

Southwest Office

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Proudly Serving

Arkansas, New Mexico,
Oklahoma and Texas

Staff

Daniel Carey, Director
Denise Alexander, Program Officer
Wendy Ossoinig, Program Administrator
Beth Wiedower, Field Representative
Sandra Smith, Director, Villa Finale

Calendar

April

10 Daniel in San Antonio, TX
27-29 Daniel in Tulsa, OK

May

2-4 Daniel in Nebraska City, NE
9-10 Daniel at AIA retreat in Brock, TX
14 Daniel in Denver, CO
30-31 Daniel in Grapevine, TX

June

4-6 Daniel in Ponca City, OK
9-13 SWO staff in Wash, DC
19 Daniel in Tulsa, OK

Southwest Advisors

AR: Cheri Nichols, Debbie Shea

NM: Ernest Ortega

OK: John Mabrey, Mary Ellen Meredith

TX: Sam Collins, Veletta Lill

Statewide Partners

[Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas](#)
[New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance](#)
[Preservation Oklahoma](#)
[Preservation Texas](#)

Main Street

[Main Street Arkansas](#)
[New Mexico Main Street](#)
[Oklahoma Main Street](#)
[Texas Main Street](#)

TULSA 2008

Since the National Preservation Conference will be held in "Tulsa Town" later this fall, we thought you should get to know this interesting city. The original 'oil capital of the world,' Tulsa has a rich architectural heritage and much of it is a result of its oil and gas history. Unlike some other boomtowns in the region, Tulsa has always tried to keep its wells and derricks in the background so it can maintain its cultured, cosmopolitan image. But long before oil was discovered in the Glen Pool, there were other events that shaped its history.

In 1834, the Lo-chapoka Muscogee natives established a settlement at the foot of the Ozark Mountains, near the Arkansas River, and named it *Tulasi* ("old town"). Over the next couple of decades, the community gradually grew into a trading post and cattle town. When the first post office opened in 1879, the town's name was officially changed to Tulsa.

Then, in the "Roaring Twenties," Tulsa and Art Deco came of age and prospered with abundance. Flush with oil money, prominent Tulsans started building the skyscrapers that would spur one of the preeminent Art Deco collections in the United States.

As Tulsa boomed and the Art Deco aesthetic evolved through the thirties and into World War II, examples of [Zigzag](#), [WPA](#), and [Streamline](#) buildings popped up all over town.

Growth and prosperity also played a role in establishing many of the historic districts Tulsa has today...such as Greenwood. Dubbed America's "Black Wall Street" by Booker T. Washington, the 35-block Greenwood District surrounded the corner of Greenwood Avenue and Archer Street and became a prosperous center for black commerce in the early 1900s. It was

also a hotbed for jazz and blues, and the site where Count Basie first encountered big-band jazz.

The Tulsa of today has been designated as one of the nation's newest Preserve America Communities.

"Becoming a Preserve America Community confirms what Tulsans have known for many years - that our community has a rich collection of historic resources that are of interest to heritage tourists," Mayor Kathy Taylor said. "We are especially excited about achieving this designation with the National Preservation Conference coming to Tulsa in October 2008."

The National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Preservation Conference—the largest gathering of its kind in the country—will be held in Tulsa, from October 21st to October 25th. Educational sessions, lectures, tours and affinity sessions will be offered—a great way to network with your peers and learn about the latest in preservation. And, of course, Tulsa!



The Golden Driller

February Grants Announced



OKLAHOMA

\$2,000 (Mayo Fund) to the **Washington County Historical Society, Inc.**

for the improvement of the educational capabilities of the museum by designing and planning new interpretive exhibits in the rooms of the **Dewey Hotel** (c.1899).

\$1,500 (Mayo Fund) to the **Tulsa Foundation for Architecture** for a **visual survey of Tulsa's older major arterial streets that will identify and record all neon signs.**

The inventory will include photos, conditions assessment, and history of important neon signs. The survey will include materials used in the physical creation of the sign, types of lettering, neon tubing and gases used for color, and maker of the sign. The finished survey will be disseminated to programs in the Tulsa public schools.

TEXAS

1) *Frank Bell Sr. House, Galveston, TX*

\$3,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **Galveston County Historical Commission** to produce an architectural preservation plan so

restoration funding efforts can begin on the historic **Frank Bell Sr. House** in Texas City (c.1887-88).

\$2,000 (Fondren Fund) to **The Heritage Society** for a master plan to conserve **Historic Sam Houston Park's** (c. 1899) by developing a maintenance plan, improving circulation and lighting and to enhance the park's overall use and appearance.

\$2,000 (Fondren Fund) educational grant to the **Texas Historical Foundation** for a **college intern**, to write articles for each issue of the HERITAGE magazine and columns on Living History and Teaching Texas History.

\$3,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **City of Castroville** for preservation architectural services for the **Biry House and Barn Complex** (1850, NR), to develop a Historic Structures Report for the complex. The HSR will outline what the Castro Colonies Heritage Associa-

tion needs to do to restore the complex, how much money needs to be raised, and time frame for work.

2) *Shiner Catholic School, Shiner, TX*

\$5,000 (Meadows Fund) to the **Shiner Catholic School** (c.1916) for a **master plan that will consist of all existing church buildings** and concentrate on the renovation of the 1916 school building. The master plan will include three phases of the project: preparation and analysis, workshop to prioritize renovation schedule, and Master Plan recommendations and presentation.

3) *Northeast Lakeview College, Live Oak, TX*

\$3,000 (Meadows Fund) to the **Northeast Lakeview College** (c.1877) for the **Lower Valley School District #33 Restoration Project Fundraising** to relocate and restore a two room schoolhouse, onto its 245- acre campus to be used as a public museum containing artifacts and period pieces geared towards educating the public about the community and era.

Denise Alexander Moves to Galveston

For any of you who know the Southwest Office, you know Denise Alexander. In fact, for many of you, Denise was the Southwest Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For over four years, she was our able-bodied Program Officer who helped you with technical assistance questions, advocacy ideas and, of course, grants. If it weren't for her strong management of the Preservation Funds and Intervention Funds, the region would be missing even more historic resources. Denise was a bright spot who loved to be in the field. She was actively involved in a number of important initiatives—ranging from Teardowns to Rosenwald Schools. She took particular pride in collaborating with Cornerstones Community Partnerships to save endangered historic adobe resources in the Southwest.

It is no an exaggeration to say that the preservation landscape in the Southwest is better off because of Denise's hard work—especially in New Mexico and West Texas. The National Trust was fortunate to have her excellent services and irrepressible personality for as long as we did, "but all good things must come to an end." Beginning in April, Denise will join the Galveston Historical Foundation as Director of Heritage Programs in a new department that coordinates all education, outreach and tourism initiatives, including a heritage tourism program with GHF's new, for-profit subsidiary, Galveston Island Tours. Wendy and Daniel already miss "our little Dennis," but we're proud of her accomplishments and we wish her all the best in Galveston. If you can't find Denise in Galveston, look for her on vacation in, "Ahhhhh, Marfa."



Partners in the Field 2007 Challenge Grant Recipient

By Dwayne Jones, Executive Director, Galveston Historical Foundation

Galveston Island is one of the most vulnerable areas in the nation. It is a barrier island along the Gulf of Mexico making it a dynamic land form that each year braces for what could be the next natural disaster. The Island, however, is also the location of one of the finest collections of late 19th century and early 20th century buildings in the United States...all set in a rich and colorful community history. Galveston Island is a state and national treasure long recognized as such by the **Galveston Historical Foundation (GHF)**. Today, GHF's mission is to preserve the island's history including its built environment and maritime resources for all who live here and visit.

In 2007, GHF proposed an idea to the National Trust's new Partners in the Field program that recognizes our unique circumstances and expands what have been

well developed preservation field services for more than thirty years. GHF's expanded field services are designed to build a "Recoverable and Sustainable Historic Galveston Island."

The Galveston Historical Foundation is excited about our new ventures and are pleased to be a recipient of a \$147,000 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. We are forming new partnerships with the business community including Standard Renewable Energy of Houston and the James Hardie Company ("Hardie Plank"). New funding opportunities also are appearing as we develop our capacity for fundraising. We see this partnership with the National Trust as a way for us to further highlight the importance of



our field work as well as permanently endow these special services for the Island.

Partners in the Field is a transformative challenge grant program to expand preservation field services nationwide. The grant program is a collaboration between the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Statewide and Local Partners, funded by a generous gift from Robert Wilson, a long-time friend of the National Trust.

The Return of the Grand Theatre

The Electra Grand Theatre and the City of Electra have been given a challenge grant by The Priddy Foundation of Wichita Falls, Texas. A matching contribution from the National Trust for Historic Preservation funds will go towards stabilizing the floor of this historic theatre.

The Grand stands alone as a theater beacon from the "Roaring 20s." Now the Grand is undergoing a renaissance with the help of generations past and present and interested parties who believe in preserving this special type of heritage.

Since 1986 the Electra "Save the Grand" Committee has worked

to preserve the building's integrity to prevent further deterioration. Years of neglect and a leaking roof had significantly damaged the roof and the once elegant interior of the Grand. The first steps were to get the building in the dry.



Once the building has been renovated inside and out, the Grand Theatre will be on the list of vintage theatres.

The citizens of Electra are trying hard to make sure that the Grand does not fall into that category. Visit

www.electragrandtheatre.com for more on the history of the theatre, progress to date and plans for the future.

Group Conserves Resources by Preserving Landmarks

Houston's River Oaks neighborhood owes much of its unique charm and appeal to its gracious historic homes. Little by little, many of the neighborhood's older homes began disappearing in recent years. Prompted by the accelerating loss of homes, Jane D. Owen and CLEAN (an environmental non-profit organization founded by Ms. Owen) began advocating for the preservation of River Oaks' charming historic homes. Two and a half years ago, CLEAN helped form a neighborhood group called Preservation River Oaks (PRO), composed of residents concerned with the rapidly changing character and appearance of the neighborhood. In addition to educating the residents on the significance and value of the area's homes, PRO, through the heroic efforts of Kelley Tram-

mel, has helped residents make personal commitments to preserving their neighborhood by assisting them to designate their homes as historic landmarks. To date, 40 River Oaks residents have had their homes designated as city landmarks, more than 35 of which resulted from PRO's outreach activities. CLEAN has also been at the forefront of efforts to save historic theaters and other landmarks in Houston.. For more information about CLEAN, go to: www.cleanhouston.org



National Preservation Conference Scholarships

Oklahoma Scholarships

A special scholarship program is available to Oklahoma residents, targeted to participants representing diverse ethnic populations and rural communities in Oklahoma. One hundred (100) scholarships are available for applicants whose attendance will benefit their community and whose commitment to historic preservation will be strengthened by their participation.

The Oklahoma Scholarship Program is generously funded in part by Mr. George Kravis/The Raymond and Bessie Kravis Foundation in Tulsa and administered through Oklahoma Main Street program. For questions regarding the scholarship program please call 405.815.5133 or email Lindsey_Galloway@okcommerce.gov. [Applications](#) are due **June 1, 2008**.

Diversity Scholarships

The goal of the Diversity Scholarship Program is to increase the diversity of participants at the annual National Preservation Conference and in the preservation movement. The Program provides financial assistance to approximately 60 community leaders from diverse social, economic, racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds to attend the National Preservation Conference. Through interactive sessions, presentations, informal gatherings, and tours in Tulsa and its surrounding areas, participants will learn the necessary tools to strengthen their commitment to and effectiveness in preserving historic places and revitalizing communities.

For more information: <http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/find-funding/scholarships/diversity/>

My Conference Experience

By Ms. Nedra Lee

I attended the National Trust for Historic Preservation's annual National Preservation Conference in St. Paul, MN last year as a Diversity Scholarship recipient.

While a summer internship with the Texas Historical Commission served as an introduction to the types of preservation projects archaeologists spearhead, I wanted to attend the conference to learn about the approaches archaeologists and preservationists were employing to document underrepresented minority sites.

My favorite sessions were the ones on re-examining heritage and the various projects community activists and historians were involved in to preserve African American history in St. Paul. From these sessions, I learned that historic preservation was just beginning to take several important steps to creating a more inclusive history.

I was extremely grateful for the opportunity to attend the NTHP annual preservation conference. I am looking forward to presenting at the next one!



Funding Opportunities...

NTHP Grants Blog

If you're looking for federal funding, an easy place to start your search is here: <http://nthpgrants.blogspot.com/>.

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP), has grant programs that preserve the state's historic resources.

For more information:

www.arkansaspreservation.org/preservation-services/grant-programs/

Heritage Tourism Grants

Government and nonprofit organizations within active Texas Heritage Trails Program regions can apply for matching grants when funds are available.

For more information:

www.thc.state.tx.us/grantsincent/graht.html

Tribal Preservation Programs

To determine what financial assistance is available from an Indian tribe, contact the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer or officials identified in the National Park Service Native American Consultation Database at

www.cast.uark.edu/other/nps/nacd/.

Local Preservation Programs

To determine what financial assistance is available from a local government, contact the historic preservation commission or agency, if one exists. Otherwise, check with the planning agency, community development agency, or other appropriate branch of local government. For contact information for CLGs, visit www.cr.nps.gov/hps/clg/clgquest.htm

Donate to the National Trust Southwest Office

With your donation you'll be joining thousands of preservationists who enable our staff to save historic places and revitalize communities.

Gifts to the National Trust are tax-deductible in accordance with the law.

For more information contact:

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