

Annual Report



**Mission San
José**

Then & Now



The San Antonio Conservation Society has had a long, committed relationship with Mission San José y Miguel de Aquayo, beginning with its purchase and restoration of the mission's granary doors in 1926. After decades of unfailing support from the Conservation Society and others, San José and San Antonio's four other Spanish colonial missions were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in July 2015.

2016-2017
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San Antonio Conservation Society
And San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation

Advocacy

The San Antonio Conservation Society led the opposition of the demolition of three buildings on Alamo Plaza in order to reconstruct the west wall of the mission. The Society specifically defended the 1882 Crockett Building and the Woolworth Building at Houston and Alamo Streets. In response to a series of editorials published in the Express-News advocating for reconstruction of the original battlements, the Society published articles in both the Express-News and the Rivard Report advocating the value of the Crockett Block and Woolworth Building. At a public input meeting in August, master planner George Skarmear assured preservationists that the three buildings would not be demolished and that he was personally opposed to reconstructing the west wall. The Society has continued to monitor the discussion surrounding the upcoming Alamo Plaza Master Plan.

The Society also took a strong position in favor of preserving the John Wood Courthouse at Hemisfair, which was built as the Confluence Theater, part of the United States Pavilion at Hemisfair '68. The Conservation Society made a successful bid to nominate both the John Wood Courthouse and the Woolworth Building for Preservation Texas's 2016 list of most endangered properties.

The Society has continued working with the developers and community members regarding the proposed apartment complex behind St. John's Seminary. The project is slated to create 240 residential units and to rehabilitate the historic St. John's Seminary Building. The Society has advocated that the site plan follow the World Heritage buffer zone guidelines in terms of setbacks and visibility from the Mission Concepción. After developers altered the design to address these concerns, the Society gave a statement at HDRC in support of the project. In July, the Society drafted a letter supporting World Heritage Land Use amendments that reflect the historic character of the neighborhoods along the Mission Reach.

In the 2015-2016 year, demolitions were completed on several properties that the Society had previously advocated for preservation. These included 825 Grayson in Government Hill, 130 Davis Ct in Mahncke Park and 2202 Fredericksburg Rd, a gas station on the edge of Monticello Park. These properties had community and Historic Design and Review Commission support, but the San Antonio City Council sided with the owners' opposition to landmark designations.

The Conservation Society argued against the partial removal of historic designations for the Friedrich and Merchant's Ice buildings, both on the fringe of

Dignowity Hill. The owners claimed economic hardship and inability to sell these properties with such designation in spite of the fact they could qualify for state and local tax incentives. While several buildings in both complexes are still protected, many buildings further from the street are slated for demolition.

The Society began surveying historic gas stations more than thirty years ago and had long identified Slimp Oil as an outstanding example at 604 Carolina. The Society learned of a development plan for the Slimp Oil gas station in February 2016 and spent six months seeking a meeting with the developer, who has slated the building for demolition. The building was one of thirty proposed for landmark designation in 2016.

The Society has monitored two projects on the 100 block of East Commerce. Designs for the twenty story hotel at 155 E. Commerce atop the former Fish Market building have been criticized by the Society for projecting cantilevers too far over the river and for not blending in with the existing park-like aesthetic at the Riverwalk level. Likewise the Society has advocated that the developers behind the Floodgate, an eleven story mixed-use building to be constructed at 139-151 E Commerce, alter their designs at the Riverwalk level to preserve as much of the existing retaining wall as possible. The developers of both projects have been receptive to the Society's input and made changes to the designs that have been approved by HDRC.

Awards

The Historic Preservation Awards were presented on March 23, 2016, in the beautiful historic St. Anthony Hotel. Honored Building Award recipients were: Plaza de Armas Building, 115 Plaza de Armas (City of San Antonio); The 1896 Double Height Courtroom in the Bexar County Courthouse, 100 Doloresa (Bexar County); Donkey Barn in Brackenridge Park, 950 East Hildebrand (City of San Antonio); H-E-B Storehouse and Visitors Center, 646 S. Flores St. (H-E-B); Heidemann Ranch, 424 Nueva East (Mr. Roy R. Barrera, Sr. and Mr. Gilbert E. Barrera); Mission Drive-In Theater Marquee, 3100 Roosevelt (City of San Antonio); Mission San Juan Capistrano, 9101 Graf Rd. (Archdiocese of San Antonio); Old Alamo National Bank, 314 East Commerce St. (George and Hal Newton); and Pearl Brewery Administration Building, 306 Pearl Pkwy #101 (Rio Perla Properties). The Out-of-Area Building Award was presented to Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum in Cuero. Texas Preservation Heroes Awards were presented to: Mr. Artie Dietel, extraordinary volunteer to the Society and NIOSA over the past three decades, Mr. Pat Molak, owner and founder of both the Gristmill Bar & Grill and the Gruene Dance Hall; Ms. Marlene Richardson, author, docent/curator, and preservationist; and Ms. Kathryn Ruckman, restoration and rehabilitation of historic properties. A Lynn Ford Craftsman Award was presented to Mr. Robert Diaz de Leon in recognition of his transformative use of historic metal objects at The Pearl Complex and Hotel Emma. The Amanda Cartwright Taylor Award was presented to Mrs. Jocelyn

Straus for her work in leading the restoration of the Empire and Majestic Theatres, and for her invaluable efforts in promoting Texas culture and the arts.

Endowment & Resource Development

This year the Endowment & Resource Development Committee provided momentum for the fundraising programs of the Foundation. The Capital Club continued building a donor base to support the San Antonio Conservation Society's community outreach efforts. Membership in the Capital Club reached forty-eight members during the 2015-2016 fiscal year, raising \$47,535 [numbers as of 5/26/2016]. Capital Club funds continued to support the Mission San Juan Spanish Colonial Demonstration Farm and the update to Lewis F. Fisher's account of the history of the San Antonio Conservation Society, *Saving San Antonio*. The Board also dedicated Capital Club funds to several other projects, including the World Heritage Inscription Ceremony celebrating the designation of the San Antonio Missions as a World Heritage Site in October 2015, signage to mark the path of the historic Camino Real through northeast San Antonio, and interpretative signage for the rehabilitation project at Hangar 9 on Brooks City Base. During the year, Capital Club members gathered for several events, including a holiday river cruise, a reception at the newly-renovated St. Anthony Hotel, and numerous events during Fiesta.

Donations to the Foundation generated during the membership renewal drive topped \$12,000, and The Big Give S.A. brought in over \$1,000 from members and non-members alike.

The Heritage Education Tours also received \$17,000 in contributions from the Eduoard Foundation, the H-E-B Tournament of Champions Charitable Foundation, and the Mirza Trust.

Grants & Contributions

Proceeds from A Night In Old San Antonio® allowed the Society to award \$55,460 during the annual fall 2015 round of community grants. Building Grants from the Community Grants Program were awarded to: 1903 West Woodlawn (for a new roof); 119 Simon (installation of new standing-seam metal roof and restoration of the upper and lower front porch); 528 Nolan (for stone stabilization); 1123 W. French Place (for front façade and porch rehabilitation).

The San Antonio Conservation Society Board of Directors also moved to grant funding for: a donation for the 2015 World Heritage Inscription Ceremony held on October 17, 2015; signs along the El Camino Real, stretching the length of Nacogdoches Road and including directional signage on Perrin Beitel; the National Register Nomination by Everett Fly and his work in researching and documenting African-American resources in Bexar County; the National Trust Hospitality Reception in November 2016; and aluminum-framed interpretative outdoor signage and informa-

tion about historic Hanger 9 and Sidney Brooks Memorial and Gravesite.

Heritage Education Tours

The San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation conducted its 55th annual Heritage Education Tours for area fourth grade students from November 3-6 and November 9-13, 2015. 2,375 students from twenty-five schools across Bexar County received the opportunity to visit local heritage landmarks, including the Alamo, Casa Navarro State Historic Site, Mission Concepción, Mission San Juan, Mission San José, the Spanish Governor's Palace, and the Steves Homestead. Tour guides and docents from the Conservation Society and the San Antonio Professional Tour Guides Association accompanied each bus and provided students with educational information regarding the sites before and during the site visits. The Foundation paid all tour expenses for the schools through member contributions, funds raised during A Night in Old San Antonio®, and through grants received from the Eduoard Foundation and the H-E-B Tournament of Champions Charitable Foundation. Education consultant Bill Perryman led a teacher workshop for over forty teachers from the represented schools in preparation for the tours.

Historic Building Survey

Our survey of the Mission Protection Area, focusing on the S. Presa Street and Roosevelt Avenue commercial corridors, began later than usual this year as we waited for the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) to introduce their new survey technology known as ScoutSA. This mobile web service allowed participants to record survey information using a smartphone or wireless device and upload it to a database that both the Society and the OHP could access. Several new volunteers attended the February training and signed up to survey sections of S. Presa Street between S. Alamo Street on the north and the SE Loop 410 access road on the south. Technology issues and other commitments among the surveyors inhibited progress during the remaining months. A survey of the same area will be reattempted in the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Historic Farm & Ranch Complexes

The Historic Farm and Ranch Complexes Committee works to locate, identify, photograph and document mid-19th century and early 20th century farms and ranches in Bexar and surrounding counties. This year the committee met the first Saturday of the month from October to June, with the exception of January, due to New Year's holiday and May, due to National Historic Preservation Month activities. The first field trip in October was to the Heidemann Complex on Toutant Beauregard Road, to view the restoration of the property by Gilbert E. Barrera. The tour was led by Roy Barrera and his daughter Carmen. This property received the San Antonio Conservation Society 2016 Built Environment Award and is listed on the National Register for Histor-

ic Places. On October 11, the committee participated in the Society's Committee Fair and provided images of farm and ranch properties. Adriana Ziga, formerly with the Office of Historic Preservation, spoke on the history of the Francisco Flores Ranch in November at the River House. The December meeting featured Matthew Elverson, Assistant City Archaeologist with the Office of Historic Preservation, who spoke on Archaeology in San Antonio: Recent Discoveries and Field Methods. A field visit was made to the Ball-O'Banion House in Lytle, Texas in February. Sandra O'Banion, the present owner gave a tour and history of the property. Dr. Nesta Anderson has been hired by the Society Foundation to write the National Register for Historic Places nomination of the Ball-O'Banion House. In March, former Mayor Phil Hardberger led a tour of the restoration of the Stone House Barn and Windmill at the Voelcker Homestead in Phil Hardberger Park. The Monken House in the Balcones Creek Subdivision in Boerne, Texas was the location of the April meeting. Tim Sawtelle, the subdivision developer, presented background information about how he acquired the property for this subdivision and how the house and barn are being preserved. The house will be a community center.

In June, architect John Speegle conducted a tour of the Donkey Barn on the northern edge of Brackenridge Park. This property received the Society's 2016 Built Environment Award for restoration. John's firm, Speegle and KIM-Davis Architecture was responsible for this project.

Historic Gas Station Survey

The committee surveyed 332 stations this year, for a total of 974 surveyed stations since 2012, and submitted a list of 38 stations to the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) for possible landmark designation. The Society also partnered with the OHP for "San Antonio or Bust!," a well-attended public event held at the Deco Pizzeria raising awareness of historic gas stations, their potential for rehabilitation, and the landmark designation process. The survey committee paid for refreshments and supplied information about the stations featured. The San Antonio Express-News covered the gas station designation initiative in its article, "Pumping New Life into Old Gas Stations".

Historic Preservation Month

A celebration of National Historic Preservation Month and the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act was held on Sunday, May 8, 2016 in the Villa Finale Gardens. Jane Lewis, Villa Finale's Executive Director, welcomed everyone. Barbara Hall, Chair of the Historic Preservation Month Committee, introduced guest speaker Michael Guarino, chairman of the City's Historic and Design Review Commission, who spoke on the significance of the Preservation Act of 1966. Mark Wolfe, Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission, was recognized and briefly commented on the importance of

this legislation. Music was provided by the Trinity University String Quartet. On Tuesday, May 10, 2016 Everett Fly, FASLA, landscape architect, architect and national expert in preservation and historic black settlements, gave a presentation on *Cultural Preservation: Holistic Stewardship of Black History and Place in San Antonio*. Approximately 120 people attended the seminar at the Little Carver Civic Center. The seminar was sponsored by the San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation and the City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation.

Junior Associates

The Junior Associates program was created in 1955 to assure continuity of the aims and purposes of the Society and to inspire and teach the values of local history and preservation to younger generations. Junior Associates elect their own officers and conduct their own affairs. In the 2015-2016 membership year, there were seventy-six Junior Associates. The Juniors held seven membership meetings throughout the year at the Steves Homestead River House, including the annual Gingerbread House Decorating Party in December. They also participated in the Halloween Spooktacular in October, the Steves Homestead Easter Egg Hunt in March, and the King William Fair Parade during Fiesta.

Library

The library continued expanding its outreach through its digitization program, now in its third year. Elizabeth Pople returned as an independent consultant funded by the Capital Club, adding 676 images to the digital collections. The cumulative total of images available through the online catalog came to 1,949. New images included 71 photos transferred from the Steves Homestead, 27 from the Yturri-Edmunds Collection, 70 from the Downtown Historic Resources Survey and over 300 from the General Collection, many of which were transferred to the Restricted Collection due to age and condition. Elizabeth also scanned several historic documents. Many of these images appeared in two new virtual exhibits: *San Antonio Missions: Our World Heritage*, designed as an online resource for Heritage Education Tours, and *Air Raids to Foreign Aid: WWII in San Antonio*.

Library staff and volunteers completed over 1,124 requests this year. The library also provided research, writing, and editing for several of the Society's key preservation issues, including the endangered Woolworth Building and the following Historic and Design Review Commission/Building Standards Board cases: the Las Palmas Library (915 Castroville Rd.), the B. L. Raborn House (408 Cavalier), 139-151 and 155 E. Commerce, 815 N. St. Mary's, Basila Frocks (500 N. Zarzamora—statement not given), and the Otto Wahrmond House (255 Brahan).

Working with former presidents Nancy Avellar and Sue Ann Pember-ton, the library produced a series of articles for the president opposing Gary Foreman's proposal to recreate the 1836 Alamo compound. These

Alamo Plaza articles appeared in the San Antonio Express-News, The Rivard Report, The Preservation Advocate, and on the Society's website.

The librarian, Beth Standifird, also drafted a speech for the El Camino Real marker ceremony and letters supporting two Texas Society of Architects award nominations. Concerns raised by the request for qualifications to redevelop the Institute of Texan Cultures (ITC) site resulted in the librarian drafting a letter for the president's signature to The University of Texas Board of Regents regarding the ITC building's historic significance and economic potential.

Meetings, Conferences, Seminars, & Workshops

Summer 2015

On June 12, 2015, Sue Ann Pemberton and Executive Director Bruce MacDougal attended the Preservation You Summit Town Hall at UTSA downtown. Incoming President Janet Dietel and outgoing President Sue Ann Pemberton attended the Urban Renaissance luncheon June 30 at the Aztec Theater. President Dietel, Mary Fisher and Bruce MacDougal attended the Congressional Luncheon downtown on August 4 and on August 12 the President, Bruce McDougal and Outreach Coordinator Jenny Hay attended the Promise Zone Update at the Spire at Sunset Station. On Thursday, August 27, President Dietel, 1st Vice President Susan Beavin, Margaret Winn and Bruce MacDougal attended the Office of Historic Preservation Thank You Reception at the Milam Building. President Janet Dietel and Joan Gaither were at the Fort Sam Houston Gazebo Concert on August 30. Executive Director Bruce MacDougal and Outreach Coordinator Jenny Hay attended the Historic Tax Credits Workshop with ICOMOS Director Andrew Potts on September 2. The Urban Renaissance Luncheon that same day featured a panel discussion on the World Heritage inscription with President Janet Dietel, 1st Vice President Susan Beavin, Virginia Nicholas, Bruce MacDougal and Jenny Hay in attendance. Bruce MacDougal attended the Congressional Series Luncheon on September 3.

Fall 2015

President Janet Dietel attended the Witte Museum Luncheon on September 18. On October 1, President Dietel and 2nd Vice President Stella De La Garza attended the Sweet Honey Soiree for the Green Spaces Alliance. Stella de la Garza and Executive Director Bruce MacDougal attended the Texas Archaeology Month kickoff at the Plaza de Armas on Saturday, October 2, 2015. On October 8, the historic St. Anthony Hotel was the venue for the Society's Capital Club reception led by President Janet Dietel, and on October 15 the Fiesta Commission unveiling of the 2016 Fiesta poster was attended by President Dietel and 4th Vice President Patti Zaiantz. The following day was the World Heritage Celebration and "Restored by Light" at Mission Concepción. The City's Office of Historic Preservation's Power of Preservation Prom was held on October 22 at Stinson Field and featured several Board members in attendance.

President Dietel attended State Senator Jose Menendez' community gathering October 24 at San Antonio College. Executive Director Bruce MacDougal and Outreach Coordinator Jenny Hay attended the World Heritage Symposium at UTSA on October 31. 1st Vice President Susan Beavin participated in the San Antonio Missions National Historic Park Long Range Interpretive Plan Workshop at the San Antonio Area Foundation on November 2, 2015. The National Preservation Conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation took place November 3-7 in Washington, D.C. with President Janet Dietel, Executive Director Bruce MacDougal and Jenny Hay in attendance. Susan Beavin participated in the Town Hall Forum on the Decade of Downtown held at UTSA November 4, and Stella De La Garza attended Los Compadres Spanish Colonial Dinner Gala that evening. On November 11 the Preservation Texas Reception was attended by Janet and Artie Dietel, Nancy Avellar, Susan Beavin, Margie Arnold, Mary and Lewis Fisher, Bruce MacDougal and Jenny Hay. The grand opening of the St. Anthony Hotel was held on November 19 with President Dietel, 1st Vice President Beavin, Bruce MacDougal and other staff in attendance. Bruce MacDougal also participated in the Texas Historical Markers ceremony in the King William District on Saturday, November 21.

Winter 2015-16

The Landmark Inn State Historic Site Grand Reopening was held on Saturday, December 5, followed by the Castroville Conservation Society Christmas Candlelight Open House. Both events were attended by Susan Beavin, Joanna Parrish, Dru Hart, and Patricia and Owen Seidenberger. 1st Vice President Susan Beavin and 2nd Vice President Stella De La Garza attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Brooks City Base on Monday, December 7. Stella De La Garza attended the San Antonio Tourism Council Board Retreat on January 8 as well as the Centinelos Appreciation Dinner at the Mission San Jose Granary on January 28. President Janet Dietel attended the Las Casas Foundation event at the Majestic Theater on the evening of February 5. Susan Beavin participated in the World Heritage Symposium at STEM High School on Saturday, February 6. Janet Dietel and Joan Gaither attended the Military City USA Speaker Series on February 24, 2016, featuring Lieutenant General Perry L. Wiggins.

Spring 2016

The Building Awards Ceremony was held March 23, at the St. Anthony Hotel. On March 30, Janet Dietel was present at the Grand Opening of the Visitor's Convention Center of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. Janet and Artie Dietel attended the St. Philip's College President's Culinary Gala on Saturday, April 9 and Janet also was present for United San Antonio Pow Wow, at Woodlawn Lake Gymnasium on April 16. President Janet Dietel was part of the Royal Rosarian Knighting Ceremony on April 21. Janet Dietel, Susan Beavin, Stella De La Garza, and Frederica Kushner attended the "San Antonio or Bust" Gas Station Survey event at Deco Pizzeria on May 3, 2016. On May 10 President Janet Dietel and others attended the Histor-

ic Preservation Seminar with architect and landscape architect Everett Fly at the Little Carver Civic Center. The May 11, 2016, Petroleum Club World Heritage presentation on Rancho de las Cabras by LaJuana Newman-Leus was attended by President Janet Dietel, 1st Vice President Susan Beavin and 2nd Vice President Stella De La Garza. The Daughters of the Republic of Texas held a Garden Party honoring the Texas flag June 1 with Janet Dietel, Susan Beavin and Stella De La Garza in attendance. New Executive Director Vincent Michael spoke to the Sons of the Republic of Texas at the San Antonio Country Club on June 16. President Dietel, Vincent Michael and Susan Beavin attended the “Build Your Own Bond” event at Pearl Stable on June 30. Janet Dietel and Vincent Michael attended the reception for International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) intern, Dr. Irem Gancer on July 7.

Membership Activities

As of June 30, 2016, there were 511 Active Resident Members, 15 Active Non-Resident Members, 1 Honorary Member, 1,005 Associate Resident Members, and 58 Associate Non-Resident Members for a total of 1,590 members. At the June general membership meeting, 30 new active members were inducted.

The Membership/Volunteer Coordinator Committee held a committee fair at the Steves Homestead River House on October 11, 2015, to give Society members the chance to learn more about committees and volunteer opportunities. The committee also volunteered at the sign-in tables at the general membership meeting, collected member dues at the NIOSA Chairmen’s Dinner, and held a mail out on January 9, 2016 to assemble mailers for all expiring members at the beginning of the membership renewal drive.

The Membership Development Committee, now in its third year, attended several events to raise awareness of the Conservation Society’s membership and activities, including Kidcation in August, the Historic Homeowner Fair at the Pearl in September, and Archaeology Day at Mission San Juan during the World Heritage Inscription festivities in October.

Neighborhood Liaison

Committee members represented the Society at various homeowners’ association meetings for over 11 historic neighborhoods, including Alta Vista, Dignowity Hill, King William, Lavaca, Mahncke Park, Monticello Park, Tobin Hill, and Woodlawn Lake. The committee monitored public meetings of the Brackenridge Park Conservancy, the DoSeum, and the Witte Museum that involved preservation issues affecting nearby neighborhoods. The chairman also worked closely with the president and the first and second vice presidents to identify historic properties endangered by demolition or zoning changes.

A Night in Old San Antonio

Through the efforts of our volunteers, A Night In Old San Antonio celebrates customs and cultures unique to our City and supports the programs and goals of the San Antonio Conservation Society. A big “Thank You” goes out to the thousands of locals and tourists who come to historic downtown La Villita each year during Fiesta.

Truly “A Celebration for Preservation”, NIOSA 2016 funded the San Antonio Conservation Society with over \$1.4 million to further its mission to preserve historic buildings, objects, places and customs relating to Texas history. In addition, NIOSA’s community impact totaled over \$1.4 million; with \$190,859 paid for the rental of La Villita (which is designated for the preservation of the La Villita village); and \$75,000 in rental fees to other local property owners/businesses. The City of San Antonio was also paid \$329,500 for security (SAPD), permits/fees, and local entertainers and suppliers received an estimated \$800,000 for goods and services.

All this could not have been accomplished without the thousands of dedicated volunteers, many of whom work endless hours year round!! Patti Zaiontz, NIOSA Chairman and her committee (Kathy DeWaal, Treasurer, Margie Arnold, Jackie Fellers, Charlie Hansen and Sharon Hearn), along with office and warehouse staff, worked closely on every detail for our 68th presentation of A Night In Old San Antonio.

Over thirty (30) volunteer sub-committees, many who meet year round, along with fifteen (15) area chairs, and area support groups, also provided additional support. New for 2016, the NIOSA crafters utilized a pop-up shop, located in La Villita, where they saw over 6,300 locals and tourists. These volunteers, busy making handcrafted wreaths, fascinators, and other items, dedicated 7 days a week for 4½ months and generated over \$30,000 profit. This location also provided an additional ticket outlet with over \$29,600 in NIOSA ticket sales. Decorations and Cascaron Committees met Thursday mornings to hand make thousands of paper flowers and streamers, used to decorate booths, and thousands of cascrones were filled and hand-painted to add to the festivities. In all, it is estimated that over 13,000+ volunteers donated over 150,000 hours.

Maps were drawn, entertainers booked, cleaning contractors selected, and generators ordered. Local suppliers bid on souvenirs, beverages and food and orders were placed. Recycling efforts included 250 new lids for totes, scheduling pickup/disposal of grey water and used cooking oil. Twenty thousand square feet of warehouse space, containing millions of components that makeup NIOSA, were loaded and delivered to the Little Village. Staging coordinators worked with hundreds of volunteers and began putting all the pieces together that transformed La Villita into a mosaic of San Antonio’s past. During the twenty (20) hours of opera-

tion volunteers came together to prepare, cook, and serve over 80,000 guests. Thanks to our volunteers NIOSA 2016 was a huge success.

NIOSITAS

The NIOSA Committee also hosted NIOSITAS for the Texas Travel Industry (415 guests) on September 20, 2015; the National Association of Women Business Owners Conference (450 guests) on September 28, 2015 with special guest speaker, Governor Greg Abbott; and the National American Public Transit Conference (200 guests) on May 2, 2016. NIOSITAS netted \$46,000 for the Society.

Parade Activities

The Conservation Society participated in four parades during Fiesta: the Texas Cavaliers' River Parade, the Battle of Flowers Parade, the King William Fair Parade, and the Fiesta Flambeau.

The theme of the Conservation Society's float in the Texas Cavaliers' River Parade was "Champions of ... Continuing our Legacy," and featured Americana flair. Jackie Huddle & the Dukes of Cool provided musical accompaniment on the float.

In the Battle of Flowers Parade, the Conservation Society again participated in the antique car category with a 1928 Ford Model A. The theme was "The Tex-Mex Connection," and floral decorations on the car celebrated the history of the cascaron. The Conservation Society's vehicle won second place in the antique car category.

The Junior Associates participated in the King William Fair Parade, riding in an antique Mack firetruck provided by the San Antonio Fire Department.

Representatives from NIOSA® participated in the Fiesta Flambeau Parade, riding in a horse-drawn wagon with a western theme.

Programs

The Society held six general membership meetings.

The September 23, 2015 general membership meeting was held at the Mission San Jose Visitor Center in celebration of the San Antonio Missions inscription as a World Heritage Site. Bruce MacDougal served as the moderator with Nancy Avellar, Susan Snow, and David Vekasy serving as panelists speaking on *The Story behind the San Antonio Missions World Heritage Designation*. The Mariachi Corazon de San Antonio welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

The Weihnachtsfeier was held December 2, 2015 at the Steves Homestead. The Beethoven Maennerchor performed traditional German Christmas songs.

Alamo Conservator, Pam Jary Rosser spoke at the January 27, 2016, general membership meeting on Historical Investigations at the Alamo at

the Alamo Beer Company located next to the Hays Street Bridge. Following the presentation, everyone was invited to tour the brewery.

On February 24, 2016, the general membership meeting was held at the beautifully restored Double-Height Bexar County Courtroom. Brantley Hightower, AIA, author of *Courthouses of Central Texas* gave a presentation on James Riely Gordon and the Courthouses of Central Texas. Architect Lewis Fisher, AIA, with Fisher Heck Architects, provided members and guests a tour of the restored courtroom that was the recipient of a San Antonio Conservation Society 2015 Built Environment Award.

Bob Brackman, the Executive Director of the San Antonio Botanical Garden, presented an update on the San Antonio Botanical Garden Master Plan I and II at the May 25, 2016 general membership meeting at the San Antonio Garden Center.

The installation of new officers and board members was held at the June 22, 2016 general meeting at the River House. Twenty-five year and fifty year members were recognized.

Properties Maintenance & Repair

Maintenance and restoration work continues on the Society's properties.

The main SACS warehouse building had a new 10,000 square foot roof installed. The Bombach House had some flagstone terrace re-leveling and some stone repointing done. Two new air condition air handlers were added at the Wulff House in the volunteer room and the library annex room. Also at the Wulff House, all uneven areas on the walkways and parking area were repaired and the ground drainage near the back porch area was corrected. Four new light fixtures on the front porch of the Gresser House were installed. At the Yturri-Edmunds Historic Site, the carriage house apartment was remodeled, the roof on the main house was repaired and painted, the plaster ceiling in the main house bedroom was repaired. All exterior woodwork was repaired and painted, and the ground drainage at the northwest corner of the house was reworked.

Public Affairs

On August 3, 2015, President Janet Dietel, Executive Director Bruce MacDougal, and Preservation Outreach Manager Jenny Hay met with Congressman Will Hurd for a tour of the Geekdom offices in the Rand Building. On August 4, the President, Third Vice President Mary Fisher, and Executive Director Bruce MacDougal attended the Congressional Luncheon at the Embassy Suites Riverwalk. On October 14, the President and Third Vice President attended the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Congressional Luncheon with Joaquin Castro. The President and Executive Director met with Naomi Miller at Representative Joe Strauss's office on October 30. From November 3rd to November 5th, the President, Third Vice President, Executive Director, and Preservation Outreach Manager attended the National Trust Conference in Wash-

ington DC. On February 18, 2016, President Janet Dietel, First Vice President Susan Beavin, Second Vice President Stella De La Garza, Executive Director Bruce MacDougal, and Librarian Beth Standifird attended the Texas Preservation Summit in Austin. From March 8th to March 10th the President and Third Vice President attended Preservation Advocacy Week in Washington DC.

Publicity

On August 25, 2015, President Janet Dietel and Executive Director Bruce MacDougal were interviewed by Ryan Poppe on TPR about possible preservation efforts for the GJ Sutton Building. On September 5, the President was interviewed on KABB about the World Heritage Site announcement. Scott Huddleston of the Express-News interviewed the President for an article about the preservation of the Crockett Block and Woolworth Building on October 8, 2015. On January 25, 2016, Camille Garcia of the Rivard Report interviewed the President and the Executive Director about Bruce MacDougal's retirement. On February 6, John Thurman of KTSA interviewed the President about the upcoming Teacher Education Seminar. Chrissie Murnin from KONO interviewed the President on March 30, about the Society and NIOSA®.

Scholarships

Scholarship funds in the amount of \$5,000 were transmitted in the spring of 2015 to The University of Texas at San Antonio – College of Architecture for two \$2,500 Eleanor Freeborn Bennett Educational Fund Scholarships for the 2015-2016 academic year. The recipients of these scholarships were Tomci Abraham and Nancy Kambalia. Two additional students of architecture, Rosalie Ortega-Gose at Texas Tech University and Izabella Dennis at the University of Texas at Austin received the San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation Scholarship honoring Brooks Martin, FAIA, administered by the Texas Architectural Foundation for 2015-2016 academic year.

Four additional \$500 scholarships were awarded by the San Antonio Conservation Society Board of Directors to St. Phillip's College Construction Technology Program from the Eleanor Freeborn Bennett Educational Fund.

Steves Homestead House Museum

The Steves Homestead saw 4520 visitors this year. Joint tours with neighboring Villa Finale remain a popular option and the "Root Cellar to Rafters" tour drew serious historic home visitors who wanted a peek at the behind-the-scenes areas of the museum. "I Spy – A Scavenger Hunt" remained a popular joint effort with Villa Finale that attracted newer younger visitors.

The society's annual Heritage Education Tour garnered raves from parents and educators as Homestead staff led a customized tour, aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills central to fourth grade history curriculum. In

total, 487 students toured the Homestead during the two week tour period.

A Spooktacular Halloween in King William, in conjunction with Villa Finale, continued the tradition of family fun in the historic King William neighborhood. Spread over both the Homestead and Villa Finale, this Halloween extravaganza featured costume contests, face painting, piñatas, and more. The fifth annual *Homestead Easter Egg Hunt* was a success, introducing yet another generation to the Homestead property.

The Homestead continued to be a popular site for Conservation Society receptions and outside group functions alike. Using the property usage guidelines created in 2013, the Homestead hosted a Quirk Company office party, a wedding, a Capital Club reception, and several other corporate and foundation meetings, including the Professional Tour Guides Association.

The Homestead also took part in the biennial “King William Holiday Home Tour” and served as a rest stop for the annual Walk to Action.

Teacher Education Seminar

The Teacher Education Seminar was held on Saturday, February 20, 2016, at the River House with 27 participants. *Mission Impossible! San Antonio’s Franciscan Missions* was the topic of the seminar presented by Bill Perryman, M.Ed., an education consultant and founder of History in Person Theater. Teachers received a certificate for six hours of Continuing Professional Education credits at the conclusion of the seminar.