

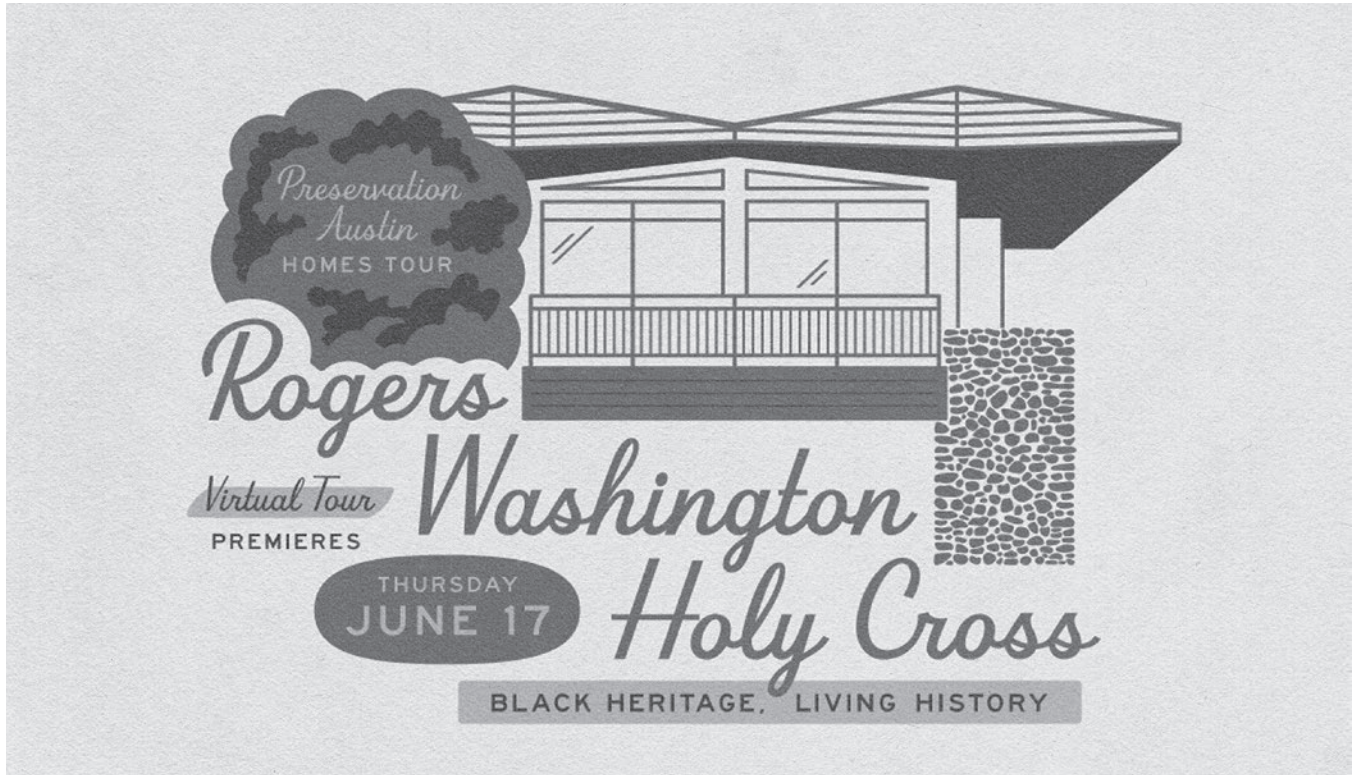


PRESERVATION  
— AUSTIN —

# PRESERVATION — AUSTIN —

SAVING THE GOOD STUFF

Spring 2021 ★ Volume 25 No. 1



## 2021 Virtual Homes Tour Premieres June 17!

**P**reservation Austin's 2021 Virtual Homes Tour, "Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross: Black Heritage, Living History," will premiere on Thursday, June 17 at 7:00 pm CST. This year's virtual tour will feature the incredible postwar homes and histories of East Austin's Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross Historic District, Austin's first historic district celebrating Black heritage. The 45-minute video will be followed by a live Q&A session via Zoom.

Ticket buyers will experience the living history of one of East Austin's most intact historic neighborhoods through interviews with longtime residents and homeowners, historic documentation, and rich videography. Viewers will also hear from architectural historian Dr. Tara Dudley on the works of architect John S. Chase, FAIA, whose early career was forged through personal connection to Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross and whose work has left an indelible mark on the historic district.

*Virtual Homes Tour*

**Thursday, June 17, 2021**

**7PM premiere, followed by Q&A**

\$20/PA members \$25/Non-members

*Tickets on sale at*  
**preservationaustin.org**

*Continued on page 3*

# PA Welcomes Meghan King

**W**e're delighted to welcome Meghan King, our new Programs and Outreach Planner! Meghan came on board in December 2020 as Preservation Austin's third full-time staff member.



Hailing from Canada, Meghan attributes her lifelong love for American architectural heritage to her childhood summers spent travelling the United States visiting Frank Lloyd Wright sites with her father. Meghan was drawn to Texas for its eclectic mix of modernist, Spanish colonial, and vernacular architectural traditions and has championed the preservation of Austin's historic fabric since her days as a graduate student volunteer for Preservation Austin.

Meghan completed her studies at the University of Toronto in 2016 with a BA in Art History and American Studies, followed by an MS in Historic Preservation from The University of Texas at Austin in 2019. Her professional background consists of experience in fashion, writing, and preservation consultancy, as well as professional memberships with organizations such as Docomomo US and the Association for Preservation Technology.

Meghan is responsible for our organization's programming, including the annual Homes Tour, as well as managing our covenants program and communications, in addition to providing staff support for our advocacy efforts. ★





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Virtual Homes Tour, continued from page 1

RWHC is home to some of the twentieth century's most significant Austinites, including those of Tuskegee Airman Norman Scales, former Huston-Tillotson president Dr. John Q. Taylor King and his roster of esteemed house guests, Ira Poole and his iconic collection of yard art Americana, and many more. Beyond any one individual, the story of Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross is one of community, with abundant professional and familial ties across the neighborhood. Despite the pressures of development and gentrification, many of the homes remain

within the original families today, owing to the neighborhood's tenacious advocacy and enduring tradition of community.

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 for this special virtual event celebrating the homes, people, and stories of this incredible neighborhood and important piece of Austin history!

..........

### And now for a sneak peek at this year's homes...

**Join us on June 17 to for our virtual tour to learn more about their stories, past and present:**



#### *Calhoun House (1959)*

T.C. and Thelma Calhoun (nee Dotson) engaged local home builder Hal Starkey for the construction of this unique ranch style home. As a family of esteemed educators, Mr. and Mrs. Calhoun both received master's degrees from the University of Michigan, returning to Austin to continue their careers. Mr. Calhoun was the longtime principal of Kealing Junior High and educated many of RWHC's children, some of whom still live in the neighborhood. He retired in 1971 after Austin ISD desegregated and the school was closed. Following desegregation, Mrs. Calhoun, who formerly served as Supervisor of the segregated Travis County Schools, entered the AISD school system as a reading specialist.

The Calhoun family was involved in an abundance of community and professional organizations locally—Mr. Calhoun, a longtime member of the Colored Teachers State Association of Texas, served as the organization's president from 1962-63 and was instrumental in establishing the Colored Teachers Credit Union.

Their daughter, Patricia Calhoun, inherited the property after her mother passed in 2015, and has since been a gracious steward of her parents' home. Its unique, low-lying roof belies the home's expansive interior space that is both grand and intimate, with high ceilings, clerestory windows, and wood panelled walls, decorated with a mix of new and original furnishings, as well as family heirlooms. Ms. Calhoun has been an advocate for the preservation of RWHC and helped lead the process of seeking historic district designation for the neighborhood.



#### *King House (1959)*

Dr. John Q. Taylor King and his wife Marcet King (nee Hines) enlisted the services of Arthur Parks and Albert J. Quinton builders, Lott Lumber Co., the Freeman Brothers brick masons, and architect John S. Chase in the construction of this two-story, mid century modern ranch style home. The family is most prominently known in East Austin as the proprietors of King-Tears

*Continued on page 4*

Mortuary, founded in 1932 by Dr. King's father, Charles B. King. A distinguished veteran of WWII, John Q. Taylor King returned to Austin and obtained multiple advanced degrees in mathematics, eventually teaching at Huston-Tillotson, where he would go on to become the university's longest serving president from 1965 to 1988.

In its day, the King family home on Givens Avenue was a revolving door of guests, entertaining academics, musicians, actors, and politicians of national prominence, including a visit paid to the Kings by the late Eleanor Roosevelt. Today King's son Stuart lives in his childhood home with his wife Sonja, and together they continue the family tradition as morticians at King-Tears. The home is a beautifully preserved example of the grand postwar homes of its time, with sweeping high ceilings, exposed beams, and gorgeous stained glass windows.



### *Mims House (1961)*

Caregie Harvard Mims, Sr. and his wife Mae (nee Lyons), both educators by profession, received their degrees from Texas College in Tyler, Texas. The couple taught at various schools across the state, including Central High in San Angelo, where Mr. Mims was the first Black principal to serve an integrated high school in the state of Texas. Looking for greater opportunity, the Mims family relocated to Austin in 1958 and, working with local developers Nash Phillips/Copus, built this ranch style home on the Holy Cross subdivision's Weber Avenue in 1961. Because of redlining and segregation during the Jim Crow era, the housing options for the Mims and other Black professionals in East Austin were limited to only a handful of neighborhoods, Holy Cross being one of them.

The Mims' daughter, Brenda Malik, has since inherited the family home and has been an instrumental figure in the neighborhood's effort to receive historic district designation. Many original features of Ms. Malik's charming home remain intact, such as the knotty pine cabinetry, colored tile bathrooms, and front picture window. These historic touches, along with the home's gallery walls of family photos and achievements, exist as a testament to the living legacy of the greater Mims family.



### *Phillips House (1964)*

Mrs. Della Phillips (nee Williams) enlisted architect John S. Chase in the construction of this magnificent home at the corner of East Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Maple Avenue. Mrs. Phillips, a retired teacher and co-owner of Phillips-Upshaw funeral home, built this home for herself after the passing of her husband, Gene Phillips. Mrs. Phillips was known for her exquisite taste in clothes and cars, a sensibility that is very much reflected in her home with its rich African mahogany panelling, marble veneer, and an elevator which transported her from the below-grade garage directly into the living room.

Chase, who had close personal ties to the neighborhood, designed many of the nearby buildings, including the Thompson House on Maple Avenue in 1963 and David Chapel, catty-corner from the Phillips House, in 1964. Chase's design for the Phillips House thoughtfully integrated the home into the slope of the site (a nod to Frank Lloyd Wright), and designed a striking folded plane cantilevered roof with wood panelling that has made the building an architectural icon of the neighborhood and of Austin.

Current owners Penny and James Moore purchased the Phillips House in 2009 after falling in love with it while on vacation in

*Continued on next page*

*Virtual Homes Tour, continued from page 4*

Austin. Once a space built for Mrs. Phillips to enjoy her retirement, the Moores have brought a new energy to the home as a young family with small children, making use of the expansive floor plan and sun-drenched natural light from the full height windows. The Moores have been committed stewards of this important piece of Austin's architectural history.



### *Jackson-Marshall House (1959)*

In 1959, Marion and Sophia Jackson were in search of a place to build a new home. Mr. Jackson was employed by USPS and among the first Black employees of the postal service. Mrs. Jackson, who taught home economics at Huston-Tillotson, was referred to developer Travis Cooke by her colleague and future neighbor, Dr. John Q. Taylor King, and built this ranch-style home on Givens Avenue shortly thereafter. After their passing, the Jackson's daughter, Marian Lavon Marshall, and her husband, Dr. General Marshall, moved here with their young children. The Marshalls met at Kealing Junior High, where their future neighbor T.C. Calhoun was principal, and spent decades together working at Huston-Tillotson as educators. Dr. Marshall, a renowned golf player, grew up caddying at Lions Municipal Golf Course (also known as Muny) as a young boy living in Clarksville. He witnessed Muny's desegregation in 1950-51, the first golf course of its kind to desegregate in the South. Dr. Marshall remained an important fixture at Muny for his entire life and was a longtime advocate for its preservation. After his passing in 2020, the City of Austin declared February 27, 2021 General Marshall Day in honor of his contributions to the city and the sport.

### *Poole House (1964)*

Ira Poole happened upon the vacant lots of the Washington subdivision while he was a student at Huston-Tillotson University,



and knew he wanted to build his home there on East MLK. Mr. Poole designed this single-story ranch-style home himself, with the help of Matthews-Newman-Construction Company and Wellman Design & Drafting Services for the construction and technical drawings. Mr. Poole, like many of his neighbors, was a lifelong educator. A consummate patriot, in the 1970s Mr. Poole began decorating his yard with Americana to educate his students about American history. Over the years, his collection has become a local icon unto itself, and has been featured in numerous publications and entertainment broadcasts. Mr. Poole has also garnered a reputation as one of East Austin's Black Cowboys, and is replete with stories of his beloved horse, Playboy. Today, Mr. Poole resides in the home with his daughter, Marilyn. Since its construction, the only major change to the home has been the roofline, which Mr. Poole redesigned with a nod to the Great Pyramids of Giza.

### *Scales House (1959)*

On the quiet cul-de-sac of Weber Avenue is the former home of Captain Norman Scales, Austin's first Black fighter pilot and a member of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, a segregated squadron of fighter pilots who served in WWII and are known for their

*Continued on page 6*



for better opportunity for his family, he and wife Lydia (nee Machy) designed this one-story ranch style home in 1959 with the help of builder Travis Cooke. The couple had two sons, Norman Jr. and Ronnie. Norman Scales, Jr. followed in his father's footsteps in becoming a pilot, and today lives in his parents' home with his family. Mr. Scales is a fixture of the neighborhood and can often be found on his front porch among his extensive collection of wind chimes, chatting with neighbors passing by. He remains an avid preservationist of his father's legacy and of the neighborhood's friendly and welcoming character. ★

immense bravery. Captain Scales returned to Austin after his wartime service, struggling as many Black servicemembers did to reintegrate into civilian life in the Jim Crow South. Looking

A grateful thanks to our 2021 Homes Tour Photographer — Lauren Kerr



## Mid Tex Mod's Burger Trail for Tour Day 2021

**M**id Tex Mod's theme for this year's Docomomo US Tour Day 2021 is BURGER TRAIL. Throughout the year, Mid Tex Mod will feature roadside diners across Central Texas serving the most beloved roadtrip snacks—burgers, fries, shakes, and more! In October for Tour Day, Mid Tex Mod will feature several locations from their membership area, which includes Austin, San Antonio, Waco, San Marcos, Bryan/College Station, and Corpus Christi.

If you have suggestions for establishments you'd like to see included, DM Mid Tex Mod on Instagram or Facebook or email [info@midtexmod.org](mailto:info@midtexmod.org). Active restaurants as well as those that have been lost over the years are welcome suggestions for the Texas Burger Trail map, which will be available this fall. If you have photos of your favorite burger joint or diner-related ephemera to

share, post them to Instagram and/or Facebook, tag @midtexmod, and use #texasburgertrail for inclusion on the tour map! For Tour Day updates, you can find Mid Tex Mod on Facebook and Instagram, and sign up for their newsletter at [midtexmod.org](http://midtexmod.org).

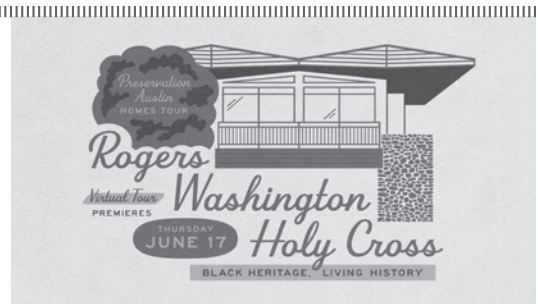
The Docomomo US Tour Day 2021 theme is TRAVEL AND LEISURE. Whether hitting the road by car or jetting off to exotic locations, modern ideals and aesthetics can be found just about everywhere you look. With the travel industry heavily impacted because of the pandemic, this is also an opportunity to help a struggling sector of the economy while delving into some of the great architecture, landscapes, sites, and stories of our modern travel heritage.



Mid Tex Mod and Docomomo US chapters across the country will be celebrating resources like motels and hotels, roadside attractions and other travel amenities, theaters, parks, restaurants, travel movies and stories, and travel resources like the Green Book across social media leading up to Tour Day. ★

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# Delta Kappa Gamma Society International HQ — A Loss for Austin Women’s History

- by Hanna Stark

**I**n the Fall of 2020, developers Stratus Properties and architects SCB proposed redevelopment of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Headquarters (DKG) site at 416 W 12th Street. The proposal sparked a string of heated commission meetings. Preservation Austin took particular interest in the case as many big picture preservation issues were at play. Notably, DKG is a professional society for women educators and their headquarters symbolize women’s contribution to the built environment in Austin. Women are typically left out of historical narratives and underrepresented amongst protected historic sites. In FY21, Preservation Austin adopted underrepresented heritage as an advocacy priority. Currently, there are only twenty-five City of Austin Landmarks that honor women out of the 636 total designations. The DKG case also touched policy issues that Preservation Austin has followed closely, such as the 2019 legislative impact on historic designation without owner’s approval, the need for the city to honor architectural surveys, and the need for legal representation at Historic Landmark Commission meetings.

DKG was founded in 1929 by University of Texas professor Dr. Annie Webb Blanton to encourage equal opportunities for women in education. In 1940, land was purchased at San Antonio and W 12th Street to construct the society’s headquarters. A decade later, DKG members formed a Building Committee and interviewed six potential architecture firms. The committee chose Kuehne, Brooks, and



Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Headquarters at 12th and San Antonio.

Barr soon after the firm’s completion of the landmark American National Bank Building, now home to McGarrah Jessee at Sixth and Colorado streets downtown. After this selection, the committee engaged in almost every design decision, such as the choice of millwork, roofing, and electrical work, and selected a functionalist scheme to accommodate their organization. The building’s gorgeous International Style façade echoes Mies van der Rohe’s 1929 Barcelona Pavilion, with intersecting planes of luxurious marble and Norman brick. Completed in 1956, the building’s elegant design makes DKG one of the finest examples of mid-century commercial design in Austin.

In 2012, the building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This National Register nomination is honorary

but automatically fulfills eligibility criteria for designation as a City of Austin Historic Landmark. At the time, DKG leadership signed off on the listing. The DKG headquarters met criteria A, association with an event that made a significant contribution to patterns of history, as the Delta Kappa Gamma Society Building plays a prominent role in women’s history in Austin. It also met criteria C, embodiment of distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, as an excellent example of postwar modernism. The recent Old Austin Neighborhood Association’s (OANA) West Downtown Historic Survey conducted by HHM & Associates also recognized the DKG property as historically significant. This survey was funded through a Preservation Austin matching grant and the support of the Texas Historic Commission, as well

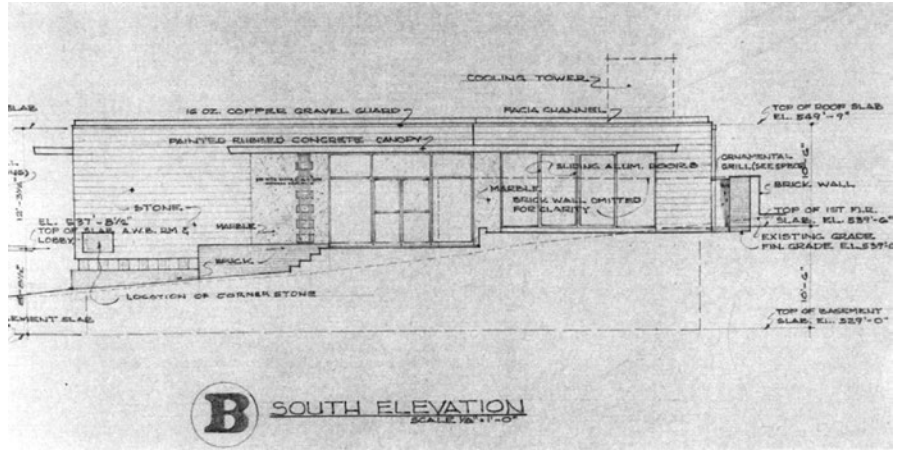
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*Delta Kappa Gamma, continued from page 8*

as the City of Austin through a Certified Local Government Grant. OANA's survey recommends significant buildings and districts for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and recommends historic zoning at the local level to protect buildings and districts. Unlike many cities, Austin has not had a citywide historic resource survey since 1984, when only buildings constructed before 1935 were evaluated. Some recent surveys in East Austin and North Central Austin have been conducted, attempting to update the City's inventory by documenting buildings constructed prior to 1970. These surveys are essential planning tools for balancing compatible growth with historic buildings and neighborhoods; however, their effectiveness depends on city commissions using survey recommendations when making historic zoning and demolition decisions.

Due to decreasing membership, DKG elected to sell the property to gain new financial strength to continue operations. The developer and architects' proposal went to the Historic Landmark Commission's (HLC) Architectural Review Committee in September and October for preliminary design review. The architects proposed a 31-story, 357-foot residential tower on the site. Their representative, Michael Whellan, said the project would provide up to 280 units of housing downtown and an additional \$2 million in tax revenue. The architects worked to enshrine elements of the historic building, such as a commemorative garden space dedicated to DKG. The HLC committee members were dismayed at the proposed project and indicated that it was doubtful that they would approve a demolition request for 416 W 12th Street to achieve the proposed project.



Southern elevation by Kuehne, Brooks and Barr, Architects, 1955, Austin History Center.

The only way for the Historic Landmark Commission to prevent the building's demolition would be to initiate historic zoning over owner objections. This was made more difficult by the 2019 Texas Legislature's passage of HB2496, which severely restricted local governments' authority to determine the process for designating threatened properties in their communities. The Planning Commission or Historic Landmark Commission now must have a supermajority vote when recommending that Council considers

historic zoning against an owner's wishes, despite a supermajority vote at City Council already being required to finalize such cases. A supermajority vote is a vote with two-thirds of the voices on a board or commission. This requirement is based on the number of commissioners nominated on the dais and not on how many commissioners are in attendance. Preservation Austin fought against this bill, including its exemption of religious properties from the historic zoning process, but it passed.

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The applicant appeared at the November 2020 Historic Landmark Commission meeting requesting a demolition permit. The Historic Preservation Office (HPO) staff recommended either postponing the hearing or initiating historic zoning. Preservation Austin submitted a letter encouraging the initiation of historic zoning for the site, and Advocacy Committee co-chair Alyson McGee submitted public testimony on Preservation Austin's behalf. OANA; the Travis County Historical Commission; and Mid Tex Mod, the regional chapter of DOCOMOMO, a nonprofit supporting modern design, all submitted written comments opposing the structure's demolition. This support bolstered the

HLC's unanimous decision to initiate historic zoning for the Delta Kapa Gamma International Headquarters Building against the owner's wishes.

At the December HLC meeting, the historic zoning case was heard. Many speakers associated with DKG spoke in opposition, arguing that their organization was more than the building. The testimonials centered on the society's mission and the impact it has had on women educators. Despite the number of opposing arguments, a motion was called to recommend historic zoning. Two commissioners abstained, allowing only eight votes in favor. This was one vote short of a supermajority. One

commissioner indicated that he would switch to vote in favor, granting a 9-0-1 motion. Unfortunately, this sequence did not meet Robert's Rules of Order, and at the January HLC meeting, HPO staff informed the commission that their initial 8-0-2 vote stands. Due to this gaffe, the case required a supermajority at its Planning Commission meeting to proceed to City Council.

This case resurfaced calls for a city attorney to be present at all HLC meetings, something Preservation Austin

has and will continue to advocate for. Currently, HPO staff have access to an attorney on call, but this is not sufficient if it is unknown when a procedure is not lawful or valid. Other commissions such as Planning and Zoning & Platting have attorneys present during their meetings. HLC commissioners and Staff do not have training as parliamentarians and are not experts on Robert's Rules of Order.

At the January Planning Commission meeting, DKG requested a zoning change to downtown mixed-use (DMU) without the addition of historic zoning to the site. Preservation Austin spoke in favor of rezoning the parcel DMU-H, allowing the possibility of development while ensuring the historic structure's protection. Again, many DKG supporters spoke on behalf of the proposed project. Planning commissioners were moved by the society's hardship plea and voted 3-8-1 against historic zoning. They instead voted 11-0-1 in favor of DMU zoning, indicating that this location is ideal for housing. This effectively destroyed any chance of preserving the DKG building.

Losing this structure eliminates a rare example of women's contribution to design in Austin and a stunning example of mid-century architecture. While we cannot change the state's supermajority requirement and its potentially devastating impact on Austin's built environment, Preservation Austin will continue to advocate for underrepresented heritage; for a city attorney to be present at HLC meetings to prevent procedural errors; and for the city to honor historic resource survey recommendations when making decisions. Preservation Austin is disappointed to have lost this important building, but our advocacy continues. ★

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# Austin's Lone Star Legacy Parks

By Sarah Marshall, Austin's Parks & Recreation Department

**T**he Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) is a nonprofit educational and professional organization founded in 1937 to advance the profession of parks, recreation, and leisure services in Texas. Each year, TRAPS recognizes historic parks throughout the state and bestows the designation of Lone Star Legacy park to celebrate the significant role parks play in the history of their communities. To qualify for consideration, the park must have endured the test of time and become iconic to those who have visited, played, and rested on its grounds. Nominated parks must be a minimum of 50 years old and meet criteria related to historic, architectural, and natural significance.

Austin's park system is older than the establishment of the Parks and Recreation Department in 1928 and comprises numerous historic resources, including six Lone Star legacy parks to date: Zilker Metropolitan Park (2012), Pease District Park (2015), Parque Zaragoza Neighborhood Park (2017), Rosewood Neighborhood Park (2019), Eastwoods Neighborhood Park (2020), and Wooldridge Square (2021).

## Wooldridge Square

Wooldridge Square is one of the oldest parks in Austin, but it is the most recent to receive the Lone Star Legacy Park status. When Judge Edwin Waller platted the City of Austin in 1839, he designated four public squares in each quadrant of the city. Only three remain and Wooldridge Square, in the northwest quadrant of downtown, is relatively unchanged and retains a high degree of historic integrity. The space was neglected for decades until 1909 when Mayor A.P. Wooldridge launched improvement efforts fueled by a wave of civic pride. The park became known as an area where politicians and great orators connected with the public and where rallies were held supporting women's suffrage. Notably, Booker T. Washington spoke in 1911 at Wooldridge Square to a crowd of 5,000 people after he was disallowed from speaking at the state capitol. In 1948, Lyndon Baines Johnson, who would later serve as the 36th U.S. President, launched his U.S. senatorial campaign here. Wooldridge Square's significance reaches beyond Austin and is closely tied to significant statewide and national events.

## Pease District Park

Former Texas governor Elisha M. Pease and his wife Lucadia donated approximately 23-30 acres from his Woodlawn estate along Shoal Creek to the City of Austin to establish the city's first large



Pease Park Marker

public greenspace in 1875. The park laid dormant for almost 50 years, even being used as dumping grounds at some point. In the 1920s, however, improvements began when the Kiwanis Club funded and constructed a Tudor Cottage and entry columns on the ground. In the 1930s, the WPA program directed funds into the Shoal Creek bridges and other park improvements, such as stone walls and concrete picnic tables. Additional acreage was added through donations, and the walking trails were developed through efforts led by Janet Fish in the 1960s. Today, Pease District Park serves a variety of users enjoying the amenities, trails, and rich natural environment.

## Zilker Metropolitan Park

Zilker Metropolitan Park's Barton Springs, Zilker Botanical Garden, and the Austin and Nature Science Center reflect the evolution of site use and a variety of trends in recreation and park development. Barton Springs was used for thousands of years by Indigenous Peoples, who benefitted from the rich environment for hunting, fishing, and gathering. The first

*Continued on page 12*

PICA 00952, Austin History Ctr, Austin Public Library



1920s Wooldridge Square

PICA 01011, Austin History Ctr, Austin Public Library



Bathers enjoy Barton Springs during WWI

European American settler recorded in the area was William Barton, who without title, farmed the land and raised cattle until his death on April 11, 1840. After his death, he unwittingly bequeathed his name to the springs. Barton Springs was used for mills in the second half of the nineteenth century, but also became a popular swimming and recreation area for Austinites during this time.

In 1917, Andrew J. Zilker executed the first of three transactions that together would provide this unique and substantial park land to the city. Zilker's proposal was an

ingenious three-party trade, which consisted of a gift of the Barton Springs tract to the City with the condition that the City purchase the land for the inflated price of \$100,000. The money would not go to Zilker, but rather to a trust for

the manual training and home economic programs at Austin High School. The 1917 deal resulted in the City acquiring Barton Springs and the 42.51 acres of land around the area. Zilker's second proposal, which was completed in 1932 and patterned after the 1917 agreement, resulted in the City of Austin acquiring another 280.5 acres of parkland adjacent to the springs. Zilker's third and final transaction took place in April 1934, when he grew very ill. He deeded 32.55 acres of land immediately adjoining the Barton Springs Tract to the City. Zilker expressed in his deed that "he made this latest gift

being desirous that the area of Zilker Park be increased in order to furnish the people of Austin with more ample facilities for their recreation and enjoyment."

### Eastwoods Neighborhood Park

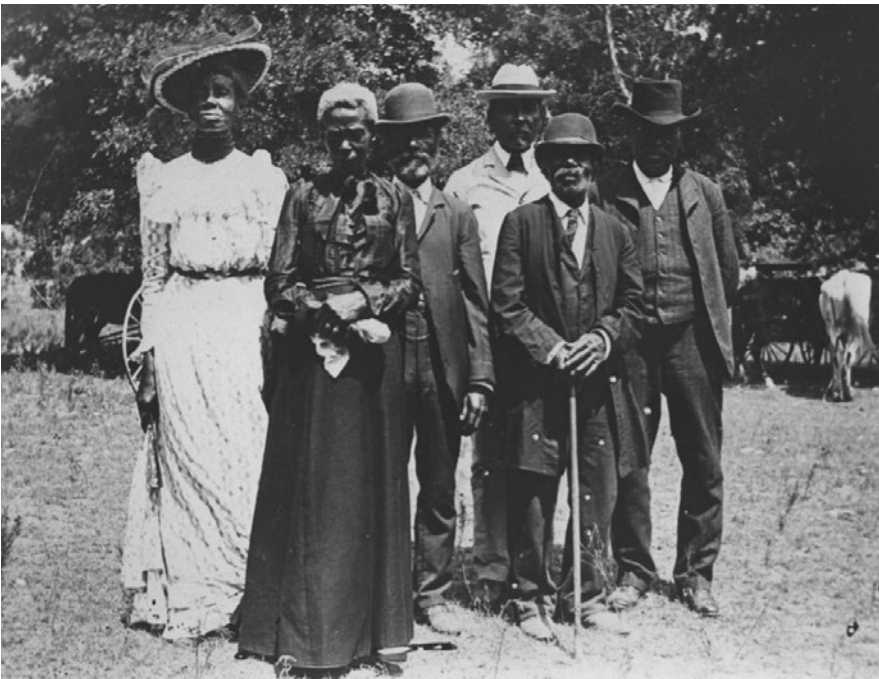
In 1929, the City of Austin purchased land near the University of Texas for use as a public park, and Eastwoods Neighborhood Park opened to the public in 1930. The park was designed by Texas landscape architect, Jac Gubbels, in collaboration with Austin architect Hugo Kuehne. Eastwoods Park was the original home of the annual Austin festival, Eeyore's Birthday Party, which began in 1964, but grew and moved to Pease Park in 1974.

Prior to use as a public park, the Eastwoods Park area was known as Wheeler's Grove, one of the earliest known sites in Austin where African Americans celebrated Juneteenth. Celebrated annually, Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day that news of the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation reached Texas. Wheeler's Grove was the site of Juneteenth gatherings until celebrations began at Emancipation Park, a Black privately-owned park in East Austin, in 1906.

### Rosewood Neighborhood Park

The 1928 City of Austin Plan enforced codified racial segregation by only providing services and utilities for communities of color in East Austin. Shortly after this, Rosewood Neighborhood Park was created as the first public park for African Americans and opened in 1930 to serve the community. Since its opening, Rosewood Park has served as the heart and cultural center for the Rosewood neighborhood. A Juneteenth celebration has been held annually here since 1930, and thousands of visitors

PICA 05476, Austin History Ctr, Austin Public Library



Juneteenth celebration at Wheelers Grove in 1900

*Continued on next page*

PICA 05476, Austin History Ctr, Austin Public Library



Children playing in the pool at Rosewood Park, 1938

celebrate this important holiday each year. The observance of culturally significant events for Austin’s African American community has remained a tradition throughout the years in this historic public space.

### Parque Zaragoza Neighborhood Park

After leaders in Austin’s Mexican-American community formed an organization and advocated for a park of their own, the City of Austin purchased land along Boggy Creek for Parque Zaragoza Neighborhood Park,

opened in 1931. Known as “Mexican Park” or “Zaragoza Park,” the space was intended as a segregated recreational site for the quickly growing Tejano community. For more than eight decades the park has been a place for families and community members to come together to play baseball, listen to Tejano and conjunto music, celebrate Diez y Seis and Cinco de Mayo, and promote the preservation of Mexican culture.

Parque Zaragoza Neighborhood Park continues to stand as a pillar of the Mexican American community in East Austin.

Although Zilker Metropolitan Park, Pease District Park, Parque Zaragoza Neighborhood Park, Rosewood Neighborhood Park, Eastwoods Neighborhood Park, and Wooldridge Square are the six Lone Star Legacy parks in Austin, they are certainly not the only historic parks in the city that qualify for the designation. Parks have played an important role throughout the city, providing natural respite, encouraging social interaction, and bringing communities together for recreation. In Austin, these open spaces are numerous, and the Austin Parks and Recreation Department looks forward to celebrating more Austin Park history through Lone Star Legacy parks. ★

Austin History Center, Austin Public Library



The community helped erect the Parque Zaragoza bathhouse and rec center in 1941.



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## HERITAGE QUIZ

★ by Elizabeth Porterfield & Maggie Conyngham

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

**Congratulations to our Winter and Spring winners!**

### NOVEMBER 2020: Dart Bowl (5700 Grover Avenue)

The iconic Dart Bowl opened in 1958 on Burnet Road and the Dart Bowl Café, debuted soon after in 1960. In 1997, both Dart Bowl and the Dart Bowl Café relocated to Grover Avenue. The bowling alley provided decades of fun for Austinites and even appeared in director Richard Linklater's movie *Boyhood*, as well as the television series *Friday Night Lights*. Sadly, after 62 years as a local recreation destination, Dart Bowl closed permanently in July 2020.

★ Winner: Courtney DeBower



Dart Bowl

### DECEMBER 2020: Hillside Farmacy (1209 E. 11th Street)

This popular East Austin restaurant was originally home to the Hillside Drug Store, owned and operated by Ulysses "Doc" Young and his wife Veola. Doc Young was a prominent African-American pharmacist from the 1920s until his retirement in 1976. The neighborhood housed a bustling community of African-American businesses at this time, after the segregationist City Plan of 1928 moved much of Austin's Black community east of East Avenue (now I-35.) The corner at E. 11th and Navasota Streets was home to other prominent African American drug store owners, including the DeLashwah, Young, and Christian families. The Youngs moved their residence to the back of the lot and built this City of Austin Landmark in the late 1940s.

★ Winner: Jacob Wreden



Hillside Farmacy

### JANUARY 2021: 611 Red River (Barbarella)

This two-story brick building, now home to the popular dance club Barbarella, dates to the 1920s. Sidney G. Warren constructed it for his furniture store "Warren's Place." Advertising "classy articles for little money" in the *Austin Statesman*, Warren's Place remained in operation through at least 1940. Over the next two decades, various other stores occupied the building, including the Nivens Furniture & Sewing Machine Company and Central Trading Post.

From 1980 to 1993, after a period of vacancy, the building housed The Crossing Bar, one of the early gay clubs that began to populate the Red River Cultural District. Described in a 1993 *Austin-American Statesman* article as a "vintage cruise bar... à la Warhol in Casablanca," it was considered an anchor LGBTQ-friendly club in its heyday.



Barbarella

*Continued on next page*



**FEBRUARY 2021: House of Elegance Beauty Salon (1191 Navasota Street)**

The House of Elegance Beauty Salon has a noteworthy history, designed by famed African American architect John S. Chase, FAIA as the headquarters for the Colored Teachers State Association of Texas (TSAT). TSAT was established in 1884 to ensure fair and equal access to education for Black Americans during the Reconstruction period. In 1955, a few years after federal desegregation was mandated, the word “Colored” was dropped from the organization’s title, though racial equality was far from achieved. TSAT was pivotal in advancing civil rights in Austin and throughout Texas for much of the 20th century. The House of Elegance beauty salon and barber shop enjoyed a long tenure in the building, beginning in the early 70s. UT has since purchased the property for its Division of Diversity and Community Engagement Center. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.

★ Winner: Erin Shoeck



House of Elegance Beauty Salon

**MARCH 2021: Austin Community College Highland Campus (6101 Highland Campus Drive)**

Austin Community College’s (ACC) Highland Campus is the former home of Highland Mall. The “suburban” shopping mall opened to much fanfare in 1971 with nearly 750,000 square feet of indoor shopping space and 4,000 parking places! Touted as a “completely new design in shopping,” Highland Mall offered a fully air-conditioned shopping experience with “an inner world of sunlit courtyards, bright walkways with live trees, shrubs, and flowers” and a “cascading fountain and benches in a park-like setting.” Today, the ACC Highland Campus represents a “national model for sustainable, adaptive, community-minded reuse.”



ACC - Highland Campus

**APRIL 2021: Austin Motel (1221 South Congress Avenue)**

The Austin Motel’s history dates back as far as 1888 when Leonard and Frances Eck, two German immigrants, bought up the property and established some of the first businesses south of the river, including a successful general merchandise store and pawn shop. Jennie Eck Stewart and her husband Earnest developed what is now the Austin Motel, a 1930s-era motor lodge to accommodate folks traveling to Austin during the great automobile boom. The present building opened its doors in 1938, and is a SOCO staple. The Motel is currently operated by the Bunkhouse Group, and houses Joann’s Fine Foods.

★ Winner: Sasha Esquirell



Austin Motel

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

# Tim Cuppett and Marco Rini

## Benefactor members and long-standing sponsors of our Annual Homes Tour

*When did you become a member of Preservation Austin?*

About 10 years ago.

*What industry are you in?*

**Tim:** Architecture and Interiors have been my life-long passions.

**Marco:** I'm in landscape design. Having grown up gardening with my Grandmother, it has remained my life-long passion.

*Why do you support Preservation Austin?*

**Tim:** It is important to defend, retain, and revitalize the few remnants of Austin history that remain. In our ever-homogenous experience of place, historic structures enhance the unique character of our locale. And they foster a soulful connection to our past, if we stop long enough to look and think about it.

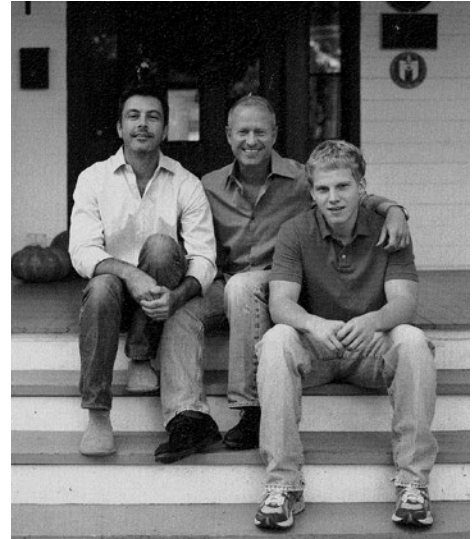
**Marco:** My grandparents taught me to enjoy the romance of life. I enjoyed sharing

similar experiences and Austin places, still intact, with our children and now grand-child.

*What makes you love to call Austin home?*

**Tim:** Over the course of my life, since attending The University, Austin has been home. I love the profusion of natural beauty which envelopes and permeates the City and the generally relaxed, accepting attitudes of its people.

**Marco:** I grew up playing with friends on Mount Lucas, now called Ridge Oak and Bright Leaf Preserve. Some Austin residents had cabins there to escape the heat of the city in the summer. Miss Lucas, the owner, would allow us to play, build forts and swim in spring-fed limestone ponds with sandy bottoms. She shared a snake chart to teach us the various species in the area so we



Marco Rini, Tim Cuppett and their son, William

would respect their homes. She introduced me to the Cedar Waxwing bird, which thrives among the junipers in the area. In the spring wildflowers were everywhere. Thanks to her generosity, like so many others, I still benefit from her legacy. ★

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## Latest News from Our Matching Grants Program

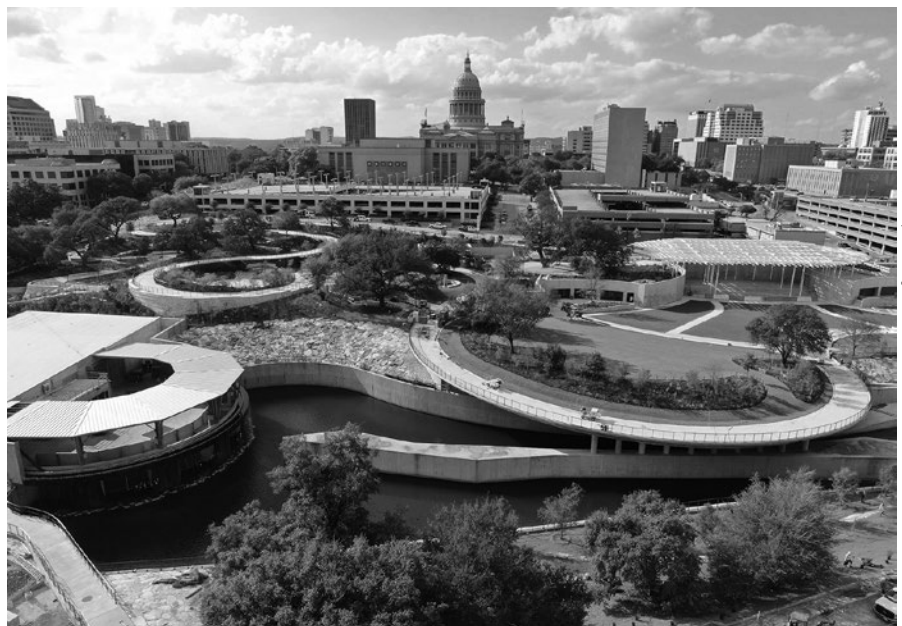
**P**reservation Austin has a long tradition of saving historic buildings through investment. Over the years the nonprofit has contributed nearly \$3 million to preservation projects citywide, including purchasing and/or rehabilitating such landmarks as the Streamline Moderne City of Austin Landmark at 3805 Red River Street; Congress Avenue’s Tips Building and the Eugene Bremond House; providing planning grants to St. Edward’s University and the Elisabet Ney Museum; supporting early preservation efforts for the Paramount Theatre; and providing crucial funding to save the Driskill Hotel from demolition in the 1970s. Its current matching grant program has given over \$115,000 to local neighborhoods, nonprofits, and building owners for preservation projects since 2016.

This fall, matching grants were awarded to the Austin History Center Association (AHCA), El Camino Real de Los Tejas National Historic Trail Association (ElCaT), and the Waterloo Greenway Conservancy (WGC). AHCA was awarded an education grant to support a video documentary to help fund the taped play “All Aboard! The Train Arrives in Austin” which was screened at the Association’s annual fundraising event. ElCaT was awarded funding for an archeological reconnaissance study of the Blair Woods Nature Preserve Property with Travis Audubon Society and GTI Environmental, LLC to identify remnants of the Republic of Texas era Fort Colorado in the Blair

Woods preserve as a potential site on the El Camino Real. WGC received matching funding in support of interpretive signage for Waterloo Park, the first of four parks in a new public space called Waterloo Greenway. The signage will bring recognition and honor to the deep history of Waller Creek by sharing the stories and experiences of past generations.

For our spring grant cycle, we awarded three Bricks and Mortar matching grants to Hillside Farmacy, Huston-Tillotson University’s King-Seabrook Chapel, and a Rogers Washington Holy Cross Historic District neighborhood home. The upkeep of Hillside Farmacy, a restaurant located on 11<sup>th</sup> Street, harkens to the building’s history as a drugstore and pharmacy, owned and operated by an African American pharmacist Ulysses “Doc”

Young in the 1920s. Upgrades for the structure includes window, door, and tile renovations in addition to weathering repairs. King-Seabrook Chapel, located on the Huston-Tillotson University campus, was completed in 1974. Named for two presidents of the merged Huston-Tillotson College—Dr. John Q. Taylor King, Sr. (1965-1988), and Dr. John Jarvis Seabrook (1955-1965)—the building includes a 372-seat auditorium and a stage adequate for dramatic productions, convocations, worship services, plays, musicals, and concerts. The grant funds will support renovating a stage wall that suffered water damage. Work completed on the Givens Avenue property in the Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross Historic District includes exterior, paint, and cosmetic upgrades to the property. ★



Aerial of Waterloo Park

Image courtesy of Waterloo Greenway Conservancy

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# New Interns Join PA for Spring 2021

**T**his winter Preservation Austin welcomed two new interns to our organization! Alena Kellerman-Pitts serves as our Social Media and Public Relations Intern and works with staff to generate the content you see across all our digital platforms. Grace Hardwick serves as our Policy Intern focused on our state-level advocacy efforts, which includes bill monitoring during the 87th Texas State Legislative Session. We're so delighted to have Alena and Grace on board with us!



**ALENA KELLERMAN-PITTS**

*Where are you from?* Austin, TX

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

I go to the University of Texas at Austin, and I am a public relations major with a minor in business.

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

I have lived in Austin my whole life, and it has a special place in my heart. I am so excited to get to be a part of preserving it.

*What is your favorite historic Austin location?*

Deep Eddy Pool is my favorite historic Austin landmark. I have been going there since I was a little girl!



**GRACE HARDWICK**

*Where are you from?* Houston, TX

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

I go to the University of Texas at Austin LBJ School and I am getting a Master of Public Affairs. Historic sites in Texas have played a big part in my life and I'm excited to be involved in protecting them.

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

I'm excited about working with Preservation Austin because I care a lot about historic preservation.

*What is your favorite historic Austin location?*

The Texas Capitol. I worked there several years ago and I love how the Capitol has been renovated and expanded to be functional in a way that maintains the historic character of the building.

*What is your current view of the Texas legislative session with you now being Preservation Austin's policy intern?*

Due to Covid-19 the state

is making a lot of cuts to state agencies including many that affect historic preservation. Additionally, because of Covid precautions, the Legislature will run very differently than in the past, which will impact how Preservation Austin is able to interact with legislators and their staff.

*Is there any legislation that affects issues pertaining to Preservation Austin or similar organizations throughout Texas?*

The main legislative issue that impacts our partner organizations is the budget. All agencies including the Texas Historical Commission, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Texas Commission on the Arts were required to make a 5% budget cut in 2020 because of Covid-19. The new budget will determine how much money those agencies receive for the next two years. ★



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**W**e have been growing the committee over the last few months, recruiting some new and talented members who work in architecture, insurance, and local arts organizations. We are grateful and excited to have them on board and jumping into ongoing projects.

Our “Preservation Shorts” series on social media highlights different aspects of preservation by local Austinites, whether they are historic homeowners, run historic businesses, or have fascinating neighborhood stories to tell. We have continued to piece together some great “shorts” from participants thus far. In January, we took a “walking tour” of the Red River Cultural District, highlighting local historic buildings such as Barbarella, True Blue Tattoo, the Mohawk, Stubb’s BBQ and Cheer-up Charlie’s. We have many more exciting virtual tours in the pipeline to highlight this year. If you are a historic homeowner or own a legacy business in Austin and would like to be featured, please contact us! We look forward to highlighting any great examples of historic preservation throughout the city.

In addition to promoting these videos on our social platforms, the Committee has set a long term goal of developing new social content to further our work, as well as continuing our monthly heritage quiz competition on Facebook. The group has also taken on research for an upcoming Historic Churches self-guided Bike Route.

We have been brainstorming ways that Preservation Austin can promote and amplify the voices of our city’s diverse cultural landscape. We have kicked off our year-long goal of defining our target audience through a comprehensive community survey. The Survey Working Group has met several times over the last few months to create a standard questionnaire and framework, and have begun outreach to community members. While the unanticipated Winter Storm Uri

temporarily setback our efforts, we are looking forward to regaining traction with the project this spring. Our intent is to have and continue to have conversations with a wide range of Austin community members about how Preservation Austin can best serve their interests. We look forward to all the valuable insight our fellow Austinites have about their communities! ★



Subscribe to Preservation Austin’s YouTube channel to keep up to date with our Preservation Shorts series.



St. Martin’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, featured on our upcoming self-guided bike tour.

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# Historic Preservation Office Launches New Preservation Plan

by Cara Bertron, Senior Planner,  
City of Austin Housing & Planning Department

**T**he City of Austin Historic Preservation Office has received a Certified Local Government grant to develop a new historic preservation plan. The plan (Phase 1, 2021-22) will replace Austin's 1981 preservation plan with an inclusive, equity-focused, and community-based planning process and outcome.

A working group composed of historic preservation professionals, stakeholders

from allied fields, and community representatives will tackle pressing questions to create the plan: Whose heritage is represented in designated historic properties, and what stories are missing? Who benefits from preservation policies, programs, and incentives? How can historic preservation tools be expanded to address essential issues such as sustainability, affordability, and displacement?

Phase 1 will result in a draft historic preservation plan, including comprehensive recommendations for policies, tools, and programmatic changes. Phase 2 (2022-23) will include extensive community outreach, additional capacity-building, and finalization of the plan. ★





## City Policy & Legislative Session

One of the primary areas of work on the Advocacy Committee has always been City and State policies related to historic preservation. For the past few months, the Policy Working Group of the committee has been meeting with all the City Council offices to share our new strategic plan and mission, and to discuss Historic Preservation Office staffing levels and policies. We have also begun reviewing the preservation incentive proposed in the Land Development Code (LDC) with the goal of refining and improving it in anticipation of the City introducing changes to the LDC in the future.

Preservation Austin has also been meeting with members of the State legislature and tracking a number of bills that have been introduced. Of primary concern are HB1474/SB1585 (authored by Reps. Cyrier, Israel, Cole, Krause and Sen. Hughes) and HB1475/SB631 (authored by Rep. Cyrier and Sen. Buckingham). HB1474/SB1585 would require a 3/4 majority vote of the Historic Landmark Commission or City Council if an

owner does not consent to the inclusion of their property in a local historic district, despite there already being valid petition rights within State law. This would make the process for neighborhoods wishing to become a historic district even more burdensome. HB1475/SB631 will grant Boards of Adjustment much broader criteria to consider when making determinations of hardship, criteria that could allow property owners to circumvent compliance with code issues that are essential to protecting historic landmarks and local historic districts. Preservation Austin will continue to monitor the progress of these and other bills, and will send out legislative alerts to our supporters as needed.

## AISD School Closures & Decommissioning Working Group

The AISD School Closures and Decommissioning Working Group has focused on research and outreach surrounding the potential adaptive reuse of the twelve AISD schools closed during the 2019 “School Changes” process. The

initial work began by compiling data and resources to share with engaged stakeholders. The group determined which AISD properties had any level of historic designation: City of Austin Landmark, Registered Texas Historic Landmark, Texas Historical Commission markers, and/or National Register listings. Next, the group gathered positive examples of adaptive reuse of school buildings which could provide inspiration for potential projects in Austin. These resources were compiled into a presentation and a supplemental document. The working group scheduled its first outreach meeting with Dr. Stephanie Hawley, AISD’s Equity Director, to develop a relationship with her office. This meeting laid the groundwork for learning how Preservation Austin can best advocate for the equitable preservation of decommissioned school buildings as community assets. Another important aspect of this group’s work was following the AISD Board of Trustees elections, where four seats were open. It was crucial to determine the new trustees’ opinions on School Changes and subsequent schools’ closing. With this background in mind, the group will be well informed to schedule upcoming meetings with the new Board of Trustees.

## Underrepresented Heritage Working Group

The Underrepresented Heritage Working Group is focused on identifying, celebrating, and protecting historic sites that honor underrepresented groups including, but not limited to, African Americans, Latinx Americans, the LGBTQ community, and women. These sites have



Pease Elementary School

*Continued on page 22*

Advocacy, continued from page 21

long been overlooked in the telling and honoring of heritage here in Austin and nationwide.

The group's first task was compiling a comprehensive list of historic designations for underrepresented sites at the local, state, and national levels within the City of Austin. The numbers demonstrate the stark imbalance in designations and need for additional protections for these sites. For example, the City of Austin reports that out of our 636 local landmarks, only 49 celebrate African American history and only 16 celebrate

Latinx history. While the city does not track data for other underrepresented groups, Preservation Austin can find just 25 landmarks that honor women's history and none designated in honor of LGBTQIA history. The working group is scheduling presentations to City of Austin boards and commissions, including the African American Resource Advisory Commission, Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission, LGBTQIA Quality of Life Advisory Commission, Historic Landmark Commission, etc. to talk about these issues and gather feedback on significant sites left off these lists that

might be good candidates for designation.

Additional efforts include meeting with a broad range of advocates who are already doing work in these communities, and reviewing national policy discussions around these issues, including the National Trust for Historic Preservation's new report "Preserving African American Places: Growing Preservation's Potential as a Path for Equity." Reevaluating integrity standards, and how they unintentionally exclude many minority heritage sites, is a current topic of discussion. ★

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~ Thank You! ~



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## MISSION

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



## PA CALENDAR OF EVENTS • 2021

JUN  
15

### Summer Grant Cycle 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. Visit [preservationaustin.org/grants](http://preservationaustin.org/grants) for more info.

JUN  
17

### Preservation Austin's 2021 Virtual Homes Tour

Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross: Black Heritage, Living History, our 2021 Virtual Homes Tour, celebrates the incredible history and post-war homes of this East Austin neighborhood, and Austin's first Local Historic District honoring Black heritage. Tickets are on sale now at [preservationaustin.org](http://preservationaustin.org), see Page 1 for details.

### Virtual Programs

If you've missed any of our virtual programs over the past few months, check out PA's YouTube channel to watch live recordings of these events. Talks including Women in Preservation Architecture, El Camino Connection: History and Birding in East Austin's Blair Woods, and Hill Country Deco. Visit [youtube.com/user/preservationaustin](https://youtube.com/user/preservationaustin) for more.

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