

May 2013



A Message from the Historic Preservation Officer

Shanon Shea Miller, AICP

May is Historic Preservation Month! Join the City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation as we once again participate in Preservation Month in May. Across the United States communities will celebrate historic preservation through outreach and educational programs. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has chosen the theme “**See! Save! Celebrate!**” for 2013. There are so many places to see and celebrate in San Antonio. What places do you want to honor? From historic neighborhoods that create an inviting place to call home to downtown San Antonio’s historic Houston Street, Main and Military Plazas, and the scenic River

Walk, San Antonio is full of wonderful, intriguing places. Preservation Month gives us the opportunity to celebrate San Antonio’s history and recognize the historic places that make our city special.

It’s not too late to register for our popular **Amazing Preservation Race** on Friday, May 10. This event has it all: an architectural scavenger hunt, trivia questions, urban challenges, and an after-party. You won’t want to miss it! We’re looking forward to the first Center City Open House on Tuesday, May 28, and hope it will be the first of many “matchmaking” events in downtown!



Please keep reading for more information about the Amazing Preservation Race and all of the other exciting Preservation Month events, and don’t forget to purchase your tickets for PROM at the special Preservation Month rate!

See! Save! Celebrate!

Shanon

May 2013

City News and Events

Paseo por el Westside – Saturday, May 4th

Explore the rich culture and history of San Antonio's historic Westside at the *Paseo por el Westside* on Saturday, May 4, from 9:00am to 3:00pm at the Rinconcito at 816 S. Colorado Street. Walking tours in the morning will highlight the architecture, history, and murals of the city's Westside. Music, festivities, and presentations will take place throughout the day, and food and drinks will be provided. Bring your historic photos and stories of the Westside to include in our ongoing Westside Cultural Resource Survey initiative. The event is free and open to the public and is hosted in partnership with the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center and the Westside Preservation Alliance. Please see the end of this newsletter for a flyer with additional information.



Amazing Preservation Race – Friday, May 10th

Join us for the **Amazing Preservation Race** on May 10! This is one of our most popular events of the year, and there is still time to register. For those seeking an urban adventure, this is one race that you don't want to miss! The race will take place on Friday, May 10, at 5:30pm. This event has it all: an architectural scavenger hunt, trivia questions, urban challenges, and an after-party. The race will begin and end at Maverick Plaza in La Villita. Teams of four adventurous adults who want to put their street smarts and trivia skills to the test will hit the streets of San Antonio for an adventure like no other. Each team will receive an information packet

with a list of downtown locations and descriptions, clues, and riddles that will be used to find the destinations. Teams will have two hours to complete the race. At each destination teams will perform an activity for the next clue. Pre-registration is required and the race is \$25/person as part of a 4-person team. Participants receive a race T-shirt and a drink ticket for the post-race fiesta. Register online at www.active.com keyword "Amazing Preservation Race."

Preservation Day SA: Join Us Out Here – Saturday, May 11th



Leinenkugel & Power of Preservation are hosting a hands-on volunteer workday from 8:00am-4:30pm on Saturday, May 11. *Preservation Day SA* will offer volunteers the opportunity to participate in a project that truly embodies the spirit of Preservation Month. Volunteers will complete minor exterior home repairs to several homes within the historic Highland Park neighborhood helping to preserve, and ultimately celebrate, the rich history of these homes and the unique character of one of San Antonio's early suburban communities. Volunteers are needed for the



morning and afternoon shifts. A thank-you celebration will follow the event, and participants will be eligible to win a trip to the Leinenkugel brewery in Wisconsin! For additional information please see the flyer at the end of the newsletter or contact Joe Frank Picazo at 210.207.5421 or joe.picazo@sanantonio.gov.

Faux Bois Lecture – Saturday, May 11th

Join the King William Association and the San Antonio Conservation Society for an informative lecture by artist Donald Tucker on *faux bois* (false wood), a time honored technique to make concrete look like wood. See the flyer at the end of this newsletter for more details.



Go! Historic SA Guided Running and Walking Tour -Tuesday, May 14th

Join us on the upcoming **2013 Go! Historic SA Guided Running and Walking Tour** of La Villita and HemisFair Park on Tuesday, May 14, from 5:30-7:00pm. Learn about the fascinating early history of La Villita and the more recent history of HemisFair '68.

Our guided tours are a great way to experience San Antonio's historic sites and get fit. At various stops along the routes, tour guides share stories behind the buildings, homes, neighborhoods, and parks of our historic city. Different tours are offered throughout the year, so check out our calendar of [upcoming 2013 tours!](#) Registration is \$15. [Register online](#) keyword "Go! Historic SA" or in person the day of the event. For questions regarding the Go! Historic Guided Tours, please contact Nicholas Fuqua at 210.207.0066 or nicholas.fuqua@sanantonio.gov. Immediately following the tour will be a special happy hour at the top of the Tower of the Americas! Ask your guide for more details. See you there!

Amazing Preservation Race for Kids – Saturday, May 18th



Bring the younger ones to the **Amazing Preservation Race for Kids** on



Saturday, May 18, from 9:00am to noon. Kids learn about history, architecture, and preservation as they (with their adult chaperones) use clues to solve riddles and search for destinations in the King William Historic District. At each destination, participants will complete a challenge to receive their next clue. Be the first to cross the finish line and win the grand prize! Food and

games for all will be provided at the end of the race. Registration begins at 9:00am at the Villa Finale Visitor Center at 122 Madison in the King William Historic District. The event is free and open to elementary-aged children.

Viva Texas Magazine Benefit

Join *Viva Texas Magazine* for an evening benefitting the **Power of Preservation Foundation** on Thursday, May 23, at 6:00pm at the historic Emily Morgan Hotel. Please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter for more information.



Travis Park Workshop

The City of San Antonio's Center City Development Office has engaged Project for Public Spaces, Inc. (PPS) to assist the City of San Antonio, the community, and area stakeholders to create a vision and concept plan for Travis Park. Initial meetings were held in March of 2013.

PPS is returning on May 23 from 6:00-7:00pm to present the draft concept plan at the St. Anthony Hotel located at 300 East Travis Street. PPS will be utilizing an "open house" format. The public will be able to go to a station presenting the draft concept and see a short presentation on a loop. The public is welcome anytime between 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm to take a look at the draft, ask questions, and provide feedback.

For additional information, please contact Colleen Swain at 210.207.4089 or email at colleen.swain@sanantonio.gov.

Center City Open House

For one night only, a vacant space will go from empty to vibrant through an incredible evening full of art, dance, music, and fashion. The Center City Development Office, the Office of Historic Preservation, and the Department for Culture and Creative Development are partnering to host the first Center City Open House event, which will take place on May 28 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at 201 W.

Commerce. This unique networking opportunity will showcase an underutilized space and encourage investment in San Antonio's vacant historic buildings.

Artist Rex Hausmann and friends will add new life to the windows with a dynamic art display spanning the entire facade of the building. Ballet San Antonio will light up the evening with dance performances showcasing "Da Luz" a neo-classical piece representing famous statues coming to life. San Antonio fashion designer, Agosto Cuellar, coined "Wild Card Cuellar" by Project Runway's Tim Gunn, will glam the evening up with his signature spin on fashion.

The event will also give guests an exclusive opportunity to enjoy complimentary drinks from Freetail Brewery and international hors d'oeuvres by Ming's Thing. This event is free and open to the public. Guests can take advantage of the City's Downtown Tuesday free-parking initiative. Complimentary parking at 506 Dolorosa Street parking lot after 5:00pm. For more information, please contact Colleen Swain at colleen.swain@sanantonio.gov or 210.207.4089.



"This Place Matters" Photo Contest

We invite you to participate in the *This Place Matters* photo contest during the month of May. This nationwide contest, sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, encourages everyone to identify the historic places that matter to them. We invite you to participate in the local contest. Take a photo in front of your favorite historic site with the *This Place Matters* sign (available on the [Office of Historic Preservation website](#)) and send it to the Office of Historic Preservation at OHP@sanantonio.gov. Let us know the historic places in San Antonio that matter to you!



RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY!

for PROM 2013



Individual tickets are on sale at a discounted rate of \$100 through the end of May as we celebrate Preservation Month! Pay online at powerofpreservation.org/tickets.html or call 207-1496 for more information. See you at **PROM!** October 24, 2013



S.T.A.R.

STUDENTS TOGETHER ACHIEVING REVITALIZATION

S.T.A.R. in Knob Hill Historic District

The Office of Historic Preservation in collaboration with the UTSA College of Architecture and San Antonio College hosted the sixth Students Together Achieving Revitalization (S.T.A.R.) project in April. Over 150 architecture and construction science students volunteered during the weekends of April 6-7 and 13-14 to assist owners of 16 houses in the Knob Hill Historic District.

S.T.A.R. is a unique hands-on service learning experience, as well as an opportunity to assist homeowners in labor intensive and costly tasks. The S.T.A.R. project serves as a proactive approach to prevent neighborhood deterioration and spark revitalization of our city's historic districts.

The work performed included minor repairs to siding and porches, window rehabilitation, general exterior yard maintenance, and painting. Some more significant structural issues and roof repairs were also addressed by the volunteer professionals assisting with the project. The positive effort in the community is contagious, and many other homeowners were seen working on improving their own properties.

This project would not be such a success without the assistance, support, and involvement from the UTSA College of Architecture, faculty member Sue Ann Pemberton, and our volunteer contractors Victor Salas, owner of Architectural Interiors, Inc.; Felix Ziga with DHR Architects and former UTSA student; Joseph Villarreal with Bartlett Cocke and current UTSA student; and Woody Chimpman, owner of Guy Chipman Construction, L.P. A special thank you also to Councilwoman Ivy Taylor for your support and for coming out to volunteer!

See the Results!



Before



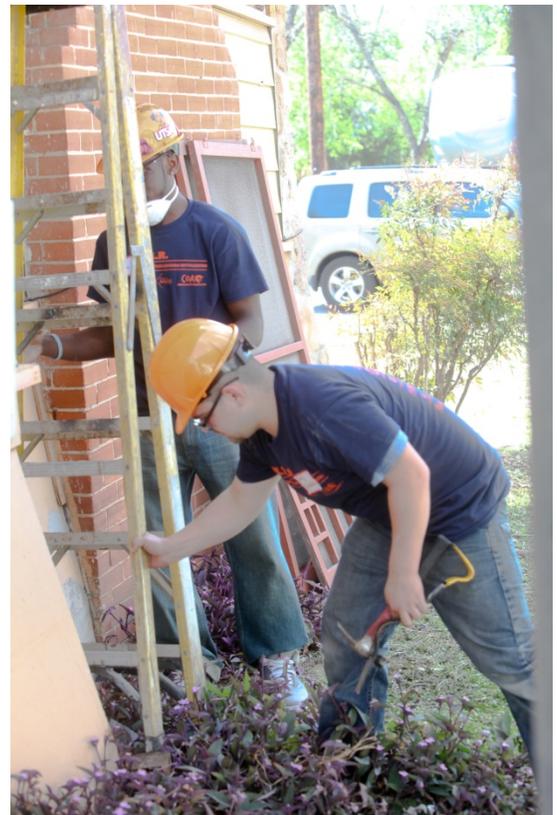
After



Before



After





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Historic Preservation Association



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Community Events



Villa Finale to Host Tour of Mathis and Ford Homes

Villa Finale's curator Meg Nowack will lead a tour of preservationist Walter Mathis and architect O'Neil Ford's homes. This exciting tour will take place Saturday, May 11, from 10am-2:30pm. Tour begins at the front gate of Villa Finale at 401 King William. Please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter for more details.

Preservation Advocacy

P R E S E R V A T I O N

Action

Federal Historic Preservation Issues

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, 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 America's 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 Miller at shanon.miller@sanantonio.gov. [Click here](#) for the latest legislative update from Preservation Action.



“Know this Place?” Contest!

If you can correctly identify which building this is in San Antonio, e-mail Nicholas Fuqua at nicholas.fuqua@sanantonio.gov. The randomly chosen winner will be notified by Friday, April 12, and will win a complementary pass for two to one of our popular **Go! Historic Guided Tours**. Please put “Know This Place?” in the subject line of the e-mail. Good luck!

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’s Historic Building Enforcement Officer 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, Historic Building Enforcement Officer, at ron.meyers@sanantonio.gov or OHP@sanantonio.gov during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) to report your concerns. After-hours complaints should be registered by phone through 311 or by email at OHP@sanantonio.gov.
- 3) You can report potential problems anonymously or provide contact information for follow-up.

Historic Structure Plaques



Historic Structure Plaques are available for purchase for individual local landmarks and contributing properties within local historic districts. These plaques visually identify properties and districts that have been officially recognized by the City of San Antonio for their architectural or historical significance. They are available for purchase for \$95 and are of cast aluminum with raised silver letters on a dark grey background. The plaques are approximately 7½ inches in diameter and ¼ inch thick. Fill out an application available on our [website](#) or stop by our office to purchase yours today.

HPTV: Historic Preservation Television

HPTV is back with all new episodes!
See the show on TVSA Channel 21:

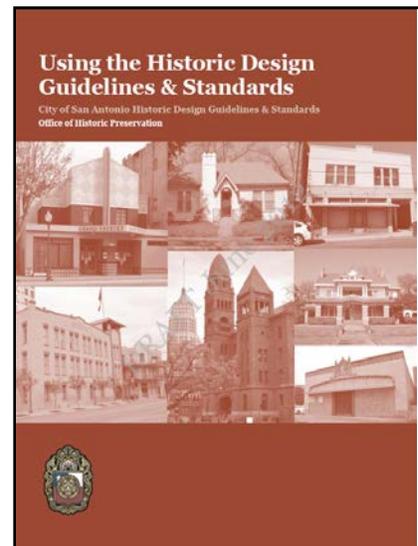
Tuesdays @ 9:00am
Wednesdays @ 1:00pm
Fridays @ 7:00pm



View current and past episodes of HPTV online at the OHP Website [here](#) (sorry, PC only). Recent episodes include a look at the relocation of historic structures, including an 18th century Virginia log cabin relocated to San Antonio in the 1950s! If you have a suggestion for a topic you would like to see covered on HPTV, contact Nicholas Fuqua at 210.207.0066 or nicholas.fuqua@sanantonio.gov.

Historic Design Guidelines Available

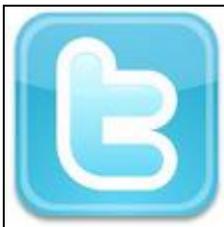
We currently have hardcopies of our Historic Design Guidelines available for purchase at \$20 each. This is a useful tool for historic property owners, contractors, and design professionals. Pick up your copy from OHP staff at 1901 S. Alamo today! The guidelines are also available to view and download for free from our [website](#).



Office of Historic Preservation Online!



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. Go to Facebook and search for “City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation” and “Power of Preservation San Antonio”.



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YouTube channel
[Sapreservation](#)

Preservation Month - May 2013

Paseo por el Westside

Saturday, May 4, 2013

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Rinconcito de Esperanza- 816 S. Colorado

at Guadalupe Street



Westside Preservation Alliance

Council District 5

Join us for a celebration of the history and culture of San Antonio's Westside at the **Paseo por el Westside!** Enjoy Westside walking tours, music, teatro, educational presentations, kids activities, food, and more. Free, family-friendly event.

Walking tours will depart in the morning. Please bring your stories and historic photos to share. Hope to see you there!



For more information contact:

Office of Historic Preservation
www.sanantonio.gov/historic
OHP@sanantonio.gov
210-207-3327

(or)

Esperanza Peace and Justice Center &
Westside Preservation Alliance
www.esperanzacenter.org
210-228-0201



Leinenkugel's & Power of Preservation Foundation

Presents

Preservation Day SA: Join Us Out Here



Throughout the month of May, the City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation, and its many partners, will be sponsoring and participating in various activities in support of National Historic Preservation Month. As part of this month-long effort, we encourage everyone to sign up for *Preservation Day SA* which will offer volunteers the opportunity to participate in a project that truly embodies the spirit of National Historic Preservation Month: "See! Save! Celebrate!"

Volunteers will complete minor exterior home repairs to several homes within the historic Highland Park neighborhood helping to preserve, and ultimately celebrate, the rich history of these homes and the unique character of one of San Antonio's early suburban communities. Details for the workday are as follows:

Saturday, May 11th

Morning shift: 8:00am—12:00pm

Afternoon shift: 12:30pm—4:30pm

All volunteers will be entered into a drawing to win a trip to the Leinenkugel Brewery! We look forward to seeing you on May 11th; Should you have any questions or need additional information please feel free to contact Joe Frank Picazo, City of San Antonio Volunteer Services Coordinator, at 207-5421 or joe.picazo@sanantonio.gov.



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Preservation Month Celebration

May 11, 2013

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Free

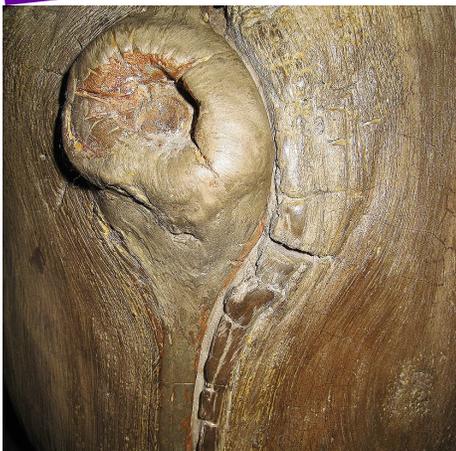
**Faux Bois Lecture
by artist
Donald Tucker
Q&A with Carlos Cortes**

Steves Homestead River House

509 King William

San Antonio, TX 78204

The event is free, but seating is limited,
please RSVP to 210-227-8786



Faux Bois or “false wood” is a time-honored artisan technique to make concrete look like wood. Come and learn more about this historic craft from Houston

artist Donald Tucker. Questions and answers will be taken by Tucker and local artist Carlos Cortes, the great nephew of Dionicio Rodriguez, celebrated master craftsman of Trabajo Rustico.



This event is co-sponsored by the King William Association and the San Antonio Conservation Society.

CELEBRATE OUR LEGACY

Join **Viva Texas Magazine** for an evening benefitting the
Power of Preservation Foundation
Thursday, May 23, 6 pm at the historic **Emily Morgan Hotel**

*VIVA TEXAS
MAGAZINE*



Viva Texas is offering fine prints of San Antonio's historic sites and scenes. Prints will be for sale during the event with proceeds benefitting the Power of Preservation Foundation. Show your support by purchasing a print and own a piece of San Antonio history.



Preservation Month Programming at

VILLA FINALE

MUSEUM & GARDENS



Villa Finale and King William: History Through Architecture

with preservation architect, Lewis Fisher

Thursday, May 2, 2013 (5:30pm - 6:30pm)

\$20.00 non-members; \$15.00 members

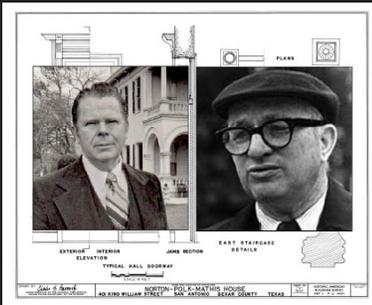
Join us at Villa Finale for an engaging presentation by respected San Antonio preservation architect, Lewis Fisher as he discusses the interior and exterior architecture of Villa Finale, including the evolution of its construction. Mr. Fisher will also provide his unique insight on the architecture of King William's residences and their historic preservation. Guests will be treated to a reception with light refreshments concluding the tour.

Lewis Fisher, AIA, is one of the founders of Fisher Heck Architects. His efforts to revitalize commercial districts have led to the transformation of urban corridors, renewing their economic vitality and restoring their urban and architectural character. Mr. Fisher is past president of the King William Association and a founder and first President of the Main Street Alliance that created Southtown. Fisher Heck, along with Main Street Architects, was one of the firms responsible for the most recent rehabilitation and repair work at Villa Finale.

Mathis and Ford Homes: A grand tour for the historic preservation enthusiast

Saturday, May 11, 2013 (10:00am - 2:30pm)

\$60.00 non-members; \$50.00 members - admission includes lunch



Join Villa Finale's Curator, Meg Nowack, for a grand tour of preservationist Walter Mathis and architect O'Neil Ford's homes. Ford and Mathis forged a friendship over historic buildings, a shared venture about which they both were very passionate. The day will begin at 10 a.m. at the front gate of Villa Finale, Mathis's beloved home in the King William National Historic District, where the group will take a tour of the house and learn about the influence Mathis and Ford had upon each other. After which, Nowack will guide the group down the street to Ford's former office at 526 King William to view the exterior of the now-private residence.

The grand tour will conclude with a drive to O'Neil and Wanda Ford's fantastic and historic former residence at 7 Willow Way. The unique house is now the home of native San Antonian and local real estate developer, James Lifshutz, who restored it in 2005. Guests will be provided with drinks and a boxed lunch to enjoy in the intriguing gardens of Willow Way. Lifshutz will conclude the afternoon with a tour of the Ford estate, and special guest Mary Lance will discuss the craft of Ford's brother, Lynn. What better way to spend a Saturday during Preservation Month!

Call us for reservations or more information.

Villa Finale  Museum & Gardens • 401 King William • San Antonio, TX • (210) 223-9800 • www.VillaFinale.org