



PRESERVATION  
— AUSTIN —

# PRESERVATION — AUSTIN —

SAVING THE GOOD STUFF

Fall 2020 ★ Volume 24 No. 2



**A**s we celebrate sixty years of our Preservation Merit Awards program, we're grateful to our 2020 recipients for bringing together so much of what we love about Austin – iconic brands investing in local landmarks, modest buildings restored with big impact, homeowners honoring the legacies of those who came before, and community efforts that celebrate our shared heritage. These projects represent what historic preservation looks like in the 21st century. We hope you'll enjoy learning about them as much as we did, and that you'll follow us on social media for special

video shorts that bring these buildings to life through pictures and narration (@preservationaustin on Facebook and Instagram).

**During these uncertain times it's more important than ever to celebrate these places and their stories, past and present. Thank you for your membership and for your continued support – you make all of this important work possible.**

Many thanks to our incredible 2020 Preservation Merit Awards Jury, including

professionals from the preservation, design, and nonprofit worlds who together selected exemplary projects with real community impact: **Erin Dowell**, Senior Designer, *Lauren Ramirez Styling & Interiors*; **Melissa Ayala**, Community Engagement & Government Relations Manager, *Waterloo Greenway Conservancy*; **Murray Legge**, FAIA, *Murray Legge Architecture*; **Elizabeth Porterfield**, Senior Architectural Historian, *Hicks & Company*; and **Justin Kockritz**, Lead Project Reviewer, Federal Programs, *Texas Historical Commission*.

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**SAVE the DATE**

## HILL COUNTRY DECO: LECTURE

**Thursday, November 12**  
**Free, RSVP Required**

**7pm to 8:15pm**  
**Virtual/Zoom**

Using vibrant original photography and historic images, authors David Bush and Jim Parsons will trace the history and evolution of modernistic architecture in Central Texas during a special online program for the Preservation Austin community. Their virtual presentation, *Hill Country Deco*, will showcase examples of Art Deco, Art Moderne and WPA Deco architecture and public art, from the refined lines of Austin’s Depression-era United States Courthouse to the sweeping curves of San Antonio’s Alameda Theater.

David Bush is executive director and Jim Parsons is programs director for Preservation Houston. They are the co-authors of four award-winning books on Art Deco architecture in Texas: *Houston Deco*, *Hill Country Deco*, *Fair Park Deco* and *DFW Deco*. A 45-minute virtual presentation will be followed by a special Q/A with the authors.

**RSVPs are required for this free program!** Email Executive Director Lindsey Derrington ([lindsey@preservationaustin.org](mailto:lindsey@preservationaustin.org)) to reserve your space by Thursday, November 12 at noon. Use “Deco RSVP” in the subject line. Preservation Austin will distribute the access code the afternoon of the event. ★





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★ ♦ **STAFF**

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# 2020 PRESERVATION MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS



Photo by Atelier Wong

## **BAKER SCHOOL**

❖ **Tim & Karrie League**

### **Preservation Award for Rehabilitation**

This 1911 school building stands on Avenue B in the Hyde Park Local Historic District. Neighborhood mothers advocated for years for its construction to replace an earlier, substandard school that presented dangerous learning conditions for local children. Over the years it served as an elementary school, a middle school, and a high school before becoming administrative offices for the Austin Independent School District in the 1990s.

Alamo Drafthouse Cinemas purchased the vacant building in 2017. Founded in 1997 by longtime preservationists Tim and Karrie League, this iconic Austin brand owns theatres across our city and across the nation. Working with Weiss Architecture and Zapalac Reed Construction, they set about transforming Baker School into Drafthouse's corporate headquarters at the heart of this historic neighborhood.

The project focused on reviving historic

features and preserving existing floorplans for use as open work areas and offices. Drop ceilings, fluorescent lighting, faux wood paneling, carpeting, and VCT flooring were peeled away to reveal original beadboard ceilings, crown molding, pendant lights, transoms, wainscoting, and original oak and terrazzo floors.

New light fixtures match the originals. Interiors were restored to their original color schemes, found under layers of chipped paint, and historic trim was carefully restored to the original stain finish.

This classic rehabilitation shows the flexibility and potential of historic school buildings. As Austin faces more potential school closures on the horizon, we are all called to find creative and sustainable ways to honor this heritage while serving today's businesses and families. The Leagues are pursuing local, state, and national historic designations for this gorgeous building.

## **Mary Baylor House**

❖ **Thomas Schiefer &**

**Meghann Rosales**

### **Preservation Award for Rehabilitation**

The Mary Baylor House stands in Clarksville, established by formerly enslaved Austinites after the Civil War. The West Austin community

refused to give up their homes in 1928 when the city codified segregation by denying basic services to Black families outside of East Austin. Clarksville went without sewers, paved streets, or schools for decades.

Mary Baylor lived in this 525-square-foot home with her family of seven at midcentury. The lifelong Clarksville advocate was director of the Clarksville Neighborhood Center, led the fight against the construction of MoPac, and founded the Clarksville Community Development Corporation in 1978, which continues to preserve history, build community, and provide affordable housing today.

By 2014 the Baylor House was vacant and proposed for demolition. Thomas Schieffer and Meghann Rosales had long admired its simple, working-class architecture, and purchased the property that year. Rehabbing the house without the aid of architects or contractors was a true labor of love.

They replaced the cedar foundation with concrete piers, installed new plumbing and electrical systems, refinished original floors, and repaired aging siding, doing all



Photo by Ana Sierra

*Continued on page 4*

this work themselves. Countless neighbors stopped by to tell stories about how Mary Baylor touched their lives and to help with the work during this six-year project.

Their beautiful home stands in the Clarksville National Register Historic District, an honor which comes with scarce protections against rampant demolition. Thomas and Meghann are in the process of designating the Mary Baylor House a City of Austin Landmark to ensure its preservation for generations.



Photo by Leonid Furmanskyy

## **BKCW Insurance**

♣ **Meredith & Tyler Spears**

**Preservation Award for Rehabilitation**

This 1960 branch office for Dallas' Southland Life Insurance Company sits above North Lamar Boulevard across from historic Pease Park. Its classic modernist form features a sleek horizontal volume supported by concrete pilotis, with banks of windows facing downtown.

Fast forward to 2016, and the building had lost much of its luster. Severe erosion of

its hillside site caused serious foundation issues, while neglected landscaping ran wild. Dark interiors had been subdivided over the years.

Meredith and Tyler Spears, owners of BKCW Insurance, saw past these limitations. Excited about its location and incredible potential, they enlisted Mark Odom Studio and Franklin Alan for a stunning office rehabilitation to support their company's collaborative culture.

Extensive site work reinforced the hillside and diverted water away from the building. Energy-efficient steel-framed windows were designed to match the originals. New courtyards frame interior meeting rooms, creating intimate spaces inside and out.

A new roof, and new interior columns, shifted structural loads to open the floor plan. The project added just 12 inches to the building's height, using salvaged brick from the rear façade to conceal new HVAC ductwork.

Natural light floods the interior, with original brick and banks of windows visible from every angle. Interiors by The Renner Project feature elegant midcentury finishes.

The project artfully adapted this space to modern needs, peeling back nature to bring out the sculptural beauty of this midcentury landmark.

## **The Carpenter Hotel**

♣ **The Mighty Union**

**Preservation Award for Rehabilitation + Addition**

Austin Carpenters Local 1266 completed

its new union hall on South Lamar in 1949, just south of Lady Bird Lake. The modest building hosted meetings, educational events, dances, turkey dinners, and barbecues for union members and the ladies auxiliary under 2014, when the chapter relocated.

The property's prime location, spacious lot, and flexible zoning made it a target for demolition and redevelopment. But Jack Barron, Jen Turner, and Donald Kenney of The Mighty Union hospitality group saw its potential for something different. They embarked on visionary project with Specht Architects and DPR to translate the hall's utilitarian character and history into the Carpenter Hotel.

The 1949 building now serves as the hotel's reception, restaurant, and coffee shop. Steel casement windows were lovingly restored, and the original "Carpenter's Hall" signage left in place. Pecan trees were retained wherever possible, with damaged trees sawn into boards and incorporated into the gorgeous interiors.

A new four-story building houses 93 guest

*Continued on the next page*



Photo by Chase Daniel

rooms and parking. It features a rough concrete frame with terra cotta infill from San Antonio's D'Hanis Brick and Tile Company, along with steel oil-drilling pipes repurposed to striking effect.

An open corridor frames a shaded pool, courtyard, and Quonset-hut styled pavilion – a nod to its postwar origins. Preservation of the historic building's scale, and these connective outdoor features, honor the site's past while creating spaces that feel uniquely Austin.

This remarkable project weaves color and texture, new and old into a cohesive whole. Carpenter Hall serves travelers and locals alike, as its owners intended.

## Central Machine Works

❖ Aaron Ashmore, Andrew Ashmore, Rosa Santis, John Scott

Preservation Award for Rehabilitation

East Austin's Capitol Machine Works opened in 1940, and crafted airplane parts and transport trailers during World War II. Michael Bennett began working in the space at age fifteen and eventually became its owner. Renamed Central Machine Works, his shop fabricated custom parts here until 2015.

Austinites Rosa Santis and John Scott, and Aaron and Andrew Ashmore, fell in love with the building and opened Central Machine Works Brewery and Beer Hall here in 2019. This inspiring project with Maker Architects, Kartwheel Studio, and GC IE2 embraces the shop's industrial aesthetic and celebrates its legacy as a place of creation, where things are made.

Central Machine Works is now home to a 15BBL brewery, beer hall, tap room,

beer garden, and gallery space for local artists. The project preserved the building's corrugated metal siding and original steel-framed windows, which were abated and restored. Original steel doors were preserved where possible, while new pivot doors improved connections at the main entrance and beer garden.

Salvaged materials found onsite were incorporated into a complimentary material palette of raw steel, concrete, and slate. The original 18,000-pound lathe is proudly displayed in the tap room.

Central Machine Works is a powerful example of how historic spaces continue to inspire today's generations to build and create. Big, welcoming, and beautiful, it serves as an example to others looking to shape new spaces in industrial East Austin.

## The Perch

❖ Jeff Harper & Mark Seeger  
Preservation Award for  
Rehabilitation + Restoration

Charles Granger was one of Austin's architectural greats. He worked under icons Richard Neutra and Eliel Saarinen, and after World War II his own firm, Fehr & Granger, brought national attention to Central Texas modernism. Like so many young architects, his early works include his own home, The Perch, completed in 1938.

This historic garage apartment stands amongst massive live oaks in Judges Hill, though its International Style design would fit comfortably in European cities of the



Photo by Andrea Calo

time. The Grangers lived here before building a larger house, on the same site, for their growing family in 1951.

Jeff Harper and Mark Seeger restored the main house in 1999, and have protected both The Granger House and The Perch through city, state, and national historic designations. Their meticulous restoration of The Perch, completed in 2019 with architect Jay Farrell and 22 Construction, brings this stewardship full circle.

Exterior work included patching stucco and



Photo by Leonid Furmanskyy

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*Merit Awards, continued from page 5*

returning its 1938 texture. The original front door, with its classic porthole window, was found in the garage and reinstalled.

Interior changes restored materials' texture and warmth. The project removed layers of paint from fir wall panels and wooden built-ins. Oak floors were sanded and stained, and tilework restored throughout. Steel casement windows and pipe columns were cleaned and returned to their original hues.

State and federal historic tax credits supported work on this home, rented to a longtime tenant's family of three. The project is remarkable for its architecture, for its attention to detail, and for its owners' dedication.

## Commodore Perry Estate

❖ Clark Lyda

**Preservation Award for Rehabilitation**  
+ Cultural Landscape

Edgar and Lutie Perry built this gracious villa along Waller Creek at the height of the Roaring Twenties. Perry, a cotton broker and philanthropist, was an early champion of Lyndon B. Johnson. The Perrys sold their home in 1944, stating that it was "A great place to throw a party, but too big to live in." St. Mary's Academy operated here until 1972, and a long series of schools followed.

Clark Lyda fell in love with the estate as a child and attended high school here in the 1970s. In 2015, he partnered with The Marchbanks Company on a years-long rehabilitation of the house and grounds into The Commodore Perry Estate, a private club and hotel operated by Auberge Resorts.

This stunning project has brought new life to this Italian Renaissance Revival style home and terraced gardens. Work included cleaning and repairing exterior concrete stucco and cast stone architectural details; restoring existing windows, including a gorgeous leaded glass peacock at the entrance; and preserving woodwork, plaster moldings, hand-wrought ironwork, and historic tile floors and walls.

Color and texture abound throughout the main building's gathering spaces and guest suites. The Gothic Revival chapel, built in 1949, now serves as event space. Contemporary buildings, designed to be compatible with the originals, include guest rooms and a restaurant. Clayton & Little Architects oversaw preservation work with Rogers O'Brian. Ten Eyck was the landscape architect and the vibrant interiors are by Ken Fulk.

This Central Austin oasis represents a rare kind of creativity and vision, past and present. The passion behind this project, and its attention to detail, are evident throughout this incredible space.

## Rosewood

❖ Chas & Laura Spence,  
Jesse DeLeon  
**Preservation Award for Rehabilitation**



Photo by Chase Daniel

This Queen Anne home stands at Rosewood Avenue and 11th Street. City council member Harry S. Haynes built the home in 1890, and Black pharmacist Dr. Thomas DeLashwah moved here in 1917. DeLashwah owned a popular soda fountain, sponsored Negro League baseball, and organized the popular "La Palm" orchestra. His longtime family home's prominent location and whimsical design have made it a beloved East Austin landmark.

Chas and Laura Spence purchased the property with Chef Jesse DeLeon in 2016. They fell in love with the neglected home and saw an opportunity to create welcoming spaces to gather and dine. Rosewood, a Gulf Coast Chophouse, opened here two years

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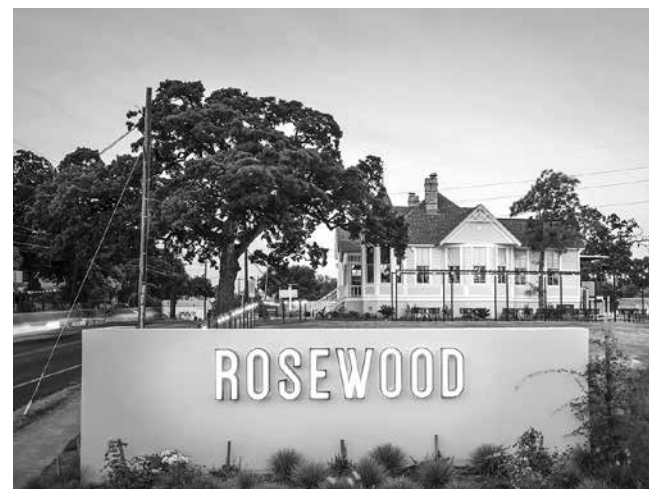


Photo by Chase Daniel

Merit Awards, continued from page 6

later. This beautiful adaptive reuse project with Mark Odom Studio and Fine Line Construction took a “do no harm” approach to reviving its architecture.

Designers preserved the interiors’ residential feel to create intimate spaces steeped in layers of history. Contemporary colors, fabrics, and tiles bring modern flare to Victorian Era millwork and fireplaces. A 500-square-foot kitchen addition minimizes the impact of this much-needed space, both inside and out.

The Rosewood team’s connection to the home runs deep. For DeLeon, it reminds him of his childhood in Victoria, TX, while its history resonates with his own father’s career as a minority doctor. They celebrated their 2018 opening by collaborating with Raasin in the Sun for an on-site piece called “The Hands that Nurture Us” by local muralist Ernesto Cheche, which pays tribute to DeLashwah and to Dr. Ulysses Young, two of East Austin’s African American medical pioneers.

### Shipe Park Shelter House

❖ City of Austin Parks & Recreation Department, Friends of Shipe Park, Austin Parks Foundation  
Preservation Award for Rehabilitation

Shipe Park stands just west of the Elisabet Ney Museum in the Hyde Park Local



Photo by Lindsey Derrington

Historic District. This was one of the first neighborhood parks opened after the city’s 1928 plan called for a new parks system. Early parks benefited from new shelter houses supporting athletics, dancing, and crafts. The Shipe Park Shelter House is one of just four that remain today.

Completed in 1930, its unusual design takes inspiration from 19th century dogtrot cabins. These rustic homes featured two rooms separated by a central breezeway. Here in Shipe Park, rooms feature bathrooms and storage space, with plenty of shade for play in between.

A 2017 conditions assessment by Limbacher & Godfrey Architects showed serious deterioration of the shelter’s roof and log walls. City of Austin Parks & Recreation Department architects worked with Phoenix I Restoration and Construction, Ltd. for a careful rehabilitation with funding support from the Austin Parks Foundation and the Friends of Shipe Park, completed this year.

The project included a new cedar shake roof and repair of the log walls, with dutchman repairs addressing localized deterioration and in-kind replacement for extensive rotting; replacement of chinking and daubing, with new daubing matched in color and type to the original; and new exterior lighting designed to be compatible with the building’s age and use.

This beautiful project ensures that this landmark continues to serve generations of families from Hyde Park and beyond.



Photo by Lindsey Derrington

### Old Austin Neighborhood Association

❖ Special Recognition for Public Service: Historic Resource Survey of Downtown Austin

The Old Austin Neighborhood Association, or OANA, represents the western side of downtown, with history dating to Edwin Waller’s original city plan from 1839. OANA advocates, protects and enhances values such as historic preservation, environmental conservation, and improving the pedestrian experience of this dense urban neighborhood.

In 2019 OANA’s board decided to sponsor a historic resource survey. Grassroots fundraising included contributions from members and stakeholders. Organizers partnered with the City of Austin to receive a Certified Local Government grant, administered through the Texas Historical Commission, along with a matching grant from Preservation Austin.

HHM & Associates implemented the survey, supplementing efforts with pro bono services and OANA volunteers. The survey area is generally bounded by

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Colorado Street, North Lamar Blvd., West 15th Street, and West 5th Street.

Historic resources span two centuries, including the Heman Marion Sweatt Travis County Courthouse, a civil rights landmark; Republic Square, home to Austin's early 20th century Mexico neighborhood; and the former Austin High School, now home to ACC's Rio Grande Campus. 19th century homes mix with midcentury landmarks, including the incomparable Westgate Tower.

The survey is an essential planning tool to advocate for compatible growth and development. It identifies significant landmarks and recommends buildings and districts for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and recommends historic zoning at the local level to protect resources from demolition amidst Austin's downtown boom.

## Public City

### ❖ Special Recognition for Education: EastLink Trail Interpretive Placemaking Plan Engagement

EastLink is a 5.1 mile urban trail connecting Bartholomew Park with Lady Bird Lake, completed by the Austin Parks Foundation with the City of Austin and the Mueller Foundation. The project provides accessible recreational options for joggers, cyclists, skateboarders, and more; encourages restoration of natural ecosystems; and works to bring communities together and foster pride in Central East Austin's culture and history. The trail connects an incredible array of African American and Mexican American heritage sites, including Rosewood Park, Downs Field, and Parque Zaragoza.

In 2019 partners enlisted Public City, a culture-driven public engagement and activation studio, to lead community engagement on an interpretive placemaking plan with planning lead McCann Adams Studio. Public City co-designed the engagement series with EastLink communities, establishing themes in conversation with neighbors. Two trail explorations brought together residents through art, recreation, activism, and economic empowerment. Community Guides shared this lived experience through music, stories, and more.

The engagement series shaped the design of four placemaking and interpretive locations along the trail, including The Pillars Project: Our History, Our Trail. This transformative installation has reimaged the disruptive Pleasant Valley Road overpass through Rosewood Park into shared space celebrating East Austin's culture. Six East Austin artists



Image Courtesy of Public City

from different generations created murals that translate themes from oral histories conducted by community curator and historian Stephanie Lang. Opened in November 2019, the first pillars depict landmarks such as Rosewood Courts and L.C. Anderson High School. A total of 39 pillars will be completed over the next five years to share East Austin's stories, as told by its residents. ★

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**F**irst, I want to thank you for supporting Preservation Austin during these challenging times. 2020 has been a stressful, confusing, and often heartbreaking year. But our members' support shows us that, in so many ways, our work is more important now than ever. August was a pivotal month for our nonprofit – deep into the pandemic, we held our first-ever Virtual Homes Tour, drawing hundreds of attendees to celebrate joyful and inspiring stories behind five historic homes downtown, followed by our record-setting membership drive, providing essential resources to help us grow. We are grateful for every dollar of support in any year, but this year, given so many competing priorities, it means that much more.

We take this support to heart! Know that we're working every day to honor your contribution by becoming an even stronger nonprofit to celebrate and protect the historic places that make this city so unique, and that make it great.

Last year we committed to shaping a new, focused strategy to reach more people in more meaningful ways. Our comprehensive strategic planning process during the winter and spring of 2020 culminated in the passage of our new strategic plan by our board of directors on May 27.

This highly collaborative effort included diverse voices from over fifty stakeholders. It charts a new course for our nonprofit over the next five years, and represents a more proactive, impactful, and community-based approach to our work. This includes extensive community outreach; coalition-building around advocacy campaigns that we develop, and that we lead; and a multi-

faceted approach to investing in physical projects across Austin.

The plan also charts a path for growing our resources so that our capacity meets the needs of our ever-changing city. By 2025 we plan to double our budget, double our staff, and to be settled into our new offices in the McFarland House, the Streamline Moderne home we've purchased and rehabbed at 3805 Red River. Please tell friends, colleagues, and family about Preservation Austin. And when you have the opportunity to renew your membership, we hope that you will.

This is a pivotal year as we work to better serve our community. I'm so pleased to present our new mission, vision, and values for you here. I hope that these energize and inspire you just as they do us:

### MISSION

Preservation Austin exists to empower Austinites to shape a more inclusive, resilient, and meaningful community culture through preservation.

### VISION

When Preservation Austin delivers on our strategy, we will create a future where historic places play a meaningful role in everyone's life, inspiring all Austinites to become advocates for preservation.

### VALUES

#### We Are:

- **Accountable:** We are committed to doing what is right, not being right, by keeping the best interests of those we serve top of mind, not our individual agendas. We measure our impact against the highest

standards of integrity, equity, and fiscal responsibility.

- **Inclusive:** We are committed to building a culture that

encourages, supports, and celebrates the diverse voices of our organization and city. We believe diversity and inclusion together fuels our creativity, breaks down barriers, and brings us closer to the people we serve.

- **Locally-Focused:** We have Austin's best interest at heart every day. We believe that preserving Austin's individuality and uniqueness will allow all our citizens to thrive, visitors to connect, and our city to be the example of preservation in action.

#### We Lead By:

- **Collaborating Enthusiastically:** We do our best work when we come together to solve some of the most pressing challenges facing our city today. We value those who speak thoughtfully, encourage and respect diversity of opinion, and listen carefully with an open mind.

- **Taking the Long View:** We leverage our resources to have the greatest possible impact and hold ourselves accountable to future generations by saving places that matter, that stand the test of time, and that honor a holistic view of Austin's heritage.

- **Thinking Big:** We never settle. We have the courage and curiosity to actively challenge the status quo and find new ways for preservation to have a positive impact in our community. ★



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# Rogers Washington Holy Cross, Austin's Newest Local Historic District

by Cyrus Yerxa

**O**n September 3 Austin City Council voted to designate the Rogers Washington Holy Cross Historic District. It is the city's eighth locally designated historic district, and the first that recognizes the history of a primarily African American neighborhood.

The Rogers Washington Holy Cross Neighborhood Association heard unanimous support for their designation from the Historic Landmark Commission, Planning Commission, and City Council. "With the rapid growth of our city, East Austin has been hit particularly hard with the erasure of historically and culturally significant places. Developed in an era of explicit racial segregation that actually prevented black home ownership in most of Austin, Rogers Washington Holy Cross represented a beacon of hope and opportunity," read a statement from District 1 Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison. Widespread support for the designation can be attributed to the community's inclusive efforts to craft design standards, communicate with residents, and spread the word about the remarkable history of their tight-knit neighborhood.

In 2016, the Neighborhood Association contacted the City of Austin and Preservation Austin looking for tools to address rising property taxes, new construction they saw as incompatible with their neighborhood, and the displacement of long-time families.

The city's Historic Preservation Office and Preservation Austin provided guidance and support throughout the five-year process.

Brenda Malik and Patricia Calhoun are leaders in the Rogers Washington Holy Cross Neighborhood Association who have deep roots in the neighborhood. Their work to stabilize their community with a historic designation was personal. "It let us feel like there was hope for the future, not only for us but for our children. We wanted to hand down this legacy of culture and family and pride that we had in this historic Black neighborhood. The designation gave us that opportunity, as well as giving us an economic advantage so we didn't have to worry so much about the pressures of development and the rising taxes that moved us out," Malik said in an interview at Calhoun's home.

Rogers Washington Holy Cross was initially developed in the 1950s. Residents purchased lots in the Washington and Holy Cross Heights subdivisions, bounded today by Manor Road, E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Chestnut Avenue, and Cedar Street. The area features cul-de-sacs characteristic of suburban street



layouts after World War II, and homes of the Minimal Traditional, Ranch, and Contemporary styles. John Chase, the first African American graduate of the University of Texas School of Architecture (graduating in 1952), and the first African American architect to be licensed by the state of Texas, designed several homes in the district.

African Americans moved to Rogers Washington Holy Cross because it provided resources at a time when establishments in other parts of the city were turning them away. Actions at local, state, and federal levels of government segregated Black residents to the area for decades. In 1928, the City of Austin commissioned the engineering firm Koch and Fowler to create a city plan. It recommended that Austin concentrate its African American population by relocating Black businesses and institutions to the area east of East Avenue (now I-35).

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*Rogers Washington, continued from page 11*

Some institutions were already in this area at the time of the plan, including L. C. Anderson High School. Others were established as a result of segregationist policies, like Kealing Middle School, Austin's first Junior High School for black students. In 1940, the Catholic Diocese of Austin built Holy Cross Hospital (at 2613 Rogers Avenue, the site of the current L. L. Campbell Elementary School) to serve African American Austinites at a time when Brackenridge Hospital, west of East Avenue, would not.

Austin became further segregated in the 1940s, when Federal Housing Administration policies led to racially restrictive covenants and discriminatory mortgage lending practices that legally barred minorities from white neighborhoods. As a result, Rogers Washington Holy Cross was one of few options for African Americans looking to improve their living situation.

The Mims family was one such family that sought an improved living situation. Brenda Mims Malik moved to Rogers Washington Holy Cross with her family at the age of nine from a house on E. 12th Street. Her father, Carnegie Harvard Mims, Sr., moved the family originally from San Angelo, TX, where he was principal of one of the first integrated high schools in Texas. Her brother, Carnegie Harvard Mims, Jr., was in one of the first integrated graduating classes from Stephen F. Austin High School. Malik was a majorette in the L.C. Anderson High School band and marched annually in the Aqua Festival Parade down Congress Avenue. She attended Huston-Tillotson University and the University of Texas at Austin, and worked as a news anchor for KXAN. Later, she served as City Council aide to Jimmy Snell (a neighbor on Givens



RWHC homeowner Patricia Calhoun

Avenue), until he went on to become the first African American Travis County Commissioner in 1980.

Patricia Calhoun comes from another family of prominent educators and community leaders who chose to make Rogers Washington Holy Cross their home. Calhoun's father, Theodore Calvin Calhoun chaired the math department at L.C. Anderson High School, where he also coached football for ten years. He later succeeded I.Q. Hurdle to become the second principal of Kealing Junior High. Mr. Calhoun served Kealing from 1939 until 1971, when the school was closed as part of Austin's desegregation efforts. He also taught as a visiting professor at Huston-Tillotson.

Calhoun's mother, Thelma Calhoun, worked as a Jeanes Supervisor to Travis County, a special position overseeing Black schools in the region that was part of a Southern network of such teachers who served between 1908-1968. Later in her career, she was a reading specialist for children at Maplewood and Sims elementaries. She worked with Ada Simond during Simond's publication of the award-winning children's

series "Let's Pretend," which featured an African American six-year old growing up in early 20th-century Austin. Mrs. Calhoun later used the series to create a curriculum for her reading students.

Children in Rogers Washington Holy Cross grew up watching their parents, aunts, uncles, and neighbors fight for basic civil rights. When Brenda Malik's family moved to Austin, African Americans could not attend shows at the Paramount Theatre. When Malik attended L. L. Campbell Elementary the Austin ISD Board of Education had yet to desegregate elementary schools. Calhoun could not use the whites-only bathroom while shopping at Scarbrough's department store downtown, nor could she spend her summers swimming in Barton Springs Pool.

Early on, the Neighborhood Association was a vessel for organizing to demand change. "This neighborhood association was established in the early sixties with Ankie [Willie Mae] Kirk as their first president in order to connect with each other, hold onto each other, and lift up each other," Malik said at the Historic

*Continued on next page*

Landmark Commission hearing in July. Kirk, Malik's mother, Calhoun's aunt, and a team of active mothers made an impact well outside their neighborhood with years of picketing outside segregated Austin businesses and public spaces.

At the time of the interview, Calhoun and Malik said they receive weekly contact from interested buyers. Calhoun mimicked developers: "I have an interest in your house. Are you ready to sell?"

"You might as well sell now," echoed Malik. They explained that such solicitations sometimes work. Calhoun, for example, owns her house because she inherited it from her parents and can afford property taxes for now. Many of the historic district's forty-seven contributing homes are still owned by the families that built them. But heirs who have moved away have done so with developers' money. "That's the story of the neighborhood," Calhoun said.

In 2016, the Neighborhood Association began informing neighbors of the plan to pursue historic district designation and inviting them to participate in the process. "Our community engagement was

expansive. We had many meetings, went door-door with flyers. We had National Night Out tables with all the materials there. We had several open houses... We were very serious about accommodating every property owner, every renter," Malik said. Their work gave way not only to the historic district, but to an even tighter community. Calhoun and Malik feel that the designation process "kept us together, because we had to communicate more." The Neighborhood Association also worked hard to write design standards that would satisfy the community and the city. At the Historic Landmark Commission meeting on July 27, Commissioner Kevin Koch said, "I want to congratulate the entire team for the design standards. They are exceptionally well-written... They strike a perfect balance between development potential and retention of historic fabric." This reflects the Association's original intent. Throughout the designation process, Malik wanted to keep in mind that the community was "not against change. We were not against new people coming in. We just wanted to keep the character of the neighborhood the same."

The Calhouns built their home on Givens Avenue in 1959, during Patricia's senior

year in high school. After graduating from L.C. Anderson, Calhoun earned a degree from Michigan State University and went on to practice interior design in Detroit and Dallas. In 2016, after years of visits to her hometown, Calhoun moved back into the family home. She is proud to rejoin the community where she grew up. "Many of us have come back home, so we're getting to know each other again." But, property taxes have nearly tripled, and she grew concerned about the new houses that did not reflect the character of her neighborhood. Calhoun worries that when she stops working, she will not be able to afford her home, even with the rehabilitation-based tax abatement made possible by the historic district designation.

Today the district upholds more than just its history. Addressing City Council members on September 3, Rogers Washington Holy Cross resident Mesa Ramirez said, "Your vote is not only for preservation, but also a vote for a neighborhood steeped in acceptance, love, the urge to do what's right and most important of all community." ★



## Documenting Central Austin's Heritage

**T**he City of Austin Historic Preservation Office currently has two historic resources surveys underway: one in the North Loop, Hancock, and Upper Boggy Creek neighborhood planning areas, and one in the University, Windsor, and Hyde Park neighborhood planning areas. The North Loop, Hancock, and Upper Boggy

Creek survey is being completed by Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc. The University, Windsor, and Hyde Park survey is being completed by HHM & Associates. These surveys evaluate 45+ year-old buildings to identify potential local historic districts and landmarks. The City of Austin will not take action to

designate a property until a citizen files a zoning application. The surveys will be finalized and available to the public in the spring of 2021. In the meantime, visit [www.austintexas.gov/pagecurrentprojects](http://www.austintexas.gov/pagecurrentprojects) for more information, and stay tuned for upcoming opportunities to learn about the survey results. ★

**D**ear fellow Preservationists,

My history as a native Austinite runs deep. My ancestor Richard Bullock opened the 1st hotel in Austin at 6th & Congress in 1839. The hotel was operated for a time by Angelina Eberly, who is celebrated by a statue out front depicting her firing a cannon to protect the state archives in the aptly named Archive War of 1842.

If I could fire a cannon to express my



enthusiasm for the mission of Preservation Austin without being jailed, I would. I instead will use my platform as Board President

to implore you to join me in the critical endeavor of “Saving the Good Stuff.” 2020 has seen too many iconic losses in our city, and it will take our whole community to stem the tide.

I want the Austin of the past to inspire the next generation to preserve and protect the Austin of their future. I want my son Graham (age 10 in the photo, now 12) and daughter (age 14) to enjoy the places and rich character in Austin’s core that make our city such a special place to live.

Think hard about what places in Central Texas mean the most to you. Is it a block? A park? A building? Surely you’ve visited a place in Austin that struck a chord, and you would agree that Austin would be one step closer to Anywhere, USA, if that place was lost. Tell me about those places –

I want to listen and help.

Like you, I’m busy running my own business, parenting my family of four, and staying active in more than one non-profit that benefits local critical causes. But let me buy you coffee or a beer after work so I can hear your Austin story. My Austin is different than your Austin, I bet, and I want to hear about the places that make Austin special to you. Text or email me at 512.797.6446 or [clayton@moreland.com](mailto:clayton@moreland.com).



All the best,

*Clayton Bullock*  
Clayton Bullock

## Matching Grants Support Efforts Across Austin

**P**reservation Austin continues to support exciting and diverse projects across Austin through our matching grant program. This summer we awarded grants to the 1853 Watson House at 1601 Navasota, to the Rogers House at 1104 E. 10th Street, and to Boggy Creek Farm at 3414 Lyons Road. Watson House plans include researching the inhabitants and visitors, such as the wife of the Bowie knife inventor, a Texas Governor, a renowned architect, and LGBTQ history that spans decades. The Rogers House, located in East Austin’s Robertson/ Stuart & Mair Local Historic District, includes rehabilitation of the foundation, windows, doors, porch, and roof of this neighborhood

home. The farmhouse at Boggy Creek Farm, built between 1840 and 1841, stands as a physical testament to the labors and skills of enslaved African Americans who labored in its construction and who worked the fields of this antebellum plantation. Our grant supported replacement of this City of Austin Landmark’s roof.

This fall we awarded funding for El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association’s archaeological reconnaissance survey of the Blair Woods Nature Preserve Property with the Travis Audubon Society and GTI Environmental, LLC. Active between 1836 and 1838, the Republic of Texas’

Fort Colorado stood on the north bank of the Colorado River west of Walnut Creek in today’s East Austin. Historic aerial photography indicated vegetation alignments consistent with the fort palisade walls north and south of Martin Luther King Boulevard, including within Travis Audubon Society’s nature preserve. The project will further identify resources of El Camino Real and reveal the hidden narrative of how Coahuiltecan speaking indigenous peoples, former Spanish settlers, Anglo-Europeans, and African Americans collaborated on the founding of the fort. ★

# Texas Supreme Court Case Challenges Houston's Historic Preservation Ordinance

by David Bush, Executive Director, Preservation Houston

**T**he Texas Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case challenging Houston's historic preservation ordinance. In the case, Kathleen Powell and Paul Luccia v. City of Houston, two Heights property owners sued the city claiming that the historic preservation ordinance violates the city charter, which prohibits zoning in Houston without a citywide referendum.

The case has been moving through the court system for several years. Lower courts have upheld the city's position that the preservation ordinance does not constitute zoning as defined by Texas law. Unlike zoning, the preservation ordinance

does not govern land use. Although zoning districts are imposed by city governments, Houston's historic districts must be approved by a majority of the included property owners. Zoning must also be part of a comprehensive citywide plan; historic districts cover less than 1 percent of Houston's land area.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has filed a brief supporting the petitioners and expanding the scope of the case. The original suit only dealt with Houston's preservation ordinance, but Paxton's filing could impact every home-rule municipality in the state with preservation protections

that are not tied to zoning.

Preservation Houston signed an amicus brief that has been submitted to the Supreme Court supporting the City of Houston's position. The brief was co-signed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Action, National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, Preservation Texas, Historic Fort Worth, Preservation Austin, Preservation Dallas, San Antonio Conservation Society, Astrodome Conservancy and the Trost Society of El Paso.

Oral arguments are scheduled to begin January 5. ★



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# Whose History? Celebrating Cultural Heritage by Translating Community History

by Cara Bertron, City of Austin

**T**he City of Austin's Historic Preservation Office and consultants The Projecto and Open Chair are wrapping up the final portion of the Translating Community History project, which focuses on engaging with community members about the buildings and stories that make places special.

Translating Community History is supported by the federal Underrepresented Communities Grant Program, which is intended to increase the number of properties associated with historically underrepresented communities that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Park Service administers the program, awarding roughly one dozen grants nationwide each year.

Austin's Translating Community History project includes three components:

- Neighborhood meetings and story-sharing in two focus areas within the East Cesar Chavez and Blackshear Prospect Hill neighborhoods (completed in fall 2019)
- Two National Register nominations recognizing significant places with African American and Mexican American heritage
- Multi-part heritage projects for each focus area

The project was sparked by the East Austin Historic Resources Survey, which identified twenty-seven potential historic

districts in Central East Austin. However, when the grant application was assembled nearly a year after the survey's completion, none of the communities identified as potential historic districts had reached out to the Historic Preservation Office to explore the benefits of designation. In the grant, Historic Preservation Office staff saw an opportunity to develop a neighborhood-focused model for sharing—and listening—about how historic preservation tools could help meet community goals.

From the beginning, it was clear that a project led by the City alone would not be able to achieve the project's goals. Two community stakeholder groups were convened early to invite essential voices of local institutions, cultural organizations, and focus area residents to help shape the project. The stakeholder group selected the focus areas, advised City staff and consultants on outreach efforts, and outlined desired activities for the community heritage projects.

The heritage projects are an unusual component of an Underrepresented Communities Grant, since the grant program typically focuses more narrowly on National Register nominations, updates



Meeting attendees could put pins to a map showing where they had personal or family connections.

to existing nominations, and historic context statements. But City staff knew that National Register nominations could not be the only final products for a community-focused project. No matter how well-written, the nominations would each run 50 or more pages long, and would likely not catch the interest of most neighborhood residents. Limiting the grant outcomes to these relatively academic documents would miss an opportunity to broadly share about local heritage.

The heritage project was conceived as a bridge that could creatively knit together the past and present through archival research, present-day resident portraits, and personal stories. The consultant team initially proposed to set up photobooths at community events like Juneteenth and Cinco de Mayo, print large-scale posters of the portraits on-site, and invite the portrait subjects to help install the

*Continued on next page*



posters on nearby building walls using wheatpaste. The temporary installations would help to tell important stories about historical ownership and deep cultural roots, while raising awareness of the project. Afterwards, the images and stories collected would be incorporated into catalogs alongside historic photos and archival research from the National Register nominations.

The COVID-19 pandemic required a nimble change of direction. Instead of community events, the consultant team set up socially distanced photoshoots in front of people's homes and recorded video and audio from participants. The team will install the wheatpaste posters around East Austin in late November or early December. The portraits will still be incorporated into catalogs, which will be available in print and online. Finally, short videos featuring community members and neighborhood footage will provide an easy introduction to the project and focus areas.

City staff are currently working with the consultant team on finalizing these

materials and have discussed potential future expansions of the heritage project model with other City departments. Staff are also completing National Register nominations for Huston-Tillotson University and Parque Zaragoza, in cooperation with HT and the City's Parks and Recreation Department.

Visit the Historic Preservation Office at [www.austintexas.gov/page/current-projects](http://www.austintexas.gov/page/current-projects) to see the National Register nominations, catalogs, and videos, which will be posted around late November. Learn more about The Projecto and Open Chair at [www.theprojecto.org](http://www.theprojecto.org) and [www.openchairatx.com](http://www.openchairatx.com). ★



Marilyn Poole speaks at a neighborhood meeting about her grandfather, master gardener Jerome Hill, who lived in the College Heights focus area in Blackshear Prospect Hill.



Community members were invited to add personal stories to a timeline that highlighted community triumphs and resilience in the face of longstanding discriminatory policies and practices by the City and private entities like banks.

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# Historic Preservation & Heritage Tourism Program

by the Austin Parks & Recreation Department

**T**he City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) is the steward for a multitude of historic and cultural resources, which are beloved and iconic symbols of Austin. Founded in 1928, the department manages historic museums, parks, pools, cemeteries, as well as many recreation structures that reflect the department's various eras of development. When Kim McKnight began working with Austin's Parks and Recreation Department in 2010, there was not an inventory of historic resources nor a dedicated effort towards historic preservation. Fast forward ten years to PAR's Historic Preservation and Heritage Tourism Program, which oversees the restoration, stewardship, interpretation, and promotion of the irreplaceable historic and cultural resources of Austin's park system.

In 2017, Austin City Council first allocated Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) revenue directly to PAR to support historic preservation projects at PAR tourist sites. Nearly \$1 million was allocated towards

several projects, including the restoration of the Oakwood Cemetery Chapel, the historic Garden Sheds at Mayfield Park, and the historic stone wall and gate at the Elisabet Ney Museum, as well as the commencement of the design phase for O. Henry Museum. Then in FY18, City Council directed the establishment of the Historic Preservation Fund funded by 15% of the total annual HOT revenue, which is managed by the Heritage Tourism Division of the Economic Development Department. Since 2017, City Council designated approximately \$19 million to PAR historic preservation projects including Oakwood Cemetery, O. Henry Museum, Seaholm Intake Building, Zilker Clubhouse, Fiesta Gardens, Barton Springs Bathhouse, Zilker Café, Downs Field Grandstands, Norwood House, Brush Square, Elisabet Ney Museum, and Sunken Gardens at Zilker Park. The Historic Preservation Fund has supported the staffing needs of key PAR historic sites as well as added additional staff to PAR's Historic Preservation and Heritage Tourism Program to assist in

historic designations, program and project management, interpretation, and marketing.

The goal of PAR's Historic Preservation and Heritage Tourism Program is for visitors and residents to discover and experience an authentic connection to Austin's diverse history through the active restoration and promotion of PAR's historic resources and sites. PAR is an important

partner in the promotion of tourism, with public parks, museums, and cultural centers among the top tourist attractions in the city. Heritage Tourism is a powerful economic engine for Austin's economy. Investment in PAR cultural and historic sites results in increased visitation from tourists, which in turn, supports PAR's mission to protect and preserve the historic and prehistoric resources of Austin's park systems for the enjoyment, education, and economic benefit of residents and visitors.

Central to the core mission of the department is to protect and preserve the park system, which requires the active management of the historic and cultural resources of the park system. The Historic Preservation and Heritage Tourism Program team comprises an interdisciplinary group of fields including historic preservation, architecture, public history, and marketing. While restoration of historic sites is a focus of the program, the promotion, and activation of historic sites is also a critical component. The team produces and coordinates with partners to develop interpretive, historical, and wayfinding signage, such as recent signage at Butler Park, Wooldridge Square, and the Fannie Davis Gazebo. Historic designations provide protections for historical resources but also to elevate the profile of the site. Some of the recent landmark designations on PAR Properties include:

- National Register of Historic Places: Fiesta Gardens, Mt. Bonnell, Fannie



Fannie Davis Gazebo

*Continued on the next page*



Rosewood Park marker unveiling

Davis Town Lake Gazebo, Update of 1997 Zilker Park NRHP district

- State Antiquities Landmark Designation for Mt. Bonnell
- State Historical Marker: Rosewood Park, Parque Zaragoza, Gant Family at Oakwood Annex
- Historic Texas Cemetery designation for Evergreen Cemetery
- Texas Recreation and Park Society Lone Star Legacy Award: Eastwoods Park, Rosewood Park, Parque Zaragoza

The COVID-19 pandemic has not slowed down preservation projects in the works or promotion of the parks. Recently, PARD installed a State Historical Marker and a Texas Recreation and Park Society Lone Star Legacy Award at Rosewood Neighborhood Park. The original intent was to have a marker dedication ceremony that coincided with the annual Juneteenth celebrations that have taken place at the park since 1930. However, it became clear that Juneteenth was not going to take place in person and therefore, the marker dedication would not occur either. The team sprang into action and developed a virtual marker dedication ceremony. The video was a celebration of Rosewood Park's history and community. Lee Dawson, Tami Johnson-Dawson, and their family, longtime Rosewood

Park supporters and part of Central Texas Juneteenth Committee and Greater East Austin Youth Association donned face masks for a marker unveiling that was filmed for the public. Ms. Delores Duffie, namesake of the

The program's vision is to grow to be a municipal park system leader in the field of cultural and historic resource management and heritage tourism promotion. PARD historic sites will be preserved and restored as well as interpreted and promoted. Visitors will find their experience educational and learn about the heritage of Austin through thoughtful interpretation of the city's history through park spaces. ★

Rosewood Park Recreation Center, was featured in the video congratulating the park and the community on the award. The video was promoted through social media and was viewed more than 2,200 times garnering much attention for this beloved and historical park.

Although the Historic Preservation and Heritage Tourism Program has made great strides in a short time, there is much work to be done. Program goals include enhancing cultural resource management, increasing public awareness of archeological resources, and fostering partnerships for expanded programming at PARD historic sites. PARD's historic resource inventory features more than 300 sites, buildings, structures, and objects. The vision of the Historic Preservation and Heritage Tourism Program is ambitious but determined.



***Congratulations to the 2020 Preservation Merit Award Recipients!***

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## HERITAGE QUIZ

★ by Elizabeth Porterfield & Maggie Conyngham

**P**reservation Austin presents our Facebook Heritage Quiz the first Friday of every month! The first follower 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, Summer and Fall contestants for spotting the following properties:**

### **OCTOBER: Donn's Depot (1600 W 5th Street)**

Austin staple Donn's Depot has been described as "a dancehall, a honky tonk, and a piano bar" all in one. The bar has a storied history and is even the subject of a film called "Good Night Blues" directed by Jay Curlee. The original owner, Bob Ogden, bought an old railroad depot and several train cars for a mere \$300 in the early 1970s, towing it to its current location at 5th and West Lynn. The Ogdens originally set out to create a piano bar where they and their friends could listen to good music regularly. That tradition has continued for the last 48 years to the delight of our community.

Donn Adelman was a regular performer at the original "McNeil Depot," which opened in 1972. He became the owner in 1978 and has changed very little about the space save for occasional cosmetic updates, following the old adage, "if it ain't broke, don't break it." If there were ever a place in town where everybody knows your name, it's Donn's Depot. The bar has drawn an eclectic and welcoming crowd since its inception; it's the type of place where a 90 year-old and a 20-something can sit at the same table, eat popcorn and share stories over good music and cheap drinks. Donn's has long housed weekly musical residencies and even once, an impromptu performance by George Strait. Adelman has said that they aren't "Keeping Austin weird," but rather "Keeping Austin Austin."

The bar had to shut down temporarily due to the coronavirus pandemic, but hopes open up as soon as possible with necessary precautions in place. In the meantime, several avenues of funding to keep Donn's going have cropped up, including a subscription-like donation service as well as several GoFundMe's. Please consider supporting today if you are able!

★ **Winner: Lauren Englund**



Donn's Depot

### **SEPTEMBER: Quality Seafood (5621 Airport Blvd)**

Quality Seafood Market dates to 1938 when businessman Garnett Lenz opened a seafood stall at Starr's Fruit and Vegetable Market on Congress Avenue. After several downtown relocations, Mr. Lenz sold the seafood market in 1958 to Chester C. Husted who named it Quality Seafood. In 1965, Mr. Husted relocated the market to East Avenue and installed a kitchen for to-go food orders. The final move to Airport Boulevard occurred in 1970. Mr. Husted's son and daughter took over the business in the early 1980s and added the first dine-in restaurant.

In 2003, new owners Paul and Carol Huntsberger added "Market" to the name and expanded the menu and dining room facilities. Carol Huntsberger, now the sole owner, later incorporated a private dining room, food truck, oyster grill, and even on-site cooking classes. In its 82nd year of operation, Quality Seafood Market continues to provide Austinites with fresh seafood from around the world through its retail and wholesale seafood market and restaurant.

Quality Seafood Market is OPEN for dine-in and take-out. Visit [qualityseafoodmarket.com](http://qualityseafoodmarket.com) for hours of operation and daily menu updates, and enjoy some "quality seafood" at an Austin landmark!

★ **Winner: Kristina Kupferschmid**



Quality Seafood

*Continued on the next page*



**AUGUST: The Mohawk (912 Red River Street)**

Likely built in 1885, this two-story brick building has a storied history. Early occupants of the building included Ben Garza’s meat market in the early 20th century, Spradling and Blevins Furniture Company shortly after, and Jose Carlin’s “El Charro” Mexican restaurant in the 1930s.

The building became the “Quorum Club” in the early 1970s, possibly named after the infamous club of the same name in Washington, D.C. The spot was known to be a “favorite haunt of Texas legislators and politicians,” where they might “acquire their hangovers” during a legislative session. By 1978, the building had turned into a restaurant and music venue called the Caucus Club. The Caucus Club re-opened in 1996 as a swing-dancing club with a speakeasy vibe, and described as “a graceful and elegant alternative” to the more debaucherous Sixth Street haunts.



Mohawk

Since 2006, it has been home to the Mohawk, a popular live music venue hosting mostly punk and rock-and-roll acts. Legend has it that a former employee fell to their death down an unsecured dumbwaiter, and that those who come to open or close up the bar have had more than a few “supernatural experiences” in the building. Urban and living legends alike have graced the Mohawk’s hallowed walls. Performances range from budding local talent to the legendary Iggy Pop & The Stooges and popular artists such as the Wu-Tang Clan and Mac Demarco. The space also hosts events such as the annual Mohawk “Queso-off” and “Bring Your Own Vinyl” happy hours. Mohawk is an Austin institution that helps make up the storied Red River Cultural District downtown. It is also a proud member of the NIVA - National Independent Venue Association; check out their website for ways to support the live music venues we love and cherish during these hard times! [www.nivassoc.org/](http://www.nivassoc.org/)

★ Winner: Cha Meyer

**JULY: Austin Country Club (811 E 41st Street)**

Constructed in 1934 as the Austin Country Club clubhouse, this building is known today as the Hancock Recreation Center in honor of Austin’s former Mayor Lewis Hancock, Jr. In 1899 Hancock was instrumental in creating the Austin Country Club golf course (now the adjacent Hancock Golf Course and one of the oldest golf courses in Texas). Prominent Austin architect Charles H. Page, Jr. designed the clubhouse, and the limestone and bricks used in its construction were salvaged from the demolition of Old Main Building on the University of Texas at Austin campus. The City of Austin purchased the building in 1946, but the Austin Country Club continued to use the facility until 1951. At that time, the clubhouse became one of Austin’s first city recreation centers. Amenities include a ballroom, sunroom, pro-shop, and office spaces, as well as additional activity rooms in a 1960’s rear addition. Today, the Hancock Recreation Center is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) and is a contributing resource to the National Register-listed Hancock Golf Course.



Austin Country Club

★ Winner: Michelle Slattery

*Continued on page 22*



PRESERVATION  
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## HERITAGE QUIZ (Continued)

### **JUNE: Wesley United Methodist Church (1160 San Bernard Street)**

Wesley United Methodist Church is noteworthy for both its architecture and long-standing cultural significance. The congregation and original church building at 9th and Neches Streets dates back to the 1860s, making it the oldest in the City of Austin. The first meeting was held in the basement of the Tenth Street M.E. Church on March 4, 1865 at the tail end of the Civil War, with services led by Reverend Joseph Welch. The building's Historic Landmark plaque reads that the church was established for a growing community of freedmen in Austin, and many of the early members had attended while enslaved.

The current iteration at San Bernard Street was constructed in 1928 to expand facilities. The new construction cost around \$50,000 and created more space for worship, an on-site library, and for classes for Samuel Huston College (later merged to become Huston-Tillotson University.) In 2017, the Equal Justice Initiative erected a memorial plaque in front of the church to commemorate victims of terror lynchings in Travis County as part of their Community Remembrance Project.

The present church was constructed the same year that a segregationist Master Plan of Austin mandated all black residents move to a six square mile “negro district” east of East Avenue (later I-35). Despite a 1917 Supreme Court ruling that residential segregation was illegal, an all-white City Council passed the 1928 plan to “solve the segregation problem” by way of “recommendation of this district as a negro district; and that all the facilities and conveniences be provided the negroes in this district, as an incentive to draw the negro population to this area.”

Long-term ramifications of this plan are continuously felt today in the ethnically diverse East Austin neighborhoods. The district, now home to Six-Square: Austin's Black Cultural District, is home to many historic black businesses, schools, and churches.

★ **Winner: Kevin Koch**

### **MAY: Delwood Shopping Center (E. 38th Street and I-35)**

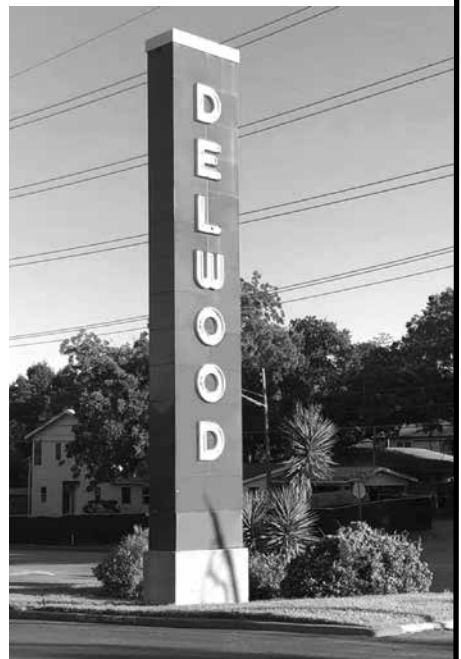
Delwood Shopping Center opened in October 1951 as Austin's “first automobile-oriented shopping center.” Envisioned and owned by area developer Bascom Giles, who developed much of the adjacent Delwood neighborhood, it featured 65,000 square feet of fully air-conditioned shopping space and over five acres of parking. Its location along the newly established interregional highway (the precursor to I-35) ensured easy access for area motorists.

The shopping center's design included an “arcade” through the main building connecting stores in front with rear parking areas and a shaded walkway for pedestrians around the entire façade. Original stores included Checker Front Grocery No. 19, Delwood Pharmacy, Delwood Dry Cleaners and Washatorium, Delwood Barber Shop, Delwood Beauty Salon, Lad 'n Lassie Children's Shop, and a dentist's office, among others. The shopping center served Austinites for several generations before its demolition and the subsequent redevelopment of the site in the 1990s. Today, the only reminder of the original shopping center is the Delwood marquee sign that originally adorned its rooftop.

★ **Winner: Elizabeth Brummett**



Wesley United Methodist Church



Delwood Shopping Center

*Continued on the next page*



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## HERITAGE QUIZ (Continued)

### APRIL: Green and White Grocery (1201 E. 7th Street)

Naverto Lopez opened Green and White Grocery, now known as the Witchdoctor Store, in the early 1940s. The Lopez family lived nearby on 6th and Waller, and their business served East Austin's Mexican American community for several decades. The store sold everything from electrical and household supplies to fresh food and renowned Christmastime tamales.

John Cazares began working at Green and White in 1946, where he caught the eye of the owner's daughter Olga, both students at Austin High School. They married in 1955 and took over the store after Naverto's passing in 1971. Cazares was known as being a friend to all, providing jobs and feeding those suffering hard times. The store's legacy is upheld by the younger Cazares children, who took over in 1993. Green and White Grocery currently serves as a botánica.

★ **Winner: Tracy Patrick Warren**



Green & White Grocery

### MARCH: Herrera House (1805 E. 3rd Street)

Several generations the Herrera family of Mexican American educators and activists lived in this East Austin home for over 100 years. Its architecture is characteristic of the National Folk style, including a cross-gabled roof, porch, and L-shaped plan.

Valentin and Josefa Herrera inhabited the house beginning around 1911, followed by daughters Consuelo, Mary Grace, and Diana. Valentin was an educator, teaching at a Spanish school for many years, while his wife Josefa was proprietor of an Eastside confectionary shop called El Fenix.

Consuelo Herrera Méndez attended Austin High School and the University of Texas before becoming a certified teacher, but originally was not hired because of her ethnicity. In 1927, she became the first Mexican American teacher in AISD. She taught at the then-segregated Comal Street School, as well as the Zavala School and Brooke Elementary. She and her husband became prominent activists in the community, founding the Zavala PTA and organizing political initiatives for Hispanic residents of East Austin.

Her sister Mary Grace Herrera became the second Mexican-American teacher hired at AISD. She taught at the Palm School beginning in the 1930s and was active in the school desegregation movement in the 1970s. She resided at the house from childhood until her death in 1992. Diana Herrera Castaneda lived in the house from 1992 until her death in 2016. Diana was the first Latina elected to the AISD School Board and was an activist across many Eastside schools and Austin organizations.

The Herrera House was recommended for historic designation by the East Austin Historic Resources Survey and became a City of Austin Landmark on January 23, 2020.

★ **Winner: Zak Robinson** ★



Herrera House

# Virtual Homes Tour a Success!

**W**e want to thank everyone in the Preservation Austin community for making “Downtown Doorsteps,” our first-ever virtual Homes Tour, such a resounding success! The event premiered to over seven hundred viewers on August 13, from here in Texas and across the United States, followed by a special panel where board member Harmony Grogan, homeowners Michael Raiford and Todd Logan, and Executive Director Lindsey Derrington were joined by 160 guests.

This was such an uplifting, positive experience for all involved. The overwhelming response from our audience was truly humbling. This event could not have been possible without our Homes Tour Committee,

our featured homeowners, and all the talented film, photography, and design professionals who donated their time to producing this beautiful program.

We are indebted to our sponsors for their steadfast support, and to everyone who purchased a ticket, even as we pivoted from an in-person to a live tour. Your contributions enabled us to raise over \$58,000 to support the Homes Tour and more – just shy of our budget goal, an incredible feat in the midst of this pandemic.

**If you missed the tour, no worries!** Tickets are still available for \$20 through our website. These make great holiday gifts!



And speaking of the holidays, cooler weather and much-needed family time makes this a perfect season to get outside and explore our “Downtown Doorsteps” self-guided tour. Download the tour and a special bike route courtesy of Bike Austin. **Visit [www.preservationaustin.org/homes-tour](http://www.preservationaustin.org/homes-tour) for details.**

## Many Thanks to Our 2020 Sponsors!

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# New Interns Join PA for Fall 2020

**W**e're excited to welcome two interns to Preservation Austin! Ana Sierra serves as our Social Media and Public Relations Intern, and Hanna Stark serves as our Policy Intern with a focus on local government. From managing awards promotions to digging into policy research, these young women bring such professionalism and poise to their work. We're lucky to have them on our team.



**ANA SIERRA**

*Where are you from?* Houston, TX

*Where do you go to school and what do you study?*

I am currently a senior at the University of Texas at Austin, majoring in Public Relations with a minor in business.

*Why are you excited about working with Preservation Austin?*

I feel that historic preservation, along with the many other goals of Preservation Austin, is incredibly important especially given current circumstances. I'm excited to help spread PA's mission statement and advocate for all that we do.

*What is your favorite historic Austin location?* The Driskill Hotel has always held a special place in my heart. Ever since I first stepped through its doors, almost 8 years ago, I was drawn to the intricate details, architecture, and history of the building. The Driskill is actually part of the reason I fell in love with Austin and decided to eventually attend UT Austin.



**HANNA STARK**

*Where are you from?*

Pittsburgh, PA

*Where do you go to school and what do you study?*

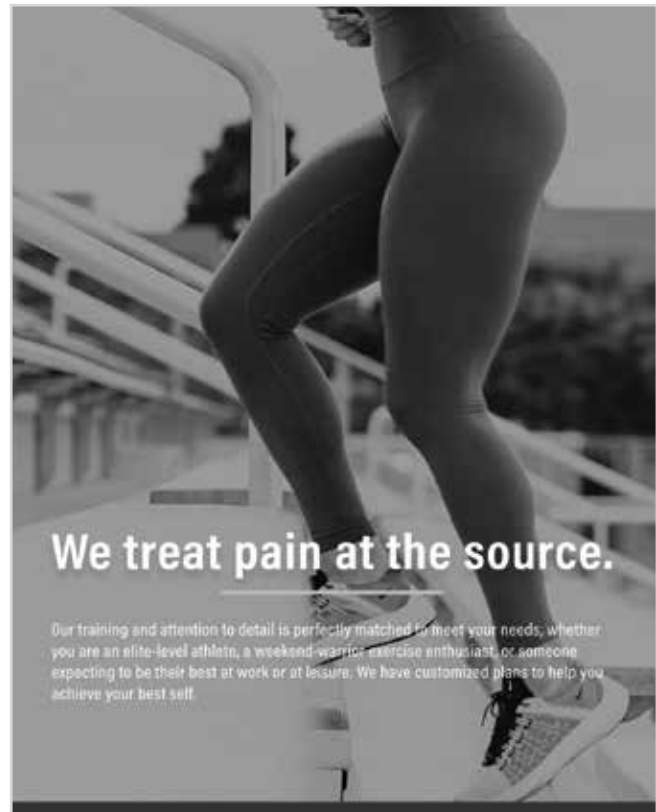
I am getting my MS in Historic Preservation from the University of Pennsylvania. I have a BA in Architecture from Clemson


University as well.

*Why are you excited about working with Preservation Austin?*

I'm excited to work as the Policy Intern at Preservation Austin to combine my interests in preservation, advocacy, and public policy. I know how vital local government support is for a strong preservation community.

*What is your favorite historic Philadelphia location?* I really enjoy Philadelphia's Boathouse Row, a National Historic Landmark, consisting of a dozen picturesque 19th-century rowing clubs. ★



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**T**he Community Engagement Committee (formerly the Education Committee) has continued to stay engaged virtually over the last six months with some exciting updates. We have adopted a virtual schedule for our monthly meetings, changed our committee name and charter to better align with Preservation Austin’s strategic plan, and have continued to actively engage with our community through new programming. The committee’s new charter better reflects our long-term, substantive goals for the new fiscal year and beyond.

**Purpose: Connects culturally, racially, and generationally diverse constituents with Preservation Austin’s work.**

- Creates space for meaningful, accessible, preservation-focused conversations with Preservation Austin’s primary audience groups.
- Develops and delivers unique, high-impact educational experiences.
- Supports and amplifies existing preservation work being done across the Austin community.
- Champions Preservation Austin’s strategic priorities and programs to the community at large, as needed.

Digital programming has been at the forefront of our work since mid-March. We had a great turnout of about thirty participants in the virtual Greening Your Vintage Home event on July 7. We heard from members of the Natural Resources Division and the Audubon Society about pollinators, native wildlife and how homeowners are able to incorporate native species into their landscape.

We have launched our new “Preservation Shorts” series through social media. This highlights different aspects of preservation by local Austinities, whether they are historic homeowners, run historic businesses, or have fascinating neighborhood stories to tell. We have received some great “shorts” from participants thus far. Preservation Austin’s own Lesley Walker took us on a tour of the McFarland House in June, highlighting all of the incredible renovation work done by members and volunteers. Will Bridges took us behind-the-scenes of a (rarely) empty Antone’s in July, describing in detail the storied history of one of Austin’s favorite music venues. In September local architect and PA member Erica Heroy walked us through her beautifully restored East Austin bungalow, which was featured on our 2019 Homes Tour. We look forward to highlighting more great examples of historic preservation throughout the city!

In addition to sharing these videos on our social platforms, the Committee has set a long term goal of developing new social content to further our work, as well as continuing our monthly heritage quiz competition on Facebook.

We have been brainstorming ways that Preservation Austin can promote and amplify the voices of our city’s diverse cultural landscape. We are approaching our major year-long goal of defining our target audience through a comprehensive community survey. Our intent is to have and continue to have conversations with a wide range of Austin community members about how Preservation Austin can best serve their interests. Lots of exciting work is underway and we can’t wait to see where it goes! ★

**We are a proud sponsor of  
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# Happy News! New Milestones for Norwood Park

by Colleen Theriot, President, Norwood Park Foundation

**T**he Norwood Park Foundation is thrilled to announce two huge milestones. On October 13 our site development plans were passed on consent by the Planning Commission, wrapping a two-year permitting effort. And then the very next day our project architects filed 100% Construction Documents, wow! These accomplishments followed a spring & summer of intense work by our volunteer board and the professional team, under the difficulties of the pandemic. We're so proud of the tremendous effort expended all around, all for the sake of a special little house that deserves to shine again and serve us all.

In general terms we're now "shovel-ready" at the site - a status that the precious Norwood House has sought for thirty-five years, and our organization has focused on relentlessly for the past nine years. THANK YOU so very much to our awesome volunteers, and especially to our DONORS — including Preservation Austin and many PA members - for getting us to this point. You've given to

something truly fine for our kids and future generations.

As many of you know, the big milestones always bring even bigger new challenges with them. We've patted ourselves on the back for about five minutes, and now it's on to the next step of actually turning dirt. We've raised \$1.3 million to date to reach shovel-ready, and we've secured \$3 million in public funding through our advocacy. That's where we are right now, working with our team to refine the phasing and craft an initial contract so we can begin construction at the site. We want to see that terra cotta tile roof appear on the cliff!

We're also refining numbers ahead of a final campaign to finish the fundraising for all phases. We're happy to report that the "value-engineering" (cost-cutting) exercise we went through, after the early estimates came in way too high, has actually improved the project! The final design by Mell Lawrence Architects and Campbell Landscape



Architecture is so beautifully elegant and speaks strongly to the masterful siting and geometry of the original Norwood estate. We are confident that the rehabilitation and repurposing of this fabulous 1922 California Craftsman bungalow with the staggering view of downtown Austin and Lady Bird Lake will be an instant hit with visitors and will ultimately inspire more preservation.

We will need everyone's help to finish the project! Please donate if you can, and stay tuned for a revamped website to appear, more announcements, and a call to action. Thank you Preservation Austin for your support! [www.norwoodparkfoundation.org](http://www.norwoodparkfoundation.org)



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## A Beautiful Symphony at Downs Field

**C**ome see "A Beautiful Symphony," an installation of portraits of the Downs Field community by Cindy Elizabeth as part of ForkliftDanceworks' year-long project celebrating the field. Titled "A Beautiful Symphony" for former player Lawrence Johnson's description of baseball as a dance, the project explores the importance of Downs Field to the continual flourishing of baseball in Texas, through the past, present, and future.

"A Beautiful Symphony" celebrates the legacy of players in the Negro Leagues, while also uplifting the narratives of Huston-Tillotson baseball and softball teams of today. The project also suggests the future generations of players who, as a result of the groundwork laid down by Negro League players in Texas, are able to imagine their role in the sport, no matter their gender, race, sexuality, ability or class. **You can see these amazing portraits by visiting Downs**

**Field in East Austin any time through December 6. ★**





**O**ur community and the world have changed a lot since our last newsletter went out in March. Many of us are working from home, meetings are held via video, and we only see our friends and colleagues while wearing masks and physically distancing from each other. While these times introduce new challenges, some that we already faced continue while new opportunities arise.

Over the past seven months the Advocacy Committee (formerly Preservation Committee) continued its work making policy recommendations to the Preservation Austin Board. Those recommendations resulted in Preservation Austin's writing letters to City Council supporting the Historic Preservation Office's FY 2020-2021 budget and designation of the Rogers Washington Holy Cross Local Historic District (see Page 11).

We opposed the Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for the Bartholomew-Robinson building at 1415 Lavaca Street, which proposed erecting a tower within the footprint of that City of Austin Landmark. The Historic Landmark Commission denied the COA because the project did not meet the requirements of the City Code or the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. We supported historic zoning of 2502 Park View, located in Allandale's "Air Conditioned Village," built in 1954 to assess the cost-effectiveness and profitability of central air in middle-class housing. The property's owner has since agreed to rehabilitate, rather than demolish, this historic home.

Preservation Austin also supported two important resolutions. The Music Venue Economic Recovery Resolution, supported by the Red River Cultural District, was passed by City Council in June 2020 and called for the Red River Cultural District's designation as a State Cultural District; the establishment of a cultural land trust; and exploration of Transfer of Development Rights, land banking, and acquisition strategies for stabilizing assets and preserving existing venue spaces citywide. The African American Cultural Heritage District Investment Initiative Resolution, sponsored by the East Austin Creative Coalition, goes to council this fall. It calls for implementing a place-making program and using the East Austin Historic Survey to designate cultural, historic, and heritage landmarks and districts at the local, state, and national levels, among other proactive interventions to preserve and support Black and Brown heritage in East Austin.

This summer we distributed preservation-focused candidate questionnaires for the

Texas House District 14 special election, and this fall we did the same for the State House and Senate Districts that include parts of Austin, and for Austin City Council. Responses were posted on Preservation Austin's website for public access. Once successful candidates are in office our staff and Board members will reach out to discuss our preservation efforts and priorities for the coming year.

As a follow-up to Preservation Austin's new Strategic Plan we changed the committee name to Advocacy Committee to better reflect the focus of our work and adopted a new charter and work plan. From that the committee developed four priority areas for the coming year. Those include:

- Underrepresented and Under-told Heritage. We will focus our efforts on historic sites reflecting under-represented communities and under-told stories, including, but not limited to, those of African American, Latinx, LGBTQ, and women. The goal is to better tell the full story of

*Continued on the next page*



Austin’s rich and diverse history and advocate for saving the sites that reflect that history. Strategies will include finding ways to share the stories of underrepresented peoples and sites and connecting with other groups doing similar work. We will also advocate for the use of the East Austin Historic Resources Survey to designate local historic districts and City of Austin landmarks that reflect a broader more inclusive history of Austin.

- Update the City-wide Preservation Plan and Historic Preservation Ordinance and continue to monitor revisions to the Land Development Code (LDC). The current City Preservation Plan dates to 1981 and does not reflect the current state of preservation activities in the city, nor 21st century best practices. A new plan would inform an update to the existing preservation code to make it more effective and efficient. We will advocate for the City to secure funding to begin that planning process. PA was deeply invested in the 2019 LDC rewrite efforts, advocating for a new preservation incentive and

strengthening protections for older and historic neighborhoods. We will continue to monitor the lawsuit filed against the City and take action when needed.

- AISD School Closures and Decommissioning. In 2019, AISD’s “School Changes” process called for the closure of twelve schools. Preservation Austin wrote a letter to AISD’s Trustees urging them to engage with the community to re-examine the criteria used to evaluate which schools should close, ensure additions to new schools are compatible with existing historic fabric; and finally, if closed, examine how campuses might be re-used in ways that honor their past and allows them to remain resources for our community. This priority becomes even more as the pandemic shifts educational practices. Strategies will include developing lines of communication with AISD leadership, providing examples of reasonable evaluation criteria and successful adaptive reuse of public schools, developing relationships with affected

communities and facilitating a working group of Landmark property owners to educate AISD about the benefits of the historic landmark property tax exemption.

- The 87th Texas Legislative Session. The session begins in January 2021 and due to the pandemic lawmakers will likely focus on economic relief and the State budget. We do not anticipate bills being introduced that would adversely impact preservation efforts. Our focus will be on monitoring bills, advocating for the Texas Historical Commission’s budget and for funding other state agencies that impact historic preservation, and building relationships with new and returning House and Senate members.

The past few months have made us all more aware than ever of the inequalities in our city and nation, the challenges to public school districts, and the need to find ways to come together in meaningful ways. We hope that the work we do can contribute to shaping a more inclusive, resilient, and meaningful community culture through preservation. ★

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as of October 22, 2020

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*Continued on the next page*

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## MISSION

Preservation Austin exists to empower Austinites to shape a more inclusive, resilient, and meaningful community culture through preservation.



## PA CALENDAR OF EVENTS • 2020-2021

NOV  
12

### Hill Country Deco

Authors David Bush and Jim Parsons will trace the history and evolution of modernistic architecture in Central Texas during this special online program. Free, see Page 2 for details.

DEC  
15  
+  
MAR  
15

### Winter and Spring Grant Deadlines

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. See page 14 for details.

### Downtown Doorsteps: 2020 Virtual Homes Tour

Miss the premiere of our first-ever virtual Homes Tour? Not to worry! Tickets are still available at [www.preservationaustin.org/homes-tour](http://www.preservationaustin.org/homes-tour). The film celebrates downtown's historic living spaces in all their forms. See Page 24 for details.

### Virtual Shorts

Check out our Virtual Shorts, courtesy of our Community Engagement Committee, on Facebook and YouTube. Videos feature past Preservation Merit Award winners Will Bridges of Antone's and architect Erica Keast Heroy, along with a sneak peek at the McFarland House, PA's property at 3805 Red River.

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