

*November 2011 Edition*



### *A Message from the Historic Preservation Officer*

Greetings! The change of seasons is upon us, signaling a time of transformation. We are excited about the next S.T.A.R. Project in the Tobin Hill Historic District on Saturday and Sunday, November 19 and 20, which will bring positive transformation to historic homes in need. S.T.A.R. (Students Together Achieving Revitalization) utilizes the talents and hard work of volunteers, including students from the UTSA College of Architecture, to assist homeowners in local historic districts with basic home repair and maintenance. Services are free for the homeowner and may include simple window repairs, painting, siding and porch repair, minor landscaping, and yard clean-up. Last spring, S.T.A.R. volunteers successfully assisted residents of the Dignowity Hill

Historic District in repairing 26 historic homes! The program has made a noticeable impact on the district, inspiring others in the area to begin fixing up their own homes. 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 Nicholas Fuqua at (210) 207-0066 or [nicholas.fuqua@sanantonio.gov](mailto:nicholas.fuqua@sanantonio.gov).



I am proud to announce that the recent Archaeology Day, held at Mission San Jose, was one of the most successful to date with over 1,500 people in attendance! The event, which was free and open to the public, offered a number of exciting family-friendly activities including pebble painting, hands on archaeology activities, and storytelling, as well as demonstrations of weaving and corn grinding. If you are interested in participating in the next Archaeology Day, please contact City Archaeologist Kay Hindes at (210) 207-

7306 or [kay.hindes@sanantonio.gov](mailto:kay.hindes@sanantonio.gov).

On a more somber note, I am sad to report the loss of an important historic resource in San Antonio. The Wolfson Building, a historic landmark on the corner of N. Main Avenue and Commerce Street, was destroyed by fire in the early morning hours of Saturday, September 29. Built in 1880 by prominent architect Alfred Giles, the building was one of the few remaining vestiges of the exceptional late nineteenth-century commercial buildings that once graced Main Plaza. The four alarm fire also affected the nearby Riverview Towers building, temporarily displacing over 300 city employees. Please see page 3 for more information on the impact of fire on historic structures and what you can do to keep your own historic property safe.



Finally, near the very end you will find a link to take the Preservation Action Grassroots Survey of legislative priorities. Please take a moment to participate in the survey, which is open to members and non-members. Now is a critical time for historic preservation in Washington. Help us at Preservation Action represent you!

Thanks!

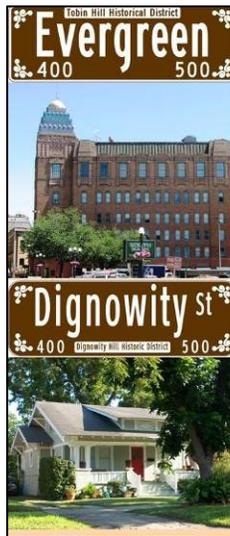
*Sharon*

## City News and Events

### ***Help Create Historic District Design Guidelines for San Antonio***

The first public meeting to discuss the development of citywide historic district design guidelines will be held Wednesday, November 30, at 6 pm, at 1901 S. Alamo St. Public input is critical to the success of this effort and your input is needed! The adoption of design guidelines for San Antonio's historic districts

will have a profound effect on the future development and preservation of our city's historic and cultural resources. The Office of Historic Preservation has selected a consultant team, Clarion Associates and Hardy Heck Moore, to produce detailed and specific guidelines that will help ensure the appropriate long-term development of San Antonio's historic properties. The establishment of substantial, detailed, citywide historic district design guidelines will provide predictability in the interpretation and implementation of design standards, consistency of information during the design review process, incentives for investment, and economic stability for property values. Historic district guidelines can help explain and expand upon the general design regulations of local ordinances, reinforce and preserve the character of a historic district, and protect the value of your property investment, which could be threatened by unmanaged growth and development. Guidelines can also provide architects and developers with insight into a community's preferences and serve as a public reference and resource for design characteristics and architectural details specific to a community and preferred approaches for maintaining historic buildings. For more information, please contact Rashad Jackson at (210) 207-0166 or [rashad.jackson@sanantonio.gov](mailto:rashad.jackson@sanantonio.gov).



### **HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGN GUIDELINES**

#### **PUBLIC MEETING**

Wednesday, November 30

6:00 pm

1901 S. Alamo

What is it that makes San Antonio's historic districts unique and desirable? Your input is needed to help shape design guidelines that will protect the historic places in our city. This will be the first of several public meetings resulting in design guidelines adopted by City Council.

The Office of Historic Preservation will kick-off a process to create citywide historic district design guidelines. The OHP has selected the consultant team of Clarion Associates and Hardy Heck Moore to help produce detailed guidelines that will help establish and assure the appropriate long-term development of our historic resources.

For more information please visit [www.sanantonio.gov/historic](http://www.sanantonio.gov/historic) or call 215.9274

### ***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@sanantonio.gov](mailto:ron.meyers@sanantonio.gov) or [OHP@sanantonio.gov](mailto:OHP@sanantonio.gov) during regular business hours (7:45 am - 4:30 pm) 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.

Ron Meyers, Historic Building Enforcement Officer, will investigate and take the necessary action if a violation has occurred. If contact information has been provided, a report on the outcome of the investigation will be provided.

## *Featured Articles*

### *Fire Brings Change To San Antonio*

Fire has been a threat to architecture ever since man moved out of the cave. Throughout history, the urban fabric of great cities such as London, Chicago, and San Francisco have been forever altered by fire.

Though unbelievably destructive, the fires that burned much of London in 1666, Chicago in 1871, and San Francisco in 1906, can be viewed as breathing new life into these cities. San Antonio is no different from other metropolises in that fire can capriciously alter the fabric of our city in a matter of hours. Most recently, the Wolfson Building, a historic landmark on the corner of N. Main Avenue and Commerce Street, fell victim to an accidental fire in the early morning hours of September 29. The blaze destroyed the structure and damaged a nearby office building, forcing 350 City of San Antonio employees temporarily out of their workspaces. The 1880 structure, designed by prominent San Antonio architect Alfred Giles, was built on the site of Santa Anna's headquarters following the battle of the Alamo. A bright spot in this tragedy was the successful salvaging of a thirty-foot mural, "Spring Scene of Texas Hill Country," painted by artist Porfirio Salinas in 1957. This painting was miraculously spared and was subsequently removed from the building by the Witte Museum. Additionally, the owner of the building was able to work with historic stone masons and the San Antonio Conservation Society to salvage over three truckloads of 1880s limestone for use in future restoration projects. Bruce MacDougal of the Conservation Society referred to the salvage aptly as an "organ transplant" for buildings.



Remains of the Wolfson Building

The Wolfson Building is not the only historic structure in recent years to fall victim to fire in San Antonio. Other historic structures that have recently burned include the homes at 820 Hays Street in the Dignowity Hill Historic District and 1204 E. Grayson Street in the Government Hill Historic District. Built in 1884, the fine stone home on Grayson Street was secured following the fire but remains in need of repair. 421 Cedar Street, in the King William Historic District, was also badly burned in recent years, but was subsequently restored. To help defray the expense of rebuilding, the owner took advantage of the City's tax exemption for substantial rehabilitation of a historic property. This particular home was saved, yet many historic structures damaged by fire are all too often demolished due to hazardous conditions or a lack of funding for repairs.



421 Cedar after fire



421 Cedar after restoration

Fire is always a risk with any historic property, but there are some important preventative measures you can take to reduce the risk of fire or damage. Also, remember to make sure that these preventative measures are sympathetic to the historic fabric of the building. These include:

- Install a lightning protection system;
- Inspect wires and electrical panels to ensure that they meet current codes and that no deteriorated wires or devices remain that could cause a fire;

- Ensure that all drapes, curtains, and tapestries are a suitable distance from potential ignition sources such as halogen lamps;
- Inspect all heating devices to ensure that they are properly vented and that flues are adequately separated from combustible construction;
- Separate furnace rooms and garages from the remainder of the building with fire rated construction;
- Install smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.

In the event that a historic property is adversely affected by fire, there are immediate post-fire actions that the City undertakes. If it is determined that the structure may pose an imminent threat to the life and safety of the public, the Fire Department immediately notifies the Development Services Department. If DSD determines that an imminent threat to the life and safety of the public exists and emergency demolition is necessary, they will submit a “Historic Emergency Notification” to the Office of Historic Preservation. OHP staff evaluates the significance of the property and the extent of the damage and discuss possible partial demolition and/or salvage strategies. If the damage does not pose an imminent threat and the structure does not require emergency demolition, Development Services will process the property as a normal case with the option of submitting it for consideration by the Building Standards Board if the property is potentially dangerous. OHP staff will visit the site to determine the extent of fire’s impact on the integrity of the structure and discuss with the owner strategies for securing and stabilizing the building until repairs can be made.



After a historic building has been deemed safe to enter, immediate steps should be taken to stabilize the structure. These include:

- Consult a licensed engineer or preservation architect about the structural stability of the building;
- Ensure gas, electricity & water are shut off;
- Prevent water infiltration by covering damaged roofs with temporary tarps or roofing;
- Cover damaged window and door openings with temporary enclosures to keep weather out and to prevent unauthorized entry;
- Brace or remove unstable building elements such as walls, ceilings, and chimneys.

Some general rules for the preservation of historic buildings should always be followed before or after a fire, such as:

- Repair rather than replace historic features whenever possible;
- Replace with matching features if repair is not feasible;
- Retain the historic character of the structure;
- Document the structure through photos and, if possible, measured drawings;
- Salvage from the debris any historic materials such as bricks or decorative elements for reuse or replication.



Simply put, fire is change. How we deal with this change depends on our perspective. As the home at 421 Cedar demonstrates, many structures damaged by fire can be saved and restored. But when the damage is too great and a building simply cannot be saved, such as in the case of the Wolfson Building, one hopes that the loss will inspire new construction of equal architectural achievement, craftsmanship, and civic value in the same way that the great fires of London, Chicago, and San Francisco inspired architects and builders to create some of the world’s most treasured buildings. If you have further question regarding fire and historic structures, please contact the Office of Historic Preservation at (210) 215-9274 or [OHP@sanantonio.gov](mailto:OHP@sanantonio.gov).

## *Be a Tourist in Your Own Town: Rediscover Brackenridge Park*

*By Elizabeth Porterfield, OHP*

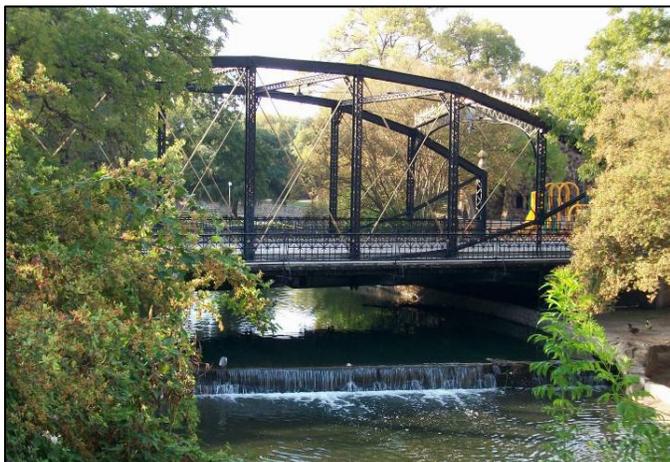
Looking for a natural getaway in the heart of the city? Then don't miss a visit to Brackenridge Park, one of San Antonio's most beautiful natural resources. Encompassing over 344 acres, the park begins at Hildebrand Avenue, just south of the University of the Incarnate Word campus, and continues south along the course of the San Antonio River. Since its creation in 1899 the park has evolved from a natural preserve into an urban oasis of greenspace with amenities including the San Antonio Zoo, the Japanese Tea Garden, the Sunken Garden Theater, a municipal golf course, museums, a playground, a recreation center, pavilions, walking trails, public art, and even a miniature train known as the Brackenridge Eagle.



Philanthropist and businessman George W. Brackenridge donated 199 acres of land along the San Antonio River to the City for park space in 1899. Much of the land had been used previously by Brackenridge and others as a waterworks company, providing water to the city from springs at the San Antonio River headwaters and through a system of artesian wells. A series of scenic drives and a deer preserve were first developed in the park at the turn of the century.

The most historic features of the park are the two 18<sup>th</sup>-century Spanish colonial acequias, or irrigation ditches: the Alamo Acequia on the east side of the river and the Upper Labor Acequia and dam on the river's west side. Originally designed to provide irrigation water from the San Antonio River, remnants of these early engineering systems (although somewhat modified) are still visible within the park. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century a stone pump house and raceway were constructed along the river as part of the early municipal water system. Much of the park as it exists today was the work of City Park Commissioner Ray Lambert in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. A natural swimming beach was created at the old pump house in 1915 and was converted into a public swimming pool in 1925. A stone bathhouse with dressing rooms

constructed for the pool remains in the park. The bathhouse roof was removed in the 1990s and the facility converted into a playscape.



The **Berlin Iron Bridge** spanning the San Antonio River in the park was originally located downtown on St. Mary's Street. The imposing **Joske Pavilion** near the Berlin Bridge was donated to the park by Alexander Joske of San Antonio's former Joske's Department Store. It was constructed in 1926 and is adjacent to the Eleanor Brackenridge Playground, named for the sister of the park's benefactor George Brackenridge.

Scattered throughout Brackenridge Park are numerous *faux bois* sculptural elements designed by Mexican artist **Dionicio Rodriguez**. He utilized a special technique to create concrete pieces that resembled natural wood. His most unique piece is a footbridge at the north end of the park. Constructed in 1926 and designed to represent a rustic wooden arbor, this whimsical creation was originally decorated with “gnome” figures peeping out from below the bridge. As you stroll across the footbridge see if you can spot the two places where the artist etched his name. Other Rodriguez *faux bois* pieces within Brackenridge Park include fountains, a table and benches, and tree stump planters.

For year-round outdoor fun, visit the **San Antonio Zoo**, also nestled within Brackenridge Park. San Antonio’s first zoo was established in San Pedro Park in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, but Brackenridge Park has been home to exotic animals since 1914 when deer, buffalo, and bears were introduced to the park. This collection developed into the San Antonio Zoological Society in 1928, and in 1929 San Antonio reportedly offered the first cage-less exhibits in the United States: the Barless Bear Terraces and Primate Paradise, commonly known as Monkey Island. Like many other features in Brackenridge Park, the San Antonio Zoo was designed within an abandoned rock quarry, and the natural limestone walls provide scenic backdrops for many of the exhibits. In the 1940s, many additions to the zoo were designed under the Works Progress Administration. Today, the San Antonio Zoo features a unique collection of native limestone buildings, meandering waterways from the San Antonio River, and over 3,500 animals from around the world.

The **Japanese Tea Garden** within Brackenridge Park is a must see! The garden was created in 1917 under City Park Commissioner Ray Lambert at the site of the former Alamo Cement Company rock quarry. Alamo Cement Company relocated in 1908, and the vacated rock quarry was later transformed into a Japanese-style “sunken garden” with a lily pond, island, stone bridges, meandering paths, lush landscaping, and a Japanese-style pagoda. A rustic, *faux-bois* entrance gate was created by artist Dionicio Rodriguez. A Japanese-American family, the Jingu, moved into the park in 1926 to care for the grounds and opened a Japanese tea house called the Bamboo Room. The family was evicted in 1942 following anti-Japanese sentiment during World War II, and a Chinese-American family took over the facility. At that time the name was changed to the Chinese Tea Garden. In 1984, the park was rededicated as the Japanese Tea Garden, and recent work has restored the gardens to their tranquil beauty. The historic Jingu House has undergone restoration and has recently reopened. At the base of the gardens are the remaining kilns and smokestack from the former Alamo Cement Company.



The **Sunken Garden Theater** near the Japanese Tea Garden is an open air amphitheater also constructed within the basin of the abandoned Alamo Cement quarry. Constructed in 1930, the design was inspired by ancient Greek amphitheaters, and the semi-circular basin of the former rock quarry provides natural acoustics for outdoor concerts and venues. The theater was expanded in 1937 for the Texas Centennial commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence from Mexico in 1836.

For additional information about Brackenridge Park contact the City of San Antonio Department of Parks and Recreation at [www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec/directory\\_brackenridge.aspx](http://www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec/directory_brackenridge.aspx) or the Brackenridge Park Conservancy at [www.brackenridgepark.org/](http://www.brackenridgepark.org/).

## **Preservation Partners: Meet The People In Our Preservation Community!**

### ***City Archivist Donna Guerra***

In November 2010, Donna Guerra joined the Office of the City Clerk Municipal Archives & Records as the City Archivist, a position created by City Clerk Leticia M. Vacek in 2007. Donna received her M.A. in Information Science and Archival Studies from Drexel University in Philadelphia and has worked at the University of Texas at Austin libraries, the Smithsonian Institution, and at Harvard University's Loeb Music Library in the Archive of World Music. While at Harvard, she worked predominantly with archival music materials from Asia and the Middle East and with the digital preservation of archival sound recordings, providing web access through finding aids and streaming audio. Donna continues to focus on the preservation and digitization of the City of San Antonio's archival collections, including maps from the 1800s, historical deeds, and mayoral administrative collections. Many of these collections are available through the Municipal Archives & Records [Digital Collections](#) web portal. As a member of the Society of American Archivists, Donna was elected to the Government Records Section Steering Committee, a group of professional government archivists, in August 2011. One of her responsibilities is to review and endorse session proposals for the Society's annual meeting. Donna enjoys supervising and mentoring student interns in her current position. As a result of 11 years working in archives, Donna believes that collaborations accomplish more. She participated as a judge in the San Antonio Regional History Day, helped homeowners research their historic properties at the Office of Historic Preservation's Historic Homeowner Fair, and took part in San Antonio Founders Day. Donna encourages people to discover the importance of preserving our heritage as individuals and as citizens. Thanks for all you do Donna!



### ***Historic Design Review Commissioner Kathy Rodriguez***



This past spring, former Office of Historic Preservation staff member Kathy Rodriguez was appointed to the Historic Design Review Commission (HDRC), filling the District 5 position. Kathy's professional experience is in the areas of construction management, historic preservation, and community development. She completed her bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Texas at San Antonio College of Architecture and is currently pursuing a graduate certificate in historic preservation. During her time working for the City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation, she had the opportunity to present at local and national conferences, speaking on topics related to preservation work at the local government level, as well as on cultural diversity in the preservation field. Kathy currently holds the position of Community Development Officer for the City of Castroville, where she also serves as the city's first full-time Historic Preservation Officer. Kathy also sits on the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals for the City of San Antonio. "I feel a great sense of pride and gratitude to have the opportunity to serve my community in this way," she says. Kathy is also an associate member of the American Institute of Architects, the American Planning Association, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. In October 2010, Kathy attended the National Trust for Historic Preservation national conference in Austin as a Texas Scholar, and this October attended the conference in Buffalo, New York, as a Diversity Scholar.

## **Local Preservation Events and Announcements**

### ***King William Receives Cultural District Designation***

The Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) has designated four communities as official State of Texas Cultural Districts. These districts include the Alpine Cultural District, Clifton Cultural Arts District, El Paso Downtown Cultural District and King William Cultural District in San Antonio. Cultural Districts are defined by the TCA as geographic areas of a city where there is a high concentration of cultural facilities, arts organizations, individual artists and arts-based businesses. The King William Cultural District is located just south of downtown San Antonio about one mile from the Alamo along the Mission Trail Corridor. Three National Register historic districts lie within its boundaries: the King William Historic District, the South Alamo Street - South Mary's Street Historic District, and the Blue Star Street Industrial Historic District, home of the Blue Star Arts Complex, an innovative adaptation of historic warehouse buildings into an arts-oriented mixed use development of loft studio apartments, galleries, retail, performance spaces, artists' work spaces, and design offices. All three historic districts share a common theme of historical and cultural importance. Arts and cultural organizations in the district include Beethoven Maennerchor, Church Bistro & Theatre, Gemini Ink, Jump-Start Performance Co., San Antonio Art League and Museum, SAY Sí, and Slab Cinema. Additional information about the cultural district designation program is available from Jim Bob McMillan, TCA Deputy Director, at (512) 936-6572 or [jimbob.mcmillan@arts.state.tx.us](mailto:jimbob.mcmillan@arts.state.tx.us).



### ***Conservation Society Historic Preservation Awards***

The purpose of the Historic Preservation Awards is to honor those who have reached the highest level of accomplishment in historic preservation and to recognize the quality of preservation work achieved in the built environment. The San Antonio Conservation Society is accepting nominations through Friday, November 4, 2011, for its Historic Preservation Awards, as well as for the Lynn Ford Craftsman Award. The Lynn Ford Craftsman Award recognizes individuals who show outstanding achievement in a craft, preferably in the area of historic preservation. All winners will be honored at an awards ceremony, which is open to the public and will take place in March. Please visit [www.saconservation.org/events/buildingawards.htm](http://www.saconservation.org/events/buildingawards.htm) for nomination criteria and printable nomination forms. Applications cannot be submitted online and must be mailed or delivered to the Society headquarters at 107 King William Street by 4:30 pm on Friday, November 4, 2011. The Conservation Society office is open Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. For more information call (210) 224-6163.



## ***Events and Exhibits at Villa Finale***

Located at 401 King William Street in the beautiful King William Historic District, Villa Finale is the first National Trust for Historic Preservation site in Texas. For more information on the following tours, programs, and exhibits, stop by the Visitor Center at 122 Madison, call (210) 223-9800, or visit [www.villafinale.org](http://www.villafinale.org).

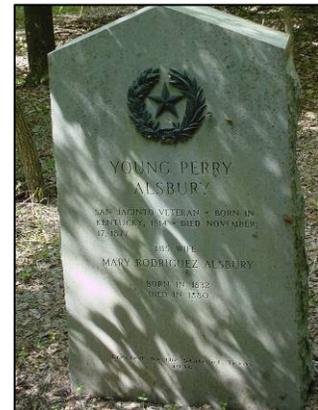


### ***o Music for Your Eyes: A Special Tour of the Musical Instruments*** ***Thursday, November 3, 2011 - 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm***

Walter Mathis enhanced Villa Finale's world of visual beauty by filling his home with the sounds of music. Guests to his home were treated to a unique visit as they toured Villa Finale's collections while their ears were entertained by the musical delights of antique machines. This tour recreates this experience by treating today's visitors to demonstrations of some of the rare music machines in the collection. Highlights include the Violano Virtuoso mechanical musical instrument, the Bechstein-Welte reproducing grand piano, as well as others. Tickets are \$10 for members of Villa Finale or the National Trust for Historic Preservation, \$20 for non-members. Please call (210) 223-9800 x34328 for reservations and further details. Advance registration is important. Tour guests check in at the Villa Finale Visitor Center at 122 Madison.

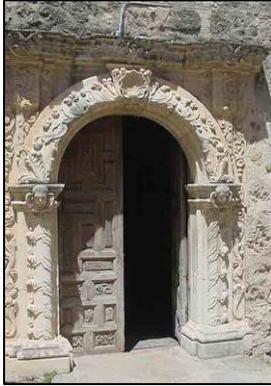
### ***o Texas Historical Markers Presentation*** ***Saturday, November 5, 2011 - 11:00am - 12:00pm***

One of the Texas Historical Commission's many tasks is to identify important historic sites across the state and mark them with educational plaques and monuments that communicate the history of the place, community, or region. However, many of these markers are in need of repair and are in danger of being lost. Join Sarah Reveley, sixth-generation Texan and Texas Historical Commission volunteer at the Villa Finale Visitor Center for a free presentation in which she highlights how the public can join the effort to save historical markers throughout the state. Sarah will highlight historic sites throughout Bexar County and the surrounding regions as well as the contributions made by German immigrants to Texas history. Sarah will graciously copy her entire visual presentation to any attendees who bring a memory stick with them the day of her presentation. Villa Finale encourages people in attendance to donate to the Texas Historical Commission's efforts. This is a free event for the general public at the Villa Finale Visitor Center at 122 Madison Street. Space is limited so please call (210) 223-9800 x34323 for details.



### ***o Collections Care Workshop: Paper*** ***Wednesday, November 16, 2011 - 4:30pm - 5:30pm***

Join Meg Nowack, Manager of Curatorial Resources at Villa Finale, as she conducts a workshop concentrating on the handling, care, and storing of paper items such as family documents, books, and newspapers. The workshop will take place at the Villa Finale Carriage House. Please call (210) 223-9800 x34328 for reservations and further details. Cost is \$10 for members of Villa Finale or the National Trust for Historic Preservation, \$20 for non-members. Admission includes some workshop materials and light refreshments. Advance registration is required and reservations close Tuesday, November 15, at 3:30 pm. Pre-paid workshop registrants meet at the front gate of Villa Finale, 401 King William.



○ ***San Antonio: The Significance of its Doorways***  
***Saturday, November 19, 2011 - 11:00am - 12:30pm***

As part of its Preservation Series, Villa Finale presents *San Antonio: The Significance of its Doorways*. Frederick R. Preston, Ed. D., photographer, and author of *Historic Doorways of San Antonio*, will present a colorful lecture focusing on some of the most beautiful historic doorways in the city and what these doors say about our community and our past. Dr. Preston will be available to sign his two publications which are sold at Villa Finale's Museum Shop. A brief walking tour to Villa Finale immediately follows the presentation and book signing. This event is free for members of Villa Finale or the National Trust for Historic Preservation, \$10 for non-members. Space is limited, so please call (210) 223-9800 x34328 for reservations and further details. Program begins at

the Villa Finale Visitor Center, 122 Madison Street.

***The Tejano Battle of Medina: Reenactors Wanted***



On Saturday, November 5, 2011, Dr. Juan Jasso and the Tejano Genealogy Society of Austin will be hosting a reenactment and filming of the Battle of Medina, one of the biggest and bloodiest battles ever fought on Texas soil and recently approved by the State Board of Education for inclusion in the curriculum taught in Texas schools. Volunteers are needed for the reenactment.

Actors and reenactors should wear appropriate attire. Tejanos should wear c.1800 Tejano attire, not Texan. Anglo volunteers should wear colonial period attire or frontier dress. Native Americans should wear appropriate Native American attire.

Spanish and Mexican soldiers are also needed in c.1800 military

attire with muskets if possible. There will be cannons, muskets, swords, and all kinds of early military hardware. This event will be professionally filmed, edited and produced by San Antonio's TV personality Maclovio Perez and directed and produced by author and historian Dan Arellano. The event will take place on the grounds of Southside High School, near to where the actual battle was fought, 20 miles south of San Antonio on Highway 281 South and Martinez-Losoya Road. For more information, please contact Dan Arellano, President of the Tejano Genealogy Society at (512) 826-7569 or [darellano@austin.rr.com](mailto:darellano@austin.rr.com).

***Historic Structure Plaques***

Historic Structure Plaques are available for purchase on a first come, first serve basis for individual local landmarks and contributing properties within local historic districts. The plaques will visually identify properties and districts that have been officially recognized by the City of San Antonio for their architectural or historical significance. San Antonio currently has 27 local historic districts and more than 2,000 individual local landmarks. The plaques, available for purchase for \$95, are of cast aluminum with raised silver letters on a dark grey background. The plaque is approximately 7½ inches in diameter and ¼ inch thick. To purchase your Historic Plaque please fill out an application available on our website or stop by our office to purchase yours today. If you have questions regarding the Historic Plaque Program, please contact Rashad Jackson at (210) 207-0166 or email [rashad.jackson@sanantonio.gov](mailto:rashad.jackson@sanantonio.gov).





### ***OHP T-Shirts Now Available!***

Show your support for preservation in style with the official Office of Historic Preservation “Know Your Place” t-shirt! The shirts are a dark gray, lightweight cotton blend and are available in both men’s and women’s sizes and styles. The front features a map of downtown San Antonio in black with the river highlighted in light blue and

our slogan “Know Your Place.” T-shirts are \$18, and all proceeds go to support the important education and outreach programs of the Office of Historic Preservation. The shirts are available for purchase at 1901 S. Alamo Street. For more information, please call (210) 215-9274.

### ***Revised OHP Forms and Applications Now Available***

The Office of Historic Preservation has revised all of its forms and applications. The new forms have been streamlined for easier completion and faster processing. Copies of all forms needed for your historic property are now available at our offices at 1901 S. Alamo Street and online at [www.sanantonio.gov/historic/applications.aspx](http://www.sanantonio.gov/historic/applications.aspx). Please call (210) 215-9274, Monday-Friday, from 7:45 am to 4:30 pm for assistance.

### ***HPTV: Historic Preservation Television***



Our November episode will examine the benefits of developing and adopting city-wide historic district design guidelines. Stay tuned!

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 (sorry, PC only).*

**Upcoming Tours**

**December 10, 2011**  
Downtown Holiday Lighting

**February 25, 2012**  
Fort Sam Houston



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

### ***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.”



Follow us on Twitter  
[@SA\\_Preservation](https://twitter.com/SA_Preservation)

Subscribe to our YouTube channel  
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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*

### *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).

### *Transportation Enhancements Threatened Yet Again*

Last week the preservation community rallied against an amendment offered by Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) that would have eliminated funding for Transportation Enhancements - the largest source for federal historic preservation funding. While successful in defeating this attempt, **ANOTHER AMENDMENT IS EXPECTED NEXT WEEK by Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) that would redirect funding for Transportation Enhancement projects to bridge repair.**

On November 1st, the Senate will resume their consideration of H.R. 2112 - the “minibus” spending package that contains three spending bills including S. 1596 for Transportation - HUD. It is likely the Paul amendment (#821) will be considered early in the process.

On Thursday, October 27, Preservation Action sent an [Action Alert](#) out to its membership asking them to contact their Senators to request they vote “no” on the amendment. Targeting the Transportation Enhancements program - which only represents 2% of the entire federal transportation funding stream, as a solution for bridge repair does not make sense. In fact, this proposal would provide so little additional funding for bridges that it would take 80 years to fix the backlog of bridge repairs and achieve “success.” And in the process - the largest source of federal historic preservation funding would be lost. To learn more about Transportation Enhancements, and to easily see what projects have been completed in YOUR state so that you can tell your Senators... visit the [Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse](#).

#### **\*\*\*Sign-on Letter for Transportation Enhancements\*\*\***

A national sign-on letter is circulating in support of Transportation Enhancements Projects. To have your organization included, simply go to: [http://support.railstotrains.org/Paul\\_letter](http://support.railstotrains.org/Paul_letter).

### *Interior Secretary Begins Releasing America's Great Outdoors Projects*

As a part of the implementation of the administration's America's Great Outdoors initiative, over the past several months, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and other senior interior officials have been meeting with governors and stakeholders all over the country to solicit suggestions for a 50-state report outlining ways to “reconnect Americans to the natural world.” According to an Interior press release, these projects are to represent effective ways to “support a healthy, active population, conserve wildlife and working lands, and create travel, tourism and outdoor-recreation jobs across the country.”

This week Salazar began highlighting projects that will be included in the final report, which is expected to be released shortly. A map of these projects can be viewed at <http://www.doi.gov/Americas-Great-Outdoors-Highlighted-Projects.cfm>.

While the vast majority of projects are focused on the creation of trails, ecosystem improvements, and river projects, there are a few that are more directly related to historic preservation: Fort Monroe, Virginia, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historic Park and the Chesapeake National Historic Trail - both of which are in Maryland.

### ***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: Creating American Prosperity Through Preservation Act**

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

#### **H.R. 709: Urban Revitalization and Livable Communities Act**

**Sponsored by: Rep. Albio Sires (D-NJ)** Summary: Would require the Secretary of HUD to establish an urban revitalization and livable communities program to provide federal grants to eligible local governments for a variety of park-related projects, including rehabilitation and construction. Status: Referred to House Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community

Opportunity.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **S. 1265: Land and Water Conservation Authorization and Funding Act of 2011**

**Sponsored by: Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM)** Summary: Would provide full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Status: Referred to Senate Committee on Energy and 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](#).

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