



PRESERVATION
— AUSTIN —

PRESERVATION — AUSTIN —

SAVING THE GOOD STUFF

Summer 2018 ★ Volume 22 No. 3



Austin's Vibrant Mural Culture Instills Sense of Community in the Urban Landscape

By Stacey Ingram Kaleh

You can spot them all over social media in the background of selfies and engagement photos, on coasters, mugs, and prints found at local gift shops, featured in tourism ads, and as the subject of news stories. Austin murals have become a popular representation of our city.

However, murals and works of public art are much more than backdrops and promotional tools. They are symbols of our community and its creative spirit. They surprise and delight us, breaking us out of our routines to take note of our unique surroundings. They are a source of pride.

From Daniel Johnston's "Hi, how are you?" on The Drag, to "I love you so much" at Jo's Coffee on South Congress, to the immersive HOPE Outdoor Gallery and many other urban spaces that have been transformed into vibrant canvases, Austin's murals are a significant part of its culture. While some start as commissions, some as graffiti, and some as temporary installations for festivals like SXSW and E.A.S.T., the nature of a mural's origin doesn't necessarily determine whether it stands the test of time and reaches icon status. It is the artists who contribute a sense of authenticity and distinctiveness

to the urban grid. It is the people of Austin and the people for whom we serve as tour guides that give these works meaning. We do so by embracing them, documenting them, and sharing them as expressions of the place we love and the culture we thrive in.

In the case of works that are often expected to be ephemeral, how do we call for preservation? As businesses shift in and out of spaces that house murals, what is their responsibility? Are there resources we can turn to for conservation

Continued on page 3

Call for Nominations: 2018 Preservation Merit Awards

It's that time of the year! Preservation Austin is excited to announce the call for nominations for our 58th Annual Preservation Merit Awards. This program honors the hard work and visionary approaches of those preserving our city's incredible heritage. This includes the rehabilitation of historic properties; outstanding additions; sustainability initiatives; and the preservation of cultural landscapes.

Projects must be located within the City of Austin and completed between January 1, 2016 and the nomination due date of August 3, 2018. Recipients will be honored at our Preservation Merit Awards Celebration luncheon at the Driskill Hotel October 19.

Download the nomination form, due August 3, at preservationaustin.org. Please read the application guidelines carefully!

Questions? Contact Programs Director Lindsey Derrington at programs@preservationaustin.org or 512- 474-5198 ext. 7724. ★



The Darnall House, one of last year's outstanding Preservation Merit Award recipients.






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Murals, continued from page 1

or assistance with the costs of removing vandalism? Do we have adequate policies in place to protect the images that we use to portray our identity as a community? Should murals be protected, or should they be left to run their natural course?

Some local business owners have taken it upon themselves to preserve murals on their properties through restoration. The ever Instagram-worthy “I love you so much” mural at Liz Lambert’s Jo’s Coffee has been restored time and again after at least three different instances of vandalism in its eight years. Johnston’s “Hi, how are you?” has also been restored several times, most recently by David Roberts, who owns “Thai, how are you?,” a Thai restaurant that occupies the space. Roberts researched the history of the mural and was inspired to contact the artist’s family to undertake the restoration and collect photos depicting the building’s history for an installation inside the restaurant.

These are valiant efforts by a few. Imagine what we could do if artists, business owners, city officials, and community members worked together to set the bar for mural preservation and restoration and solidify it in policy, backed up by funding.

The City’s Historic Landmark Commission recently called for comprehensive photo documentation of murals at HOPE Outdoor Gallery in their original context at Castle Hill before they are demolished in June 2018 to make way for new development, recognizing that “...it is a site of value to the community and visitors.” HOPE Outdoor Gallery is maintained by the non profit HOPE (Helping Other People Everywhere) Campaign. The “community paint park” opened in March 2011 with

the help of renowned contemporary artist Shepard Fairey as the only paint park of its kind in the United States and has grown to become one of the top art destinations in Texas, inspiring features in national outlets from *The New York Times* to Conde Nast Traveler. According to the organization’s website, HOPE Outdoor Gallery developed to “provide muralists, street artists, arts education classes and community groups the opportunity to display large scale art pieces driven by inspirational, positive, and educational messaging.” And, the gallery has done just that, serving as a forum and gathering space for locals and visitors alike.

It is noteworthy that the Historic Landmark Commission will require comprehensive photo documentation before demolition, but is this enough to be classified as adequate preservation for an ever-changing, living space? A KXAN report summarizing the Commission’s decision reads, “Once the photo-documentation process is complete, the permit allows crews to demolish all of the concrete walls and slabs on the lot. The commission states that the walls and slabs have, ‘no architectural, historical or known archaeological significance.’” I think it’s also worth examining qualities beyond the physical structure when it comes to determining whether a space is preservation-worthy. If the wall a mural is painted on is not historically significant, what protection does the artwork have? Was it the presence in the heart of a walkable downtown area that made HOPE Outdoor Gallery so visible and engaging? Will it be the same to interact with artwork at Carson Creek Ranch, HOPE Outdoor Gallery’s next home, on the outskirts of the city? Will the new development fulfill the public’s need for,



and interest in, engagement with the arts and cause-oriented activities in this area?

The City of Austin’s *Art in Public Places Artist Resource Guide*, maintained by the Economic Development Department’s Cultural Arts Division, states, “Public art is an investment in the City’s energy and vitality. It contributes to the City in a variety of ways: it enhances the aesthetics of the City, it promotes dialogue within communities, and it generally serves as a reflection of the City’s values, collective memory, and diversification...” I believe this can also be applied to murals, such as those mentioned above, that are not commissioned by the city. The guide also reads, “Maintenance is a critical aspect of preserving the integrity of a work of art for future audiences after the commission has been completed...the AIPP Panel carefully reviews proposed maintenance requirements to ensure that the City will be able to commit the resources necessary to

Continued on page 4

Murals, continued from page 3

maintain the work according to the artist's intention...Selection panels and the AIPP Panel also consider the susceptibility of proposed projects to acts of vandalism." While the city recognizes the need for maintenance and protection and considers whether they can commit to this in the review process for proposed public art projects, they do not outline how the ease of preservation may weigh into a decision and place the responsibility on the artist to outline exactly how to maintain the work.

A staff member with the Art in Public Places Program directed me to a guide for "Mural Creation Best Practices," created by Heritage Preservation's Rescue Public Murals (RPM) with support from the National Endowment for the Arts, as a reference. The guide spells out challenges to mural preservation and suggests techniques for planning and maintenance.

One of the keys to RPM's approach involves planning for a long lifespan from the beginning, and calls for artists and those commissioning artists to carefully select locations and materials that can stand up to weather and graffiti. "While working to ensure the protection and preservation of existing murals," the guide reads, "RPM recognizes that many common issues that murals face could have been mitigated with careful planning and preparation. RPM has held conversations and brainstorming sessions with muralists, conservators, art historians, arts administrators, materials scientists, and engineers to document best practices for mural creation... Recommendations are not meant to be prescriptive but instead to pose questions and raise issues that should be considered at each stage of creating a mural: planning, wall selection, wall and surface preparation, painting, coating,

and maintenance." Another key element the guide highlights is the incorporation of input from a variety of experts. However, community stakeholders are not included on the list of consultants.

What I've found is that artists, business owners, nonprofit organizations, neighborhood residents, and city officials are all taking different approaches to maintain and preserve the murals they know their audiences value. They are working, but not working together. We do not have a commonly referenced and trusted resource that provides leadership in this area.

To the members of Preservation Austin, I'd like to pose the question: What are the steps we can take as a community to protect public works that we value and that are of value to our city? I can see many benefits to having a clear, comprehensive, and accessible preservation plan, as well as a public fund for mural maintenance open to all applicants. And, I'm sure there are many other effective strategies.

There are many challenges to maintaining outdoor works that may not have been created with longevity in mind. Yet, there are actionable steps we can



take. The first is asking questions. The second is speaking up in civic forums and in the media. I'm optimistic about the potential we have when we get involved and work together, which Preservation Austin helps us accomplish. Let's get this discussion started and get organized.

Stacey Ingram Kaleh is a fourth-generation Austinite who serves on PA's Education Committee. She holds an MA in Museum Studies from New York University. ★

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Austin Receives NPS Underrepresented Communities Grant

By Cyrus Yerxa

On December 27, 2017 the National Park Service awarded the City of Austin's Historic Preservation Office a \$43,200 Underrepresented Communities Grant. This grant program seeks to diversify nominations to the National Register of Historic Places nationwide. Austin's Historic Preservation Office will use its allocation to recognize the historical significance of one African American neighborhood and one Hispanic neighborhood in East Austin through two National Register historic district nominations. Austin is just the third Texas community to receive this prestigious honor.

The two nomination areas will be determined this summer using information gathered in the city's *East Austin Historic Resources Survey*, published in 2016 by Hardy-Heck-Moore, Inc., and in collaboration with a group of advisers from each community. Generally, the neighborhoods to be selected will be north of Lady Bird Lake, south of Manor Road, east of I-35 and west of Pleasant Valley Road. Currently the City of Austin is home to eighteen National Register Historic Districts. Willow Spence, Swedish Hill and Santa Rita Courts make up East Austin's National Register Historic District representation.

The National Park Service established the Underrepresented Communities Grant (UCG) in 2014 through the federal Historic Preservation Fund, which serves preservation needs across the U.S. The

grant's main goal is simple — “to diversify the nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.” Over the last four years the UCG has distributed \$2 million among forty-eight projects. This year \$500,000 were allocated among thirteen projects in ten states. In addition to the City of Austin, two Texas communities have received funding from the UCG since its inception. This year Milam County received \$50,000 to aid various National Register nominations related to El Camino Real de los Tejas Rancheria Grande, including Rancheria Grande Archaeological District and other contributing resources found on the Milam County portion of the Royal Road of Texas. In 2016, the border city of Socorro received \$19,800 to fund the National Historic Landmark nomination for Rio Vista Farm Historic District, a major recruitment center for the Bracero Program, an agreement between the U.S. and Mexican governments designed to fill the need for agricultural labor with Mexican immigrants during World War II.

Here in Austin, the impetus for selecting an African American neighborhood and a Hispanic neighborhood is to tell the stories of people who have been excluded from commonly told history. The city's Historic Preservation Office will be taking many steps toward this end. Per the UCG stipulations, the Office must submit a nomination or amendment to the National Register within one year, which it plans to do in the form of two historic district nominations. The Office hopes these districts will foster local appreciation

for these neighborhoods, laying the groundwork for future local historic district and landmark designations which provide stronger regulatory protections. East Austin currently does not have any local historic districts to protect its heritage. Deputy Historic Preservation Officer Cara Bertron says that to help garner attention, the Office will hold “in-neighborhood meetings... plus outreach at community events and online. We'll also work with a consultant on interpretive heritage projects” that relate research findings in an engaging way.

An overarching part of the plan is to demonstrate the benefits of historic preservation more broadly. The Historic Preservation Office will be taking this opportunity to establish relationships with community groups in an effort to better serve their preservation needs for the long run. The Office wants to be in a position to protect these areas from ever-impending development. At the time this article was written, the City of Austin has already issued 350 demolition permits in 2018, according to a city permit database. Bertron is confident that historic preservation can help combat these issues and meet other community goals: “Historic preservation is a tool for recognizing, valuing, and saving community history and individual stories through the built environment. Putting community engagement front and center with this project underscores that.” ★



Knowing What We Have: Austin's Citywide Historic Building Scan

By Cara Bertron

As Austin reinvents itself property by property, how can we preserve the buildings and neighborhoods crucial to telling the full story of the city and its diverse communities?

That's a complicated question. Historic resource identification is an ongoing challenge for cities across the country. Detailed historic resource surveys can take months, if not years, and can be prohibitively expensive. As Austin changes before our eyes, there's simply not time to inventory all properties in detail. Competing priorities mean that limited funding is available for survey work. Finally, it's neither necessary nor practical to record the roof type, window and wall materials, facade composition, architectural ornamentation, and other minute details for every single building within the city.

But having some information is critical to making wise, timely decisions about what to preserve and where to direct limited resources. As preservation professionals and community advocates, we need to know where to prioritize the detailed surveys that form the basis for landmark and historic

district applications. As City staff, we need more information to make strategic decisions on the permit and zoning applications we evaluate daily. Effectively assessing proposed changes to an individual building – from demolition to historic zoning – requires comparing it to similar properties across the city. Is it constructed in a rare architectural style? Does it exemplify a building type prominent in Austin's development history? When looking at a potential historic district, does the neighborhood remain relatively unchanged compared to other neighborhoods constructed at the same time?

This summer, the City of Austin's Historic Preservation Office will aim to collect basic data on nearly 54,000 older buildings throughout the city, using a "character studies" model first developed at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design.* Surveyed buildings are located in every Council district and comprise approximately seventy percent of all buildings constructed before 1973.

Data will be limited to four items: building typology, architectural style, historic integrity, and a photograph, with build dates from

the Travis Central Appraisal District (TCAD). Data analysis will identify the buildings and neighborhoods with distinctive built character that retain enough historic integrity to tell the stories of how they developed. The survey will certainly capture areas with concentrated build dates and architectural styles, but high-integrity areas of all building typologies will also be considered for their storytelling value.

The scan will run approximately three months, beginning in June. Teams of surveyors will collect field data using tablets. Collected data, stored in Geographic Information System (GIS) layers, will be checked for accuracy in real time, then integrated with existing city systems. Photographs will be used for quality control and future reference.

Project outcomes will include recommended areas for detailed historic building surveys, with prioritization based on multiple factors including "hotspots" of similar build dates, architectural styles, historic integrity, and potential for heritage tourism. Additionally, the scan data, along with an accompanying

Continued on page 7



The scan will include many property types across the city, including some properties in National Register historic districts.



Education Committee

Ann S. Graham & Blake Smith, Co-Chairs

Preservation Austin's Education (EDU) Committee continues its good work supporting and developing community engagement opportunities for the organization. If you'd like to get involved in the Education Committee and help increase Preservation Austin's visibility and our impact across Austin, contact Programs Director Lindsey Derrington at programs@preservationaustin.org.

We've been busy these past few months! This year's "Into the Woods" Homes Tour was a great success due in part to our EDU Committee members volunteering as House Captains, and as docents and ticket takers, in addition to EDU Co-Chair Blake Smith's service on the Homes Tour Committee and as a Sponsor.

And, speaking of Homes Tours, our "ABC Tour" - based on our 2016 Homes Tour in the Allandale/Brentwood/Crestview neighborhoods - will go live this summer! You'll find this newest addition to our *Historic Austin Tours* series in the Otocast app, which you can download for free in both iTunes and Google Play. This exciting content will be a great resource to further explore these iconic postwar Austin neighborhoods. In partnership with the Waller Creek

Conservancy, EDU member Kirsten Ronald is training fellow EDU members in how to take oral histories to gather the collective memories of Waller Creek and the Red River corridor. The Waller Creek Conservancy plans to incorporate our community's stories into the historic context for their ongoing parks project. This is a great partnership and we're thankful for the opportunity!

We're planning this summer's annual Greening Your Vintage Home event, scheduled for July 25, about moving historic buildings. EDU will be exploring ways that properties slated for demolition can as a last resort, be moved instead of sending them to the landfill. See Page 14 for details!

After a very successful History Hunt in the Bluebonnet Hills/Travis Heights neighborhood this past February, we already have our sights on next winter's annual youth architectural scavenger hunt for the Guadalupe



Education Committee members relax at the Homes Tour after party following a long day of volunteering!

Neighborhood surrounding the French Legation.

Lastly, we bid adieu to three longtime, terrific volunteers who have contributed so much time, energy and enthusiasm to the EDU Committee - Sara Luduena, Virginia Boswell and Kirsten Ronald! Thank you, we will miss you, and best wishes on your future endeavors!

As always, many thanks to Preservation Austin for providing the staff leadership for the EDU Committee and special thanks to the incredible volunteers who inspire us with their enthusiasm! ★



Citywide Scan, continued from page 6

style guide tracing the evolution of property typologies and architectural styles, will help city staff and community members complete and assess permit and zoning applications.

This is an unprecedented opportunity for Austin. Our last citywide survey was completed in 1984 - nearly old enough to qualify as historic-age itself! - and focused on buildings constructed before 1935. Many

survey sheets contain only a photograph. This scan will cover the full range of local development, from the 1800s to the early 20th century, to Austin's postwar-and-beyond boom. It's not a final preservation product in itself, but it is a strategic, efficient tool to help us - all of us - identify, preserve, and steward important community built fabric and heritage.

**Note: the author helped develop the character studies framework as a graduate fellow at Penn.*

Cara Bertron is the Deputy Historic Preservation Officer at the City of Austin. ★





PA Advocates for More Funding for Heritage Tourism Sites, Historic Preservation Office

By Alyson McGee

Preserving historic places has many benefits – it educates children, adults and visitors about the history of the community, draws tourists looking for authentic experiences, creates jobs for architects, craftspeople, and site operators, generates sales and hotel tax revenues, keeps construction materials out of the landfill, and contributes to the character that makes our community so special. It's for all these reasons every major planning document adopted by city leaders includes goals related to preserving Austin's neighborhoods and heritage.

Preservation Austin always seeks to help meet those goals by improving how the City of Austin addresses and incentivizes the protection of our built and cultural heritage, and how it shares our diverse stories with residents and visitors. We do this by working with city leaders, staff, and partner organizations to develop innovative ideas that increase funding and capacity for new and existing programs.

Hotel Occupancy Tax Revenues & Heritage Tourism

Last year, Preservation Austin Board member Alyson McGee represented the preservation community as a member of the city's Visitor Impact Task Force (VITF) – a group appointed by City Council to review current uses and impacts of Hotel Occupancy Taxes (HOT) on local tourism. The VITF was charged with developing recommendations for utilizing HOT revenues to benefit the city and its tourism industry. The VITF looked at many ways HOT revenues are generated and used, not just historic preservation. The final recommendations included that the city allocate HOT funds for historic preservation up to the maximum allowable by state law, that the existing heritage grant program be transferred from Visit Austin to a new nonprofit or city program, and that the grant eligibility and administration guidelines be revised to increase the number of eligible grant applicants and project types.

After the release of the VITF report in August 2017 City Council directed staff to allocate up to 15% of the total HOT revenues (not dedicated to bond projects) for historic preservation activities allowable by Texas Tax Code Section 351, with a portion to be distributed via a revised grant program. In response, Preservation

Austin asked the city to establish a working group to review the VITF recommendations, examine other successful grant programs, and develop more detailed recommendations for how a revised heritage grant program would be structured. Led by Assistant City Manager Mark Washington and facilitated by Deputy Historic Preservation Officer Cara Bertron, the working group represented the preservation community as well as the hotel, lodging, and tourism sectors.

The Heritage Grant Working Group met regularly between February and May 2018 to develop the following principal recommendations which will be presented to City Council in June:

- Create a Heritage Tourism program as its own division within the Economic Development Department.
- Establish two separate funding allocations from the 15% of HOT revenues set aside for historic preservation, 1) for city departments and initiatives, and 2) for a competitive Heritage Tourism Grant program.
- Develop a citywide Heritage Tourism Plan that directs efforts to tell the complete story of Austin's history.
- Allow grants to be awarded to public, nonprofit and commercial owners (or long-term lessees) of sites visited by tourists, and entities carrying out heritage-related programming for tourists and convention delegates.
- Remove the \$59,000 cap on individual grant amounts.
- Provide increased outreach and grant application support, establish clear criteria that encourages the participation of underrepresented communities, and disburse grants in installments vs. by reimbursement.
- Provide \$2 million of funding in fiscal year 2018-2019 for the Heritage Tourism Department and Heritage Tourism Grant program, including funding for program operations.
- Increase grant program funding in fiscal year 2019-2020 to at least equal the funds allocated for city-owned sites.

The next step is for the City Manager to include the additional staffing and funding in next year's budget proposal, and for City Council to approve those items.

Continued on page 9

Historic Preservation Office and Historic Landmark Commission

Preservation Austin has also been working with Council staff to recommend changes to the Historic Preservation Office and Historic Landmark Commission (HLC) so they can more effectively carry out their responsibilities to protect and enhance neighborhoods, buildings, and sites that reflect Austin’s history.

These efforts have resulted in a City Council Resolution that will be considered at Council’s June 14, 2018 meeting. Sponsored by Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo, and co-sponsored by the Mayor and Council Members Pool, Houston and Kitchen, the Resolution directs the City Manager to consider a number of changes to the historic preservation program and to return to Council with an analysis of the benefits, feasibility, and annual cost of the changes by June 28, 2018.

Preservation Austin developed the following recommendations for how the City Manager might best meet the Council members’ goals:

- Establish a Historic Preservation Planning Division within the Planning & Zoning Department with five new staff positions (in addition to maintaining the existing four historic preservation staff positions) including, but not limited to, a Preservation


Planning Division Manager and two staff positions to provide outreach, education and assistance to the public.

- Provide funding in the FY 2018-2019 Planning & Zoning Department budget to 1) hire the additional staff, 2) hire consultants to re-write the historic preservation sections of the Land Development Code, 3) carry out additional historic resource surveys, and 4) provide staff and HLC with training and adequate legal support during their meetings.
- Improve the public’s ability to participate in the Historic Landmark Commission’s decision-making process by posting backup materials at least three business days prior to meetings, and streamline meetings by identifying if additional cases can be administratively approved.
- Review the current fee structure for historic zoning cases to identify opportunities to increase equity and affordability.

Preservation Austin feels these changes and associated funding will assist the city in preserving our unique and diverse heritage. However, it’s important that Preservation Austin not be the only voice heard.


If you support increased funding for heritage tourism activities and giving the historic preservation staff and HLC tools to more effectively preserve our heritage, please contact our new City

Manager, Spencer Cronk, and your City Council member. Let them know resources must be allocated to meet the goals identified by the citizens of Austin in the *Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan*, the *Downtown Austin Plan* and the *Strategic Direction 2023*, all of which call for identifying, documenting, and preserving Austin’s historic sites and neighborhoods. ★



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★ ◇ 26th Annual Homes Tour Recap



Into the Woods, our 26th Annual Homes Tour, was all we hoped it would be and more - gorgeous homes, beautiful weather, and happy crowds celebrating Cherrywood, Delwood, and Wilshire Wood. This year's event showcased a range of architectural

styles, contemporary renovations, and historic features. Adapted to 21st century life for all kinds of families, these postwar homes were powerful illustrations of how preservation is not a one-size-fits all movement, but a jumping off point for finding creative ways to embrace our past while moving into the future. We hope that, by showing these successes, we inspired others to preserve instead of demolish, to appreciate instead of dismiss. For our part, we had a ball exploring this fascinating part of our city,

and were blown away by the homeowners working to preserve these neighborhoods.

We're so grateful to our featured homeowners; to our Homes Tour Committee and House Captains; to our volunteers; and to the more than 800 folks who attended. Preservation Austin extends our sincerest thanks to our generous sponsors as well; the Homes Tour is our nonprofit's most important fundraiser, and its proceeds sustain our programming and advocacy throughout the year. ★

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Photos courtesy of Leonid Furmansky Architectural Photography



President's Message

★ Ken Johnson



It all started quietly enough, with an advertisement in the “Personals” section of the April 26, 1953 *Austin American* reading, “At last it has happened! Austin has finally waked up - waked up [sic] to the heed of an agency to help preserve its history and its fine old buildings. This past week was born The Heritage Society of Austin, an organization with the avowed purpose of carrying on for future generations the traditions and history of the past.” Now, as we celebrate our 65th birthday, Preservation Austin is further from retirement than that day in 1953 - we are preparing for the next sixty-five years.

When Preservation Austin was founded as the Heritage Society of Austin in 1953, the city housed around 140,000 people, but their vision to preserve the buildings unique to Austin’s culture and history was prescient. Now close to one million people call Austin home and many more visit our city each year. There are many reasons why they come, but it’s rarely the temperate summer climate. Good food, great music, open green space and small town feel with big city opportunities are often mentioned. The fabric of the city center and core neighborhoods accommodates and enhances these experiences.

While our past efforts, and those of most preservation organizations, often focused on important individual buildings, their occupants, and their materials, we see passion and interest increasingly poured into stories told by districts and neighborhoods. Monumental architecture and sites deserve continued preservation,

but many have protections already in place and their stories can only be enhanced by broader supporting narratives. For example, not only could visitors learn about the Texas Capitol, they could wander across the highway and learn about the family of masons who laid the stone supporting its dome.

Just as Austin has grown ten-fold in the past sixty-five years, we can expect continued growth and change in the next sixty-five. We at Preservation Austin look ahead to opportunities to share the stories of Austin’s places with neighbors and tourists, new and old. In doing so, we think about avenues to branch out and tell more stories. Increasing focus on East Austin’s Hispanic and African American neighborhoods helps understand and celebrate their experiences and contributions to the city. Many times, these buildings and places don’t fit classic preservation criteria - so we must adapt and find ways to designate these neighborhoods that are so important to Austin’s culture. They tell of the changes Austin has endured over the years and how we look ahead together.

We can take the lessons learned from studying older neighborhoods and places to inform good land use and environmental policy. Modern zoning laws and studies can suffer from myopia and apply unneeded rules that miss important marks in shaping neighborhoods. Historic houses were more often than not built from local materials and designed to accommodate local climates - lessons that can be emphasized with modern home builders today.

Finally, Preservation Austin will continue advocating for historic resource surveys. These help determine - in advance of demolition threats - the important areas and individual buildings that can be proactively recognized and celebrated. Not every designation may need big P preservation - conservation and compatible adaptive reuse are often just as successful for stories that don’t require every nail and board to be period-correct.

As we celebrate our 65th birthday and move forward, we’re looking ahead to future generations and leaders joining us to tell the stories from every part of Austin and keep the history alive for longtime neighbors and visitors alike. Happy Birthday Preservation Austin - here’s to sixty-five more years!

Ken Johnson
President



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HERITAGE QUIZ

By Virginia Boswell

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 winter and spring contestants for spotting the following properties:

JANUARY: The Academy (404 Academy Drive)

The Mather-Kirkland House, also known as "The Academy," was built in 1889 for Myron D. Mather, President of the Austin Water, Light & Power Co. While the architect is unknown, it is said that the Stick/Eastlake/Queen Anne style home was partly constructed from leftover granite from the 1888 completion of the Texas Capitol. It was briefly owned by Texas Supreme Court Justice Leroy G. Denman in 1897, but got its nickname "The Academy" during the 1920s when it served as the Austin Military School. The house was written up in the 1920s for its elaborate landscaping, limestone garden arches and lighted pathways, called "The Garden of Dreams." In the 1940s Roy and Elithe Kirkland purchased the home, and Roy used the living room as his exam room as he was an osteopath and surgeon. The house was finally bought and restored in the 1980s by Hugh and Claudette Lowe. They carefully restored the woodwork and floors. Eventually architects used an old photo of the house to recreate the belvedere, which gives 360-degree views of Austin. It is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark and listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

★ **Winner: Bob Biard**

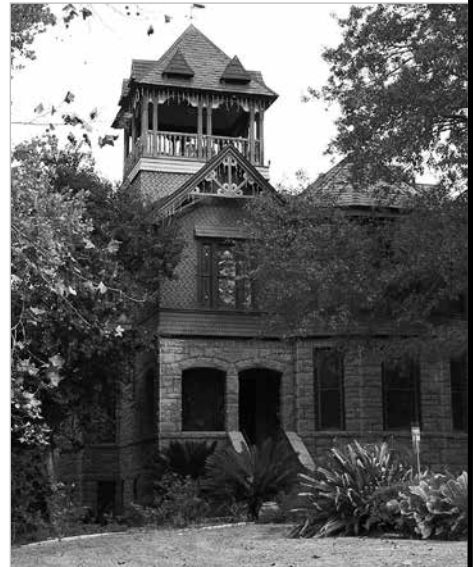
FEBRUARY: The Walter Tips House (2336 South Congress Avenue)

The Walter Tips House was built in 1876. Walter was a prosperous hardware merchant, a native of Germany and a Confederate veteran. He also served in the Texas Senate from 1893-1896. This Victorian Era house was remodeled in 1909 to its present appearance. It originally stood adjacent to the Bremond Block downtown but, when slated for demolition in 1975, was rescued by Franklin Savings Association and moved to its current location on the corner of South Congress and Oltorf with financial support from Preservation Austin (then known as the Heritage Society of Austin). Tips' Gothic Revival style hardware store, a City of Austin Landmark, remains at 710 Congress Avenue and was built at the same time. The Tips House dates to the Reconstruction Era, when many of Austin's finest Victorian Era houses were built.

★ **Winner: Susan Kennedy**

MARCH: O. Henry Museum - William Sidney Porter House (409 E. 5th Street)

This L-shaped Victorian cottage was constructed in 1886 in a simplified version of the Eastlake style, with decorative wood ornamentation on the veranda and projecting bay. William Sydney Porter settled in Austin in 1884, taking various jobs including working in a drug store and becoming a real estate agent. Porter



The Academy



Walter Tips House



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HERITAGE QUIZ *(continued)*

and his family moved into this house in 1893 when he started editing a weekly called *The Rolling Stone*. Porter moved away in 1895, but was summoned back to Austin to stand trial for embezzlement of funds from the First National Bank, where he had worked as a teller. Porter fled but was eventually caught and sent to prison where he wrote under the name O. Henry. He moved to New York following his release from prison in 1902 and continued to write, gaining international fame. His residence in Austin was opened as a museum in 1934, and has remained basically unchanged. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and operated by the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department.

★ **Winner: Linda Strickel**

APRIL: Driskill Hotel (604 Brazos Street)

In 1884 Colonel Jesse L. Driskill purchased half a city block at 6th and Brazos streets. Driskill was a cattle king who moved to Austin in 1869. His new cream-colored brick and limestone hotel was designed by Jasper N. Preston & Son with massive Richardsonian Romanesque-arched entrances and two-story porches with Romanesque Revival style columns. The Driskill Hotel was one of the grandest in Texas, opening Christmas 1886. Financial difficulty followed and the hotel changed ownership. A fifteen-story annex was completed in 1930, and in 1970 when the hotel was again threatened with closing, Preservation Austin (then the Heritage Society of Austin) mounted a successful campaign to save and rehabilitate it. The Driskill Hotel is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

★ **Winner: Amanda Dotson**

MAY: Texas School for the Deaf (1102 S Congress Avenue)

In 1856 the Texas Legislature established the Texas Deaf and Dumb Asylum, which became the Texas School for the Deaf. Trustees selected a fifty-seven acre tract, located just south of the tiny capital, with a two-room cottage, three log cabins, and an old smokehouse to serve as a school room. In the summer of 1857 the school had eleven students, including Emily Lewis, whose account of the school's history portrays hard work and self-sufficiency. The 20th century brought about many changes to the campus. The area was annexed by the City of Austin in the 1890s, and the Travis Heights and Bouldin Creek neighborhoods grew around it. Beginning in 1955 several of the school's grand, late-19th century buildings were razed for a completely new mid-century master plan. In 1965 the formerly-segregated School for the Deaf merged with the Texas Blind, Deaf and Orphan School for African American children. In 1989 the legislature appropriated funds for a significant renovation of the south campus, designed by Barnes Architects. Alumni and staff recall the long-standing, twin-towered main building that was demolished in 1956.

★ **Winner: Rick Chafey**



O. Henry Museum - William Sidney Porter House



Driskill Hotel



Texas School for the Deaf



Inherit Austin

Haley Wilcox, IA Secretary

Inherit Austin was thrilled to host the historic bungalow at 1414 Brentwood Road as part of Preservation Austin's Homes Tour this year. It was a hot day, but we had a great turnout!

Speaking of hot, Inherit Austin is heating up for some great events in 2018! Keep your eyes peeled for the date of an exclusive tour of Flower Hill, a historic homestead in Clarksville not normally open to the public.

We're in full-blown planning mode for this year's Somewhere in Time, which will take place on September 16 in the historic industrial area of South Austin known as St. Elmo. We're very excited about this year's SIT so save the date! It'll include live music, cocktails, beer, booze history,

and stories about the history of this industrial area that has been active since the 1950s—back when St. Elmo was its own municipality! We're thrilled to be a part of bringing awareness to this unusual but significant part of Austin's history.

We want to thank our generous 2018 Egg-stravaganza Business Sponsors from this spring, including Clayton & Little, McKinney York Architects, and Heather & Patrick Nichols. Your support made this year's family event at the French Legation possible!

Help us show some love to the historic signs of Austin by using the hashtag #signsofthetimesATX when you're around



Inherit Austin at Preservation Austin's 2018 Homes Tour.

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! ★

Greening Your Vintage Home: To Move, or Not to Move?

Wednesday, July 25
6pm to 8pm

\$15 for Members, \$20 for Non-Members
Preservation Austin (500 Chicon, 78702)



the historic context of building moving here and around Texas, and more.

Sarah Gamble – Architect and Preservation Specialist, Texas Main Street Program

Kathy Robinson – Austin Area Associate, The ReUse People

Cara Bertron – Deputy Historic Preservation Officer, City of Austin Historic Preservation Office

Light refreshments provided. Seating capacity is limited, so purchase your tickets today at preservationaustin.org/events/

Presented by PA's Education Committee. ★

Historic zoning provides demolition protection, but what if a threatened building stands outside a local historic district or fails to meet the criteria to become a city landmark? This happens all too often in Austin, and all too often these buildings end up in the landfill. In the past seven years alone, our city has seen 1,773 residential demolitions – nearly as many as in the previous twenty-nine years combined. Moving historic buildings, however, offers a sustainable alternative to throwing away our heritage, even though it sometimes runs counter to traditional preservation practices.

Join Preservation Austin for this year's installment of Greening Your Vintage Home to explore the world of moving historic buildings! We'll hear from architect Sarah Gamble about her recent experience moving a threatened carriage house from South Austin to her Ridgetop home; from Kathy Robinson of the nonprofit The ReUse People about her work facilitating materials salvage and house moving; and from Cara Bertron, the city's Deputy Historic Preservation Officer, about how moving and deconstruction align with some historic preservation values—and how we can prevent the need for moves in the first place. Topics include case studies, permitting,



Our New & Renewing Members



WATERLOO CIRCLE

Paula and Lee Aaronson
Suzanne Deal Booth
Kent and Reenie Collins
Jill and Stephen Wilkinson

ADVOCATE

Carlos Puentes and Nancy O'Bryant Puentes

FRIEND

David Depwe
Bill Hart and Liz Barhydt

SUSTAINING

Nancy Whitworth
Edward Henry
Kevin Koch and Robert Schmidt
Angie Croslin
Matthew Best
David Sullivan and Mary Baughman

PARTNER

Charles and Sylvia Betts
Charles and Carrielu B. Christensen
Elaine and Michael Kasper
Wynnell Noelke
Austin Pfister

HOUSEHOLD

Charles Ansley
Jackie Brooks
Ada Corral and Matthew Ames
Marcia Desy
Katie and Frank Farkash
Jeff Folmar
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Camille and Bryan Jobe
Leah and James Nyfeler
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Kenneth Pfluger and Kay Planting
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PA CALENDAR OF EVENTS • 2018

**JUL
25**

Greening Your Vintage Home: To Move, or Not to Move?

Our Education Committee's annual sustainability workshop will explore the fascinating world of house moving and materials salvage as a sustainable alternative to sending historic buildings to the landfill. See Page 14 for details.

**AUG
3**

2018 Preservation Merit Awards Nominations Due

Nominate your favorite preservation project or advocate! See Page 2 for details.

**AUG
21**

AUGUST 21: 65th Birthday Party and Annual Meeting

Native Hostel (807 East 4th Street, 78702), 6pm to 8pm. Celebrate our nonprofit's 65th birthday with this very special Annual Meeting! Have a drink, meet fellow preservation lovers, and learn more about PA's education and advocacy efforts.

**SEP
15**

Fall Grant Deadline

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

**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 stay tuned for details!

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 summer and fall.

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