

## Stephanie Meeks Named 8th President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation



On June 14, the National Trust for Historic Preservation announced Stephanie Meeks as its new president. The selection of Meeks, the National Trust's

first female president, is welcoming news for DSP as it continues its commitment to promoting diversity in the preservation movement. Meeks is a long-time member of the National Trust and most recently served as president and CEO of Counterpart International, a \$110 million development organization working in 25 countries. She earlier spent 18 years at The Nature Conservancy, one of the largest and most influential conservation organizations in the world, where she held a number of leadership positions including chief operating officer and, for nearly a year, acting president. [Read more](#)

## Pursue Your Passion

Visit the [Preservation Career Center](#) to find and post jobs and internships. Check out dozens of listings. Read profiles of people working in the preservation field and learn more about valuable training and networking opportunities.

## 2010 Important Dates

### AUGUST

28-29

Gravestone Preservation Workshop  
Wethersfield, CT

### SEPTEMBER

9-12

Preserving the Historic Road 2010  
Washington, DC

22-25

AASLH and OMA Annual Meeting  
Oklahoma City, OK

28-29

Preservation Planning for Campuses,  
Complexes, and Installations

## Lights, Camera, Preservation! Spotlight on M. Rosalind Sagara (DSP '09)

*A filmmaker reconnects with the past through preservation advocacy work with a historic Chinatown.*



In the late 1800s, Riverside, Calif., was home to one of the most important Chinatowns in the country. Recognized today as a significant Chinese-American archeological site, it is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and has been declared a City Landmark, County Landmark, and State Point of Historical Interest. When Riverside's Historic Chinatown was threatened by commercial development in 2008, M. Rosalind Sagara (DSP '09) joined the community effort to preserve the site's archeological remains.

The Chinese first arrived in Riverside around the time the city was founded in 1870. They provided much needed services—working as cooks, servants, laundrymen, truck farmers, and laborers. “Chinese expertise in citrus cultivation, in particular, allowed the region’s citrus industry to thrive,” says Rosalind, a member of the Save Our Chinatown Committee, a community organization that is leading efforts to preserve the history of the Chinese in Riverside.

“I grew up with very little knowledge of, or connection to, my Chinese heritage,” says Rosalind, who was born and raised in Southern California, and is of Japanese, Chinese, and Mexican lineage. She sees her involvement in preserving Riverside’s Historic Chinatown as an opportunity to reconnect to, and reclaim her cultural heritage, something she has been personally committed to in her work as a documentary filmmaker.

Three years ago, she began working on the Dichos (Folk sayings) Project, a collection of videos about the Chinese experience in Mexico. “I was a teenager when I first saw a photograph of my great-grandfather in Mexico. He was standing behind a glass display case full of women’s high-heeled shoes,” Rosalind says. “I wanted to know the story behind that image.” Beginning in her mother’s hometown of Mazatlán, she searched for places that held significance to the Chinese Mexican community, visiting homes, businesses, a social hall, and a Chinese mausoleum. The building where her great-grandfather’s shoe factory stood nearly 100 years ago now houses a gift shop, record store, and clothing boutiques. “What began as a journey to learn more about my family’s history became a lesson in preservation,” she says. “Many of the places I found were dwindling, in disrepair, or had been lost to development. I had to rethink my storytelling approach, and my purpose, because many of the places I was searching for weren’t there anymore.” Rosalind hopes the videos will foster better understanding among cultures but also inspire people to be proactive in preserving their community’s history and cultural resources.

Although she continues to advocate for the preservation of Riverside’s Historic Chinatown, Rosalind says the future of the site will largely depend on legal appeals and increased citizen engagement. Rosalind has begun creating a film that will chronicle her community’s efforts to preserve

Hampton, VA

**SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 3**

Association for the Study of African American Life and History Annual Convention  
Birmingham, AL

**OCTOBER**

**7-9**

National Organization of Minority Architects Annual Conference  
Boston, MA

**27-30**

NTHP National Preservation Conference Austin, TX

**NOVEMBER**

**9-10**

Preservation Maintenance: Understanding and Preserving Historic Buildings Chicago, IL

**We want to hear from you!**

Tell us what you are working on. How may we help? Share your stories and ideas or send us article suggestions, address/email updates and any other thoughts about this publication to:

[scholarship@nthp.org](mailto:scholarship@nthp.org) OR **National Trust for Historic Preservation - DSP**  
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Thanks!

**Diversity Scholarship Program Alumni Newsletter**

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Riverside's Historic Chinatown. She recently traveled to San Francisco to attend the first annual National Asian Pacific Islander American Historic Preservation Forum and has been selected as 2010 Diversity Scholar to attend the National Preservation Conference in Austin, Tex. To learn more about efforts to preserve Riverside's Historic Chinatown site, go to <http://saveourchinatown.org>.

**The Conference Corner**

**Plan to Attend the National Preservation Conference in Austin!**

**October 27-30, 2010**



**AUSTIN** is the coolest 171-year-old you'll ever meet.....come explore the Next American City and the Next American Landscape at the National Preservation Conference. Join us to see how preservation weaves into Austin's urban fabric and into the landscapes of the famed Texas Hill Country. Explore how preservation supports and revitalizes vibrant cities and is the key to maintaining and restoring our traditional landscapes, all the while leading the charge on true sustainability.

**2010 Diversity Related Conference Sessions**

- African American Preservationists Meeting
- Asian American & Pacific Islander Caucus Breakfast Meeting
- Building the Bridge: Preservation and Changing U.S. Demographics
- Heritage & Climate Change: Strategies for Adaptation
- Latino/Hispanic Initiative: Reviewing the Data
- The Long Black Line: How to Develop an African American Heritage Tour
- Mexicans and Mexican Americans in Downtown Austin Heritage Tour
- Preservation Strategies in Low-income Urban Neighborhoods
- Preserving African American Cemeteries and Sacred Spaces
- Preserving Public Housing
- Pride in Preservation: 15th Annual Celebration of LGBT Preservationists and Friends
- Rethinking How We Nominate Large Cultural Landscapes to the National Register of Historic Places
- San Antonio's Spanish Culture: Missions to Murals
- Slave Cabins of South Carolina

For more information about the National Preservation Conference, visit [www.PreservationNation.org/conference](http://www.PreservationNation.org/conference) or call toll-free 866-988-1188. Send email inquiries to [conference@nthp.org](mailto:conference@nthp.org).

## How I Became a Preservationist



### **An Interview with Winston J. Dong, Jr. (DSP '07)**

Winston J. Dong, Jr., is a landscape architect and an urban planner whose work has focused on central and inner-city communities, public spaces, and transportation hubs. He recently founded Common/Places, a San Francisco-based initiative that works with communities, cities, and regions nationally to develop Public Space Strategic Plans and harnesses both the newest social technology and grassroots involvement to craft a transparent and inclusive community design process to bring those parks, plazas, and streets to life. He is also working on a book about public places that have changed history and cultures, and is developing a website to further a national conversation on how creating better public space can build a stronger and more just society.

#### **DSP: How did you become a preservationist?**

**WD:** Growing up in Manhattan, I think the bustling tension between the past and future is in the water and air—so many seminal preservation battles were fought there. And my circuitous career and life path—working with authors like Roberta Gratz and Barbaralee Diamonstein in book publishing, running the Riverside Park Fund and the Museum of Chinese in America, restoring an 1810 Hudson Valley farmhouse, and landscape architecture, urban planning, and photography—have all made me believe strongly in preservation—of communities, context, and culture—as well as the built and natural environment.

#### **DSP: What is the value of diversifying the preservation movement?**

**WD:** Preservation and community go hand in hand, so successful preservation must involve diverse communities and diverse community members. Preservation has to come from and be stewarded by community, and as the movement becomes more diverse, the preservation movement will change, evolve, and become stronger and so will the places and ways things are preserved and interpreted. As a gay man and an Asian American, I know personally how ephemeral my community histories are, how urgent it is to preserve those histories, and how important it is to figure out how to highlight and interpret those histories.

#### **DSP: How did you become aware of the National Trust?**

**WD:** As someone who has always been interested in history and architecture and landscape, I had visited National Trust sites and properties, and leading the public-private partnership to preserve an Olmsted park landscape also brought me into contact with the National Trust. But the National Trust really entered my consciousness when I took the helm of the Museum of Chinese in America, and became aware of how few physical places important to Asian American history were preserved or even signed or catalogued. And when I moved to Northern California one of the ways I immersed myself in my new community was through local National Trust sites and initiatives.

#### **DSP: What did you think of your experience as a Diversity Scholar?**

**WD:** It was a great experience for me. I met wonderful people doing incredible work, I heard amazing stories about initiatives and research I care about, and the conference really helped me connect some of the different strands of what I have done. One example was that I had this

great “Aha!” moment where I realized the type of oral history work we conducted at the museum would be a great tool for my community design work. I wish there had been more opportunity for the scholars to learn about and from each others’ work.

**DSP: Final thoughts?**

**WD:** I can’t wait to attend another conference and participate as a scholar again. Preservation is such a key part of the work I strive to do to create better public places and communities.

**Case Studies**

PreservationNation online features case studies that profile community preservation projects, programs, and strategies from across the country, and include many projects that have won state and national awards. The following case studies feature the preservation work of Diversity Scholars Nedra Lee (DSP '07) and Trevor Johnson (DSP '09). Learn from the experiences of these fellow Diversity Scholarship Program alumni to help you develop and/or advance your preservation projects!



**Archeological and Historical Investigation and Descendant Community Outreach on an African American Graveyard: The Case of Bull Hill Cemetery**

In April 2008, the Texas Historical Commission and the Summerlee Foundation completed the Bull Hill Cemetery preservation project. Bull Hill is an African American cemetery that may date back as early as the 1830s. It was used for the interment of African Americans until the first half of the 20th century. Sometime in the 1960s, the cemetery was closed and nearly disappeared from the collective memories of both African American and White Falls County residents. [Read more](#)

**Mapping African American Historic Places in the Northeast Region**

Mapping has numerous applications within the field of historic preservation. Commonly employed in architectural and cultural resource surveys, it is used to understand how individual sites fit into their larger geographic context. Locational data helps expose meaningful relationships between structures, landscapes, and other resources in a way that contributes to a more holistic appreciation of the significance of these places and their settings. Until fairly recently, however, mapping was a task largely reserved for specialists, utilizing sophisticated, and often expensive, cartographic software to carry out complex spatial analyses. [Read more](#)

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