



IN THIS ISSUE:

Hertzberg Clock Gets TLC.....	1
It Takes a Village	2
Alamo Plaza Plan Unveiled.....	3
Fiesta 2019 Recap	4
NIOSA News.....	5
Summer 2019 Donations.....	6
Honorariums.....	6
Capital Club	6
2019 Officers and Board of Directors	7
New Active & Associate Members.....	7
New Corporation/Organization Members.....	7



Hertzberg Clock Gets Some TLC

Ron Bauml, Restoration Manager

This corner timepiece has been a landmark for generations of San Antonians, who would "meet you at the clock." Cast in iron by the E. Howard Clock Company of Boston, it was first installed in front of the Eli Hertzberg Jewelry Company on Commerce Street in 1878. In 1910, the company – and its clock – moved to the corner of St. Mary's and Houston Streets. When Zales purchased the company in 1964, the store relocated to suburbia, leaving the Hertzberg clock behind.

In 1982, Mrs. Thomas C. Bordelon and Mrs. Jesse B. Poston, daughters of long-time Hertzberg owners Max and Nell Goodman, donated the clock to the Conservation Society Foundation in their parents' memory. The generosity of the Republic Bank of San Antonio, London Watch and Clock Company, and Kurt Voss Metals, Inc., funded the necessary restoration work.

Today, this unusual street clock continues to be hand-wound rather than electrically driven. International Bank of Commerce's Mark Laven performs this service for the Society, ensuring that the clock keeps accurate time. However, any piece of 1870s mechanical equipment, especially a clock, requires periodic maintenance. Since the Society received it, the clock has been dismantled and restored at least three times, most recently by Master Clock Mechanic Ed Gaida in 2008.

The passing years in the hot Texas sun took their toll, not on the clock's workings, but on its paint. The dark green faded to a mossy color and the gold accents completely disappeared from some areas. The Conservation Society noted the condition of the finishes five years ago and budgeted funds to repaint.

Sounds simple enough...Right? Just hire a painter and paint it. Well, not just anybody is skilled enough to handle such an unusual paint project in the middle of a busy downtown sidewalk.

The Society reached out to several artists, craftsmen, and restoration specialists, but no one was willing to tackle the seventeen-foot monster on the corner of St. Mary's and Houston Street . . . until we were referred to an art conservator by the name of Chis King. Thankfully, Chris possessed the right skill set and the willingness to tackle our project.

Chris started work on the landmark clock on May 6th. Working off a mast lift, she stripped paint, applied a primer coat and the final finish coat of industrial urethane paint. The wooden clock face hands were removed, restored and are now back in place. The project was completed in May.

The original vivid color scheme of the Hertzberg Clock gleams proudly downtown, making the clock a memorable meeting place once again.





It Takes a Village

Susan Beavin, President

In the 2017 Summer Advocate, I wrote, “It is both a great privilege to serve as President of the San Antonio Conservation Society and a challenge to carry forward the prestigious reputation of our organization.” I stated my goals: “to keep the membership informed about, and engaged in, activities that further the Society’s mission to promote historic preservation and heritage education.”

We have made great strides forward in our communication to the membership. First, we reinstated the weekly eblast to members with updates about the Society, upcoming events, local preservation and cultural heritage opportunities, and action items. The Society’s new website launched two years ago and has continued to evolve. In this digital age, it provides easy access to our governing documents, statements, a calendar of events, call to action and membership directory.

To increase our public outreach, the Membership Development Committee has been attending numerous community events, generating interest in the Society’s mission. Thank you, Melinda Tomerlin and your committee for your enthusiastic participation in Historic Homeowner Fair, Siclovía, the Pachanga, and the Texas History Symposium.

Our Neighborhood Liaison Committee, under the guidance of Chair June Kachtik, has been working with the American Institute of Architects San Antonio and the Office of Historic Preservation to provide community workshops. These sessions teach neighborhoods how to work with developments in their areas. The joint mission of the three of us has created a powerful working relationship, well received by the attendees.

We also created several new committees. The Steves Events Committee, under Chair Shirley Dyer, provided numerous activities. These ranged from lectures, such as Stuart Johnson’s, “How Buildings Learn,” Michael Haynes’ “Victorian Secrets,” Margie Arnold’s “Behind the Scenes at NIOSA,” and Vince Michael’s “History of Historic Districts,” to family fun at “Breakfast with the Easter Bunny.” Each event drew an attendance of approximately 50 people, many of whom were not Society members. What an opportunity to spread our message!

Speaking of Membership Opportunities, this new committee, headed by former president Lynn Bobbitt with the assistance of architect Lewis Fisher, provided two all-day bus trips designed around the local history of Cuero, Goliad and Gonzales. Bob Buchanan brought breakfast tacos and Joanna Parrish provided snacks as additional treats. Final remarks echoed by all were, “We want more!!” Let the fun continue!

General Membership Meetings are a society staple, and everyone looks forward to the annual Weihnachtsfeier at the Steves Homestead. However, we continue to travel around the city, providing programs of community interest, such as Everett Fly, FASLA’s talk on Black History at the Little Carver, reinitiating the Los Pastores de Belden pageant in the River House garden, and Anne and Katie Alexander’s, “You Can’t Take it with You” at the Vogt Auction House. Program Chair Linda Skop and her tireless committee offered attendees delectable refreshments coordinated with the program themes. Impressive! And I will add a “hats-off” to new Hospitality Chair Linda Alwine, who took up the challenge of the Christmas and Kings’ Parties while helping Shirley Dyer with the Steves Events, as well. Kudos to all!

Last year the Marketing Committee, under the leadership of Kathy Rhoads, worked with Immersive Content to initiate the very successful San Antonio Stories series, including several videos about the Society. The current Marketing Committee chair, Torrey Carleton, with Kathy’s assistance, is working with the Wood Agency to strategize branding opportunities to be unveiled this fall. The agency proved instrumental in facilitating the successful Alamo Museum Compromise Plan Press Conference. We are most grateful to members of the recently formed Woolworth Coalition for their participation and strategic help. Beth Standifird, our research librarian, played a key part in our advocacy efforts to save the Woolworth Building. She helped produce several preservation nominations, including the one for State Antiquities Landmark designation that the Texas Historical Commission approved.

Many challenges over these past two years remain unresolved: landmark designation of the Nogalitos gas station; the fate of the Crockett, Palace, and Woolworth buildings across from the Alamo; and the future of Maverick Plaza.

It truly “takes a village” to continue propelling the Conservation Society forward. We rely on the talents of our dedicated Wulff House, NIOSA and Warehouse staff, Executive Committee, Board of Directors and former presidents. A special thanks to Vince Michael for his guidance through these two years, and for the friendship of Joanna Parrish, my Presidential Advisor.



Joanna Parrish with Susan Beavin

Alamo Plaza Plan Unveiled

Vincent Michael, Executive Director

Our official Historic Preservation Month event this May was a lecture and tour of La Villita, but May was also a banner month for the Coalition for the Woolworth Building, a group the Conservation Society has been part of for more than six months. On May 10th, the Texas Historical Commission voted unanimously to designate the Woolworth Building in San Antonio as a State Antiquities Landmark. While no landmark designation can absolutely prevent demolition, this status is significant. More importantly, unlike the earlier designations (National Register and City), this nomination included a detailed discussion of the civil rights history of the site.

Just three days earlier, the Coalition and the Conservation Society held a press conference with architectural renderings illustrating a compromise plan to save the Woolworth and Crockett Buildings while still exposing the location of the mission's west wall. The event got good coverage in print and television and radio! One of the ironies of the decades-old attempt to reveal the site of the western wall is that the northern wall – beneath the Post Office and Gibbs Building – was more significant in the 1836 battle. This is where Santa Anna broke through and this is where commanding officer Lt. Col. Travis fell.

No remains of the western wall survive. Not only were the walls destroyed right after the 1836 battle, but the Crockett Block and adjacent buildings have full basements, which eliminate any remnant of 17th century foundations (unless the Franciscans were sinking 14-foot deep footings).

Our plan preserves the Crockett and Woolworth Buildings while adding a large 4-story addition to the rear to achieve the stated goal of a 130,000 square foot museum. We also feature an arcade through the buildings to reveal where the wall was. This provides “teaser” space for the exhibits inside, which can include the Castañeda and Treviño house sites along the wall, as well as the Woolworth lunch counter site. As I said to a reporter following the press conference, “You can walk along the line of the wall and when you reach the Woolworth interior, you can turn right and learn about the battle, then turn left and learn about the lunch counter integration.”

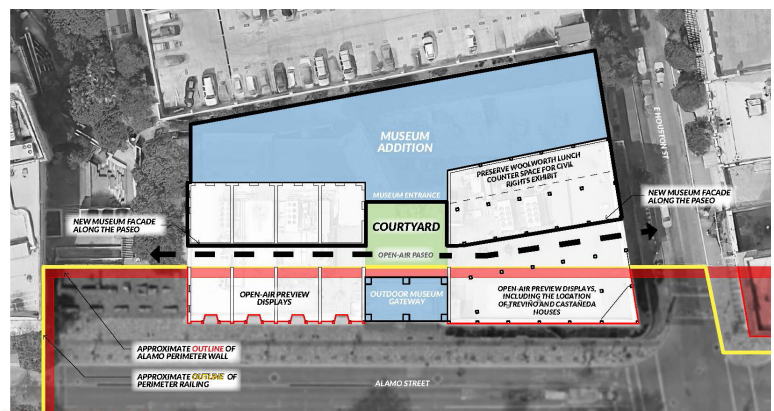


Alamo ARCHITECTS Alamo Museum Massing Study | Perspective of Pedestrian Passage Looking North San Antonio, TX May 3, 2019

Unlike the Conservation Society's earlier position, our compromise plan shows an enclosed plaza with the State's proposed barrier illustrated in the abstract. Moreover, the Palace Theater facade is removed to allow for a grand entrance to the new museum. While this displeases some preservationists, we feel that this concession allows the plan to achieve all of the goals stated in the Reimagine the Alamo master plan and interpretive plan.



Alamo ARCHITECTS Alamo Museum Massing Study | Perspective Rendering from Chapel Looking West San Antonio, TX May 3, 2019



Alamo ARCHITECTS Alamo Museum Massing Study | Ground Floor Plan San Antonio, TX May 3, 2019

Sadly, the Alamo management dismissed our vision for a new museum, enclosed plaza AND preserved landmarks. We will continue to urge the State, which has owned the buildings since 2015, and the Alamo team to come to a final design that includes both landmark buildings and a world-class museum while telling the full 300-year history of the plaza.

FIESTA 2019 Recap - Parades

The Conservation Society once again participated in four parades during Fiesta this year. The Texas Cavalier River Parade started things off on Monday, April 22nd, followed by the Battle of Flowers Parade on Friday, April 25th, the King William Fair Parade (our Junior Associates were the Honor Guard this year!) on the morning of Saturday April 26th, and the Fiesta Flambeau Parade later that night (we won 2nd place in the Equestrian category!). Our many thanks to everyone who helped put all these events together!



FIESTA 2019 Recap - Kings' Party

The opening parade for NIOSA® kicked off Tuesday, April 23rd. This party is thrown every year in honor of King Antonio and King Rey Feo. The parade winds through the streets of La Villita and ends in front of 511 Villita St, the location of the Conservation Society's Kings Party. Fiesta eggs are presented as gifts for the Kings. The Kings Party is a tradition that has gone on for many years.



NIOSA® 2019

Margie Arnold, 4th Vice President

How honored I have been to serve two years as Fourth Vice President-NIOSA Chairman for the San Antonio Conservation Society. What an emotional and fulfilling year to organize and put together the 71st presentation of “A Night In Old San Antonio.”

Weather was again a threat, but the gates opened on time - rain or shine - and every night our NIOSA volunteers were ready to welcome our guests to a “Celebration for Preservation”. We had over 73,000 guests and brought in over \$2.5 million of revenue over the four nights to help fund the historic preservation efforts and programs of the Conservation Society.



I am deeply grateful to all those who worked tirelessly to make NIOSA 2019 happen-starting with my vice chairmen: Sharon Hearn, Dee Wright, Jana Foreman and Julie Terrill; and NIOSA Treasurer Jackie Fellers, along with the countless hours of hard work by our incredible team of stagers: Brad Dietrich, Ray Moreno, Scott Cox, Jeff West, Rick Zertuche, Artie Dietel, and Gene Willette. I can't forget the many volunteers in service and support roles such as: cascarones, decorations, banners, consolidated foods, coupons, electrical appliances, cup supply, paper supply, safety/fire extinguishers, souvenirs and the Finance room, just to name a few; the 15 area chairmen and their supporting teams; and the booth chairmen and workers for the 200+ food, drink and “atmosphere” booths. Thanks also to Deborah Lund and her creative team who helped with decorations and crafts for numerous special events. I also give my heartfelt thanks to the NIOSA Staff: Audrey Haake, Lisa Schneider, and Mandy Rodriguez, for keeping all of us organized and prepared and warehouse staff Nic Yanes and Gerald Walsh for moving the mountains of equipment needed.



NIOSA has kept many of its traditions but embraced changes which have been needed over the years. By now you may have heard of the City's plans to change Maverick Plaza (our Frontier Town area). The renovation project has many unknowns; however, **we have EVERY intention of keeping NIOSA in La Villita.** What better place for a “Celebration for Preservation” than this 18th century historic landmark in the heart of downtown? There may changes to the footprint and content of our event next year, but our focus will remain as it has for 71 years: to celebrate the city's diverse heritage and improve the event for our guests and volunteers.



Speaking of changes, we are proud of an initiative this year to improve our event cleanup. We worked with Venue Smart, a cleaning contractor known for responsible recycling policies. We were happy to see that the cups and bottles collected in the blue recycling bins were kept separate and put in a special recycling dumpster at the end of the night. We also continued to improve our bag screening procedure and small bag policy (bags larger than 12” x 12” x 6” and all backpacks were prohibited).

I close with thanks for all the wonderful memories and many lasting friendships and with a deep-rooted satisfaction that NIOSA again was a safe, fun and family-friendly fundraising event that helps the Conservation Society promote historic preservation through programs such as education tours, grants, awards and advocacy programs. Viva NIOSA!



Summer 2019 Capital Club



Keystone Level

Mr. & Mrs. Lee Golden	Mr. Raul Rodriguez
Ms. Robin Steinhauser-Templeton	Mr. Rob Vogt
Chef Johnny Hernandez	Mr. David Richardson

Summer 2019 Donations

Golden Eggs

Mrs. Helen Groves

Preservation Cornerstones

We would like to issue our sincerest apologies; in our Spring issue, a layout error caused many of our Preservation Cornerstone donors to not appear. We thank them for their generosity and patience!

Mrs. Mary Briscoe-Cushman	Mrs. Diane Marks Harvey	Mrs. Gemma Kennedy	Dr. Linda Rhodes	Mrs. Joyce Trent
Ms. Laura Butterfield	Ms. Caryn Hasslocher	Mrs. Laura J. Lye	Mrs. Rollette Schreckenghost-Smith	Dr. Janet Williams
Mr. John Debner	Mrs. Karen Hixon	Mrs. Celeste McEntire	Mrs. Linda Seeligson	Mrs. Evelyn L. J. Williams
Mrs. Jacqueline C. Epstein	Ms. Joanne Holshouser	Ms. Fransisca C. Medina	Ms. Linda Segesman	Mr. Harry Wright
Mrs. Jackie Fellers	Mrs. Mary Jane Howe	Ms. Sandra O'Banion	Mr. Joseph W Shulter	Mrs. Bartell Zachry
Mrs. Rhonda Flores	Mrs. Loretta Huddleston	Mrs. Aurora Pacheco	Mrs. Penelope Smith-Singleton	
Mrs. Peggy Furches	Mrs. Mary Frances Huron	Mr. Howard W. Peak IV	Ms. Sydney Parker Spence	
Mrs. Bobbie Dale Giffen	Ms. Margaret Koors	Mrs. Maria Pfeiffer	Mrs. Marilyn V. Strickland	
Mrs. Libby Golden	Mrs. Martha James	Charles Porter, Ph.D.	Ms. Patsy A. Taylor	
Mrs. Mary B. Haerr	Miss Rose Jimenez	Mr. Morgan Price		

Bricks & Mortar Friends

Ms. Leticia Estrada	Mr. Pat Halpin	Mrs. Tracy Moore	Mrs. Linda O'Neill	Ms. Patsy Shows
Mrs. Helen Geyer				

Foundation Builders

Ms. Cynthia Boeck	Mr. Bill McGarry	Mrs. Sue Ann Pemberton	Mrs. Susanne Richardson	Mrs. Christina Gomez-Terry
Ms. Barbara Flood				

Donors

Mrs. Elizabeth Delaney	Mrs. Ellen Fernandez	Mr. Donald Harrell	Thomas & Dolores Michael	Mrs. Patricia Small
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Honorariums

In Honor of Ms. Eusebia (Chata) Gomez
Mrs. Janet Dietel

In Honor of Dr. Vincent Michael
The San Antonio Bar Auxiliary

In Honor of Kay Hindes
The Fenwick Club

2019-2020 Officers

President Patti Zaiontz	Second Vice President Stella Tenorio-De La Garza	Fourth Vice President Terry Schoenert	Secretary Melinda Tomerlin
First Vice President Virginia VanCleave	Third Vice President Kathy Rhoads	Fifth Vice President Rose Moran	Treasurer Sandy Sands

2019-2020 Elected Directors

Linda Alwine	Jana Foreman	Barbara Hall	Kate Ruckman
Jacqueline Contreras-Epstein	Christi Forestier	Wayne Hartmann	
Shirley Dyer	Mary Fruge-Medford	Rick Hernandez	

Newly-Elected Active Members

Mr. Raul Galindo	Mrs. Bea Quintero-Erfurth	Ms. Kathy Rodriguez
Mrs. Beth Hollowell	Ms. Irene Rendon	Mrs. Julie Terrill
Ms. Jane Martin	Mr. Thomas Richardson	Mrs. Tookie Walthall

Welcome New Associate Members

Ms. Brenda Abed	Ms. Lee Ann Davison	Ms. Kay Hindes	Mrs. Tracy Moore	Ms. Hannah Rusher
Mrs. Wendi Bivings	Mr. Perry Donop, Jr.	Mr. James Maginot	Mrs. Allison Mulvey	Mrs. Azadeh Sagheb
Ms. Cynthia Boeck	Mr. Christopher Fullerton	Mr. Steve Maller	Ms. Velma Nanka-Bruce	Rev. Dr. James E. Schellenberg
Mr. Armando Bravo	Ms. Roxana Garcia	Mrs. Cynthia Maller	Ms. Berdella Nunez	Ms. Diane Schoenert
Mr. Terry Campbell	Mrs. Alice Garza	Dr. Eileen Marin	Ms. Chie Patry	Mr. Georg Seidel
Mr. Richard Carrillo	Mr. James Gawlick	Mrs. Rebecca Martinez	Ms. Marlene Quick	Mr. Tony Talamantez
Ms. Victoria Costantino	Ms. Anna Hammad	Mr. Bill McGarry	Mr. David Richardson	Mr. Darian Terrones
Ms. Desarae Davila	Mr. William Heilner	Mrs. Connie Michel	Ms. Diana Rodriguez	Mr. Patrick Torrez

Welcome New Organization/Corporation Members

Organization Members

Centro of San Antonio
Alamo Mission Chapter, DRT

Corporation Members

We have added two new types of membership! If you are interested in a membership for your corporation or organization, please contact us for dues and benefits information at 210-224-6163 or membership@saconservation.org.

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

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

Submission deadline for the Fall Advocate is Friday, August 2nd, 2019.

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:

Dr. Paul Ringenbach, *Chair*; Susan Beavin, *Ex Officio*; Brandi Hayes, *Staff Support*



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San Antonio, Texas 78204-1312

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‘Here is is, I helped to save it’ - Miss Anna Ellis (1927)

Perez Street Jacal



The jacal is the earliest – and rarest – building type in San Antonio, with only 7 left in the entirety of Bexar County. Constructed of vertical posts chinked in with adobe and other materials, jacales made the city’s early growth possible, but were quickly replaced as San Antonio grew. The jacal on Perez Street behind the Robert Green Hospital is a rare survivor, along with a stone-and-brick house that dates to the 1850s. These are two of the earliest buildings on the West Side.

In the 1980s, the City allowed the hospital to tear down another landmark in exchange for saving these two Perez St. houses, but they languished until the end of the century, when the Conservation Society stepped in with grants totaling almost \$30,000 in 2000 and 2001. These led to a temporary protective cover over the jacal to prevent further deterioration. The Society also secured a \$5,000 grant from the National Trust in 2012, but the “temporary” roof began to collapse and threaten the structure in 2017. At the Society’s urging, University Hospital Systems finally stepped in and hired master craftsman Balthazar Espinosa to meticulously restore the jacal in 2018.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, June 26,
5:30pm -7:30pm

General Membership Meeting - *River House*

Monday, September 2

Labor Day - Offices closed

Wednesday, September 25,
5:30 - 7:30 pm

General Membership Meeting - *Location TBD*



Easter at the Steves fun for our Jr. Associates and their parents too!



Proceeds from the sale of the limited edition Josephine Street medal are donated to the Society; over \$1,000 raised!