

January 2011 Edition

A Message from the Historic Preservation Officer



2011 is shaping up to be another great year for preservation in San Antonio. Our first major initiative of the new year will get underway when the Westside Cultural Resource Survey kicks off on February 26th. As part of the OHP's ongoing efforts to identify, evaluate and designate historic resources within the City of San Antonio, we are partnering with the Westside Development Corporation, the San Antonio Conservation Society, the National Trust for Historic Preservation Partner's in the Field Program, the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, the Westside Historic Preservation Group, and other members of the Westside Community to conduct a new survey of San Antonio's culturally rich Westside. Input from the community is a critical component to the success of the project and we encourage you to attend the survey kick-off event. Stations will be set up to collect photographs, oral histories, and stories about places of cultural importance on the Westside. Help us locate the buildings and spaces that occupy a special place in the hearts and memories of the community.

Planning has begun for our big events in 2011 including the spring S.T.A.R. (Students Together Achieving Revitalization) volunteer service days, Preservation Month, and our third annual Historic Homeowner Fair. Help us build on the success of last year's events by becoming an event sponsor or volunteer. A wide variety of sponsorship and volunteer opportunities are available. Please contact Anna Glover at 207-7925 for more information. The S.T.A.R. service days will take place the last and first weekends of March and April in the Dignowity Hill Historic District, where students will once again join forces with volunteer building professionals to help homeowners with minor repairs to their historic homes. May is Preservation Month and in addition to the This Place Matters contest, Amazing Preservation Race for Kids and guided running tours, we are planning a number of new events including a Amazing Preservation Race team scavenger hunt for adults in historic downtown San Antonio and an architecture contest for high school students. This year's Homeowner Fair will be bigger than ever with an expanded slate of informative sessions planned. We hope you will join us at all of these great events. Happy New Year!

—Shanon Peterson Wasielewski



HDRC Elections and Appointments

Members of the Historic and Design Review Commission (HDRC) recently elected commissioners **Timothy Cone** and **Scott Carpenter** as their chair and vice-chair. Recent Commission appointees **Michael Guarino** and **Norman Barrera** were sworn in at a ceremony held January 7, 2011. Commissioner Guarino serves as Mayor Castro's appointee to the Commission. He is a Senior Associate for Design at Ford Powell & Carson Architects and a member of the UTSA College of Architecture faculty. Commissioner Barrera, an architect with RVK Architects, represents District 8.



City Councilman Reed Williams and HDRC Commissioner Norman Barrera (top) and Michael Guarino and Mayor Julian Castro (bottom) at their swearing in ceremony on January 7.

January 2011



Hill Country Deco Book Signing, January 22

Authors David Bush and Jim Parsons of the Greater Houston Preservation Alliance will be signing copies of their newly published book, *Hill Country Deco: Modernistic Architecture of Central Texas*. Many of San Antonio's Art Deco buildings are featured in the book including the recently rehabilitated Kress Building.

When: Saturday, January 22nd from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Where: Barnes & Noble at La Cantera

Planning Repairs or Minor Alterations to Your Historic Home?

If you are planning on improving the exterior of your historic property in 2011, be sure to secure approval from the Office of Historic Preservation and the necessary City permits before you start work. All repairs or alterations to properties located in historic districts or designated historic landmarks must be submitted to the OHP for review before the work can begin. In most instances, OHP staff can administratively approve repairs and minor alterations on the same day you apply. More substantial changes to the property will require approval by the Historic and Design Review Commission. Here are some tips to make the administrative approval process go smoothly:

- avoid removing historic materials or altering the unique features and spaces that characterize a property;
- whenever possible, deteriorated windows, doors, siding and other features should be repaired rather than replaced. When the severity of deterioration requires replacement, the new should match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities.

Gather the information you need to clearly communicate your plans to staff.

When you complete the application for administrative approval, remember that staff will be seeing your project for first time. **Describe your project in detail** and **provide the necessary supporting material**. Provide **photographs** of your house or building and the areas that you plan to alter or repair. If you are installing new features (eg. a fence), replacing damaged features (eg. a door or roof), include photographs, drawings, and/or brochures that **document the dimensions, material, design and color of those features**. For painting projects, you will need to provide **paint samples**. A **site plan** (a scale drawing or aerial view of your property) is necessary for fencing, landscaping projects or work that involves the placement of mechanical equipment (eg. A/C condenser units) on the property. Once you've completed your application and gathered your supporting information, stop by our offices at 1901 S. Alamo anytime between 7:45am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, and a staff member will be happy to review your application. Download the application [here](#).

When in doubt, give us a call. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the OHP at 215-9274.

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.



Congratulations Shanon Wasielewski and Justin Holley, 2011 River Walk Mud Festival Royalty!

Participate in the River Improvement Overlay (RIO) Amendment Process! Final Public Meeting to be Held February 17th

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, design professionals, 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 February 17th 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.



First Order to be Placed in January!

We are happy to announce that the first order for City of San Antonio historic plaques will be placed this month. Plaques should be available to approved applicants by early spring. If your application has been approved and you haven't yet paid your fee, now is the time. Contact Trisha Logan at 207-7244.

If you own a historic structure and haven't applied for the plaque program, you can submit an [application form](#) to the Office of Historic Preservation at any time. Plaques will be available on a continuing basis for just \$95.

Join Us for the Spring 2011 S.T.A.R. Project

The next S.T.A.R. (Students Together Achieving Revitalization) service project will take place 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 next S.T.A.R. service project. 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.



Please join Preservation Texas on February 8-9, 2011 to advocate for historic preservation and to communicate with your legislators on key issues statewide and in our local community. An important aspect of historic preservation is public policy, which is determined at the state level in the Texas State Legislature. Every other year, Texas legislators enact laws that can revitalize historic resources and create programs that benefit you. Legislators want to know your concerns regarding historic preservation in Texas.

Your voice is essential to ensure that preservation issues are considered in the decision making process in the Texas State Legislature and to support a statewide agenda that historic preservation is a vital tool in promoting healthy Texas communities.

Join community leaders, elected officials, and fellow preservationists in Austin. Preservation Texas will provide practical tools for communicating with elected officials and information on important trends affecting preservation in Texas. [Read more about Preservation Texas's advocacy agenda.](#)

Register Today! [Click here to download the registration form.](#) Return by fax, e-mail, or mail.

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

8:30 am – Registration and Continental Breakfast at St. David's Episcopal Church, 301 East 8th St, Austin

9:00 am to 4:00 pm – Preservation Day Workshop

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm – Reception

Wednesday, February 9, 2011

10:30 am – Announcement of the 2011 Texas' Most Endangered Places, South Steps, State Capitol

11:30 am – Legislator's Office Visits. This is the time to schedule a meeting with your State Representative and State Senator.

Can't Make it to Austin? Host your own Preservation Day in your community on February 8th or 9th! Contact Preservation Texas at 512-472-0102 to learn more.



The historic Herff Farm, located outside Boerne on the grounds of the Cibolo Nature Center was included on the 2010 Texas' Most Endangered Places list.



Save the Date!
Preservation Networking Event at Lambermont
950 E. Grayson in the Government Hill Historic District
February 23

Westside Cultural Resource Survey to Begin in February

The Office of Historic Preservation is partnering with the Westside Development Corporation, the San Antonio Conservation Society, the National Trust for Historic Preservation Partner's in the Field Program, the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, the Westside Historic Preservation Group, and other members of the Westside Community to launch the kick-off of a Westside Cultural Resource Survey. The Kick-Off Event on February 26th will be an introductory session to solicit interest and participation from the Westside community about places of cultural, historical, and architectural significance on the Westside of San Antonio.

There will be an opening presentation and several stations open throughout the event. The stations will include information on researching historic properties, truths and myths of historic preservation, historic preservation resources, and a station for collection of photographs, oral histories, and stories about places of cultural importance on the Westside. This will be the first of many sessions to help identify significant areas and places on the Westside. Stay tuned for information about a follow up event to be scheduled in May for Historic Preservation Month.



For more information contact Elizabeth Porterfield at 207-3327.

WESTSIDE CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Kick-Off Event
Saturday, February 26, 2011
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Mexican American Unity Council Building
Community Room
2300 W. Commerce








Join the City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation as we kick off a Cultural Resource Survey of the City's historic Westside! We need your input to identify places that are culturally important to the Westside community. Help generate interest in the preservation of these significant places.

The Kick-Off Event will feature speakers and break out sessions with representatives from the Westside Development Corporation, the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, the Westside Historic Preservation Group, the San Antonio Conservation Society, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and others.

Free and open to the public.

Bring your images, stories, and memories of places that matter to you on the Westside.



For more information contact:
Elizabeth Porterfield
Office of Historic Preservation
210-207-3327





**Interested in acquiring this 1910s bungalow at
1502 Guadalupe and moving it to a
new location?**

Contact Elizabeth Porterfield at 207-3327.

The Office of Historic Preservation maintains a list of people interested in acquiring historic properties. Many of these properties are in a dilapidated state and require significant investment. The people on this list can be contacted regarding moving a house to a more secure location to prevent demolition or to purchase the property. If you are interested in more details about this contact 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.



S.T.A.R. Program on HPTV!

HPTV, the new OHP half hour cable show, is now airing on the City's **TVSA Channel 21**. Our **January** show features interviews and video footage from the S.T.A.R. (Students Together Achieving Revitalization) service days that took place in November. Shanon's in-studio guests include UTSA student leaders Sameer Paya and Laura Carrera from the Historic Preservation Association and UTSA College of Architecture Dean John Murphy. See for yourself the transformations that took place over the two weekends. Stay tuned for our **February** show to learn about the important role the San Antonio Conservation Society plays in encouraging historic preservation in San Antonio.

See the show on:
Tuesdays @ 9:00am
Wednesdays @ 1:00pm
Fridays @ 7:00pm

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

[October HPTV](#) [November HPTV](#)
[December HPTV](#) [January HPTV](#)

We're on the web:



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."



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

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

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.

112th Congress Convened

On Wednesday, January 5th, the 112th Congress was officially sworn in and Preservation Action was on the Hill celebrating with some of the Historic Preservation Caucus members who won re-election.

While the Caucus did lose some of its members, the Co-Chairs, Michael Turner (R-OH) and Russ Carnahan (D-MO) remain. Given the turnover, especially in the House, and the expected volatility of the budget discussions for the balance of FY2011 and all of FY2012, one of the first orders of business for 2011 for Preservation Action and its partners will be a focus on convincing more Representatives to join the Historic Preservation Caucus.



Preservation Action President Erik Hein and NCSHPO Executive Director Nancy Schamu congratulate Rep. Russ Carnahan (D-MO), Co-Chair of the Historic Preservation Caucus, on his re-election.

2011 Grassroots Survey Completed

At the end of each year, Preservation Action asks its members to complete a survey to help set our legislative priorities for the coming year. This year's survey was somewhat more detailed than surveys past, and asked members to rank several key preservation policy items in order of priority. The results can be found below.

Full funding for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) continues to rank as the highest priority for PA's members, with funding for State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices coming in second. In a change from last year, however, our members placed the idea of a historic homeowner tax credit program somewhat higher than pursuing technical enhancements to the existing commercial historic tax credit program.

When asked to consider the several specific technical corrections pursued in last year's attempt to modify the existing commercial historic tax credit program, (the Community Restoration and Revitalization Act) our members overwhelmingly (84.5% of respondents) ranked increasing the credit from 20% to 30% for smaller rehabilitation projects (under \$5 million) as the most important component.

Preservation Action will use the results of the survey to help focus on an efficient legislative agenda in 2011, the first half of the 112th Congress. While unforeseen circumstances could result in pursuing a modified agenda, the general theme behind what we will pursue will be focused upon appropriations (SHPOs, THPOs, Save America's Treasures, Preserve America and National Heritage Areas), the development of a simplified comprehensive tax credit bill, and adding members to the Historic Preservation Caucus. In order to address our ongoing concern about full funding for the HPF, our efforts will include continued advocacy on the \$150 million promise perennially broken by partial appropriations.

Preservation Action Grassroots Poll - 2011 Priorities

In addition to evaluating the priority level of several individual preservation policy issues, our members were also asked to rank a selection of policy issues in order of importance. Here are the results of that ranking:

	Point Score	Priority Ranking
Full Funding for HPF	927	1
SHPO/THPO Funding	800	2
Historic Homeowner Tax Credit	786	3
Enhancements to existing Commercial Historic Tax Credit	747	4
Save America's Treasures	708	5
National Heritage Areas	680	6
Preserve America	644	7

Methodology: Members were asked to place seven legislative agenda items in order of priority. The selections were then weighted, and an average score determined.

House Adopts New Rules Package for 112th Congress

One of the first orders of business for a new Congress, particularly when there is a majority change, is the establishment of procedural rules for how bills will be introduced, amended, advanced and whether offsets must be provided for new spending. This week the House GOP adopted H.R. 5 which contains these new rules. Several of them could have either a direct or indirect impact upon historic preservation programs:

- Funds "saved" through cuts made to spending bills are required to be directed to a "spending reduction account," instead of being available to directly fund other programs.
- The "pay-as-you-go" (PAYGO) rule that required spending for new entitlements or tax cuts to be offset either by a cut elsewhere or a tax increase has been replaced by a "cut-as-you-go" rule. This means any new spending can only be offset by a corresponding spending cut elsewhere.
- Guaranteed funding for the Highway Trust Fund has been repealed, meaning funds can be redirected for other purposes, such as deficit reduction. Reduced funding would directly impact Transportation Enhancements, a major source of preservation funding.

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