

# *Annual Report*



## **The Rand Building**

Now the center of technology business in San Antonio, this Chicago School skyscraper was the tallest in the city when it was built in 1913. To preserve it, the Society purchased it in 1981 and resold it shortly thereafter. As with all of its cessioned properties, the Society maintains a conservation easement to insure preservation of the building's architectural elements in perpetuity.

# Annual Reports

## *The Conservation Society of San Antonio And San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation*

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### *Advocacy*

#### *Wins*

Among the preservation “wins” this year were three early houses that had been threatened for decades. The **Dullnig Schneider Building** was finally stabilized after lengthy negotiations with the building’s owner, the city, and evaluation by an engineer. The exterior was restored and rear additions removed, while the city determines its final use.

Earlier this year a protective temporary roof began to collapse on the **Perez Street Jacal**, one of only a handful of genuine jacales left in the city. The Society had invested more than \$30,000 in the roof yet the jacal languished for almost two decades and was very nearly lost. This year owners University Health Care System finally stabilized and rebuilt the original jacal following the removal of the 19 year old “temporary” roof.

A third early house, the **Bergara-Le Compte** finally received a new roof following its stabilization and repair after a fire. The Society coordinated its efforts between the City and property owner, the San Antonio River Authority.

In addition to the preservation of individual buildings, the Society advocated for the successful designation of three new historic districts: **Westfort, Nathan, and East French Place**. The Society supported the landmark Designation of **800 W Russell** and **2511 N Flores** which served as affordable housing in the Alta Vista neighborhood since the early 1920s. City Council voted in favor of their designation. In January of 2018, the Texas Historical Commission Approved **Trinity University’s** application for designation as a historic district on the National Register of Historic Places. The Society was in favor of this decision.

**Hays Street Bridge** - Following the approval of a proposed apartment building on land adjacent to the Hays Street Bridge, the Society filed an Amicus Curiae brief with the Texas Supreme Court. Citing the grant awarded for the restoration of the bridge, the Society argued that the apartment will interrupt the current view of the bridge from land originally allocated for public use. The city swapped lands with the developer and will construct a park instead.

## Concerns

Areas of concern included the ongoing **Alamo Plaza** plan, with the Society still fighting to save the historic buildings (Crockett, Palace and Woolworth) facing the Alamo chapel and shrine. The Alamo Plan cast a large shadow over the Society this past year. In June of 2018, the Society released a petition criticizing the interpretive plan for departing drastically from the concepts originally approved by City Council in 2017. The proposed fence, accompanying gates, street closures and the movement or removal of historic elements were the primary focus of the petition, which received 7,600 signatures and was presented to City council in October of 2018. The plan threatens the **Crockett Block, Palace Theater and Woolworth Building**, the latter two being the most endangered. The Society continues to fight for their preservation by coordinating efforts to prove the importance of the Woolworth Building to the history of Civil Rights in San Antonio and the United States.

San Antonio became the first city to peacefully desegregate lunch counters on March 16, 1960. The Society teamed up with a variety of local groups to form the **Coalition for the Woolworth Building**. The Coalition has seen many successes in its advocacy work, including having the building listed on the **2020 World Monuments Fund Watch List**, joining 24 other sites from the across the world. The Coalition partnered with Alamo Architects to develop an alternative plan for the Alamo Museum that met the state's programmatic requirements while saving the Crockett and Woolworth buildings. This was revealed in May 2019. That same month the Woolworth Building was designated a State Antiquities Landmark thanks to the Society's efforts.

The house designed by Alfred Giles in 1880 for Dr. Claudius King at **819 Augusta (Bright Shawl)** was moved from its original location on Augusta to make way for an apartment complex. Despite the Society's efforts to moderate the design of the new development, HDRC gave conceptual approval to the project. The adjacent 1970s banquet hall was demolished this year.

**901-905 Nogalitos** - The Society has been steadfastly advocating for the historic designation of this last remaining Pure Oil gas station. In October of 2018, City Council paused designation so purchase offers could be made. The Society twice offered to buy the station and hired Alamo Architects to design an new plan for the site. The Society continues to work with the owners offering to lease and maintain the site.

## *Losses*

**Beacon Hill School-** SAISD neglected this wonderful Collegiate Revival building by Leo Dielmann for the past two decades and razed the school in July to make way for a playground. City Council approved the school's demolition with the stipulation that SAISD develop a curriculum that teaches students the importance of historic preservation.

902 and 904 Euclid and the historic house at 705 E. Grayson, were demolished despite the Society's efforts to encourage their reuse.

## *Advocacy Efforts*

### *Local*

**SAY Sí Hemisfair Project** – The youth arts organization hosted an exhibition on the lost history of the neighborhood demolished for Hemisfair '68. SAY Sí donated proceeds from the sale of a sticker to the Society. The Conservation Society helped many neighborhood organizations and citizens as they sought to preserve their communities by establishing an innovative **Neighborhood Initiative** in 2018. Through a partnership with Tier One Neighborhood Coalition, AIA and OHP, the group continues to host neighborhood workshops that foster dialogues between neighbors and neighborhoods with the aim of improving our city. The resulting enhanced dialogue helped the Society successfully lobby for the **Short-Term Rental Ordinance** at the request of the King William Association and others. The ordinance regulates the proliferation of Airbnb-type businesses which can adversely affect historic neighborhoods.

The Conservation Society continued to work with the City's World Heritage Office to improve conditions for preservation development throughout the **World Heritage Area**. This included advocacy for the World Heritage zoning changes and adoption of the **Mission Historic District Design Guidelines**.

### *State*

**Tree Ordinance** - The Conservation Society adamantly opposed HB 7, which would have rolled back local government provisions protecting trees from at will removal by developers. The Society has spent years drafting, and refining San Antonio's tree ordinance and the new bill would have usurped local government's regulation. Fortunately the Society was able to preserve the San Antonio tree ordinance with visits to Austin in this legislative session.

## *Federal*

In December of 2017, the House voted to abolish the **Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit**, in keeping with the president's tax plan, and putting the future of historic preservation in the United States at risk. The Conservation Society joined other partner organizations and Preservation Action to lobby Congress to retain this tool that has supported 10,000 jobs and a billion dollars of investment since 2002 in Texas alone. The Senate voted to end the 10 percent tax credit for non-historic buildings; however, the bill included a weakened version of the original 20 percent Tax Credit that distributes the credit to developers over several years. This policy greatly diminished the incentives that encouraged developers to adaptively re-use historic buildings. The Conservation Society effectively lobbied Congress to retain the Historic Tax Credits. In June, the Historic Tax Credit Enhancement Act of 2018 was introduced to the House and Senate, however it has yet to pass committee in either.

## *Awards*

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### **2018**

The Historic Preservation Awards were presented on March 28, 2018, at the San Antonio Country Club. Honored Building Award recipients were: Hangar 9 (8081 Inner Circle); Hotel Emma (136 E Grayson); Hannah Landa Memorial Branch Library (233 Bushnell); Landmark Inn State Historic Site (401 Florence, Castroville); Maverick Building (400 E Houston); Malvina Nelson House (202 King William); San Antonio River Walk; VIA Centro Plaza/Washington Hotel (909 W Houston); Commercial Building (2340 S Presa); and Herff Rozelle Farm in Boerne.

Texas Preservation Hero Awards were presented to: King William Association for a half century of nurturing and preserving Texas' first historic district and San Antonio's first Cultural Arts District; Bob Comeaux for his advocacy and fundraising efforts to save the Calzada Home in Beacon Hill; Harold Kempfer for returning beauty and grace to historic buildings and homes in San Antonio through his exquisite decorative plaster casting; Jean Heide for her dedicated efforts to preserve the Harrison and McCulloch's limecrete stagecoach stop in Selma; Carolyn Chipman Evans, of Cibolo Nature Center & Farm, for restoration the Herff Farm homestead and grounds, showcasing best practices in sustainability; and William Dupont for leading preservation efforts at Ernest Hemingway's estate in Cuba and establishing the Center for Cultural Sustainability at University of Texas at San Antonio.

A Lynn Ford Craftsman Award was presented to Joe Ramos in recognition of over 100 historic restoration projects in San Antonio, for mentoring students and supporting conservation causes throughout the city. The Amanda Cartwright Taylor Award was presented to Mr. Lewis F Fisher for publishing dozens of books on San Antonio's heritage and researching and writing seminal books on local history, including: *Saving San Antonio: The Precarious Preservation of a Heritage*; *American Venice*, about our beloved River Walk; and *Chili Queens, Hay Wagons, and Fandangos: The Spanish Plazas in Frontier San Antonio*. This award was also presented to Mr. Lewis S. Fisher for his many high-profile historic architecture projects, including Villa Finale, San Fernando Cathedral, Bexar County Commissioners' Courtroom, Atascosa County Courthouse, Karnes County Courthouse, the Chisholm Heritage Trail Museum in Cuero, Southtown and the Alamo.

2018 marked the inaugural year for the Bruce MacDougal Award for preservationists under 40. The first recipient of this award was Allison Chambers for her work as historic preservation architect at Ford, Powell & Carson. She managed such projects as the Plaza de Armas Building, Huebner-Onion Homestead, South Texas Heritage Center at the Witte Museum, Austin Hall at Sam Houston State University, the Texas Governor's Mansion, and Galveston's historic Strand District.

## 2019

On March 29, 2019, The Conservation Society of San Antonio presented the 2019 Publication Awards at a luncheon held at the Historic Sheraton Gunter Hotel. Recipients of the award were: *The Building Arts of South Texas: Stories of Endangered Building Arts & the Craftsmen Who Keep Them Alive* by Barbara Dean Hendricks; *DFW Deco: Modernistic Architecture of North Texas* by Jim Parsons and David Bush; *Juan O'Gorman: A Confluence of Civilizations* by Catherine Nixon Cooke; *The King William Area: A History and Guide to the Houses* by Mary V. Burkholder and Jessie N.M. Simpson; *The Material Culture of German Texans* by Kenneth Hafertepe; *Powering A City: How Energy and Big Dreams Transformed San Antonio* by Catherine Nixon Cooke; *Saving San Antonio: The Preservation of a Heritage, 2nd ed.* by Lewis F. Fisher; *Sutherland Springs, Texas: Saratoga on the Cibolo* by Richard B. McCaslin; *The Texas Frontier and the Butterfield Overland Mail, 1858-1861* by Glen Sample Ely; and *The White Shaman Mural: An Enduring Creation Narrative in the Rock Art of The Lower Pecos* by Carolyn E. Boyd.

One book was selected as the children's category winner, *Lone Star Legacy: The Texas Rangers Then and Now* by Melanie Chrismer. Over 100 guests attended the awards luncheon. Following the presentation luncheon, attendees met with the award-winning authors to buy autographed copies of the books.



## ***Grants & Contributions***

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Proceeds from A Night In Old San Antonio® helped the Society award annual community grants during the Fall of 2017. Community grants totaling \$75,000 were awarded to the following properties: 830 Lamar for the leveling work; 812 West Mulberry for foundation repairs; 611 Mason St. for restoration of the porch; 609 Hays for exterior restoration of the stone structure; 607 Burnett for a new roof; 301 Lavaca for the front porch and roof; 1903 West Woodlawn for restoration of the awnings; 127 Lotus for rehabilitation work; and 10565 Old Cimarron Trail in Converse for restoration work on the Schumann-Scheel Homestead Park & Museum.

Three recipients received 2017-2018 Educational Grant funding from the San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation totaling \$16,450. Michael Carroll was awarded a \$6,450 grant to digitize the San Antonio Sanborn maps which would facilitate access to maps via the computer. Villa Finale was awarded a \$5,000 grant to assist in their educational events programming reaching out to adults and children. The National Western Art Foundation - Briscoe Western Art Museum was awarded a \$5,000 grant to assist in the creation of a documentary video to be integrated into the “Destino San Antonio” exhibition.

In the Fall of 2018, the Society awarded \$100,000 in grants for the following properties: 8902 Graf for the stabilization of sublevel foundation of 2 buildings and the front porch; the Obst Farmstead Interpreting Center for exterior stabilization/ weathering; 904 N Pine for façade restoration; 310 W Cevallos for porch rehabilitation; 323 Devine for reconstruction of front porch; 617 High St. in Comfort for roof replacement and support structure repair; 311 Pereida for front porch work; 411 Bonham for 6 windows; 216 Alamosa for leveling work; 843 Rigsby for a new roof using architectural roofing shingles; 318 Pereida for roof repair/ replacement; 2502 W. Travis for foundation replacement and leveling work; and 219 Perez for stabilization of the Charles Cuneo House.

Four recipients received 2018-2019 Educational Grant funding from the San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation totaling \$22,000. Once again, each recipient met the qualifications for support as outlined by the Society. The Power of Preservation Foundation was awarded a \$5,000 grant to assist with the creation of a restoration manual on the 1st phase of the Kelso House case study. The Esperanza Peace and Justice Center received a \$5,000 grant to assist them in educating community members during planning for museum. The San Antonio Public Library Foundation received an \$8,000 grant to purchase archival boxes and shelving. The San Antonio Chapter of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art was awarded a \$4,000 grant to assist in the creation of a website (The San Antonio House Registry) to allow people to access an interactive list of 300 houses illustrating the characteristics of a San Antonio House.

## Other Funding Approved by the Society...

The Society has provided one-time contributions to the following organizations: San Antonio HemisFair Conservancy in March of 2018, one-time donation to the Briscoe Western Art Museum in October of 2018, \$225 to the San Antonio River Foundation in November 2018, \$250 to the San Antonio Public Library Foundation for its Annual Fund drive in October 2018.

August 2017, the Board of Directors approved funding for a Tri-Centennial gift from the San Antonio Conservation Society to the City of San Antonio. The \$300,000 pledge was for the stabilization, restoration, and preservation of the 1877 Pump House in Brackenridge Park.

September 2017, the Society's Board of Directors approved funding to the Canary Island Descendants Association to assist with the cost in producing a bronze monument honoring the four founding communities of San Antonio in celebration San Antonio's Tri-Centennial. This monument can be seen in front of the Bexar County courthouse on West Market St.

January 2018, a Special Board Allocation of \$5,000 was awarded to the Fulton Mansion in Rockport Texas. The funds went to help in moving and storage expenses during the restoration as a result of damages from Hurricane Harvey on August 25, 2017.

March 2018, The Board of Directors awarded Participation Studio \$7,800 from the Eleanor Freeborn Bennett Fund to support the creation of a room-sized map of the neighborhood that was largely demolished for HemisFair 1968. The exhibit premiered during the HemisFair '68 50th anniversary celebration. The exhibit remained open throughout the summer of 2018.

November 2018, the Community Grants Committee requested and received approval from the board to have an additional board allocation made to the St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church at 2504 N. St. Mary's St for the restoration and protection of 12 historical icons.

## ***Heritage Education Tours***

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### **2017**

The San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation conducted its 57<sup>th</sup> annual Heritage Education Tours for area fourth grade students from November 6-10 and November 13-November 17, 2017. 2,388 students



from twenty-five schools across Bexar County received the opportunity to visit local heritage landmarks, including the Alamo, Mission Concepción, Mission San Juan, Mission San José, Mission Espada, Casa Navarro State Historic Site, the Spanish Governor's Palace, the Steves Homestead, and the Yturri-Edmunds Historic Site. Tour guides and docents from the Conseration Society and the San Antonio Professional Tour Guides Association provided students with educational information during the site visits. In lieu of guides riding on the buses with the students this year, a contract was negotiated with Wildhorse Publications for the book *The Litte River That Wouldn't Run* to be duplicated and given to every teacher to use during the ride to each site.

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, the H-E-B Tournament of Champions Charitable Foundation, and the Mirza Trust. Education consultant Bill Perryman led a teacher workshop for over thirty teachers from the represented schools in preparation for the tours.

## 2018

The 58<sup>th</sup> annual Heritage Education Tours for area Bexar County fourth grade students studying Texas History were conducted November 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> and November 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> , 2018. The tours are offered on a five year rotation schedule to ensure all Bexar County 4<sup>th</sup> grade elementary school students have the opportunity to learn about historical landmarks that make their hometown so unique. This year 17 schools, over 1,800 students, and 115 teachers participated. The decrease in participation this year stemmed from an unusal bout of incelement weather resulting in the cancellation of three schools' tours.

Students visited sites including the Alamo, Mission Concepción, Mission San Juan, Mission San José, Mission Espada, Casa Navarro State Historic Site, the Spanish Governor's Palace, the Steves Homestead, and the Yturri-Edmunds Historic Site. Tour guides and docents from the Conseration Society and the San Antonio Professional Tour Guides Association provided students with educational information 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, the H-E-B Tournament of Champions Charitable Foundation, and the Mirza Trust. A new grant was received this year from the Society of Architectural Historians, and donations to the tours were made through the Capital Club's Buy-A-Bus Program. Education consultant Bill Perryman led a teacher workshop for over thirty teachers from the represented schools in preparation for the tours.

## ***Historic Building Survey***

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**2017**

The Committee completed a final review of the St. Cecilia Neighborhood Survey with the cooperation of the City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation. The Committee Chair organized a tour of the Hemisfair Complex with the Texas Historical Commission, National Park Service, and the Society's Hemisfair Committee to determine the potential for a National Register Historic District on the Hemisfair grounds.

**2018**

The Committee worked with preservation groups OST100 and Mid Tex Mod to document buildings in San Antonio. They also worked with AIA-San Antonio on plans to develop an archive of drawings by prominent San Antonio architects.

## ***Historic Farm & Ranch Complexes***

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The Historic Farm and Ranch Committee has endeavored for many years now since its inception to identify, research, advocate for, and help preserve Bexar County's and contiguous counties' historic farms and ranches. Several properties have been saved through the Society's efforts as evidenced by our wonderful new website. Much forethought and planning went into the creation of the website and its success is evident as its popularity grows daily as the public becomes aware of its existence and uses the website as a research tool for genealogists and historians alike.

The Committee and the website work in tandem to save and publicize these old properties in an effort to keep them from being demolished. Some of these properties have been put into good use such as the Two Step Restaurant, which was the former Phillip Ruempel farmstead on Loop 1604 at Braun Road. The Committee held its Holiday Party on December 2, 2017 at this remodeled farmhouse which shows how an old dilapidated property can be renovated and restored to a useful purpose while keeping its history alive for future generations. Continuing to locate, identify, research and list new historic properties on the Committee's website is the goal as the Committee moves into the next season.

Presentations to the Committee were made as follows: on September 2, 2017 the History of the Schumann/Scheel House was made by Nancy Droneburg, City of Converse Mayor Pro Tem; on November 4, 2017 a Southeast Bexar County Overview was presented by Allen Kosub and wife Regina Kosub; on January 6, 2018 Michael and Connie Krause spoke on the Texas Department of Agriculture/Krause Family Land Heritage

Designation, Farm and History of Heinrich Theodore Mordhorst and Conkle Shell Graves; on March 3, 2018 we received an overview of Texas Historical Commission's Historic Structures Department by Sara Ludueña, a Texas Historical Commission Department Representative. Tours taken by the Committee include: a trip to the Truehart/de la Garza House on October 7, 2017 and a tour of La Vernia Association's Museum in downtown La Vernia on May 5, 2018.

## ***Historic Preservation Month***

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### **2017**

On May 19, 2018, in celebration of Historic Preservation Month, the San Antonio Conservation Society presented a seminar titled "*The Work Projects Administration in San Antonio.*" The event was for members of the Society and the public. The seminar was held at the Stinson Municipal Airport followed by musical entertainment and a reception. Our featured speakers were: Lewis G. Fisher, historian, author, former journalist and publisher Susan Toomey Frost, leading authority on San José decorative tiles and pottery and award winning author of the book *Colors on Clay*. The WPA tile used for the design of this year's Historic Preservation Month pin was featured in Ms. Frost's book along with Nancy Avellar, former president of the Society, former chair of A Night in Old San Antonio® and the Society's representative for the San Antonio World Heritage Advisory Committee.

Lewis F. Fisher spoke about the WPA projects and their transformation of the San Antonio River Walk and our downtown area. Susan Toomey Frost spoke about Ethel Wilson Harris and the prolific WPA tile work in San Antonio that we still enjoy today while Nancy Avellar spoke about other WPA projects in San Antonio that added functionality and beauty to our City. The seminar concluded with a presentation by Chair Margaret Priesmeyer; to each speaker received a copy of the book *The King William Area* by Mary V. Burkholder and Jessie N.M. Simpson. Award winning actor Roy Bumgarner and award winning actresses Anna Gangai, Sherry Houston, and Corina Zars, performed music of the WPA period accompanied by pianist Thomas A. Masinter. Mr. Masinter is a New Orleans native and Trinity University graduate. He is a music composer, director, teacher of piano and co-founder of Allegro Stage Company. Following the seminar, Professor of Drama at Northwest Vista College, director, actor and co-founder of Allegro Stage Company, Tim Hedgepeth, provided the history behind each musical number presented.

The catered reception featured a 1930's inspired menu that included an array of foods of the period. Robert and Lori West donated the wine for the event. Committee members, Margaret M. Priesmeyer, Christine Luttrell,

Barbara Johnson, Patricia Seidenberger and Society President Susan Beavin assisted with the afternoon celebration.

The idea for our Historic Preservation Month commemorative pin for 2018 was created by our committee and beautifully designed by Ron Bauml. The WPA ceramic tile selected was created by Ethel Harris in 1939. Ethel Harris was the technical supervisor of the Arts and Crafts division of the WPA in San Antonio many of her ceramic works of public art still survive today.

## **2018**

“The History of La Villita” served as the topic of this year’s Historic Preservation Month Seminar. The seminar was held on Saturday, May 18, 2019 from 10 am-1:30 pm in Bolivar Hall, followed by a walking tour of the La Villita Historic District and a reception in the Gardens of the Dashiell House at 511 Villita. Speakers included Dr. Vincent Michael, Executive Director of the Conservation Society; Kay Hindes, City Archaeologist; and Clint McKenzie, Project Archaeologist for the Center of Archaeological Research at UTSA. Fifty-six people attended the event. Spice of Life catered the reception with guitar music provided by Armando Martinez. Blue and white cookie “shards” honoring Kay Hindes upon her retirement from the City provided a special treat. Ron Bauml designed a pin honoring San Antonio’s oldest neighborhood, established in 1722. Both the city and county issued proclamations for May 2019 National Preservation Month.

Sadly, Charles Hansen, the committee chair, passed away on January 19, 2019 and Patti Zaiantz completed his term as chair.

## ***Junior Associates***

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### **2017**

This year the Juniors participated in a number of educational activities that included a guided tour of Mission Concepción, Archaeology Day at Mission San José, and a visit to the Briscoe Western Art Museum. The juniors also enjoyed a full year of fun and traditional events such as the annual Gingerbread House Decorating Party in December, Making Cascarones 101 in March, and riding an antique fire truck in the annual King William Fair Parade in April. In celebration of the City’s Tricentennial, the Juniors had the distinct pleasure of participating in and assisting the Society with the “*Hunt for History*” in Brackenridge Park in May. My appreciation to all the members and staff that helped make this a wonderful and successful campaign.

Chairman Fernando Villarreal has enjoyed the past two years working with the Juniors and creating new traditions and projects to build on. Most enjoyable this past year was the Go-Rio Cruise tour along the San Antonio River narrated by Society Executive Director, Vincent Michael. The Juniors rode in the annual King William Fair Parade on an antique fire truck decorated with paper flowers made by the Juniors and parents at the Cascarone & Flower Making 101 meeting in March. The annual May meeting held in Brackenridge Park was a first and successful meeting. Our annual Holiday Gingerbread House Decorating event was and will always be our most popular and crowning event. My appreciation to all the members and staff that helped make this an enjoyable and successful year.

### ***Library***

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Supporting the Society's advocacy for Alamo Plaza and the Woolworth Building dominated the library's contributions this year. The librarian helped draft the Alamo Plaza petition, as well as letters and statements to City and State officials prior to approval of the Alamo lease and management plan. The library also kept the Call to Action webpage updated as requests for public support changed.

Working with the executive director, librarian Beth Standifird conducted research and assisted with the nomination of the Woolworth Building for: Preservation Texas' 2019 Most Endangered Historic Places, State Antiquities Landmark designation, 2020 World Monuments Watch, and the National Trust's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places.

The library also provided support to the newly formed Coalition for the Woolworth Building, participating in meetings and the MLK March. The librarian organized supporters' contact information, and oversaw the creation and production of over 800 coalition brochures. Other related activities included: participation in the creation and unveiling of the Alamo Museum Compromise Plan; research assistance provided to John G. Waite Associates for the architectural assessment commissioned by the Alamo Trust; and collaboration on a letter regarding the Alamo plan sent to the Society of Architectural Historians Heritage Conservation Committee.

Although the library completed fewer routine research requests (1146), its outreach included the 2018 Historic Homeowner Fair, the Texas Library Association's District 10 Fall Workshop, and the 2019 Publication Awards. Photos from the library's collections were used by: the Bexar County Heritage Center, Brackenridge Park Conservancy, Briscoe Western Art Museum, City Master Plan of Lighting, HemisFair Conservancy, National Park Service, and the Roads Scholar program. Digitization of the Snapshot Collection slowed, but reached 60% completion.

### **2017**

As of June 30, 2018, there were 552 Active Resident Members, 14 Active Non-Resident Members, 1 Honorary Member, 1206 Associate Resident Members, and 69 Associate Non-Resident Members for a total of 1,842 members. At the June general membership meeting, 19 new Active Members were inducted.

The Membership/Volunteer Coordinator Committee volunteered at the sign-in tables at the general membership meetings, collected dues at the NIOSA Chairmen's Dinner, and held a mail out on January 5, 2018 to assemble mailers for all expiring members at the beginning of the membership renewal drive.

The Membership Development and the Membership/Volunteer Coordinator Committees attended several events to raise awareness of the Conservation Society's membership and activities, including Siclovía, the World Heritage Festival and the Historic Homeowners Fair in September, and Archaeology Day at Mission San José in October.

### **2018**

As of June 30, 2019, there were 520 Active Resident Members, 16 Active Non-Resident Members, 1 Honorary Member, 1106 Associate Resident Members, and 75 Associate Non-Resident Members for a total of 1,718 members. At the June general membership meeting, 9 new Active Members were inducted.

The Membership/Volunteer Coordinator Committee volunteered at the sign-in tables at the general membership meetings, collected dues at the NIOSA Chairmen's Dinner, and held a mail out on January 4, 2019 to assemble mailers for all expiring members at the beginning of the membership renewal drive.

The Membership Development and the Membership/Volunteer Coordinator Committees attended several events to raise awareness of the Conservation Society's membership and activities, including Siclovía, the World Heritage Festival and the Historic Homeowners Fair in September, and Archaeology Day at Mission San José in October. A new member reception was held at the Wulff House in May 2019. Members of the Board of Directors attended, welcoming 30 new Society members. President Susan Beavin and Executive Director Vince Michael gave the Opening remarks. Light refreshments were served, followed by a tour of the Wulff House.

## ***A Night in Old San Antonio®***

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NIOSA® is one of the most popular events during Fiesta, drawing thousands of guests to historic La Villita each year. Margie Arnold, NIOSA Chairman, supported by the NIOSA Committee (Treasurer Jackie Fellers, and Vice Chairmen Jana Foreman, Sharon Hearn, Julie Terrill, and Dolores Wright) organized the 71st presentation of “A Night In Old San Antonio®” celebration April 23-26, 2019. Despite the challenges of inclement weather on Wednesday, over 73,000 guests were in attendance for the four nights. All this could not have been accomplished without the thousands of dedicated volunteers, many of whom work endless hours to transform La Villita into 15 areas of culture and traditions unique to our city. In addition to those who cook and serve during the four nights, there are many other volunteers who provide supporting services during the event, as well as volunteers who work year-round to make flowers and cascarones for over 200 booths. A true “Celebration for Preservation”, NIOSA gross receipts from this year’s event totaled over \$2.58 million. In addition, NIOSA marketing partnership contributions of over \$76,000 were received by the Conservation Society Foundation. Over \$184,000 of this year’s proceeds are reserved for the preservation of La Villita Historic Arts Village. NIOSA continues to be dedicated to conservation through recycling, processing over 11.6 tons of recyclable materials this year.

## ***NIOSITAS***

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A miniature version of NIOSA, this colorful and festive celebration is presented to private groups by volunteers of the Conservation Society. A NIOSITA is truly an authentic Fiesta experience. This year the NIOSA committee hosted NIOSITAS for the Association of Texas Colleges and Universities Faculty Professionals, the University of Incarnate Word School of Optometry, and Six Flags Fiesta Texas employees, resulting in revenue of \$75,625. Planned renovations to Maverick Plaza will pose challenges regarding available venues to host future NIOSITAS. Smaller NIOSITAS may be hosted in Plaza Juarez or Venue Villita (La Villita Assembly Building); however, the capacity to hold larger events remains uncertain.



## ***Parade Activities***

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### **2018**

The Society participated in four parades during Fiesta 2018. Texas Cavaliers supplied the barge and decoration for our entry into their parade. The theme was The Spanish Mission Concepción. Jackie Huddle and the Dukes of Cool provided the music.

For the Battle of Flowers Parade, our theme was King William Street. We decorated a horse-drawn carriage with pictures of Wulff House, King William Park and Villa Finale, along with King William Street signs, the Society's seal, paper flowers and streamers. The six ladies in the carriage were beautifully attired in period dress and gorgeous hats. The Society won a third place ribbon with this entry.

The same carriage was used for Flambeau Parade. We changed out the pictures adding lots more flowers, streamers and NIOSA® signs. We also added lights for the nighttime parade. Six ladies representing NIOSA® rode in the carriage. We won a first place plaque in the Equestrian division for our entry. The Junior Associates, wearing tie-dye t-shirts, rode in a 1950s antique Fire Truck in the King William Parade.

### **2019**

The theme for the Texas Cavaliers River Parade was “Show Time”, our float was “The Alamo”. Music for our float was recorded with the assistance of Lewis Vetter. Participants included our president, Susan Beavin and other executive Board Members.

The theme for the Battle of Flowers Parade was “For the Love of Texas-Niosa/La Villita”; costumes were Fiesta attire. Participants included Susan Beavin, other executive board members and a former president of the Society. The carriage was decorated with paper flowers donated by the NIOSA committee. Signs were specially made depicting a Caroline Shelton painting of the Little Church at La Villita.

The theme for the Fiesta Flambeau Parade was “Reflections of Music Past”. The carriage was decorated with paper flowers and lights, a lighted NIOSA sign, and wheel spoke covers created by Susan Beavin. Representatives from NIOSA participated in this parade. The Conservation Society was honored with an award for 2nd place in the Flambeau Parade. The theme for the King William Parade was “We are King William”. The Junior Associates participated in the parade and rode in a 1950s antique fire truck decorated with paper flowers they made.

## ***Programs***

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### **2018**

Anna Mod, Director of the MacRostie Historic Advisors Southwest, spoke at the September 27, 2017 General Membership Meeting on Mid-Century Modern Architecture. The meeting was hosted by the Mexican Cultural Institute in Hemisfair Park.

The Weihnachtsfeier was held December 8, 2017 at the Steves Homestead. The Beethoven Maennerchor performed traditional German Christmas songs.

The beautiful new Latino Collection Center at the Central Library was the location for the January 24, 2018 General Membership Meeting. Author Lewis F. Fisher's presentation *Revisiting Saving San Antonio* focused on the new chapters added to the paperback edition of *Saving San Antonio*. The San Antonio Public Library and the San Antonio Public Library Foundation hosted the meeting.

*Westside Culture and Heritage* was the topic of the February 28, 2018 General Membership Meeting held at the Guadalupe Theater, and was hosted by the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center (GCAC). Panelists included the GCAC's executive director Cristina Ballí; education director Belinda Menchaca; Alex Rubio, Artist-in-Residence Mosaic Project at Blue Star Contemporary Gallery; and Dr. Antonia Casteñeda, representing the Esperanza Peace & Justice Center. Eva Ybarra's Conjunto Group provided the music.

The May 23, 2018 general membership meeting was held at the San Antonio Garden Center. An election was held for 10 directors and reports were given to the membership by the Society's vice-presidents. The installation of new Conservation Society officers and ten directors occurred at the June 27, 2018 general membership meeting at the River House.

### **2019**

The September 26, 2018 General Membership Meeting featured Everett L. Fly, FASLA, speaking on "*San Antonio Black History: Perspective and Context*" at the Little Carver Civic Center.

On December 5, 2018 the annual *Weihnachtsfeier*-German Christmas Party was held at the Steves Homestead with the Beethoven Maennerchor performing.

“*La Pastorela*”, performed by Los Pastores de Belen, was held at the January 23, 2019 General Membership Meeting on a cold and rainy evening at the Steves Homestead River House & Garden. Vogt Auction was the site for the February 27, 2019 General Membership Meeting “*You can’t take it with you!*” Anne Alexander served as moderator at this popular meeting with the following speakers: Katy Alexander, Vogt Auction Director of Specialty Auctions; Gabe Echeverry, Vogt Auction Decorative Arts Specialist; June Hays, Estate Sales and The Estate Sales Gallery; and Carolene Zehner, Estate Sales. Members wore vintage hats and fascinators.

John “Mac” McCarthy presented “*Hallowed Ground: A Final Resting Place for San Antonio’s Sidney J. Brooks, Jr.*” at the May 27, 2019 General Meeting & Election, held at the San Antonio Garden Center. Members elected 10 Directors.

The June 26, 2019 General Membership Meeting featured the installation of officers and the newly elected board members at the Steves Homestead River House.

### ***Properties Maintenance & Repair***

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#### **2017**

The committee completed inspections of Easements with Property Restoration Manager Ron Bauml. Other projects included: Carriage House and Mill exterior-woodwork repairs and repair of site fencing at the Yturri-Edmunds Historic Site; installation of a new alarm system at the Gresser House; painting of the exterior and repair of exterior woodwork at the Steves Homestead; rebuild of the sewer pump access panel at Casa Villita; “Finish-out” of the Crafters’ Store; painting of the roof, and installation of audio/video equipment in the conference room at the Wulff House.

#### **2018**

The committee completed restoration projects including repainting and repairing the Hertzberg Clock; repairing and repainting the front wood fence and installation of an ADA-compliant lift at the Steves Homestead; lawn sprinkler repair and replacement at the Steves Homestead and at the Wulff House; and refinishing of the interior floors at the Yturri-Edmunds Historic Site.

## ***Publicity (2018-2019)***

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The Conservation Society continued to make significant impacts on local, state and national media. We received positive publicity in September 2018 announcing the shift of museum operations at Steves Homestead to Villa Finale. The *San Antonio Express-News* profiled President Susan Beavin in a September piece, as well. Our presentation of petitions during the October 2018 City Council meeting on Alamo Plaza garnered TV interviews for President Susan Beavin and newspaper quotes for Beavin and First Vice President Patti Zaiontz. Executive Director Vince Michael was interviewed regarding the Floodgate development on the River Walk in December 2018, and quoted in the *Express-News* regarding Mid-Century Modern architecture in April 2019. President Susan Beavin was quoted in the *Express-News* regarding TXDOT planning in January 2019. *Preservation Magazine* recognized our efforts to save the 1935 Pure Oil gas station on Nogalitos in the Spring 2019 issue with a half-page spread on the threatened building. The Society's partnership with the Coalition for the Woolworth Building produced many stories, including a *Spectrum News* interview with President Susan Beavin regarding preservation efforts in January 2019 and an interview on WOAI-TV with Everett Fly and Society Executive Director Vince Michael regarding Civil Rights tourism in summer 2019. The Society's May 7 release of the "Both/And" plan for the Crockett and Woolworth Buildings got extensive coverage from print, online and TV media, as did the May 10 designation of the Woolworth Building as a State Antiquities Landmark.

## ***Scholarships***

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The San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation, courtesy of the Eleanor Freeborn Bennett Educational Fund Scholarship Fund wrote a check in the amount of \$5,000 to The University of Texas at San Antonio – College of Architecture for grant students pursuing a graduate certificate in Historic Preservation during the 2017-2018 academic year. Jennifer Garza and Valeria Brizuela each received a \$2,500 scholarship. The following year, the Conservation Society Foundation submitted a check in the amount of \$5,000 for the 2018-2019 academic year. Azadeh Sagheb received the full amount.

Once a year, the San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation also provides funds to the Texas Architectural Foundation for the Brooks Martin Educational Scholarship Fund. This scholarship is awarded to outstanding students, in accredited departments; or schools, of architecture in Texas who show an interest in historical architecture, preservation, and adaptive reuse. Kathleen Marie Conti (University of Texas at Austin) and Anna Christine Nau (University of Texas at Austin) each received a \$2,500 scholarship for the 2017-2018 academic year. Benjamin Baaske (Texas A&M University) and Azadeh Sagheb (University of Texas at San Antonio) each received a \$2,500 scholarship for the 2018-2019 academic year.

## ***Teacher Education Seminar***

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### **2017**

This year's seminar, "*Change Over Time: Tales of a Spanish City Tricentennial San Antonio 1718-2018*" was presented on Saturday, February 11, 2017 at the River House. Bill Perryman conducted the seminar with hands-on interactive activities exploring change in San Antonio over 300 years in-conjunction with the City of San Antonio's Tricentennial. Twelve teachers attended the seminar, which included a bus tour of downtown buildings and landmarks, many of which were preserved by the San Antonio Conservation Society.

### **2018**

This year The Teacher Education Seminars Committee added a new component to its annual seminar in the Spring. In the Fall, the committee coordinated with the HET Chairmen to schedule and assist with training for those teachers who were to participate in the tours. The annual Teacher Education Seminar was titled "*A Tale Of Two Plazas - Military & Main*". Billy Perryman presented a seminar full of content, strategies, and role modeling. A walking tour of the two plazas included a treasure hunt for historical data. The committee provided breakfast and lunch for all participants at both seminars.