks and Recreation have invested almost \$1.5 million in the park since 2018. The Conservancy is thrilled to complete the planned improvements.

Frances N. Alden was a long-time supporter of Olmsted Parks Conservancy. She was committed to elevating the arts and the health and wellness benefits of parks. The stage will stand as a testament to her legacy.

This new improvement will establish Tyler Park as a hub for performing arts in the Highlands. The stage will be the home base for the Tyler Park Jazz Series, and will provide more opportunities for festivals, concerts, and other community building events.

"The COVID-19 pandemic was so hard on local musicians and venues," says Olmsted Parks Conservancy President and CEO Layla George. "While the community rediscovered the importance of the arts, we also renewed our relationship with the parks and their value as community-building spaces. The Tyler Park stage will truly connect nature and neighborhood and showcase the creativity that makes the Highlands so special."

"This new improvement will establish Tyler Park as a hub for performing arts in the Highlands. We're excited the stage will be the home base for the Tyler Park Jazz Series, and will provide more opportunities for festivals, concerts, and other community building events," says Tyler Park Neighborhood Association Past President Shawn Reilly. "For over a century, music has been present in Tyler Park and we look forward to securing that tradition for a hundred more years."

Forecastle Festival founder J.K. McKnight worked with Olmsted Parks Conservancy and the Tyler Park neighborhood on the vision for the project.

"The Highlands has always been a creative nerve center of our city, a place that has inspired countless artists and entrepreneurs like me to dream and do," says McKnight. "To foster, grow and retain our creative class, we need public stages like this that attract, coalesce and ignite our creative community."

“Like trees planted decades ago, it's important that we invest time and energy to replenish our neighborhoods with the assets that make them desirable places to live, work and play. Without Tyler Park, Forecastle Festival never would have happened. Today we turn the tide, open a new chapter, and reverse the trajectory. I'm excited for what that is going to mean for our artists, neighbors and community.”

The stage will be located near the entrance of the park located at the intersection of Castlewood and Tyler Park Drive. Olmsted Parks Conservancy has released a [Request for Proposals](#) (link); will review and select a contractor; and plan to break ground in Summer 2023.

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***About Olmsted Parks Conservancy***

*Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy, Inc., a non-profit organization, was established in 1989 to restore, enhance and forever protect Louisville's historic 17 Olmsted Parks and 6 Parkways. Working as a non-profit partner with Louisville Parks and Recreation, the Conservancy provides planning and funding for park improvements and natural areas management through donations from individuals, foundations, and corporations. Olmsted Parks Conservancy has overseen more than \$50 million in investment in our Olmsted Parks and Parkways since our founding. [olmstedparks.org](http://olmstedparks.org)*