

SAN ANTONIO PRESERVATION NEWSLINK

June, 2009 Edition



A Message from the Historic Preservation Officer, Shanon Wasielewski

Historic Preservation is about telling the story of our city, neighborhoods and homes through our built environment. We do historic designation and design review in order to manage change to our historic districts and landmarks in a way that is consistent with the overall character so that the story is maintained. Each individual window, porch, house, commercial building, school, church and neighborhood are woven together to create the overall fabric of our city. This fabric is what provides the backdrop for our experiences, memories and events in the life of our community. Taking care of our built environment does more than just save old buildings. It provides a sense of

belonging, a collective memory and a sense of pride in our past. We need to support and promote preservation because it is about more than saving old buildings; it is about protecting our heritage and what defines us as a country, city, and community. Preservation is not about longing for the past or resisting progress. It's about building on the past toward the future.

This summer, the Office of Historic Preservation will host a variety of community events and educational opportunities to raise awareness of historic preservation in San Antonio. **Practical Preservation** is the central theme to our outreach campaign this summer. The purpose is to give citizens and professionals the tools necessary to promote and practice preservation in everyday situations and circumstances and to understand why it matters. This will include hands-on training opportunities, professional realtor training, a community meeting about the strategic plan, and presentations from experts in preservation.



Lunch and Learn

**Bring your favorite lunch and learn about preservation in San Antonio
Join us Friday, June 19, 2009 from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
1901 S. Alamo “One Stop”, Second floor, Training Rooms A and B**

Anna Glover from the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) will explain the role the OHP plays in the permitting process and its involvement in other City departments and projects. If you intend on working on a historic home or district in the future, this is a great opportunity to familiarize yourself with the process and ask any questions you may have. Shanon Peterson Wasielewski, AICP will explain why preservation is inherently sustainable. Buildings constructed before WWII were designed with many of the principles now considered “green” by LEED standards. Come learn the importance of retaining historic windows and other original materials.

Strategic Plan Update



**Community Workshop #3
Tuesday, June 30th, 2009
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
1901 S. Alamo**

Training Rooms A & B

The Lakota Group is preparing the Strategic Historic Preservation Plan for San Antonio. The first phase of the process including the “State of the City” report is available for you to review at <http://www.thelakotagroup.com/SAHP/>. From this Overview page, scroll down and click on *Download State of the City Report* to find the report. This report covers a brief history of San Antonio and a history of preservation in our community. It also outlines current programs associated with preservation. From this basis of information, the consultants are preparing the draft plan, which will be presented to the Steering Committee and the community on June 30th. The purpose of this initiative is to create broad-based community consensus about historic preservation issues so that we are better equipped to make sound decisions about the preservation of our historic buildings, sites, and districts. The Strategic Preservation Plan will provide concrete strategies to enhance the preservation program and capitalize on our unique historic resources that have a proven positive impact on economic development, heritage tourism, and quality of life. Community input is an essential element to the creation and success of this plan. We invite you to attend the final community workshop on June 30th to provide feedback about the preliminary plan. The plan is scheduled to be completed and considered for adoption by the Historic and Design Review Commission and by City Council later this summer. Please contact our office at OHP@sanantonio.gov or Elizabeth Porterfield at 207-3327 for additional information.

May Window Workshop and Symposium a Great Success!

The first wood window restoration workshop and community symposium held in May was a tremendous success. A public television broadcast of the “Window on Preservation” Community Symposium will be airing on the city cable channel throughout the month of June. For specific dates and times, please contact our office. Additionally, KSTX, 89.1 FM will air Walter Sedovic's presentation on Friday, June 12th, at 7 p.m. If you missed the presentation, be sure to tune in!



Historic Window Restoration Workshop July 31-August 1

Windows are often character defining features of historic homes but homeowners are pressured in the name of energy efficiency to replace them. Most of the time, however, the more cost effective and sustainable solution is the rehabilitation of existing windows. Many of the typical problems associated with wood windows can be handled with proper maintenance and repair, extending the life of the window for another 100 years. The preservation of historic windows is essential in maintaining the quality and character of San Antonio's historic resources.

We had such a good response to the workshop held in May that we are going to host another workshop for anyone that was unable to attend the first workshop. On Friday and Saturday, July 31st and August 1st, we are hosting a hands-on training to teach citizens how to rehabilitate historic windows. The workshop will be at the historic fire station #11 at 323 S. Frio. Participants will learn how to assess the condition of a window, remove the window, repair any damaged areas, and re-install the window into working order. Participation in this event is by registration only and space is limited so sign up today! Email Molly Matthews at OHP@sanantonio.gov to register or for more information.

Practical Preservation in San Antonio



Throughout the month of August, the Office of Historic Preservation will be hosting a variety of events focusing on practical advice for homeowners and professionals. August is the 42nd anniversary of the Historic Preservation enabling ordinance in San Antonio and we want to celebrate everything that has been accomplished since 1967. We encourage you to participate in these events in support of historic preservation and to learn more about preservation in San Antonio. For additional information on any of these events, please contact our office.

Historic Home Realtor Training: A realtor training will be offered in conjunction with the South Texas Real Estate Center to educate real estate professionals about historic homes and districts in San Antonio. Realtors will learn everything from how to research the history of homes, to what types of architecture and details are considered historically significant. Historic properties and districts have several advantages that can be used in marketing and selling a home. If you are interested in attending this one-day course for continuing education credit, please contact Molly Matthews at 207-1460.

Historic Homeowner's Fair: In August, the Office of Historic Preservation will host a fair with a variety of presentations and information booths for homeowners and interested citizens. We want to be a resource for the community and one of the best ways to accomplish that goal is through outreach and education. Our presentations will feature tutorials on how to research the history of your property, the City of San Antonio historic preservation program and the Historic and Design Review Commission process, identifying character defining features on your property, and what types of changes are appropriate for your historic home. If you have any additional suggestions for topics that you would be interested in learning more about, please contact our office.

Save the Date! Community Symposium August 31, 2009



Join us for a free community symposium on preservation featuring renowned preservation expert, Donovan Rykema. The purpose of this symposium is to provide citizens with valuable information about historic preservation, the economics of preservation, and sustainability, and there is no one more qualified to give this presentation than Donovan Rykema. "Historic preservation makes sense in large measure because historic preservation makes dollars and cents, but it also saves dollars and cents. Historic preservation is a rational and effective economic response to overconsumption. To make a new brick today to build a building on a site where there is already a building standing steals from two generations. It

steals from the generation that built the brick originally by throwing away their asset before its work is done, and it steals from a future generation by using increasingly scarce natural

resources today that should have been saved for tomorrow” (Donovan Rykema, *The Economics of Rehabilitation* [1997]xv).



Participate in the *This Place Matters* Campaign

Thank you to everyone who sent in their *This Place Matters* picture to us last month. It is not too late to participate! We are continuing to actively promoting the *This Place Matters* campaign of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP). People from across the country are honoring their favorite places, making a call to protect, enhance and enjoy the places that matter. Show your support for you community and preservation!

Take a picture in front of your favorite place with your own *This Place Matters* sign and send us the picture with a caption about why this place matters to you to OHP@sanantonio.gov. Pictures collected will be sent in to the NTHP and included on our website.

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

The office of Historic Preservation is on Facebook! Click the Facebook icon and add us as your friend today! Facebook is a great resource for promoting preservation events and networking with other people in the community interested in preservation topics. Pictures from the *This Place Matters* campaign are also

posted on our Facebook site. If you are unable to open the link, simply login to Facebook.com and search for us under “City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation”.

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) 207-1460 for more information or to subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter.