



# PRESERVATION — AUSTIN —

SAVING THE GOOD STUFF

Summer 2017 ★ Volume 21 No. 3

## Separate but Equal in Austin: L.C. Anderson High School

by Rebekah Dobrasko

**T**he old Anderson High School building sits atop a small hill at 900 Thompson Street in East Austin, just east of Pleasant Valley Road. This building, constructed in 1953, is the fourth to house L.C. Anderson High School, Austin's only high school for African American students during the era of segregation. The school is significant not only as Austin's historic black high school. The building itself reflects the social context of the growing American population after World War II, the fight to maintain segregation in schools by building new black schools to be "separate but equal," and national trends in school planning and school design. It is still owned by the Austin Independent School District (AISD), used as the district's Alternative

Photo courtesy of Austin History Center, APL



The former Anderson High School, main entrance today

Learning Center and as the East Austin headquarters of the Boys and Girls Club. AISD's recent facilities master planning

designations. The school is outside the boundaries of the city's recent *East Austin Historic Survey*.



Science classroom in 1955

process targets the old Anderson High School for redevelopment for new educational purposes. Preservation Austin intends to keep an eye on AISD's plans for old Anderson, and is working with the alumni association and AISD to erect a historical marker at the school and to pursue other historic

The first high school for Austin's black students opened in 1889 in a small one-room building on the corner of San Marcos Street and East 11th Street. By 1908, the school district constructed a new frame high school on Olive Street. The third Anderson High School building, named after educators E.H. and L.C. Anderson, opened in 1913 on Pennsylvania Avenue and Comal Street. The Olive Street school became an elementary school until it closed in the late 1940s due to declining

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# History Hunt in Blue Bonnet Hills

**Saturday, June 24** (postponed from May)  
**9 – 11 a.m. FREE, RSVP required**

Blunn Creek Greenbelt, check-in near the intersection of East Side & Lockhart Drives

Looking for some family fun now that school's out? Join us for our annual History Hunt in Travis Heights' Blue Bonnet Hills! This architectural scavenger hunt engages K-5 aged children and their families in learning about Austin's historic neighborhoods. This year's event, presented with the South River City Citizens Neighborhood Association, will be our first in South Austin. Families will follow clues to (top secret) stops throughout Blue Bonnet Hills, learning about architectural elements and the neighborhood's history along the way. Sack races, hula hoops, and other activities will abound. Refreshments will be provided at the finish line, where prizes will be awarded to the race champions.

**THIS EVENT IS FREE!** All children must have an adult chaperone. RSVPs to Programs Coordinator Lindsey Derrington at programs@preservationaustin.org are required by Thursday, June 22.

Prizes provided by Terra Toys, P. Terry's Burger Stand, Amy's Ice Creams, Lucy in Disguise with Diamonds and Home Slice Pizza.

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*Anderson High, continued from page 1*

enrollment and poor building conditions. That school later burned. The Comal Street school building became Kealing Junior High School when the “new” Anderson High School opened in 1953. That building burned in the 1980s, although Kealing Middle School still remains at the site. The 1953 Anderson High School is one of only a few schools remaining to tell the story of black public education in the Capital City.

The late 1940s and early 1950s were a time of great growth and change in Austin. Soldiers, both black and white, returned from fighting overseas and began settling down and starting families. AISD planned for new schools to accommodate student body growth. Austin needed new white high schools to serve the growing populations in the south (William B. Travis High), north (McCallum High), and west (O. Henry Junior High) sides of the city. However, since East Austin was the segregated portion of the city for African Americans, it planned for a larger black high school only in the east. At the same time, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) began a sustained legal fight for equalization between black and white schools in the South. This legal fight quickly moved to an argument that

Photo courtesy of Austin History Center, APL



Y-Teens Club in 1955



1913 Anderson High at 1167 Comal

Photo courtesy of Austin History Center, APL

segregation was, in fact, illegal. The NAACP unveiled this argument in *Sweatt v. Painter*, its landmark 1950 Supreme Court case to desegregate the University of Texas Law School.

Austin’s Negro Citizens Council pressured the AISD for better schools and better equipment. A study showed that Anderson High needed new buildings, improved lighting, lockers, bathrooms on each floor, and a larger cafeteria. Anderson High was the last AISD school to rely on coal for heating. One former teacher recalled her science classroom equipment: “an old Bunsen burner, some rocks, and a tuning fork.” The school’s athletic fields were about ten blocks away from the school itself. As a result of the push to desegregate schools, white politicians and school districts across the South began upgrading and building new black schools. Historians call these “equalization” schools. The 1953 Anderson High School was an equalization school.

In 1948, AISD purchased a 22-acre site for a new Anderson High School designed by

Austin architectural firm Kuehne, Brooks, and Barr. The new school had a modern design, with a flat roof, banks of aluminum windows that allowed light and air into the classrooms, and a modern heating system. It had twenty-five classrooms, including spaces for art, music, science, home economics, business, and industrial classes. A new cafeteria held state-of-the-art food equipment, and a gymnasium and football field on the campus led to the 1953 Anderson campus becoming a true center of Austin’s African American community.

Anderson High is significant as an intact example of the mid-century modern school. Schools similar in appearance to Anderson were built across Austin and across the nation. These were mostly built out of concrete and brick, as steel was still in short supply after World War II. AISD had to get federal Department of Education approval to use 273 tons of steel in Anderson High. Ultimately, Anderson High School cost a little less than \$900,000 to build. It was expanded again by six classrooms in 1959.

Amid the new school planning swirled controversy over the segregation of students in the public school system.

*Continued on page 4*



*Anderson High, continued from page 3*

AISD and local officials were not blind to *Sweatt v. Painter* playing out in court. The courts directed states to equalize their schools or to admit black students. While these equalization and desegregation orders first occurred at the college level, local public school districts knew that elementary and secondary schools were next.

African American leadership in Texas prepared to file lawsuits demanding equalization. So, after decades of African Americans pushing for updated schools sufficient to hold all students, new equipment, new books, and amenities like cafeterias and gymnasiums, school districts were suddenly interested in providing these to the black community. As Lula Collins, alumna of Anderson noted, "It was nice, it was new, and it was very accommodating because one of the things was to try and be sure that we were satisfied on this side, the east side, of East Avenue." AISD built a new school for its black students, in the hopes that their parents would be satisfied and not push for actual integration.

Many were satisfied with the new Anderson High School. Alumni speak over and over about how the school was the

center of the East Austin community. Teachers lived in the community, attended church alongside their students, and knew the parents. The school provided leadership opportunities for teachers, coaches, and administrators that were not available in Austin's white schools. Everyone in East Austin attended the same high school, cheered for the same teams, and had the same traditions. Sporting events were community gathering places, and the school itself was used for plays, dances, lectures, and other community events.

In 1954, the Supreme Court found in *Brown v. Board of Education* that segregation itself was unequal, and therefore unconstitutional. The AISD now faced the question of desegregating its school system. The desegregation story of Anderson High



Cafeteria in 1955

School played out across the South. Stay tuned for the Preservation Austin Fall 2017 newsletter to learn why Anderson High School is now located in northwest Austin on Mesa Drive. ★





The former Anderson High School gymnasium today

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# Education Committee

Ann S. Graham, Chair

The Education Committee continues to keep very busy. If the fun we have and the hard work we do sounds of interest to you, please join us!

We're excited about the upcoming History Hunt, our architectural scavenger hunt for elementary-aged children. This year's adventure will be held in the Blue Bonnet Hills

neighborhood of Travis Heights. Children, ask your parents to bring you to the Blunn Creek Greenbelt on Saturday, June 24 to take part! Games and prizes round out the fun, see Page 2 for details.

The committee is also working on adding new Historic Austin Tours through the free Otocast app, with the next one featuring the Allandale, Brentwood, and Crestview neighborhoods from PA's 2016 Historic Homes Tour; hosting a monthly PA info table at the SFC Farmers' Market Downtown; and, in partnership with the Preservation Committee, undertaking research on the history of East Austin's Anderson High School and developing a preservation advocacy toolkit for our website.



Our next big project is our annual *Greening Your Vintage Home* workshop in July. In timely fashion with CodeNEXT, this year's program will focus on accessory dwelling units (ADU's) as a way to balance density and affordability with preservation and sustainability. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for details.

We meet the third Tuesday of every month from 5:30-6:45 p.m. at PA's offices at 500 Chicon. There is room for everyone. Contact Programs Coordinator Lindsey Derrington for more information at [programs@preservationaustin.org](mailto:programs@preservationaustin.org). ★

## 2017 Merit Awards PRESERVATION AUSTIN

# Call for Nominations

It's that time of the year! Preservation Austin is excited to announce the call for nominations for our 57th Annual Preservation Merit Awards.

Projects must be located within the City of Austin and completed between January 1, 2015 and the nomination due date of August 7, 2017. Recipients will be honored at our Preservation Merit Awards Celebration luncheon at the Driskill Hotel November 3.

Download the nomination form, due August 7, through our website at [preservationaustin.org](http://preservationaustin.org). Please read the application guidelines carefully!

Preservation Awards honor the preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic properties; outstanding infill which enhances the historic fabric; the preservation of a cultural landscape; and sustainability initiatives which respect a property's historic character. Stewardship Awards honor ongoing efforts to manage and maintain historic resources. Special Recognition Awards honor those who have exhibited leadership in preservation, including through craftsmanship; education; public service through advocacy, neighborhood preservation, or research; or outstanding media coverage of preservation issues.

Questions? Contact Programs Coordinator Lindsey Derrington at [programs@preservationaustin.org](mailto:programs@preservationaustin.org) or 512- 474-5198 ext. 7724. ★

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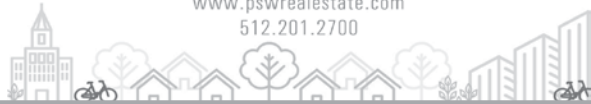
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# 2017 Historic Homes Tour Recap

Our 25th Annual Historic Homes Tour in Bouldin Creek was another one for the books! We toured five beautiful homes, each with its own distinct history and character; the Texas School for the Deaf welcomed us to explore its storied past through three historic buildings; and historian Terri Myers was at the Willie Wells House to discuss his legendary career and the neighborhood's African American heritage. The day wrapped with a packed after party at Mattie's at Green Pastures, surrounded by live oaks and peacocks. Many thanks to all who came out to support the tour and celebrate Bouldin with us!

We further extend our deepest thanks to all those who helped make "Bouldin Years" such a remarkable and fulfilling experience. The tour is a massive undertaking, as well as our biggest fundraiser, and it would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of our homeowners, our House Captains,

and our more than 120 docents and ticket takers. This year's Homes Tour Committee, led by board member Vanessa McElwrath, made this one of the most incredible, and financially successful, Homes Tours in recent memory. We are indebted to Vanessa and her team for generously contributing their time and talents to making "Bouldin Years" the success that it was. Thanks too to the Bouldin Creek neighborhood for being such gracious hosts, and to all those who fight so hard to preserve this iconic neighborhood's heritage.



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Featured Home: Millbrook



Featured Home: Blackshear House

Photo by Leonid Furrnansky

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# Busy Times for Austin's Parks & Recreation Department

Kim McKnight,

Project Coordinator and Cultural Resource Specialist

**T**he City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) has had a busy few months. From historic marker dedications to national awards, the department has become a national model for the benefit of cultivating a cultural resource management and historic preservation program.

## Historic Marker Dedications

**October 22, 2016** — PAR celebrated the listing of Lions Municipal Golf Course in the National Register of Historic Places. “Muny” is the first documented desegregation of a golf course in the South.

**November 5, 2016** — PAR celebrated the listing of Hancock Golf Course and Recreation Center in the National Register of Historic Places. Originally constructed as the Austin Country Club, the 1934 building was designed by Charles Page.

**April 9, 2017** — The Zilker Caretaker Cottage was celebrated for its designation as a City of Austin Historic Landmark, kicking off Zilker Park’s centennial anniversary. The 1929 cottage, designed by Hugo Kuehne, will serve as the headquarters for Austin’s Park Rangers and feature educational programming.

**April 28, 2017** — The Norwood Park Foundation and PAR celebrated the installation of a Texas Historical Commission marker at Norwood House. The Arts and Crafts bungalow will be

restored as community and event space.

**May 5, 2017** — PAR celebrated the installation of a Texas Historical Commission marker at Parque Zaragoza, a historically significant recreational facility in the heart of East Austin.

**June 10, 2017** — PAR celebrated a ribbon cutting and historic marker dedication at Downs Field. Recent art mosaic installations and a new entrance further celebrate the field’s role in hosting early African American baseball leagues.

## Doris Miller Auditorium to Revive Its Role as a Music Hub

PAR recently announced a partnership to offer music, production and live show engineering opportunities to area students at the Doris Miller Auditorium in East Austin’s Rosewood Park. Named after the Navy Cross recipient and WWII war hero, Doris Miller Auditorium has served as an important recreation center since the 1940s.

The program is being led by Notes for Notes, a Nashville-based nonprofit that provides training to students who otherwise lack access to music education. Through contributions from instrument manufacturers and nonprofits, a complete recording studio and “jam room” were constructed. Students can learn how to



Newly-installed mosaic panels at Downs Field.

play instruments, DJ, record and produce music, and broadcast content.

## Austin Receives National Planning Achievement Award for Urban Design

The City of Austin has received the Gold 2017 National Planning Achievement Award for Urban Design from the American Planning Association (APA). The award recognizes Austin’s *Historic Cemeteries Master Plan*, which provides a framework for rehabilitating and transforming five cemetery properties into community open spaces. Austin is one of 12 APA Achievement Award recipients this year.

Austin’s *Historic Cemeteries Master Plan* combines best practices in preservation planning, urban design and public engagement. It promotes the development of accessible community gathering places and integrates green infrastructure into the urban environment and transportation network. The plan also protects and

*Continued on page 7*





PARD's Kim McKnight with US Rep. Lloyd Doggett at Parque Zaragoza.

enhances the unique qualities of Austin's treasured public spaces and promotes historic, artistic, cultural and heritage-based tourism.

"Good planning is not just preparing the community for the future, but engaging the residents in the discussions and decision-making that will impact their lives," said W. Shedrick Coleman, AIA, 2017 chair of APA's Awards Jury. "This year's award recipients advanced the planning profession by more thoroughly engaging all residents in the planning process."

### **PARD Receives Hotel Occupancy Tax Revenue for Historic Preservation Projects**

PARD received a direct allocation of nearly \$1 million in Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Revenue in Fiscal Year 2017 to support projects and initiatives that meet allowable uses as defined under the Texas Tax Code. The funding will be directed to restoration projects at the Oakwood Cemetery Chapel, Elisabet Ney Museum, O. Henry Museum, and Mayfield Park.

HOT revenue is an important tool for supporting growth of the tourism, convention and hotel industry. PARD is

the steward for more than 300 parks and maintains more than 20,000 acres of greenspace, including local treasures like Zilker Park and Barton Springs Pool, Brush Square Museums, Deep Eddy Pool, Butler Hike and Bike Trail, the Old Bakery, and Mount Bonnell. Each of these sites ranks amongst the most popular and iconic destinations in the Capital City.

### **Seaholm Waterfront Programming and Implementation Study**

In May the Austin Parks Foundation, The Trail Foundation, and PARD announced \$450,000 in funding for a collaborative planning study for the future of the Seaholm Waterfront. The plan, which will rely heavily on public input, will serve as a roadmap for future park improvements and the repurposing of the decommissioned, National Register-listed Seaholm Intake structure.

Led by internationally recognized architecture and urbanism firm Studio Gang, the planning phase will be completed in Fall 2017. It will provide the programming, operational, and economic input needed to develop a world class public facility.

"After years of extensive research, in 2016 PARD took our information and engaged long-time partners Austin Parks Foundation and The Trail Foundation in discussions

about the next steps to position the Seaholm Intake Building and surrounding 3-acre parkland for redevelopment as a public and recreational facility," said PARD Acting Director Kimberly McNeeley. "We are thrilled

that they [APF and TTF] have agreed to fully fund the next planning phase."

Originally constructed in conjunction with the Seaholm Power Plant in the 1950s, the Seaholm Intake structure was dedicated as parkland when the power plant was no longer needed. Today, the historic intake structure and parkland represent a unique opportunity to create a vibrant recreational and publicly-accessible destination. The study area will span between the Pfluger Bridge and Shoal Creek, and from the lake's edge to Cesar Chavez.

### **Zilker Celebrates 100th Anniversary**

PARD, the Austin Parks Foundation and partner organizations kicked off Zilker Park's 100th Anniversary at the park's first ever Free Day on April 9. The community enjoyed activities like the Zilker Zephyr, Barton Springs Pool, Austin Nature and Science Center and Umlauf Sculpture Garden at no cost.

In 1917, the people of Austin were given one of the very best gifts of all time. Due to the generosity of businessman and philanthropist Andrew Zilker, citizens were given the land that now is known and loved as Zilker Park. To learn more about the year-long celebration, visit [zilker100.org](http://zilker100.org). ★



Zilker Caretaker Cottage Dedication, including Mayor Steve Adler and Council members Kathie Tovo and Ann Kitchen.

# A Winding, Bumpy Road Towards a Local Historic District

Brandon Tucker, Co-President,  
North University Neighborhood Association

**M**y wife and I hadn't been living in Aldridge Place long when we received an invitation to discuss the possibility of a local historic district.

That was back in 2013. This year, in the spring of 2017, our neighborhood finally crossed the finish line.

Local historic districts (LHDs) are a planning tool used in many cities to help preserve their character. Some cities provide more support than others. In Austin, while there is allowance in the code for LHDs, the city pretty much makes neighborhood residents do all the legwork themselves.

Not long after we received a note from neighbors on our block about pursuing a LHD, we met with them over coffee and they explained the benefits and corrected any misconceptions. Turns out, we weren't alone. A handful of neighbors spearheading the district were meeting with residents one-by-one throughout the neighborhood and doing the same.

After offering our support, we were also asked to make a monetary contribution. Applying for a LHD requires a comprehensive building survey, application and expensive permit applications. But by giving more than just a signature on a paper, neighbors were all truly invested in the process.

As the application and design standards were written and rewritten, we were notified in numerous ways, from new documents on the websites to direct emails. When neighbors had concerns, they were addressed and often

times, a change was made to the design standards.

Ultimately, our neighborhood had a 95% support rate, far exceeding the 51% required. And despite some tedious delays, the overwhelming support of the neighborhood made our application one that couldn't be rejected, and history was saved.

This was one of the first coordinated efforts I watched in close range in terms of neighborhood advocacy. You can't fake door-to-door outreach. You have to be deliberate. Over the course of several years, unplanned delays and new hurdles continued to arise, but the neighborhood remained committed to making it to the finish line. By watching videos from past LHD hearings, the group was able to get an idea for some of the opposition's likely talking points, and tailored their message accordingly.

Boom times aren't kind to historic



Aldridge Place

preservation, and Austin has been in one for decades. Earning a LHD takes a combination of grunt work and strategy. But the payoff, we hope, will be many, many years of celebrating the wonderfully preserved streets of Aldridge Place in North University. ★

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## HERITAGE QUIZ

Rebekah Dobrasko

**P**reservation Austin presents our Facebook Heritage Quiz the first Friday of every month! The first respondent to correctly identify a local landmark receives a \$5 gift card to East Austin's Cenote Café, housed in the 1887 McDonald-Cain House, courtesy of your favorite preservation nonprofit.

***Congratulations to our spring contestants for spotting the following properties:***

**APRIL: Hofheintz-Reissig Store (600 East Third Street)**

German immigrant Henry Hofheintz acquired a small piece of property on the eastern boundary of Austin in 1854. Between 1850 and 1870, Hofheintz constructed a two-story limestone store along with a log residence for his family. The property continued to grow after Hofheintz' death, when his son-in-law Adolph Reissig constructed a one story stone residence/saloon/domino parlor in 1892. The small wood cottage on the north side of the parcel was built for Hofheintz's grandson and wife. The Hofheintz-Reissig Store is an excellent example of German vernacular construction with thick stone walls and porches to catch the breezes. Today, you can visit the store for delicious food from Moonshine Grill. *I recommend the pimento cheese!*

★ **Winner: Amanda Dotson**



Hofheintz-Reissig Store

**MAY: J. Frank Dobie House (702 East Dean Keeton Street)**

Known for his Texas-based novels and interest in Texas folklore, author J. Frank Dobie and his family lived at this house from 1926 until 1964. Dobie and his wife Bertha created a garden with flowers and shrubs to enhance the house's siting on Waller Creek. Dobie purchased the home to be close to the University of Texas, where he joined the English Department faculty in 1925. Many of his works were written at this residence, which he indicated by signing his prefaces "On Waller Creek." The Dobies expanded the house in 1950 to allow for more space. The University owns the house today and runs it as a center for writers. Visit your favorite local bookstore to learn more about Dobie's works!

★ **Winner: Paige Williams Smith**



J. Frank Dobie House

**JUNE: Victory Grill (1104 East 11th Street)**

Victory Grill in East Austin opened in 1945, on Victory over Japan Day. Owner Johnny Holmes wanted a place for African American soldiers and families to have fun and hear great music during the segregation era. By 1947, Holmes had built the current Victory Grill. The open patio was enclosed in 1951 to provide a blues and jazz lounge. Hosting blues legends like B.B. King, Victory Grill was part of the national Chitlin' Circuit, a group of music clubs that were open to African Americans. After the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Victory Grill suffered as African American families moved out of East Austin. The changing musical trends toward disco also led to the grill's initial decline. After many years, though, Victory Grill still serves East Austin with new life under new management.

★ **Winner: Sarah Marshall**



Victory Grill



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# 85th Legislative Session: Preservation Take-Aways from the 85th Session

Alyson McGee, Immediate Past President

**T**he Texas Legislature held its final day of the regular 85th session on May 29th. It was a session full of controversy – when isn't it?! However, we are happy to report that historic preservation interests fared well this round. Here's a recap of the legislation Preservation Austin was following.

Both **HB2393** and **SB550** were introduced to amend the Texas Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program. HB2393 was left in committee, but SB550 passed both houses. This means the State's historic preservation tax credit will be expanded so the credits can be applied toward the State insurance tax in addition to the franchise tax as is currently allowed. This will protect the program if the legislature does away with the franchise tax in the future. Preservation Austin wrote letters in support of the legislation.

**HB3418** would have regulated how municipalities designate historic properties, making it more difficult to designate endangered properties against owners' consent and establishing restrictive designation criteria. Introduced by Rep. Elkins, R-Houston, the bill was left pending with the House Urban Affairs Committee. Preservation Austin testified in opposition at the committee's public hearing, as did representatives from the City of San Antonio, Preservation Texas, the American Institute of Architects Dallas chapter, San Antonio Conservation Society, Preservation Dallas, and Milam County Historical Commission, as well as former Preservation Austin Board member August Harris.

The bill that will transfer management and operation of Austin's French Legation from the Facilities Commission to the Texas Historical Commission (THC) passed on nearly the last day of the session. **HB3810** was introduced by Rep. Cyrier from Lockhart and was co-sponsored by Austin's Rep. Donna Howard. The companion Senate Bill (SB2005) was introduced by Senator Kirk Watson. The Facilities Commission has requested authorization to use approximately \$1.5 million from their emergency funds to carry out the most critical work needed on the Legation house. That work will take approximately 18 months, after which the THC will begin the process of re-opening the site for visitors under their management. Preservation Austin wrote letters in support of the



transfer. During the next legislative session the THC will request the necessary staff positions and operating funds to properly operate and maintain the site.

**HB 4146**, which would have entitled individuals to appeal State Historical Marker determinations by the THC to an administrative court, was left pending with the Culture, Recreation and Tourism Committee. Preservation Austin testified in opposition at the committee's public hearing along with Bob Ward, Chair of the Travis County Historical Commission, and Brian Bolinger, Executive Director of the Texas State Historical Association. After failing in two legislative sessions, our hope is a similar bill will not be introduced during the next session, and that the responsibility for decisions regarding historical significance and accuracy will remain with the trained and knowledgeable professionals at the THC.

Finally, funding for the THC's exceptional items request was approved at approximately \$34 million for the biennium. This includes \$20.2 million for the Historic Courthouse Grant Program, \$1.5 million for the Heritage Trails program and funding for THC's capital projects including work at the San Felipe de Austin Historic Site, Mission Dolores in San Augustine, and the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg. However, the agency's base budget was reduced by nearly \$1 million, which will affect THC's ability to replace aging vehicles and IT equipment, provide basic maintenance on state historic sites, and develop new heritage tourism products.

Preservation Austin would like to thank legislators, both from our Austin delegation and around the state, who supported historic preservation this session, as well as the organizations and individuals who helped with our advocacy efforts - working together to "Save the Good Stuff." ★



# President's Message

★ John Donisi



**W**e have enjoyed a very positive 2016-2017 at Preservation Austin. It was a great honor for me to serve as Board President.

We collectively dedicated ourselves to focus on the basics of our core mission: preservation of our special and unique built environment, retaining the authenticity that we all recognize as Austin.

Our committees, as always, have done the heavy lifting in terms of workload. The Preservation Committee has kept up with actions before the City, County and State Legislature. This includes taking the lead for PA in the City's CodeNEXT proposal, now taking shape, and in working with our statewide partners on issues before the 85th Texas Legislature. PA participated in efforts to preserve and broaden the

state tax credit program, and in soundly defeating broad attacks on municipal preservation programs. We will continue this advocacy during the special session. The Education Committee has done exceptional work in acculturating Austinites to the benefits of preservation, through a wide array of programs and innovative events. Our Development and Finance Committees have worked to provide us with necessary resources, and their effective utilization.

PA has been more-than-ably represented on a City-established task force reviewing the use of hotel occupancy tax revenues by PA Immediate Past President Alyson McGee. The task force offers a significant opportunity to overhaul the tax as it relates to preservation and the programs funded by its use.

our peer cities, as many offered the local historic district option decades before our enactment. We provided essential technical assistance to help Aldridge Place achieve their designation, and continue to promote districts which express the full cultural and vernacular history of Austin.

We are also excited about Inherit Austin and their honed focus on introducing preservation to the next generation of Austinites. We've been able to expand our reach by dovetailing with other congruous organizations, including those dedicated to conservation of public parks and spaces, ensuring that preservation is included in their scope.

As my term comes to an end, I'm excited about passing the reigns to incoming Board President Ken Johnson. Ken brings a wealth of experience to the role, a commitment to PA demonstrated over years of Board service, furtherance to other non-profits, and an architect's sensitivity to preservation. Thank you again for the honor to be of service to PA and our collective mission.

Sincerely,

John Donisi,  
President ★



World-class dining mingled with unparalleled service: Welcome to The Driskill Grill. Savor signature dishes, including dry-aged steak and pan roasted red snapper, and sip a selection from our carefully curated, Wine Spectator-awarded list.

This quarter, we celebrated our annual Historic Homes Tour in the iconic and eclectic Bouldin Creek neighborhood, including the Texas School for the Deaf Campus. It was a huge success thanks to the dedication of many, under the direction of Board Member and Homes Tour Chair Vanessa McElwrath.

This year, PA welcomed Austin's fourth local historic district, Aldridge Place. In many respects, Austin is continuing to play 'catch up' to

Inherit Austin, a membership level of Preservation Austin, hosts social, cultural & educational events to raise awareness among the next generation of preservationists. IA is committed to the same mission as Preservation Austin – to promote Austin’s diverse cultural heritage through the preservation of historic places. We offer activities that appeal to singles, couples and families.



Kids enjoying the mobile petting zoo at this year’s Egg Hunt!

Saturday April 8, adults and children joined in the fun at Inherit Austin’s 14th Annual Easter Egg Hunt. This event is a wonderful way for Inherit Austin to connect with future Austin generations. This year’s hunt took place on the beautiful grounds of the French Legation Museum in East Austin. Event Chair Emily Payne did a remarkable job coordinating the event, which was attended by about 200 guests. Children hunted the



grounds in search of over 1500 stuffed eggs! A special highlight this year was the Tiny Tails to You traveling petting zoo featuring bunnies, chicks, hedgehogs, turtles, and guinea pigs. Special thanks to the French Legation Museum, our Golden Egg Sponsor; to Bunny Business Sponsors BluEarth Realty and Modern Pools; to our Chick-A-Dee Host Families; and to our generous In-Kind Sponsors for another successful spring event.

### Last Hurrah

This summer IA is launching a new campaign called “Last Hurrah.” The campaign will focus on raising awareness of legacy businesses in Austin that are ending their long-term run. We kicked things off at the end of May at Carmelo’s, an Italian restaurant housed in the Old Depot Hotel on East 5th Street. Rising property taxes forced the Mauro family to sell the property after operating the restaurant on site for over thirty years. Fortunately, the site will be sensitively redeveloped and the historic Old Depot Hotel will remain intact. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram for upcoming Last Hurrah events!

### Membership

Please consider renewing or upgrading your membership at the IA level. IA members receive special invites and discounts to our unique events. IA is looking for new board members, who are



Guests enjoying the patio at Carmelo’s Restaurant

active in the community and interested in preservation contact [inheritaustin@preservationaustin.org](mailto:inheritaustin@preservationaustin.org) for more information and application. Lastly, keep in touch for information about this year’s Somewhere in Time! As always, it’ll be a blast. Happy Summer! ★

## ★ | 2017 IA Board

### OFFICERS

Michelle Slattery, Chair  
Ellis Mumford-Russell, Chair-Elect  
Haley Wilcox, Secretary  
Audra Tiemann-Iturbe, Treasurer

### BOARD

Katie Bullard  
Tori Haltom  
John Hindman  
Nanette Labastida  
Emily Thompson Payne  
Kelley Russell  
Mike Smith  
Matthew Welch  
Sarah Wheat  
Caroline Wright



Many Thanks to



# Our New & Renewing Members



## WATERLOO

Marvin & Eva Womack  
Suzanne Deal Booth

## SUSTAINING

Rebekah Dobrasko  
Connie Todd  
Brandon & Abby Tucker

## FRIEND

Carlos Puentes &  
Nancy O'Bryant Puentes  
David Depwe  
Emily Little

## PARTNER

Andrew & Carol Reifsnnyder  
Bob & Angela Ward  
Charles & Carriellu B. Christensen  
Evelyn McNair  
Leon Alesi

## HOUSEHOLD

Amy & Jed Rogers  
Anne-Charlotte Patterson &  
Terrell Cooksey  
Catherine Murphy  
David Sullivan & Mary Baughman

Derek & Maureen Barcinski  
Jim Pitts & Cynthia McFarlin  
Judith K. Shipway  
Larry & Melinda McGinnis

## CONTRIBUTOR

C.K. Carman  
Caroline Dickerson  
Carolyn McFarland  
David Crain  
Dora McDonald  
Ellen Kolsto  
Genia Juskowitz  
Jacqui Schraad  
Laura Cooper  
Lynn Roth Jordan  
M.K. Ward  
Mary & Norman McRee  
Melissa Keane  
Paula Kothman-Preston  
Saundra Kirk  
Shannon Halley

## INHERIT AUSTIN COUPLE

Bergan & Stan Casey  
Meghan Elwell

## INHERIT AUSTIN INDIVIDUAL

Edwin Williams  
Elizabeth Porterfield  
Erin Dowell  
Jeannette Cook

## BUSINESS LEADER

Barbara Shallue, Austin Realtor  
Eastside Lumber & Decking  
Jordan & Co Real Estate-United  
Real Estate  
Sentell Solutions

## THANK YOU TO OUR PA BUSINESS AMBASSADORS!

ABC Home & Commercial Services  
Alamo Draffthouse Cinemas  
Clayton Bullock, Moreland Properties  
801 Barton Springs  
Green Mango Real Estate  
ML&R Wealth Management  
Norwood Tower LP  
O'Connell Architecture  
PSW Real Estate



# Preservation Austin Annual Meeting

Tuesday, August 22 6pm to 8pm

The North Door – 501 Brushy Street, Austin 78702

FREE to members

All Preservation Austin members are encouraged to attend! We'll have some drinks, discuss what PA has been up to over last year, and vote on our 2017-2018 board. Come see old friends and meet new ones at this fun and casual event.

Free for members, \$20 non-member fee will be waived upon joining. RSVP to Programs Coordinator Lindsey Derrington at [programs@preservationaustin.org](mailto:programs@preservationaustin.org) by Monday, August 14. ★



**PRESERVATION  
— AUSTIN —**

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Austin, TX 78768

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## PA CALENDAR OF EVENTS • 2017

**JUN  
24**

### **History Hunt in Blue Bonnet Hills**

This annual architectural scavenger hunt (and games!) for K-5 kids and their families will be our first-ever in South Austin. **FREE**, see Page 2 for details.

**JUL  
TBA**

### **Greening Your Vintage Home Workshop**

This year's program will focus on accessory dwelling units (ADUs) as a way to balance density and affordability with preservation and sustainability. Date and details TBA.

**AUG  
7**

### **Preservation Merit Award Nominations Due**

Nominate your favorite preservation project or advocate! See Page 5 for details.

**AUG  
22**

### **Annual Meeting**

The North Door (501 Brushy Street, 78702), 6PM-8PM. All members are encouraged to attend! Have a drink, meet fellow preservation lovers, and learn what PA has been up to over the last year. Free for members, \$20 non-member entrance fee will be waived upon joining.

**SEP  
15**

### **Fall Grant Deadline**

PA offers quarterly matching grants of up to \$5,000 for a variety of preservation projects. Nonprofits, neighborhoods, public entities, and building owners may apply.

**NOV  
3**

### **Preservation Merit Awards Celebration**

Driskill Hotel (604 Brazos Street); check-in begins 11AM, luncheon from 11:30-1:30PM. Our 57th Annual Preservation Merit Awards Celebration honors visionary approaches to preserving our city's heritage. Featured speaker TBA!

**FALL  
TBA**

### **Inherit Austin's Somewhere in Time**

Inherit Austin's *8th Annual Somewhere in Time* fundraiser is just a few months away! Details TBA.

★ Visit [www.preservationaustin.org](http://www.preservationaustin.org)  
for details and tickets today!

### MONTHLY EVENTS

#### **Juggling and Jawing Historic Austin Happy Hours**

Our happy hour series with the UT Student Historic Preservation Association continues! Venues are announced monthly, check our website and social media for details.

#### **SFC Farmers' Market Downtown**

Our Education Committee represents PA at the Sustainable Food Center's Farmers' Market Downtown, held in Republic Square, on the first Saturday of each month. *Come on by!*