



# November & December Newsletter

City of San Antonio  
Office of Historic Preservation



**Shanon Shea Miller, AICP  
Historic Preservation Officer**

## **A Message from the Director**

A new year is fast approaching and I want to take this opportunity to thank YOU for supporting the work on OHP throughout the year and believing in the value of historic preservation in San Antonio. 2014 has been an amazing, and busy, year for the OHP. This past June, City Council adopted the Vacant Building

Registration Pilot Program, which will become effective Jan. 1, 2015. We initiated Viewshed Protection Districts for the San Antonio Missions in collaboration with the World Heritage Advisory Committee and the National Park Service. There have been 34 local landmark designations with many more in the pipeline. Brackenridge Park was successfully designated as a State Antiquities Landmark and both Voelcker Dairy Farm (at Hardberger Park) and the Paso Dolores/Perez Rancho jacal were listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

We are also growing. Claudia Guerra has joined us as the Cultural Historian. She will be responsible for identifying and protecting San Antonio's cultural heritage using new initiatives to facilitate public input directly related to places of cultural and historic significance. In March we added an Assistant City Archaeologist, Matthew Elverson. Two new planners have joined us in the past few weeks, Edward Hall and Alyson Smith, and soon we will add new staff for the management and implementation of the Vacant Building Registration Pilot Program.

More recently, we had a very special guest who reminded us and emphasized the importance of preservation for the community and economy - Dr. Vince Michael, Executive Director of the Global Heritage Fund. Thank you to Dr. Michael for coming to San Antonio and sharing his vast experience with us, a special recognition to Master Craftsman **Victor Salas** for showing and teaching his craft and to our sponsors: **Brooks City Base, SA Conservation Society, Center City Downtown Ops** and **Centro** for that Friday packed full of great information and fun. We look forward to seeing you at other joint events with Centro San Antonio in 2015 as we explore a whole series of preservation-themed topics.

As a reminder, the City of San Antonio will be observing the holidays:

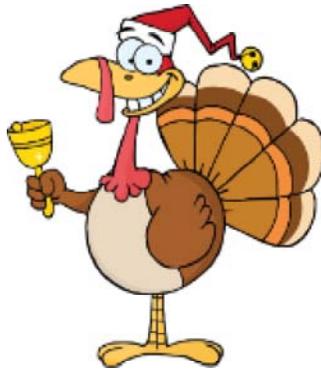
- Thanksgiving: November 27 - 28
- Winter Holiday: December 24 through January 1

Please note that OHP will be open with limited service on Monday and Tuesday, December 29 and 30.

The OHP looks forward to another year of working together with San Antonians to safeguard our stories, culture, and heritage!

Happy Holidays,

*Shanon*



---

## **Holiday Historic Churches Tour Tuesday, December 9th**

Come celebrate the season with us! The **Holiday Historic Churches Tour** is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9. This is a fun opportunity to uncover the history of many of San Antonio's downtown churches and see the beautifully lighted Riverwalk.

Registration is \$15 and includes a "Know This Place?" t-shirt. Runners and walkers of all skill levels are welcome. Tour starts at 5:30 pm. Details coming soon, so check out our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page. Hope to see you there!



---

## Diggin! It at Mission San Jose

The **Office of Historic Preservation** (OHP), in partnership with the **National Parks Service** (NPS) and other local organizations, participated in the annual Archaeology Day at Mission San Jose event. The event included hands-on activities, exhibits, and demonstrations for the whole family. Activities emphasized information learned from digs and artifacts found at the missions, archaeological field methods, and the importance of preservation.

This year, activities included Flint Knapping, led by veteran flint knapper Sam Viera and Pebble Painting for kids that exposed them to forms of art found in the Lower Pecos region of Texas. It was a day for kids, and adults alike, to experience past lifeways and the rich, cultural heritage we have here in San Antonio.



The Archaeology Day at Mission San Jose event is held annually in October to celebrate Archeology Month. Please contact Matthew Elverson, Assistant City Archaeologist, at [matthew.elverson@sanantonio.gov](mailto:matthew.elverson@sanantonio.gov) for more information about future archaeology-related events.

---

## Power of Preservation PROM

On October 23, the **Power of Preservation Foundation** (PoP) hosted the third annual **Power of Preservation PROMenade** at the amazing Women's Pavilion in Hemisfair Park. The event was a huge success, with preservationists from all over San Antonio joining in supporting historic preservation and having a great time while doing it! The Women's Pavilion was packed and over 400 guests enjoyed dinner beneath the iconic Tower of the Americas.

The PROM raised awareness and needed funds for preservation programs in San Antonio. The generosity of our sponsors, particularly our presenting co-sponsors Glazer's Distributors and Harris Dailey-Wells Communications, partners and ticket holders will ensure that hands-on initiatives of the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), such as the **S.T.A.R. Project**, will continue to grow. The PROM wouldn't be without the amazing all-volunteer committee led by PoP Foundation board members Andi Rodriguez, Robert Salluce, Dru Van Steenberg and Shanon Miller. We are also so proud of our honorary chair, Sherry Kafka Wagner, and our amazingly deserving honorees: Cured, Victor Salas and Graham Weston! Check out their award videos online at [www.powerofpreservation.org](http://www.powerofpreservation.org).



**Co-Presenting Sponsor**

Glazer's Distributors  
Harris/Dailley & Wells  
Communications

**Gold Sponsors**

Weston Urban

**Silver Sponsors**

Alamo Architects /  
Zurich Properties  
Alamo Hardwoods  
AREA Real Estate  
Belinda Molina / Yndo Urban  
Bexar County  
Brown & Ortiz, P.C.  
Bury + Partners  
Center City Development  
and Operations  
Centro San Antonio  
City of San Antonio CVB,  
EDD, IGR  
CPS Energy  
Department of Culture  
and Creative Development  
e-Watch Corporation  
Freeman  
Hixon Properties, Inc /  
Pape-Dawson Engineers  
HPARC/Hemisfair Conservancy  
James Lifshutz Foundation  
Kaufman & Killen, Inc  
Majestic Development Company  
Margene Blakemore  
Mobius Partners  
NRP Group  
Office of Historic Preservation

The Pearl  
Rivercenter Mall  
Rootless Grapevine  
San Antonio  
Conservation Society  
San Antonio River Authority  
Spurs Sports and Entertainment  
UTSA College of Architecture

**PoP Partners**

Aveda Institute San Antonio  
Blue Sky Graphic Design  
City of SA Parks  
and Recreation Department  
Cool Crest Miniature Golf  
Pablo Rosalez Hairstyles  
Period Modern  
Ricardo Mario Agency  
Victor Salas,  
ARTchitectural Interiors  
The IMG Studio

**Photography**

Annette Crawford  
JB Lyde, Parish Photography



**POWER OF PRESERVATION**

**WOMEN'S PAVILION**  
**1968**

**OCT 23 2014**  
**6:30 PM**

**PROGRAM**

**CYRUS WAGNER • ARCHITECT**

**6:30pm**  
**Cocktail Reception in Women's Pavilion**  
 Host Models provided by Ricardo Mario Agency  
 Makeup and Hair by Aveda Institute San Antonio  
 Rock 'n' Roll by Buttercup

**8:00pm**  
**Dinner & Program on the Plaza**  
 '68 Sonic Vibes by DJ Steven Lee Moya  
 Master of Ceremonies - Councilman Diego Bernal  
 Justin's Ice Cream and Original Buñuelos from HemisFair '68  
 Centerpieces sponsored by 210 DG  
 Champagne service for Premier sponsors by Rootless Grapevine and Deco Pizzeria

**Power of Preservation 2014 Honorees**  
 PoP Vision Award—Graham Weston  
 Education and Advocacy—Victor Salas  
 Outstanding Preservation Project—Curad

**Nominations for 2014 People's Choice Award for Outstanding Restoration**  
 Borglum Studio, 2315 Avenue B  
 Marie McGuire Apartments, 211 N Alamo  
 Roosevelt Library, 311 Roosevelt  
 St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 315 E Pecan  
 U.S. Arsenal Storehouse, 646 S Main

**10:00pm until Midnight**  
**The Afterglow**  
 Disco Dance Party by DJ Steven Lee Moya  
 Frost 321 sponsored by Debra Maltz of Centro Properties  
 Cigars sponsored by Cynthia Combs  
 Photo booth sponsored by Crockett Urban Ventures

**The Power of Preservation Event Chairs**  
 Sharon Shea Miller  
 Andi Rodriguez  
 Robert V. Salluce

**Honorary Chair**  
 Sherry Kafka Wagner

**Committee**  
 Thomas Aguillon  
 Tonya Baum  
 Melissa Burnett  
 Albert Carrisalez  
 Joseph Carreon  
 Annette Crawford  
 Linda Deatrick  
 Trisha Frank  
 Ricardo Gutierrez  
 Jenny Hay  
 Lori Houston  
 Sam Houston  
 Michele Jacob

Payton Kane  
 Sarah McLornan  
 Hugh Miller  
 Belinda Molina  
 Amelia Nañez  
 Steffi Ockenfels  
 Angela Rinehart  
 John Speegle  
 Paula Stallcup  
 Colleen Swain  
 Jacob Valenzuela  
 Dru Van Steenberg

## Haunted San Antonio Tour

In the spirit of Halloween, the **Office of Historic Preservation** (OHP) hosted a Haunted San Antonio guided tour on October 28 highlighting downtown's historic places and haunted spaces! Tour guides led groups of walkers to many of our city's historic sites including the Menger Hotel, the Emily Morgan (formerly the Medical Arts Building) and the Gunter Hotel.

Tales of ghost sightings at the Menger, eerie noises and occurrences in the former basement morgue of the Medical Arts Building, and a grisly murder decades ago at the Gunter Hotel were just a few of the strange happenings in "haunted" San

Antonio. A special stop included the Antique Sampler mall on Broadway, where investigator Eddie Hill, with Paranormal Agents, shared his paranormal investigations at the building. Thanks to all of those who joined us on the tour!



---

## **A Day With Vincent L. Michael, Ph.D.**

On Friday, November 7, the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) in partnership with **Centro San Antonio**, the **San Antonio Conservation Society**, the **Center City Development & Operations Department** and **Brooks City Base** hosted **Vincent L. Michael**, Executive Director of the Global Heritage Fund, for a day focusing on the importance of historic preservation and its impact to Community and Economy.

Dr. Michael spoke at Centro's Urban Renaissance Luncheon and then joined us for a mixer and short presentation that focused on preservation as a tool for the community and economy. He was joined by Master Craftsman Victor Salas of Artchitectural Interiors for an afternoon demonstration on the restoration of historic windows.



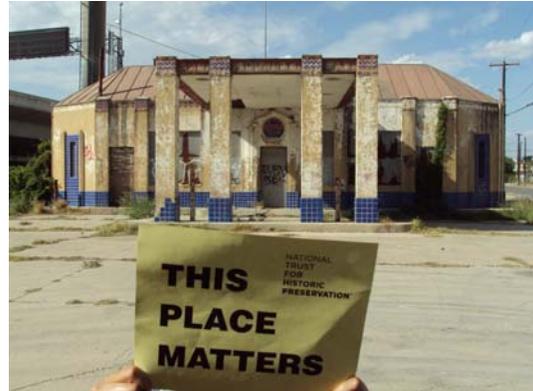
---

## Roadside Resources: Historic Gas Stations in San Antonio

For the last two years, the **Office of Historic Preservation** (OHP) has partnered with the **San Antonio Conservation Society** (SACS) to survey and document these significant historic resources. The interest in former gas stations isn't a new phenomenon though, as SACS initiated a survey of these buildings back in 1983. At that time Kitty Massey, a Conservation Society member, was appointed to head the survey committee tasked to research and identify gas stations constructed before 1940 and located within the original 36 Square Mile city limits. Her research found that "between 1915 and 1920 the filling station era began" here in San Antonio. Using city directories, Kitty and her committee created a list of gas stations through 1940 that volunteers used to go out to the field and record notes about each property. Survey information collected included the history of ownership and names of the stations. Most of the more significant gas stations were also photographed for a slide presentation.

By 2012, after the recent loss of a number of significant historic gas stations around the city, SACS established a new Gas Station Survey Committee in a partnership with the OHP. Over the past two years, teams of volunteers, now headed by current Survey Chair Kathy Krnavek, have re-surveyed all of the historic gas stations previously identified in the 1983 gas station survey. All of the buildings were recorded with digital photos, and all survey information has been recorded in

a new Access database that allows for easy accessibility and interpretation of the data. Several of these properties have been determined to be eligible for local historic landmark designation and will hopefully be protected for future generations.



---

## **American Venice: The Epic Story of San Antonio's River**

**The San Antonio River Foundation** is pleased to invite you to a book signing luncheon with author Lewis Fisher featuring his new book, *American Venice: The Epic Story of San Antonio's River*. The book covers the expansion of the River Walk and its overall success. The event will be held Wednesday, December 10, at the San Antonio Country Club (4100 N. New Braunfels Ave.) at 12 noon. Tickets are \$55 per person and includes a signed copy of the book. For reservations, click

**here** or call (210) 224-2694.



Facebook



Twitter



Website

*Copyright © 2014 City of San Antonio, Office of Historic Preservation, All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**

[OHP@sanantonio.gov](mailto:OHP@sanantonio.gov)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)