

December 2010 Edition

A Message from the Historic Preservation Officer



Fostering active partnerships with local institutions, businesses and community groups is critical to building a strong historic preservation ethic in San Antonio. The recent success of the S.T.A.R. (Students Together Achieving Revitalization) pilot program illustrates the positive results that can be achieved when public and private groups work together toward a common goal of improving the quality of life for citizens in San Antonio.

During the course of two weekends in November, students from the UTSA College of Architecture worked side by side with crews led by local contractors to help revitalize thirteen homes in the Dignowity Hill Historic District. Students gained important hands-on experience and owners with limited resources received the help they needed to improve their historic homes and preserve the historic character of the neighborhood. Our newest staff member, Trisha Logan, did a wonderful job coordinating this first-time event. We couldn't have made it happen without the support of our sponsors and volunteers. I'd like to express my gratitude to contractors Victor Salas, Guadalupe Carrizales and the crew from ARTchitectural Interiors for their hard work and the invaluable guidance they gave to students during the project. The UTSA students from the Historic Preservation Association did a fantastic job leading the student work crews at each home and I'd like to thank the Fort Sam Houston Community Development Office, Dignowity Hill Neighborhood Association, San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department, San Antonio Conservation Society, Councilwoman Ivy Taylor, The RK Group, Select Employees Federal Credit Union and the San Antonio Spurs for all their help in making this great event a big success. I am excited to report that our next S.T.A.R. service days have been scheduled for March 26 & 27 and April 2 & 3. If you are interested in participating in the S.T.A.R. service project as a homeowner, volunteer or sponsor, please contact Trisha at 207-7244.

I invite you all to attend our January networking event and join us in honoring HDRC Commissioner Victor Salas and all the S.T.A.R. volunteers, students, and sponsors who contributed to the success of the event. The S.T.A.R. program would not be possible without Commissioner Salas's leadership, generosity and expertise. Be sure to catch our January HPTV program to see video footage of the event and interviews with UTSA's Sue Ann Pemberton and John Murphy, student leaders Adrian Flores and Sameer Paya from UTSA's Historic Preservation Association, and homeowners Walter Bowman and Ron Surman.

I encourage everyone to take advantage of the great holiday activities taking place in historic downtown San Antonio during the month of December and on behalf of the Office of Historic Preservation staff, I'd like to wish you a safe and happy holiday season.



—Shanon Peterson Wasielewski

December 2010

Attend the Next Preservation Networking Event on January 6th

Join the OHP on January 6th at 5:30pm for a Preservation Networking Event celebrating the success of the November S.T.A.R. event. Learn more about this great program and help us thank all the students, educators, contractors and sponsors whose hard work and support helped make a difference on the City's historic East Side. Check our website and Facebook page later this month for more details.



Be a Part of the Next S.T.A.R. Project!

The first S.T.A.R. (Students Together Achieving Revitalization) service project was a great success. Over 200 graduate and undergraduate architecture students from the UTSA College of Architecture assisted homeowners in the Dignowity Hill Historic District with minor exterior repairs and maintenance projects during the first two weekends of November. See the transformations that took place by viewing the [S.T.A.R. report](#) and the [S.T.A.R. presentation](#).

The next S.T.A.R. service project will take March 26 & 27 and April 2 & 3. **The OHP is seeking sponsors and volunteer contractors and building professionals interested in lending their support to this important program.** Donations of building materials and supplies are especially needed, as well as professionals with expertise in home repair who are willing to assist the students during the event. To learn more about the many ways you can help support this program, contact Trisha Logan at 207-7244 or trisha.logan@sanantonio.gov.

We are currently accepting applications from homeowners in the Dignowity Hill Historic District who are interested in participating in the program. If you or someone you know needs assistance with minor repairs to windows, siding, porches, and general exterior yard maintenance and painting, contact Trisha Logan at 207-7244 or trisha.logan@sanantonio.gov.

A big thank you to the sponsors of the November S.T.A.R. event.





***Former HDRC Chair
Xavier Gonzalez Honored***

Xavier Gonzalez, who stepped down as chairman of the Historic and Design Review Commission in October, was honored at an event at the historic Cos House in La Villita on November 12th. The Office of Historic Preservation staff would like to extend its sincere gratitude to Xavier and his family for the many volunteer hours he has devoted to fostering historic preservation and positive urban development in the San Antonio. Gonzalez, Design Coordinator at RVK

Architects, served the City of San Antonio as a member of the HDRC commission for seven years, three of those years as Chairman. His design insight and considerable experience will be missed. Gonzalez will continue to serve the City as Chairman of the Culture & Civic Committee of the Hemisfair Park Area Redevelopment Corporation and in various other volunteer capacities. We know he will continue to promote the value of historic preservation to our community.

Commissioner Timothy Cone, who served as Vice Chair of the HDRC for several years, will take Gonzalez’s place as Chairman with Commissioner Scott Carpenter serving as Vice Chair. City Councilman Reed Williams has appointed architect Norman Barrera to replace Gonzalez as the HDRC representative from District 8.



Government Hill Home Tour on December 12th

Don’t miss the 14th Annual Government Hill “Christmas on the Hill” home tour on December 12, 2010, from 1pm to 5pm. On the tour this year are ten historic buildings including Lambermont, the 1894 home of Edwin Terrell. Don’t miss your chance to tour this recently restored gem designed by Alfred Giles. Purchase your ticket in advance for \$10. On the day of the tour, tickets can be purchased for \$15 at The Antonian Inn, 2131 Panam Expressway. Call Dona Liston at 210-271-9145 for more information or visit www.government-hill.com.

Don’t Miss the Next Episode of HPTV!

HPTV, the new OHP half hour cable show, is now airing on the City’s **TVSA Channel 21**. Our **November** show looked at **Mid-Century Modernism in San Antonio**. The **December** show features two great historic places to take visitors during the holidays. Historic Preservation Officer Shanon Wasielewski talked with **Villa Finale**’s Meg Nowack and Chris Roddy about the transformation of Walter Mathis’s King William home into the first National Trust Historic Site in Texas and discussed the recent renovations at the **Spanish Governor’s Palace** with Colleen Swain and Charlotte Boord from the City’s Downtown Operations department. Stay tuned for our **January** show to see highlights of the S.T.A.R. event and interviews with participants.

See the current show on TVSA Channel 21:
Tuesdays @ 9:00am Wednesdays @ 1:00pm
Fridays @ 7:00pm

Or watch online at the OHP [website](#).

View past episodes of HPTV online (sorry, PC only).

October HPTV **November HPTV**



River Improvement Overlay (RIO) Review Public Meeting December 14th

The Office of Historic Preservation, at the request of City Council, is assessing the need for amendments to the River Improvement Overlay (RIO) standards adopted in 2002. RIO standards affect commercial properties and multi-unit residential properties of eight or more units. Single-family properties are not affected by the RIO overlay. The purpose of this initiative is to assess the effectiveness of the current RIO regulations and recommend enhancements to ensure protection of the significant public investment that has been made to the San Antonio River. The OHP has assembled the RIO Task Force to work with local business leaders, preservationists, public officials, and other interested parties to prepare recommended



amendments to the RIO sections of the Unified Development Code (UDC) for City Council. Public input is critical to the success of this process and we welcome your participation. Please join us for the next community meeting on December 14th at 6pm in the Board Room on the first floor of the City's One-Stop Center at 1901 S Alamo. **View the Current RIO Guidelines here.**

For more information, please contact Anna Glover in the Office of Historic Preservation at 207-7925 or anna.glover@sanantonio.gov.

ButterKrust Rehab Receives Final Approval



East Elevation - Building B

Plans to rehabilitate the former ButterKrust Bakery Building at 2201 Broadway on the City's near north side recently received final approval from the Historic and Design Review Commission. The project represents significant progress in the effort to revitalize the Broadway corridor north of Interstate 35. The historic bakery facility will be given new

life as the corporate headquarters for C. H. Guenther & Son, Inc., makers of the Pioneer, White Wings and Morrison brands of flour and baking products. Corporate operations will be moving from their current King William location at the historic Pioneer Flour Mill established in 1859 by company founder C. H. Guenther. The rehabilitation of the ButterKrust facility will include restoration of the original 1941 Art Deco main building and the production wing. Later additions will be replaced by new construction designed to complement the historic structure and meet guidelines for new construction in the RIO overlay district. Significant landscaping and other site improvements will greatly enhance the pedestrian experience along Broadway, Mill Race and the Avenue B hike and bike trail.

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 for more information or to subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter.

Think Historic for Holiday Fun!

During this holiday season, consider a visit to one of San Antonio's many historic gems. Touring historic sites can be a great way to entertain out of town guests and learn more about San Antonio's rich cultural heritage. Many sites have been decorated for the holidays.



Steve's Homestead

From December 4th through January 3rd, the Steve's Homestead will be celebrate the holidays in authentic German-Texan style with Victorian Era decorations from the late 1800s. Check out the official Steves Homestead Holiday Ornament for sale at the visitor's center. Proceeds will help support preservation programs in San Antonio. The house is open for tours from 10am to 4:15pm daily. Call 210-225-5924 or click [here](#) for details.

Villa Finale

The King William home of celebrated San Antonio preservationist Walter Mathis, was recently featured in *Preservation* magazine's "16 Sites to See." This National Trust for Historic Preservation site highlights Mathis's extensive collections of Texas art, Napoleonic memorabilia, and much more. See Mathis' impressive collection of holiday ornaments throughout December. To make reservations for one of the upcoming public tours, call (210) 223-9800 or click [here](#) for more information.



Spanish Governor's Palace

Built by Spanish colonists, the Spanish Governor's Palace is one of the oldest surviving structures in San Antonio. Recently renovated, the historic home of the Captain of the Presidio San Antonio de Bejar provides a unique glimpse of what life was like in San Antonio during the 1700s. The palace will be decorated for the holidays; both the main house and its beautiful interior courtyard are great locations for holiday photos. The palace is open for tours Tuesday through Saturday, 9am to 5pm, and Sundays 10am to 5pm. Call (210) 224-0601 or click [here](#) for more information.

Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña

After undergoing six months of major renovations, this 255-year-old Spanish Colonial mission church reopened earlier this year. On view are the carefully preserved remnants of frescoes dating from the earliest years of Spanish settlement in Texas. Renovations are planned at all of the missions overseen by the Catholic Diocese and the National Park Service and work is currently underway at Mission San Jose. Click [here](#) for more information on visiting Mission Conception and the San Antonio Mission National Historic Park.



River Walk

The River Walk is a beautiful destination any time of the year, but H. H. Hugman's historic river pathway shines especially bright during the holiday season. Colorful lighting and a festive atmosphere make a nighttime stroll along the River Walk an experience that shouldn't be missed. Click [here](#) for more information on the holiday lighting of the river, holiday boat caroling, and the Fiesta de las Luminarias on the River Walk.

Archaeological Discoveries in Brackenridge Park



Protecting the City's archaeological resources is an important aspect of the Office of Historic Preservation's work. City Archaeologist Kay Hindes, a member of the OHP staff, works to ensure that projects that require digging in sensitive areas follow the established procedures to prevent the loss of archaeological artifacts and ensure that resources uncovered during construction are properly documented. Recent archaeological discoveries in Brackenridge Park highlight the importance of this work. In early November, work associated with the second phase of the Museum Reach extension uncovered multiple layers of history, some perhaps dating as far back as 5,000 years. Discoveries included a wing wall from a late 1800s stone millrace and a cooking hearth that could be more 2,000 years old. The oldest artifact found, a flint woodworking tool known as a Guadalupe adze, may be more 5,000 years old. These important finds provide evidence that native populations inhabited the areas along the San Antonio river for thousands of years before Spanish colonization.

Read the *Express-News* story about the discoveries [here](#).



Order A Historic Plaque Today!
Don't wait and miss out on your chance to purchase a historic plaque this year.

Historic plaques are now available for individual local landmarks and contributing properties within local historic districts. Cost is \$95. Staff will review your application to verify the historic status of your property before collecting payment and issuing a historic plaque.

Fill out an [application form](#) and submit it to the Office of Historic Preservation today to be a part of this year's order. For further information, please contact Trisha Logan at 207-7244.

We're on the web:



facebook

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".



mySABlogs

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

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

2011 Honor Awards CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Preservation
Texas' *Annual*
**HONOR
AWARDS**
2011



The Annual Honor Awards recognize accomplishments in historic preservation across the state that inspire us all and encourage us in our efforts to protect the historic resources of Texas. It is our desire to give local communities the opportunity to honor their preservation efforts and share their accomplishments with others.

Nominations forms are available at
www.preservationtexas.org

DEADLINE: December 15, 2010



PRESERVATION
TEXAS

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 or contact Shanon Peterson Wasielewski at shanon.wasielewski@sanantonio.gov.

Federal Historic Preservation Program Task Force Update

The Federal Historic Preservation Program Task Force has been busy at work holding countless individual interviews with Subject Matter Experts and conducting Discussion Sessions in Salem, MA, Philadelphia, PA, and Austin, TX. The purpose has been to learn more about how the federal preservation program has been working, the challenges it has faced, the different ways it has been structured over the years, and possibilities for improvement.

Several themes have started to emerge as a result of our outreach:

- Since 1966, the preservation movement has changed, but the federal program has not
- Preservation programs need more visibility wherever they are housed
- Would co-locating ACHP programs and the “external programs” on the same platform create synergies or conflicts?
- “Make no little plans,” vs. “What’s doable in the current environment?”
- Implementation strategies: Administration vs. Congressional Action

An open survey has been released in order to cast an even broader net for constructive feedback. To learn more about the Task Force and the progress so far, visit our web page at www.preservationaction.org/taskforce.htm.

Preservation Action Task Force Needs Your Feedback

As you may know, for several months, we have been reporting on the progress of the Federal Historic Preservation Program Task Force which we launched with the Preservation Action Foundation. We would now like to get your feedback.

Federal programs such as the National Register, the Historic Tax Credit, State and Tribal grants-in-aid, Heritage Areas and Save America’s Treasures are key to the preservation movement. And yet, the effectiveness of the organizational structure of these programs has been questioned for years. Dubbed “External Programs” by the National Park Service who administers them, these programs have been

neglected as evidenced by budget cuts, key management posts being left unfilled for months or years, the shifting of staff and resources to other programs, a lack of coordination with other federal initiatives and a general lack of visibility.

Faced with massive cuts proposed to these programs and a stack of expert reports filled with unimplemented recommendations, many in the movement believe that it is now more important than ever that we tackle the visibility and functionality of program management. The Federal Historic Preservation Program Task Force was formed in early 2010 by the Preservation

Action Foundation in partnership with nearly a dozen major national preservation organizations to document the condition and trajectory of the External Programs; to arrive at a consensus plan for structural improvement of these programs; and, finally, to engage with our partners in a grass-roots advocacy campaign for implementation of this plan.

Accomplishing these goals requires engaging everyone who cares about our shared heritage. Please take ten minutes of your time to assist us in this important mission by following this link and providing your feedback: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FederalPreservationSurvey>. The survey will close Friday, December 17, 2010, so please follow the link today. To join Preservation Action or learn more about the Task Force, please visit www.preservationaction.org.



Congress is Back in Session: Now What?

On Monday, November 15, Congress returned after a month-long recess, which saw a major mid-term election shake-up. There are a lot of questions and theories being circulated on what they will accomplish during this "lame-duck" session that will conclude the 111th Congress.

Legislatively, there are two big items that are expected to see action. The expiring Bush-era tax cuts will go up for debate and FY2011 funding will have to be dealt with. Sources are telling us that the most likely result will be a Continuing Resolution in 2011 at FY 2010 funding levels. What the new Congress will pass once they are seated, however, continues to be a question.

Earmarks are also up for debate with a Senate vote anticipated on Tuesday on a proposal for a two-year Republican ban on congressional earmarks. While such a measure would seem to have a direct impact on the Save America's Treasures program, a portion of which contains individual earmarks, the proposed ban would only apply to Senate Republicans and would be non-binding. Unless the Senate Democrats (who still hold a majority) follow suit, the stance would be more symbolic than definitive. A similar proposal in the House has already been taken off the table. The message we can take from this, however, is that funding in this environment will be very challenging.



Do You Have A Freshman Member of Congress? With the major congressional shakeup that took place during this month's mid-term election, when the 112th Congress convenes **at least 95 new Representatives and 15 new Senators** (a few elections are still awaiting final results) will join them. NOW is the time to meet those individuals and their newly appointed staff members in person - before they go to Washington. Even if you can't get a meeting now, keep at it - it is important we start educating them about the importance of historic preservation. Here are some subject areas to cover:

**Historic Preservation Fund
Job Creation
SHPO and THPO Funding
SAT and Preserve America
Historic Preservation Caucus (House)**

If you can, bring along a list of historic sites, Save America's Treasures grant recipients or other information specific to your region to drive the point home!

Visit the [PA website](#) for one-pagers, talking points and tips.

For a complete update on the status of preservation-related legislation currently before congress, visit <http://www.preservationaction.org/states/archive.htm>