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Fernbank Trustee Teresa M. Finley to be Honored at “A Timeless Affair” Gala

ATLANTA, GA—Fernbank Museum announces Teresa M. Finley as the 2026 honoree of its Oct. 3 benefit gala, “A Timeless Affair,” which supports Fernbank’s 75-acre old-growth forest, exhibitions, education programs and Museum Access scholarships. Finley will be recognized for more than 15 years of leadership, service and commitment to advancing education, science and community engagement.

Since joining Fernbank’s Board of Trustees in 2011, Finley has played a pivotal role in the museum’s growth and impact, serving as trustee, development committee chair, board chair, “A Timeless Affair” event chair in 2019 and most recently as “Thrive” capital campaign co-chair alongside fellow Trustee, Zach Young. The museum’s “Thrive” campaign is a \$27 million fundraising initiative driving a new era of exploration, discovery, and community impact through the creation of new permanent exhibits and other transformational projects.

The museum debuted “Our Place in the Cosmos” in November 2025 and the “Orkin Discovery Zone” will open May 2026. “Changing Earth” is anticipated to open in 2027, alongside a new temporary gallery and expanded accessibility features.

“Teresa’s leadership continues to propel Fernbank into an ambitious new chapter,” said Fernbank President and CEO Jennifer Grant Warner. “Her commitment to fostering curiosity and inspiring future generations reflects the very heart of our mission.”

Finley is passionate about nurturing curiosity and inspiring the next generation of conservation leaders. “Fernbank has been a constant source of inspiration for me,” said Finley. “I believe deeply in the power of curiosity and discovery to shape young minds and strengthen our community. It is an honor to support an institution that opens doors for future generations and invites all of us to see the world with wonder.”

Teresa and her husband, Foster, have generously supported Fernbank’s most important strategic initiatives, helping expand family and school programs that deepen the museum’s impact across the community. Their influence on the “Thrive” campaign and on Fernbank’s growth continues to shape the nonprofit’s future.

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About A Timeless Affair

Led by event chairs Amy Nelson and Laurie Hood, “A Timeless Affair,” is hosted at Fernbank on Oct. 3, 2026. This event promises an elegant evening featuring a sunset cocktail hour on the Dinosaur Plaza, dinner under prehistoric giants, a premier auction and live entertainment.

Patron Levels begin at \$2,500 per couple, and tables of 10 begin at \$15,000. Additional ticket and sponsorship options are available.

To support “A Timeless Affair,” contact Eloise Oliveira at Eloise.Oliveira@FernbankMuseum.org

About Fernbank Museum

Fernbank is one of the most popular and iconic cultural destinations in Atlanta. Known as Atlanta’s Science and Nature Experience, Fernbank invites guests to discover a World of Wow through an expansive natural history museum, 4-story giant screen theater, and 75 acres of nature adventures in WildWoods and Fernbank Forest. One of the oldest not-for-profit conservation organizations in the country, Fernbank was founded in 1939 to preserve Fernbank Forest, the largest urban, old growth, Piedmont forest in the United States. The museum and giant screen theater opened as “a school in the woods for nature studies” on Oct. 5, 1992, and is today known for its giant dinosaurs, hands-on STEAM* programming, immersive experiences, and year-round nature exploration.

Visit FernbankMuseum.org for more information and join the conversation on Facebook, Instagram, X, YouTube and TikTok.

**Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics.*

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PRESS RELEASE

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Teresa M. Finley, 2026 Honoree of Fernbank Museum's A Timeless Affair, embodies the rare combination of visionary leadership and deeply rooted service. For more than fifteen years, she has helped shape the trajectory and transformative impact of Fernbank Museum of Natural History through extraordinary dedication — serving as Trustee, committee chair, Board Chair, and most recently, co-chair of the Museum's ambitious fundraising campaign.

With Teresa's continued board leadership, Fernbank has benefitted with her steady hand and forward-thinking vision in support of the Museum's mission to ignite a passion for science, nature, and human culture through exploration and discovery. She believes that when curiosity is nurtured, stewardship follows — and that inspiring wonder in young minds today builds the conservation leaders of tomorrow.

Teresa's commitment to future generations extends far beyond Fernbank's campus. As a Trustee and Finance Chair of The Annie E. Casey Foundation, she advances initiatives that create brighter futures for children, youth, and families across the nation. As the President of Phoenix Irish Arts of Atlanta, she champions cultural heritage and intergenerational connection, preserving the richness of Irish arts while building community through shared tradition.

A distinguished and highly respected business leader, Teresa serves on the board of directors of Union Pacific Railroad and is the former Chief Marketing and Business Services Officer of UPS, where she was a member of the company's Executive Leadership Team. Over the course of her remarkable career, she held numerous senior financial leadership roles, including Chief Financial Officer for multiple business units, Corporate Controller, and Treasurer. She has also shared her strategic insight as a Senior Advisor to Boston Consulting Group.

Yet beyond her titles and accomplishments, Teresa is defined by something more enduring: generosity of spirit, intellectual rigor, and an unwavering belief in service. Together with her husband, Foster, and their son, Patrick, she has been a steadfast champion of Fernbank and countless organizations that strengthen and enrich the Atlanta community.

In honoring Teresa, we celebrate not only a remarkable leader, but a lasting force for knowledge, culture, and community.