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## **Tourism Leader, Kelly de Schaun, Recognized for Contributions on the State Level**

**Galveston, Texas - [May 26, 2023]** Texas Senator Mayes Middleton of District 11 introduced Senate Resolution 637 to the Texas Senate on Thursday, May 24 commending Kelly de Schaun for her twelve years of service as CEO of the Galveston Park Board of Trustees.

The Park Board of Trustees is the governing body entrusted with managing beach parks, overseeing coastal zone management, and promoting tourism initiatives for the city of Galveston. Under the guidance of Kelly de Schaun, the Park Board has tripled its budget, exceeded \$100 million in coastal restoration projects, and received numerous accolades for special initiatives and operational excellence. Ms. de Schaun's diligent efforts directly impacted the tourism sector in Galveston, attracting a record breaking 8.1 million visitors in 2022 which generated \$1.2 billion in tourism spending.

"Kelly has done a fantastic job serving the people of Galveston and making sure that everyone, not just from Texas, but from around the world has felt welcome and wanted to come back and has become one of our state's top tourism spots," Senator Mayes Middleton said. "And I want to wish her nothing but the best as she steps on to her next adventure and thank you for all you've done for Galveston and for this great state."

During her tenure, Ms. de Schaun's achievements have earned her prestigious titles, including Citizen of the Year and Woman of the Year, bestowed by the Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce, as well as Advocate of the Year, recognized by the Texas Travel Alliance. Prior to her work with the Galveston Park Board, de Schaun served with the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic and spent over two decades working in the Caribbean holding influential positions such as Director of Community and Environmental Affairs for Grupo Punta Cana and Executive Director of the La Romana-Bayahibe Hotel Association.

### **About the Galveston Park Board of Trustees**

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees is celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2023. The organization plays an important role in the Galveston community by overseeing tourism development, beach maintenance and the management of several beach parks. The Park Board was established in 1963 by a City of Galveston ordinance that tasked the organization with spearheading tourism and managing land for recreational purposes as part of a wider Texas environmental push that aimed to protect coastal waters and habitats.

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