

Southwest Office

500 Main Street, Suite 1030
Fort Worth, TX 76102
817/332-4398
swro@nthp.org

Proudly Serving

Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas

Staff

Daniel Carey, Director
Leah Brown, Program Officer
Wendy Ossoinig, Program Administrator
Jeff Campbell, PreservationNation Intern
Beth Wiedower, Field Representative, AR
Sandra Smith, Director, Villa Finale

Calendar

December

4 Daniel and Leah in Little Rock, AR
10 Daniel and Leah in Oklahoma City, OK

Southwest Advisors

AR: *Debbie Shea, Ruth Hawkins*

NM: *Ernest Ortega*

OK: *John Mabrey, Mary Ellen Meredith*

TX: *Sam Collins, Veletta Lill,*

At-Large: *Margarita Araiza*

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

SWO Begins a New Era

The Southwest Office is pleased to announce the hiring of Ms. Leah Brown as our new Program Officer. Some of you met Leah in Tulsa at the National Preservation Conference, but for those who did not we are thrilled that she is working with us in Fort Worth. Among her many duties, Leah will help manage programs and field services in Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.



Left to right: Jeff Campbell, Leah Brown, Wendy Ossoinig, Daniel Carey

Leah is a native Texan—growing up in the town of Schertz near San Antonio. She received a BA in Anthropology at the University of Texas. She received her MFA in Historic Preservation from the Savannah College of Art and Design. Before joining the Southwest Office in October, Leah worked for the National Park Service (intern in the Technical Preservation Services section) and as the African American Programs Coordinator for the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SHPO). Leah has a diverse background that includes archaeology and work with Rosenwald Schools.

The SWO is fortunate to have Leah on our team. She brings experience with fieldwork and administration of grants. She is enthusiastic and a good sense of humor; we're confident she will fit in with the NTHP.

Along with the addition of Leah, the SWO shall soon need to fill another opening with Daniel Carey's move to Savannah, Georgia. Daniel has accepted the position of President and CEO of the Historic Savannah Foundation, and he begins work there on December 16th. He has been Director of the Southwest Office since 2000.

In the last eight years, the SWO has enjoyed a number of successes, including increased funding for preservation in the region via National Trust Preservation Funds in all four states. Newly endowed funds were established in Arkansas and New Mexico. Oklahoma's fund doubled in size and the existing fund in Texas has been complemented by emergency intervention funds. Also, the SWO played key roles in two 11 Most Saves—the Kraigher House in Brownsville, TX and the Gold Dome Bank in Oklahoma City. There is significant improvement at Bathhouse Row in Hot Springs, AR. The SWO continues to monitor Route 66, El Camino Real in New Mexico and the Statler Hotel in Dallas. The region also boasts the the RHDl program in the Arkansas Delta and 15 State-wide and Local Partners which strengthen the movement at the grass-roots level. Daniel enjoyed working in the Southwest region and will miss it very much.

National Preservation Award Winners from the Southwest Region

Louise du Pont Crowninshield Award Winners

Mark Michel of Albuquerque, NM and Jane Blaffer Owen of New Harmony, IN and Houston, TX each received the prestigious Louise DuPont Crowninshield Award—the preservation movement’s highest accolade—from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

In 1980, Mark Michel became the first president of a new organization he had helped create: The Archaeological Conservancy. In the 28 years since, Michel’s energetic leadership has built the Conservancy into a national organization with a strong and supportive constituency of more than 23,000 members. Today, an expansive range of tours and educational

events allows members to learn more about ancient cultures, and a popular



quarterly magazine informs the public about the wide range of threats that put sites at risk. Equally important, the Conservancy has earned the respect of funders—and their support enables the organization to move quickly to save archaeological sites that are in danger of being lost to vandalism, development or the ravages of time. To date, the Conservancy has acquired and preserved some 365 endangered sites from California to New England.

The same determination drove Jane Blaffer Owen to launch an ambitious—and successful—effort to preserve and revitalize the historic Indiana town of New Harmony, founded as a utopian society by Robert Owen in 1825. From the moment she saw it in 1941 (soon after her marriage to the third-great grandson of Robert Owen), she fell in love with the place. She immediately went to work founding the Robert Lee Blaffer Foundation and transforming the tiny, long-neglected town into a major cultural center and visitor attraction. In addition to preserving and rehabilitating numerous historic buildings, Owen created an extraordinary array of artwork and gardens and even a restaurant and an Inn. Furthermore, she commissioned widely-acclaimed contemporary buildings from modern-day masters such as Philip Johnson who

designed a roofless church and Richard Meier who designed



the town’s Visitors’ Center. On the national stage, Owen helped instigate the American Planning Association’s discussions of a “cultural town” program that would identify places involved in community building in creative ways which resist the homogenization of America. After five decades of innovative and exemplary preservation effort, this 91-year old powerhouse continues to be fully engaged in the cultural life of New Harmony and beyond.

ACHP Award for Federal Partnerships in Historic Preservation

V-Site Restoration Project, Los Alamos, NM—A small cluster of buildings, the V-Site was where the world’s first plutonium bombs were assembled during World War II. After the War ended, the buildings stood empty and threatened with demolition until an innovative preservation partnership ensured that time would stand still in a place where the world changed forever.

Honor Awards

Arkansas Heritage SITES, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR.—This innovative program has made significant progress in protecting the cultural assets of the rural Arkansas Delta while sparking economic revitalization, heritage tourism and spinoff business development in nearby communities.

Oak Court, Dallas, TX—Over the years, a number of insensitive alterations dimmed the luster of this modernist masterpiece but a meticulous restoration has returned the residence, including its iconic floating dining room table, to the grandeur that won critical raves a half-century ago.

Roma Visitors’ Center and Plaza, Roma, TX—In 1976, a misguided remodeling destroyed much of the 2-block long plaza located along the banks of the Rio Grande, but an innovative project has rejuvenated the heart of this Texas border town and the plaza is a dynamic gathering place for citizens and visitors once again.

October Grants Announced



OKLAHOMA

\$10,000 (Kirkpatrick Fund) to the **Variety Health Center in Oklahoma City** for architectural services for the **Lafayette Elementary School** to develop a Historic Structures Report for the c.1927 building in use as a community health center.

TEXAS

\$5,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **City of Llano** for an architectural preservation plan for the **Red Top Jail** built in 1895. The plan will provide a brief historical summary, rehabilitation plan, list, conceptual drawings and a cost estimate for repairs.

1) *Judge J.N. Campbell Home, Longview* \$3,500 (Fondren Fund) to Pres-



ervation **Longview** for a Preservation Master Plan for the **Judge J.N. Campbell Home** (c.1872). The plan will enable Preservation Longview to more strategically seek financial and community support to achieve the benchmarks set forth in the study.

2) *Killeen Downtown Historic District* \$3,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **City of Killeen** for a Historic Landscape Master Plan for the **Killeen Downtown Historic District**. A Historic Landscape Master Plan with architectural renderings will help focus public and private initiatives in a cohesive and appropriate way.

3) *Rialto Theater, Beeville* \$2,000 (Fondren Fund) to the



Hall-Rialto Preservation Association in Beeville for a Restoration Fund Development Campaign. The campaign will help secure funding to complete the rehabilitation of the historic **Rialto Theater** (c.1935) as a multi-purpose community performing arts, museum, and educational facility for rural South Texas.

\$750 (Fondren Fund) to the **Texas Downtown Association** for a Keynote Speaker at the **2008 Texas Downtown Revitalization Conference**. Tom Moriarty of Economic Research Associates and a founder of the National Main Street Center will be the keynote speaker and lead a breakout session.

Lowe's Rosenwald Grant Funding Available

Lowe's has provided another \$1 million grant to the National Trust for Historic Preservation to save and restore Rosenwald

Schools. [Click here for more information or to download the application.](#) *The deadline to apply is December 31, 2009.

The [Rosenwald School Building Program](#) has been called the "most influential philanthropic force that came to the aid of Negroes at that time." It began in 1912 when Booker T. Washington approached Julius Rosenwald, President of Sears, Roebuck and



Company, with an idea for a pilot program that was to have a dramatic impact on the face of the rural South.

Washington's idea eventually led to the creation of the Julius



Rosenwald Foundation. This foundation provided seed grants for the construction of more than 5,300 [buildings](#) in 15 states, including

schools, shops, and teachers' houses which were built by and for African Americans.

Today many of these Rosenwald school buildings are gone, victims of changing times and communities. To heighten awareness of

the threats to these historic resources, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Rosenwald Schools to its list of America's [11 Most Endangered Historic Places](#) in 2002. The National Trust for Historic Preservation then formed

the Rosenwald Schools Initiative, calling together a task force to devise a plan for the preservation of Rosenwald schools.

Welcome Margarita Araiza — new At-Large Advisor

Margarita Araiza of Laredo, Texas has been appointed to the National Trust's Board of Advisors and thus becomes the newest Advisor to the Southwest region. Margarita is the Executive Director of the Webb County Heritage Foundation. As director, she has been an advocate for historic preservation in her community for 12 years. She was instrumental in protecting the San Agustín National Register District of Laredo and has worked to preserve and promote the history of an independent nation known as the Republic of the Rio Grande which included areas of South Texas and northern Mexico, and of which her hometown of Laredo was the capital.



Margarita provided information for the designation of Los Caminos del Rio Bi-National Heritage Corridor as one of the America's *11 Most Endangered Historic Places* in 2001. More recently, her work with the River Vega Master Plan in Laredo involves the rescue of an international boundary from the threat of destruction by The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (border wall).

She works very closely with the Mexican Consulate of Laredo on projects that showcase the region's heritage. Individually and via Webb County Heritage, Margarita collaborates with other preservation organizations such as the Webb County Archaeology Society and the Villa San Agustín de Laredo Genealogical Society. Her work on the City of Laredo's Historic District Landmark Board has helped preserve the integrity of Laredo's oldest neighborhoods and save historic structures threatened by demolition. We're pleased to add Margarita's experience and perspective to our Board of Advisors.

National Trust Accepting Nominations for 2009 America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places® List

New Streamlined Process Permits Online Nominations

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is accepting nominations - which can now be submitted online - for its 2009 [America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places® list](#). This annual list highlights important examples of the nation's architectural, cultural and natural heritage that are at risk for destruction or irreparable damage. [Nominations are due on Friday, December 5, 2008](#). The 2009 list will be announced late spring 2009.

Since 1988, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has used its list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places as a powerful alarm to raise awareness of the serious threats facing the nation's great treasures. It has become one of the most effective tools in the fight to save the country's irreplaceable architectural, cultural, and natural heritage. The list, which has identified 200 sites through 2008, has been so successful in galvanizing preservation efforts across the country and rallying resources to save one-of-kind landmarks that in just two decades, only six sites have been lost.



Dallas Statler Hilton "11 Most Endangered" in 2008

For additional information, e-mail 11Most@nthp.org or call 202.588.6141. To learn more about the program and to submit a nomination, visit: www.PreservationNation.org/issues/11-most-endangered.

The Nomination Guidelines and Form can be found at: www.PreservationNation.org/issues/11-most-endangered/nomination-information/2009-americas-11-most.html.