



SAN ANTONIO PRESERVATION NEWSLINK

October 2010 Edition

A Message from the Historic Preservation Officer



Austin is hosting this year's National Preservation Conference, which begins October 27th. The Office of Historic Preservation will be involved in several conference events and I encourage anyone with a passion for preservation to attend. Educational opportunities are available for beginners and seasoned professionals alike, as well as guided tours, networking opportunities and discussion sessions. Mayor Julián Castro is the featured speaker at an advocacy luncheon on Thursday the 28th where I will have the honor of introducing him. As Vice Chair of Preservation Action (PA) and Chair of the Preservation Action Foundation (PAF), I will be very busy during the conference with related events and activities. Also on Thursday, the board of PAF will meet and Friday,

Preservation Action will host a brief membership meeting followed by a listening session for the Federal Historic Preservation Program Task Force. The Task Force, created by PA and supported by PAF, includes membership from all of our national partners. The mission of the Task Force is to look at the federal preservation program and make recommendations to enhance the federal commitment to historic preservation. This is an exciting initiative that could change the face of preservation in this country. Please go to the website for further information and consider participating in this critical discussion. <http://www.preservationaction.org/taskforce.htm>.

Elizabeth Porterfield, OHP Architectural Historian, is guiding a tour of San Antonio's Eastside on Wednesday the 27th and will attend a National Register for Historic Places training session hosted by the Texas Historical Commission. OHP Senior Planner Anna Glover, State Coordinator for Preservation Action and Preservation Texas Board Member, will also attend the National Register training session as well as participate in the Federal Historic Preservation Program Task Force discussion session. Anna and I invite you to join us Friday the 29th at the Preservation Action Foundation "Mad About Mod" silent auction and gala at the Belmont Hotel in Austin. It will be a lot of fun and all the proceeds will support the work of the Preservation Action Foundation. View the full schedule of events [here](#). I looking forward to seeing you there.

October also marks the debut of HPTV, the Office of Historic Preservation's new cable show airing on Channel 21. This month's show celebrates Texas Archaeology Month (TAM). City Archaeologist Kay Hindes talks with local professionals about the wide variety of fun events and activities taking place in San Antonio this month to increase awareness of San Antonio's unique and highly significant archaeological resources.

Tobin Hill Historic Places and Fantastic Spaces Tour • October 23

Don't miss your chance to visit six unique architectural spaces on the first ever Tobin Hill Historic Places and Fantastic Spaces Tour from 9am to 2pm on Saturday, October 23rd. The tour features a mix of historic and contemporary homes and commercial spaces located within the Tobin Hill neighborhood. Admission to all six locations is \$15.00. Tickets will be available on the day of the event at the first tour stop located at 325 E. Myrtle Street. For further information contact Martin Kushner at 223-2814 or see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.



October 2010

Historic Home Revitalization Pilot Project



On September 18th and 19th, volunteer students and faculty from the University of Texas at San Antonio College of Architecture and local tradesmen led by professional contractor Victor Salas joined forces with the Office of Historic Preservation to revitalize a historic 1920s Craftsman bungalow in the Dignowity Hill Historic District. Students from the College of Architecture's Historic Preservation Student Association worked with volunteer professional crews supervised by Salas, a member of the City's Historic and Design Review Commission, to repair the home's foundation and leaky roof, replace missing and damaged

siding, restore a number of the home's original wood windows and return the home's distinctive Craftsman style porch to its original appearance. The repairs made during the event will help ensure the future viability of the home and maintain the historic character of the Dignowity Hill neighborhood.



In addition to Salas, faculty members Sue Ann Pemberton and William Dupont from the College of Architecture's

Historic Preservation Program, Guadalupe Carrizales, a contractor experienced in historic home rehabilitation, and a crew of building professionals, lent their expertise to this unique hands-on learning opportunity for the students. The Office of Historic Preservation staff would like to thank all the hardworking students, building professionals and supporters who helped save this fine historic home from further deterioration.

The event served as a pilot project for the upcoming S.T.A.R. (Students Together Achieving Revitalization) event to be held in November. See the next item for more information on this exciting program.



*Top: Repairs were made to save the home from further deterioration.
Right: UTSA graduate students Catherine Alvarado and Laura Carrera prepare a historic window for painting.
Far right: Commissioner Salas monitors the progress as students work to level the home's concrete steps.*

***S.T.A.R. (Students Together Achieving Revitalization)
November 6 & 7 and 13 & 14***

Following the success of the September Historic Home Revitalization Pilot Project, the Office of Historic Preservation is coordinating the S.T.A.R (Students Together Achieving Revitalization) service project, which will take place over the first two weekends in November. Local college students will come together to assist homeowners in Dignowity Hill Historic District with minor exterior repairs and maintenance projects. Approximately 15 houses will be chosen to participate in the project designed to help promote neighborhood and property revitalization in this Eastside district. The project will take place November 6th, 7th, 13th, and 14th from 8:00am to 4:30pm each day.



Faculty members Sue Ann Pemberton and Isabel Garcia from the University of Texas at San Antonio College of Architecture will assemble over 200 graduate and undergraduate students to participate in the project. Students will make minor repairs to windows, siding, and porches as well as undertake general yard maintenance and exterior painting. During this two-weekend event, they will be supported by volunteer contractors and building professionals as well as staff from the Office of Historic Preservation, all who will be on site to share their expertise. The project provides a unique hands-on learning experience for the students, as well as an opportunity to assist homeowners in labor-intensive tasks.

We will need support from a variety of sources in order to complete this project including financial donations, food for volunteers, safety equipment, tools, signage, water, logistical support, and professional contractor expertise.

For more information about how you can be involved in this project, call Trisha Logan at the OHP at 210-207-7244 or email trisha.logan@sanantonio.gov.



***Order Your Historic Plaque Today!
Don't wait and miss out on your chance to
purchase a historic plaque this year.***

Historic plaques are now available for individual local landmarks and contributing properties within local historic districts. The plaques will visually identify those properties and districts that have been officially recognized by the City of San Antonio for their architectural and historical significance. Plaques are available for \$95. Staff will review your application to verify the historic status of your property before collecting payment and issuing a historic plaque.

Fill out an [application form](#) and submit it to the Office of Historic Preservation today to be a part of this year's order. For further information, please contact Trisha Logan at 207-7244.

River Improvement Overlay (RIO) Review

The Office of Historic Preservation, at the request of City Council, is assessing the need for amendments to the River Improvement Overlay (RIO) guidelines adopted in 2002. RIO guidelines affect commercial properties and multi-unit residential properties of eight or more units. Single-family properties are not affected by the RIO overlay. The RIO Guidelines were established to protect, preserve and enhance the San Antonio River and its improvements by establishing design standards and guidelines for properties located near the river. The six RIO districts cover a geographic area spanning the river from Hildebrand Avenue to the north to a southern boundary near Mission Espada and the southern city limits. The purpose of this initiative is to assess the effectiveness of the current RIO regulations and recommend enhancements to ensure protection of the significant public investment that has been made to the San Antonio River. The OHP has assembled the RIO Task Force to work with local business leaders, preservationists, public officials, and other interested parties to prepare recommended amendments to the RIO sections of the Unified Development Code (UDC) for City Council.

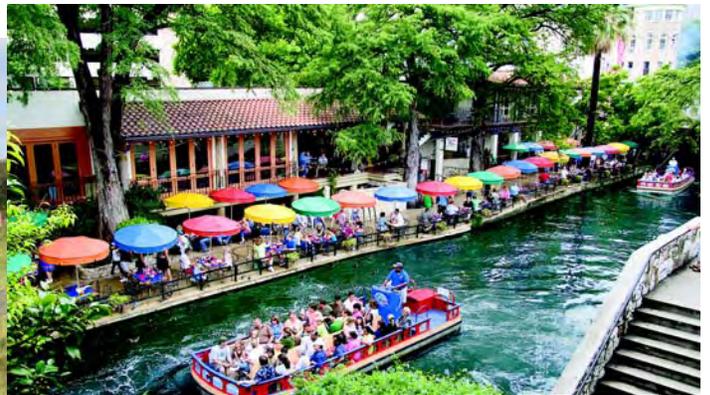
All sections of the RIO guidelines are within the scope of the potential amendments. Some of the issues under consideration include adding demolition delays, evaluating the RIO boundaries, enhanced watershed protection, better storm water retention to include protection of the acequias, and stronger design guidelines for properties without river frontage. Public input is critical to the success of this process and we welcome your participation. If you have feedback on any of these important issues please join us for the next community meeting to be held in early December.

For more information, please contact Anna Glover in the Office of Historic Preservation at 207-7925 or anna.glover@sanantonio.gov.

See the Current RIO Guidelines [here](#).

Contact Us!

The Office of Historic Preservation is dedicated to improving public outreach and awareness of preservation issues and events in San Antonio. Please contact us at OHP@sanantonio.gov for more information or to subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter.



Historic Preservation Television (HPTV) On the Air!

HPTV, the new OHP half hour cable show, is now airing on the City's **TVSA Channel 21**. Our first show provides an overview of the Texas Archaeology Month events taking place in October.

See the show on:

Tuesdays @ 9:00am
Wednesdays @ 1:00pm
Fridays @ 7:00pm

View the first episode of HPTV online (sorry, PC only) at **October HPTV**.



Stay tuned for our **November show**, which features a look at **Mid-Century Modernism in San Antonio**. Historic Preservation Officer Shanon Wasielewski talks with UTSA Professor Rick Lewis and Architecture Graduate Student Matt Tompkins about *A Progressive Spirit: San Antonio's Mid-Century Modern Legacy*, a recently completed student documentary on mid-century architecture in San Antonio. Shanon then takes a brief look at homes in the 1950s era Oak Hills neighborhood to highlight the unique features that make mid-century modern homes worthy of preservation.



An Imaginary City: Mexican Architecture of the 19th and 20th Centuries

Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM) will be hosting *An Imaginary City: Mexican Architecture of the 19th and 20th Centuries*, an exhibit of rare photographs of Mexican architecture, at their downtown campus in Hemisfair Park. Curator, professor and author Noelle Mereles will deliver a lecture in English to open the exhibit.

Thursday, October 21, 2010, at 7pm.

This event is free and open to the public.
Free parking at the Durango Parking Lot.

For more information on the exhibit visit the **UNAM website**.

Efforts to Save Lermas Nite Club from Demolition

SAVE LERMAS is currently organizing community fundraisers and welcomes public donations. Visit their website at www.savelermas.org to learn more about the famous Conjunto music hall or download a [membership form](#) to help save this important piece of San Antonio's cultural history.

Conjunto Club is Labeled Historic - San Antonio Express-News
Safety Dance - SA Current
West Side Conjunto Club Spared from Demolition — For Now - San Antonio Express-News



Archaeology Day at Mission San Jose

On October 9th, the Office of Historic Preservation co-sponsored Archaeology Day at Mission San Jose, a Texas Archaeology Month activity. The fun family event featured rock painting, pot throwing and hands on demonstrations of archaeological techniques. Congressman Ciro Rodriguez (right) joined City Archaeologist Kay Hindes in celebrating the important role archaeology plays in helping us better understand our shared heritage.



We're on the web:

facebook

The Office of Historic Preservation is on Facebook! Click the Facebook icon to add us as your friend. Facebook is a great resource for promoting preservation events and networking with other people in the community interested in preservation topics. If you are unable to open the link, simply login to www.facebook.com and search for "City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation".

mySAblogs

Check out the historic preservation blog on the San Antonio Express-News website at

<http://voices.mysanantonio.com/swasielewski/>

2010 National Preservation Conference | October 27th – 30th | Austin, TX

Join hundreds of grass-roots volunteers, skilled professionals, and preservation experts exploring preservation today — Prepare yourself for a completely new National Preservation Conference experience! To complement the future-focused Austin theme, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has planned dynamic new programs that encourage conversation and interaction and spotlight 21st-century preservation imperatives. The conference will focus on the conventional and the controversial issues that arise every day and share the most effective tools and practices for fostering preservation in any community. With the conference so close to home this year, it's a great opportunity to attend this wonderful training and learning event. Please visit the National Trust's website at: <http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/training/npc/> for more information.

Mayor Julián Castro to Speak at Advocacy Luncheon at National Conference

Mayor Castro will be the featured speaker at an advocacy luncheon to be held October 28th, 2010, from 12:00-1:15 p.m. as part of the National Preservation Conference in Austin. The Mayor will speak about the value of historic preservation and the powerful voice of the grassroots advocate. Advocacy for sound preservation policy has enabled preservationists to secure the creation of preservation programs that create jobs, more sustainable communities and leverage billions in investment due to federal, state, and local tax incentives. See <http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/training/npc/> for more information.

Preservation Action Federal Historic Preservation Task Force Listening Session

As part of the 2010 National Preservation Conference in Austin, Preservation Action will host an open forum and introduction to the Federal Historic Preservation Program Task Force. Take this opportunity to provide your input and help shape the future of our federal preservation program.

Session Time: Thursday, Oct 28th, 2010, 1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Location: Hilton Austin, Room 404

“Mad About Mod” Preservation Action Foundation Event

Join Preservation Action for “Mad About Mod,” the 26th annual live auction and gala from Preservation Action Foundation (PAF). For 26 years, Preservation Action has hosted a silent and live auction/gala at the National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference. This annual event serves as the major fundraising effort each year for PAF (formerly the Center for Preservation Initiatives). The conference is in a different city each year and Austin, Texas is playing host this year. The auction has become a cherished and anticipated event. Our variety of auction items have wide appeal but often speak particularly well to those with an interest or background in historic preservation, travel, architecture, and design history.

October 29th, 7:30 pm

The Belmont Restaurant
305 W. 6th Street, Austin, Texas
www.thebelmontaustin.com

Tickets are \$75 and may be purchased in advance from Preservation Action Foundation. Call 202-637-7873 or e-mail csmiley@preservationaction.org. If you are attending the National Trust for Historic Preservation conference you can buy tickets with your registration. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.



Federal Historic Preservation Issues
Provided by Erik Hein, President, Preservation Action

Note from OHP: The mission of Preservation Action is to make historic preservation a national priority by advocating to all branches of the federal government for sound preservation policy and programs through a grassroots constituency empowered with information and training and through direct contact with elected representatives. What happens in Washington directly impacts the work we do at the local level: grant funding to Certified Local Governments, Preserve America and Save Americas Treasures programs, federal rehabilitation tax credit policy, etc. This feature is intended to provide information to those who are interested about the status of current national legislative priorities within the preservation movement. The information included is the status as of Friday, August 6, 2010.

For more information about Preservation Action or current issues on the national legislative agenda or for information about becoming a member, visit www.preservationaction.org or contact Shanon Peterson Wasielewski at shanon.wasielewski@sanantonio.gov.

States Cut \$580 Million in Transportation Enhancement Funds

In August of this year, in order to pay for H.R. 4213, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2010, Congress issued a "rescission order," that required states to collectively return \$2.2 billion in unused or unobligated transportation funds. Given two weeks to comply, states had to identify sources for these cuts. Instead of making across-the board cuts, or targeting specific projects for which funds had yet to be obligated, thirty states opted to fund the rescissions by making cuts to Transportation Enhancements (TE) at a much higher proportion than other programs. (For a complete chart, click [here](#).) For example, in Nebraska, the entire state's rescission (\$16+million), came from TE and in Texas \$150 million or 78% of their entire TE budget (the same amount as the entire federal Historic Preservation Fund) was cut. Overall, approximately \$580 million was cut nationally.

Under the [TE program](#), States are authorized each year to set aside ten percent of their federal-aid highway allocations for matching grants to fund projects that enhance community transportation investments. **Six of the twelve eligible activities involve historic preservation:**

- A. Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles.
- B. Provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- C. Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites (including historic battlefields).
- D. Scenic or historic highway programs (including the provision of tourist and welcome center facilities).
- E. Landscaping and other scenic beautification.
- F. Historic preservation.
- G. Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities (including historic railroad facilities and canals).
- H. Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use of the corridors for pedestrian or bicycle trails).
- I. Inventory, control, and removal of outdoor advertising.
- J. Archaeological planning and research.
- K. Environmental mitigation
- L. Establishment of transportation museums.



In 2009 alone, the federal allocation to TE projects totaled more than \$51 million, making it the largest single source of Federal funding for historic preservation. To view a project list by state, year or activity, [click here](#).

Federal Historic Preservation Program Task Force Discussion Session

The Federal Historic Preservation Program Task Force, convened by Preservation Action and the Preservation Action Foundation and counting nearly every major national preservation organization as a member, has announced it will be holding an open Discussion Session at the National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference in Austin, Texas. Everyone attending the Conference is encouraged to participate:



Federal Historic
Preservation Program Task Force

Please Join Us
For a Discussion Session
at the National Preservation Conference
1:00 – 3:30 pm, Friday, Oct. 29,
Hilton Austin, Room 404
RSVP to csmiley@preservationaction.org

We Need Your Input
and ideas for improving the federal historic preservation program's
organizational and leadership structures.

To learn more, visit our webpage at <http://www.preservationaction.org/taskforce.htm>

 <p>ACTION ITEM...</p>  <p><i>"Even in times of crisis, we're called to take the long view to preserve our national heritage — because in doing so we fulfill one of the responsibilities that falls to all of us as Americans, and as inhabitants of this same small planet." - President Obama, April 16th, 2010.</i></p> <p>To preserve our national heritage, historic preservation <u>IS and MUST BE</u> an integral part of the AGO initiative. Our national heritage is defined by a continuum of both natural and cultural resources.</p>	<p>What Can You Do To Make Sure Preservation Is An Integral Part of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Attend a listening session in your area. The schedule has been rapidly changing, but you can visit the AGO website regularly for more information. Or you can also visit our AGO web page where we will post information as it becomes available.2. Register and provide your input directly online. Fast and painless, this is something all of us can do! <p>www.preservationaction.org/ago.htm</p>
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For a complete update on the status of preservation-related legislation currently before congress, visit <http://www.preservationaction.org/states/archive.htm>



TOBIN HILL

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

REDISCOVER TOBIN HILL AT THE FIRST EVER

HISTORIC PLACES AND FANTASTIC SPACES TOUR OCTOBER 23, 2010 - 9 AM TO 2 PM



The tour will feature six unique locations:

- Two beautifully restored historic homes;
- A modern Spanish contemporary home with downtown views from its roof deck;
- A new urban, extended stay rental space with amazing interior & exterior design;
- La Casa Rosa, home, gallery and studio of Tobin Hill contemporary artist Luis Lopez. The building is known for its bold fuchsia exterior and public sculpture garden; and
- The lovely new Neva Spa.



Admission to all six locations is \$15.00

Day of the event tickets will be available at the first tour stop located at 325 E. Myrtle Street, in the heart of the Tobin Hill Historic District.

(For further information contact Martin Kushner at 223-2814)

Sponsorship Opportunities are still available