

San Antonio Conservation Society
**THE PRESERVATION
 ADVOCATE**



People Saving Places

Vincent Michael

PastForward 2017 in Chicago was exciting because it marked a turning point in the preservation movement. "People Saving Places for People" is the new mantra of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This means an historic preservation movement that truly pays attention to the mandate of the Burra Charter: involve community from the beginning, even before you decide what is important and worth saving.

Putting people at the center helps counter against two things. First, it addresses the too heavy focus on architecture, which while very important, is an aesthetic choice that may or may not have popular support. Most people like art and architecture, but if preservationists focus too much on those aesthetic values, they lose the people-centered values that really support heritage in our landscape. Architecture can be a reason that a community wants to save things, but ultimately it comes down to shared community values.

Secondly, a people-centered preservation decentralizes it, making it the sort of user-generated modern interface we have become used to. Each community nominates those things it values. When the National Trust and American Express did their This Place Matters context a decade ago, the winner was not an international architectural monument or grand house museum. It was a simple, abandoned but beautiful Humble Oil gas station in San Antonio. Number One in the nation, voted in by the people.

This makes preservation less a scholarly or technical discipline and more of an ethic that underlies many disciplines. I attended my first National Preservation Conference 25 years ago, and I can say that there has been progress in the spread of the preservation ethic. Most people like preservation, and more importantly, in the last quarter-century, a greater number of professionals in planning, architecture, landscape, public history and even environ-

mental engineering share that basic heritage ethic. I attended one event at PastForward where a video was shown of 15 candidates for Mayor and Council in Cincinnati. Every single one of them pledged support for preservation. That would not have happened 25 years ago. This does not mean we should be complacent. Much of the support for preservation during my career has come from the development community, thanks to tax incentives for preservation. These were cut from the recent tax legislation in the House, although they are present in the Senate version, but their future is far from certain.

By putting people at the center of heritage conservation, we find out what is important to them, and how it needs to be conserved to continue to be relevant to the next generation. This also helps address the ongoing Diversity Deficit in heritage, as I discuss on Page 3.

I'm an architectural historian, and there are buildings I love just for their design. But I also understand what it is like to work in a community, and how communities value PLACE. We are getting a sense of that now in San Antonio as residents and others complete the Mission Historic District Design Guidelines Visual Preference Survey. This is a powerful tool because anyone can use it – it means looking at examples of various kinds of structures and landscapes and basically voting on which make sense for a particular area, in this case the Mission Historic District.

The message of PastForward 2017 was clear. This is not about getting more people excited about architecture. It is about getting more people excited about place. This is a task the San Antonio Conservation Society set for itself over 93 years ago, when it recognized the value not only of buildings, but also landscapes and culture. Our World Heritage Missions combine all three of these aspects, and we continue to fight for their preservation.

IN THIS ISSUE:

People Saving Places.....1
 From the President.....2
 From the Executive Director.....3
 Heritage Education Tours.....4
 Happy Holidays.....5
 NIOSA.....6
 Membership.....7
 Society Events.....7

Reflections from the National Trust Conference

Susan Beavin, President



Susan Beavin

The 2017 National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference, called PastForward, was held November 14-17 in Chicago, IL. President Susan Beavin, Executive Director Vince Michael, and board members Patti Zaiantz (1st VP), Kathy Krnavek (2nd VP), Barbara Hall (3rd

VP), Patricia Seidenberger (Sec.), Mary Rogers (Parliamentarian), Stuart Johnson, and Bill Crow represented the San Antonio Conservation Society.

The Society hosted its annual Texas Reception on Tuesday evening in the fabulous Honoree Room of the historic Palmer House Hotel. This event, which falls under the responsibility of the 3rd vice-president, presented a wonderful opportunity to connect with our friends and colleagues in the preservation field across the nation. Barbara Hall wasted no time formulating and executing the plan for our successful event.

Texas Reception attendees were greeted with a 2017 Historic Preservation Month pin and Tricentennial brochures. Following a welcome and introductions by President Susan Beavin, Vince Michael provided opening remarks and played a "Welcome to San Antonio" video that highlighted the Society's accomplishments and San Antonio's upcoming Tricentennial. Barbara also created an enticing, \$1,000 auction basket filled with items from local merchants, which was raffled off at the Preservation Action fundraiser.

Many of us took the tours offered by the National Trust, including the Indiana Dunes and the House of Tomorrow, and the Chicago Overview Tour. However, our executive director led the best tour, speeding us through the Chicago Loop area to view the interior and exterior of the architecturally significant buildings, while expounding the fascinating historical details.

The Opening Plenary, held in the 1889 Adler & Sullivan Auditorium of the Roosevelt Theater, featured well-known speakers, including philanthropist Richard H Drierhaus who presented his

Foundation National Preservation Awards. Two takeaway statements resonated with me. National Trust CEO Stephanie Meeks restated Landmarks Illinois' mantra, "We are people saving places for people". Speaker Lee Bey, VP Dusable Museum of African American History, cited the need for diversity in approach, leadership and direction to make preservation groups stronger in order to protect the built environment and its stories.

We are so grateful for the opportunity to attend these annual Past-Forward conferences. The knowledge gained, fieldtrip experiences and exchange of ideas with friends and fellow preservationists are priceless.

Items of Interest

The San Antonio Conservation Society Board approved the following:

- A donation to the Canary Islanders Descendants Association for their monument project.
- Funding to Randy Rudd Creative to produce a new video for the Society.
- Funding to Immersive Content, Inc. to sponsor a bundle of 5 San Antonio Stories of the Society's choice for the Tricentennial. These will be shown over the year at various locations.
- The Community Grants Committee selected 9 projects to fund.
- The Educational Scholarships and Grants Committee selected funding for three educational projects.
- Changes to rates for the Steves Homestead Complex Property Usage and Photography Policies.
- The Budget Committee will be investigating a rationale for a possible dues increase for 2019. The last increase to \$25.00 occurred in 2002.

On a personal note, we were saddened to learn of the passing of our dear friend, colleague, and volunteer extraordinaire, Christena Crawford on November 23, 2017. She will be greatly missed by all who loved and admired her.



I wish each and every one of you a joyous holiday season and look forward to seeing you at the January and February General Membership Meetings.

From the Executive Director

Vincent Michael, Executive Director

Exactly 40 years after the San Antonio Conservation Society won the most prestigious award in historic preservation, it was given to former National Park Service Director Bob Stanton, whom I got to know through my efforts to help diversify the National Register of Historic Places. Bob has a career in the National Park Service that is only a couple years shy of my entire life, but he has been incredibly generous and warm to one so many years his junior.



Bob Stanton, former National Park Service Director

During my nine-year tenure as a Trustee of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, I helped direct efforts to create a more diverse National Register of Historic Places, an effort I have written about and spoken about many times. I shared a keynote with Bob two years ago at the National Trust Preservation Conference, so it was gratifying to see him achieve preservation's highest honor.

It was also gratifying to see the new PastForward conference focus on people, and to see the work we have done moving into the

mainstream. People Saving Places for People helps address the diversity of the American Experience. It helps get more peoples' stories told, and it helps conserve a wider range of places and a bigger slice of our shared cultural inheritance.

This direction was made clear by the announcement during the conference that an African American Places Action Fund has been created by the National Trust. So many people central to the American story were excluded at times in the past. Many

today remain excluded because of a preservation system that prioritizes architecture above the stories people tell about the places they love.

We had a very successful Texas Hospitality Reception at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago, where over 100 attendees were urged to join San Antonio's Tricentennial celebrations through a short video by Mayor Ron Nirenberg. Many thanks to Barbara Hall for arranging the event, to President Susan Beavin, and to our Board members Patti Zaiontz, Kathy Krvanek, Patricia Seidenberger, Mary Rogers, Bill Crow, and Stuart Johnson for attending.

The stature and import of the San Antonio Conservation Society remains strong across the nation. Our donation to the Preservation Action Auction – a special trip to visit San Antonio – raised over \$1,000 for the cause on Wednesday evening. On Thursday, I spoke as part of a panel on the preservation of Lathrop Homes – a 1937 WPA federal housing project in Chicago. I had worked on the team in 2010-2012. My presentation included a short discussion of our own challenges with the threatened Alazan -Apache Courts, another WPA project from 1940.

The National Preservation Conference is always a time to catch up with colleagues from across the country, and to learn the latest in techniques and tools for heritage conservation. I found the full day session with the Partners – other state and local groups like ours – to be the most fruitful for understanding the issues we all have in common, from land-hungry hospitals to short-term rental laws. In all, an instructive, productive and edifying conference.



Vincent Michael

Capital Club Refreshes Yturri-Edmunds



The Oge Carriage House and Yturri-Edmunds Mill were recently restored and refreshed thanks to Capital Club member Michael Doherty, who donated the men and materials of his Black Pearl Custom Painting to clean and seal the two wooden structures. Doherty had been inspired to donate the work after attending the Capital Club reception at the site in February of this year. Many thanks to Michael and Black Pearl!

SAVE THE DATE!
Historic Preservation Month and Seminar
Reflecting the Past with the WPA & the San Antonio Conservation Society
Saturday, May 19, 2018

57th Annual Heritage Education Tours - History Comes Alive for City's Fourth-Graders

Dorothy Schulze and Elaine Vetter, Heritage Education Tours Co-Chairs

Twenty-three schools, nearly twenty-four hundred students, one hundred and sixty-five teachers and almost two hundred volunteers made the 57th annual Heritage Education Tours one for the record books. The tours ran from November 6-10 and November 13-17 and is the largest community outreach program of the San Antonio Conservation Society next to A Night in Old San Antonio® (NIOA®). Generous support from NIOA, the H-E-B Tournament of Champions, and the Mirza and Edwards Foundations allow the Conservation Society to introduce scores of local fourth-graders to some of the history of their own city.



Teachers at the training session

Co-chairmen Dorothy Ozan Schulze and Elaine Milam Vetter worked long and diligently coordinating this two week event. Prior to the tours, each school was required to have at least one teacher attend a training session conducted by educator, Bill Perryman. Mr. Perryman is recognized throughout the State as an expert in teaching elementary

school children about Texas history. More than thirty teachers participated in this opportunity on September 30 at the River House. Each school received a copy of the book *The Little River That Wouldn't Run Straight* by Milo Kearney and a PDF file with permission from the publisher to reproduce this book for all fourth-grade teachers. It is a child's history of the San Antonio River and was used by teachers to prepare students for their visits.

Students visited two of eight historical venues, including The Alamo, Missions San Jose, San Juan, Concepcion, the Spanish Governor's Palace,



Granaderos y Damas de Galvez

Casa Navarro, Yturri-Edmunds House, and the Steves Homestead. Many of these fourth-graders had never visited even one of these sites so it was gratifying witnessing their excitement and enthusiasm at what is hoped will be the first of many visits. On many occasions these tours were enhanced by the presence of living history actors. Special thanks go to the Buffalo Soldiers, the Descendants of the Canary Islanders, the Granaderos y Damas de Galvez, the San Antonio Food Bank farmers and two of our Conservation Society members, Kathleen Carter and Mary Rogers, who assumed the character of Ernestine Edmunds for the benefit of the children.

Gratitude is also due to the many professional tour guides and volunteers who navigated these tours and helped them run smoothly. Volunteers came from the Society membership, every local Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) and even one DRT volunteer from Goliad, the King William Homeowners Association, and members of the UTSA Students' Historic Preservation Club.

The Heritage Education Tours fulfill an important aspect of the Conservations Society's Mission Statement: *...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.* The ten days were full of memorable experiences. One such experience was when professional guide, Richard Valdez, sang a verse of *Amazing Grace* in the sanctuary of Mission Concepcion, illustrating the beauty of the its acoustics for the children seated on the floor in front of the altar. Following that, Mr. Valdez encouraged the students to choose a song and make a joyful noise with their own voices. They did – twenty young voices singing a rousing *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* in a sanctuary almost three hundred years-old! At Mission San Juan, not only did fourth-graders learn about 18th century farming techniques, but they were delighted by the magical appearance of a baby bunny from the pocket of the Food Bank's pocket. An 18th century Franciscan monk visited with the children at the Spanish Governor's Palace, taking them back in time and place. Guides Ken and Bea Erfurth taught the students about frescoes and naturally occurring pigments, a veritable lesson in local geology and entomology. The children left these tours with much more than their "I Took the Tour!" stickers. They left with a new appreciation for the unique history of the city in which they live and memories that will last a lifetime.



Students enjoyed the San Antonio Food Bank & Buffalo Soldiers during this year's tours



Happy Holidays from the San Antonio Conservation Society



Give the Gift of Membership this Holiday Season!

The holiday season is in full swing and that means you're looking for unique gifts for family and friends. Consider giving the gift of a San Antonio Conservation Society membership and give your family and friends the chance to be a part of the best preservation organization in the city. You can fill out the form below or visit us online at www.saconservation.org/gift and we'll send the gift membership to you or your designated recipient just in time for the holidays.

Member Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Gifted Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

- Please send the gift letter to me
- Please send the gift letter directly to the recipient indicating who gave the gift

Mail this completed form and \$25 membership payment to:
 San Antonio Conservation Society
 107 King William St.
 San Antonio, TX 78204

Winter 2017 Honorariums

In honor of Artie & Janet Dietel
 Dr. John Sanchez

Winter 2017 Donations

Donors
 \$5 - \$99
 Dr. Gerald Mulvey
 Mrs. Victoria Wells

Winter 2017 Memorials

In memory of Sally Buchanan
 Mr. Bob Buchanan

NIOSA® Update

Margie Arnold, 4th Vice President

You are familiar with the award-winning event “A Night In Old San Antonio®,” but are you familiar with a NIOSITA®? A NIOSITA is a small, private version of NIOSA® that is hosted by Conservation Society volunteers for convention groups, organizations, individuals, and other gatherings of 300 or more. As with NIOSA, all proceeds benefit the historic preservation, education and museum programs of the Conservation Society. Recently, we hosted a NIOSITA for 1,048 guests from the International City Managers Association. Our guests were totally in awe of everything, from the colorful flowers, to the non-stop entertainment, to the many fabulous Texas foods. What amazed them even more was the fact that all 200 people working that night were volunteers for the Conservation Society! The event was a huge success, so if you had even a tiny roll in the planning and execution of this, please accept my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation. We cannot do it without you! NIOSA 2018 preparations are in “full speed ahead” mode! The 2018 NIOSA medal will be beautiful, commemorating 70 years of



NIOSA. It will be available on March 1, 2018, so watch the NIOSA website for further details. And please don't forget: those of you chairing or working in an alcohol booth must be TABC-certified. The online training portal on the NIOSA website is active now through March 31, 2018. If your training certification expires before April 24, 2018, you must re-certify. Call our office at 210-226-5188 for more information.

Important Request: we need your help! NIOSA does not happen without volunteers – LOTS of them. There are many different tasks to be accomplished so there's something for everyone to do, no matter the skill level, talent or interest. We need office volunteers; the Decorations and Cascarones committees can always use extra hands; the NIOSA Crafters' Store needs volunteers to help with crafting and/or working the register; and of course, we need your help with every facet of the actual event. Call us

for more information and to sign up at 210-226-5188.

VIVA NIOSA!!!

NIOSA Crafters' Store® Now Open

On November 21, the NIOSA Crafters' Store® at 218 S. Presa St. officially reopened its doors. The renovated building is a far cry from the Crafters' humble beginnings. In 2013, the “store” was in the kitchen of the Alaskan Palace. A group of Fiesta® veteran volunteers approached NIOSA® with the idea of adding an additional revenue stream. They crafted many of the traditional items typical of NIOSA and Fiesta. The flower wreaths with ribbon streamers, cascarones, fascinators, and jewelry were among the first items made. That first year they added about \$3,000 to NIOSA's overall income.

In 2015, the building across from the Gresser House became available. Having a place to display and sell unique items made the store a popular place for tourists and locals. Last year, the NIOSA office asked the store to help sell memberships and tickets. The store's revenue for 2017 was over \$50,000 including ticket sales. In the spring of 2017, NIOSA Chairman Patti Zaiantz and Executive Director Vincent Michael worked feverishly to rent the building year-round. A lease was signed and the building closed

for renovations. Work began in June and was completed in October. The store is now open for business 7 days a week. But...being open year-round means we need commitment from members to volunteer their time and talents to continue to make the store a success. If you know anyone who can craft or give a few hours of time a week, please contact us at (210) 541-4067.



The Crafters' Store is open & full of unique items for everyone on your holiday lists!



Welcome New Associate Members

Mr. Christopher Coffey	Mr. Anthony Moreno	Mr. Ronald Tate
Mr. Vicente Cruz	Dr. Gerald Mulvey	Mrs. Veronica Thelen
Ms. Sue Erhardt	Mrs. Susan Riedesel	Ms. Valerie Villarreal
Mr. Matthew Gloria	Mr. Dennis Riedesel	LCDR Mike Weinert
Mrs. Stephanie Macias	Ms. Veronica Sanchez	Mrs. Victoria Wells
Ms. Megan McLeod	Ms. Jessie Simpson	Mrs. Debbie Willhite

Welcome New Capital Club Members

Corinthian	Keystone	
\$10,000+ Level	\$500 Level	
Stephen Cavender	Susan Beavin	Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Johnson
	Kathleen M. Carter	Roxana McGregor
	James R. Garner	

San Antonio Conservation Society Events



Members of the Conservation Society set up a table at the fall Siclovia



Junior Associates at the Annual Gingerbread House Decorating Party



Members of the Conservation Society enjoyed outdoor activities during Siclovia



Beth Standifird, Librarian, Ron Bauml, Properties Restoration Manager, & Vincent Michael, Executive Director, attend the annual Historic Homeowners Fair at the Pearl

San Antonio Conservation Society Membership Travel - Lecture Series



Presidio Gallery Tour

Wednesday, January 17, 2018 @ 1:30pm
Texas A&M University Presidio Gallery - 402 Dwyer

Artifacts from the Republic of Texas Library Collection are now on view. Special Collections Manager will give a tour. Confirm your reservation by payment to the San Antonio Conservation Society, Attn: Presidio Gallery Tour, 107 King William, SA, TX, 78204.
Cost: \$10 Society members/ \$15 non-members

Lecturer Daniel Bluestone

Saturday, February 3, 2018 @ 5:30pm
Edward Steves Homestead River House-509 King William

Dr. Daniel Bluestone, Director of Preservation Studies Program at Boston University, will speak about the key shifts in the preservation movement in 1957: the Robie House and Penn Station. Confirm your reservation by payment to the San Antonio Conservation Society, Attn: Visiting Lecturer, 107 King William, SA, TX 78204.
Cost: \$10 Society members/ \$15 non-members

For more information, visit www.saconservation.org



Steves Homestead House Museum & Garden
Welcomes

Dean Norton, Director of Horticulture at Mount Vernon
Home of Martha & George Washington
Co-Author of "The General in the Garden"

Hear Dean talk about preservation, restoration and conservation of Mount Vernon & the Gardens

January 20, 2018 at 10:00 am

Meet & Greet with Lite Bites and Mimosas
\$30 Members, \$35 Non-members, Free to Children under 10

Door Prizes from Mount Vernon
Reservation Required: call 210-224-6163
Proceeds to benefit Steves Homestead Garden

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

Send letters, articles, or comments to: conserve@saconservation.org.

Submission deadline for the Spring Newsletter is Friday, February 9, 2018.

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

Terry Schoenert, *Chair*; Susan Beavin, *Ex Oficio*; Rosanna Luke, *Staff Support*



San Antonio Conservation Society
 107 King William Street
 San Antonio, Texas 78204-1312

NON-PROFIT ORG
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 SAN ANTONIO, TX
 PERMIT NO. 158



Ken & Bea Erfurth, Conservation Society members & professional tour guides, Dr. Julie Luke, Capital Club member, Rosanna Luke, staff, Dr. Tim Luke, Capital Club member, and Lewis Vetter, Conservation Society member volunteering for Heritage Education Tours



Children & Conservation Society members enjoy Archaeology Day at Mission San Jose

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|---|---|
| Monday, December 25 - Tuesday, December 26 | Christmas Holiday - Offices closed |
| Monday, January 1 | New Year's Day Holiday - Conservation Society Office closed |
| Sunday, January 14, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm | Junior Associates Meeting, River House |
| Wednesday, January 17, 1:30 - 3:00 pm | Presidio Gallery Tour, Bexar County Archives |
| Saturday, January 20, 10:00 am | Dean Norton Lecture, Steves Homestead |
| Wednesday, January 24, 5:30 - 7:30 pm | General Membership Meeting - Latino Collection & Resource Center, Central Public Library |
| Saturday, February 3, 5:30 - 7:00 pm | Daniel Bluestone Lecture, River House |
| Sunday, February 11, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm | Junior Associates Meeting, River House |
| Saturday, February 24, 8:30 - 4:00 pm | Teacher Education Seminar - Steves Homestead River House |
| Wednesday, February 28, 5:30 - 7:30 pm | General Membership Meeting - Location TBD |



Stay in the Know: Follow Us on Instagram and Facebook