



## **Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture Annual Gala in the Park Celebrates Two 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries**

*“Glen Echo Park In Bloom” Gala Honors  
The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce & Artist Carol Barton*

For more information, email [jcloud@glenechopark.org](mailto:jcloud@glenechopark.org).

Glen Echo, Maryland (March 20, 2026) —The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture will hold its 2026 **Gala in the Park** on May 16, from 6:00 p.m. until 11 p.m. The theme of this year’s event is **Glen Echo Park in Bloom**, celebrating spring and the Park’s growing—blooming!—arts and cultural programs, as well as the **100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Park’s beloved Wurlitzer band organ**. The evening includes a reception and silent auction in the Park’s iconic Bumper Car Pavilion; seated dinner and awards in the historic Spanish Ballroom with live music by TNEK Jazz; carousel rides on the 105-year-old Dentzel carousel; and a **Swing Dance Afterparty** with The Rock-A-Sonics (tickets also sold separately).

**Sam and Linda Weaver** are the Gala Co-Chairs, and together they share a deep commitment to their community. Mr. Weaver is a longtime leader in the automotive industry and has built his career around the belief that businesses thrive when they put people first. He has championed a culture of service, integrity, and collaboration, while remaining actively engaged, along with his wife, in local civic and charitable initiatives. Thanks to the Weavers’ generous support, **Chevy Chase Acura** is the lead sponsor of the Gala in the Park.

“We are thrilled to have Sam and Linda Weaver chairing our gala this year. Their commitment to the community—and to arts and culture in particular—are deeply appreciated,” said **Katey Boerner, CEO of the Glen Echo Park Partnership**.

Each year, the Gala in the Park—which raises funds for the Park’s arts program and historic buildings—presents awards that honor visionary artists, friends of the park, corporate supporters, and others. This year, honorees include renowned book artist and painter **Carol Barton**, whose work is in collections throughout the U.S and the world, including The National Museum of Women in the Arts, The Center for the Book Arts, The Getty Museum, and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, and **The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce** for its 100-year history of championing the strength and vitality of the local business community.

“We are deeply honored to be recognized by the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture with the Corporate Partner Award,” said **Allie Williams, President & CEO of The Greater Bethesda Chamber of**



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**Commerce.** “To receive this recognition during the Chamber’s 100th Anniversary makes it particularly meaningful, as it reflects a century-long commitment to strengthening our community through partnership, collaboration, and support for the arts and culture that enrich the fabric of our region.”

This year’s recognition brings together significant milestones, and the Glen Echo Park Partnership is proud to celebrate two iconic 100th anniversaries. For 100 years, music from the Park’s historic Wurlitzer band organ has been part of community life at the Park and across Montgomery County, spanning a century of both local and American history. Over that same period, The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce has demonstrated an enduring commitment to serving the community.

Gala tickets are \$400 per person and include the Swing Dance Afterparty. Afterparty tickets may also be purchased separately for \$60 per ticket or \$100 for two tickets. Gala tables can be purchased for \$5,000. Sponsorships begin at \$1,500. A silent auction will be held online and open to all bidders, featuring a range of items from unique experiences to distinctive goods and services.

Tickets may be purchased on the Partnership’s website ([glenechopark.org/gala](http://glenechopark.org/gala)) or by calling (301) 634-2237. **All proceeds benefit the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture**, which presents an extensive range of art classes, exhibitions, festivals, social dances, children’s theater, music programs, and nature programs at Glen Echo Park in addition to preserving and maintaining the Park’s historic structures.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: High-resolution images from last year’s gala are available by calling (301) 634-2228 or emailing [jcloud@glenechopark.org](mailto:jcloud@glenechopark.org).

### **About the Glen Echo Park and the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture**

Glen Echo Park is a vibrant arts and cultural center presenting festivals, exhibitions, and dances, as well as children’s theater, music programs, nature programs, and art classes to more than 300,000 visitors each year. The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, a nonprofit organization, oversees these and other activities, including preserving the historic structures in the Park. Glen Echo Park, part of the National Park Service, is located in Glen Echo, Maryland, six miles northwest of Georgetown along the scenic Potomac River palisades. For more information on Glen Echo Park, visit [glenechopark.org](http://glenechopark.org) or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council ([msac.org](http://msac.org)) and also by funding from the Montgomery County government and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County ([creativemoco.com](http://creativemoco.com)). All programs are produced in cooperation with the National Park Service and Montgomery County, Maryland.