



PRESERVATION
— AUSTIN —

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SAVING THE GOOD STUFF

Summer 2019 Volume 23 No. 3



Preservation Austin Purchases 3805 Red River!

Preservation Austin is thrilled to announce our purchase of the beloved City of Austin Landmark at 3805 Red River Street, representing our organization's first major investment in historic buildings in decades! In 2014 Preservation Austin's advocacy, with significant public support, led City Council to protect the threatened building through historic zoning. This purchase brings these efforts full circle, and we're excited to make the house shine once again while working with the neighborhood and city to develop plans

that will sustain it, and our nonprofit, for years to come.

We want to thank you, our members, for making this momentous project possible.

This prominent landmark stands in the Hancock neighborhood at Red River and E. 38th Streets. It is one of only a few Streamline Moderne houses in Austin, with a style inspired by the power and speed of 1930s ocean liners and steam engines.

The home's unusual design, with sweeping horizontal lines and a distinctive fin with porthole cutouts, has made it a local favorite since its completion in 1947.

This is an exciting new chapter in our nonprofit's history! Stay tuned for progress reports on the rehabilitation project, and for details on how you can help. Thank you again for your membership and for supporting our mission – 3805 Red River now belongs to us all. ★

Call for Nominations: Preservation Merit Awards

It's that time of the year! Preservation Austin is excited to announce the call for nominations for our 59th Annual Preservation Merit Awards. This program honors the hard work and visionary approaches of those preserving our city's incredible heritage, including the rehabilitation of historic properties; outstanding additions; sustainability initiatives; and the preservation of cultural landscapes.


Projects must be located within the City of Austin and completed between January 1, 2017 and the nomination due date of August 12, 2019. Recipients will be honored at our Preservation Merit Awards Celebration luncheon at the Stephen F. Austin Hotel on Friday, November 15.

Download the nomination form, due August 12, through our website at preservationaustin.org. Please read the application guidelines carefully!

Questions? Contact Executive Director Lindsey Derrington at lindsey@preservationaustin.org or 512- 474-5198 ext. 7728. ★



Tucker-Winfield Apartments, a 2018 Preservation Merit Award Winner



★

STAFF

Lindsey Derrington, Executive Director

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Children playing in Rosewood Pool, 1938

Rosewood Park: A Historic Icon of Austin's East Side

By Sarah Marshall, Parks and Recreation Historic Preservation & Heritage Tourism Program Coordinator
Education Committee Member

Rosewood Park is located along Boggy Creek in the center of East Austin. The land was originally a homestead settled by local storeowner Rudolph Bertram in the 1870s. The city purchased the property in 1928 for \$13,500, opening Austin's first public park for African Americans there two years later. Since its inception, Rosewood Park has served an indispensable role in the lives of the local community and continues to provide the neighborhood with a grand public space for recreation.

1928: A City Plan for Austin, Texas

In 1927, the City of Austin hired Koch & Fowler, a Dallas-based civil engineering firm, to prepare a city plan. Completed the following year, the ambitious effort addressed a wide range of issues, including transportation, schools, public works, land-use, and demographics. Seeking to preserve and capitalize on the city's inherent beauty, the plan proposed a system of parks and greenbelts along Austin's creek and waterways, and advocated the creation of new city parks and improvements to existing ones.

Another part of the 1928 plan established a "negro district" to the east of East

Avenue (today's I-35) in the largely industrially-zoned part of the city. At the time, African Americans lived in small numbers across the city with the majority already living in East Austin. Knowing that segregationist zoning laws were illegal, the plan recommended denying basic services and amenities to those living outside of the district. If African Americans wanted public services, such as sewage lines, schools, or parks, they would receive these more readily in East Austin under the "separate but equal doctrine" of the Jim Crow era.

The city established the "Rosewood Avenue Park and Playground for the

Colored" in East Austin in accordance with the plan. Conversely, it barred public services, including parks, to African Americans living other parts of Austin.

1930s: A Park for African Americans in the Jim Crow South

When Rosewood Park opened in the summer of 1930, there were many amenities:

Located in the center of this tract is a splendid two-story rock building which provides a home for the keeper, with abundant additional room for recreational purposes. A portion of the grounds is covered with beautiful

Continued on page 4

Rosewood, continued from page 3

natural growth trees and shrubs and makes an ideal park site. Two large baseball fields, tennis courts and a combination swimming and wading pool have been built and playground apparatus installed (Report City of Austin 1930).

The city had immediate plans to renovate the original Bertram house to use as a clubhouse and house for the caretaker, George Mabson. Improvements to the house and site throughout the decade include the addition of stone entry columns, a bandstand, and steps and retaining walls that lead to the sports field. Some of the work was completed by the Civil Works Administration and the Works Progress Administrations as a part of New Deal federal relief programs.

The park quickly became a central location for events for the African American community. Although still celebrated at Emancipation Park and other locations within Austin, the first known year that Rosewood Park hosted a Juneteenth celebration was in 1930. The day's festivities started with baseball, races, a swim meet, and tennis matches, and the closing celebrations featured community singing and dancing. The following year a basket picnic and live music were added to the schedule. Rosewood Park became the main location for Juneteenth celebrations citywide, and today, though the festivities have changed, it carries on this tradition annually with thousands in attendance.

1940s: WWII on the Home Front

As the U.S. entered World War II in 1941, many servicemen were stationed in and around Austin. The Recreation Department served as the official liaison agency



Bertram House

between the military and the community, coordinating all available resources to promote a recreation program for servicemen visiting the city. The Defense Recreation Council was created, and it was segregated just as the armed forces were during that time.

Recreation was provided for white servicemen only until the summer of 1942, when the Recreation Department began hosting weekly dances for African American servicemen at Rosewood Playground. By the end of the year, the dances at Rosewood Park's community center and tennis courts were extremely well attended as some of the only amusements offered to these soldiers outside of their military bases. Finally, the Negro War Recreation Council was organized late in 1942.

Throughout 1943, thousands of African American servicemen utilized Rosewood Park for sports, dances, socials, picnics, dinners, and sing-alongs. It became clear that they were in need of additional space to accommodate the magnitude of people taking part in wartime leisure. A recreation building designed by architect J. Roy White

(1907-1985) opened at Rosewood Park on April 10, 1944 and served as an auditorium and gymnasium originally operated by the USO.

The building was named for Doris "Dorie" Miller (1919-1943), born in Waco, Texas. An important, national figure, Miller was the first African American to be awarded the Navy Cross. Assigned as head cook on the battleship *West Virginia*, Miller had no weapons training. During the assault on Pearl Harbor, his actions ranged from rescuing wounded sailors to firing anti-aircraft machine guns at Japanese aircraft. Miller was eventually promoted to Petty Officer and assigned to the Pacific Theater on the escort carrier *Liscome Bay*. On November 24, 1943, a torpedo struck the *Liscome Bay* and Miller was killed along with 645 people. Many feel that Miller should have been awarded the Purple Heart Medal for his actions. His story has been retold in literature and film in the years since his death.

The Doris Miller Auditorium was used extensively after it became a recreation center in 1946. The "Chitlin Circuit" is a nickname given to a network of

Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

Continued on next page



Doris Miller Auditorium, c. 1944

performance venues throughout the U.S. that provided commercial and cultural acceptance for African American entertainers during racial segregation. The Doris Miller Auditorium hosted a variety of African American entertainers during the 1940s through the early 1960s. Famous acts such as Nat King Cole, Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, and Little Richard all performed there.

1960s: Integration of Austin parks

On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled on *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* and stated that segregation of “white and Negro children” in public schools was no longer allowed. On November 7, 1955, the Supreme Court upheld a decision outlawing racial segregation in public parks and playgrounds as well, though some Southern leaders declared there would be no mixing of races at public parks, and that they would opt to close the parks instead.

Here in Austin, in 1959 the Recreation Department allowed African Americans to utilize today’s Emma Long Metropolitan Park, located some distance from the city, for picnicking and camping at the swimming area on the Colorado River

and the campgrounds. African Americans were also allowed to use the Montopolis Playground and golf at Lion’s Municipal Golf Course. Some of the white parks’ inter-city league teams had African Americans on them, and they were allowed to play.

However, it was not until the summer of 1963 that Austin’s parks quietly integrated. The 1962-63 Recreation Department annual report noted that all summer playground tournaments included Rosewood for the first time in 35 years.

There was little publicity surrounding the integration of the city’s parks, but that was deliberate “in order to allow Austin boys and girls an opportunity to take part in any portion of the program they desired.” City Recreation Director Beverly Sheffield said, “The inclusion of Rosewood playgrounds in all tournaments offered no problems and Negro boys and girls using other grounds were placed in tournaments as any other youngster trying out for skill recognition.” Very little documentation exists about the integration of Austin’s parks and pools, but a newspaper article from May 1964 states, “Austin parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, golf courses, libraries and public schools are operated on a non-segregated

basis.”

1970s: Henry G. Madison Log Cabin

Born in 1843 in Memphis, Tennessee as a free man, Henry Green Madison made his way to Austin by the early 1860s. He married Louisa Green and built a small cabin at 807 East 11th Street. Madison was a Unionist, president of the Austin chapter of the Union League, and an active participant in Reconstruction. He served as an assistant at the Texas Constitutional Convention of 1868-69, and captain of an African American unit in the Sixth Regiment of the Texas State Guard. Madison is notable for being Austin’s first African American City Council member from 1871 to 1872. He went on to serve as a policeman, porter, and farmer, passing away in 1912. He is buried at Oakwood Cemetery.

In 1968, a demolition crew discovered Madison’s original cabin enveloped in a larger house from the 1880s. The cabin’s exact construction date is not known, but it dates to 1864 at the latest. The owner of the property, Mrs. Greenwood Wooten, worked with the Rosewood Recreation Association and the Delta Sigma Theta Service Sorority to disassemble and relocate the cabin to Rosewood Park in 1973. The Henry G. Madison log cabin became a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1974 and a City of Austin Landmark in 1976.

Rosewood Park Today

The Catherine Lamkin Arboretum Trail of Trees was dedicated in 1995 for a 35-year employee of the Parks and Recreation Department who dedicated her career to recreation programs in East Austin. In 2011 the Britton, Durst, Howard, and Spence Building was named in honor of

Continued on page 6

Rosewood, continued from page 5

four distinguished Austin community leaders: Lawrence M. Britton Sr., Reverend Albert Lavada “Dr. Hep Cat” Durst, James Howard, and Donald Joseph Spence. In 2014, the former Bertram house was officially dedicated as the Delores Duffie Recreation Center. Duffie is a lifelong resident of the Rosewood neighborhood, and served as a community activist advocating for people in East Austin. “I always had a thing for Rosewood Park,” said Duffie, who played on the park grounds as a young girl. “That’s all we knew. That’s the only place we had to go for recreation. Rosewood was just in my blood.”

Rosewood Park has remained largely intact since its inception, true to the tenets upon which it was founded. For nearly 90 years, it has endured as one of the only civically-funded recreation areas for an otherwise disenfranchised and



Children playing in Rosewood Park, c. 1940s.

Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

underserved community. Today, Rosewood Park is a physical reminder of the significance of this public space in the cultural history of Austin’s African American community. ★

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2019 Annual Meeting at the Carpenter Hotel

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

7PM to 9PM FREE!

400 Josephine Street, 78704

Let's celebrate another fabulous year of preserving Austin's heritage at our 2019 Annual Meeting! This year's membership gathering takes place at the stunning new Carpenter Hotel off South Lamar. Built in 1948, the former union hall reopened last fall with beautifully-rehabbed interiors and a stunning contemporary hotel wing. Join us for complimentary drinks and light snacks in

the Q-Hut (an homage to the postwar Quonset Hut, pictured here) to see old friends, meet new ones, and vote in our 2019-2020 board of directors.

Prospective members are welcome! Help us kick off our 2019 Membership Drive by bringing a preservation-loving friend and volunteers will be happy to help them join.



Photo by Alex Lau

**SPACE IS LIMITED, RSVP to :
lindsey@preservationaustin.org by
Friday, August 16. ★**



Art + Music Pop-Up at Uptown Modern

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

6PM to 8PM

5111 Burnet Road, 78756

Join us at Uptown Modern for an evening of music and art benefitting Preservation Austin! The event opens a month-long art pop-up featuring Austin artist Molly Brau. Light snacks and beverages will be provided, and 20% of the day's profits will benefit Preservation Austin.

Artist Brau works in oils and oil pastels to create large-scale, colorful abstracts as well as realistic still life paintings. Molly has an BFA in Art from Louisiana State University and has exhibited in New York, various shows in New England, and here in Austin. She currently works out of her studio in East Austin. ★





Grants Awarded to Old Austin Neighborhood Association, Millett's Opera House

This spring our Grants Committee announced funding for two more incredible projects. We're excited to support the Old Austin Neighborhood Association's historic resource survey documenting the area between Lady Bird Lake, West 15th Street, Lavaca Street, and North Lamar Boulevard. Like much of Austin, this important neighborhood has not been formally surveyed since 1984, and the hope is to establish new historic districts to honor and protect its streetscapes. Our second grant went to the Millett's Opera House Foundation to

develop an educational program on the risks and challenges for nonprofits with a mission to preserve and maintain historic places or buildings. This new curriculum will be a huge asset to leaders and advocates in our community.

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 fall grant deadline is September 15! See preservationaustin.org/programs/grants for details. ★



Derrington New Executive Director

Upon completing a nationwide search, Lindsey Derrington has been named Preservation Austin's newest Executive Director! Lindsey has served as our Programs Director for the past four years, managing the Homes Tour, Preservation Merit Awards program, communications, volunteer coordination, and more. Her role now focuses on growing our nonprofit and magnifying Preservation Austin's voice as a progressive force for building a more sustainable and engaging city.

Lindsey brings more than a decade's worth of preservation experience as both a professional and advocate. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Washington University in St. Louis and a

master's degree in preservation studies from the Tulane School of Architecture. She has worked for the nonprofit Landmarks Association of St. Louis; as a preservation consultant working in Missouri, Illinois, and Louisiana; and served on the boards of Modern STL and Mid Tex Mod.

She and her husband, Jon Hagar, made Austin their home in 2014. Apart from historic preservation, her Great Loves include the St. Louis Cardinals and very bad dogs (she owns two of them). Legacy bars, cemeteries, Chuck Berry, and West Texas are pretty high up there too. "Over my past four years with this organization I've been blown away by all the passionate, dedicated people who are

committed to the same ideal – that preserving Austin's

heritage makes this city a more interesting, equitable, and fulfilling place to call home," said Derrington. "Preservation Austin was founded 66 years ago and I believe, more than anything, that our voice is more important now than ever as we help shape the city we want to be."

This is an exciting time for our nonprofit! Please join us in congratulating Lindsey on her new role. ★



Beyond the Road: The Ransom Williams Farm

By Rebekah Dobrasko, Historic Preservation Specialist, Texas Department of Transportation
Education Committee Member

As Austin grows, the development of the city and its infrastructure devours surrounding land, small communities, and unknown historic and archeological sites. Now buried under a new toll road, a small 45-acre farmstead tells the story of freedom in central Texas for a freedman and his family after the Civil War. The history of Ransom Williams stretches from the small freedmen's community of Rose Colony in northern Hays County to the "Negro District" in East Austin.

In 2003, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) planned the extension of State Highway 45 to serve the growing population of far south Austin. As part of TxDOT's work under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, archeologists surveyed the proposed new location of the road. Along the way, they uncovered a standing chimney and rock walls. What they would learn about this

site would change our understanding of Texas history.

Historic records show that Ransom Williams purchased 45 acres of land in 1871 along Bear Creek, about twelve miles south of Austin. Williams was likely enslaved on the Bunton plantation in northern Hays County. A 14-year-old slave boy was listed as part of the assets of the Bunton family's Mountain City Plantation in 1860. As part of his duties on the plantation, Ransom likely worked with and raised horses. His skill in training and breeding horses enabled Ransom to make money later in life after emancipation. As was common with enslaved people, little of Ransom's life was documented in official records. The archeology of his farm gives a direct tie to him and his family.

After purchasing his farm for \$160 in cash with \$20 to pay later, Williams began

clearing the land for a house and to plant crops. By 1876, his wife Sarah had joined him on the farm and the newlyweds had their first child. Sarah was also a formerly enslaved person who worked as a domestic slave in Austin.

Ransom and Sarah Williams' farm was rural and very difficult to reach. There were no roads, railroads, or even communities nearby when Ransom and Sarah first moved to their farm. Most of their neighbors were white. However, other African American farmers began settling in the area as well, and soon the small freedmen's community of Antioch, and later Rose, Colony formed between Bear Creek and Slaughter Creek. Rose Colony opened a school for black children by 1877, and likely held church services in the building as well. By 1880, the railroad came south from Austin to San Marcos with a stop near Rose Colony. Now, the Williams' farm would be connected with Austin, making it easier to sell crops and obtain goods.

Records are unclear, but Ransom and Sarah Williams had between seven and nine children. Seven children lived to adulthood, and all worked on the farm. The Williams family planted and sold cotton, raised food for their family, and worked in horse training and horse sales. They bought household goods from black businesses in central Texas, including from the Wilson Pottery in Seguin and Morley Brothers Drugstore in Austin.



Ransom Williams Farm excavation, 2009.

Continued on the next page

At the turn of the 20th century, tragedy struck the family. Ransom died around this time. Texas underwent an extreme drought, which stressed all families making a living on farms. The oldest Williams son, Will, got married and moved to be near his wife's family. It is likely that the second oldest son, Charley, died. By 1905, Sarah moved off the farm into East Austin. She brought her two youngest children, John and Emma, with her.



Corrine (Williams) Harris
born July 29, 1928.



Lourice (Williams) Johnson
born October 18, 1932.



Jewel (Williams) Andrews
born November 24, 1938.

The Williams family continued to own the farm even though they no longer lived there. Sarah died in 1921. Her children sold the property in 1934 and never returned to the land. While the fields continued to be in agricultural use, the Williams' home, farm buildings, and rock walls fell apart slowly over time.

TxDOT and its consulting archeologists uncovered the story of the Williams farm through archeology, archival research, and descendant community interviews. Archeologists studied the farm in multiple excavations over ten years. The site yielded artifacts such as a piece of Ransom Williams' horse branding iron; dishes, pots, and cooking utensils, including china from England; toys; writing slates and pencils; and jewelry. Crumbling rock walls outlined fields as well as an access path to the house. Remains indicate the Williams' success. At a time where many formerly enslaved people were subject to violence, discrimination, and poverty, they were able to own land and carve out a successful space on the landscape.

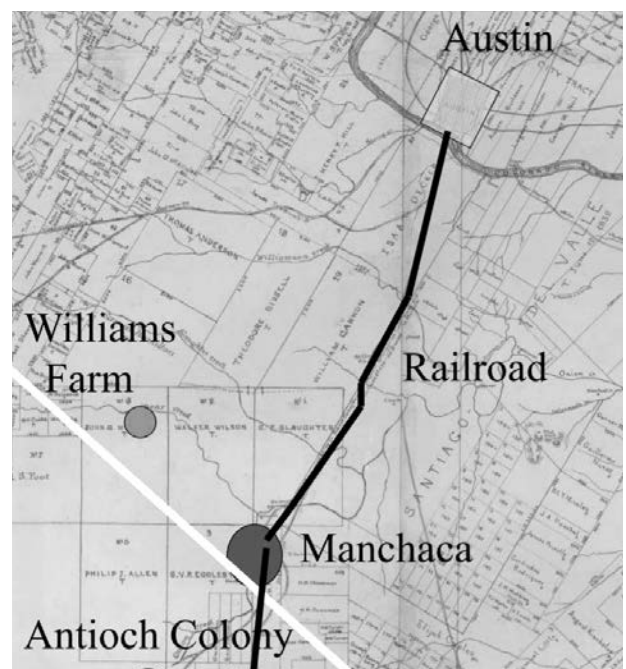
To further enrich the archeological record, anthropologists from the University of Texas interviewed twenty-seven people

that grew up and lived in Antioch Colony, Manchaca (formerly Rose Colony), and East Austin. Historian Terri Myers tracked down three of Ransom and Sarah Williams' grandchildren and interviewed them as well. The interviewees paint a picture of hard work, community, segregation, and commitment to education. Many freedmen community residents could only attend through elementary school. Those that continued to high school had to move to East Austin to attend L.C. Anderson High School. These interviews are available online through TexasBeyondHistory.net and also published in a two-volume book.

Ransom and Sarah Williams' story of freedom continues to be told. Select artifacts from the excavation are on display at the Bullock Texas State History Museum. Grants from the Travis County Historical Commission created a detailed online exhibit on the farm and the oral histories at TexasBeyondHistory.net (look for the story of

Williams Farm). TxDOT and the Travis County Historical Commission are talking with the Carver Museum about developing a detailed exhibit. Download and listen to a podcast with Doug Boyd of Prewitt and Associates and Maria Franklin from University of Texas through TxDOT's Archeology Roadside Chat. History is out there just beyond the road (<https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/environmental/beyond-the-road.html>).

All images courtesy of the Texas Department of Transportation. ★





Legislative Update

Sine die, the last day of the 86th Texas Legislature’s regular session, took place on May 27. As usual Preservation Austin spent the session tracking legislation that could impact historic preservation efforts and kept our constituents informed so they could advocate accordingly. Our staff, Board of Directors, members, and partner organizations across the state were actively reaching out to legislators and attending legislative committee hearings to communicate our support or opposition for various bills. There is both good and bad news from the session, wins and losses.

HB1, the general appropriations bill, resulted in positive gains for the Texas Historical Commission (THC) budget. The agency’s number one request of additional staff for historic sites, the state tax credit program, and other administrative/operational positions resulted in thirteen additional staff, including five for the French Legation so that this important Austin site will re-open once its current restoration project is complete.

The THC was also appropriated \$25 million for the courthouse grant program, the largest appropriation that program has received in a decade, as well as an additional \$250,000 per year for the Texas Heritage Trails Program.

The agency asked for, and received, \$300,000 for deferred maintenance on its Austin capitol complex buildings, and \$2,586,250 for a variety of deferred maintenance projects on state historic sites. \$2 million in funding was approved for work at Levi Jordan Plantation to develop plans for a new visitor center and other improvements for

telling the stories of enslaved people and their struggle for freedom.

SB500

(co-authored by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst and Sen. Eddie Lucio), the supplemental appropriations bill, will provide the THC funding for additional projects that came up over the course of the session. This includes \$2.5 million to rebuild the visitor center at Caddo Mounds State Historic Site in East Texas that was destroyed by a tornado on April 13. Finally, the agency received \$8 million to create new exhibits at the Star of the Republic Museum at Washington on the Brazos, which transfers to THC management next year (**SB2309**, authored by Sen. Kolkhorst).

HB1422 (authored by Rep. John Cyrier) renewed the THC for another twelve years as part of the “Sunset” review process that evaluates agencies to determine if they are still needed. The bill includes transfer of several sites from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to the THC including Washington on the Brazos, Fanthorp Inn, San Jacinto Battleground, Lipantitlan, the Port Isabel Lighthouse, and Monument Hill/Kreische Brewery.

To support administration of the sites, the previous division of Sporting Goods Sales Tax (SGST) - 6% to THC and 94% to TPWD - was changed to 7% for THC and 93% for



TPWD. This is, however, just an allocation, which the legislature may choose not to follow. To ensure that THC and TPWD receive their full allocations of SGST in the future, another bill, **SJR24**, was passed to bring this issue to the voters as a constitutional amendment in November. If passed, the legislature will be required to appropriate the entire amount to the two agencies using the 7%/93% allocation.

See the Preservation Committee report on Page 18 for details on additional bills that impact preservation efforts in Austin, and across Texas.

During the interim period between now and the next legislative session in 2021 Preservation Austin will continue to educate legislators about the positive economic, educational and social impacts our historic spaces and places have in our communities. And if you see members of the legislature that you know supported preservation efforts, please don’t forget to thank them for their service to our City and State. ★



Inherit Austin

★ Haley Wilcox, IA, Secretary

With unanimous approval from both Inherit Austin’s board and Preservation Austin’s board, we have decided to make some changes to the structure and focus of Inherit Austin (IA) effective immediately.

Previously, though IA served as a committee of Preservation Austin, we operated with a separate board and were responsible for a host of events throughout the year. With these new changes, IA is now a subcommittee of Preservation Austin’s Development Committee. We are committed to friendraising -- bringing new people to Preservation Austin -- through engaging events, and our focus, now, is solely on producing the most successful Somewhere

In Time event each year. This will allow us to concentrate our efforts and time to crafting this unique programming experience.

With these structural modifications, some other changes result as well. All current IA members will become regular Preservation Austin members. We will no longer have a separate board; instead, our entire group will endeavor to plan Somewhere In Time each year with chair or co-chairs (this year, co-chairs are Ellis Mumford-Russell and Matthew Welch). If you are interested in helping us plan this year’s event at Boggy Creek Farm, please email Ellis (ellis@ogeepreservation.com).

SAVE THE DATE!

The 10th Annual **Somewhere in Time** event will take place on **Sunday, September 22** at Boggy Creek Farm! We’ll be celebrating the rich agricultural history of Austin and enjoying locally-source food and live music.

We alternate in-person and conference-call meetings.

We are excited about a focused direction for the future and look forward to the 10th annual Somewhere In Time this September! ★

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.



Education Committee

★ Ann S. Graham & Blake Smith, Co-Chairs



Preservation Austin is the 2019 community partner for Big Medium's WEST and EAST Austin Studio Tours. "Making Space, Preserving Place," our May 15 panel during WEST, offered a fascinating community discussion co-presented by Sightlines, the Elisabet Ney Museum, Big Medium, and Preservation Austin.

Stay tuned for more exciting programming and exhibitions during EAST November 16-17 and 23-24! ★

For more information, please call (512) 308-3518.

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President's Message

★ Vanessa McElwrath

As my term as President of Preservation Austin comes to a close, I have been reflecting on the great accomplishments our organization has achieved over the course of this fiscal year. Although we've had some challenges along the way, I am certain we are a stronger, more robust organization as a result. It has been an honor to serve alongside my fellow board members, staff, and volunteers to protect Austin's cultural heritage and to ensure that as Austin grows, it remains a place we know and love.

Among our many accomplishments, we hired a new Executive Director. After conducting a nationwide search, the

Preservation Austin Board of Directors is thrilled to name Lindsey Derrington as Preservation Austin's new leader. Many of our members, volunteers, and community partners are already very familiar with Lindsey and her stellar work. Lindsey has provided leadership to Preservation Austin in her role as Programs Director for the past four years and brings a wealth of knowledge from her past preservation work in St. Louis, Missouri, and New Orleans, Louisiana. I am so excited for this next chapter for Preservation Austin with Lindsey at the helm. Lindsey's dedication, energy, and innovative vision are exactly what we need at this moment when so many of our historic resources are threatened and vulnerable.



This past spring, we also welcomed over 1,000 attendees at our most successful Homes Tour in Preservation Austin's history. "The Art of the Craftsman Style," our 27th Annual Homes Tour, featured seven spectacular homes in coordination with the Harry Ransom Center's exhibition, *The Rise of Everyday Design: The Arts and Crafts Movement in Britain and America*. The Homes Tour is Preservation Austin's marquee event and most important fundraiser. I would like to thank our incredibly generous group of sponsors and underwriters who enabled us to introduce stunning examples of historic homes to a wide and diverse constituency. Lastly, I would like to congratulate our Homes Tour Chair, Lori Martin, and the rest of the planning committee and volunteers. They all went above and beyond to ensure this year was a huge success.

Looking ahead, I hope you will mark your calendars and join us for our Annual Meeting on August 20 at the Carpenter Hotel! It will be a great opportunity to mix and mingle with fellow preservation supporters, vote on the new slate of board of directors, and meet Lori Martin, our President Elect!

Also in very exciting news, Preservation Austin purchased the treasured City of Austin Landmark at 3805 Red River Street – our first major investment in a historic building in decades. In 2014, during my first year serving on the Board of Directors, Preservation Austin's advocacy led City Council to protect the threatened building through historic zoning with widespread public support. This purchase brings these efforts full circle, and we're excited to bring this prominent landmark back to its full glory. I would be remiss if I did not thank a select few individuals, specifically Richard Kooris, Dennis McDaniel, Allen Wise, Ken Johnson, Alyson McGee, Scott Marks, and Clay Cary. They have dedicated countless hours and resources to make this dream a reality. I would also like to thank our Preservation Austin members. Without your support, this endeavor would not have been possible.

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Celebrating Public Pools with *My Park, My Pool, My City*

by Gretchen LaMotte, Forklift Danceworks

For nearly twenty years, Forklift Danceworks has been making dances with people who don't identify as dancers. Inspired by the movement of work and everyday life, Artistic Director Allison Orr and Associate Artistic Director Krissie Marty see an invisible choreography of work that supports daily life in Austin. Engaging community members and city employees as co-authors and performers, Forklift's performances feature the movement and share the stories of people who serve their communities but whose voices are rarely heard.

For Forklift, the creation of a new work is a deeply collaborative endeavor: artistically, the project is driven by the choreographers, who initiate questions and ultimately shape the work, but the movements and narrative are derived from the participants—the actions of their work, their ideas, and their natural talents. Participants co-curate representations of themselves through movement and stories about their work or neighborhood.

In 2018, Forklift Danceworks received a Special Recognition award from Preservation Austin for *My Park, My Pool, My City* — a trilogy of dances for city pools and the people who use and care for them. The project was designed at the invitation of Austin's Parks and Recreation Department to bring attention to the infrastructural challenges facing Austin's city pools, address equity, and amplify civic engagement through a collaborative creative process. Each summer from 2017-2019, a performance at a different East

Austin pool celebrates the importance of the public gathering space of the pool and shares stories of the work required to repair and maintain it.

The Preservation Merit Award recognizes the power of live performance to celebrate and honor our city's public spaces. City pools serve as vital neighborhood gathering spaces throughout the long and hot summers, and many of Austin's aging pools are in need of repair. The issue is compounded by class and racial privilege as wealthier residents can choose to use private country clubs or backyard swimming pools, while those who rely on public pools are left with no options when they close down. *My Park, My Pool, My City* brings attention to these issues and supports the voices of people who are often left out of city planning discussions to be heard.

In July 2017, *Bartholomew Swims* heightened awareness of the infrastructural issues facing Austin's pools through the success story of Bartholomew Pool, rebuilt in 2014 after a dramatic structural failure in 2009. Presented for 2,000+ audience members,

the free performances gave city leaders and residents a chance to hear the stories of featured teen lifeguards, maintenance staff, neighborhood children, and adult pool users as City Council was considering an Aquatics Master Plan. Audience members were invited to come in their swimsuits and join the dance by lining up to recreate the borders of the old Bartholomew Pool. This offered a shared practice of embodied civic participation in the public space of a city pool.

Dove Springs Swims/Nadamos Dove Springs, presented in July 2018, showcased neighborhood residents and pool users in a joyous celebration of the public gathering space of Dove Springs Pool, in a community that has come a long way through their own organizing efforts. Lifeguards and Aquatics maintenance workers in the show got to know the community they serve in a new way, and vice versa: Paul Slutes, Aquatics Maintenance Supervisor and participant in both shows so far, reflected, "I think Dove Springs got to see a part of us and we got to see a part of them that we didn't see before. We got to intermingle."



Bartholomew Swims, 2017.



PRESERVATION
— AUSTIN —



HERITAGE QUIZ

★ by Elizabeth Porterfield

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

Congratulations to our Spring contestants for spotting the following properties:

MAY: AVENUE B GROCERY (4403 Avenue B)

For over a century, the Avenue B Grocery and Market has served the Hyde Park neighborhood. The front "store" portion of the building has been at this location since at least 1909 and may have been relocated from Alice Avenue (today's Medical Parkway). Sidon Harris operated the property from around 1912 to 1936. The attached residence was added during that time, although Harris himself lived close by on Avenue C. Bill and Libbye Stefka purchased the property in 1950, and they lived on site and operated the store until 1983. The current owner has worked here since 1984 and has owned the property since 1987. Avenue B Grocery remains open for business as a local neighborhood convenience store and a great spot for a homemade sandwich. Stop on by to support this longtime Hyde Park business!

★ **Winner: Enrique Gil**



Avenue B Grocery

JUNE: MATHEWS SCHOOL (906 West Lynn)

From the Texas Historical Commission Historic Sites Atlas: "In 1916, the Austin school district built three elementary schools, including two identical ones: Metz on the east side of town and Mathews on the west. Architect Dennis R. Walsh designed both schools, but only Mathews remains in use. Named for Dr. William J. Mathews, a physician and original school board member, the building has several additions, including a 1930s renovation by the firm of Giesecke and Harris. The central façade remains intact, with symmetrical composition reflecting a simplified Classical style. Features include squared brick pilasters and a pedimented entry." Mathews School is a City of Austin landmark, a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, and a contributing resource to the National Register-listed West Line Historic District.

★ **Winner: Amy Love**



Mathews School

Danceworks, continued from page 8

In surveys collected after each performance, 90% of *My Park*, *My Pool*, *My City* audience members reported new insights or reflections about the performance site or Austin's public pool system based on the performance. 66% said they would like to attend other community gatherings or conversations related to Austin's public pool system, and 91% said they would talk to friends or family about it. *Happiness, joy, and pride*

were the most frequently reported feelings after each performance.

This July, the project will culminate in a performance at historic Givens Pool, built in 1958 to serve the black community of East Austin. Through co-authored live performance, the project seeks to share history, address equity, develop empathy, and amplify voices that are not often heard in civic dialogue. From neighborhood teens

to community elders, the story of Givens Pool will be told by the people who have long lived, worked, and played around this historic place. ★

July 20, 21, 27 & 28 | 8:30pm
FREE with required reservations.
Learn more at forkliftdanceworks.org.



In the first half of 2019, members of the Preservation Committee, along with many Preservation Austin (PA) board members, devoted significant time to tracking bills and advocating for preservation in the 86th Texas Legislature. Much focus was given to two main bills:

HB 2496/SB 1488 (Rep. John Cyrier and Rep. Sheryl Cole; Sen. Dawn Buckingham): This bill may drastically change the way some cities in Texas designate landmarks under local ordinances. It requires a 3/4 majority vote by governing bodies, including landmark commissions and city council, as applicable, for local landmark designations when the property owner opposes the designation.

Prior to this legislation, landmark designation in Austin could be initiated by a simple majority vote of the Historic Landmark Commission (HLC), regardless of owner support. Final designation against owner opposition did require a 2/3 majority vote by the City Council, but the initiation of the process by the HLC allowed additional time for PA and other community members to have conversations with property owners to try to avoid demolition. Only three buildings in Austin have been fully designated by the City Council against owner opposition, but a number of others were saved because we had time for these conversations.

The bill allows a property owner to withdraw consent at any point during the designation process. It also fully exempts all properties owned by religious organizations from designation without consent. The bill was signed by the governor on May 25 and became effective immediately. Special thank you to the

House members representing Austin who voted against HB2496 – Rep. Gina Hinojosa, Rep. Donna Howard, Rep. Vicki Goodwin and Rep. Erin Zweiner.

HB 2439 limits governmental entities from preventing the use of any building material that has been approved by the National Building Council. Thanks to advocacy efforts, the bill was amended to exempt historically designated properties, including individually-designated buildings and those in historic districts. This will allow municipalities to continue working under existing design standards and guidelines for historic properties.

Land Development Code

The Preservation Committee is also

watching the new rewrite of the Land Development Code, after the end of the CodeNEXT process. Council Member Kathie Tovo attended our May meeting to give us her perspective on the council discussions and the future process. The new code will be written by city staff, instead of outside consultants, following a policy document approved by City Council in early May. Much of the code focuses on promoting construction of new affordable housing along transportation corridors. This includes creation of new transition zones where increased housing units

will be allowed. These transition zones overlay significant portions of Austin's central neighborhoods, and it is unclear how existing neighborhood plans and neighborhood conservation combining districts will be integrated into the new code. While PA has concerns about some aspects of the council's guidance, we support other parts that encourage preservation of existing affordable housing units, and encourages easier development of accessory dwelling units (ADUs). This may allow existing houses at the front of a lot to be designated as the ADU, while a new, primary unit is built in the rear. PA will continue to follow the code as it develops. A draft is expected in early fall, with a desire to have the code fully approved by the end of the year. ★



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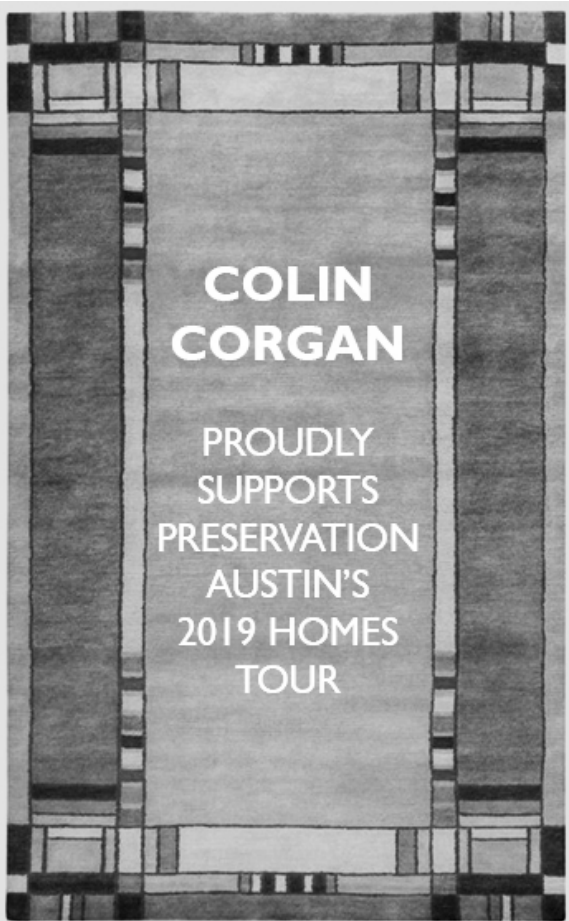
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PA CALENDAR OF EVENTS • 2019

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JUL
14

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

This spring's Homes Tour celebrated Craftsman style architecture homes in conjunction with this Harry Ransom Center exhibition, open through July 14. See Page 13 for details.

AUG
20

Annual Meeting

All members are encouraged to attend our Annual Meeting, this year at South Austin's stunning Carpenter Hotel! Event kicks off our 2019 Membership Drive, see Page 8 for details.

SEP
15

Fall Grant Deadline

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

SEP
19

PA Benefit at Uptown Modern

Our friends at Uptown Modern are hosting this evening with art, live music, and vintage furniture to benefit PA! See Page 8 for details.

SEP
22

10th Annual Somewhere In Time

Inherit Austin returns to Boggy Creek Farm, the location for 2009's first-ever *Somewhere In Time* event. Celebrate Austin's rich agricultural history with locally-source food and live music. Stay tuned for details.

NOV
15

59th Annual Preservation Merit Awards Celebration

Our annual awards luncheon, this year at the Stephen F. Austin Hotel, will celebrate the best preservation projects from the past two years. *Mark your calendars!*

QUARTERLY EVENT

Juggling and Jawing Historic Austin Happy Hours

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

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