



Mayor Mike Rawlings, River Rats, Rat Pack And Friends Got A Sneak Preview Of Doing The Continental

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Judy Kelly

As locals drive back and forth on the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge, the [Continental Avenue Bridge](#) has looked like an abandoned memory of the past. Ah, but look a bit closer and it's actually been a beehive of activity with construction underway. On June 15 it will debut as Dallas premier pedestrian bridge with a front row seat for the bike trail running along the Trinity and an unobstructed view of its big sister, the Hill Bridge.

For about 130 [River Rats](#), [Rat Pack](#) and "friends", who have been personally involved in the Continental's transformation, a sneak preview — Hard Hats &

Champagne — was held on Sunday, May 4. With the sunshine just bright enough for sunglasses (**Dan Patterson**) to be the accessory of the day with hats (**Gail Thomas**) coming a close second, gals like **Lyda Hill** and videographer **Judy Kelly** donned both.

Mayor **Mike Rawlings** was a fashion plate as he tried out one of the loungers. In Dallas business casual attire (black blazer, grey slacks and yellow striped shirt), he sported grey Cole Haan shoes with yellow soles. But come June 15, he reported he that he'll put on his bike helmet and ride around the Trinity River.

He told the group that one of the world's great cities is Florence, which has the [Ponte Vecchio](#) arch bridge over the Arno River. Then he looked to the future saying "200 years from today, "this can be our Ponte Vecchio." Describing the Continental as a place where "we can walk and meander and hold hands and be

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Dan Patterson and Mary McDermott Cook

nice to one another.”

At one point he tried to point out **Mary McDermott Cook**'s involvement in the creation of the pedestrian, but the diminutive philanthropist would have none of it, despite a [\\$10M anonymous gift in her honor](#) was made to make the bridge in its new format.

So, if you haven't made plans for Father's Day, why not head to the Trinity and [do the Continental?](#)

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Mike Rawlings

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