

The Conservation Society of San Antonio THE PRESERVATION ADVOCATE

THE
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY
OF SAN ANTONIO
MAKING HISTORY BY SAVING HISTORY.™

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THE FUTURE HOME of The Conservation Society of San Antonio 1146 S. ALAMO

The Conservation Society's new home will be the Courand House at 1146 S. Alamo, built by Julia and Joseph Courand Jr. in 1906. Renowned local architect, Leo Dielmann, designed the Neoclassical style house with giant order Corinthian columns supporting a semicircular porch. The restoration of the house in 2019 by Nancy and Robert Shivers won a 2020 Preservation Award from the Conservation Society.



From The President

Kathy Rhoads, President

As you can see from the front cover, the future headquarters of The Conservation Society of San Antonio is the beautiful Courand House. Architectural drawings for an elevator, ramp, and accessible bathrooms are underway by Fisher-Heck architects. The house was previously owned by Nancy and Robert Shivers and its availability was shared by Maria and Fred Pfeiffer, longtime Society members. After many inspections, the Board voted to purchase the house, and the transaction was finalized in July of this year.

The Courand House has almost 6,000 square feet and will have room for the Society's offices, Board meetings, and library, as well as three balconies for entertaining. Thanks to the Shivers for gifting many furniture items to the Society, including desks and shelving units. Thanks are also due to Kate Ruckman for relocating palm trees from the site and to the Real Estate Committee headed by Joey Groff and

including Kathy Krnavek, Kate Ruckman, Barbara Johnson and Rollette Schreckenghost-Smith. Thanks also to Charles John of our Board for chairing the Moving Committee.

The Society listed its current headquarters of 48 years, the Anton Wulff House for sale and is now working on a letter of intent with potential buyers who have exciting plans for the property. As we move forward with negotiations, we will keep you informed of the progress. Any changes to the property have to be approved by the Conservation Society, the King William Association, the Office of Historic Preservation and pertinent city commissions.

It is an exciting time for the Society! The Executive Committee and the Board are going above and beyond. Many of the Committee Chairs are hard at work, so don't be surprised if they call on you for help! Have a healthy holiday and stay tuned for "new" things, "old" things and "future" things that the Society is trying to save and protect in our great city!



*Closing Day - July 8, 2022
1146 So. Alamo*

*(standing l-r) Vincent Michael, Joey Groff, Kathy Krnavek, Margie Arnold, Kathy Rhoads, Dee Wright, Barbara Johnson, Ginger Klaerner
(seated l-r) Janet Francis, Paula Piper, Jaqueline Contreras Epstein, Margaret Priesmeyer, Leticia Diaz*



(l-r) Joey Groff, Barbara Johnson, Kathy Krnavek, Paula Piper, Kathy Rhoads, Jaqueline Contreras Epstein



*Anton Wulff House up for sale
107 King William*

Building Up & Taking Down

Vincent Michael, Executive Director



So much has been happening this Fall, from our press conference at the Institute of Texan Cultures to our inaugural Amanda Cartwright Taylor Distinguished Lecture and most recently the American Cultural Resources Association convention, where I spoke on two panels – one of leveraging partnerships and one on historic bars and restaurants in San Antonio.



Institute of Texas Cultures- Press Conference - 8/15/2022

On the downside, we had to deal with vandalism at the Yturri-Edmunds house, which was broken into in late August, with thieves making off with the historic mantle clock that legend says stopped at the moment Ernestine Edmunds mother Vicenta died. The break-in got a lot of media coverage and a reward is being offered for the arrest of the thieves.



Break-In at the Yturri-Edmunds Homestead

In September, I had a chance to reprise my lecture on San Antonio Historic Districts at the Historic Districts Council meeting, just two days after I gave a similar presentation in Castroville at the invitation of the mayor and local conservation society. Like so many places, Castroville is seeing its quaint and authentic 19th century buildings

threatened by large-scale cookie-cutter suburban development. They are looking into how San Antonio has used historic districts and to a lesser extent conservation districts to help preserve community character. In my dissertation I described how historic districts arose from the concerns of community activists who wanted a say in how their neighborhood looked. It is always fascinating to see how those same motivations animate our discussions in San Antonio as well. In other good news, the City passed a deconstruction ordinance in September which will require older homes to be deconstructed rather than demolished by a bulldozer or backhoe. In 2020 there were 400 demolition permits in San Antonio. If these buildings had been deconstructed, it would have saved 5.8 million board feet of lumber, enough to frame out 600 homes of 1,550 square feet each, a huge aid to the construction and repair of affordable housing citywide, according to the *San Antonio Business Journal*.

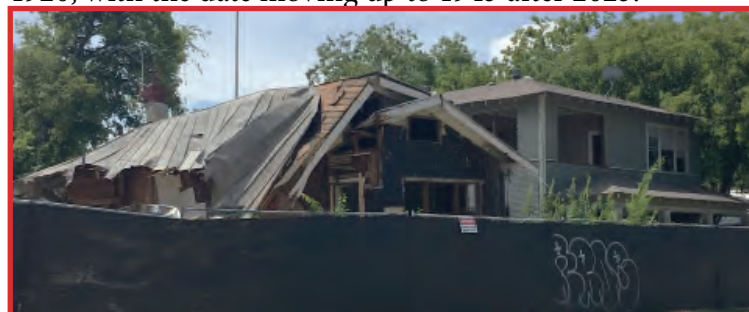


*212 Dewey Demolition (on left)
Broadway Demolition (on right)*

Besides keeping usable materials out of the landfill, the deconstruction ordinance also reduces toxic airborne pollutants. I never understood why people used lead paint and asbestos as excuses for demolition and then proceeded with mechanical demolition, which spreads the stuff all over the neighborhood!! The ordinance will help preservation by discouraging the kind of quick-and-dirty demolitions by out-of-town owners we have seen in areas like Tobin Hill and Dignowity Hill. The ordinance initially pertains to houses, two-flats, three-flats, and four-flats built before 1920, with the date moving up to 1945 after 2025.



Keystone District Tudor



Euclid Demolition

A Night In Old San Antonio® (NIOA®)

Jana Foreman, NIOA Chairman

A Night in Old San Antonio benefits our community by celebrating and preserving the customs and culture unique to our region. NIOA is one of the most-loved Fiesta events, and the largest fundraiser for historic preservation in the country. The money we make during this event helps the Society with many different projects and preservation efforts in the San Antonio area. NIOA draws thousands of guests to historic La Villita and the surrounding downtown area, for this four-night event.

Jana Foreman, NIOA Chairman, leads the NIOA Committee which includes Wayne Hartmann, Treasurer, Julie Terrell, Lisa Pierce, and Terry Campbell, NIOA Vice Chairs and the NIOA employees, Fernando Villarreal, Business Manager, Lisa Schneider, Bookkeeper and Mandy Rodriguez, Administrative Assistant.

We appreciate all the community support. And, we want to thank the thousands of hard working, dedicated volunteers, from the Flower and Cascarones Committees, the staggers, warehouse crew, area and booth chairmen and all the other area volunteers. NIOA would not be able to happen without

all of you. If you want to join in, please contact the NIOA office at 210-226-5188 or online at niosa.org/volunteer.

Please mark your calendars for the 74th NIOA which will be held April 25-28, 2023.

VIVA NIOA!

NIOSITAS®

NIOSITA, a small version of NIOA, is presented to private groups. It is another way we use to raise funds for the Society.

We were fortunate to present a NIOSITA in May 2022 for the Vernacular Architecture Forum and we will present another one in November 2022 for the Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers. Then we have one scheduled for January 2023 for the Professional Tour Guide Association.

If you know of any group that might be interested in having a NIOSITA, please contact the NIOA office for more information.



Kick Off for NIOA 2022



NIOSITA - A Small Personalized NIOA for Your Organization

Become A Tour Guide

Karen Roe, Professional Tour Association of San Antonio

The Professional Tour Guide Association of San Antonio was created in 1994 to certify people to provide high quality tours for area visitors. The association strives to promote a high degree of professionalism for tour guides through commitment to ethical standards, continuing education and professional training. To obtain credentials as a Certified Professional Guide, a candidate must complete a six-month study course conducted by the association and pass both a written and an oral examination. The association will conduct the first training course since 2019 beginning in January of 2023. Class members will meet on weekends to explore the city and learn about local history, points of

interest, plants, architecture, and professional standards. The association is seeking qualified people for the certification class. The cost is \$250 and registration is now open. The deadline for registration is December 1st.

Interested? More information can be found under the certification tab at sanantoniotourguide.org. Questions can be directed to sanantoniotourguides@gmail.com. We hope you will be interested in obtaining certification and helping escort visitors to teach them more about the rich history of the city.

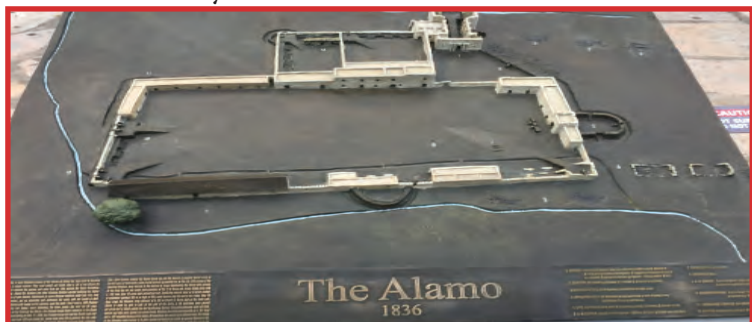
A Busy Summer of Advocacy

The Conservation Society organized a press conference for August 15th, announcing our nomination of the Institute of Texan Cultures (ITC)/ Texas Pavilion building at Hemisfair Park. This Mid-Century Modern landmark building has been the subject of task forces and public comment by its owner, The University of Texas at San Antonio. UTSA's focus has been on the Institute itself, so the Conservation Society is focusing on the building and its future. We are working with a collection of advocates for the ITC and had several of them, including Dr. Sarah Zenaida Gould and Dr. Yvonne Katz, speak at the press conference in front of the building.



Institute of Texas Cultures- Press Conference - 8/15/2022

Also in August 2022, The Alamo Trust revealed their proposal to “reconstruct” the South Gate and lunette in Alamo Plaza. The project would not be a period-accurate reconstruction of the South Gate, which existed from the mission era in the 1720s to the 1870s, but a structure of the general size and shape of the gate that would host exhibits and interpretive panels. The lunette was a defensive structure curving out from the gate that housed at least two of the Alamo's 20 cannons. It was erected by the Mexican army in 1835 and destroyed in 1836 after the famous battle.



Lunette at the Alamo

The new “exhibit” will be 80 feet long and 14 feet high. The Conservation Society submitted a letter expressing concern about the size of the construction, its location on the actual archaeological ruins of the Alamo's south gate, and the importance of protecting the World Heritage status of the site. The Society found the scale and height of the new construction “too large and disruptive” for Alamo Plaza. Following the statement, the Alamo Trust gave Society leaders a special briefing on the project in late August, and it was presented to Historic Design and Review Commission (HDRC) in late September.

In September 2022, the Conservation Society's Board of Directors adopted a motion to support the 2017-2022 bond project for Brackenridge Park, following a year of public meetings and hearings. The Society had initially expressed concern about the number of trees being removed while supporting the restoration of Pump House #1 and the riverbank walls. Following the last seven public meetings, the Society agreed that the plans for tree preservation and replanting had been sufficient and the project should proceed. It will still be reviewed by HDRC and the Texas Historical Commission, as well as by the Army Corps of Engineers.



Brackenridge Park - Pump House #1

September 14th at the McNay Art Museum, Raymond David Vela, retired Deputy Director of the National Park Service and author of the book titled, *Hola Ranger: A Latino's Journey Through Our Nation's National Parks*, wowed nearly 100 people at the first Amanda Cartwright Taylor Distinguished Lecture. Vela was introduced by Edward Sealy, whose uncle, George Sealy, had endowed the lecture in memory of his grandmother, Conservation Society founder Amanda Cartwright Taylor. Torrey Stanley Carleton, who worked to secure the Sealy family support of the endowed lecture, spoke, as did Conservation Society President Kathy Rhoads and Executive Director Vincent Michael.

During his presentation, Vela detailed his beginning at the San Antonio Missions National Park – created by Congress in 1978 after intense lobbying by the Conservation Society. He told engaging stories about working his way through parks like Grand Teton and the LBJ Ranch. Following the lecture, Vela autographed books as guests mingled and enjoyed a glass of wine.



Torrey Stanley Carleton welcomes Edward Sealy



Edward Sealy, Raymond David Vela, Kathy Rhoads, Vincent Michael

WELCOME TO THE TEAM



Fernando Villarreal - NIOSA Business Manager

Fernando served as the Director of Operations/ Logistics Manager with the Fiesta® San Antonio Commission since March of 2016. Prior to that, he served as the Assistant Executive Director of the Fiesta® SA Commission from 2002-2013. He also served as a seasonal staff member with the Commission from 1998-2002. Fernando began his formal career as the lead architectural computer draftsman with José Luis Hernandez Architects where he worked for several years designing educational school buildings and documenting structures for preservation and restoration. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree from The University of Texas at Austin. Fernando is an active member of the Beethoven Maennerchor, Fiesta Flambeau Parade

Association and the Fiesta San Antonio Commission, Inc. He is also a charter member of the Fiesta Flambeau® Parade Association. As the Logistics Manager for the Fiesta Commission, his duties included overseeing the Fiesta Commission's street chair program and parade logistics, yearly revision of the city's Fiesta Ordinance, and the Fiesta Commission's annual Fiesta-Fiesta® kick-off celebration in Hemisfair Park. Fernando is no stranger to the Society nor to NIOSA. During the mid-1990's, he served as booth chairman of the Chili Queens booth in Mexican Hay Market under the leadership of Azalea Hardy. As a Society board member since 2016, he has served on various committees including Community Grants, Junior Associates Membership, Programs, Special Events and Steves Homestead Complex Christmas Décor.

Michael Martinez - Maintenance Operations Coordinator

The Conservation Society welcomes Michael Martinez as the Maintenance Operations Coordinator. He was born in San Antonio, went to Holmes High School, and graduated from St. Mary's University with a degree in International Relations. After spending six years in the Army as an Infantry Officer, he left active duty with the rank of Captain. Michael went back to school and graduated from the University of Incarnate Word with a Master's Degree in Business Administration. He has volunteered for St. Mary University's Oyster Bake as an Alcohol Section Manager and served the last six years as NIOSA Chicken Fajitas Booth Vice Chair.



Mario Gloria - Maintenance Operations Assistant

The Conservation Society also welcomes Mario Gloria. Mario and his beautiful wife of 15 years are proud of their four sons and nine grandchildren. The first time he worked for NIOSA was in 1995 and keeps coming back. He is thankful for the opportunity to be an official staff member now and looks forward to being a part of this great team.

Welcome New Members!

July 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022

Anna F. Cascarano
Anthony Cascarano
Nicole Dellinger
Tina Dellinger

Frank Hildebrand
Katie Kinder DeBauche
Tobias Klingelhofer
Gregory Meyer

Susan Moy
Theresa Scheets
June Beaman Sidoric
Michael Sidoric



Junior Associates Kick Off New Year

December 4th at 2PM - Gingerbread House Decorating

Meeting notices for the year are being sent to all active Junior Associate Members - Please contact the office if you have not received your notice.

Donations: July 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022



Corinthian Level

Glazer's

Ionic Level

Mr. Patrick Williamson

Doric Level

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Dietel

Mrs. Patsy Light

Pillar Level

Mr. David M. Adelman

Alamo Hardwoods, Inc

Mrs. Margie Arnold

Drs. Otis & Maryan Baskin

Mr. & Mrs. Dean Bibles

Mr. Robert T. Buchanan

Ms. Leticia Diaz

Frost Bank

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Hixon

Mrs. Carolyn B. Jackson

Mr. Mitchell Kaliff

Mr. Dennis Karbach/ Mr. Robert Brown

Mr. James Lifshutz

Mr. & Mrs. Sean Lyons

Ms. Roxana McGregor

Ms. Cathey Meyer

Mr. & Mrs Richard Negley

Ms. Marlene Richardson

Mrs. Camille Rodriguez Brigant

Ms. Kate Ruckman

Mr. Tom Sharp

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Shivers

Mrs. Richard C. Traylor

Mr. V.T. Wood

Keystone Level

Ms. Anne Alexander

Dr. Anna Catherine Armstrong

Mrs. Ann Griffith Ash

Ms. Nancy Avellar

Mrs. Magdalena Barrera

Ms. Susan Beavin

Mrs. Kathleen Carter

Dr. Theresa Casey

Mr. & Mrs. Cary Collins

Mr. William R. Crow, Jr.

Mr. Brandon Danford

Ms. Rosemarie Q. Donelson

Mr. Jeffrey C. Fetzter, FAIA

Ms. Missy Finck

Mr. James R. Garner

Mrs. Lisa Garza

Mr. & Mrs. Lee Grant

Mr. & Mrs. Joey Groff

Ms. Helen K. Groves

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Hartmann

Mrs. Caryn Hasslocher

Mrs. Sharon Hendricks

Hollerbach Title Group

Mrs. Loretta Huddleston

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Ince

Mrs. Sandee Johns

Ms. Barbara Johnson

Mr. Curtis Johnson

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kinnison, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Martin Kushner

Kuyrkendall & Company

Mr. Jerry Martinez

Ms Whitney McCarthy

Mr. Dennis McDaniel

Ms. Celeste McEntire

Mrs. Shanon Miller

Ms. Linda Child Nairn

NRP Group

Mrs. Mary Ann Oliver

Mr. Samuel Panchevre

Mr. Joe Penshorn

Mrs. Peggy Penshorn

Mr. Robert Penshorn

Ms. Patricia Pratchett

Mr. Andrew Prestridge

The Republic of Texas Restaurant

Ms. Kathy Rhoads

Mr. Jon Robinson

Mrs. Gretchen Rose

Mr. & Mrs. William Sands

Ms. Monica Savino & Mr. Mark Kusey

Mr. & Mrs. David Schoenert

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Schulze

Ms. Rebecca Simmons

Mrs. Penelope Smith-Singleton

Torrey Stanley Carleton

Mrs. Mari Tamez

Ms. Dru Van Steenberg

Mrs. Virginia Van Steenberg

Villa Finale Museum & Gardens

Mrs. Penny Wiederhold

Mr. Chris Wisner

Mrs. Belinda Molina Yndo

Preservation Corner

Katie Kinder DeBauche

Bricks & Mortar Friends

Sharon Hearn

Foundation Builders

Anna Cascarano

Lisa Vaughn

Donor

Michael Berger

Belinda Henning

IN MEMORY OF...

NANCY BROWN NEGLEY

Robert Buchanan

Maria and Fred Pfeiffer

LLOYD JARY

Maria and Fred Pfeiffer

IN HONOR OF...

THE MARRIAGE OF MARY & ZAC HARRIS

Hope Rios

Bridget Jenkins

Rodney Harris

BETH STANDIFIRD

Steve Baldwin

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

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

Submission deadline for the Winter Newsletter is Friday, November 11, 2022.

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: Paul Ringenbach, Ph.D., Chair; Paula Piper, Vice Chair;
Kathy Rhoads, Ex Officio; Murphy Emmons; Christine Forestier; Gary Houston; Velma Nanka-Bruce



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'Here it is, I helped to save it'
Miss Anna Ellis - 1927

AZTEC THEATER

The Aztec Theater opened in 1926 with decorative carvings, sculpture, painted symbols, and architectural elements inspired by Aztec, Mayan, and other Mesoamerican cultures. Immensely popular when it opened, some 50 years later it faced demolition. To save the Aztec, the Conservation Society purchased it in 1988, selling it in 1993. Today, the Aztec hosts live music shows in its Mayan Revival splendor.

SAVE THE DATES !

November 1, 2022 - November 4, 2022

2022 PASTFORWARD

NATIONAL PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

Online

Thursday, November 24th - Friday

November 25th

STAFF HOLIDAY - OFFICES CLOSED

Wednesday, December 7th at 4:00 pm

2022 WEIHNACHTSFEIER CELEBRATION

FOR SOCIETY MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Location TBD

Friday, December 23 - Monday, December 26th,

2022, and Monday, January 2nd, 2023

STAFF HOLIDAYS - OFFICES CLOSED

Wednesday, January 25th at 5:30 pm

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Location TBD

February 1, 2023 - February 3, 2023

2023 REAL PLACES CONFERENCE

PRESERVING HISTORIC TEXAS

Austin, Texas or Online