



PRESERVATION — AUSTIN —

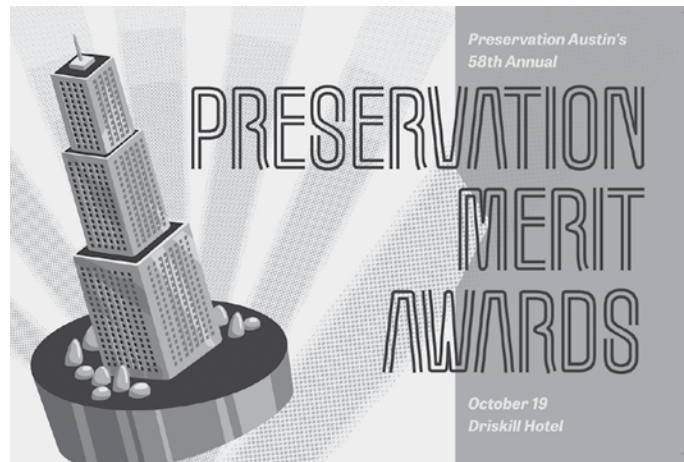
SAVING THE GOOD STUFF

Fall 2018 ★ Volume 22 No. 3

2018 Preservation Merit Awards Celebration

Preservation Austin is thrilled to honor another outstanding slate of projects with our 58th Annual Preservation Merit Awards. Established in 1960, this juried program celebrates the hard work and visionary approaches of those preserving Austin's unique architectural, cultural, and environmental heritage. This is our largest group of award-winners yet, showing that preservation is alive and well in Austin, and achieved every day through the commitment and investment of Austinites citywide. These eighteen recipients represent preservation efforts of all of types and scales, and we're so excited to give them the recognition they deserve.

Our 58th Annual Preservation Merit Awards Celebration at the Driskill Hotel will be on Friday, October 19! We'll look back at our 65 years of preserving Austin's irreplaceable heritage and present this year's awards. Join us to honor the best preservation projects from the past two years and give much-deserved applause to the owners, artists, architects, builders, and advocates who made them possible.



Friday, October 19, 2018
Check-In at 11am Program from 11:30am to 1:30pm
Driskill Hotel, 604 Brazos Street
\$100/members, \$125/non-members
Seating is limited, please reserve by October 12

PRESERVATION MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

220 SOUTH CONGRESS

R Cielo Property Group
Preservation Award for Rehabilitation

This unassuming brick building has stood at the entrance to South Congress Avenue for nearly 90 years. It's housed everything from a metal shop to a cash handling business, and in 1935 survived one of the worst floods in Austin's history. By 2009 the building was vacant, however, because of its unusual siting at Barton Springs

Road and lack of dedicated parking. Cielo Property Group saw potential here when no one else did, and in 2014 purchased the fading property with plans to turn it into a vibrant gateway to South Austin.

Gensler architects opened up the building's interior and embraced its industrial roots by exposing original ceiling joists, brick walls, and concrete floors. New features include reclaimed wood and oxidized metal. A new roof, HVAC

system, bathrooms, and stairwells readied the building for modern tenants. Cielo negotiated a parking agreement with the adjacent Embassy Suites, without which the project (and the building's preservation) would not have been possible.

220 South Congress is now home to YETI's flagship store, a destination whose bar and patio open onto Barton Springs Road to bring life to this formerly lifeless intersection. This transformation

R = Recipient

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Inherit Austin

Inherit Austin is looking for new board members for new fiscal year! If you're passionate about bringing awareness to preservation in Austin through unique events, partnership organizations, and "friendraising" for Preservation Austin, please get in touch with Board Chair Ellis Mumford-Russell at inheritaustin@preservationaustin.org

Join our Instagram Campaigns

Help us show some love to the historic signs of Austin by using the hashtag #signsofthetimesATX when you're around town and see a historic sign worthy of attention. And, continue to tag us in your posts of Austin culture & history, especially roadside resources using #atxroadside.

Find us on Facebook and Instagram (@inheritaustin) to find out about our upcoming events and campaigns! ★

#signsofthetimesATX



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220 South Congress (Gensler)

is a powerful step towards improving pedestrian connections at either end of the Congress Avenue Bridge. It shows how even modest historic buildings are essential to creating a more vibrant urban experience for us all.

308 E. 35th

R Steven Baker & Jeff Simecek Preservation Award for Addition

Owners Steven Baker and Jeff Simecek purchased this North University home in 2014. Their work breathing life into its historic fabric, and subtle expansion of its footprint, shows the true potential in the modest (and too often threatened) cottages that define so many of Austin's core neighborhoods.

All wooden trim was repeatedly hand washed to remove years of cigarette smoke and oak floors were re-finished. The bathroom retains its 1939 floor tile, bath tub, soap holder, towel rack, and medicine



308 E. 35th Street (Preservation Austin)

cabinet. All Craftsman style wooden screens were preserved, and squared, period-appropriate porch supports restored on the main façade. Two new additions were carefully designed in keeping with the original house; these include a gorgeous new sunroom accessed through a rounded, segmental-arched doorway that matches one in the original home.

The homeowners further contended with the site's back-to-front 3 percent slope and drainage issues. While their initial project, completed in August 2017, had sought to fix the problem, Hurricane Harvey soon caused more than 8 inches of rainwater to seep under the house and buckle its floors. Another drainage and slope redesign ensued to protect the house long-term.

Others might not have seen this home's possibilities or embraced its historic character so fully. Others might also have given up when its serious drainage issues became apparent. The current owners, however, have shown that these homes are worth preserving.

409 COLORADO

R David Zedeck Preservation Award for Rehabilitation

At a time when downtown's Warehouse District is losing its low-rise commercial buildings at an alarming rate, this classic adaptive reuse project gives hope for what historic fabric remains. Architect Arthur O. Watson built this two-story auto-body shop and salesroom in

1920. The building's reinforced concrete structure, ultra-modern for its time, allowed for open floor plans and ample natural light.

In 1997 young Tim and Karrie League opened their original Alamo Drafthouse here, taking the theater's name from the building's shaped roof parapet. They covered its second story windows, added acoustic panels and black paint, and removed roof trusses for their single-screen theatre. An Austin legend was born, though this location closed in 2007. The space lent itself well to a series of nightclubs thereafter.

Owner David Zedeck enlisted Forge Craft Architecture + Design to turn the building into creative office space in 2017. Restoring the second story's natural light was a priority; custom steel-framed windows liberated the wide bays on the main façade, complimented by new clerestories with ceramic glazing. The project embraced the building's vaulted roof structure and uncovered its Austin brick walls. Elegant new conference rooms face one another across the symmetrical and otherwise open floor plan. New storefronts welcome visitors at the street level; these include a modern, faceted entrance and grand staircase leading to the gleaming, light-filled creative space above.



409 Colorado (Clayton Holmes, Forge Craft Architecture + Design)

AUSTIN STATE HOSPITAL

R Health & Human Services Commission

Preservation Award for Restoration

The Texas Legislature established the State Lunatic Asylum, the first of its kind west of the Mississippi River, in 1857. The pastoral campus was developed according to progressive theories on mental healthcare of the time. Its Italianate-style Administration Building opened in 1861. A massive Greek Revival style portico, designed by Arthur O. Watson, transformed the main façade in 1904 and remains the defining feature of this monumental landmark.

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) worked with Braun & Butler Construction to restore the portico in 2017. The project assessed all wood elements for extensive rot and deterioration, including floor decking and joists across three stories. Rotting structural beams inside the 2-foot-thick Ionic columns were replaced. New wood components were milled to match missing features on column capitals and



Austin State Hospital (Nathan Barry, Braun & Butler)

R = Recipient

balustrades, and remaining wood features were restored by Dutchman patching and an epoxy consolidant. Damaged pieces on the ornate pediment, faced in formed sheet metal, were manufactured in the field. Workers removed lead paint by hand, and new paint matches the original colors. The project included reconstruction of structurally unsalvageable limestone stairs at the building’s west entrance, which were rebuilt using waterproofed concrete masonry clad in limestone.

HHSC dedicated the Austin State Hospital’s newly-restored portico in July 2018. The building now shines, and this project shows a great commitment to the site’s nationally-recognized historic fabric as the hospital’s redevelopment moves forward.

COLLIER HOUSE

R Georgia Keith
Preservation Award for Addition

Elevator operator Calvin Collier built this modest bungalow with his wife Bathesheba for just \$1,200 in 1935. They likely purchased its plans, and even factory-cut components, from a catalogue and assembled them onsite. This is a classic example of the working- and middle-class homes that define Bouldin’s historic fabric, and that are being rapidly demolished for larger homes every year.

In 2014, owner Georgia Keith moved in with plans to update the house while preserving the character that brought her here in the first place. A gorgeous addition and remodel project with Elizabeth Baird Architecture & Design expanded the bungalow by just 220 square feet. The interior now features exposed shiplap ceilings and walls, along with colorful tile work and built-ins. The new master suite takes design cues from the original home,



Collier House (Andrea Calo)

including its gabled roof and clapboard siding, but is set back by a narrow, low-profile connector with subtle detailing that distinguishes the old from the new. The light-filled master bedroom has a vaulted ceiling and three sets of French doors with transoms, maximizing the small space’s openness and connection to the back yard.

Featured on our 2017 Homes Tour, the Collier House shows how creative, economical spaces can transform modest historic homes for 21st century living. Its very design embodies preservation best-practices of joining the old and the new, showing that such projects are not only possible but desirable.

“FOR LA RAZA”

R Arte Texas, Art in Public Places, Parks and Recreation Department & Austin Energy
Preservation Award for Preservation of a Cultural Landscape

Austin’s rich cultural fabric is often expressed in its murals, communicating deeply-felt histories and meanings. Robert Herrera and Oscar Cortez’ monumental “For La Raza,” painted in 1992 along 107 feet of the now-decommissioned Holly Power Plant’s exterior, is no different. This was one of many works by the Austin League of

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Detail of "For La Raza" (Philip Rogers)

Tejano Artists reclaiming the site's identity for the surrounding Mexican American Holly neighborhood, which fought for decades to close the noxious plant imposed on their community.

By 2016 the mural's powerful Chicano imagery, including Aztec gods and symbols of Mexican American heritage, had suffered. The City of Austin's Art in Public Places program commissioned the East Austin advocacy group Arte Texas, including Herrera and Cortez, to restore "For La Raza" as part of the Parks & Recreation Department's Holly Shores Master Plan.

Completed in April 2018, this restoration is a major milestone in plans to restore all of the former plant's murals and turn the site into a city park. The artists immersed local students in the Mexican American mural tradition and worked with them to recreate its vibrant figures. A new primer and metal cap protect the finished work from water penetration long-term.

This multi-generational project represents the best in preservation. As expressed by Herrera, "When we were restoring the mural, people would stop and they'd be amazed and they'd want to talk and get information. It belongs to the community. We can say we painted the mural, but it's not our mural. It's the community's mural."

O. HENRY HALL

R Texas State University System
Preservation Award for Rehabilitation

O. Henry Hall is one of downtown's

architectural treasures. Completed in 1881, the Italian Renaissance Revival style building originally served as Austin's federal courthouse and post office. The Texas State University System purchased it in 2015 and embarked on a \$4.7 million rehabilitation with O'Connell Architecture, the Lawrence Group, and Flynn Construction to remedy years of deferred maintenance and alterations.

A comprehensive survey determined individual scopes of work for each of the building's 160 historic windows, including casements, transoms, and double-hung windows (in total, O. Henry Hall has no less than ten different window types). Wooden sashes and frames were restored using state-of-the-art techniques and paint analysis brought back their original color scheme. A new integral, low-e coating improved each pane's thermal efficiency.

Masonry work included replacing a damaging elastomeric coating, applied in 1997, with an organic mineral coating to reconstitute the limestone exterior. All repointing matched the original mortar color, texture, and tooling. The original cornice, found in a dangerous state of disrepair, was restored. Inside, drop ceilings dating to the building's previous restoration in 1971 have been removed and handsome public spaces restored.

This meticulous project was completed in August 2018 with the support of state historic tax credits through the Texas Historical Commission. O. Henry Hall now moves into its next phase of life, as beautifully rehabbed offices for the Texas State University System.



O. Henry Hall (O'Connell Architecture)

OAKWOOD CEMETERY CHAPEL

R Austin Parks & Recreation Dept.
Preservation Award for Restoration

The Oakwood Cemetery Chapel's gorgeous restoration is the culmination of years of citizen advocacy, as well as exemplary and inclusive leadership by the City of Austin Parks & Recreation Department (PARD) when facing hard truths about our city's past. The Charles Page-designed chapel was completed in 1914 near the "Colored Grounds" section of Oakwood Cemetery, established in 1839. The tiny building's perfect Late Gothic Revival style composition includes a crenelated tower and pointed-arch windows.

Save Austin's Cemeteries began documenting the chapel, by then in serious disrepair, and bringing awareness to its importance in the early 2000s. Their advocacy led PARD to allocate 2012 General Obligation Bond funding for the building's restoration. Hatch + Ulland Owen designed the project, which



Oakwood Chapel (Preservation Austin)

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included foundation stabilization, ADA accessibility, and restoration of the roof, doors, windows, masonry, and plasterwork. Its completion in July 2018 realizes a major goal of PARD's award-winning Historic Cemeteries Master Plan.

Soon after work began in 2016, archaeologists monitoring construction discovered human remains beneath the chapel. PARD answered this devastating realization with numerous public meetings to gather community input, leading to the exhumation of thirty-eight individuals who will be reinterred elsewhere in the cemetery. Oakwood Cemetery Chapel will be programmed as a visitor center and historic site, with significant interpretation and commemoration of the remains found here.

SOLARIUM

R Don Kerth

Preservation Award for Addition

This stunning project in the West Line Historic District was completed in 2017. Its embrace of both historic architecture and contemporary design shows the limitless possibilities when these two eras come together to create totally unique spaces.

James Bryant, a longtime turbine operator for the city's Water, Light & Power Department, built this bungalow with his wife Lula in 1927. Don Kerth purchased the home in 1998, drawn to its well-preserved Craftsman style home clapboard siding, window screens, shaped vergeboards, and rafter tails. After nearly twenty years the property was in need of an update; he enlisted Jobe Corral Architects to better integrate the home with its site by transforming a dark, 1970s rear addition with a glowing solarium. This elegant, pavilion-like structure

consists of steel, retractable glass walls, and board-formed concrete. Its light-filled setting for relaxation and entertainment opens entirely to become a flexible indoor-outdoor space surrounded by new landscaping. The design and construction process reflected the owner's passion for detail, materials, and craftsmanship.

The original house received a new metal roof and fresh exterior color scheme. A 1985 garage apartment to the building's rear received some love as well, including new wood siding and a new bathroom encased in frosted glass and steel for both everyday use and entertaining. The site's different eras are now a unified, functional whole.

SPARKS HOUSE

R Suzanne & Terry Burgess

Preservation Award for Restoration

This Spanish Renaissance Revival style home, designed by the preeminent Page Brothers architects, is one of the gems of Judges Hill. Its spare but exquisite detailing, including Weigl Ironworks balconets and an elaborate bas relief window surround with capering dolphins, have lent a little bit of the Mediterranean to this neighborhood's incredible collection of Revival style homes since its completion in 1927.

Terry and Suzanne Burgess purchased the home in 2013. An earlier rehab had removed overgrown vines, detrimental to the home's exterior brick, and repaired damaged soffits. The Burgessses went further, restoring character-defining features essential to its original design. The composition-shingle roof was replaced with red tile, an enormous undertaking.



Solarium (Casey Woods Photography)



Sparks House (Preservation Austin)

One of the decorative concrete basins flanking the main façade's "dolphin window" had been badly damaged; the intact basin was removed and used to cast new basins that were then stained to match the originals. Numerous wooden windows were rebuilt with custom-made, energy-efficient, double-paned glass. Interior work included new electrical systems, plumbing, sheetrock, and cabinetry.

The Burgessses completed the project in 2016. That same year they designated their home a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in honor of its original owner, former state treasurer Sam Sparks, and for its exceptional architecture. Their dedication has ensured that one of Judges Hill's architectural treasures will be protected for generations.

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St. Edwards University Main Building (Architexas)

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY MAIN BUILDING + HOLY CROSS HALL

R St. Edward's University
Preservation Award for Rehabilitation
and Restoration

St. Edward's University has been committed to excellence in architecture since its beginning. The school hired lauded Galveston architect Nicholas J. Clayton to design first its Main Building in 1888, then its Holy Cross Hall in 1903. Meticulous restoration work on these stunning Gothic Revival buildings was completed in 2017, with Baldrige Architects as Architect of Record and Design Architect, and Architexas as Preservation Architect.

The Main Building's exterior restoration included cleaning, repairing, and repointing all stonework and brick joints to match the originals. Historic wooden windows, including the bell tower's east rose window, were restored. The architects sourced matching species of wood to replace damaged sash components, and installed new mahogany sashes with low-E glazing where needed. A new pressed-metal shingle roof replaced one installed in the 1980s, and bears a stamped pattern like that of the original.

Holy Cross Hall saw similar exterior

work, including masonry restoration and window repair. Baldrige Architects designed a stunning rehabilitation of its 25,000-square-foot interior, bringing in modern elements that respect the landmark's bones. The former dormitory now houses forty new faculty offices, the student newspaper, collaborative spaces in corridors and stair landings, and more. Light shines in through new interior transoms, and the building's long-leaf-pine wood subfloors were salvaged and re-laid in its corridors.

TUCKER-WINFIELD APARTMENTS

R Elayne Winfield Lansford
Preservation Award for Rehabilitation

Completed in 1939, the Tucker-Winfield Apartments are among a dying breed of historic, small-scale apartment buildings that once provided housing for workers downtown, particularly women. Elayne Winfield Lansford's family has owned the four-unit building for over seventy years, and in 2018 she completed its beautiful rehabilitation with O'Connell Architecture, supported by state historic tax credits through the Texas Historical Commission.

This project repointed the building's eclectic brick exterior where needed and reconstructed a missing entrance awning on a side façade. Original windows and doors, all intact, were restored along with historic light fixtures and brass mailboxes.

Inside, extensive historic features such as telephone nooks, ironing board cabinets, light fixtures, and more were remarkably intact after nearly 80 years of tenants. All were preserved, restored, or matched in-kind. Wood floors were uncovered and refinished. Bathrooms retain their



Tucker-Winfield Apartments (Preservation Austin)

restored tile work, tubs, faucets, and medicine cabinet mirrors. 21st century improvements include tankless water heaters and stacked washer-dryer units. The kitchens have new, period-appropriate casework and flooring.

This project's painstaking efforts to preserve the character and spirit of this rare building are exemplary. Now a City of Austin Landmark and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Tucker-Winfield Apartments are ready to welcome their next generation of tenants.

TWIN HOUSES

R Ada Corral & Camille Jobe
Preservation Award for Addition

These twin houses, and their gorgeous additions, are a testament to historic homes' inherent flexibility and capacity for 21st century living. Developer Bascom Giles built nearly eighty of these modest concrete block bungalows in the Delwood 2 neighborhood next to the original Robert Mueller Municipal Airport in 1947. All shared common design characteristics such as stucco, wide chimneys, and deep eaves.

Camille Jobe and Ada Corral, principals of Jobe Corral Architects, had each lived in Delwood 2 for over a decade before designing strikingly different additions to address common problems, including

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Twin Houses (Casey Woods Photography)

cramped kitchens and too-few bedrooms for their growing families. Both painstakingly restored their homes' steel casement windows and oak parquet floors, balancing these historic features with relatively small additions that emphasize natural light and indoor-outdoor connections. Camille's project connected the new and the old with an elegant open kitchen leading to a spacious living room and master suite. Ada's features a stunning, light-filled living room with double-height ceilings leading to a new master suite and porch.

At heart, these beautifully-designed spaces entail practical updates that have allowed both families to stay in their homes. Both projects blend modern and historic textures in very different ways that preserve the neighborhood's postwar character. We featured these twin houses on our 2018 Homes Tour, and are excited to honor them again.

E. P. WILMOT HOUSE

R John C. Horton III
Preservation Award for Rehabilitation

The E. P. Wilmot House has overlooked Wooldridge Square since 1922. Page Brothers architects designed the Neoclassical-infused home, which features three mantels by master woodcarver Peter Mansbendel. This year John C. Horton III, Wilmot's great-grandson, completed its beautiful rehabilitation into office

space with Clayton & Little Architects, re-awakening the long-dormant landmark and ensuring its place in this historic setting for years to come.

Using original architectural drawings from the Austin History Center, the project revived the building's historic fabric inside and out, from its brick cladding to interior floors and woodwork. The most striking changes were to window openings, including large gabled dormers, many of which had been shuttered or covered by vinyl siding for years. The south façade's former screened porch, enclosed in the 1950s, now features a wide bank of windows. Tired air-conditioning units no longer hang from windows, and new electrical, plumbing, and mechanical systems, along with ADA-compliant bathrooms and an accessible entrance, have readied the building for commercial use. Restored Mansbendel mantels, and an unusual brick flue, completed this one-of-a-kind office space.

ZILKER CARETAKER COTTAGE

R Austin Parks & Recreation Dept.
Preservation Award for Rehabilitation

Completed in 1929, the Zilker Caretaker Cottage stands near Barton Springs Pool in Zilker Park. Architect Hugo Kuehne, an early Parks Board member, designed the rustic Tudor Revival style building with



E. P. Wilmot House (Preservation Austin)

steeply-pitched gables and a multi-colored "peanut brittle" limestone exterior. It was home to the families of Zilker Park caretakers and superintendents from 1935 to 2010. By then, the building was obscured by overgrown greenery and badly in need of work.

PARD utilized scarce funds for a years-long, in-house rehabilitation to transform the former home into its new Ranger Station. The project included a new wood-shingled roof, restoration of multi-paned windows, asbestos and lead remediation, and extensive site work. A 2011 oral history project with the families who lived here illuminated this unique part of the Austin experience. City Council designated the caretaker's cottage a City of Austin Landmark last year. Its grand opening included dedication of a new historical marker and launched the year-long Zilker Park Centennial Celebration.

The Zilker Caretaker Cottage is now headquarters for PARD's Park Rangers,



Zilker Caretaker Cottage (City of Austin Parks & Recreation)

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ambassadors for Austin's park system with a mission to promote responsible recreation, cultivate stewardship, and conserve parks' cultural and natural resources for the benefit of our entire community. This once-private cottage has been given new life serving a new generation of park lovers, including the thousands of children who attend programming here every year.

STEWARDSHIP - BETA XI HOUSE ASSOCIATION

for the Beta Xi Kappa Kappa Gamma House

The Beta Xi Kappa Kappa Gamma House, known as the "Grand Dame of University Avenue," has graced the University of Texas at Austin campus since 1939. It has housed thousands of young women over the years and stands in view the UT Tower, completed just two years earlier.

The Beta Xi House Association launched a \$6 million capital campaign to rehabilitate this Georgian Revival style landmark to serve new generations of students. An all-volunteer board of women managed the project with the help of one employee.

Completed in 2017, the project revitalized historic windows, millwork, and light



Beta Xi House (Preservation Austin)

fixtures. 75-year-old plumbing and electrical systems were replaced. A 5,000-square-foot rear addition required extensive excavation into solid rock, and was constructed with extreme care

to protect the existing structure. ADA compliant ramps and a new elevator ensured the building is fully accessible. It now features new bedrooms, laundry rooms, bathrooms, and a new commercial kitchen serving 175 meals a day. Dedicated study areas with state-of-the-art technologies comprise more than a third of its interior. Capacity has nearly doubled from thirty-eight residents to seventy-one.

The Beta Xi House Association's stewardship means that so many more young women can experience this building, and this history. Their work adapting the Beta Xi Kappa Kappa Gamma House to 21st century needs has ensured its preservation for years to come.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FORKLIFT DANCEWORKS

for "My Park, My Pool, My City"

Artistic Director Allison Orr founded Forklift Danceworks in 2001 with a mission to activate communities through a collaborative creative process. The nonprofit's stated values include equity, collaboration, artistic excellence, and connection, with a core belief that all people are inherently creative. Performances are rooted in long-term ethnographic



and artistic research to celebrate untold stories and the beauty in the movements of our everyday lives. Past projects include performances with city sanitation workers and retired Negro League baseball players.

Forklift's "My Park, My Pool, My City" is a three-year artistic residency in partnership with PARD's Aquatics Division and East Austin communities, co-directed by Orr and Associate Choreographer & Director of Education Krissie Marty. The project explores how Austin's neighborhood pools shape and reflect complex identities at a time when these spaces are threatened by unparalleled infrastructure challenges, particularly in East Austin's minority communities. The trilogy featured Bartholomew and Dove Springs Pools in 2017 and 2018, and will conclude next year.

Performers include neighbors, pool users of all ages, and Aquatics staff from lifeguards to maintenance crews. Dances set to original live music engage stakeholders in civic dialogue about the future of Austin's pools by building trust and understanding at this uncertain time. This project is a beautiful expression of the powerful connection between Austinites and our neighborhood pools, and of the diversity and creative strength that make this city so special.

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Education Committee

To Move, Or Not to Move?

Our annual Greening Your Vintage Home workshop on July 25 explored how moving, and repurposing, existing buildings is a sustainable option for saving them from the landfill when historic designation is out of reach. We were honored to have Sarah Gamble, architect with the Texas Historical Commission's

Main Street Program; Kathy Robinson of the The ReUse People Austin; and Cara Bertron, Deputy Historic Preservation Officer for the City of Austin, as presenters. Many thanks to Education Committee member Marie Oehlerking-Read for masterminding this excellent program, and to CleanTag for their generous sponsorship!



GYVH speakers Sarah Gamble, Kathy Robinson, and Cara Bertron

ABC Otocast Tour Nears Completion (at Last!)

We've said it once and we'll say it again – our newest Historic Austin Tour,



Performers at Brentwood's Capitol Roll, circa 1960. This former skating rink will be featured on our ABC Tour

featuring the postwar neighborhoods of North-Central Austin, is nearing completion! This series of self-guided tours in the free Otocast app features the fascinating stories of neighborhoods and landmarks citywide. Existing tours include Congress Avenue, Old West Austin, Iconic Music Venues and more. Our Allandale, Brentwood and Crestview tour, however, will be the first new content we've released since 2015. Developing each tour is an enormous undertaking; from archival research, to recording audio, to scouting new photography, no fewer than



six Education Committee volunteers have contributed to developing this installment so far, including Rebekah Dobrasko, Rosa Fry, Cyrus Yerxa, Reagan Baechle, Elisha Perez, and Marie Oehlerking-Read. We hope to release this new content by the end of 2018 – it will have been worth the wait! ★

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LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT - PHOEBE ALLEN

Preservation Austin's board is thrilled to bestow our Lifetime Achievement Award on member, volunteer, and advocate Phoebe Allen. Phoebe fell into historic preservation by chance; after 24 years of teaching, she was working at Engelking Communications when Preservation Austin board member Dennis McDaniel asked for research on the Littlefield and Scarbrough Buildings for marketing purposes. Phoebe's research led to Recorded Texas Historic Landmark nominations and exhibits showcasing the buildings' history. She was hooked.

Phoebe has documented many beloved buildings in Austin, including Norwood Tower (with Luci B. Johnson's blessing). Her work includes city, state, and national historic designations. Recent projects are subject markers for Butler Brick at Michael Butler Park, and a plaque marking the Roberta Crenshaw Overlook on Lady Bird Lake.

One of her favorite neighborhoods is Judges Hill. Phoebe did extensive research on the area and, with Maureen Metteauer, produced "The Ghosts of Judges Hill" video about families who lived in its demolished homes. She says, "I have compiled so many family trees for Judges Hill that its ghosts are like my family." The video, funded

in part by Preservation Austin, is still used by AISD. Phoebe has been an integral part of saving Austin's built environment,



shedding new light on previously unknown histories that give us new appreciation for our community's rich heritage. Preservation Austin is honored to have her as part of this organization, and for the skill, knowledge, and passion she shares with us all. ★



President's Message

★ Vanessa McElwrath



It is truly a great honor to serve as the President of the Board of Directors for the 2018-2019 year. Perhaps on the surface, I may seem like an unlikely supporter of preservation, much less Board President. For starters, I'm not a native Austinite, I don't live in a historic home, and I don't have any formal (or informal) background, education, or training in preservation. That said, I've always been fascinated with the way our treasured historic buildings tell stories and create a sense of place. Our buildings tell a lot about us- they give clues to where we have been and provide glimpses to where we are headed.

But more than anything, I just love Austin- its authenticity, its history, and its culture. So after a colleague introduced me to Preservation Austin in 2014, I knew I had to get involved. That year, I joined the Board of Directors and served as Treasurer. Since then, I have twice served as Chair of the Homes Tour and have served on the Finance and Development Committees. I am excited to take on this new responsibility of leadership and I look forward to this upcoming year with great enthusiasm.

As sensible preservation policies are needed now more than ever, my goal for this upcoming year- Preservation Austin's 65th anniversary- is to implement practices and policies to ensure the organization's longevity and its existence for at least another 65 years. As a financial planner, I spend most of my days working with people to examine their goals and build a roadmap to help them get there.

I look forward to working with my fellow board members to do the same for Preservation Austin over the next twelve months.

This past year, board President Ken Johnson set into motion much needed initiatives to increase membership, sponsorship, and awareness of Preservation Austin in the community. So to me, 2018-2019 will be the year of implementation and "follow through" on what we have already started. We will continue to engage new friends, supporters, and ultimately members from our growing and vibrant city. In particular, I look forward to the opportunity to leverage Austin's strong business community to create strategic partnerships that will support Preservation Austin's advocacy efforts and programming for many years to come.

In conjunction with expanding our membership base, I am excited to share our events and programming with wider and more diverse audiences this year. To do so, we will continue our history of partnering with other community groups and organizations such as the Paramount, ReUse People, and Six Square. In fact, we already have something in the works with a strategic partner for one of our biggest annual events- the Homes Tour. Stay tuned for details and announcements soon- this will be a year you won't want to miss! All of these fundraising and community engagement efforts are critical to making our advocacy efforts a reality when it comes to the issues that impact preservation: neighborhood stabilization

through local historic district designation, additional funding for the city's historic preservation program, and continuation of programs to encourage investment in historic properties.

In closing, I would like to personally thank our outgoing Board members, including Tara Dudley, Matt Swinney, and Travis Grieg. I hope you join me in thanking each of them for their many contributions and great commitment to Preservation Austin. Finally, I'm looking forward to working with new board members Allen Wise, IBC Bank; Linda Jackson, Huston-Tillotson; Scott Marks, Coats Rose; Steve Genovisi, Visit Austin. We have some big goals ahead of us on our 65th anniversary, but I've never been more excited to roll up my sleeves and get to work. Please join me in celebrating Preservation Austin's past 65 years, and of course, the next 65 years of "Saving the Good Stuff."

Sincerely,

Vanessa McElwrath
President



PRESERVATION
— AUSTIN —



HERITAGE QUIZ

By Virginia Boswell & Elizabeth Porterfield

Preservation 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 summer contestants for spotting the following properties:

JUNE: St. Edward's University Main Building (3001 South Congress Avenue)

St. Edward's University erected its Main Building in 1888, and rebuilt its almost exact replica after a fire in 1903. Galveston's Nicholas J. Clayton designed the Gothic Revival style landmark using stone from the hillside on St. Edward's property. Its distinguishing feature is a high bell-tower built of white limestone, with a red roof that originally could be seen for miles in every direction of Austin. St. Edward's was a men's Catholic school run by the Congregation of Holy Cross. It became a university in 1925 and during WWII served as an academy and flying school. Women were admitted starting in 1966. The Main Building is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark and, along with Holy Cross Hall, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

★ **Winner: Cathy McLaugherty**

JULY 2018: Stephen F. Austin Hotel (701 Congress Avenue)

To meet the needs of the growing Austin community T.B. Baker, President of Baker Hotels, opened a hotel at this site in 1924, on land previously occupied by the Keystone Hotel. Baker originally planned to name his new ten-story facility "The Texas," but ultimately named it for Stephen F. Austin in response to local interest. Acclaimed Fort Worth firm Sanguinet, Staats and Hedrick designed the Beaux Arts style hotel; local architect Roy L. Thomas represented them in its construction. Another five stories were added in 1938. After a restoration in 2000, the hotel retains much of its original, classically influenced detailing on the interior and exterior and is one of Congress Avenue's most iconic buildings.

★ **Winner: Patricia Albright**

SEPTEMBER 2018: Elisabet Ney Museum (304 E. 44th Street)

This beloved landmark is the former studio of world-renowned sculptor Elisabet Ney (1833-1907). The building was constructed in 1892 under her direction, with the tower and a half-story addition completed in 1902. She called her studio "Formosa," and designed statues of Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston here for the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Elisabet Ney was born in Germany and studied art in Munich. She was a highly distinguished sculptress in Europe before coming to the United States with her husband in 1870. Ney continued to produce significant sculptures throughout her career, including a statue of Albert Sidney Johnston for his gravesite at the Texas State Cemetery and a sculpture of Lady Macbeth now at the Smithsonian Museum. The studio has been a museum since 1909 and includes an extensive collection of her work. "The Ney" is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a designated State Antiquities Landmark, a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, and a City of Austin Landmark.

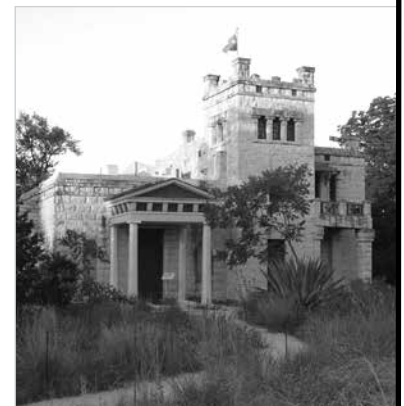
★ **Winner: James Rambin**



St. Edward's University Main Building



Stephen F. Austin Hotel



Elisabet Ney Museum



Grants

Grants Awarded to Boggy Creek Farm and the Millett Opera House

This summer our Grants Committee announced funding for two “bricks and mortar” projects at beloved City of Austin Landmarks:

East Austin’s Boggy Creek Farm, opened in 1992, is home to the historic James Smith Homestead built in 1841. Preservation Austin awarded a \$5,000 matching grant to help cover the cost of restoring fourteen of the Greek Revival farmhouse’s 6/6 wooden windows now in serious need of professional care. A second \$5,000 grant goes to the Foundation for the Preservation of the Historic Millett Opera House, established in 2015 to support restoration and maintenance work at the 1878 Millett Opera House downtown, now home to the Austin Club. This project will include extensively cleaning and repairing all of the building’s windows, doors, and existing painted surfaces to ensure that they will last another 140 years.

Boggy Creek Farm and the Millett Opera House represent such different aspects of Austin’s past, yet both landmarks are incredibly fortunate to be helmed by such passionate owners and stewards. Preservation Austin is thrilled to support these efforts – congratulations to all involved!



Historic windows in need of repair at Boggy Creek Farm

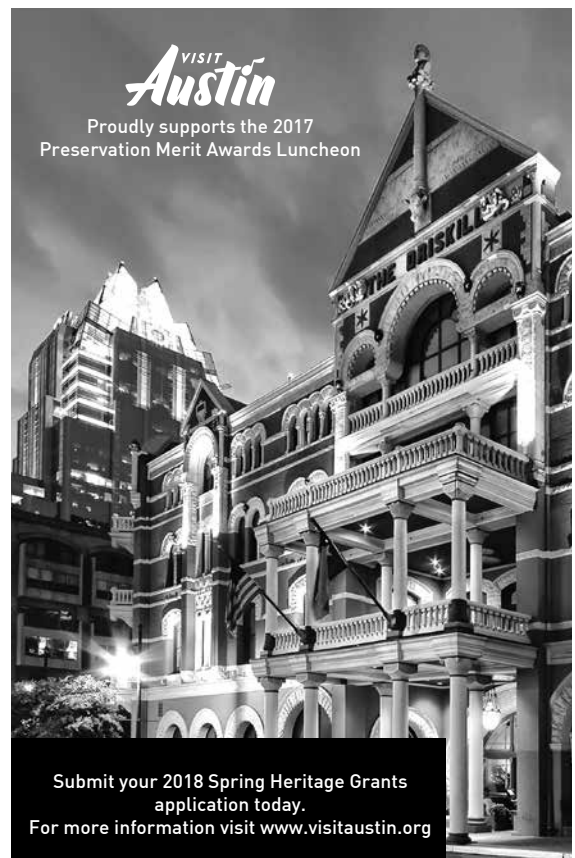
Launched in fall 2016, our grant program offers matching funds of up to \$5,000 on a quarterly basis. Categories include Education, Bricks and Mortar, and Planning/Historic Resource Survey/Local Historic Designation. Nonprofit organizations, neighborhood organizations, public entities, and owners of individual or proposed landmarks may apply. By providing small but impactful grants to important projects citywide, Preservation Austin can affect real change in the preservation and interpretation of the historic places that mean the most to our community.

Our winter grant deadline is December 15! See preservationaustin.org/programs/grants for details. ★

Join us in supporting Boggy Creek Farm! Owners (and Preservation Austin members) Carol Ann Sayle and Larry Butler launched a *GoFundMe* page this past spring to help raise additional funds to restore the homestead’s windows.

To donate, please visit

WWW.BOGGYCREEKFARM.COM/FUNDRAISER



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- Allure Real Estate
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**HERITAGE APPLAUDS
PRESERVATION**

Congratulations to the 2017
Preservation Merit Award
recipients, and thanks to
Preservation Austin for its
leading role in historic
preservation.

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PHOENIX I

would like to recognize
the other craftsmen
who also worked on
the

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PA CALENDAR OF EVENTS • 2018

**OCT
19**

58th Annual Preservation Merit Awards Celebration

Driskill Hotel (604 Brazos, 78701), 11:30am to 1:30pm.
Our annual awards luncheon will celebrate the best
preservation projects from the past two years. Mark your
calendars, and see Page 1 for details!

**DEC
15**

Winter Grant Deadline

PA offers quarterly matching grants of up to \$5,000 for a
wide range of preservation projects. Nonprofits, neighbor-
hoods, public entities, and building owners may apply.

QUARTERLY EVENT

Juggling and Jawing Historic Austin Happy Hours

Our happy hour series with the UT Student Historic Preservation
Association continues! Check our website and social media to
see where we'll be this fall.

★ Visit www.preservationaustin.org for details and tickets today!