



# PRESERVATION — AUSTIN —

SAVING THE GOOD STUFF

Spring 2019 ★ Volume 23 No. 2



**J**oin us for “The Art of the Craftsman Style,” our 27th Annual Homes Tour! This year’s event celebrates seven stunning Craftsman style homes citywide in coordination with the Harry Ransom Center exhibition *The Rise of Everyday Design: The Arts and Crafts Movement in Britain and America*, on view now. During the late 19th century Britain’s Arts and Crafts Movement emphasized handmade domestic goods and honest design to combat the more dehumanizing effects of the Industrial Revolution. Here in America, magazines and pattern books diffused the movement’s principles into the wildly-popular Craftsman style, embracing its picturesque aesthetic and democratic spirit to produce quality housing (albeit with machine-made components) nationwide.

Our tour explores the Arts and Crafts Movement’s impact here in Austin. Featured homes show a wide range of Craftsman style influences, from pattern-book houses built by middle-and working-class families to those designed by architects for families of more means. Visitors will see beautifully-preserved historic features such as fireplaces and built-ins, lush gardens, and gorgeous additions. Their histories give a glimpse of Craftsman style living in the early

20th century. Creative updates show their seamless adaptation to modern life today.

This is Preservation Austin’s biggest event of the year, as well as our most important fundraiser. Our members receive special pricing on tour tickets and some membership levels include free tickets as well. We hope you’ll join us, and bring along some friends, to spend a beautiful Austin day celebrating these incredible homes, their homeowners, and all the good work our nonprofit does year-round! ★

<p><b>Saturday, April 27</b> <b>10am to 4pm</b> <b>Home Base: Preservation Austin</b> 500 Chicon, Texas Society of Architects Building</p> <p>\$30 for Preservation Austin Members \$40 for Non-Members</p> <p><b>Tickets on sale at <a href="http://www.preservationaustin.org">www.preservationaustin.org</a></b></p>
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SAVE THE DATE

# New Monuments for New Cities: Austin Monuments Past, Present, and Future

Thursday, May 2 — 6pm to 8pm

Waller Creek Conservancy, 1111 Red River Street

FREE — RSVP required at [www.wallercreek.org/events](http://www.wallercreek.org/events)

Presented by the Waller Creek Conservancy in partnership with Preservation Austin and the Austin History Center, this panel will explore questions about who and what has been memorialized in the past and how applying new lenses could shift that paradigm in the future.

**MODERATOR:** DaLyah Jones, KUT Host and Assistant Producer

**PANELISTS:**

**Stephanie Lang**, Program Administrator, John L. Warfield Center for African & African American Studies

**Eric Tang**, Director, Center for Asian American Studies; Associate Professor and Associate Chair of African and African Diaspora Studies Department

**Rocio Villalobos**, Program Manager, Children in Nature Collaborative of Austin (CiNCA) at Westcave Outdoor Discovery

This free public program is held in conjunction with New Monuments for New Cities, the inaugural joint art initiative of the High Line Network. The exhibition will feature 25 site-specific artworks set within five urban reuse projects across the United States and Canada. The public art exhibition takes an important look at the role monuments have played in shaping cities and how they successfully speak to or, in some cases, misrepresent the people who live there.

The exhibition will be on view at Waller Creek (12th & Red River) from **March 2 through May 31, 2019**. Details at [www.wallercreek.org](http://www.wallercreek.org). Sponsored by Michael Chesser, BBVA Compass, Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department, and the Susan Vaughan Foundation. ★



**STAFF**

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2018-2019 Board of Directors

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**And now for a sneak peek at this year's featured homes... Join us on April 27 to experience them in person and learn more about their stories, past and present:**

Photo courtesy of Casey Woods Photography



**2002 E. 16th Street**

This 2017 Preservation Merit Award winner features built-in bookcases and storage, exposed shiplap walls and ceilings, and formal pocket doors. Architect Erica Keast Heroy and her husband David purchased the home, used as a rental property for six decades, in 2016. She designed its stunning rear addition and master suite, updated the kitchen and original bathroom, and preserved its historic fabric for their family of four. Veola Young, who owned Hillside Drugstore with husband Doc Young, purchased the house from a University of Texas auction and moved it to East Austin's Chestnut neighborhood in 1954. Doc Young was a leading African American pharmacist, and their family business was a beloved East Austin institution.

completed in the Shadow Lawn Addition, now listed in the National Register of Historic Places and part of the Hyde Park Local Historic District. Owners Paul Carapetyan and Julia Spann purchased the home in 1988 and have been working on this labor of love ever since. Extensive historic fabric includes everything from original roof tile imported from Belgium to push-button light switches. Echoes of a midcentury remodel include pink bathroom tile and yellow tile countertops. The breakfast room features original peacock wallpaper, and the owners have spotted over fifty species of birds in their beautiful organic garden.



Leonid Furmansky, 2019 Homes Tour Photographer



**4206 Avenue D**

This distinctive bungalow stands in the Hyde Park Local Historic District. Mrs. May Brownlee commissioned the home in 1912 after moving from Burnet to Austin to be with her four children attending The University of Texas. Its American Foursquare design shows Colonial Revival and Craftsman style influences, including diamond-sashed windows, Doric columns, and original light fixtures. Christine and Ted Huston purchased the property in 1991 with a meticulous eye towards restoration, period-appropriate updates, and a gorgeous collection of art and furnishings. Clayton & Little designed an elegant 2017 addition with a breakfast booth framed by custom stained glass windows. The lush Arts and Crafts-inspired garden features Asian and native Texas plantings. The Renner Project is overseeing interior updates with period pieces spanning the late 19th to mid-20th centuries.

Leonid Furmansky, 2019 Homes Tour Photographer



**3810 Duval Street**

Architect Roy L. Thomas designed this picturesque bungalow with Tudor Revival style flare in 1927. It was one of the first homes

*Continued on page 4*

Photo courtesy of JD Lewis, edgeoflight.com



**3118 Wheeler Street**

This stately home in the Aldridge Place Local Historic District displays iconic Craftsman features such as flared rooflines, deep eaves, and massive brackets. Architect Leslie Iredell designed the house and its twin next door in 1914. Early residents included Judge Ossa Shivers Lattimore and E. R. Sims, a Spanish professor at The University of Texas. By the 1980s the house was vacant and in near-ruin. John Barkley transformed it from a teardown into a 1987 Preservation Merit Award winner, and enlisted Paul Lamb Architects for a historically-sensitive remodel in 2002. John and Medora Barkley made this their own home in 2008. Today it features heartwood pine floors; an incredible 54 historic windows; and a modern kitchen and swimming pool.

and exposed roof beams. The Thompsons removed drywall to reveal longleaf pine shiplap and renovated the second floor into bedrooms and children’s play space. The updated kitchen includes original cabinets, likely crafted by Ernest Wilde’s father.



Leonid Furmanskyy, 2019 Homes Tour Photographer



**302 Terrace Drive**

This 1928 bungalow characterizes the historic middle-class housing of Travis Heights’ Blue Bonnet Hills section. Over the years occupants included Florence Donahoe Richey, a prominent teacher and administrator at Austin High School, and Fidencio Soria, Mexican Consul to Austin. The current owners purchased it for their young family in 2009. Their 600-square-foot master suite addition with Duckworth Custom Homes was completed in 2016. Use of extensive reclaimed materials complements the original home’s scale, as well as its teardrop siding, historic windows and trim, hardwood floors, and working fireplace. A spacious new screened porch features gorgeous encaustic tile imported from Nablus, West Bank. Landscaping for the home’s dramatic site, designed by Murray Legge Architecture, is underway.

Leonid Furmanskyy, 2019 Homes Tour Photographer



**1412 W. 9th Street**

Ernest and Irma Wilde built this classic Old West Austin bungalow soon after their marriage in 1916. Both were first-generation Germans from prominent immigrant families, and Wilde enjoyed a distinguished career as the city’s most prominent piano tuner. Erin and Matt Thompson purchased the City of Austin Landmark exactly one-hundred years later. The home retains its original windows, doors, and hardware; butler’s pantry and fireplace; built-in bookcases with leaded glass doors;



Leonid Furmanskyy, 2019 Homes Tour Photographer



**1608 Treadwell Street**

Harmony Grogan, principal of Pluck Architecture, and her husband Jacob Scheick purchased this working-class bungalow in South

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# Austin History Center Mural Restored

By Cyrus Yerxa

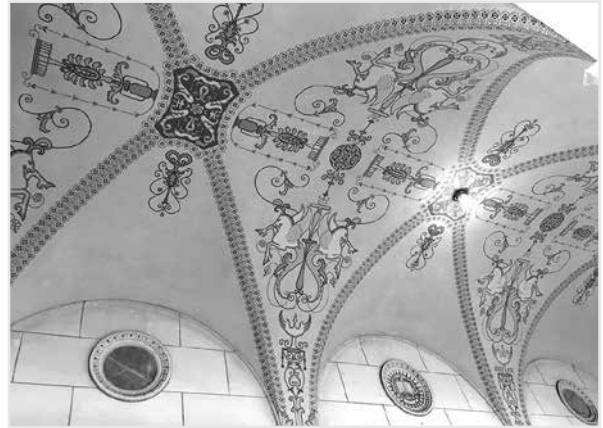
**I**n January of this year, local conservator Mark van Gelder completed restoration of the ceiling mural above the Austin History Center's north entrance overlooking W. 9th Street at Guadalupe. The project began in spring 2010 when the Austin History Center (AHC) approached van Gelder to assess the mural's condition. After six years of planning and fundraising they contacted van Gelder again to move forward with technical work. Physical restoration started in spring 2017. This is the initial phase of a planned total building restoration that includes repair to iron work, light fixtures, landscaping, and structural repairs to the exterior limestone.

Van Gelder's work is detail-oriented. He has practiced conservation for over forty years and has worked on paintings that hang in the Capitol as well as in the Blanton Museum of Art, where he worked as a staff conservator for five years. But each project comes with its unique challenges and the AHC mural was no different.

Administered by the Austin History Center Association, the restoration sought to make the mural look more like it might have in 1933 "so that it could be visually

appreciated by the public in a state that was closer to the artist's original intentions," van Gelder said. For that reason, this project prioritized a set of goals different from typical conservation projects. A conservator aims for longevity and, barring philosophical disagreements about the staying power of beautiful things, preserving does not always mean improving aesthetically. Van Gelder needed to find points of acceptable compromise among various conservation ideals which, in practical terms, are often difficult to attain completely. The lengths to which he went for the little things show us an exemplary slice of professional conservation.

In the research phase, van Gelder relied mostly on direct examination of the mural itself. The original muralists completed their work in 1933 and in the 1980s it underwent surface stabilization treatment to mitigate deterioration. (The 1980s project was a more straightforward example of pure conservation because



Photos by Cyrus Yerxa

the only goal was to stabilize the piece and let damages to its aesthetics remain as they were). There is little remaining information—such as pigment samples, design sketches, or paint formulas—available about the original materials. Van Gelder worked around this scarcity of information by investigating the ceiling up close with a set of jeweler's magnifying glasses. He studied repeating patterns and used less weather-beaten spots to make educated guesses about more deteriorated spots. For example, the design contains twelve Pegasus figures. "Any lost parts of the design in one of their eyes or manes could, by comparison to the less-damaged areas, be fairly confidently compensated for by interpolation," he said. He identified the mural's twelve original colors so could figure out which color each repeating

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*Tour, continued from page 4*

Austin's Zilker neighborhood in 2009. Constructed in 1936, its first tenants were electrician Howard L. Duff, his wife Mildred, and their young son. The home's late Craftsman-era design distills its style into a gabled entrance awning with oversized

brackets and 3/1 wooden window screens. Room-by-room updates have maximized its tiny footprint with gorgeous new built-in bookcases and wood features, in keeping with the Craftsman ethic; a modern kitchen and attic office; and beautifully-preserved

longleaf pine trim and the original brick hearth. A new paint scheme and landscaping brightened the exterior. All updates have embraced the honest simplicity of this increasingly rare housing type. ★

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# Thank You for 4 1/2 Great Years

by Kate Singleton

**A**s many of you now know, I have stepped down as Executive Director and have accepted the position of Historic Preservation Officer for the City of Mesa, Arizona. I have thought about what to say in this last column. Should I go over the accomplishments of the last 4 and a half years or talk about challenges or tell stories about people and places touched my heart? I think I will do a little of each of these things.

When I came to Austin, I decided working with neighborhoods would be a priority including providing practical hands on guidance and advice to guide them to and through the Local Historic District designation process. Why? Because Austin had only four local historic districts, far behind most of the other preservation programs around the state. But to accomplish this, other work had to be done before and in tandem with these efforts. Often these efforts were not seen by the general public, but many of you were there with me, providing support and figuring out strategy, crafting letters, making phone calls and sitting at endless public meetings.

Working together, we have been able to secure funding for the East Austin Survey that identified several potential historic districts and individual landmarks as well as providing a historic context for Austin and the east side. We developed and presented the Local Historic District Workshops. Thank you to those that presented and attended! Three districts have come to fruition: Aldridge Place, Mary Street, and Smoot Terrace Park.

And, there are more on the way. One is Holy

Cross Washington over on the East side. I worked closely with the neighborhood, meeting with them often to help them develop their design standards, history, and preservation plan so that they can become a local historic district. Like many that I have worked with, they invited me not only into their neighborhood but into their lives. That is one of the things I truly love about preservation—you get to meet and become friends with the best people.

Additional staff for the City's preservation program has been a pressing need, and, because of our efforts, this has been accomplished as well as additional funding for more surveys and training for the Historic Landmark Commission.

We worked closely with City Council on the Hotel Occupancy Tax allocation for historic preservation and establishment of an Office of Heritage Tourism to be housed in the City's Economic Development Department. Now and in the future, these funds will be truly transformative for our treasured historic places, sites, and buildings across Austin.

All of this is due to the strong relationships we have built with City Council and City staff. I am immensely proud that, working with you, I have been able to further build the credibility of this organization.

There have been battles won and battles lost. One win was at the last City Council meeting of 2014 when 3805 Red River was designated over owner objection—all in the middle of a Waterloo event. I was with board members driving back and forth between the event and City Council when,

finally, at 12:30 AM, the vote was cast and we were able to celebrate. Probably the hardest loss was not being able to bring the Blue Bonnet Local Historic District to fruition. From that situation, I met so many dedicated wonderful people who love their neighborhood and understand the role that historic preservation plays empowering neighborhoods and keeping Austin the city we all love. The good news is that the neighborhood has regrouped and has completed a survey and submitted a National Register Nomination, a project funded in part by the Preservation Austin grant program. They are scheduled for an upcoming Texas Historical Commission Review Board meeting and I know they'll be successful.

I am proud too that we have built relationships with many who didn't consider themselves preservationists but they now see the value of preserving not only the grand mansions but those more modest places where everyday history happens and where the soul of our city lives.

My challenge to you is to keep up the momentum we have built and keep preservation at the forefront of all decisions that impact the City. Here are some ideas on how to continue and ensure success.

- 1) Work with City Council to include funds in the next budget for a complete rewrite of the preservation ordinance. The funds should be used to hire a qualified preservation consultant to guide the process and write a state of the art ordinance. A new ordinance could address—and rectify—many of the issues that the City's program has such as the

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*Director, continued from page 6*

Local Historic District and Landmark Designation process. This will also ensure more equity in the designation process and the program as a whole.

2) The East Austin Survey has not been utilized the way it could be. The landmarks and districts that were identified should be mapped on the City's GIS layer as should the information from any future surveys. This way, everyone—neighborhoods, developers, the Historic Landmark Commission—can be better aware of potential districts and landmarks. The Survey also gives a methodology to assess other potential historic sites as well as a prioritization of future survey areas and these should

be used by the City staff and the Historic Landmark Commission.

3) Develop City-wide Design Standards for Historic Districts and Individual Landmarks. This is in process, led by staff and a citizen committee. However, I strongly urge the preservation community to request City Council find the funds—now—to hire a preservation consultant to guide the process and bring ideas from outside of Austin to develop design standards that answer to the unique character of the City and are state of the art.

4) When people express concern over the loss of neighborhoods and the historic

fabric of the City, tell them to join Preservation Austin! We can accomplish so much more together.

And, lastly, I will miss all of you that I have come to know here in Austin—through the late night City Council meetings when our item was last on the agenda, at our programs and events, at neighborhood meetings, when you volunteered to stuff envelopes or when we talked over the phone or by email trying to solve a problem, mourn a frustrating loss or celebrate a win.

Remember, as John Kenneth Galbraith said, "Preservationists are the only people in the world who are invariably confirmed in their wisdom after the fact." ★

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*Murals, continued from page 5*

shape must have been, such as the pink in the Pegasus' manes.

This method of inference relies, van Gelder said, on the evidence that the colors were all applied individually, meaning that the artists did not blend their pigments on the surface. He was even able to make out the nature of the original brush strokes. With his magnifying glasses and knowledge about the way paint mediums lie on surfaces, he could tell that much of the paint had been freehanded "fairly rapidly and boldly." The eyes of the Pegasus figures were composed of five distinct strokes, but each one was slightly different. The long elegant curly-q's wiggled a little unevenly as the artist's hand painted them. Where the painting was not freehanded, stencils were used. Van Gelder discovered this with help of a colleague, an artistic painter. Together they agreed they could see where the paint stood a little taller, as though up against the edge of a stencil held firmly to the plaster, or where the paint had

bled under the edges of a stencil that did not sit down completely on the uneven texture.

Given the project's focus on aesthetics, van Gelder still adhered to fundamental principles of conservation, as in his paint selection. He said that "the choice of which type of paint to use for the restorations needed to take several different technical and ethical requirements into consideration." He abided by the "principle of reversibility" by leaving open the possibility of removing any substances used in the treatment process, and "so that the restorations can be distinguished chemically from the artists' original work." Van Gelder deliberately used paint that would resemble the original but differ enough chemically to be told apart and possibly removed altogether.

The project's arduousness, van Gelder said, lay as much in figuring out what to do as in doing it. On numerous occasions



he went to great lengths before finally settling on a seemingly simple solution. To trace out and strengthen what was left of the original painting, van Gelder needed a brush of the right size to stay within the lines, and of the right stiffness to maintain control over the bumpy stucco. He accumulated coffee cans full of different brushes in his search for the right one. He ordered brushes from Germany. He consulted with artists' suppliers and artist friends. He finally settled on a brush—his "Goldilocks brush," so to speak—that is about the width of a sharpened pipe cleaner. With it, he sat atop his scaffolding and repainted the damaged and missing original strokes one at a time. ★



## Preservation Austin's 2019 Legislative Agenda

Prior to the start of the 86th session of the Texas Legislature on January 8, Preservation Austin's Board of Directors adopted the following legislative agenda:

- Support the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and its programs, including:
  - \$35 million in funding for the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program.
  - Funding for preservation needs at State Historic Sites, including the French Legation here in Austin.
  - Additional \$500,000 in funding for the State Heritage Tourism Program.
  - Increased staffing levels to successfully implement the various THC programs and adequately staff historic sites.
- Support restoring funding for the Texas Commission on the Arts' Cultural District Grant Program.
- Protect State-owned landmarks, including the Austin State Hospital.
- Protect the ability for cities to use 15% of Hotel Occupancy Tax funds for historic preservation and the arts.
- Protect use of state historic preservation tax credits for both for-profit and non-profit owned historic properties and add state historic tax credit language into the insurance tax legislation.
- Defend municipal authority to determine local historic preservation needs and policies. Oppose bills that limit cities' ability to perform historic preservation, planning, zoning and other activities related to preservation and sustainability and that erode the local authority of cities to govern their own affairs.
- Monitor legislative action that impacts the non-profit sector such as tax exemptions, regulatory efforts and the like.

## Texas Historical Commission Funding

The good news is that, as of the writing of this article, the THC's budget is making its way through the House Appropriations Committee with most of its budget request recommended for full funding. This includes \$36 million for the Courthouse grant program; funding for capital and deferred maintenance needs at State Historic Sites; and additional staff for State Historic Sites (including the French Legation) and the historic tax credit program. Funding for the award-winning State Heritage Tourism Program, however, has not



yet been recommended for inclusion in the House's final budget. Of course, the Senate Finance Committee still needs to develop its budget recommendations, and then both budget bills must be voted on by the full House and Senate.

Also going through committee review is the bill that would authorize continuation of the THC as part of a twelve-year "Sunset" review process that evaluates the agency and its functions to determine if they are still needed. The preservation community is pleased that Sunset Commission staff have strongly recommended continuation of the THC's role in our government, and we anticipate that the House and Senate will agree.

## Historic Designation Threatened

Rep. John Cyrier (Republican, District 17) and Sen. Dawn Buckingham (Republican, District 24) have introduced bills (HB 2496 & SB 1488) that require municipalities to obtain owner consent to designate a historic property through zoning. While the State of Texas has programs to encourage preservation, a key and vital component to our preservation strategy in Austin - and other municipalities - rests in the zoning authority delegated to our local elected officials. Preservation Austin has been told substitute language will be introduced at the House's Culture Recreation and Tourism Committee hearing to require a 2/3 vote of the Historic Landmark Commission (HLC) to initiate historic designation and 2/3 vote of City Councils to designate properties when opposed by the owner. The City of Austin already requires a 2/3 vote of City Council and eliminated the 2/3 vote requirement by HLC in September 2017.

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Mark your calendars for these upcoming events with Inherit Austin, our next generation of preservationists:

## Pedal for Preservation

Saturday, April 13 — 10:30am to 2:30pm  
Preservation Austin (500 Chicon 78702)

Join Inherit Austin as we visit historic properties across the city by bike and scooter!

Preservation Austin holds preservation covenants on several properties across Austin to ensure that they are maintained for future generations to appreciate. We'll meet at the Preservation Austin offices at 10:30am for coffee, pastries, and orientation. Then, we'll break off into small groups to pedal or scoot around Austin to inspect the properties. You'll be given worksheets to fill out. Take your time and enjoy the sights!

After exploring the city and enjoying the spring weather, we'll rendezvous at Lazarus Brewing (1902 E 6th Street) to discuss our findings and enjoy some beers. Bring your own wheeled mode of transit or rent a bike or scooter nearby.

#Pedal4PreservationATX

Follow Inherit Austin on Facebook and Instagram (@inheritaustin) to find out about our upcoming events and campaigns! ★

## Music History Walking Tour

Saturday, May 4 — Details TBA

Join Inherit Austin for a walking tour tracing Austin's storied music history. We'll finish up with a happy hour downtown. Stay tuned!

### Inherit Austin 2018-2019 Board

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#### UTSOA Student Historic Preservation Association

Rosa Fry

Legislative Update, continued from page 8

These bills undermine the Council's authority to establish local law and imposes a requirement that is not applied to any other type of zoning regulation. HB 2496 and SB 1488 jeopardize our community's ability to recognize and save the places that define our City's and State's history. Preservation Austin has already begun working with Preservation Texas and other organizations and communities across the state to oppose these bills, and have asked our members to do so as well.

### Citizen Advocacy Does Work

As we have learned from previous legislative sessions, citizen advocacy does work. Our effective and persistent advocacy during

the 85th session successfully defeated a bill that would have imposed poorly-written, and overly-restrictive, historic designation criteria language on Texas communities. We also supported successful pieces of legislation such as the transfer of the French Legation to the THC and expansion of the State Historic Tax Credit program. Preservation Austin's staff and members worked on those efforts with our partners statewide, and we will continue to do so this spring.

**But we need the help of all preservation-minded citizens!** Preservation Austin urges you, our supporters, to write, call, and email your state Representatives and

Senators to let them know what you think about legislation that impacts historic preservation. To find out how to contact your legislators go to the "Who Represents Me" web site (<https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home>) and enter your address. From there you can click on your legislators' names to access their webpages and contact information.

Throughout the spring Preservation Austin will reach out to legislative offices, testify at committee hearings, and keep our membership informed about legislation impacting them - working with you and for you to "Save the Good Stuff." ★



**T**he Education Committee has been keeping up its busy pace these past months, excited about projects completed and about those in the works. If you'd like to join us and be a part of a dynamic and fun group committed to preserving and showcasing Austin's unique character, please feel welcome! Here's the latest news:

### History Hunt a Great Success!

The Guadalupe neighborhood around the French Legation Museum was the site of our 4th annual History Hunt - the architectural scavenger hunt for elementary aged children. Families joined us on Saturday, February 23 on a fun quest to identify unique homes from the Victorian area with such clues as "Find the one-story house with a hipped roof and Doric columns." "Find the Folk Victorian with corbelled brickwork under the windows." "Find the big house with a rounded wall dormer" and more. Could YOU find these homes? Great fun was had and everyone went home with treats, an official History

Hunt Passport, and a button saying "History Hunt Champion!" Can't wait until next year's adventure.

### ABC Otocast Tour is LIVE!

It's helpful that Austin begins with the letter "A" as we're the first of a terrific series of walking tours on the Otocast app. Download Otocast and check out the latest "Austin's Postwar Boom" tour of the Allandale, Brentwood and Crestview neighborhoods. A special shout out to EDU volunteers, and PA partners, Rebekah Dobrasko, Marie Oehlerking-Read, Rosa Fry, Cyrus Yerxa, Reagan Baechle, Elizabeth Brummett, Elisha Perez, and Dane Edwards for their work on this wonderful content. (And while you're in Otocast, take advantage of the host of other great Austin tours!)

### WEST and EAST!

Preservation Austin is excited to be partnering with Big Medium, an Austin-based nonprofit dedicated to supporting and promoting contemporary art in Texas, and producer of the Texas Biennale, and



the annual WEST and EAST Austin Studio Tours. Preservation Austin will serve as the official community partner for this year's WEST and EAST, aligning the two organizations' efforts to reach new audiences through collaboration and outreach. Sharpen your drawing pencils for a May 18 tour where you'll be the artist yourself, illustrating notable architectural gems downtown... and more programming to be determined!

The welcome mat is out to all interested in helping make these programs available to an ever growing public. We meet the third Tuesday of every month from 5:45pm-7pm. at the Preservation Austin offices.

**Join us!** ★



History Hunt in the Guadalupe Neighborhood



# President's Message

★ Vanessa McElwrath



**S**pring is here in Austin. As I pass the bluebonnets on the side the road on my way to work, I am reminded that spring is the season of new beginnings. And as such, it is with a mix of sadness and gratitude that we bid farewell to Kate Singleton as Executive Director of Preservation Austin. Please join me in thanking Kate for the great contributions she has made to Preservation Austin over the last four and a half years. While we will miss her and her leadership, we wish Kate the best of luck in her new role as the Historic Preservation Officer for the City of Mesa, Arizona.

But with change comes opportunity. We recently began a national search to find a new Executive Director to help Preservation Austin continue along its successful trajectory. As we embark on this exciting journey, I am asking YOU- our members, supporters, and partners- to help spread the word. We are seeking candidates with a passion for preservation and a desire to work alongside our city's leaders, architects, developers, and community advocates alike. For more details on the role, duties and responsibilities, please visit the official job posting on the Preservation Austin website.

partnership with the Harry Ransom Center brings a unique perspective to the Arts and Crafts Movement and its impact on architecture in our city. If you would like to volunteer as a house docent, a ticket-taker, or part of our logistics crew, it's not too late. You can still sign up by visiting the event page on our website.

In the interim, we have developed a plan to ensure that these positive trends and overall operations and programming of the organization continue. In fact, Lindsey Derrington, Preservation Austin's Programs Director, and our volunteers have been busy gearing up for the 27th Annual Homes Tour, "Art of the Craftsman Style," taking place on April 27.

I would also like to express sincere thanks and gratitude to our generous sponsors. Without their contributions, we would not be able to share the unique architecture, stories, and character that these homes represent.

The Homes Tour is our biggest annual fundraiser, drawing over 1,000 attendees annually. Since having the distinct pleasure of volunteering and chairing the Homes Tour in the past, it has become one of my favorite events of the year. I love that that it brings long-time Austin residents, recent transplants, and even visiting tourists together for a common purpose - to celebrate historic preservation in Austin.

And if you haven't already, I invite you to purchase and reserve your tickets today. Early bird pricing is still in effect through April 2. I also encourage you to invite friends, family members, and neighbors to join in on the fun. The tour serves as a great introduction and reminder of Austin's history, culture, and architecture that Preservation Austin fights to protect.

Sincerely,

Vanessa McElwrath  
President

I would like to thank our incredible volunteers for putting together a spectacular lineup this year. Our

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**SATURDAY, APRIL 27**

**TICKETS NOW ON SALE!**

**Early-Bird Tickets: \$25/PA Members, \$35/Non-Members Through April 1**

**Standard Tickets: \$30/PA Members, \$40 Non-Members**



**THE RISE OF  
EVERYDAY  
DESIGN**

THE ARTS & CRAFTS MOVEMENT  
IN BRITAIN & AMERICA



Exhibition on View  
February 9–July 14, 2019

**HRC**  
HARRY RANSOM  
CENTER

**See an extraordinary selection** of drawings, sketches, photographs, art objects, and handcrafted furniture that offers a new and detailed look at the history of the Arts and Crafts movement. The exhibition examines the ideas of the movement's reformers, such as John Ruskin and William Morris in Britain, and Candace Wheeler, Alice and Elbert Hubbard, and Gustav Stickley in America, among others. See how their theories and products, which remain influential to this day, transformed the homes and lives of ordinary people in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The exhibition is organized for the Harry Ransom Center by Christopher Long, professor of history

and theory in the School of Architecture, and Monica Penick, associate professor in the Department of Design in the College of Fine Arts, The University of Texas at Austin. A catalogue of the same title published by Yale University Press and edited by the organizers accompanies the exhibition.

The Ransom Center, located at 21st and Guadalupe streets, is open until 5 p.m. daily with extended hours until 7 p.m. on Thursday evenings. Docent-led tours are offered every day at noon, with additional tours at 6 p.m. on Thursdays, and 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. For details, visit [hrc.utexas.edu](http://hrc.utexas.edu).



PRESERVATION  
— AUSTIN —



## HERITAGE QUIZ

★ by Kaitlyn Harris & Elizabeth Porterfield

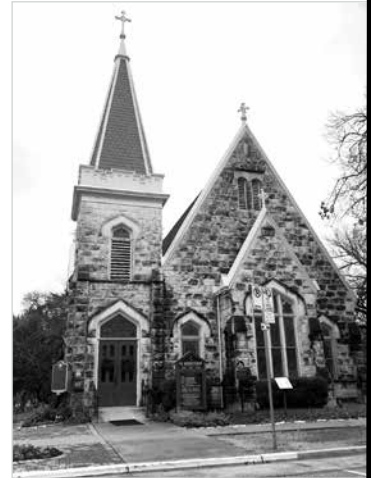
**P**reservation Austin presents our Facebook Heritage Quiz the first Friday of every month! The first respondent to correctly identify a local landmark receives a \$5 gift card to East Austin's Cenote Café, housed in the 1887 McDonald-Cain House, courtesy of your favorite preservation nonprofit.

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

### **JANUARY: ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH (209 W. 27th Street)**

All Saints Episcopal Church was constructed in 1899 as a chapel for the Young Ladies' Church Institute, located next door in Grace Hall, built two years before. Designed by Austin architect A. O. Watson, the Gothic Revival-style church features numerous stained-glass windows in the Medieval mosaic style by Willett Stained Glass Studios of Philadelphia. An addition extended the chancel in 1939. All Saints Episcopal Church is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, and is a designated City of Austin Landmark. Preservation Austin gave its restoration a Preservation Merit Award in 2000.

★ **Winner: Tracy Hirschman Hutson**



All Saints Episcopal Church

### **FEBRUARY: TREATY OAK (507 Baylor Street)**

Austin's Treaty Oak is estimated to be over 500 years old and is in the American Forestry Association's Hall of Fame for Trees. The Treaty Oak is all that remains of a stand of fourteen live oaks known as the Council Oaks. It is sacred ground for the Comanche and Tonkawa Tribes, and legend holds that Stephen F. Austin signed the first treaty between indigenous tribes and Anglo-American settlers under this tree. When the Treaty Oak was threatened by development in the 1920s, Austinites raised a protest and convinced the city to purchase it. In 1989, the tree was poisoned but saved, although it remains only one quarter of its original size. The beloved Treaty Oak was designated a City of Austin Landmark in 1986.

★ **Winner: Nirav Patel**



Treaty Oak

### **MARCH: BLUE BONNET COURT (4407 Guadalupe Street)**

Constructed in 1929, the Bluebonnet Tourist Camp catered to motorists traveling into Austin along the Meridian Highway. Beth and Joseph Lucas hired Brydson Lumber Company to construct the two-building complex around a central courtyard. Both buildings included several individual units, each with a covered parking bay. The Lucas's managed the property and lived on site until 1937 when the tourist court was purchased by John and Marie Maige. In 1939, the Maiges changed the name to Blue Bonnet Court (still evident on the signage today), and they continued to operate it until 1958. It was later converted into apartments.

Blue Bonnet Court was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1990 and today is reportedly Austin's only remaining tourist court built before 1930.

★ **Winner: Brian Soto**



Blue Bonnet Court



## Grant Awarded for Waller Creek Conservancy's Hardeman House at Symphony Square

**T**his winter our Grants Committee announced funding for restoration work at the Waller Creek Conservancy's new home at Symphony Square. In the 1970s, the Symphony Square urban renewal project brought together the 19th century Doyle House, Hamilton House, the former New Orleans Club, and the Hardeman House around a newly-designed amphitheater facing Waller Creek at E. 9th and Red River streets. The Waller Creek Conservancy secured a 70-year lease on part of the city-owned property in 2017. Since then the organization has completed significant rehabilitation work to convert part of the fading complex, including the Hardeman House and former New Orleans club, into its new headquarters.

Our \$5,000 matching grant will support restoration of the 1887 Hardeman House's main entrance to replace its severely-damaged wooden door, fanlight, and sidelights. The new door system, approved by the Historic Landmark Commission, will restore this City of Austin Landmark's historic appearance. The project also includes security upgrades to protect these landmarks for years to come. Preservation

Austin is excited to be part of this important revitalization of one of Austin's architectural treasures!

Launched in fall 2016, our grant program offers matching funds of up to \$5,000 on a quarterly basis. Categories include Education, Bricks and Mortar, and Planning/ Historic Resource Survey/Local Historic Designation. Nonprofit organizations, neighborhood organizations, public entities, and owners of individual or proposed landmarks may apply.

By providing small but impactful grants to important projects citywide, Preservation Austin can affect real change in the preservation and interpretation of the historic places that mean the most to our community.

**Our summer grant deadline is June 15! See [preservationaustin.org/programs/grants](http://preservationaustin.org/programs/grants) for details.** ★



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~ Thank You! ~

**AMPLIFY AUSTIN**

Many thanks to our generous Amplify Austin Day 2019 donors! We are incredibly grateful that these supporters chose Preservation Austin on this community-wide day of nonprofit giving. We raised a total of \$2,460, just shy of our goal, and exceeded our Amplify Austin totals in 2016 and 2017!

Thank you to the following donors, and to **Individual Fundraisers Ann S. Graham, Lori Martin, Vanessa McElwrath, Kati McKinney,** and **Elisha Perez,** for helping us get there:

Alan Schumann	Elliott Jenkins	Margaret Underwood
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## PA CALENDAR OF EVENTS • 2019

APR  
13

### **Pedal for Preservation**

Join Inherit Austin for a bike-and-scooter survey of historic properties for which Preservation Austin holds covenants. See Page 9 for details.

APR  
27

### **Preservation Austin's 27th Annual Homes Tour**

"The Art of the Craftsman Style," our 2019 Homes Tour, will featured seven stunning Craftsman style homes citywide. Tickets on sale now at [preservationaustin.org/events](http://preservationaustin.org/events), see Page 1 for details.

MAY  
2

### **New Monuments for New Cities: Austin Monuments Past, Present, and Future**

Panel presented by the Waller Creek Conservancy in partnership with Preservation Austin and the Austin History Center. See Page 2 for details.

MAY  
4

### **Austin Music History Tour**

Inherit Austin hosts a walking tour tracing Austin's storied music history. We'll finish up with a happy hour downtown. Stay tuned for additional details!

JUN  
15

### **Summer 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.

NOW  
to  
JUL  
15

### **The Rise of Everyday Design: The Arts and Crafts Movement in Britain and America Exhibit Opening**

This year's Homes Tour celebrates Craftsman style architecture homes in conjunction with this Harry Ransom Center exhibition. See Page 12 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 Spring.

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