

# SAN ANTONIO PRESERVATION NEWSLINK

April 2012 Edition

## A Message from the Historic Preservation Officer



A major outreach initiative each year is the celebration of National Preservation Month in May. This year's theme is "Discovering America's Hidden Gems," and our office has put together a full month of events to discover the many hidden gems located right here in San Antonio. We are offering a variety of ways to celebrate the places in San Antonio that matter to all of us!

I invite you to join Mayor Julian Castro, City Manager Sheryl Sculley, State Historic Preservation Officer Mark Wolfe, and me as we kick off Preservation Month on May 3 with a State of Preservation Announcement at the Spanish Governor's Palace. Other Preservation Month events hosted by OHP include a guided running and walking tour on May 5, the *Paseo por el Westside* on May 6, the Amazing Preservation Race for Adults on May 11, and the Amazing Preservation Race for Kids on May 19. Keep reading for a full calendar of monthly events and join the celebration!

I especially encourage you to join the thousands of Americans who participate each year in the *This Place Matters* campaign. Take a fresh look at the places where you live, work and play. What hidden gems hold special meaning for you? Snap a photo with a *This Place Matters* sign and let us know why they matter to you. We want to hear from you!

In the meantime, I hope you will join the OHP in supporting the city's many [Fiesta San Antonio](#) events in April. Join the OHP at the King William Fair on April 28 and don't miss "A Night in Old San Antonio" (NIOA). The annual San Antonio Conservation Society event provides nearly \$350,000 in funding for the restoration and preservation of historic properties and parks in Bexar County and neighboring counties, plus more than \$400,000 for education and advocacy programs and projects.

In other news, our fourth S.T.A.R. Project in the Tobin Hill Historic District and the Five Points neighborhood, on March 24 and 25 and March 31 and April 1, was a great success! Thank you to our new planner, George McQueen, for all of his work in coordinating the event. This project would not be possible without the support and involvement of UTSA College of Architecture professor Sue Ann Pemberton and her students, San Antonio College professor Isabel Garcia and her students, and the UTSA Historic Preservation Association. A very big thank you also goes to our volunteer contractors Victor Salas, owner of Architectural Interiors, Inc., Adrian Flores with Bartlett Cocke (a student leader in the first S.T.A.R. that came back as a volunteer contractor after graduation), and Luis Elizando, an independent contractor from Tobin Hill. Please keep reading for more details on the event and ways you can get involved in this important project! Happy Fiesta!

### STATE OF PRESERVATION

Announcement and Reception

Join the

as we celebrate

## NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH

City leaders and the State Historic Preservation Officer will highlight recent accomplishments in historic preservation and will kick-off a month full of educational and fun events that help promote the Power of Preservation.

Preservation Month Sponsors

SPANISH  
GOVERNOR'S PALACE  
COURTYARD

Thursday, May 3  
4:30pm

Sharon

April 2012

# City News and Events

## MAY 2012 PRESERVATION MONTH

<b>1</b> J. Reilly Gordon Lecture & Book Signing @ AIA Center for Architecture 6 PM	<b>3</b> State of Preservation Announcement @ Spanish Governor's Palace 4:30 pm	<b>4</b> Mid-Century Modernism Symposium 1 pm - 4 pm	<b>4</b> La Villita 1st Friday Arts Walk 3 pm - 9 pm	<b>5</b> 8:30 am - 10 am Go! Historic SA Guided Running & Walking Tours	<b>5</b> LUMINARIA @ Hemisfair
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<b>6</b> Paseo por el Westside	<b>11</b> NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Music Under the Stars 7 pm at Mission San Jose	<b>11</b> 5:30 pm @ La Villita THE AMAZING PRESERVATION RACE SAN ANTONIO EDITION	<b>12</b> Green Home Tour & Fair Build SA Green Southtown Home Tour	<b>18</b> VILLA FINALE Free self-guided tours International Museum Day	<b>18</b> Free Admission International Museum Day TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION real places telling real stories CASA NAVARRO STATE HISTORIC SITE
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<b>19</b> 9 am - noon KIDS ONLY THE AMAZING PRESERVATION RACE SAN ANTONIO EDITION	<b>20</b> Green Lifestyles in Historic Neighborhoods a panel discussion The Liberty Bar 2:00-4:00 pm	<b>21</b> AIA San Antonio Lunch time lecture: Brackenridge Conservancy	<b>30</b> THE GREENEST BUILDING AIA Screening of "The Greenest Building"	<b>31 - JUNE 2</b> CONFLUENCE OF CULTURES World Heritage in the Americas USICOMOS 15th Annual International Scientific Symposium El Tropicano Hotel
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**POWER OF PRESERVATION**

The City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation is proud to promote National Historic Preservation Month. The theme for 2012 is "Discover America's Hidden Gems." Together with local partners we are presenting a month full of events designed to promote history and preservation in San Antonio. Dates and times are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information please visit [www.sanantonio.gov/historic](http://www.sanantonio.gov/historic) or friend us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter @SA\_Preservation

**POWER OF PRESERVATION**

Throughout 2012 we will promote the "Power of Preservation" and will host the Power of Preservation PROMenade on **October 25, 2012**. Individual tickets go on sale in May. Sponsor tables are available today! [www.powerofpreservation.org](http://www.powerofpreservation.org)

### Preservation Month Sponsors – Thank you for your generous support!

Preservation Month Sponsors

				CENTURY WOOD WINDOWS			Leticia Ozuna Council District 3
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PRESERVATION MONTH 2012

## *May is National Preservation Month*

### *Discover San Antonio's Hidden Gems*

Join the City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation as we once again participate in National Preservation Month in May. Across the United States communities will celebrate historic preservation through outreach and educational programs. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has chosen the theme “**Discover America's Hidden Gems**” for 2012. San Antonio's hidden gems are more than historic properties. They are historic neighborhoods that create an inviting place to call home. They are downtown San Antonio's historic Houston Street, Main and Military Plazas, and the scenic River Walk that are all part of our city's charm. San Antonio is full of wonderful, unique places. National Preservation Month gives us the opportunity to celebrate San Antonio's treasures and recognize the historic places that make our city special.

#### *State of Preservation Announcement – Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>*



Celebrate the launch of Preservation Month with the **State of Preservation Announcement** on Thursday, May 3, at 4:30 p.m. in the courtyard of the restored Spanish Governor's Palace. Join city leaders and the State Historic Preservation Officer as they highlight the recent accomplishments in historic preservation. A reception will follow. The event is free and open to the public.

#### *“Mid-Century Modern: It's About Time” Seminar - Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>*

The San Antonio Conservation Society will host (with sponsorship by the Office of Historic Preservation and other partners) a half-day seminar – with an optional bus/walking tour that same morning – “**Mid-Century Modern: It's About Time**” on Friday, May 4. Featuring panels of local and regional experts, the seminar will focus on mid-century modern architecture and design from the 1930s to 1970 and their importance in San Antonio's architectural history. The schedule for the day includes an optional bus/walking tour of Trinity University and HemisFair Park conducted by Stephen Fox from 9:00 – noon (\$15). An optional lunch and networking will be from noon - 1:00 (\$15). The mid-century seminar (\$20) is from 1:00 – 4:30 pm at the AIA San Antonio Center for Architecture, 200 E. Grayson Street, in the Pearl Full Goods Building. Seating is limited and advance registration is required. To register, visit the San Antonio Conservation Society [website](#). Deadline for registration in Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.



**Guided Tour – Sites of Texas Independence – Saturday, May 5th**

For those looking for some exercise, join us for the **2012 Go! Historic SA Guided Running and Walking Tour** on Saturday, May 5, at 8:30 a.m. This guided tour will focus on downtown sites associated with Texas Independence. Stops include Main Plaza where the City Archaeologist will describe the Siege of Bexar and the Alamo with re-enactors interpreting the significance of the site. Other stops include Milam Park, the Cos House in La Villita, and more. The tour will reveal little-known facts about actual historic events of Texas Independence, including Santa Anna’s headquarters, Mexican cannon emplacements, the burial site of Mexican soldiers, and the funeral pyre of Alamo defenders. Runners and walkers of all abilities are welcome. The tour is \$15 and includes a San Antonio “Know Your Place” t-shirt. The tour will begin at Casa Navarro, 228 S. Laredo. Registration is available on-site the morning of the tour or pre-register at the active.com [website](#) (keyword: Texas Independence Sites Guided Tour). This is the first in the 2012/2013 series of tours. See the list below for future dates. Join us for them all!



**Paseo por el Westside – Sunday, May 6th**



Explore the rich culture and history of San Antonio’s historic Westside on the *Paseo por el Westside* on Sunday, May 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Walking tours in the morning will highlight the architecture, history, and murals of the city’s Westside. Festivities and presentations will take place throughout the day at the Rinconcito at 816 S. Colorado Street. Food and drinks will be provided. Bring your historic photos and stories of the Westside to include in our ongoing Westside Cultural Resource Survey initiative. The event is free and open to the public.

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**Go! Historic SA**  
Guided Running & Walking Tours

Go! Historic SA Guided Running & Walking Tours are a great way to experience San Antonio's historic sites and get fit. At various stops along the route, tour guides will share the stories behind the buildings, homes, neighborhoods, and parks that make San Antonio unique.

Runners and walkers of all abilities are welcome. Participants will be divided into small groups according to experience.

**Upcoming Tours**

- May 5, 2012**  
Downtown
- June 16, 2012**  
Monte Vista
- September 13, 2012**  
Fort Sam Houston
- October 27, 2012**  
Eastside Cemeteries
- December 6, 2012**  
Downtown Holiday Lights
- February 9, 2013**  
King William

**Amazing Preservation Race – Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**



For those seeking an urban adventure, don't miss the **Amazing Preservation Race** on Friday, May 11, at 5:30 p.m. This event has it all: an architectural scavenger hunt, trivia questions, urban challenges, and an after-party. The race will begin and end at La Villita. Teams of four adventurous adults who want to put their street smarts and trivia skills to the test will hit the streets of San Antonio for an adventure like no other. Each team will receive an information packet with a list of



downtown locations and descriptions, visual clues, and riddles that will be used to find the destinations. Teams will have two hours to complete the race. At each destination teams will perform an activity for the next clue. Pre-registration is required and the race is \$25/person as part of a 4-person team. Participants receive a race T-shirt and a drink ticket for the post-race fiesta. Register online at: <http://register.iaapweb.com>.

**Amazing Preservation Race for Kids – Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**

Bring the younger ones to the **Amazing Preservation Race for Kids** on Saturday, May 19, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Kids learn about history, architecture, and preservation as they (with their adult chaperones) use clues to solve riddles and search for destinations in the King William Historic District. At each destination, participants will complete a challenge to receive their next clue. Be the first to cross the finish line and win the grand prize! Food and games for all will be provided at the end of the race. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. at the Villa Finale Visitor Center at 122 Madison in the King William Historic District. The event is free and open to elementary-aged children.



**Green Lifestyles in Historic Neighborhoods Forum – Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**

Join Shanon Peterson of the Office of Historic Preservation, green builder Juan Fernandez, and Lavaca homeowner and remodeler Scott Martin for a conversation about retrofitting historic homes and building inner-city communities that are environmentally and culturally sustainable. Elaine Wolff of [www.plazadearmastx.com](http://www.plazadearmastx.com) will moderate. The panel discussion will take place from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Sunday, May 20 at the Liberty Bar at the Convent, 1110 S. Alamo. Panel begins promptly at 2:30 p.m. and is sponsored by Build San Antonio Green, Big Grass Bamboo, Briones Engineering & Consulting, and the Liberty Bar at the Convent.



**“The Greenest Building” Documentary Screening – Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>**

“**The Greenest Building,**” a new hour-long documentary by producer Jane Turville, presents a compelling overview of the important role building reuse plays in creating sustainable communities. Narrated by David Odgen Stiers, “The Greenest Building” explores the myth that a “green building” is a new building and demonstrates how renovation and adaptive reuse of existing structures fully achieves the sustainability movement’s “triple bottom line” - *economic, social, and ecological balance.*



The AIA San Antonio's Committee on the Environment presents COTE Cinema with a FREE screening of this documentary on Wednesday, May 30. The location for the event will be announced soon. Save the date! For more information, contact AIA San Antonio at 210.226.4979.

**“This Place Matters” Photo Contest – all month long!**

We invite you to participate with us in the **This Place Matters Photo Contest**. This nationwide contest, sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, encourages everyone to identify the historic places that matter to them. Take a photo in front of your favorite historic site with the *This Place Matters* sign (available on the Office of Historic Preservation website) and send it to the Office of Historic Preservation to enter our local contest. Let us know the historic places in San Antonio that matter to you!



All of our historic preservation month activities and events would not be possible without the generosity of our sponsors! For additional information and a complete list of National Preservation Month activities in San Antonio, please contact the Office of Historic Preservation at 210.215.9274 or visit our [website](#). **Join in the celebration and discover San Antonio’s hidden gems throughout the month of May!**

## S.T.A.R. Spring 2012 Follow-Up

Our Spring 2012 S.T.A.R. project was a fantastic success! This was the second time that S.T.A.R. was in the Tobin Hill Historic District and the first in the Five Points neighborhood. Over 250 volunteers from the UTSA College of Architecture and San Antonio College, along with volunteer contractors, assisted homeowners with the repair and maintenance of 15 historic properties in the two neighborhoods. S.T.A.R., which stands for Students Together Achieving Revitalization, utilizes the talents and hard work of volunteers to assist homeowners with basic home repair and maintenance. Services are free for the homeowner and include window repair, painting, siding and porch repair, minor landscaping, and yard clean-up. The program has made a noticeable impact in these neighborhoods, inspiring others to begin fixing up their homes.



### S.T.A.R. Spring 2012 Sponsors

Thank you to all of our Spring 2012 S.T.A.R. Sponsors!

We couldn't do it without you!

***S.T.A.R. Spring 2012 – See the results!***

The images below from a couple of the houses reveal how much of an impact the S.T.A.R project has made in the Tobin Hill Historic District!



***Future S.T.A.R. Sponsorship Opportunities***

Our S.T.A.R project continues to need your help! We are seeking sponsors and volunteers to help with upcoming S.T.A.R. programs. Please consider donating supplies or resources for repairing houses. The S.T.A.R. project is funded entirely from generous donations by sponsors in the community. To date, the S.T.A.R. project has completed repairs to over 40 houses in San Antonio’s historic districts and neighborhoods. On average, volunteers have completed work valued between \$5,000-\$15,000 per house at an average cost of less than \$750 per house. That’s a huge return on investment! For more information on sponsorship or volunteer opportunities, or if you live in a historic district in San Antonio and are interested in having your house or neighborhood included in future S.T.A.R. efforts, please contact George McQueen at [george.mcqueen@sanantonio.gov](mailto:george.mcqueen@sanantonio.gov) or 210.207.0166.



## ***Historic District Design Guidelines Initiative***



The Office of Historic Preservation has undertaken a citywide historic district design guideline initiative. The design guidelines will have a profound effect on the future development and preservation of our historic districts. Our consultant team, Clarion Associates and Hardy Heck Moore, have been selected to help produce detailed and specific guidelines that will ensure the appropriate long-term development of our historic resources. The establishment of more substantial, city-wide historic district design guidelines for San Antonio will provide predictability in the interpretation and implementation of design standards, consistency during the design review process, incentives for investment, and economic stability for property values. Historic district guidelines can help to reinforce and preserve the character of historic districts and protect the value of your investment, which could be threatened by unmanaged growth and development.

These guidelines will also serve as a public reference for design issues and architectural details specific to a community. Your input is encouraged! A second public meeting for the citywide historic district design guidelines was held on April 9. The draft annotated outline of the historic district guidelines and an online comment form is available on our website [here](#). The consultants are working now to develop the draft of the design guidelines document, which will be presented to the public for comment at the Historic Homeowner Fair in August. For more information, please contact Wallis McMillin at 210.207.1496 or [wallis.mcmillin@sanantonio.gov](mailto:wallis.mcmillin@sanantonio.gov).



## ***Featured Articles***

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### ***Museum Reach: Downtown North River Tour***

*Text and Photographs by Elizabeth Porterfield, OHP*

If you haven't yet checked out the Museum Reach extension of the San Antonio Riverwalk, spend some time there to take a stroll and see the sights.



Extending north from Lexington Avenue to Hildebrand, the recent extension of walkways along the San Antonio River feature lush landscaping, art installations, a decorative grotto, and a number of spots of interest including restaurants, historic sites, interpretive signage, and museums. One way to experience the Museum Reach is through the Downtown North River Tour. This is one of three self-guided online San Antonio Neighborhood Tours provided by the City of San Antonio Office of Cultural Affairs. The Downtown North River Tour,

available at [www.saculturaltours.com](http://www.saculturaltours.com), can be viewed online or printed out for easy reference along your walking route.

Be sure to visit the Southwest School of Art located at 300 Augusta Street. The historic campus was the former home of the Ursuline Academy, established in 1851 as a Catholic school for girls. The Gothic revival style buildings nestled along the San Antonio River were constructed over the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The campus includes two former academy buildings, a dormitory building, a chapel, and a priest’s house surrounding a large walled courtyard. The quiet beauty of the landscaped gardens and historic limestone buildings are well worth a visit. Initial preservation of the historic complex began in 1971 with the San Antonio Conservation Society. The Southwest School of Art, which started as the Southwest Craft Center in 1965 in La Villita, later acquired the property and completed the restoration. Today, the Southwest School of Art is a non-profit organization dedicated to art education, exhibitions, lectures, and classes in a variety of media such as ceramics, sculpture, drawing, painting, and printmaking. Enjoy the exhibitions in one of several galleries, browse the gallery shop for unique artistic pieces, or have lunch at the cafe.

Further north along the Museum Reach is the historic VFW Post 76, reported to be the oldest VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) post in Texas. The former historic house at 10 10<sup>th</sup> Street with its wide porches and imposing classical columns was donated to VFW members in 1946. The VFW Post 76 itself, however, was chartered much earlier in 1917. Members of the VFW Post have ranged from veterans of the Spanish American War to recent veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq. The facility is open to the public and includes a bar, live music, and a large outdoor seating area along the San Antonio River.

One stop that you won’t want to miss is the San Antonio Museum of Art at 200 W. Jones Avenue. The museum campus is housed within the historic Lone Star Brewery complex, constructed between 1895 and 1904. The ornate brick brewery buildings, modern museum additions, and shaded pavilion and terrace spanning the San Antonio River provide a picturesque setting for the renowned museum. The Museum of Art opened in 1981 after extensive renovation of the historic brewery. The museum includes an exceptional Latin American Folk Art collection, Egyptian, Greek and Roman art, an extensive collection of ancient Mediterranean art, and a nationally renowned Asian object collection. Additional collections include 18<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> century American and European paintings, decorative arts, sculpture, and photography. The pedestrian bridge behind the museum along the Riverwalk once connected the two towers of the brewery building.



Another destination along the Museum Reach extension of the Riverwalk is the Pearl Brewery. The elaborate 1894 Brew House and restored stable building are remaining legacies of the Pearl Brewing Company which was initially established in 1881. Although the company changed names a number of times before becoming the Pearl Brewing Company, the facility produced Pearl Beer at this location for over a century. Today, the former brewery complex has experienced a renaissance and transformation into a “culinary and cultural destination.” Amenities include several restaurants, numerous retail stores, a culinary institute, educational facilities, and new residential buildings. A local farmers market is held on Saturdays.



Other places of interest along the Museum Reach include the lock and dam at Brooklyn Street that allows tour barges to travel up and downstream. A fanciful *faux bois* grotto and water feature at Camden Street and Newell Avenue provides a shady respite for passersby. Art installations are incorporated throughout the length of the Museum Reach and include sculptures, tile murals, and more. Unique art installations are also located below each of the river bridges.

If you are out at dusk, you won’t want to miss the illuminated

F.I.S.H. sculptures below the I-35 overpass near Camden Street. There’s much to see along the Museum Reach extension of the Riverwalk, so take your time and enjoy all of the amenities!

# San Antonio's Historic Resource Survey

By Nicholas Fuqua, OHP

The Office of Historic Preservation's historic resource survey of the original 36-square mile city boundary of 1852 began in 2002. The purpose of the survey was to document the existing historic resources within the original San Antonio city limits and to make determinations of eligibility for



designation of individual local landmarks and historic districts. The survey effort was initiated through a grant from the San Antonio Conservation Society. With the help of numerous volunteers, approximately 35,000 historic resources have been documented to date. The survey is an ongoing project, and we are now beginning to extend our survey efforts outside the original 36-square mile city boundary to document resources from our more recent past. We are also currently developing a database for our historic resources that will include the recorded survey data, photographs, and other relevant information for each property. The database will eventually be made available to the public online.

The historic resource survey provides a "snapshot" of our historic resources as they currently exist through photo-documentation and recording of information on inventory forms. Photographs are taken of each structure to capture its important features as well as its context or surroundings. Information collected includes the property address, the resource name (for commercial structures), and resource type such as a building, object, structure, or site.

Information is also recorded about a resource's exterior materials including siding and roofing, structural system, roof type, and architectural style. Some of the most common architectural styles found in San Antonio are late 19<sup>th</sup> century styles, including Queen Anne and Folk Victorian styles, as well as high style examples such as Italianate or Second Empire. Examples of Victorian-era styles can be seen in the King William, Lavaca, and Dignowity Hill neighborhoods. Revival styles are also very common in San Antonio and were popular from the turn-of-the-century through the 1940s. Common revival styles include Classical Revival, Tudor



Revival, and Spanish Eclectic. Many of these styles are found throughout the Monte Vista and Monticello Park Historic Districts. Other prevalent historic house types include early-20<sup>th</sup> century bungalows and later mid-20<sup>th</sup> century ranch houses. The Office of Historic Preservation offers a *Historic House Handbook* with more detailed information about San Antonio's residential architectural styles. For a copy of the handbook, stop by our office at 1901 S. Alamo or email us at [OHP@sanantonio.gov](mailto:OHP@sanantonio.gov).



Windows are one of the most important character-defining features of historic structures and are assessed during the historic resource survey. The condition of the windows, and whether they have been retained or replaced, can significantly alter the look and feel of a historic property. The Office of Historic Preservation has information on the restoration and repair of historic wood windows available on our website [here](#). We also host a number of wood window restoration workshops to teach homeowners to restore and care for their wood windows.

Additions and alterations are also recorded for each property. It is important to note changes that have taken place to a structure over time and to identify new materials that may have been added. Outbuildings such as garages are significant resources that are recorded during the survey. Landscape elements such as driveways, fences, and retaining walls are also identified.

Historic commercial structures make up a significant part of the built environment and are included in the historic resource survey. For commercial structures, documentation of any historic signage or the visible name of a specific building is important and can help to tell the story of a building's past.



Integrity is the most important factor in qualifying a structure as a potential historic landmark or as a contributing resource in a potential historic district. Integrity refers to the ability of a resource to accurately convey its history and significance. In other words, from an architectural perspective, integrity means how "intact" a historic property has remained. In determining integrity, we look at the design, materials, workmanship, overall feeling, and the location and setting of a property. Has a property retained most of its original material (siding, windows, etc.)? Have there been additions or other alterations that have significantly altered the original design and style? When you look at the property, does it still "feel" like a historic structure?

Integrity evaluations are ranked high, medium, and low. Resources with high integrity have experienced very few alterations over time and generally reflect a significant architectural style. Those with medium integrity may have experienced some alterations but still convey their sense of history. Resources with low integrity are those that have undergone a number of alterations or modifications.

Getting involved with a historic resource survey is a great way to learn more about the history of San Antonio through the built environment. We are in need of volunteers to continue our survey efforts. Join us as we continue to document our city's past. For volunteer opportunities, please contact Elizabeth Porterfield at 210.207.3327 or at [elizabeth.porterfield@sanantonio.gov](mailto:elizabeth.porterfield@sanantonio.gov). Training will be provided.



## ***Local Preservation Events and Announcements***

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### ***2012 US/ICOMOS International Symposium Comes to San Antonio***



The US/ICOMOS symposium will be held this year for the first time in San Antonio! The theme of this year's gathering is "Confluence of Cultures: World Heritage in the Americas." This is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. The 2012 US/ICOMOS International Symposium will be an opportunity to celebrate the cultural heritage of the Americas. In particular, attention will be brought to the five San Antonio Missions, including The Alamo. Collectively, the San Antonio Missions have "outstanding universal value" as defined by the guidelines for World Heritage Sites. A World Heritage nomination has been written for the Missions, now on the US "tentative list" for consideration. The symposium will take place May 31-June 2. Texas residents are eligible for the member rate. For more information on symposium events and registration go to [www.usicomos.org/symposium](http://www.usicomos.org/symposium).

**ICIMOS** is the International Council on Monuments and Sites, a non-governmental international organization dedicated to the conservation of the world's monuments and sites. The U.S. National Committee of ICIMOS (US/ICIMOS) is part of this worldwide network that supports preservation of our global cultural heritage.

### ***Dedication of Acequia Labor de Arriba***

Although the secluded River Road neighborhood is one of San Antonio's newer historic districts, it contains some of our city's oldest and most distinctive landmarks. Paleo-Indian lithic tools, some over 10,000 years old, as well as remainders of rock hearths and cooking ovens from pre-historic times, are still being discovered beside the banks of the San Antonio River at neighborhood's eastern boundary. The Zambrano homestead, continually occupied since 1780, is also located within the neighborhood, as well as the *Alamo Jacal*, which was moved to the area from the grounds of the Alamo in the 1920s. Other items of interest are the WPA constructed Mulberry Street "low water crossing" and ancient Indian and Spanish trails, including the *Paso Tejas*.



From L to R - Hector Gonzalez, William Sibley, Sally Buchanan, City Archaeologist Kay Hindes, Former Chair Richard Reed, Former Chair Mimi Quintanilla, Russell Smith, and Larry Clark.

The formal recognition of the *Acequia Labor de Arriba* or Upper Labor Acequia, which traversed the neighborhood's entire western edge, reflects another layer of history of the area. Established in 1776 and in continual operation until the early 1900's, the Upper Labor Acequia diverted water for irrigation from the San Antonio River headwaters, located north on what is now the University of the Incarnate Word Campus. On Sunday, March 25, neighborhood residents gathered to dedicate the new City of San Antonio Historic Structure plaque and monument, erected alongside the acequia route and adjacent to the River Road Neighborhood Community Gardens at the corner of Huisache and Allison Streets. A special thanks to the River Road Neighborhood Association for sponsoring this monument!

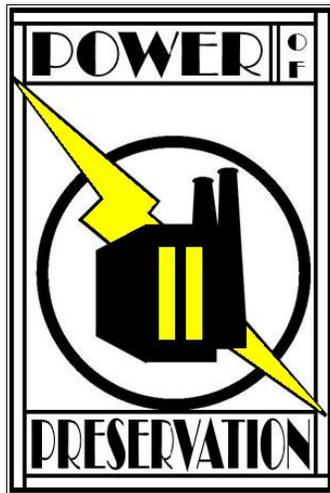
## Get Your "Power of Preservation" Tickets and Tattoos Now!



Tickets for the inaugural "Power of Preservation PROMenade and Pachanga" are on sale now! The event will be held on October 25 at the historic Mission Road Power Plant. Be a part of history and the future of San Antonio. For information on individual tickets and tables, please contact Wallis McMillin at 210.207.1496 or [wallis.mcmillin@sanantonio.gov](mailto:wallis.mcmillin@sanantonio.gov)

We also have tattoos. That's right, tattoos! In support of our Power of Preservation campaign we are unveiling our custom (temporary) tattoos. They measure 2"x3" and last for about a week.

They are only \$1 and all proceeds go to support the important education and outreach programs of the Office of Historic Preservation. Tattoos are available for purchase at 1901 S. Alamo Street. For more information, please call 210.215.9274. The tattoos are temporary...but their message is permanent! Get involved today!



*Power of Preservation*  
(temporary) tattoo



## Reporting Potential Violations to the Historic Building Enforcement Officer

To help protect the City's historic resources, residents are encouraged to notify the Office of Historic Preservation of potential violations. To report a concern:

- 1) Gather information. Be prepared to provide the address of the property in question and a brief description of the potential violation or concern. Photographs are helpful but not necessary.
- 2) Call 210.219.2093 or email Ron Meyers, Historic Building Enforcement Officer, at [ron.meyers@sanantonio.gov](mailto:ron.meyers@sanantonio.gov) or [OHP@sanantonio.gov](mailto:OHP@sanantonio.gov) during regular business hours (7:45am - 4:30pm) to report your concerns. After-hours complaints should be registered by phone through 311 or by email at [OHP@sanantonio.gov](mailto:OHP@sanantonio.gov).
- 3) You can report potential problems anonymously or provide contact information for follow-up.

## Historic Structure Plaques

Historic Structure Plaques are available for purchase for individual local landmarks and contributing properties within local historic districts. The plaques visually identify properties and districts that have been officially recognized by the City of San Antonio for their architectural or historical significance. The plaques, available for purchase for \$95, are of cast aluminum with raised silver letters on a dark grey background. The plaques are approximately 7½ inches in diameter and ¼ inch thick. Fill out an application available on our [website](#) or stop by our office to purchase yours today.



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## HPTV: Historic Preservation Television

HPTV is back with all new episodes!  
See the show on TVSA Channel 21:

**Tuesdays @ 9:00am**  
**Wednesdays @ 1:00pm**  
**Fridays @ 7:00pm**

View current and past episodes of HPTV online at the OHP Website [here](#) (sorry, PC only). Recent episodes include a look at the African-American history of San Antonio, information on our local historic districts, and much more! If you have a suggestion for a topic you would like to see covered on HPTV, contact Nicholas Fuqua at 207.0066 or [nicholas.fuqua@sanantonio.gov](mailto:nicholas.fuqua@sanantonio.gov).

## We're on the web!



The Office of Historic Preservation is on Facebook! Facebook is a great resource for promoting preservation events and networking with other people in the community interested in preservation topics. Click the Facebook icon above or go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for "City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation."



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Check out the historic preservation blog on the San Antonio Express-News website at <http://voices.mysanantonio.com/swasielewski/>

# ***Preservation Advocacy***

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## ***Federal Historic Preservation Issues***

***Provided by Erik Hein, President, Preservation Action***

*Note from OHP: The mission of Preservation Action is to make historic preservation a national priority by advocating to all branches of the federal government for sound preservation policy and programs through a grassroots constituency empowered with information and training and through direct contact with elected representatives. What happens in Washington directly impacts the work we do at the local level: grant funding to Certified Local Governments, Preserve America and Save Americas Treasures programs, federal rehabilitation tax credit policy, etc. This feature is intended to provide information to those who are interested about the status of current national legislative priorities within the preservation movement.*

For more information about Preservation Action or current issues on the national legislative agenda or for information about becoming a member, visit [www.preservationaction.org](http://www.preservationaction.org) or contact Shanon Peterson at [shanon.peterson@sanantonio.gov](mailto:shanon.peterson@sanantonio.gov). The following information is taken from the Preservation Action website [www.preservationaction.org](http://www.preservationaction.org).

**The House and Senate are in recess and will return April 16<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Briefing on Historic Tax Credit Scheduled For Hill Staff**

As a part of our ongoing campaign to raise awareness about the economic power of the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit (Historic Tax Credit), Preservation Action, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and the National Trust for Historic Preservation are sponsoring an educational briefing for Hill Staffers on Thursday, April 19th.

Scheduled to participate are National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis, and two developers who have been successful with using the credit to rehabilitate noteworthy projects - Larry Curtis of Winn Development and Thibault Manekin of Seawall Development.

In addition to providing an overview of how the historic tax credit works and the impact it can have on communities, there will be substantial opportunity for questions and answers. The speakers will be joined by an expert panel of individuals from a State Historic Preservation Office, a financial institution, and a law firm specializing in tax credit deals.

### **Select Preservation Bill Monitor**

#### **[H.R. 2555: Historic Homeownership Revitalization Act of 2011](#)**

**Sponsored by: Rep. Michael Turner (R-OH), Rep. Russ Carnahan (D-MO)**

Summary: Would establish a historic rehabilitation tax credit for homeowners and developers of historic homes.

Status: Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.

#### **[H.R. 2479, S. 2074: Creating American Prosperity Through Preservation Act](#)**

**Sponsored by: Rep. Aaron Schock (R-OH), Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)**

**Sponsored by: Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD), Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME)**

Summary: Would amend the existing commercial rehabilitation tax credit to create a larger credit for smaller projects, improve usability by non-profits, clarify the age of eligibility, exempt state credits

from federal income tax, and establish an energy efficiency supplement.  
Status: Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.

**S. 1685: Rehabilitation of Historic Schools Act of 2011**

**Sponsored by: Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA), Sen. Mark Warner (R-VA)**

Summary: Would amend the existing commercial rehabilitation tax credit to allow rehabilitation expenditures for a qualified public educational facility (defined as a school facility which is part of a public elementary or secondary school and is owned by a private, for-profit corporation pursuant to a public-private partnership agreement) to qualify for the rehabilitation tax credit.

Status: Referred to Senate Committee on Finance

**H.R. 1505: National Security and Federal Lands Protection Act**

**Sponsored by: Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT)**

Summary: Would waive activities related to border security enforcement from several review laws, including NEPA, NHPA, the Antiquities Act and the National Park Service Organic Act. The waiver would cover "certain sections of the international border between the United States and Mexico and between the United States and Canada [and] shall be considered to apply to all sections of the international land and maritime borders of the United States within 100 miles of the international land and maritime borders of the United States."

Status: House Natural Resources Committee held markup first week of October, 2011.

**H.R. 1734 & S. 1503: Civilian Property Realignment Act**

**Sponsored by: Rep. Jeff Denham (R-CA)**

**Sponsored by: Sen. Scott Brown (R-MA)**

Summary: Would establish a Civilian Property Realignment Board charged with, in consultation with local communities, identifying and analyzing surplus federal property for sale, transfer or disposal.

Status: PASSED HOUSE Feb., 2012. Referred to Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works.

**S. 1081: Project Delivery Improvement Act**

**Sponsored by: Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)**

Summary: Eliminates several provisions dealing with and considering impacts to historic sites, exempting them from highway and transportation laws.

Status: Referred to Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Similar provisions have been worked into House and Senate Transportation Reauthorization proposals.

**H.R. 4099, the National Heritage Area Act of 2012**

**Sponsored by: Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA) and Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY)**

Summary: Establishes program legislation and metrics for National Heritage Areas.

Status: Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources.

**Any Bill introduced in any Congress can be found on [Thomas/Library of Congress](#).**

**The full calendar for the House of Representatives can be found [here](#).**

**The full calendar for the Senate can be found [here](#).**

**[Join Preservation Action or Donate NOW!](#)**

Every day, Preservation Action protects and promotes our nation's core historic preservation programs by making connections between constituents and Congress. Our staff and members improve federal historic preservation policies, including incentives for adaptive reuse projects, by connecting policy makers with the information and insights of experts, professionals and citizens.

Preservation Action is the only 501(c)(4) lobbying organization for historic preservation at the federal level. We are the face of preservation on Capitol Hill. Since we were established in 1974, Preservation Action members have held **over 10,000 face-to-face meetings** with members of Congress and their staff. We lobby for priorities set by our national membership through a grassroots vote. We are the grassroots' lobby. Visit [www.preservationaction.org](http://www.preservationaction.org) for more information!