



HERITAGE
SOCIETY OF
AUSTIN

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www.heritagesocietyaustin.org
information@hsaustin.org

→ HSA CALENDAR OF EVENTS ←

Oct 22 – **Austin Guitar Salon at the Davis-Sibley House**
7:00 p.m., Tickets \$50 (\$40 ACGS/HSA members). Call
512-300-ACGS.

Oct 23 – **Somewhere in Time, Dinner at Oakwood Cemetery**
5:45 – 8:30 p.m., Tickets \$75.

Oct 24 – **Historic Landmark Commission Meeting**
7:00 p.m., Austin City Hall. Please call 512.974.3530 for
more information.

Nov 14 – **Historic Landmark Commission Meeting**
7:30 p.m., Austin City Hall. Please call 512.974.3530 for
more information

Nov 19 – **Austin Guitar Salon at the Hart House**
7:00 p.m., Tickets \$50 (\$40 ACGS/HSA members).
Call 512-300-ACGS.

Nov 21 – **51st Annual Preservation Awards Celebration**
11:30-1:30 p.m., The Driskill Hotel, 604 Brazos Street,
78701. Tickets \$100.

Dec 12 – **Historic Landmark Commission Meeting**
7:00 p.m., Austin City Hall. Please call 512.974.3530 for
more information

*Tickets to Events available at www.heritagesocietyaustin.org
or 474-5198.*

PRESERVATION

AUSTIN

Fall 2011, Volume 15 No. 4

51st Annual Preservation Merit Awards Celebration



The Heritage Society of Austin will celebrate its 51st annual Preservation Awards luncheon on Monday, November 21 at the Driskill with featured speaker **Mayor Thomas M. Menino of Boston, MA**, five term mayor and an Advisor Emeritus to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Preservation Awards are presented annually to honor individuals and organizations whose extraordinary foresight and consistent commitment to preservation have had a lasting impact on Austin's heritage.

We are delighted to present as our featured speaker, Mayor Menino, who ushered in the nation's first citywide National Trust for Historic Preservation Main Streets program to support small businesses and spur local economic development. Mayor Menino will speak on how Boston's support of historic preservation bolsters tourism and property values, and attracts the "creative class" that both our cities seek.



Photo credit: David Stark



McCulloch House

To express appreciation to those preservationists who have contributed actively to Austin's heritage, the Heritage Society of Austin presents its annual preservation Awards Celebration. Both individuals and organizations are honored for their specific projects or talents in preservation. All awards are chosen by the Historic Preservation Committee on the Board of Directors of the Heritage Society of Austin. Tickets are \$100 and are available at www.heritagesocietyaustin.org or 474-5198.



Merit Awards for Properties

McCulloch House

610 Harthan Street
Susana & William Gimson

Alberto Garcia House

1214 Newning
Melanie Martinez

1010 E. Cesar Chavez

Cody Symington

American National Bank Building

121 W. 6th Street
Starr Colorado Partners, LP

Peter Pan Mini Golf

1215 Barton Springs Road
The Dismukes Family

Continued on page 5

Discovering Shades of the Past



HSA Members assist Mathews Elementary in researching historic paint colors.

On Saturday, September 24, President-Elect Tere O'Connell, AIA and LEED AP, taught HSA member Will Hornaday how to crater paint to reveal historic paint colors at Mathews Elementary (at the request of the principal, of course). Tere and Will found shades of white, cream, gray, dark red, medium blue-green, and a surprisingly bright orange in the history. Stay tuned.

Follow HSA on Twitter

Want instant notification of important votes on historic preservation cases being considered by the City, the latest on HSA events, and other timely updates?

Sign up to get our tweets at:
<http://twitter.com/HSAustin>



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Heritage Society of Austin

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HSA Advocacy Focuses on Landmarks Program



by Lin Team, Co-Chair, Historic Preservation Committee

There was a time in the past when the Heritage Society of Austin focused its efforts on raising funds to purchase and preserve individual buildings. As the HSA has evolved, its members increasingly have been engaged in advocacy for public policies that affect historic preservation.

One of the most important aspects of our work the past two years has been addressing the problems that arose in the City's Historic Landmarks Program in 2009. That year the presentation of an unprecedented number of owner-initiated applications for Landmark designation generated such intense criticism that it looked for a while as if the entire program might be dismantled. The Austin Independent School District and the Austin Community College District both withdrew their participation in the historic preservation tax incentive program in which they had been partners for 37 years.

Although the Heritage Society has offered ways to improve the City's program, we believe it has been overwhelmingly successful in preserving important elements of our historic legacy as a city. With that vital Landmarks program at risk, we went to work to protect the program and to use the public attention as a means of focusing on changes that we believed were needed. Because of the increase in the HSA workload this

required, two additional committees were formed, the Policy Committee chaired by myself, and the Advocacy Committee, led by August Harris, III.

In February of this year the HSA Board adopted a report with recommendations for administrative changes to assure that the process of designating and managing Historic Landmarks is careful and thorough. The report also recommended adjustments to the tax incentive structure to encourage preservation while limiting the effect on ad valorem tax income to a very minimal percentage of revenues. With that policy report in place, Heritage Society volunteers set to work to educate elected officials and the public about our recommendations.

The spring and summer saw an unprecedented level of public action on the part of the Heritage Society as it mobilized its members and other interested preservation-minded people to attend hearings, write letters, and make phone calls to officials seeking their support for the preservation program. We worked closely with other organizations in our efforts – The Downtown Austin Alliance, Sixth Street Austin, and Saving Austin, a newly-formed advocacy group that focused very effectively on this issue. Dozens of people came to tell their stories and express their support to City

Commissions and Council, County Commissioners, and the Boards of ACC and AISD.

As a result of all this effort, the City adopted a resolution that is a blueprint for meaningful reform, the County voted to continue support, and AISD voted to come back into the incentive program. However-the work is far from finished. These other jurisdictions are each watching to see how the City reforms are shaped and what good they are likely to do. And the School District trustees want to see more clear benefits to their education mission from their investment in historic preservation. We will continue to work cooperatively with all these jurisdictions and with other groups as we mobilize our members once again when the next round of hearings and decisions are near.

We are no longer buying and saving individual buildings, but our advocacy efforts have a much broader effect on the City as a whole. Thanks to everyone of you who participated with your letters and visits and testimony and financial contributions! 



Building Bridges with “The Greenest Building” Film Screening and Panel Discussion

By Tere O’Connell, Co-Chair, Historic Preservation
Committee and HSA President-Elect



On Wednesday, September 7th, the Heritage Society was thrilled to host the only Austin screening of the award-winning documentary “*The Greenest Building*,” by Portland-based architect and filmmaker Jane Turville. The film screening and panel discussion were made even more invigorating by the inspiring setting of the historic Paramount Theatre on Congress Avenue. Attendance was high, with an audience of architects, engineers, environmentalists, building owners, academics and public officials filling the ground floor seating of the theater. The event was promoted entirely through e-mails and social media with the help of promotional partners Austin Energy Green Building, U.S. Green Building Council – Central Texas Balcones Chapter, AIA Austin, Preservation Texas, Texas Historical Commission, The University of Texas School of Architecture, Leadership Austin, and financial support from Volz & Associates, O’Connell Robertson, Flintco Construction, National Trust for Historic Preservation and Austin Foundation for Architecture. Attendance was enhanced when we received approval from the American Institute of Architects and the U.S. Green Building Council to provide continuing education credits for professionals in their fields.

The Greenest Building starts with the

question “Is a new building the most sustainable choice?” The film delves into the historic and evolving relationship between the environmental and preservation movements, and argues that skillful renovation of existing buildings makes for stronger, more sustainable communities and is better for the environment and local economy. Following the film, a panel of five local experts was led by the filmmaker to discuss how the principles in the film apply to our city.

Panelist Jessica Galloway from Austin Energy Green Building noted in her comments that “there’s a lot of passive design out there, illustrating why buildings were built the way they were. Depending on where you go in the country, the design changes. In Austin, large porches and overhangs protect windows and breezeways. These features are part of our architecture because it gets very hot and humid here in the summer. Porch overhangs can make that environment more comfortable. Conversely, we don’t get really cold winters but we want the sun to come in. Embrace that passive design whether it’s by preserving a building or even building new, we learn from our historic buildings.”

Barbara Brown Wilson, Ph.D.,
Director of the U.T. Center for
Sustainable Development,

oversees the research, educational, and community outreach programs for the program. As she put it “The next thing to do is build alliances. Austin is primed for development of hybrid codes that really address sustainability and preservation as central and linked ideas.” Her current research includes an action-oriented research project extending the work of the Alley Flat Initiative to develop integrated codes for green, affordable infill development in Austin with Dr. Steven Moore.

“You and your partners have got to be inspired,” emphasized panelist Bill Ball. “Those of you who deal with developers, inspire the guy with the money to do the better job. We’ve been lucky in this community to have lots of creative people doing things that make it easier.” Bill is a Partner with Kemp Properties, and has undertaken work at the Norwood Tower, the Starr Building, and the historic Brown Building. The Brown Building was the first certified commercial building in the Austin Energy Green Building Program.

When asked to look to the future of green building and preservation, Bess Althaus Graham, architect with the Texas Historical Commission, noted “one issue on the horizon for the preservation community is the fairly

Continued next page



Merit Awards for Individuals

Public Service:
Save Austin's Cemeteries

Lifetime Achievement Award:
Wayne Bell, FAIA

Visit www.heritagesocietyaustin.org for more information. ∞



Wayne Bell with Miss Ima Hogg at Winedale 1967.



Peter Pan Mini-Golf



Alberto Garcia House

Photo credit: Thomas McConnell



American National Bank Building

Building Bridges, continued from page 4

recent past buildings of the 1950s and '60s. A lot of these buildings don't have the mass that we see as an attribute in many historic buildings. They often have extensive window walls, which is problematic from an energy consumption perspective. The way we solve those issues is by experience, as we come upon them when trying to preserve these buildings and make them viable."

Todd Hemingson, V.P. of Strategic Planning and Development for Capital Metro, asked the audience to

consider the societal role of transportation as it relates to the historic character of the city. "Transit plays a role in the sense of place and how that relates to public transportation. Communities with no sense of place, generally speaking, are automobile-dominant and all about driving. There are no pedestrians or bikes and, without pedestrians, probably not much transit. Transit and the right kind of built environment lend a sense of place that encourages walking. They're all interrelated, so these types of places that we preserve and sustain by reuse and adaptive use of older buildings can create those great walkable envi-

ronments that are also places where transit can be most successful."

This event was the first of its type for the Heritage Society, and we look forward to new opportunities in this arena. Please contact Tere O'Connell at tereconnell@sbcglobal.net or Jacqui Schraad, Executive Director at jacqui@hsaustin.org if you have ideas for future events. The Heritage Society wants to keep building these bridges with other community partners to improve our mutual understanding of the issues that face our city. ∞



African American Cultural and Heritage Facility

By Sandra Harkins, City of Austin, Project Coordinator

The city of Austin's high quality of life drives much of its population and economic growth, including its booming tourism industry and ability to attract talent and investment. This quality of life is partially dependent on Austin's cultural vitality, maintaining a rich, diverse culture that encourages creativity in business, arts, and community. Recognizing the importance of this vitality, the voters supported in the 2006 a General Obligation bond referendum that provided funding for an African American Cultural and Heritage Facility (Facility) along with two other cultural facilities. The concept for the Facility was developed as part of the African-American Quality of Life Initiative. The area where the Facility is located was referred to as the heart of the African American community in East Austin, once hosted by some of the most famous rhythm and blues singer's mid-century at the nearby Victory Grill and was integral in the civil rights movement. This City-owned Facility will add to this cultural significance by having a visitor's bureau which will be the "Anchor Facility" for the newly created African American Cultural Heritage District and house ProArts Collective, an award-winning arts organization and the Capital City African American Chamber of Commerce that provides services focused on supporting African American businesses citywide.

The City of Austin has contracted for the design of the Facility with McKinney York Architects, which will include the rehabilitation of approximately 760 square feet of the original historic Dedrick-Hamilton house at 912 East 11th Street. In

addition the design will provide for new construction that will include an approximately 4,300 square foot cultural facility with underground parking adjacent to the Dedrick-Hamilton house. The completed building will be LEED Silver Certified and will have an Art In Public Places (AIPP) component, with Reginald Adams from Houston as the selected artist.

The Dedrick-Hamilton House was owned by the family of Thomas Dedrick, one of the first freed slaves in Travis County, and remained with the family until the City's Urban Renewal Agency purchased the property in 2004. The home was built around 1880 and was part of the earliest African American communities in East Austin. The Dedrick family were significant members of the African American community in the first half of the twentieth century. From what can be discerned, the front two rooms and center hall are believed to be the original footprint of the house. The house is single wall construction and finished with board and batten exterior siding with a full width front porch at the time. Two additional modifications to the house were made in the early 1920's and 1930's.

In November 2009, Austin became one of seven communities to receive the first official State of Texas Cultural District Designations from the Texas Commission on the Arts. The African American Cultural Heritage District (AACHD) boundaries are Manor Road to Huston-Tillotson University from north to south, and Airport Boulevard to IH-35 from

Continued next page

Dear Austin Preservationists,



As I begin my term as president, I can see that this is going to be a busy and successful year for the Heritage Society. We will continue our efforts to promote the benefits of the landmarks program to our city. We are putting in place plans to increase our capacity for creating more opportunities for educational programs and informative events, such as *The Greenest Building*: Film Screening and Panel Discussion. Our next major event, the Preservation Awards Luncheon is off to a good fundraising start under the leadership of new board member Tom Stacy.

The Board of Directors had its first meeting on September 28, when we welcomed the following new members: Jim DeCosmo, Jerry Harris, Melanie Martinez, Kim McKnight, Maureen Metteauer, Marion Sanchez, Tammy Shaklee and Tom Stacy. In addition, Emily Little, Peter Flagg Maxson, Shelly Hemingson and Nikhil Sinha are beginning their second terms on the board. Each brings a deep appreciation and dedication to preservation, and we are excited that they have agreed to serve on the board. As we welcome the new board members, we want to acknowledge the board members who have finished their terms and will be leaving the board: Nancy Burns, Lindsay Hunter, Jay Farrell, and Sarah Queen. Thanks to each of them for the many contributions they have made to the Heritage Society!

The 2011-2012 Officers of the board are: John Rosato (President), Tere O'Connell (President Elect), August Harris, II (1st VP), Kristy Ozmun (2nd VP), Shelly Hemingson (Secretary), Nikhil Sinha (Treasurer) and Courtney Hoffman (Immediate Past President). These six individuals are joined by several other board members to comprise our Executive Committee, which assures the smooth operations of the Heritage Society between Board meetings.

Already our Directors and other HSA volunteers are busy assuring a very successful upcoming year. The Awards Luncheon on November 21 will again be at the Driskill Hotel.

Mayor Menino of Boston is the featured speaker. Be sure to mark your calendar and join us as we honor individuals and businesses that have made significant contributions to preserving Austin's heritage.

Lindsay Hunter is chair of the Heritage Homes Tour in the spring, and she is already making plans for a successful event. She is seeking ideas of adaptive use properties, meaning homes that are in buildings that were originally intended for another use. If you have any prospect for a featured property, please contact information@hsaustin.org. The Homes Tour and the Awards Luncheon are the major fundraisers for the Heritage Society, and we greatly appreciate Tom and Lindsay for their tremendous efforts.

As I begin my year as Board President, I am looking forward to working on new initiatives that support our mission of protecting and preserving Austin's cultural heritage. With the participation and support of our members, the hard work of our Board members and the leadership of Executive Director Jacqui Schraad, I am confident that we will have a productive year.

John Rosato
HSA President

African American, continued from page 6

east to west. The district represents a diverse mix of historic and heritage sites and institutions, contemporary arts and cultural organizations, artist studios and work spaces, and small businesses that represent artists and their work. As mentioned earlier, this Facility's will serve as the "Anchor Facility" for this District.

The community joined the City of Austin in celebrating Juneteenth on June 17, 2011, at the groundbreaking ceremony for the African American Cultural and Heritage Facility. Please plan to join the grand opening celebration of the Facility with the community, scheduled for June 2012. Visit the City's Neighborhood Housing and Community Development's web site at www.austintexas.gov/ahfc/aach_facility.htm for more details. 

PIONEER FARMS

AN UPDATE ABOUT ALL THE GOINGS-ON AT AUSTIN'S PREMIER LIVING HISTORY PARK.

ANNUAL HALLOWEEN EVENT HAS SURPRISES ON TAP



Creepy scarecrows, ghost stories and all things scary will be featured during our Spooky Stories and Terrifying Tales festival coming up on the last two weekends of October. Mark your calendar: Friday and Saturday, Oct. 21-22 and Oct. 28-29. The hair-raising Halloween event starring Hansel and Gretel, Three Little Pigs, Little Miss Muppet, Rumpelstiltskin and other storybook characters — all from the 1800s — will run nightly from 7-10 p.m. Admission is \$190 per person, a real 1800s-style bargain. The popular event is the best family-friendly Halloween entertainment in the Austin area, and offers something appropriate for all ages. In addition to the scary walking tour where you can experience the frights and nightmares amid Texas history, there will be fortune tellers, spooklights, pumpkins and much more including food, drinks and souvenirs. You'll scream at the Headless Horseman, the ghosts moving through the trees and all the things that go "boo" in the night at our five historic areas.



ARTISANS PROGRAM EXPANDS WITH HAND-MADE SOAPS, TEXTILES, ITEMS FROM OUR SMITHY NOW ON SALE

Our Jackson & Giles General Store in Pioneer Farms' Sprinkle Corner entrance village is brimming with new hand-made items, another success of our five-year-old artisans program. The new items include:

- Natural and organic soaps, several made to 1800s recipes from Travis County settlers.
- Gorgeous hand-made baskets just like the ones that Grandma once had.
- Beaded necklaces, imported from Africa in a fair-trade deal, that look just like the ones that slaves and Freedmen made in the Austin area in the mid-1800s.
- Woven and embroidered textiles, plus kits that allow you to make your own bonnets.
- Knives and garden tools turned out of our historic blacksmith shop.

The store is also stocking an expanded line of historical reprint books and period souvenirs. Purchases in the store support Pioneer Farms and the artisans themselves, so drop by to make a special historical purchase.

HORSE-TRANSPORT EXHIBIT TO DEBUT IN NEW SMITH VISITORS CENTER.

The opening of the new Sue and Aubrey Smith Visitors Center, along with the unveiling of a stunning exhibit of historic carriages and buggies from Austin's colorful past, is nearing. The visitors center and a new exhibits hall is just about complete on the north side of our Town Square, which is getting new landscaping and period-appropriate touches as we build out the Sprinkle Corner entrance village. The opening of the visitors center and exhibits hall will mark a milestone for Pioneer Farms, as the first phase of improvements to the entrance village are completed and the carriages and buggies go on public display for the first time in decades. The collection includes carriages, wagons and buggies from the late 1800s in Austin, each with an amazing history. Example: A black Victoria coach was used by several Texas governors, and Presidents William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt each rode in it when they visited Austin more than 100 years ago. The collection is named for Janet Long Fish, the late Austin preservation figure who collected the vehicles over several decades.

Continued next page

Austin Guitar Salon

FALL Series 2011



The Austin Classical Guitar Society and the Heritage Society of Austin continue their celebrated partnership to present two intimate classical guitar concerts in historic homes in Austin this fall. These special evenings are made irresistibly delicious thanks to **Antonelli's Cheese Shop** and **Twin Liquors**, who are partnering for wine and cheese receptions at each concert. These special evenings are made irresistibly delicious thanks to Antonelli's Cheese Shop and Twin Liquors, who are sponsoring wine and cheese receptions at each concert.

The Austin Guitar Salon fall series 2011 includes two concerts in unique, historic settings and feature phenomenal Texas talent. For tickets or more information visit AustinClassicalGuitar.org or call 512-300-ACGS.

The Austin Guitar Salon, fall series 2011 is sponsored by The Kinney Company.



Steve Kostelnik at the Davis-Sibley House

Saturday, October 22 at 7 p.m.

This stunning Windsor Road home was designed in 1931 by noted Texas architect Hal Thomson. Featured in the *Austin Originals* edition of *Your Austin Lifestyle Magazine* (Sep 2009), this amazing City of Austin Historic Landmark property belongs to Jane Sibley, one of Austin's most generous and influential arts philanthropists. Award-winning touring and recording guitarist Steve Kostelnik will be our artist for an evening of spectacular music and architecture we will not soon forget. Tickets \$50 (\$40 ACGS/HSA members). Call 512-300-ACGS.

Alejandro Montiel at the Hart House

Saturday, November 19 at 7 p.m.

This Historic Landmark home respects the past while offering a beautiful, fresh approach to its interior décor and gardens, which were featured last year on "Central Texas Gardener". The inspiring and historic setting will be a perfect venue for award-winning classical guitarist Alejandro Montiel. Tickets \$50 (\$40 ACGS/HSA members). Call 512-300-ACGS.

Pioneer Farms, continued from page 6

EXHIBIT OF HISTORIC INKWELLS OPENS IN NEW TATE GALLERY

Former Texas governor "Ma" Ferguson, "Oxcart John" Ireland and "Big Jim" Hogg are represented. So are famous American playwright Booth Tarkington and former

presidential candidate Wendell Wilkie, as well as a Civil War soldier, a Persian prince and a suffragette leader. They are all part of an amazing exhibit of historic inkwells that just opened in our new Tate House gallery. The collection was once owned by noted artist Margaret Burroughs Adams, and is on loan from the Heritage Society of Austin. In its first few weeks, the new exhibit

has drawn rave reviews from visitors. Mrs. Adams was the wife of noted American painter Wayman Adams. She collected the inkwells during her lifetime, from famous Texans and American leaders. The inkwells are part of several expanded exhibits that are opening in the next few months, to give visitors to Pioneer Farms even more to see and do.

Many Thanks to our New and Renewing Members

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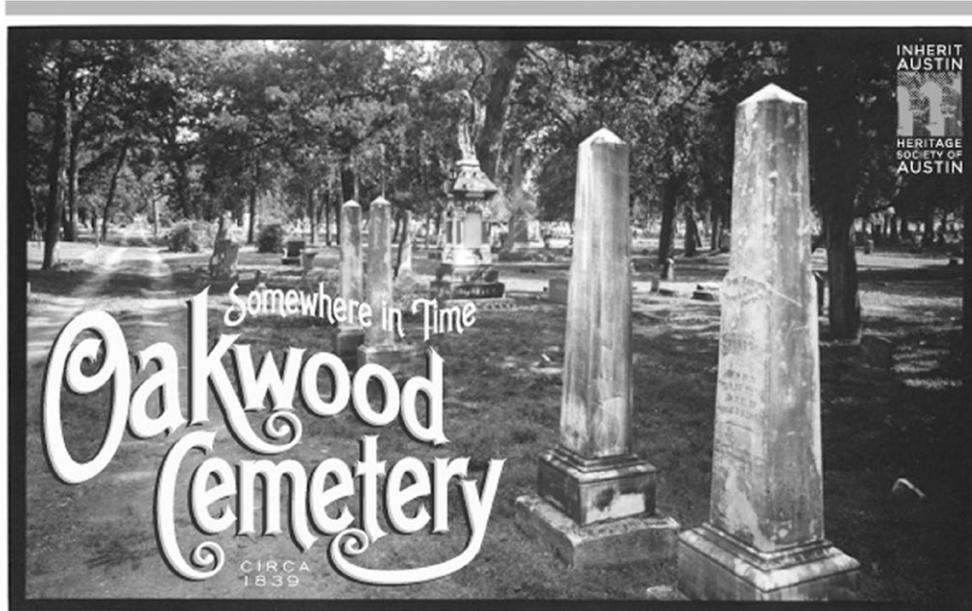
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Sally & Bill Wittliff

Hospitality Committee – Volunteer Opportunity

The Heritage Society is looking for volunteers for the newly formed Hospitality Committee. This committee helps with logistics for HSA events such as the Homes Tour Volunteer Appreciation Party, Explore Austin Landmark events, Beyond Paint Chip lectures, Holiday Party, Annual Membership Meeting, etc. The volunteer work for this committee includes: ordering food, picking up food, setting up for an event, tidying up after an event, and helping with check-in at events. This is a great way to participate in the variety of events that HSA does and learn more about the Heritage Society! Contact information@hsaustin.org if you are interested.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2011

**Join us for a walking tour of
Austin's oldest cemetery,
where history and horror collide.**

5:45 PM REFRESHMENTS
& SILENT AUCTION
6:15 PM TOUR
7:30 PM DINNER BY GRAZE

*Dress is party casual
Wear comfortable shoes, ground is uneven.*

1607 Navasota Street
Parking available on Comal St.
(Please enter event on E. 16th Main Street off Comal).

PRICING:
HOSTS WITH BENEFITS \$240, Tickets \$75.
Tickets and information at heritagesocietyaustin.org

PROCEEDS BENEFIT: The Heritage Society of Austin & Save Austin's Cemeteries
LEAD SPONSORS: Austin's World of Rentals, Hornaday Design, & Intercare
PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW MAGRUDER MATTHEWMAGRUDER.COM

Please call the HSA office or check out the website to join Inherit Austin. Memberships: \$65/individual, \$80/couple-dual. Benefits include access to free and discount events held by Inherit Austin and the Heritage Society of Austin throughout the year.

The purpose of Inherit Austin is to cultivate a new generation of HSA members by hosting social, cultural and educational events that appeal to singles, married couples and families roughly ages 20-45. Events include family-friendly and adult nights out. ∞