

Dignowity Center

After many years of hard work Byron Trott is proud to announce the completion of his neighborhood commercial building located at 900 Nolan. The 7,400 square foot *Dignowity Center* was painstakingly restored over a six year period.

Throughout the rehabilitation many problems were encountered, "Every window had iron bars on them; the place looked like a jail. Once we removed the iron bars, we found few of the windows were made of glass. They were plastic. The roof had been leaking for so long, the water had attracted termites. Most of the floor joists have been replaced."



Mr. Trott has been active in the neighborhood since he rehabbed a house on the corner of North Olive and Burnet Street. "I had heard all the admonitions from unenlightened people about this area being dangerous, etc. After spending 8 months working there, I had absolutely no problems---no vandalism, no graffiti, no hassles. Everyone was very nice." Mr. Trott says that he was "attracted to the friendly neighbors and curious visitors who dropped by 732 N. Olive," the home of one of the son's of Anthony Dignowity for which Dignowity Hill was named.



AFTER



The 1931 Art Moderne building is the result of five neighbors who extended and enclosed their front porches to open shops and later decided to join forces and build this modern center---where they could maintain businesses while living at the rear of their shops. The building is located at the corner of Nolan and N. Pine Street, within the Dignowity Hill Historic District, "less than a mile" from the Alamo. *Dignowity Center* is part of a former upscale 1890s neighborhood surrounded by Victorian mansions. Mr. Trott's vision and goal is to provide a business and retail space to attract services and opportunities to neighbors in the Dignowity Hill Historic District. Please visit www.dignowitycenter.com for more information and photos.

Contact Us!

The Office of Historic Preservation is dedicated to improving public outreach and awareness of preservation issues and events in San Antonio. Please contact us at OHP@sanantonio.gov or call (210) 207-7244 for more information or to subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter.

The Romance of Place

I ran across an interesting statement while reading various preservation related articles one day, "I'm tired of fighting over a little old building that's not worth anything but romance," was the statement made by the owner of a building who was against its proposed landmark designation. Now what's wrong with an old site or building conjuring up a little bit of romance or past memories of happiness?

I immediately began to think about other articles that I read that blamed old dilapidated buildings on vagrancy, drugs, crime and in some cases fire. I thought of all the stories that people have shared about how they grew up in an old house and all the great memories they have of the house. Many people reminisce about going to the opening of an old theater or playing at a nearby park and how they all held a special place in their heart for these places. So, with that "little bit of romance" said and because Valentine's Day is fast approaching the Office of Historic Preservation wishes to share with you one of those stories.

The first story comes from our Deputy City Manager A.J. Rodriguez. A.J. submitted this photo during the *This Place Matters* campaign that the office held in May 2009 for Preservation Month to highlight his family's connection to King William Park and the historic gazebo. The gazebo was the site where his grandfather proposed to his grandmother, his father to his mother and A.J. to his wife. He is hopeful that one day his son will continue this family tradition...



Recent/Upcoming Historic Designations

Olmos Park Terrace Extension, 200 Block Mandalay – **approved Jan. 21, 2010, City Council hearing**

Cool Crest Miniture Golf Complex, 1400/1414 Fredericksburg Rd. – **approved Feb. 2nd, 2010, Zoning Commission hearing**

Former O'Krent Building – 300 San Pedro – **approved Feb. 3rd, 2010, HDRC hearing**

Ice House, 419 S. Hackberry – **approved Feb. 3rd, 2010, HDRC hearing**

DeLuxe Grocery, 907 W. Theo – **approved Feb. 3rd, 2010, HDRC hearing**

River Road Historic District – **approved Feb. 4th, 2010, City Council hearing**

Mission Drive-in Theater – **approved Feb. 4th, 2010, City Council hearing**

Gaenslen House, 403 St. Anthony Ave. – **Mar. 2nd, 2010, Zoning Commission hearing**

Preservation Lobby Day 2010 March 2nd & 3rd

Each year, preservationists from around the country meet in Washington, DC for Preservation Action's "Lobby Day." On Tuesday, March 2nd, 2010, the first day of this two-day convention Preservation Action will provide legislative updates and training on how to lobby members of congress, and venues for attendees to congregate by state to develop coordinated messages. On Wednesday, following the Congressional Breakfast, attendees go to the Hill to deliver their message to Congress. Both co-chairs of the House Historic Preservation Caucus will address the group.

This year Preservation Action will be welcoming attendees of the National Historic Tax Credit Conference (NHTCC) to Lobby Day. Participation by Historic Tax Credit (HTC) Professionals in Lobby Day will be facilitated by the Historic Tax Credit Coalition. This year, they have aligned Preservation Action's Lobby Day, NCSHPO's Annual Meeting and Advocacy Day, and the National Historic Tax Credit Conference together to form **National Historic Preservation Advocacy Week, March 1 – 5, 2010**. A full calendar and online registration information can be found at: <http://guest.event.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=e1979562-2769-46d3-93c1-a2ae621b322e>

Proposed 2011 Budget reduces funding for important historic preservation programs

The Federal budget for fiscal year 2011 proposes to terminate funding for Save America's Treasures and Preserve America grant programs. The budget states that the two programs "had not demonstrated how they contribute to nationwide historic preservation goals."

Richard Moe, President for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, responded to the proposed cuts, "Over the last decade the Save America's Treasures program has helped preserve some of our most significant historic places through modest grants that leverage private dollars, create jobs and strengthen communities. Moe also states that "because every dollar awarded through the program must be matched dollar for dollar by non-federal funds, these grants stimulate community interest and engagement, and often leverage 70% over the government's investment in the form of private-sector partnerships with state and local governments, corporations, foundations and individuals."

Data gathered by Donovan Rypkema from the National Park Service states that between 1999 and 2009, the Save America's Treasures (SAT) program allocated around \$220 million dollars for the restoration of nearly 900 historic structures, many of them National Historic Landmarks. This investment by the SAT program generated in excess of \$330 million from other sources. More information can be found by visiting www.preservationnation.org or www.preservationaction.org or <http://www.placeeconomics.com/blog.html>

Villa Finale –First National Trust Historic Site in Texas – 401 King William

Experience the restoration of Villa Finale in progress!



Call (210) 223-9800 extension 34328 to make reservations or come to the Villa Finale Visitor Center at 122 Madison during public hours.

For a limited time, Villa Finale is offering the opportunity to visit Walter Mathis's home before it opens to the public in October 2010. Visitors will see the restoration in progress, and will learn technical details of the project as well as philosophical approaches from the Villa Finale staff.

This is the public's one and only chance to see the home without its collection!

Dates:

Thursday, February 11, 2010 at 11 am
Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at 1:30 pm

More dates will be added as the restoration progresses – please check back frequently as each tour will be different!

Price: \$35 general admission (includes tax). Friends of Villa Finale, National Trust Members and full-time students with a valid I.D. receive a 10% discount.

All Hard Hat Tours begin at the Villa Finale Visitor Center located at 122 Madison.

Sauerkraut Bend: A Century in San Antonio's King William Neighborhood, 1844-1947



A presentation by local Historian Maria Pfeiffer will cover one-hundred years of King William National Historic District history.

Date: Thursday, February 25th at 3 PM

Price: \$5

Place: Villa Finale Visitor Center – 122 Madison

Call (210) 223-9800 extension 34328 to make reservations or come to the Villa Finale Visitor Center at 122 Madison during public hours.

Please visit the Villa Finale website to find out about more upcoming events:

<http://villafinale.org/news-and-events/>

Fundraiser to benefit Historic Green

On March 9th-19th, Historic Green, a nonprofit organization, will host hundreds of students and professionals to volunteer in the rebuilding of New Orleans; an entire community brought to its knees in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. **On February 26th, the Historic Green coordinators will be hosting a fundraiser at Rita's on the River Walk at 7pm.** All proceeds go to Historic Green projects in the Lower Ninth Ward. For more information, please visit:

www.historicgreen.org or to purchase tickets for the event, visit: <http://historicgreenSA.wordpress.com>

a fundraiser event for
HISTORIC GREEN
www.historicgreen.org

you are invited to:

the [hidden] talent

of architecture students

Featuring projects by UTSA graduate architecture students &
a brief presentation by William Dupont, AIA San Antonio Conservation Society Endowed Professor

INCLUDES LIVE MUSIC + NEW ORLEANS-STYLE APPETIZERS + SILENT AUCTION + \$3 DRINKS

\$15 (OR \$20 AT THE DOOR)

To Purchase, visit:
historicgreenSA.wordpress.com

7-11PM FEBRUARY 26
at Rita's on the River Walk!
245 East Commerce Street

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT:
HistoricGreenSA@gmail.com

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT HISTORIC GREEN
Historic Green's mission is to assist and lead in the transformation and restoration of distressed communities through education and service activities focusing on heritage conservation and sustainable design.

The [uncertain] Future of our Cultural Heritage



On **Wednesday, March 31st, 2010**, Gustavo Araoz, President of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) will speak at UTSA. His 30-year architectural career has focused on the management and conservation of the historic built environment.

Mr Araoz holds a Bachelor in Architecture from the Catholic University of America, a Master of Arts in Latin American Studies from Georgetown University, and completed the international post-graduate program in Architectural Conservation at the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia in Mexico City, where he was an OAS Fellow. He is the 2009 recipient of the Beinecke-Reeves Award for Achievement in Historic Preservation.

Please check our website for location and time www.sanantonio.gov/historic

Spanish Governor's Palace – Behind the Scenes Tour



DATES:

Friday, February 12 – 11:30 a.m.
Saturday, February 13 – 10:00 a.m.

PRICE: \$25.00 per person
LOCATION: 105 Plaza de Armas

BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOUR

Come experience an exclusive sneak peak of the Capital Improvements project currently underway at the historic Spanish Governor's Palace.

- The tour will include presentations by project architect Thom Robey and general contractor Mike Boyle.
 - Learn the history of the 260 year old structure, and understand how historians, architects, and archaeologists worked together to preserve the historic integrity of the building.
 - Appreciate the beautiful Spanish colonial Architecture of the building.
- Call 210-207-3677 or email charlotte.boord@sanantonio.gov to reserve your spot on this unique tour.
Major credit cards accepted.

For more information visit www.sanantonio.gov/dtops/spangovpal.asp



Count down to the U.S. 2010 Census in San Antonio

In four months, the United States Census Bureau will mail more than 600,000 Census forms to households across San Antonio and Bexar County. To ensure valuable community services and a better quality of life for our community in the upcoming 10 years, the City of San Antonio and Bexar County want to ensure that everyone living in our area is counted.

Your participation in the 2010 Census will ensure that a portion of the \$400 billion in federal funding will go directly to local community programs, healthcare, schools and infrastructure. In addition, an accurate count of the population assures political representation at all levels of government.

Expect the Census questionnaire to arrive in your mail box in the week of March 15, 2010. With only 10 questions, it's the shortest questionnaire in history and only takes about 10 minutes to complete. Fill it out! It's in your hands San Antonio! For more information, visit www.sanantonio.gov/census.

WHAT CAN 10 QUESTIONS DO FOR YOUR COMMUNITY?

- Increase funding by \$13,500 per person over the next 10 years which provides financial support for:
 - Schools
 - Lunch programs
 - Special education
 - Educational grants
 - Hospitals
 - Emergency services
 - Police
 - Fire
 - Emergency medical services (EMS)
 - Non-profit organizations
 - Businesses
 - Redistricting

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR YOUR COMMUNITY?

BE COUNTED!

We're on the web:



Check out the new historic preservation blog on the San Antonio Express-News website at

<http://voices.mysanantonio.com/swasielewski/>



The Office of Historic Preservation is on Facebook! Click the Facebook icon to add us as your friend. Facebook is a great resource for promoting preservation events and networking with other people in the community interested in preservation topics. If you are unable to open the link, simply login to www.facebook.com and search for "City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation".

Please visit our new website at www.sanantonio.gov/historic. Updates and improvements are being made constantly.



Preservation Networking Event



Please join us in River North at the Tiki Bar located in the El Tropicano Hotel at 110 Lexington Ave. on Thursday, February 11, 2010 from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm.

Save the Date

Is there a preservation issue or topic that you are interested in hearing more about or discussed by the Office of Historic Preservation? Please email us at OHP@sanantonio.gov with any potential topics for our Lunch and Learn at the One Stop and don't forget to bring your brown bag lunch!!!



Where: 1901 S. Alamo Training Rooms A&B
When: To be determined
What: Office of Historic Preservation

Historic House Rescue List



The Office of Historic Preservation maintains a list of individuals or organizations that are interested in acquiring dilapidated and endangered historic properties in need of repair and rehabilitation. If you are interested in more details about this list or would like to be added to the list to be notified about potential properties that require assistance, please contact Larry Gutierrez at 207-7902 or by email at larry.gutierrez@sanantonio.gov.