SEE, SAVE, AND CELEBRATE

Historic Preservation Month 2013

story and photos by City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation

Join the City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation as we again participate in Historic Preservation Month throughout the month of 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. Join us as we celebrate the historic plazas in San Antonio that tell the story of our city. Historic Preservation Month gives us the opportunity to celebrate all of San Antonio’s treasuries from the houses and neighborhoods that create an inviting place to call home to San Antonio’s historic downtown and scenic River Walk.

Celebrate the launch of Historic Preservation Month with the State of Preservation Announcement and Reception on Tuesday, April 30, at 4:15 p.m. at Mission Concepción. Join city leaders and the Director of the Office of Historic Preservation as they highlight the recent accomplishments in historic preservation. The event is free and open to the public. World Heritage Week is April 27 through May 4, and what better way to get into the preservation spirit than to join us at one of our world-renowned Spanish Colonial Missions?

For those seeking an urban adventure, don’t miss the Amazing Preservation Race on Friday, May 10, at 5:30 p.m. This event has it all: an architectural scavenger hunt, trivia questions, urban challenges, and an after-party. The race will begin and end at HemisFair Park at the Plaza de Las Villas. 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, visual 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 per team. Participants receive a race t-shirt and two drink tickets for the post-race festivities. Register online at www.activa.com (keyword: Amazing Preservation Race).

Want to get directly involved in hands-on preservation? Roll up your sleeves for Preservation Day SA: Join Us Out Here, hosted by Leñador and the Power of Preservation Foundation. Volunteers will assist homeowners in the historic Highland Park neighborhood with minor repairs, painting, and yard cleanup on Saturday, May 11. Come help us make a difference in our community! For more information contact the Office of Historic Preservation at 210-215-9274.

For those looking for some exercise, join us for the 2013 Got Historic SA Guided Running and Walking Tour on Tuesday, May 14, at 5:30 p.m. in historic HemisFair Park and La Villita. Come learn about the history of La Villita, one of the oldest former residential areas of the city. Travel through HemisFair Park, the site of HemisFair ’68, San Antonio’s World Fair commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the city. From 19th-century houses that were preserved for HemisFair to the soaring Tower of the Americas, HemisFair Park offers over 90 acres of green space, water features, public art, and history. Runners and walkers of all abilities are welcome. The tour is $15 and includes a t-shirt. The tour will begin at the HemisFair Park Arch along S. Alamo Street. Registration is available online or pre-register at www.activa.com (keyword: guided tour).

Bring the younger ones to the Amazing Preservation Race for Kids on Saturday, May 18, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Kids (with their adult chaperones) learn about history, architecture, and preservation as they use clues to solve riddles and search for destinations in the King William Historic District. At each destination, participants will complete a physical 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 9:00 a.m. at the Villa Finale Visitor Center at 122 Nacogdoches in the King William Historic District. The event is free and open to elementary-aged children.

Explore the rich culture and history of San Antonio’s historic West Side at the Paseo por el Westside on Saturday, May 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Walking tours in the morning will highlight the architecture, history, and murals of the city’s Westside. Festivities and presentations will take place throughout the day at the Rinconcitos de Esperanza at 16 S. Colorado Street. Food and drinks will be provided. The event is free and open to the public.

Do you have a favorite historic site in San Antonio? Participate with us in the This Place Matters Photo Contest. This nationwide contest, sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, encourages everyone to identify the historic places that matter to them. 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 to enter our local contest. Let us know the historic places in San Antonio that matter to you!

For additional information and a complete list of Historic Preservation Month activities in San Antonio, please contact the Office of Historic Preservation at 210-215-9274 or visit our website at www.sanantoniogov/historic/PreservationMonth.aspx. Join us throughout the month of May as we see, save, and celebrate San Antonio’s history!