



## Update on the Alamo Plaza Master Plan

Lewis S. Fisher, AIA

**O**n May 11, 2017, the San Antonio City Council approved a master plan for the Alamo and several city blocks near this World Heritage inscribed site. The Plan contained the following key concepts:

**Conserve and preserve the surviving mission-period buildings**, the chapel and the convento and granary (the long barrack).

**Establish clarity regarding the historic configuration of the mission and the battleground.** This will be achieved by delineating the historic footprint of the mission compound around which the Battle of the Alamo was fought, interpreting two acequias that flowed through the mission site and, removing walls around the 1936 garden which inaccurately suggest the mission enclosure. The grade of the historic mission plaza will be lowered to the historic living surface. The cenotaph will be removed from the center of the historic plaza, conserved, and re-constructed at a location in context with its historical importance.

**Create a sense of reverence and respect in the historic mission plaza** by closing various streets which currently cross this historic space.

**Utilize the Crockett, Woolworth and Palace Theatre buildings as a visitor center and museum** that will tell the story of the 300-plus years of layered history of the site.

**Create a sense of arrival** to the site by developing a dignified pedestrian promenade from Market Street to Crockett Street utilizing the right of way of South Alamo Street, and by interpreting the historic south entrance as the new entrance to the site and the museum.

**Enhance connectivity** between the site and other places related to the Alamo's history through improved access and pedestrian amenities.

The plan will increase the amount of public assembly space from five acres to almost ten acres. Over 100 new trees are to be planted, and in response to community concerns about the existing trees, all heritage trees will be saved through relocation and re-planting at their present locations. This assures that the plaza will have more shade in the future than it does today.

The approval of the master plan and the passage of the 2017 bond package shows the commitment of the City of San Antonio to the project. The City's commitment supports the General Land Office's request for an additional \$75 million in funding from the 2017 legislature. Both of these governmental commitments will allow the Alamo Endowment to begin their fund-raising campaign, targeted to raise another \$200,000,000.

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# What's Important in Our Organization?

Janet Dietel, President

**A**s a member of our organization, it is important that you know how the Society works to manage the magnitude of ideas, projects and challenges facing us today in preservation. Change is dynamic, and the Society has kept pace with change, yet we still adhere to our founding values established 93 years ago. We have always succeeded as a group because of the understanding of our purpose and the tenacity of our membership.

Let me share a few examples of our long-term commitment. From our founding in 1924 we worked to preserve the San Antonio Missions, purchasing the doors at San Jose in 1926, buying mission lands in the 1920s and 1930s, restoring the San Jose Granary in 1931 and crafting the state historic park in 1941. In 1978 we lobbied tirelessly to secure the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and a generation later we began the effort to inscribe the Missions as World Heritage, achieved two years ago in 2015. We have never wavered from this cause, and success has taken generations of volunteer effort.

At the same time, the Society has embraced new directions in preservation, from our pioneering work to survey historic gas stations in the 1980s to our more recent work to document important Mid-Century modern buildings and landscapes in San

Antonio. Our gas station work paved the way for the designation this year of more than two dozen historic gas stations by the City. Our Mid-Century modern work has engaged a new generation of preservationists.

How we work has changed a lot over 93 years, from typewriters to computers and from telephones to email. Over 1,500 members share their dedication to our cause, and recently we have engaged more than 500 people per week thanks to our postings in social media like Facebook. While the methods change, the goal stays the same: fight to preserve our historic buildings, our natural areas, and our customs, traditions and cultural heritage.

This year we succeeded in convincing the city, state and Alamo Endowment that our plan to transform the Crockett, Palace and Woolworth Buildings into a new world-class Alamo museum, was the right one. The Alamo and its sacred grounds, is one of the most significant landmarks in our city and state. The first public building preserved west of the Mississippi, the Alamo is being reimaged today and the Society has been at the heart of that discussion. We will continue to speak our mind as the Alamo Plaza plan moves toward implementation.

Thank you for providing a backbone for our Society and for sticking with the purpose we have shared for so long together.

*“It has been my honor to serve as the San Antonio Conservation Society President the past two years”*



Kickoff to NIOSA 2017



Janet participated in the 2017 Battle of Flowers. Her “Annie Oakley” entry took first place in the Antique Car division!



Janet with Chairman Nau of the Texas Historical Commission, November 2016



Janet at the Texas Hospitality Reception at PastForward Conference, November 2016



Janet accepting the National Park Service’s 2016 Director’s Partnership Award from San Antonio Missions National Historical Park Superintendent, Mardi Arce

# Preservation By The Numbers

Vincent Michael, Ph.D., Executive Director



**15** Preservation easements held by the San Antonio Conservation Society on properties ranging from the Mission San Jose Granary to the Aztec Theater.

**\$25** is all it takes to join the San Antonio Conservation Society!

**28** local historic districts in San Antonio, designated by the City and reviewed by the Historic and Design Review Committee. The city also has 19 National Register Historic Districts.

**40%** of all historic tax credit projects are in communities with a population of 25,000 or less.

**50** years since Texas' first historic district, King William, created in San Antonio!

**91** Main Street communities in Texas.

**92** historic tax credit projects in San Antonio since the 1980s.



*The Presidio County Courthouse, located in Marfa, TX is one of the 235 historic courthouses in Texas*

**93** Texas courthouses rehabilitated or given emergency grants under the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. There are 235 historic county courthouses in use in Texas, more than in any other state.

**94<sup>th</sup>** year of existence of the San Antonio Conservation Society, founded March 23, 1924.

**9,732** permanent jobs created by 126 Historic Tax Credit projects in Texas from 2002-2015. An additional 6,652 construction jobs were created by these projects.

**\$76,300** in grants given by the Society in 2016-2017 to help restore 9 historic buildings in San Antonio.

**2.44 million** jobs created by the Historic Tax Credit since its inception in 1976.



*The interior of the Aztec Theater, one of 15 preservation easements held by the San Antonio Conservation Society*

## May Preservation Month Celebration

Maggie Priesmeyer, Historic Preservation Month Committee Chair

**T**o celebrate May Preservation Month, the San Antonio Conservation Society hosted a symposium at the Steves' River House on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Presentations detailing the latest on the archaeology and conservation of the Alamo and on the Alamo Master Plan were given by Dr. Nesta Anderson, Senior Archaeologist at Pape-Dawson; Pam Jary Rosser, PA AIC, Alamo Conservator; and Lewis S. Fisher, AIA of Fisher-Heck Architects. Following presen-

tations, guests and presenters gathered under the ancient shade trees of the Steves' south garden for a performance of selected songs from the musical *Gone to Texas* by historian, playwright and narrator, Steve Warren. Thomas Mainster, composer and pianist, accompanied vocalists Roy Bumgarner, Tim Birt, and William Chapman. *Spice of Life Catering* provided refreshments for this occasion.



*L to R: Steve Warren, Roy Bumgarner, Tim Birt, William Chapman, Maggie Priesmeyer, and Thomas Mainster*



*L to R: Maggie Priesmeyer, Janet Dietel, Pam Jary Rosser, Dr. Nesta Anderson, Lewis Fisher, AIA, and Vincent Michael*

# San Antonio Conservation Society Community Grants Program

Margie Arnold, 2016 Historic Preservation Grants Chairman

Each year, the San Antonio Conservation Society offers two types of grants to individuals and organizations; these grants are funded through proceeds from the annual Night In Old San Antonio event during Fiesta. Community grants are designated for restoration or rehabilitation of residential or commercial historic structures built before 1930, and include work such as repair or replacement of roofs, foundations, façades, windows, porches, or stonework. Education Grants are designated for projects including research, video production, publication printing, and documents conservation - projects other than for restoration of historic structures. Applications for 2017 Grants will be accepted beginning Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>. The deadline is Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, at 4:30 p.m. Applications and further information may be found on the Conservation Society website at [www.saconservation.org/PreservationPrograms/Grants](http://www.saconservation.org/PreservationPrograms/Grants).

## Tricentennial Update

Virginia Van Cleave

The Tricentennial Commission has several subcommittees, one of which is the History and Education Committee. Under the auspices of this subcommittee, an Inter-University committee was formed to plan for a project: HIGER EDUCATION IN SAN ANTONIO, THREE HUNDRED YEARS. In March 2018, Our Lady of the Lake University is hosting a symposium “Women and Education in San Antonio Past and Present.” In April 2018, the University of the Incarnate Word is hosting a celebration at the Headwaters of the San Antonio River called “The Origin of our City and Education.” St. Philip’s College is hosting a symposium on “Education and Community Colleges in San Antonio Past and Present” in September 2018. In October 2018, St. Mary’s University is hosting a symposium on “Private Universities in San Antonio: History and Tradition Past and Present.” Texas A&M University San Antonio is hosting a symposium on “Public Universities: A New Era in San Antonio Past and Present,” in November 2018. Trinity University will host “Higher

Education in San Antonio, Considering the Future,” on April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Dr. Alfonso Chiscano, the Tricentennial Commission Vice-President, and a member of the History and Education subcommittee, is working on a symposium on “The 300 Years of Medicine in San Antonio.” It will be held at the Medical School on May 12, 2018 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Our 2018 San Antonio Conservation Society NIGHT IN OLD SAN ANTONIO is already posted on the website <https://www.sanantonio300.org>.



## FIESTA 2017



Texas Cavaliers River Parade



Junior Associates at the King William Fair Parade



NIOSA



Junior Associates at the Pilgrimage to the Alamo

# Spotlight on Volunteers: A Conservation Society Dynamic Duo

Dorothy Schulze, Publications Committee Chair

Sidney and Jerry Yarbrough are one dynamic duo! Married over fifty years, they share two sons and many interests. In 1984, Sidney was encouraged to join the San Antonio Conservation Society by Jerry's aunt, becoming an active member of the Society in 1985. Jerry's aunt, Floy Fontaine Jordan, was a niece of Emily Edwards, founder of the San Antonio Conservation Society. Jerry himself became an active member of the Society in 1995, after his retirement from Kelly AFB where he served as director of printing and media services. Although both Sidney and Jerry have contributed to many Conservation Society committees and activities for more than 30 years -from fortune telling to flowers, Las Posados to Los Pastores, NIOSA to NIOSITAS - Yturri-Edmunds was one of their first and remains one of their most cherished endeavors. Not only do they possess extensive knowledge of the history of the Y-E, they know it inside and out - literally. Beginning in 1984, as members of a corps of volunteers, they helped maintain the house, including wallpapering the kitchen, cleaning out the mill basement, grooming flower beds and creating and maintaining a vegetable garden whose produce was shared with Wulff House staff. Sidney recalled that back in the 1980s, then Yturri-Edmunds' chairman, Barbara Hunter, initiated a pot luck lunch in the carriage house for all the volunteers. The competitive spirit took hold and the lunches became more and more elaborate; so much so, that word spread beyond the Y-E carriage house. Sidney recalls one occasion when a local judge pulled up with a carload of

jurors to partake of these legendary lunches. Road closures and construction forced the closure of the Yturri-Edmunds until recently. Jerry and Sidney consider it to be a "jewel" among the properties supported by the Society and hope it will be once again regularly shared with the public.

Sidney and Jerry were founders of the Bexar County Kennel Club and are still active in the Mission City Stewards Club which oversees area AKC competitions. They are active members of the South Texas Gardening Volunteers and the San Antonio Cactus and Xerophyte Society. It is said that with the Yarbroughs you get two for the price of one. How lucky the San Antonio Conservation society is to have two such committed volunteers!



## NIOSA® News

Patti Zaiontz, Fourth Vice President

Congratulations, Team NIOSA—and that includes the 15,000 incredible volunteers who helped us put on "A Night In Old San Antonio!" 2017 proved to be a banner year. I was not sure we would be able to surpass our phenomenal 2016 event, but you did it again and our numbers are even better this year. The weather cooperated and we had great crowds, which contributed to record breaking revenue. Everyone had a great time consuming 11,000 Anticuchos, over 22,000 Mr. Chicken sticks, 4,100 Maria's Tortillas, almost 10,000 Bongo K-Bobs, and nearly 500 servings of Flaming Cheetos—all prepared and served by our smiling volunteers, who are the best in the world!! We hosted three "Behinds the Scenes Tours" for the Fiesta Commission for festival organizers from all over the U.S.; the Texas Festival and Events Association; and travel writers brought in by the Convention & Visitors Bureau. They were completely blown away by the fact that NIOSA is totally produced by volunteers who gladly give their time and their talents—some all year, and some over the course of the event. As you know, the proceeds from NIOSA are used to fund the preservation efforts of the San Antonio Conservation Society. NIOSA is the largest event in the United States solely contributing toward historic preservation. As I conclude my second and final term as NIOSA Chairman, I

want to express my sincere appreciation to Team NIOSA, especially the Vice Chairs Margie Arnold, Jackie Fellers, Charlie Hansen, Sharon Hearn, and NIOSA Treasurer Audrey Haake (who now is the new Business Manager/Director of Operations of NIOSA). Special thanks to the staging crew Artie Dietel, Gene Willette, Brad Dietrich, Ray Moreno, Rick Zertuche, Scott Cox and Jeff West. I can't forget the incredible NIOSA office and warehouse staffs, who give way beyond the normal "9 to 5" hours: Lisa Schneider, Mandy Rodriguez, Maria Fiol, Nic Yanes and Gerald Walsh. NIOSA takes a small army of committed folks to accomplish a very large task, so to all of you --- THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM (AND TOP) OF MY HEART!!

VIVA NIOSA - forever!!!!

PS: Don't forget to **SAVE YOUR EGGSHELLS!** The Decorations and Cascarones Committees are already back at work making paper flowers and cascarones, and they are in dire need of eggshells. You can drop them off at NIOSA HQ anytime, the River House on Thursday mornings or contact the NIOSA office at 226-5188 to make arrangements for pick up.

# Summer 2017 Donations

## Supports

\$100 to \$249

Mrs. Maxine Brown  
Mr. Bob Comeaux  
Ms. Sylvia De La Pena

Ms. Joanne E. Holshouser  
Mrs. Mary Jane Howe  
Mr. James Ivey

Mr. Howard W. Peak IV  
Ms. Patsy A. Taylor  
Mrs. Sylvia Navarro Tillotson

Mr. Dixie Watkins  
Mrs. Margaret C. Winn

## Donors

\$5 to \$99

Mrs. Melvin Baden  
Dr. Robert Douglas Banks  
Dr. Guy R. Banta  
Mrs. Faye Bracey  
Mrs. Sue deCordova Bullock  
Mrs. Charlotte Canaday  
Ms. Desiree Churbe Salas

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Mrs. Marie Schmutz

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Mrs. Sophie Torres  
Dr. Christopher L. Wallace  
Mrs. Penny Wiederhold  
Ms. Cynthia Wilder

## Honorariums

In Honor of Susan Beavin  
Myfe Moore

In Honor of Kay Hindes  
Le Club

## Memorials

In Memory of Earl Rabke, Jr.  
Robert Buchanan  
Kate Park  
Lake Flato Architects  
Judith Taylor

In Memory of Dan Hillsman  
Kathy Bailey  
In Memory of Emily Thuss  
Irene Kissling

## Capital Club

### Corinthian \$10,000 Level

Mr. Tim Campion  
Mr. Mike Gorman

### Ionic \$5,000 Level

Valero Energy Foundation

### Doric \$2,500 Level

Mr. & Mrs. Art & Janet Dietel

### Pillar \$1,000 Level

Frost Bank  
Mr. & Mrs. Otis & Maryan Baskin  
Mr. & Mrs. Dean & Dixie Bibles  
Mr. William R. Crow, Jr.

Mr. Oliver L. Gunnels, Jr.  
Ms. Beth Harper  
Mr. Steve Hixon  
Dr. John D. Murphy, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Chuck & Anne Parrish  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom & Chris Turner

### Keystone \$500 Level

Ms. Jeanne Albrecht  
Ms. Anne Alexander  
Ms. Barbara Banker  
Mrs. Carolyn Bennett Jackson  
Ms. Diane Biery  
Ms. Cynthia Birdsall  
Ms. Linda Bray  
Broadway Bank  
Mr. & Mrs. John Calhoun  
Mr. Michael Doherty  
Ms. Rosemarie Q. Donelson  
Ms. Allison Elder  
Mr. Jeffrey Fetzer  
Mr. Lewis S. Fisher, AIA

Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Patricia Foster & Biggs  
Ms. Claire Golden  
Mr. & Mrs. Lee & Susie Golden  
Mr. & Mrs. Lane & Katherine Golden  
Mr. Rick Grinnan  
Mr. Joey E. Groff  
Mr. Curtis Gunn, Jr.  
Mrs. Caryn Hasslocher  
Mrs. Joe Hoelscher  
Mr. James L. Hollerbach  
Mr. Justin Holley  
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Mrs. Joan Kelleher  
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Ms. Lynn Knapik  
Mr. James Lifshutz  
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Mr. & Mrs. Daniel B. Markson  
Mr. Jerry Martinez  
Ms. Mary Ann Oliver  
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Mr. Robert Penshorn  
Ms. Joseph Penshorn  
Ms. Marlene Richardson  
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Mr. Bob Sartor  
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Mr. Banks M. Smith  
Ms. Patsy Steves  
Mr. Ron Stinson  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark & Lauren Tolley  
Mrs. Mary West Traylor  
Ms. Dru Van Steenberg

# 2017-2018 Officers

<b>President</b> Susan Beavin	<b>Second Vice President</b> Kathy Krnavek	<b>Fourth Vice President</b> Marjorie Arnold	<b>Secretary</b> Patricia Seidenberger
<b>First Vice President</b> Patti Zaointz	<b>Third Vice President</b> Barbara Hall	<b>Fifth Vice President</b> William Sands	<b>Treasurer</b> Rose Moran

## 2017-2018 Elected Directors

Kathleen Carter Mary Fisher	Jean Heide Stuart Johnson	Kathy Rhoads Marlene Richardson	Francine Rowden Terry Schoenert	Melinda Tomerlin Virginia Van Cleave
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## Newly-Elected Active Members

Naomi Alvarez-Klann	Jacqueline Epstein	Wayne Hartman	Celia Martinez	Mary Roszell
Richard Alwine	Kevin Escobar	Debbie Hutcheson	Jerry Martinez	Laura Simon
Margaret Anderson	Nick Escobar	Carol Karels	Tony Martinez	Gilbert Stanley-Medford
Edna Benavidez	Jennifer Evans	Patricia Kuentz	Sonny Montiel	Patrice Villastrigo
Patricia Biggs	Samuel Evans	Jeffery Landers	Alan Neff	
Belinda Doherty	Mary Fruge-Medford	Sonya Lentz	Susan Reed	
Michael Doherty	Judy Hartman	Martha Lopez	Camille Rodriguez-Brigant	

## Welcome New Associate Members

Mr. Christopher Alvarado	Mr. Joe Flores	Mr. Thomas Lauderdale	Mrs. Beatrice Quintero-Erfurth	Ms. Lindsey Trcka
Ms. Blue Alvarez	Ms. Jacqueline Garcia	Ms. Mary Ledbetter	Mrs. Sarah Randel	Mrs. Linda Trevino
Mrs. Ellen Ames	Mr. Louie Garza	Dr. Julie Luke	Mr. Louis Retault	Ms. Sharon Turner
Mrs. Cindy Axum	Mr. Gene Gentry	Dr. Tim Luke	Mr. Thomas Richardson	Ms. Crystal Uzquiano
Mrs. Angelique Baldree	Mr. William Gerhardt III	Ms. Yara Luna	Ms. Sophia Richardson	Mrs. Monica Valdez
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Mrs. Laura Everest	Ms. Nancy Lara	Mr. Troy Persyn	Ms. Taylor Trcka	

The Preservation Advocate is published by the San Antonio Conservation Society.

Send letters, articles, or comments to: [conserve@saconservation.org](mailto:conserve@saconservation.org).

Submission deadline for the Autumn Newsletter is Friday, July 28, 2017.

*The purpose for which the San Antonio Conservation Society was formed is to preserve and encourage the preservation of historic buildings, objects, places and customs relating to the history of Texas, its natural beauty and all that is admirable and distinctive to our State; and by such physical and cultural preservation to keep the history of Texas legible and intact, to educate the public, especially the youth of today and tomorrow with knowledge of our inherited regional values.*

### Publications Committee

Dorothy Schulze, *Chair*; Janet Dietel, *Ex Officio*; Rosanna Luke, *Staff Support*  
Stella De La Garza-Tenorio, Carolyn Hoelscher, June Kachtik, Terry Schoenert



**San Antonio Conservation Society**  
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 San Antonio, Texas 78204-1312

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## Upcoming Events

Wednesday, June 28, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

General Membership Meeting & Induction  
 Steves Homestead River House

Tuesday, July 4

Fourth of July - Offices closed

Monday, September 4

Labor Day - Offices closed



*We welcomed new members at our new member reception May 25th at the Wulff House.*



## FIESTA 2017



*Ranger Creek Brewing & Distilling held a Summer Open House Saturday, June 3rd, where they launched a new beer called Mission Trail Ale. They are donating a portion of the proceeds of the beer to the San Antonio Conservation Society to support our efforts of conserving the mission trail. We attended the event to help spread the word about conservation!*

