



PRESERVATION
— AUSTIN —

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SAVING THE GOOD STUFF

Fall 2021 ★ Volume 25 No. 2

2021 Preservation Merit Awards

Join Preservation Austin for our 61st Annual Preservation Merit Awards celebration, hosted at Waterloo Greenway Conservancy's historic Symphony Square! This year's cocktail reception honors the hard work and visionary approaches of those preserving Austin's unique architectural, cultural, and environmental heritage. Our fourteen Preservation Merit Award recipients embody a vision for preservation rooted in a shared sense of community and civic pride, from institutions investing in treasured historic places, to grassroots neighborhood advocacy and community-centric educational programming. We are thrilled to share their stories and to honor their incredible achievements!

Many thanks to our 2021 Preservation Merit Awards Jury who together selected exemplary projects with real community impact: **Austin Lukes**, Project Reviewer, Historic Tax Credits, *Texas Historical Commission*; **Bridget Gayle Ground**, Development Manager, *AIA Austin & Austin Foundation for Architecture*; **Roxanne Evans**, Co-chair, *East Austin Coalition for Quality Education*; **Norma Yancey**, Principal, *Sidetracked Studio*; and **Emily Reed**, Historic Preservation Program Manager, *Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting*.

Individual tickets are available at preservationaustin.org. Proceeds from the celebration provide significant support for our advocacy and educational programming throughout the year.

Please join us in celebrating

THE 61ST ANNUAL
Preservation
MERIT AWARDS

DECEMBER 2, 2021
6PM - 8PM
Symphony Square
1111 RED RIVER STREET

PRESENTED BY
IBC BANK
We Do More

**61st Annual
Preservation Merit
Awards Celebration**

December 2, 2021
6 pm - 8 pm
Symphony Square
\$75 members/\$100 non-members

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SAVE the DATE

Kingsbury Commons Walking Tour

Saturday, December 11 | 10 am - 11:30 am
1100 Kingsbury Street, Austin, TX 78703
\$5 for members/\$10 for non-members

Get out and join Preservation Austin for a special walking tour of the newly renovated Kingsbury Commons at historic Pease Park! PA is proud to partner with Pease Park Conservancy and Clayton Korte Architects to share their incredible work bringing new life to one of Austin's most vital green spaces. Guests will encounter a mix of history, preservation, and design as we explore how Kingsbury Commons' new, state-of-the-art features interact with the park's historic character — including the 2021 Preservation Merit Award-winning Tudor Cottage, recently rehabilitated as a community space.

The Conservancy's COO Chuck Smith will provide the Pease Park's historic context, including plans to interpret its under-told African American and Native American history. From Clayton Korte, Nathan Quiring, AIA and Emily Little, FAIA will discuss the park's historic features and their approach to sensitive park design. Following the one-hour tour, guests will be invited into the Tudor Cottage for refreshments and questions with our speakers.

Attendance is limited! Visit preservationaustin.org/upcoming-events to secure your space.

Proof of vaccination and masks required. Preservation Austin will follow City of Austin and CDC Covid-19 guidelines for this event. See event listings for details. ★



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2021 PRESERVATION MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS



Photo: Dror Baldinger

ACC RIO GRANDE

➤ Austin Community College
Preservation Award for Rehabilitation

This City of Austin Landmark was built for Allan Junior High in 1916. Designed by architect Dennis Walsh, the Beaux-Arts school was originally constructed in a T-shaped plan that was later expanded with a 1925 addition by Gieseke & Harris Architects. This addition nearly doubled the building's size and created the double courtyard design that characterizes it today. From 1925 onward, it was home to Austin High School.

Austin Community College (ACC) opened its Rio Grande campus here in 1975. In 2017, ACC broke ground on this ambitious project to restore the building's historic fabric while upgrading its facilities for the 21st century. Studio8 Architects, Overland Partners, and Bartlett Cocke General Contractors worked with preservation

architects Hutson-Gallagher to restore the historic brick and cast stone, along with the courtyard's steel windows. Original brick was salvaged where possible, and replaced with custom-matched modern brick when needed. A new EFTE polymer roof tops the twin courtyards, creating an enclosed space that elegantly contrasts historic materials with contemporary technology. A new courtyard on the building's south side is recessed below street level to preserve the facade's historic appearance.

For over 100 years this campus has dutifully served countless students in Austin, and this elegant rehabilitation ensures its legacy as a vital institution of learning for years to come.

CASTLE COURT OFFICES

➤ Peter Pincoffs
Preservation Award for Restoration

The Texas Military Institute (TMI) relocated to Austin in 1870. Today only

two structures from its original campus remain, including the main building, now known as "The Castle," and the lesser-known Kitchen and Mess Hall. The one-story mess hall was constructed c. 1873 of rubble limestone with a hipped roof and red brick chimneys. The building is a contributing structure to the West Line National Register District and Castle Hill Local Historic District.

In 2018, Peter Pincoffs purchased the building for offices for himself and colleagues, diving into its rehabilitation with daughter Lizzie Pincoffs, an interior designer. O'Connell Architecture and Pinnelli Builders conceived of the project's extensive restoration work, supported by state and federal historic credits, and encountered a number of challenges along the way. Original floors were salvaged over a new structural system after the original joists were found resting directly on the ground. The brick chimneys required painstaking reconstruction when it was discovered that they were unsound during

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Photo: Rob Gomez

➤ = Award Recipient



Photo: Andrea Calo



Photo: Brian Mihealsick

the removal of a modern corrugated metal roof. On the interior, the building's limestone masonry walls were beautifully restored and refinished with plaster, along with its original 1870s windows and doors.

A delicate but effective touch, this project's highly technical preservation work successfully celebrates the 150-year old building's historic character while meeting the needs of a modern office space.

ENFIELD CONDOS

➤ Hospitality Organization, LLC
Preservation Award for Rehabilitation
+ Addition

This 1933 house was home to David Houston Doom, Austin attorney and judge, and his wife Nellie, a distinguished advocate for women's equal rights.

Situated on a large, estate-sized lot in the Old Enfield neighborhood, it features Federal Revival style details and overlooks Enfield Road, now a busy urban corridor.

Hospitality Organization, LLC purchased the property with a vision of rehabilitating the home's historic grandeur while maximizing the site's infill potential. To do so, Mark

Odom Studios and Journeyman Group were tasked with re-imagining this once single-family home into a seven-unit multi-family community. Tucked behind the historic home and its massive heritage tree, a modern podium addition serves as a backdrop, with four units barely visible from the street. Three units fill the historic house, with one on each floor. The first and second-story units wrap around the central and shared stair lobby. The attic space was converted into a full unit, with the original dormers adding to the space's character. The original front door, now rebuilt and repaired, serves as a common entry.

In an ever-growing city like Austin, this remarkable project serves as a model for how to celebrate the historic character of Austin's central neighborhoods while adding much-needed density.

FRENCH LEGATION

➤ Texas Historical Commission
Preservation Award for Restoration

The French Legation, constructed in 1841, is one of the oldest documented structures in the City of Austin. It was originally built for French diplomat Dubois de

Saligny whose vision strongly influenced the design and finishes of the building, despite his ownership lasting only a few months. The Robertson family purchased the house in 1848 and owned it for 100 years before selling it to the State of Texas.

In 2017, the Texas Legislature transferred management of the site to the Texas Historical Commission as a State Historic Site. Recognizing the building's significant state of disrepair, the legislature approved emergency funding to stabilize the house. The scope of work, performed by Hutson-Gallagher, was based on a deeply researched understanding of the site. Full exterior preservation of the wood structure required the correcting and restoring of deteriorated framing, siding, roofing, doors, windows, and shutters. Inside, the fireplace hearths were restored to their original appearance, using a precisely matched mortar mix. The historic wall canvas was replaced and reinstalled using traditional tacking methods, and conservators referenced a historic finish analysis to restore original paint colors throughout. Now reopened to the public, the site's inclusive interpretive vision for the history of the French Legation will

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Photo: Bret Brookshire

honor the indigenous people of the area, as well as the narratives of the enslaved people who lived there during the Robertson era.

This magnificent project embodies the kind of meticulous preservation work befitting of one of Austin’s oldest and most significant sites.

JOHN & DRUCIE CHASE BUILDING

➤ The University of Texas at Austin Preservation Award for Rehabilitation

East Austin’s John & Drucie Chase Building was built in 1952 as the headquarters of the Teachers State Association of Texas (TSAT), an organization that achieved crucial civil rights wins for Black students and teachers. Visionary architect John S. Chase, FAIA, designed the International Style building at the start of his groundbreaking career, which broke down barriers for African Americans in the field. Today the building is best known as the longtime home of The House of Elegance beauty salon, an East Austin institution unto itself. The site is listed in the National Register and is a Recorded Texas

Historic Landmark. In 2018, the University of Texas purchased the building for use as its new Center for Community Engagement. UT’s Project Management and Construction Services and Warden Construction worked alongside preservation architects at Carter Design Associates to restore Chase’s original

design and upgrade the space for new use. The project restored the building’s striking “eyebrow” feature and porthole front door, painted vibrant shades of blue. Steel casement windows, cleaned and preserved, flood the office and meeting spaces with light. The original layout remains and will house interpretive displays that share the history of the building’s many lives, including memorabilia and oral histories.

This magnificent rehabilitation brings the building full circle with its educational beginnings and reaffirms its legacy as a significant community space in East Austin.

TRAVIS COUNTY PROBATE COURTHOUSE

➤ Travis County Preservation Award for Rehabilitation + Sustainability

Downtown Austin’s Old Federal Courthouse was built in 1936. Characteristic of large civic buildings from the New Deal era, the National Register-listed courthouse is a classic example of the PWA Moderne style in its streamlined monumentality.

In 2016, Travis County acquired the federal building and tasked firms Lord Aeck Sargent and Limbacher & Godfrey, alongside Vaughn Construction, with its conversion into a new Travis County Probate Courthouse. The painstaking exterior restoration took two years. Work included repairing limestone masonry with carefully matched stone, delicate cleaning of decorative cast iron spandrels, and fabricating aluminum replacement windows to restore the graceful profile of the originals.

The rich palette of marble, bronze, plaster, and fine woodwork on the

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Photo: Casey Dunn

building’s interior also required careful attention. Intricate woodwork was meticulously restored and the courtroom’s checkerboard floor replaced in keeping with the original. Historic light fixtures throughout were restored and returned to their original locations, and missing fixtures were replaced to match the originals. In addition to this thoughtful preservation work, the project successfully upgraded the courthouse to become a high-performing building, and is currently seeking LEED Gold certification.

Owing to the fine work carried out by this project, the courthouse is once again a beacon of civic pride in the heart of downtown Austin.

TUDOR COTTAGE AT KINGSBURY COMMONS

Pease Park Conservancy Preservation Award for Rehabilitation

Pease Park bears the name of Elisha M. Pease, former governor of Texas, who deeded the land to the City of Austin in

1875. It wasn’t until 1926, however, that Council approved the park’s beautification. Giesecke and Harris designed the Tudor Cottage for use as the park’s restroom soon thereafter, making it one of the oldest park facilities in Austin.

In 2020, Pease Park Conservancy broke ground on the renovation of Kingsbury Commons at Pease Park’s southern entrance. Rehabilitating the Tudor Cottage as a community space was an essential component of this project. Clayton Korte Architects and Harvey-Cleary Builders balanced the preservation needs of the building with its new functionality. The project preserved the primary eastern facade, which appears from the approach as a traditional Tudor cottage. Glass doors cut into the north facade maintain



Photo: Brian Fitzsimmons

the building’s original design proportions. These open onto an inviting terrace set into the rising landscape, drawing natural light into the Cottage’s refinished interior. Pease Park, including the Tudor Cottage, is a contributor to the Old West Austin National

Register District and a State Antiquities Landmark. This beautiful project breathes new life into the Cottage, making it a welcoming place of gathering in one of Austin’s premier green spaces.

THE CONTEMPORARY AUSTIN Stewardship Award for Laguna Gloria

Laguna Gloria was the estate of legendary Texan Clara Driscoll, an avid preservationist most famous for her personal contributions to save The Alamo. She built Laguna Gloria in 1916 as her retreat on the banks of the Colorado River. The estate includes her gorgeous villa and extensive gardens in classic Italianate design. Ms. Driscoll was an avid gardener and spent many years designing the garden and planting native species throughout. She donated Laguna Gloria for use as an art museum in 1943, and the site was listed in the National Register in 1975.

Since 2013, the property has been under the stewardship of The Contemporary Austin, which utilizes the magnificent

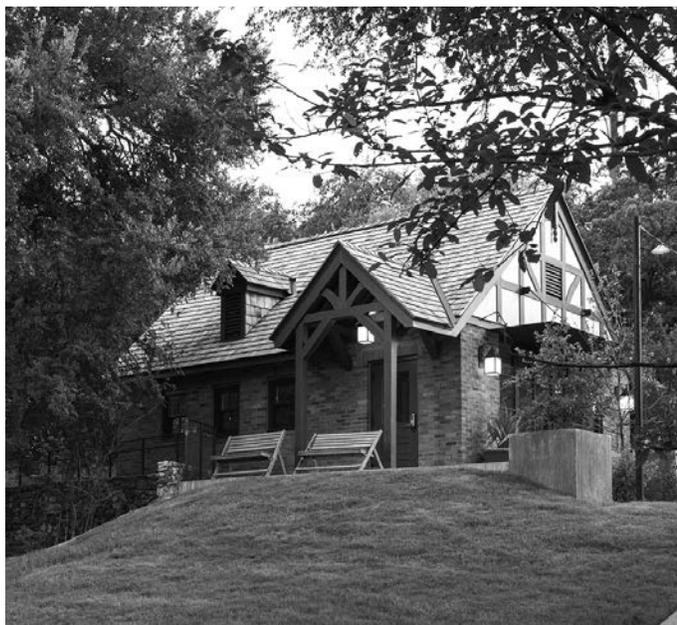


Photo: Ten Eyck

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Photo: ATX Barrio Archive

grounds as an outdoor sculpture garden and exhibit space. In recognizing the site’s significance, the museum has undertaken a series of projects to preserve and rehabilitate Laguna Gloria’s natural landscape. The Contemporary consulted with experts from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and Reed Hilderbrand of Boston to systematically remove the invasive species on the grounds. The native plants and grasses, once languishing due to the invasive species, were restored, and over 135 heritage trees were preserved and new ones planted.

This vital work was not only necessary to preserve Ms. Driscoll’s vision of Laguna Gloria, but is essential for protecting ecological diversity on the verdant lakeside grounds of one of Austin’s most significant cultural landscapes.

➤ ATX BARRIO ARCHIVE
Special Recognition for Public Service + Media

ATX Barrio Archive (@atx_barrio_archive on Instagram) is a social media-based community archiving project dedicated to preserving, sharing, and celebrating the culture and history of Austin’s working-class, Black and Latinx neighborhoods. In addition to publishing archival photographs and ephemera, the account serves as a digital space for lifelong residents to share family photos and memories of life in the “barrios” of Austin. The project was created in 2016 by community archivist and native Austinite Alan Garcia in response to the rapid gentrification of historic Black and Latinx communities and the demolition of beloved neighborhood landmarks.

By creating an accessible digital archive of Austin’s “barrio,” or working-class neighborhood, the project has gained praise from longtime East Austin residents, who participate by sharing their neighborhood history. ATX Barrio Archive’s

work pays tribute to the preservation efforts of East Austin community leaders who came before. And while too few East Austin landmarks are protected by historic designations at the city and state level, the project celebrates and remembers East Austin’s “barrio landmarks,” some gone but not forgotten, and all worthy of preservation.

In the face of rapid gentrification and displacement, ATX Barrio Archive is a visionary work of community engagement and advocacy for the 21st century, demonstrating how preservation can be leveraged as a vital tool of community strength and resilience.

➤ CITY OF AUSTIN PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT - OAKWOOD CEMETERY CHAPEL

Special Recognition for Education: All Together Here

In 2016, the City of Austin Parks & Recreation Department (PARD) undertook a

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Photo: Ryan Coursey

full restoration of the Oakwood Cemetery Chapel, built in 1914 near the cemetery's historic "Colored Grounds." Archaeologists monitoring construction discovered human remains beneath the Chapel and immediately halted work. After holding numerous public meetings to gather community input, PARD exhumed thirty-six burials from beneath the Chapel to be reinterred elsewhere in the cemetery.

The Chapel restoration was completed in 2018 and the space programmed as a visitors center. In pursuit of a greater understanding of what happened during the chapel's construction, PARD collaborated with community stakeholders and experts to produce an online symposium and digital exhibit hosted by the Chapel called "All Together Here." The project began a process of reckoning and healing.

The content of the symposium contextualized the history and culture of early Austin and the systematic disregard for human life during Anglo settlement. Archaeologists described what their findings revealed about the thirty-six exhumed individuals—how they might have lived and died—and PARD received critical feedback on how to take responsibility for this painful history through institutional change and education. "All Together Here" seeks to do the difficult but necessary work of community healing through accepting a shared history and redressing institutional harm.



Photo: Lauren Kerr

➤ ROGERS-WASHINGTON-HOLY CROSS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Special Recognition for Public Service: Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross Historic District

The Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross (RWHC) neighborhood was developed as a suburban enclave for Black professionals in East Austin. Characterized by mid-century modern and ranch-style homes, it includes several early works by pioneering African American architect John S. Chase, FAIA. East Austin's development was defined by the segregationist policies of the Jim Crow South, and discriminatory federal lending practices, which severely limited housing options for African Americans. Despite these incredible obstacles, the original owners of RWHC were able to build homes for their families and a strong community that endures today.

By the 2000s, many of the children and descendants of original RWHC owners remained, but the slow creep of gentrification was pushing many out. Responding to an alarming rise in demolitions, the RWHC Neighborhood Association began organizing in 2015 to pursue historic district designation. The goal was to preserve and protect not only their community, but the hard-won legacies of their families' homeownership. Achieving historic district designation is a difficult and expensive task and many neighborhoods fail despite best efforts. After years of tenacious grassroots advocacy, the Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross Local Historic District became Austin's eighth historic district in 2020, and the first to exclusively honor Black heritage.

With the pace of development and displacement ever-increasing in East Austin, the stories and advocacy of the RWHC community will serve as a model for what the future of equity and preservation in Austin must look like.

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Photo: Meghan King

➤ TRAVIS HEIGHTS-FAIRVIEW PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT TEAM

Special Recognition for Public Service: Travis Heights-Fairview Park National Register Historic District

The Travis Heights-Fairview Park National Register District is situated south of the Colorado River between bustling South Congress Avenue and I-35. The largely residential district was subdivided beginning in the 1870s but much of its architecture dates to the 1920s and 30s. The district includes over 1300 resources and 900 contributing properties across 353 acres characterized by a vast array of architectural styles, including Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, Craftsman, and Tudor Revival. It is the first National Register district in South Austin. The neighborhood's efforts to achieve designation began in 2005, with many challenges along the way. Leaders from the South River City Citizens neighborhood association commissioned Preservation Central to conduct a comprehensive historic resource survey of the area. The path to designation required a great deal

of sustained resolve from neighborhood leaders to manage such a large area. Limited funds necessitated assistance from neighborhood volunteers, who helped perform this necessary survey work, and community fundraising and grants offset tight finances. For sixteen years of hard work and determination, the neighborhood's efforts were rewarded this summer when Travis Heights-Fairview Park was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Our Board of Directors is so pleased to honor two leading figures of Austin's preservation community with the following awards for their decades of outstanding dedication and service.

➤ TERRI MYERS

Special Recognition for Public Service

For decades, Terri Myers has used her considerable skill and expertise to champion historic preservation in Austin. Terri has served on the Historic Landmark Commission since 2011, the longest of any commissioner, and is currently in her second year as Chair. From 1999 to 2005 she served



Photo: Courtesy of Kristen Brown

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<p>BUSINESS PATRON Heritage Title Company</p> <p>BUSINESS BENEFACTORS Tim Cuppett Architects HHM & Associates</p>	<p>WATERLOO BUSINESS Ed Hughey, Moreland Properties B3E Creative Bullock Management Partners Capitol Realty Advisors, Inc Catellus - Mueller Austin Edward Hughey, Moreland Properties IBC Bank Mark Ashby Design Moreland Properties M6 Advisory, LLC Paul Smith, Twelve Rivers Realty Southwest Strategies Group, Inc.</p>
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on the State Board of Review recommending National Register nominations to the National Parks Service. Terri owns her own consulting firm, Preservation Central, which has served as a launchpad for young preservation professionals. Her career as a consultant spans countless successful nominations of landmarks and historic districts, including extensive work documenting and designating sites associated with Latinx and African American heritage. She is a tireless advocate and generous with her time, whether providing information on a neighborhood email group, guiding individuals or neighborhoods in recognizing and celebrating their historic assets, or serving as a resource to numerous city council members.

A Preservationist with a capital P, Terri's innumerable contributions to historic preservation have left an indelible mark on the people and places of Austin. Council Member Leslie Pool noted with appreciation, "Terri's endeavors to teach all of us to look around and see the history that is right in front of us."

➤ STEVE SADOWSKY
Lifetime Achievement Award

Steve Sadowsky has tirelessly served the City of Austin as Historic Preservation Officer for the past twenty years, shepherding the preservation of Austin's historic resources during a period of unprecedented growth. A native of Wichita, Kansas, preservation was a mid-career shift for Steve, who earned a Masters of Historic Preservation from Middle Tennessee State University after working for several years in a Kansas law firm. Prior to joining the City's Historic Preservation Office, Steve was an architectural historian for TxDOT and taught history for two years at his preservation alma mater.

During his time as Historic Preservation Officer, the Historic Preservation Office has been inundated with demolition permit requests and applications for historic landmark designation. Steve has faced these challenges by taking his well-researched stand with conviction, and has weathered many a storm to defend Austin's historic



Photo: Courtesy of Elizabeth Brummett

fabric. He has personally prepared or reviewed hundreds of Historic Landmark applications and, through that process, shared and uncovered the history of Austin with us all. Preservation Austin is honored to recognize Steve for his years of service on the frontlines of preservation, and for the vital role he has played in protecting and celebrating Austin's precious heritage. ★

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West Austin Neighborhood Group



President's Message

★ Allen Wise

I am truly honored to be able to serve Preservation Austin as Board President this year. While not a native Austinite, I have had the privilege of working in downtown Austin for the vast majority of my professional career. It's hard to remember now how small the central business district was 28 years ago when I started commuting to Austin from my native San Marcos.

Austin has gained many massive new structures that have completely changed the skyline, bringing new businesses and residences into the urban core, and creating a vibrant and livable city. We welcome all the newcomers to Austin and wish to share the history and culture that makes

Austin such a special place. As we manage our recent and future growth, I believe it's of the utmost importance to preserve the historic buildings and culturally significant places that make Austin one of the best places to be. Without a sense of history and an identifiable culture, a city full of big buildings is just that—a city full of big buildings and no soul.

Help us in protecting our city's unique culture through preservation. We greatly appreciate your membership and support and welcome your involvement in Preservation Austin. Want to do more? Recruit a friend to become a member!



I look forward to another successful year for Preservation Austin. As always, there will be a lot of hard work by staff, committee members, and the Board to provide meaningful and relevant programming and advocacy—but let's try and have some fun too. I hope to see you soon and thank you for your support. ★





I'm so proud to share that, because of your support, Preservation Austin is emerging stronger than ever after 1.5 years of the pandemic. We have more staff resources and a more diverse funding base. Our move to 3805 Red River is on the horizon, with planning for continued rehabilitation work and infill underway. Our board leadership is closer to representing Austin's diversity than it's ever been. And our five-year strategic plan brings clarity to our work supported by a new mission, vision, and values.

All of which is to say, we've been busy! And we're ready to hit the ground running. We're restructuring our matching grant program to put more funding back into the community, and crafting our first-ever public engagement strategy to reach

more Austinites. Advocacy continues to be at the core of what we do, as we work to shape the public dialogue around preservation and effect more proactive change.

As vaccination rates rise, we're looking forward to connecting our members with historic places, safely and in-person where possible. Our upcoming Preservation Merit Awards Celebration will be at gorgeous Symphony Square on December 2. After two incredible Virtual Homes Tours, plans are in the works to celebrate this beloved event's 30th anniversary by returning to a traditional tour format showcasing homes, gardens, and iconic buildings citywide. Stay tuned for additional outdoor events and self-guided tours in the coming months!

Thank you for believing in Preservation Austin's mission through these difficult times. Our board and staff are working tirelessly to do more, and to do better, to create a future where historic places play a meaningful role in everyone's life, inspiring all Austinites to become advocates for preservation. None of this work would be possible without your membership. ★



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Home to Champions: Anderson Stadium in East Austin

By Rebekah Dobrasko



READ MORE!

This article is the third in a series of newsletter articles on the Old L.C. Anderson. Scan the QR code to visit our Newsletter Archive and read Part I on the history of L.C. Anderson High School in our Summer 2017 issue and Part II on the story of the school's closure in our Winter 2018 issue.

With fall comes Texas' national sport—football! While high school football has been played in Austin for almost a century, most think of large stadiums like House Park and Nelson Field as the home of high school football in Austin. But in East Austin sits a field, used for less than 20 years, that was home to one of the most decorated teams in the city: the L.C. Anderson High School Yellow Jackets.

East Austin's Anderson High School was the city's only high school for African Americans during segregation. In the early 20th century, Austin Public Schools (what is now AISD) built a large new school building for its Black students on Pennsylvania Avenue. At that time, Anderson did not have any sports teams but quickly formed football, basketball, and baseball teams in the 1920s. Though the new facilities were an upgrade from previous school buildings, the campus was not equipped with space for teams to practice or play, so the football and baseball teams shared a field with the Samuel Houston College teams. Known today as the historic Downs Field, it was over a mile from Anderson, down a dirt road, and across an active railroad line.

The white Austin High School teams at this time practiced at the University of Texas

fields. When UT asked the high school to find another place to play, AISD began improvements on a large field adjacent to Austin High, what is now known as House Park. In 1937, AISD built a concrete grandstand at the field, capable of seating over 3,000 fans. A couple of years later, the school district built another grandstand, bringing House Park's capacity to close to 6,000.

Meanwhile, in deep East Austin, AISD decided to purchase the Samuel Huston College stadium as L.C. Anderson's home field. Based on a ten-year-old recommendation from the City of Austin's 1928 City Plan, AISD finally moved toward providing a "separate" football and baseball facility for its Black high school. However, the 1939 Anderson Stadium was not any way equal to House Park. Anderson had bleachers that could seat only 1,100 fans, and the walk from the school to the field was long. AISD purchased the stadium despite the protests of the African American community. In 1942, Anderson hosted

the state football championship for Texas' Black high schools and won, 40-0.

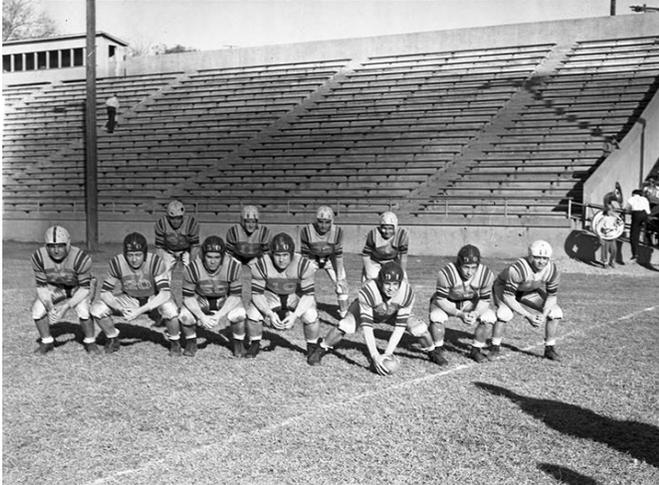
In 1948, AISD purchased a 22-acre site for a new L.C. Anderson High School on Thompson Street. As part of this new school construction, AISD chose to build a new football and track and field stadium next to the high school building. In 1953, a new Anderson High School, along with a basic high school stadium, opened for Austin's Black students. When it opened, the new Anderson Stadium had less amenities than the older one. While there was lighting, a new regulation track, and an electronic scoreboard, there was barely any seating for fans. Players had to use the locker rooms in the school's gymnasium for practice. Repeated demands for improvements from the

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The 1960 fieldhouse remains at the stadium today, while the bleachers, grassy field, and track date to renovations of the field in the past few decades.

**All historic images courtesy of the Austin History Center, current image courtesy of Rebekah Dobrasko.*



The Austin High School football team poses at House Park, with the concrete grandstand in the background of the photograph.



The award-winning Yellow Jacket Marching Band performs on the field.

Black community led AISD to build new wooden and metal bleachers (not concrete like in House Park). By 1960, there were multiple concrete block buildings at the stadium, including a two-story fieldhouse, concession stands, and ticket booths.

Having a stand-alone stadium solely for the use of Black high schools was extremely rare in Texas—most shared use of the white high school’s stadium or otherwise used the city’s facilities. Research has uncovered the existence of just three stand-alone stadiums of this kind in Texas: Anderson’s in Austin, and stadiums at the Black high schools in Texarkana and in Conroe, both gone. Anderson Stadium meant that the high school could continue to host state football championship games, and those games could be played on Friday nights. In addition to multiple championship football teams, it was also home to the award-winning Yellow Jacket Marching Band and top-ranked track and field athletes. Despite its physical shortcomings, especially compared to the white House Park, Anderson Stadium was a place of student leadership, achievement, and an

immense sense of community pride that endures amongst its alumni today.

The 1953 Anderson Stadium was only home to the Anderson Yellow Jackets for less than 20 years. In 1955, in response to the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* declaring segregation unconstitutional, AISD began a “freedom of choice” desegregation plan, where students could choose which high school they attended. As more and more Black students chose to attend white schools, and as AISD received more and more pressure from the U.S. Department of Justice to integrate, the school district would ultimately integrate its sports teams before truly integrating its schools.

Anderson’s last home game was played on September 9, 1966 against long-time rivals from San Antonio, Wheatley High School. By 1971, the entire

Continued on next page

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The L.C. Anderson High School track team practices hurdles at the Anderson Stadium. Note the wooden bleachers to the left of the photograph.



Three Anderson High School football players practice in the new Anderson Stadium. When it opened, the stadium had lighting for night games but minimal seating for fans.

L.C. Anderson High School campus closed, a victim of racist policy that required the burden of integration to fall on Austin's Black students. The current L.C. Anderson High School opened in 1973, more than ten miles away in northwest Austin.

Anderson Stadium was never built to last, despite being an essential place of community, education, and recreation for Black East Austin. AISD used cheaper materials in constructing the bleachers, as opposed to the substantive concrete used at House Park, and the stadium languished after AISD closed the school. AISD did not invest in any maintenance or reuse plan for the space, and when the new Austin Community College moved into the old school buildings in 1982, AISD paved over the football field and track for parking. By the time the stadium became a parking lot, multiple buildings were gone, the bleachers had been removed, and the goalposts and scoreboard were also lost.

But the significance of this stadium to the heart and soul of the East Austin community ensured its survival. When former Anderson football player, then National Football League player, Thomas "Hollywood" Henderson visited his old

neighborhood, he saw the state of the old stadium. Determined to bring it back as a place for the community to gather and play sports again, he raised money through fundraisers and a hunger strike to remove the concrete, put back grass and a running track, and build new bathrooms. His foundation took over the maintenance and operation of Anderson Stadium, now renamed the Yellow Jacket Stadium, from AISD and returned it to community use.

While the Yellow Jacket Stadium today is a smaller version of what it was at the height of its Anderson Stadium years, it remains an extremely significant place in the history of Austin and the state of Texas as the only stand-alone Black high school stadium remaining in the state. It serves as a reminder of our segregated and unequal past, and is the only remaining historic place associated with the African American L.C. Anderson High School, most of which was demolished in 2019. Most significantly, Yellow Jacket Stadium is a place of great achievement, especially in the face of great opposition. Despite segregation, minimal funding, lack of reuse or maintenance, and neglect, the students who played here went on to achieve great things. The stadium endures

as a monument to their successes and determination.

The National Park Service will soon review a nomination of Anderson Stadium to the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to this listing, the site of the 1953 L.C. Anderson school building recently received a state historical marker—an occasion that was marked by a ceremony put on by the Original L.C. Anderson Alumni Association to great fanfare. An additional state historic marker for Anderson Stadium is forthcoming as well. AISD continues to steward the school site and stadium, and is currently building a new fieldhouse to provide more bathroom and locker spaces. Plans are also in the works for the rehabilitation of the 1960 field house with a small exhibit space showing the stadium's heyday. Stay tuned for more to come!

Rebekah Dobrasko is a public historian and volunteer with Preservation Austin and the Original L.C. Anderson Alumni Association. She has been telling the stories of the historic L.C. Anderson High School since 2017. ★

Another Successful Virtual Homes Tour!

We would like to thank everyone in the Preservation Austin community, and especially the neighbors of the Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross Historic District, for making this year's Virtual Homes Tour such an incredible success. *Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross: Black Heritage, Living History* premiered to nearly 800 viewers on June 17, with people tuning in from around Texas and nationwide. Following the premiere, we were joined by 115 guests for a special Q&A with Pat Calhoun, featured homeowner and neighborhood advocate; Dr. Tara Dudley, architectural historian; and Preservation Austin Executive Director Lindsey Derrington.

The community response has been effusive, with many noting that the homes and stories depicted represented a new direction for this program and for our nonprofit. The virtual format allowed us to center Black voices and heritage in a nearly hour-long documentary film that will live far beyond 2021. Here is just some of the amazing response we received from our audience:

"An inspired (and inspiring) example of capturing/sharing/celebrating place-based histories and community embedded knowledge. Going to carry this event with me for a good long while. Everyone invested in public history should watch it. Great work Preservation Austin and everyone involved!"

"What you guys are doing is so important. I walked away with a deeper appreciation



and understanding of East Austin. The amount of history in each pocket of this town is amazing. We're so lucky to live here!"

This event could not be possible without our Homes Tour Task Force, our featured homeowners and Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross community members, and all the creative professionals who helped produce this film. We are indebted to our sponsors for their steadfast support, and to everyone who purchased a ticket. Your contributions enabled us to raise over \$64,000 to support the Homes Tour and more – well in excess of our budget goal, an incredible feat in the midst of this pandemic.

We're happy to share that our 2021 Virtual Homes Tour is now on YouTube!

If you missed the premiere or want to revisit the film, visit [youtube.com/preservationaustin](https://www.youtube.com/preservationaustin) or scan the QR code to watch. After you've checked out the video, head out and see the neighborhood with our **Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross: Black Heritage, Living History self-guided tour**. The self-guided tour map and bike route by Bike Austin can be found in the YouTube description or by visiting [preservationaustin.org/historic-austin-tours](https://www.preservationaustin.org/historic-austin-tours).



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Tracy Hirschman Hutson & Chris Hutson

Preservation Austin Business Ambassadors Tracy Hirschman Hutson and Chris Hutson, AIA are principals of architecture and conservation firm Hutson-Gallagher, Inc. Based here in Austin, their work includes iconic landmarks across Texas and two of our 2021 Preservation Merit Award winners, ACC Rio Grande and the French Legation. In addition to their membership, Tracy and Chris have been essential to our work at the McFarland House at 3805 Red River. In 2019 the firm donated its services to nominate the house to the National Register of Historic Places, an honor that qualified the project for state historic tax credits to help offset rehabilitation costs. This year Tracy and Chris have been working with Preservation Austin to develop detailed scopes of work and designs for our next phases of rehabilitation. Read on to learn more about Tracy and Chris and the incredible work they do at Hutson-Gallagher!

What drew you to preservation? Was it a childhood dream, or something you discovered while in school/working in the field?

Tracy: Although I was born in Texas, the vast majority of my childhood was spent living in Wiesbaden, Germany. I was raised around the most beautiful historic buildings, with a lot of freedom to explore them. I remember being upset about how dirty and broken they looked and wanted them fixed, so I had known since about 7 or 8 years old I wanted to be in the architectural field. Not knowing that preservation was a specialty, I jumped straight to architecture in college. Historic

preservation found me by accident when John Volz (a well-known preservation architect) hired me as an intern, and it lit a passion like no other. The preservation field stitched together the two halves of my soul, the part that descended from a long line of proud Texans with a childhood where I learned history through architecture.

Chris: I was raised in Houston, and enjoyed architectural drafting throughout high school, so it was natural to continue in college. When I graduated from the University of Houston I quickly moved to Galveston where I worked for eight years with a well-known local architect, David Watson. He did a lot of preservation work on the island, and I found those were the most rewarding projects. When I wanted to grow professionally, I relocated to Austin where John Volz, who as mentioned, hired me as a project architect and I've never looked back.

As an architecture firm specializing in preservation, what's been the most exciting aspect of working in a growing city like Austin and Texas more broadly?

Tracy: As a firm, it's the ability to continue the legacy of providing great preservation for our state. With the big influx of new citizens every day, there is always the opportunity to coalesce around why Texas is still so unique, and to tell our story about where we've been and who we've become today. The excitement is in inspiring our new residents to value it, too. For me, and in this city specifically, it's the chronological range of its architectural



Chris and Tracy inside the historic Zimmerman House. Chris and Tracy purchased the 1854 Fachwerk house in 2018 and will be breaking ground on its restoration soon.

history—forget distilling it down to pictures and text, just go on a walkabout, or better yet a ‘bike-about,’ since this is Austin. Of course, I would start with the oldest structure, the 1841 French Legation, and go from there.

Chris: Managing the growth of any city or state is always the challenge for preservation. Our office mantra, thought of as a fundamental truth, is that people only love what they know and they will not destroy what they love. That is our motivation, the hope to broaden the understanding of our history and try to reach a new and ever-larger audience. The uniqueness of each historic building and its ability to tell a story gives us a better appreciation for the cultural variety that shaped the way they were built. For example, in circa 1854, three radically different building methods were used to construct the Zimmermann House (with hand-hewn logs infilled with stones), the Governor's Mansion (with sawn lumber

Continued on next page

Donor Spotlight, continued from page 18

and milled trim), and St. David's Episcopal Church (with rubble wall construction). All three are a testament to the available materials and cultural building knowledge of that time.

What's the project you're most proud of?

Tracy: It's hard to choose just one because each project is so special. However, the restoration of the Donley County Courthouse is the one I hope we're remembered for beyond the grave. It's a Romanesque revival-style building, and in the 1930s a tornado tore off everything above the second floor, the beautiful turrets, towers, gables, cornices, and chimneys were all gone. The damage was repaired with a simple hipped roof and it was a sad version of its former self. And if that wasn't enough, then a massive bat colony took up residence... for decades. So to recreate the missing building elements, first, we had to wade through as much as 18-inches of bat guano in the attic to document any remaining evidence, and we could only do that at night while the bats were out. Also, there was only one single historic photo of the building showing what it looked like before it was diminished. It was truly returned to its full glory, and we're so very proud of that Courthouse.

Chris: The French Legation is also very special to us. I was privileged to be involved with it for many years assisting the Daughters of the Republic of Texas with its care. When the State took over its stewardship, it received an injection of attention and funding that it really needed. It's the oldest house in Austin and is one of the few examples of mortise-and-tenon construction still standing. Despite its well-documented history, there were many unknowns about the building itself that we finally resolved, clarifying original

detailing about the windows, cabinetry, and chimneys. There's deep satisfaction in knowing we contributed to a better understanding of its original construction.

What drew you to Preservation Austin?

Tracy: I remember when Preservation Austin reinvented itself in 2012, but I really noticed when it 'flexed' to save the McFarland House two years later. That was a wow moment, and I knew then it was an organization worth helping. It is very unusual for a preservation organization to be so effective in using the resources around it, and to be so multi-generational. Every age group needs to show up for preservation, and that's what I like best about PA, the diversity and involvement of its members and their commitment to action.

Chris: I agree, and also admire the Strategic Plan as a goal for the future where historic places become an integral part of the city's culture, and are recognized by all as relevant, worthwhile parts of our history. That's a laudable goal and I believe PA is approaching it. We all know 2020 created unique challenges, and PA has stepped up; the Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross Historic District virtual tour was outstanding. And more importantly,



PA is indebted to Chris and Tracy for their help in the rehabilitation of our future home, the McFarland House.

that tour was an example of how PA is continually raising the bar, by filling in the gaps about what our history also looked like for everyday people. These historic pockets in our city are so valuable but often overlooked due to a lack of foresight. I'm glad PA has the leadership to have them recognized.

Thank you Tracy and Chris for everything you do for Preservation Austin! ★

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Grants Program Enhanced to Fund More Community Projects

This year marks the five-year anniversary of Preservation Austin’s Grants Program! Since its inception in 2016, the program has provided matching grants of up to \$5,000. By providing small, but impactful funding to important projects citywide, this program has affected real change in the preservation and interpretation of the historic places that mean the most to our community.

We could not be more proud of what this program has accomplished. To date, we’ve awarded thirty-six grants to organizations and individuals across all three project categories—ten Education grants, nineteen Bricks and Mortar grants, and seven Planning/Historic Resource Survey/Historic Designation grants. In total, we’ve given \$131,798.88 back to our community, with an average award amount of \$3,661.08.

Reflecting on the last five years of success, Preservation Austin is using this anniversary to consider the program’s future and its potential for even greater impact. This winter the grants program will move from a quarterly to bi-annual cycle in the winter and summer, with an increased award amount of up to \$10,000. This new structure includes small, non-matched grants of up to \$1,500 considered on a rolling basis year-round. Preservation Austin will offer informational seminars in May and November for potential

applicants to ask questions and discuss qualifying projects and expenses.

During our final quarterly cycles this summer and fall, we awarded funding to some wonderful projects across Austin.

Our Grants Committee awarded Erna Smith & Jeremy Steinberger an Education grant for their forthcoming documentary *The Lindsey Girls*. The film will focus on the stories of Eva June and Mary Margaret Lindsey who grew up in the Blackshear neighborhood of East Austin. In the 1990s, Eva June’s fierce advocacy helped save the Victory Grill, one of Austin’s oldest Black-owned businesses, from demolition.

A Bricks and Mortar grant went to Southwind, a City of Austin Landmark and the former was the home and studio of artist Seymour Fogel, who is widely regarded as a pioneer of Texas modernism. Funding provided assistance in the repair and repainting of the building’s limestone masonry that had been damaged due to water infiltration, biological growth, and poor drainage.

An Education grant went to Sarah Gamble for her research guide, *House Relocation*:



Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross Local Historic District Designation Expenses & Fees

A Guide to Preserving Austin’s Residential Fabric. This resource will explore house relocation and its potential to preserve and reuse at-risk residential buildings within Austin’s central neighborhoods. The guide was inspired by Preservation Austin’s Summer 2018 “Greening Your Vintage Home” event, which focused on this topic. Given the rampant demolitions occurring in Austin’s historic neighborhoods, an educational guide on the subject is timely and pertinent.

GRANTS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2016-2021

To commemorate the auspicious occasion of this anniversary, we’d like to share highlights of some of the amazing projects we’ve awarded over the past five years. Here’s to many more years of supporting incredible preservation work throughout Austin!

Continued on next page

Spring 2018, Winter 2019: Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross Neighborhood Association

Planning/Survey/Local Historic Designation

The RWHC Neighborhood Association began pursuing historic district designation in 2016 to preserve this historically Black community and stave off rampant demolition. Supporting neighborhoods seeking to leverage this powerful preservation tool speaks directly to our mission. Through two matching grants from our program, we were able to help the neighborhood association offset the expenses and fees associated with seeking historic designation. In 2020, RWHC became Austin's eighth local historic district.

Winter 2018: Waterloo Greenway Conservancy

Bricks and Mortar

This project supported Waterloo Greenway Conservancy's effort to rehabilitate historic Symphony Square. This particular project focused on restoring the entrance



Boggy Creek Farm House Window, Siding, and Roof Repairs

to the Hardeman House, with work done by Red River Restoration. WGC recently converted this iconic Austin landmark into its offices, efforts we celebrated with a Preservation Merit Award for Stewardship in 2019.

Summer 2018, Winter 2019, Spring 2020: Boggy Creek Farm

Bricks and Mortar

Located in East Austin, the Boggy Creek Farmhouse dates to 1841 and is one of the city's oldest residences, with the same enclosed dogtrot layout as the French Legation, built the same year. Through three separate grant awards, Preservation Austin supported important repairs to the home's historic windows, siding, and roof, ensuring its survival for generations to come.

Spring 2020: Mary Baylor House

Planning/Survey/Local Historic Designation

Mary Freeman Baylor was an important civil rights activist in Austin. Her modest Clarksville home was saved from demolition by its current owners, whose thoughtful rehabilitation of the



Huston-Tillotson University, King-Seabrook Chapel Stage Renovation

home was awarded a 2020 Preservation Merit Award. Preservation Austin was able to support the owners of the Mary Baylor House with a grant to help cover historic designation fees.

Spring 2021: Huston-Tillotson University

Bricks and Mortar

Huston-Tillotson University, a historically Black university and Austin's oldest institution of higher learning, was awarded a grant this spring to assist their renovation of the stage in King-Seabrook Chapel. The 1974 Brutalist chapel is named for two of the university's past presidents and has served as an important gathering space for students and faculty for decades. This year, Huston-Tillotson University was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Visit [preservationaustin.org/grants](https://www.preservationaustin.org/grants) to learn more about our program and how to apply! ★

Julian Read: In Memoriam

by John Donisi

Our friend Julian Read passed away on May 8, 2021. I refer to Julian as ‘our friend’ because—even if you didn’t personally know him—Julian was a dear friend to the cause of historic preservation in Texas and Preservation Austin specifically.

I first met Julian in the early 90s. I was a young staffer to Governor Ann Richards, and Julian was, even then, one of the revered figures in and around the State Capitol that staffers looked up to. After cutting his teeth as a reporter in Fort Worth, he played high-profile roles with a number of State and Federal political figures, and the lore was that he had actually been in the motorcade in Dallas when a young President Kennedy was assassinated (this, I would learn later, was true: he was in the front row seat of the Press Bus). He was, at this point in his career, leading a highly successful public relations firm that bore his name.

Our paths crossed again in the early 2000s. At that point, I was a lawyer and lobbyist who had been recruited to serve on the board of the Heritage Society of Austin. I was an easy mark—my wife and I were restoring a 1920s bungalow in Travis Heights. Someone suggested HSA reach out to Julian, who was involved at the State and National level in preservation advocacy, to see if he’d be willing to help us with a local press strategy. He was, and a partnership ensued that lasted decades. From that day forward, Julian was indispensable to HSA’s mission, in both formal and informal roles.

From advocacy in maintaining support for Austin’s landmarks and local historic

districts, to ensuring that local and state regulations preserving the iconic views of the Capitol building were respected, Julian was a leading voice. But behind the voice was a strategic vision to achieve a desired outcome or objective.

Julian insisted that historic preservation be a component of Austin’s economic development strategy. He recognized that what made Austin special and unique included its built environment, and that we had an obligation to protect it. Austin found itself behind the curve from other Texas cities, both from a regulatory standpoint and in community support. Communities like San Antonio and Galveston had established foundations offering private funding for preservation, and Dallas and Houston had mechanisms in place (such as local districts) on the books for years. And he never missed an opportunity to promote Austin nationally: Julian was front and center in helping lure the National Trust for Historic Preservation to Austin for their 2010 National Preservation Conference.

One episode clearly stands out in demonstrating Julian’s strategic focus and tenacity. In June of 2008, an arsonist set fire to the Texas Governor’s Mansion. The damage to the majestic 1856 structure was significant. By the time the sun came up the following morning, Julian had pulled



together a group (including a former governor) and had a media and advocacy strategy. We were not only going to speak to the grandeur of the Mansion and the role it had played in the past, but we were to pledge that it would be fully rebuilt, no expense spared. Thus began an effort that involved years of building public support, significant fundraising, and ensuring that the State Preservation Board respected the original Abner Cook design (a ‘north wing’ appendage was proposed but appropriately rejected). One half decade and \$25 million later, the fully restored Governor’s Mansion reopened, to which we all owe Julian a debt of gratitude.

All of us involved with Preservation Austin are so appreciative of our friend Julian’s selfless dedication to the promotion of preservation both locally and beyond. He served as Board President in 2008-2009, and was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013. His legacy continues with the involvement and support of members of his immediate family active in this organization. May his memory be a reminder of our dedication to Preservation Austin and its mission. ★

Work Begins on Equity-Based Historic Preservation Plan

By Cara Bertron, City of Austin, Senior Planner - Displacement Prevention

The City of Austin's Preservation Plan Working Group has begun meeting to develop an equity-based historic preservation plan. As Austin's first preservation plan since 1981, it will have much to tackle. The city's population has tripled in the last forty years. Market pressures have spotlighted the need for affordable housing and raised questions about density. Meanwhile, the historic preservation field has expanded what resources are considered significant, proposed new tools to safeguard those resources, and prioritized cultural and community heritage and equity.

Austin's new preservation plan will address typical topics like historic review processes, community outreach, and incentives. In addition, it will ask important equity-focused questions: 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?

The new plan also aims to center equity in an inclusive, community-oriented process, beginning with the Preservation Plan Working Group. The 29-person working group includes community members from 22 ZIP codes and diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, including members of Preservation Austin's board and staff. Working group members bring a broad spread of perspectives: longtime community members, business owners, preservation professionals, developers, keepers of cultural heritage, and more.

Working Group Meetings

The first three working group meetings laid essential groundwork for the project and the process. At the kickoff gathering in July, working group members met each other and learned about the need for the plan. An August workshop helped develop a shared understanding of equity, including the decades of public policies that harmed communities of color. In September, the group discussed criteria for success and an equity evaluation framework that will ensure that the plan's recommendations benefit—or, at minimum, do not harm—historically underrepresented and marginalized communities.

RACE/ETHNICITY	WORKING GROUP	AUSTIN
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1%	1%
Asian American, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander	2%	8%
Black or African American	15%	8%
Caucasian/Non-Hispanic	44%	48%
Hispanic, Latino/a, Latinx, Chicanx	24%	34%
Other race/ethnicity	5%	4%
Prefer not to answer	5%	—

Meetings from October onwards will dig into key preservation topics, beginning with how heritage is defined and regulated. Each topic will include an overview of local practices and best practices from other places. Because working group members come from a variety of backgrounds, meeting materials use clear language and graphics to explain technical concepts.

Community Engagement

The Preservation Plan Working Group puts community at the center of the plan, with community members shaping both the process and outcome. Most large-scale outreach and engagement will happen in fall 2022 (phase 2), but community members have two opportunities to inform the draft plan during this initial phase:

A community heritage survey invited Austinites to share what heritage means to them, why it is important, and what role it can or should play in the city. The survey received nearly 170 responses from a racially and geographically diverse spread of community members. Their input will form the foundation of the plan's vision.

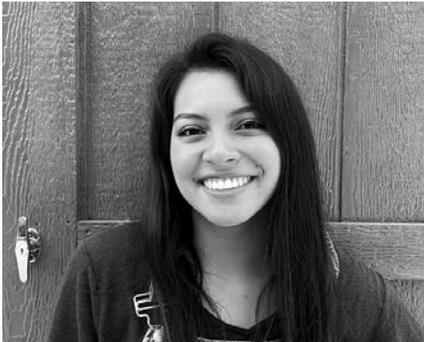
Three focus groups will provide targeted input from legacy business owners, cultural and heritage organizations, and neighborhood associations. Each group will meet 2-3 times between November 2021 and June 2022.

Learn More and Get Involved

Read more about the equity-based preservation plan and sign up for the project email list at www.bit.ly/ATXpresplan. ★

New Interns Join PA for Fall 2021

Preservation Austin has welcomed four new interns to our organization this fall! Bethanee Tovar serves as our Development Intern and works with staff to provide membership and fundraising support. Mary Kahle joins us as our Policy Intern with a focus on local government. Catalina Cherñavsky Sequeira and Katie Enders, our inaugural Fowler Family Underrepresented Heritage Interns, will be with us through the spring. We're so delighted to have Bethanee, Mary, Catalina, and Katie on board!



BETHANEE TOVAR
Development Intern

Where are you from?

I am a native South Austinite.

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

I am a graduate student at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor studying Clinical Mental Health Counseling. I am on the track to be a licensed professional counselor in the next couple of years!

Why are you excited about working with Preservation Austin?

I am excited to work with Preservation Austin because I have a heart for Austin and its vibrant history. I grew up in South and East Austin and have a deep appreciation for the heritage and culture of the area. This organization has done and is doing great things for the local community and I couldn't be happier to join such an inspiring team.

What is your favorite historic location in Austin?

My favorite historic location in Austin would have to be my elementary school, Mathews Elementary. The building holds so much history as well as some of my fondest memories of exploring Austin in my early childhood. Paired with this, Deep Eddy Pool was a regular end-of-school-year destination and one I still enjoy in the summers!



MARY KHALE
Policy Intern

Where are you from?

I grew up in Houston the fifth of six children. We loved to play outdoors, especially when it rained, and I explored on my bike for hours on end.

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

I'm in pursuing a Masters in Public History at Texas State University, with a focus on

Historic Preservation and Oral History.

Why are you excited about working with Preservation Austin?

I'm very excited about working for Preservation Austin because I hope to combine my love of history and old places with my involvement in several civic organizations in town.

What is your favorite historic location in Austin?

My favorite historic Austin location is the Barton Springs Bathhouse. When I moved to Austin from Houston, I immediately fell in love with Barton Springs, and the 1947 bathhouse perfectly illustrates how the built environment can complement nature. It has the cool lines of its mid-century modern heritage while still successfully serving the public that goes to Barton Springs to relax and play.

What preservation policy issues do you think are most relevant to Austin today?

I think the issue of Austin's rapid development is the most relevant preservation issue today. Development affects everything else, including housing for longtime and new Austin residents, the preservation of neighborhoods and historic structures, and the protection of a sense of our history while we embrace change.

Continued on next page



CATALINA CHERIÑAVVSKY SEQUEIRA
Fowler Family Underrepresented Heritage Intern

Where are you from?

Charlottesville, VA

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

UT Austin, Ph.D. in Art History with a focus in Modern and Contemporary Latin American Art.

Why are you excited about working with Preservation Austin?

I'm excited to share in community histories through public spaces and buildings to uncover and preserve stories about the diverse cultures that make up Austin.

What's your favorite historic Austin location?

I'm new to Austin and still have so much to explore, but my favorite historic spot thus far is the Wood Street Settlement at Shoal Creek. Though it's no more than

a historical marker today, it reminds us of the growing impetus to preserve underrecognized spaces in such a rapidly developing city.

What aspect of Austin's under-told heritage are you most excited to learn more about?

As an art historian, I'm interested in learning more about how underrepresented communities in Austin used art-making and other forms of creative expression as a means for social or political resistance.



KATIE ENDERS
Fowler Family Underrepresented Heritage Intern

Where are you from?

Spokane, Washington

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

I am a graduate student at The University

of Texas at Austin pursuing my M.S. in Community and Regional Planning with a focus in Historic Preservation.

Why are you excited about working with Preservation Austin?

I am excited about having the opportunity to engage with the community here in Austin while learning more about the history of the area. Especially as a transplant from across the country, I feel lucky I get to use powerful historic spaces as a gateway to becoming better acquainted with Austin and its stories.

What's your favorite historic Austin location?

I've only been in Austin for two months, so I'm not sure yet! With that being said, I had heard of the Driskill Hotel before I moved so I was sure to check it out as soon as I arrived.

What aspect of Austin's under-told heritage are you most excited to learn more about?

I am excited to learn more about the human element of Austin's underrepresented heritage sites. For me, learning about the "who" and the "why" has always led me to truly appreciate the "where." ★

Fowler Family Foundation for Performing Arts and Sciences

These six-month internships are made possible with generous support from the Fowler Family Foundation for Performing Arts and Sciences. Preservation Austin is grateful to the foundation for supporting our commitment to preserving our city's underrepresented heritage, including historic places meaningful to the African American, Mexican American, Native American, and LGBTQIA communities, as well as women.



Preservation 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 Summer and Fall winners!

MAY 2021: Violet Crown Shopping Center (6600 North Lamar Boulevard)

The Violet Crown Shopping Center opened in 1951 to cater to residents of the newly developed Brentwood neighborhood. Early tenants included the Violet Crown Drugstore, a barbershop, and a beauty salon. The barbershop, known as Cockrell’s and operated by proprietor Tom Cockrell, remained in business at this location for over 50 years. In the 1990s, the shopping center (where Stiles Switch BBQ is located today) was featured as The Emporium in Richard Linklater’s movie *Dazed and Confused*.

★ Winner: Whitney Wolf Williams



Violet Crown Shopping Center

JUNE 2021: Mrs. Johnson’s Bakery (4909 Airport Boulevard)

UT students and longtime Austin residents alike will recognize Mrs. Johnson’s Bakery on Airport Blvd. The beloved all-night spot has been serving up hot, fresh donuts and kolaches since 1948. While the bakery’s origins remain unclear, including that of its namesake Mrs. Johnson, the donut shop has been a crowd-favorite for generations. Customers can walk inside and see the original assembly line production, or swing through the drive-through for a quick snack. The bakery is open all night from 7:30 pm–12 pm—stop in and grab yourself something sweet!

★ Winner: James Canup



Mrs. Johnson’s Bakery

JULY 2021: Texas Department of Public Safety Headquarters Building (5805 N. Lamar Boulevard)

Completed in 1954 as the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Headquarters, the building on North Lamar reflects the mid-century-modern design of architects Giesecke, Kuehne & Brooks and associate architect Howard R. Barr. DPS was organized in 1935 for the dual roles of crime prevention and traffic control and originally included the Texas Rangers, the State Highway Patrol, and a Headquarters Division with numerous units. When it opened, the DPS building featured an “anti-crime” short-wave radio network that facilitated communication with other offices and highway patrol cars across the state. Today, the building remains in use by DPS as the Thomas A. Davis, Jr. Headquarters Building.



Texas Department of Public Safety HQ Building

Continued on next page



PRESERVATION
— AUSTIN —



HERITAGE QUIZ (Continued)

AUGUST 2021: Castleman-Bull House (201 Red River Street)

The Castleman-Bull House is one of downtown Austin's most significant landmarks, but it wasn't always located at its current home on Red River Street. Built by merchant R.M. Castleman in 1873, the house sat for over 100 years on E. 7th Street. In the early 1960s, St. David's Episcopal Church acquired the building from the Castleman heirs, and nearly 40 years later the church donated the building to the City. Our organization, then known as The Heritage Society of Austin, rescued the Victorian Italianate home from demolition in the late 1990s and funded the moving of the structure to its current location in 2001. Local construction firm Jamail & Smith has been working on the restoration of the home since 2011, which was recently completed in 2020.



Castleman-Bull House

SEPTEMBER 2021: Evans-Morris-Hiesler House (1000 E. Cesar Chavez)

This ca. 1899 residence at the corner of E. Cesar Chavez and San Marcos Street showcases the Queen Anne style popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The building featured a steeply pitched, multi-gabled roof, wraparound porches with turned supports, and decorative brackets. The residence is a designated City of Austin Landmark and is located within an area recommended for historic district designation in the 2016 East Austin Historic Survey conducted by HHM & Associates.

★ Winner: Raul Aguillo Hernandez



Evans-Morris-Hiesler House

OCTOBER 2021: Goldsmith Hall Courtyard, UT Austin

The 1930 Goldsmith Hall was designed by the renowned Paul Phillipe Cret, a French-born Philadelphia architect who is best known for UT's Main Building and Tower. It is fitting, then, that Goldsmith Hall is home to the University of Texas School of Architecture, housing many studio classrooms, offices, and the Mebane Gallery. The building's courtyard is much appreciated by students, faculty and staff as a place for gathering and unwinding during a long day—it's even rumored that famed modernist Louis Kahn designed the palm tree configuration. Stop by the next time you are on campus, and you may just find a few tired architecture students taking a nap on the benches!

★ Winner: Catherine Hudak Vera



Goldsmith Hall Courtyard



2021 Legislative Session

During the legislative session, committee members along with Preservation Austin Board members and staff met with State legislators and tracked a number of bills with the potential to impact historic resources. Unfortunately, one of the major bills opposed by PA—HB1474/SB1585 (authored by Reps. Cyrier, Israel, Cole, Krause, and Sen. Hughes)—was signed into law. This new law requires a three-fourths majority vote of the Historic Landmark Commission or City Council if an owner within the potential historic district does not consent to the inclusion of their property, despite there already being valid petition rights for owners within State law. This creates yet another hurdle for neighborhoods the protections and community benefits of local historic district designation, but Preservation Austin remains resolute in our commitment to advocate for neighborhoods seeking such designation.

Letters to Officials

The Advocacy Committee drafted the following letters for PA to send to City, State, and Federal officials:

- Letter to City of Austin Housing and Planning Department supporting the preservation of all 141 acres of Lions Municipal Golf Course, a significant civil rights site, as a historic 18-hole public golf course and open green space.
- Letter to the Historic Landmark Commission (HLC) opposing the demolition permit for 812 W. 12th Street, a commercial building owned by Austin Community College Rio Grande Campus

and home to No Comply skate shop. In response to community support for No Comply, ACC has committed to extending their lease here until they find a new space and requested the HLC postpone the demolition permit process for the building.

- Letter to the Board of Adjustment in support of a variance for 813 Park Blvd. to permit the owners to rehabilitate a historic 2-story garage that is 50 sf over that allowed by code for an ADU. This serves as an example of best practices in promoting neighborhood density, waste reduction, and the preservation of historic resources. On July 12th the BOA voted 11-0 to grant the variance.
- Letter of support to the Texas Historical Commission for an updated Texas Historic Marker for Wooldridge Park. The updated marker will better interpret the rich and diverse history of one of Austin’s most significant cultural landscapes in accordance with contemporary preservation values.

Advocacy Committee Priorities for FY 2022

With a new fiscal year underway, Preservation Austin’s Board of Directors has adopted three advocacy priorities for the committee to focus on for the forthcoming year, with working groups dedicated to each priority. Read on to learn more about our priorities for 2021-2022!



This fall, Preservation Austin submitted a letter in support of a new historic marker for Wooldridge Park.

Underrepresented Heritage

Carried over from 2020-2021, this priority requires a sustained commitment from Preservation Austin as we work to identify and celebrate historic places that reflect a more accurate and diverse representation of our city’s past. Efforts will focus on historic sites reflecting under-represented groups including, but not limited to, African Americans, Mexican Americans, Native Americans, the LGBTQIA community, and women.

Preservation Policy

This priority encompasses policy efforts impacting preservation at the City and State level. Locally, this includes the forthcoming Equity-Based Preservation Plan as well as any other city ordinances that concern historic sites. With staff and board members serving on the working group for the Equity-Based Preservation Plan, this group will help inform PA’s contributions during this yearlong process.

The working group will continue to advance policy suggestions related to revisions to the Land Development

Continued on next page



Casa de Sueños, one of only sixteen City of Austin Landmarks dedicated to Mexican American heritage.

Code that impact historic resources and neighborhoods. PA will continue to draft a preservation incentive to encourage preservation of older, unprotected, and often threatened housing stock while allowing for more infill in central Austin neighborhoods.

This priority also encompasses any intersession advocacy that may arise between the 87th and 88th Texas Legislative Sessions, including follow-up with previous work, preempting future state policy that may impact preservation, and continuing to build relationships with legislators.

Decommissioned Public Buildings

Expanding on FY21's AISD School Closures/Decommissioning priority, this priority encompasses historic, decommissioned public buildings throughout Austin, including local, state, and federal buildings. Schools, post offices, community centers, and libraries play a vital role in the quality of life and character of the communities they serve. This priority area

includes identifying at-risk or already decommissioned public buildings and advocating for their preservation and adaptive reuse in ways that honor their past and allows them to remain resources to our community.



Have a preservation-related advocacy issue that you need assistance with? Scan the QR code to learn more about how Preservation Austin can help! ★

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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

DEC
2

61st Annual Preservation Merit Award Celebration

Our 2021 awards celebration returns this year as a cocktail reception at historic Symphony Square. Mark your calendars and join us in honoring 2021's recipients! See Page 1 for details.

DEC
11

Kingsbury Commons Walking Tour

Join Preservation Austin, Pease Park Conservancy, and Clayton Korte on a walking tour of the newly renovated Kingsbury Commons at historic Pease Park. See Page 2 for details.

JAN
15

Winter Grants Deadline

PA now offers bi-annual matching grants and year-round rolling grants for a wide range of preservation projects. Nonprofits, neighborhoods, public entities, and building owners may apply. See Page 20 for details.

NOW!

2021 Virtual Homes Tour on YouTube

Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross: Black Heritage, Living History is now available on YouTube! See Page 16 for details.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE about
our upcoming events, or visit
preservationaustin.org!