



Dear Friend and Supporter of Belle Isle,

I'm thrilled to join the Belle Isle Conservancy as the new President and CEO. In leading parks and greenways initiatives in our region over the past twelve years, I've heard countless comparisons between Belle Isle and Central Park. Both parks were designed by famed landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, and serve their cities as the signature public space. The biggest difference between Central Park and Belle Isle is the level of investment made over the years, and that's where I will be focusing my time and effort in this next chapter. And I'm going to need your help.

Belle Isle's needs are monumental. **With 982 acres of land and over 50 historic structures**, the challenges can no longer wait. While the Conservancy, the City, and the State have **invested over \$140 million** in critical restorations and the creation of an island-wide trail system, there is still much more work ahead.

Each year, **Belle Isle welcomes over 5 million visitors** who come to experience its natural beauty, cultural landmarks, and recreational spaces, **making it the second most-visited state park in the country**. The opportunity before us is unlike any other: with core infrastructure stabilized, we can turn our attention to transformative projects that will shape the island's future for generations to come. Your contribution today will directly propel Belle Isle into a new era of growth and stewardship, ensuring that we continue to create a vibrant, accessible, and free space for all.

I truly believe Belle Isle has the potential to be recognized as the best park in the country. Belle Isle is 139 acres larger than Central Park. It's an island resting on international waters, with beautiful views of the city skyline and our gorgeous Detroit River. It is home to iconic cultural institutions and architectural gems that cannot be replicated anywhere else. And most importantly, it is the space where generations of Detroiters come together and make memories that last a lifetime. As a public space asset, Belle Isle outshines Central Park any day of the week!

This is a defining moment in Belle Isle's story, and with your partnership, we will take the bold steps needed to ensure it thrives and is known as a world-class park right here in Detroit. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to Belle Isle, and I look forward to working alongside you as we shape this island's future together.

With gratitude,

Meagan Elliott
President & CEO



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belleisleconservancy.org/donate

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Meet Meagan Elliott

Belle Isle Conservancy, President & CEO



Meagan Elliott comes to the Belle Isle Conservancy with over a decade of leading public space initiatives within Detroit. She served as the City of Detroit's first Chief Parks Planner, and then as Deputy CFO over Development and Grants where she oversaw \$2.3 billion in grant funds including all American Rescue Plan Act dollars. Elliott led the Joe Louis Greenway Framework Plan, was the public partner lead in the \$350 million campaign for a Unified Greenway for the Joe Louis Greenway and the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, and serves as co-chair to the Joe Louis Greenway Partnership which activates this 30-mile green space. She has her doctorate in sociology and masters in urban planning from the University of Michigan. Meagan and her husband Patrick have three children: Levi (8), Julian (5) and Ada (1) who are all thrilled to get to spend even more time on the island.

Meagan's Belle Isle Favorites by the Season:

Spring: the lighthouse hike

Fall: kayaking the canals

Summer: sunset at the beach

Winter: cactus room of the conservatory

Want to get more involved?

BECOME A PARK VOLUNTEER



Belle Isle park volunteers donate their time and talent to support the park in various capacities. If you're interested in volunteer opportunities at Belle Isle, scan the QR code or visit us online at belleisleconservancy.org/volunteer to submit a volunteer application.

JOIN THE GIVING SOCIETY



The Belle Isle Giving Society is an esteemed community of donors that support Belle Isle Conservancy's mission to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance Belle Isle park with a generous unrestricted gift to the annual fund.

Members of the Giving Society receive invitations to special events, a private tour of the Belle Isle Aquarium, and recognition in Belle Isle Conservancy's Annual Report. Contributions are 100% tax deductible. For more information, scan the QR code, or visit us online at belleisleconservancy.org/givingsociety. Questions? Contact Katy LaBarrie at labarriek@belleisleconservancy.org.

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