



ANNUAL REPORT

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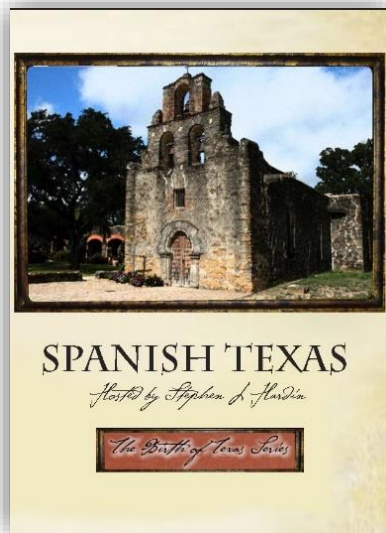
The Heritage Society (THS) is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to tell the stories of the diverse history Houston and Texas through collections, exhibits, educational programs, film, video and other content.

Located in Sam Houston Park, at the western edge of downtown Houston, THS manages a campus of ten restored historic buildings furnished in the styles of their respective eras, together with a bandstand and a museum gallery. The buildings serve as the primary exhibition spaces for a collection of more than 23,000 historic artifacts, including furnishings, paintings, photographs, decorative items, textiles, books and personal papers. With a professional staff of 14 and nearly 500 volunteers, THS maintains a busy year-round schedule of exhibitions, lectures, colloquiums, school tours and special events. It produces short and feature-length historical documentaries, conducts teacher's workshops and hosts a mix of public and private events.

ATTENDANCE

In 2016/2017, 15,206 people toured THS's historic buildings and museum gallery. Forty-five percent of these visitors were from the Greater Houston area, eight percent from Texas, 27 percent from other states, and 20 percent came from other countries. Forty-four percent were students and children ages 17 years or younger; 41 percent were adults between the ages of 18 and 64; and 15 percent were seniors ages 65 and older. THS visitors were 67 percent White, 16 percent Latino, 12 percent African-American, four percent Asian, and one percent other or multiracial. An additional 435 people attended THS lunchtime and evening lectures, while 3,245 people of all ages attended THS events and community engagement programs. The historical campus also serves as a living, daily reminder of Houston's heritage to the more than 225,000 visitors who come to Sam Houston Park for festivals, charitable athletic events and civic celebrations each year.

NEW MEDIA INITIATIVES: BUILDING CAPACITY



The merger of Houston Arts & Media with The Heritage Society in October 2016 marked a major milestone in THS's strategic plan to revitalize the building-based learning the park has offered for decades. Using full-featured film, video and streaming web content, THS can now explore aspects of our city's past that are not directly tied to its historic buildings, including Houston's Latino heritage.

Since the merger, THS has greatly expanded its online presence and reach on social media. Forty-five new videos on Houston and Texas history are now posted on THS's YouTube channel. Virtual house tours and videos of the park are now available on our website and YouTube, along with two new HAM Slice videos, one on Sam Houston Park and the other on the Democratic Convention of 1928, Houston's first appearance on the national political stage. A third video on the city's mid-century modern architecture and art is currently in production.

In April, THS Program Director Mike Vance attended the awards ceremony for WorldFest Houston, where he accepted a Platinum REMI Award in documentary for the *Goliad* installment in *The Birth of Texas* series. This is the fifth film in the series to win a REMI and the third to win the top prize. The award-winning feature-length films and HAM Slice videos on Texas history previously created by Houston Arts and Media are available on YouTube and air periodically on PBS (KUHT TV8), which serves 3.5 million households in the Houston area, as well as the Houston Independent School District's cable channel, which reaches 1,500,000 households. We anticipate that the ability to create in-house promotional videos for THS events and activities will be a powerful marketing tool in our efforts to increase earned income. With that in mind, our Media Production Staff is searching for opportunities to partner with longtime Houston-area organizations and businesses to create video histories.

To engage millennial audiences on social media, THS has launched Yesterday's News Today (YNT). Twice a week, YNT posts interesting items from Houston's past that attract subscribers and followers on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

Technology is also enriching the narratives that accompany each building, helping us to connect with our audiences in more immediate and personal ways. In the fall of 2016, THS staff developed a new supplemental audio exhibit for the c. 1866 Fourth Ward Cottage. The exhibit featured excerpts from oral history interviews of Fourth Ward neighborhood residents conducted by the African American Library at the Gregory School. The interviews painted a vivid picture of life in the neighborhood during the first half of the 20th century.



EXHIBITIONS



This WAS Contemporary Art: Fine and Decorative Arts in Houston 1945-1965

(July 14 – October 15, 2016)

Organized in collaboration with the Center for the Advancement and Study of Early Texas Art (CASETA), this exhibition was inspired by the inaugural exhibition at the Contemporary Arts Museum in 1948, *This Is Contemporary Art*. The Heritage Society exhibition used the 1948 show as a model to recall a time when Houston and the Houston art world were in transition from regional to national – and even international – significance. The original exhibit featured

art and decorative items from around the country, while *This WAS Contemporary Art* featured some of the finest examples of locally produced art and decorative art, jewelry, textiles, archival photographs, architectural drawings and furniture from the mid-20th century. More than 20 lenders generously contributed items from their collections for the exhibit and accompanying catalog.

You Are Here: Maps of Texas

(October 26, 2016 – January 7, 2017)

Historic maps can tell us much about politics, land use, economics, transportation and changing patterns of settlement. Starting with a map from the mid-1500s, the exhibit traced the shaping of North America and Texas through time and the eyes of cartographers from around the world. A selection of exceptional maps on loan from the Frank and Carol Holcomb collection

included a British map of North America from 1823 detailing the Louisiana Purchase, maps from the Republic of Texas era, a French promotional map of Texas from 1857, and many more. Another highlight of the exhibit was a rare 1839 map of Houston by A. Girard and the 1869 map of Houston by W. E. Wood, showing the outlines of hundreds of existing buildings and plots of land with the owner's names. Adding a colorful note to the exhibit were letters from Charles Pressler, originally written in his native German to his family in Europe, recounting his adventures while serving Texas for the General Land Office.



Bayou City Blitz

(January 1, 2017 – April 29, 2017)

Co-curated by Mike Vance and Ginger Berni, *Bayou City Blitz* explored Houston's football past through iconic photographs and video, vintage equipment, trophies, uniforms, programs and other memorabilia. A suite of photographs offered compelling looks at the players and coaches who have thrilled Houston fans through the years: Earl Campbell, George Blanda, Dicky Meagle, Warren McVea, Warren Moon, Bill Yeoman, J. J. Watt and a teenaged Gary Kubiak. Accompanying the show were five panel discussions on the Oilers, Houston Cougars, Rice Owls, Houston high school football and the start of the Texans. Held on Wednesday evenings and moderated by local sports media legends, the panels featured star players and chroniclers of the pigskin past. Exhibition sponsors included the Robert and Janice McNair Foundation, HEB, Houston Texans, University of Houston, Rice University and Houston Metropolitan Research Center.



Tropical [Im]pression: A Gulf Coast Hurricane Retrospective

(May 9, 2017 – June 24, 2017)

In 2010, five years after Hurricane Rita, the Museum of the Gulf Coast in Port Arthur initiated the Hurricane Retrospective Project, an effort to document the recent history of hurricanes in southeast Texas and southwest Louisiana. The museum called for photographs and personal stories from those who lived through Hurricanes Rita and Ike. The response was tremendous, with hundreds of submissions from private citizens, amateur and professional photographers, businesses and the public sector. *Tropical [Im]pression* features sixty-seven color and black-and-white photographs that convey the collective “impression” recent hurricanes made on the Gulf Coast region from Galveston, Texas, to Cameron Parish, Louisiana.

Emma Richardson Cherry Studio at the Nichols-Rice-Cherry House

(June 2015 – June 2017)

One of the most elegant historic homes in Sam Houston Park was saved from demolition by Emma Richardson Cherry in 1899. Originally built in 1850, the Nichols-Rice-Cherry House is interpreted to that period, with the exception of one room, which has been transformed into Mrs. Cherry's studio, showcasing a selection of her paintings together with art supplies, sketches and photographs. Mrs. Cherry, an art instructor as well as a practicing artist, saw a need for art education in the Houston community and helped found the Houston Public School Art League in 1900. Renamed the Houston Art League in 1912, the organization began developing plans for an art museum. Those plans came to fruition in 1924 with the opening of the Museum of Fine Arts.



Shopping in Houston: Foley's and Battelstein's

(June 2016 – May 2017)



The Heritage Society presents regular mini-exhibits of photos, documents, and other items in the display cases in City Hall Annex, across the street from Sam Houston Park. This year's exhibits featured history and objects from local and once-thriving retail businesses in Houston.

In 1900, Pat and James Foley opened **Foley Brothers**. Their store at 507 Main Street sold calico, linen, lace, pins, needles, and men's furnishings. As business boomed, the brothers purchased the building next door and added ready-to-wear clothing for women and children as well as millinery. By 1922, Foley's was the

largest department store in Houston.

Much more than a retail business, Foley's became a fixture of the Houston community, offering philanthropy, employment, entertainment, and fashion. Another of Houston's leading department stores, **Battelstein's**, was a true family business. Founder Philip Battelstein, born in Lithuania of Jewish decent in 1870, came to America at the age of 13 with just \$.50 in his pocket. The son of a tailor, Philip made his first home in Chicago working as a tailor's apprentice. In 1897, he moved to Houston, where he opened a tailor shop in a 12x12 foot space in the Prince Theater building. The growth of Battelstein's mirrored the growth of Houston. Battelstein's went from a small tailoring shop to a glittering, ten-story department store. A second store opened in fashionable River Oaks in 1953 and a third in Sharpstown Mall in 1961.

Heritage Society exhibitions are made possible in part a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Museum of the Gulf Coast, and the corporate partners of The Heritage Society: Cameron Management, New Leaf Real Estate, Calpine Corporation, EOG Resources, 1001 McKinney, Arch-Con Corporation, BB&T Bank, McGriff, Seibels & Williams of Texas, Inc., Luby's Fuddrucker's Restaurants LLC, Ziegler Cooper Architects, Central Bank, Hotchkiss Insurance Agency, Chevron, and The Hartford. Additional funding has been provided by the City of Houston through Houston Arts Alliance.

LECTURE PROGRAMS

Building Arts Lecture: The Melrose Building: Rehabilitation of a Modern Houston Landmark by Anna Mod, SWCA Environmental Consultants (August 24, 2016)

The skyline of downtown Houston is an ever-evolving mixture of buildings spanning the 20th and 21st centuries. As modernist architecture began to appear in the city, the 1952 Melrose Building - completed in the same year as the Gulf Freeway - was Houston's first office tower to fully exhibit the International Style. Now this modern landmark is undergoing rehabilitation for reuse as hotel using historic tax credits. For this Building Arts Lecture, Anna Mod discussed the Melrose Building's rehabilitation and the advent of the International Style in Houston.



Building Arts Lecture: Revitalizing Houston's 1920s Gulf Oil Station by Michael Morrow, Kinneymorrow Architecture (November 9, 2016)



As an early example of the now ubiquitous service station, the Gulf Oil filling station at 3709 La Branch has endured. Despite nearly a century of varied use and disuse it remains largely intact and is one of the few surviving structures of its type. The building received Landmark Designation from the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission in April of 2015 and is currently being restored and renovated for use as Retrospect Coffee Bar. For this Building Arts Lecture, Michael Morrow of Kinneymorrow Architecture discussed the transformation of the station from car culture to café culture.

Building Arts Lecture: *Fighting Owls: Rice Stadium and Modernism at Rice University* by Ben Koush, Ben Koush Associates (February 21, 2017)

During the postwar years, Rice underwent a radical change. Under the leadership of a new President and Board composed of Houston's emerging business elite, the university embarked on a fifteen-year building campaign that radically transformed its architectural character. Their biggest project was the muscular 70,000-seat Rice Stadium, designed by Lloyd & Morgan with Milton McGinty, a firm run by Rice alums. Architect and historian Ben Koush, of Ben Koush Associates, discussed the impact of Rice Stadium, one of Houston's finest postwar monuments, as an uncompromisingly modernist structure on a campus of conservative traditional architecture.



Building Arts Lecture: *Hurricanes, Homes, and History in Galveston* by Hal Needham, Ph.D., Galveston Historical Foundation (May 24, 2017)

Galveston, a city rich in historic resources, has a long record of destructive hurricanes that have had enormous impacts on its built environment. In response, the city has attempted major interventions to protect against future damage. One of the most visible interventions is the raising of Galveston's grade level as much as 17 feet following the 1900 hurricane. As the Director of Galveston Historical Foundation's Center for Coastal Heritage, Dr. Needham is completing research on the grade raising and other storm impacts on Galveston's built environment. In his lecture, Dr. Needham discussed what he has learned, including new discoveries and then-and-now images from the 1900 hurricane and grade raising.



Finger Lecture Series: *Lunch with LaSalle: The Excavation, Conservation and Interpretation of La Belle* by Bradford M. Jones (July 16, 2016)

Grounded in Matagorda Bay in 1686, the loss of the small frigate La Belle was the breaking point in the French explorer La Salle's tragic expedition to found a colony in the Gulf of Mexico. Within three years La Salle was dead, the colony a ghost town, and the few survivors scattered.

Excavated by the Texas Historical Commission in 1996-1997, the remains of the ship present an unparalleled view of the material culture of a French colonial enterprise and life on the frontier of European knowledge. Archaeologist Bradford Jones discussed the extraordinary efforts that went into excavating, conserving, and interpreting this archeological treasure, while paying special attention to what the archaeology tells us about the foodways aboard ship and in the colony.

Finger Lecture Series: El Camino Real de los Tejas: Past & Present by Steve Gonzales (July 21, 2016)



This presentation on El Camino Real included a brief history of the trail and the events leading up to its designation as a National Historic Trail; what it means to be a part of the National Trails System, and how modern visitors can experience this legendary trail.

Finger Lecture Series: Levi Jordan Plantation: Before and After the Civil War
By Ben Pfeiffer (September 15, 2016)

Levi Jordan Plantation has a rich history and is an incredible example of plantation life before and after the Civil War. Unique to the site are the rich archaeological discoveries that have helped shape our view on what life was like for the plantation owners, freedmen and slaves. This presentation covered the economic and social transition of the plantation from slavery through Reconstruction, examining the factors that kept the plantation operating and how those factors changed during Reconstruction.



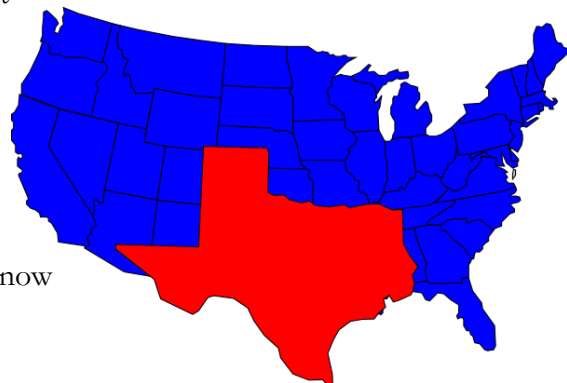
Finger Lecture Series: Great Texas Ranches by Mike Jackson
(October 20, 2016)



The story of the great Texas ranches is the story of rugged individuals who acquired vast land holdings and developed successful cattle ranching operations modeled after the Spanish *rancheros*. These grand old ranches include the XIT Ranch in the Panhandle, the King and Kenedy ranches in south Texas, the Waggoner ranch in north Texas and the JA ranch in Palo Duro Canyon. Jackson's lecture took the audience on a journey across Texas to explore these iconic institutions.

Finger Lecture Series: *Mapping Texas: From Frontier to the Lone Star State* by James Harkin (November 17, 2016)

The shape of Texas is one we all know. Whether it is on a t-shirt, an advertisement, or a postcard, the shape of our state makes a statement. That shape is quintessentially Texas, but the state did not always look this way. This presentation by an archivist at the Texas General Land Office explained how Texas arrived at its iconic form, which is now recognized around the world.



Finger Lecture Series: *Home Front: Texas in WWII* by Mike Vance (January 19, 2017)



The Texas home front during World War II marked the beginning of a shift that would change Texas from rural to urban. As half a million Texans moved to cities to fill industrial jobs, pipelines, refineries, aircraft factories, synthetic rubber plants and Liberty ships sprouted across the state. Women, still not allowed to serve on a jury, were suddenly doing essential work for the war effort, in factories, airfields or petrochemical labs.

The state was home to a myriad of military bases. Training took place from one end of the state to the other, especially for the Army Air Corps, be it pilots, aviation mechanics or aerial gunners. All along the coast were anti-aircraft guns, concrete bunkers and even reconnaissance blimps. German U-boats plied Gulf waters, looking for Allied shipping even as captured Germans picked Texas fruit and tended Texas livestock. Mike

Vance of The Heritage Society, who is producing a documentary on the subject, shared some of the stories of sacrifice and change that make this one of the most fascinating episodes in Texas history.

Finger Lecture Series: *Myths of the Republic of Texas* by Raul Ramos (February 16, 2017)

Dr. Ramos, Associate Professor of History at the University of Houston, discussed the history and contradictions of the Republic of Texas in order to understand the various meanings it has taken. How should we reconcile the history of American annexation and expansion with the rhetoric of Texas nationalism in the past and present?



Finger Lecture Series: *Beneath Houston Streets: Upper Buffalo Bayou and the San Felipe Trail in the 19th Century* by Dan Michael Worrall (March 16, 2017)



In the mid-nineteenth century, Houston was a small town – a dot in a vast frontier. Written histories of Houston largely confine themselves to the area within the city limits at the time. Nearly forgotten is the history of large rural areas that later fell beneath the city's late twentieth century urban sprawl. One such area is upper Buffalo Bayou, extending from downtown Houston to Katy. Here, European settlement began at Piney Point in 1824, more than a decade before Houston was founded. Ox wagons full of cotton traveled across the tallgrass prairie from the Brazos River east to Harrisburg along the San Felipe Trail, built in 1830. Here too, Texian families fled eastward during the Runaway Scrape of 1836, immigrant German settlers trekked westward to new farms along the north bank of the bayou in the 1840s, and newly freed African American families walked east toward Houston from Brazos plantations after Emancipation. Near present-day Shepherd Drive, Reconstruction-era cowboys assembled herds of longhorns and headed north along a southeastern branch of the Chisholm Trail. Dan Worrall's lecture vividly evoked this vanished frontier world.

Finger Lecture Series: *Battle on the Bay: The Civil War Struggle for Galveston* by Ed Cotham (April 20, 2017)

On the morning of January 1, 1863, a Confederate force recaptured Galveston in one of the most unusual land and sea battles of the Civil War. In this program, military historian Ed Cotham covered the events of the battle and its importance in Texas history. He also discussed the monuments, museum exhibits and shipwrecks that relate to the battle.



PRESERVATION

Work to stabilize the foundation of the **1847 Kellum-Noble House** continued through 2016. Installation of the standing-seam metal roof was completed, and full HVAC systems with humidistats were installed on both floors. After improvements to the site drainage and waterproofing in the crawl space, the existing wood floor was reinstalled over new joists and plywood subfloor. A generous grant from Houston First Corporation provided the remaining funding necessary for this phase.

After visiting the site to monitor construction progress the previous year, the structural engineer strongly recommended replacing the second-floor porch and columns, constructed in the 1950s, due to expansion of

the steel framing causing cracking on the exterior walls of the building. The necessary replacement of the porch, columns, and roof covering provided THS with an opportunity to restore the building to the time of the Noble family, who lived in the home from 1851 to 1899. Design drawings for the exterior restoration phase were completed and approved by the City (City of Houston Protected Landmark) and the Texas Historical Commission (Recorded Texas Historic Landmark). After receiving bids from four contractors, THS selected Lone Star Building and Construction Services Inc. for the exterior phase. THS has secured funding from the Downtown Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) #3 and the Downtown Redevelopment Authority to complete this phase of the project.

New fire-treated cedar shakes were installed on the **1823 Old Place** roof in August 2016. With underwriting from Houston Oil Producing Resources, Inc., Paul Gollub Roofing installed new fire-treated cedar shakes over the existing sheathing, replaced sheathing where necessary, and made additional repairs as needed, successfully eliminating water leaks in the building.

Treated pine decking was installed on the porch of the **1870 Yates House** in September 2016 and painted to match the previous non-historic decking, which was severely deteriorated. The interior stair railing of the **1850 Nichols-Rice-Cherry House** was disassembled and reinforced that same month. These repairs were funded through the generosity of Jack Yates family members and Joanne Zumbrun, respectively, and will help ensure the safety of THS visitors.



Internal gutters on the **1868 Pillot House** were repaired in October 2016. Paul Gollub Roofing cleaned and soldered the gutters to eliminate leaking and repaired and replaced rotten wood at the soffits on the front of the building. In April 2017, the 1891 St. John Church received a complete exterior cleaning along with touch-up painting on the interior. Earlier in the year, the original front doors were repainted as well.

FACILITIES

Preliminary planning for a new museum and administrative building began in early 2017. THS staff reviewed current and future needs for staff offices, storage space, and public gallery and program space in accordance with THS's Strategic Plan. The resulting preliminary building program allowed THS to estimate its overall square footage needs and will serve as a tool for future design work once the design phase of the project begins. Alarm systems in almost all buildings received new cellular transmitters in early 2017. These transmitters eliminated the need for hard telephone lines and reduced communication problems caused by deteriorating underground

lines. Routine maintenance on the historic buildings continued through the 2016/2017 program year, including HVAC repairs, and maintenance, carpentry and roof repairs, pest management, and other minor repairs.

COLLECTIONS

The Heritage Society's collections include over 23,000 items carefully preserved and used to tell the stories of Houston and Houston's place in Texas History. Among the items added to the collections during 2016/2017 were the following:

Watercolor on paper, informally titled *Mexican Market Scene*, by Emma Richardson Cherry



The donors, Anne Robertson Sellin and Charles J. Robertson, III, are cousins of Peter Brown, who donated the portrait of their grandmother, Hazel French Robertson, by Mrs. Cherry. *Mexican Market Scene* was a gift from Mrs. Cherry to Mrs. Robertson, and passed down through the family. It likely dates to 1905, when she visited Mexico and made a series watercolors. The watercolor is unlike any other of Mrs. Cherry's works owned by THS, and will be a

wonderful addition to the exhibit of Mrs. Cherry's works in the Nichols-Rice-Cherry house.

The Warneke Family Trunk

Donated to THS by Robert Frizzell, this fine hand-made German Immigrant trunk, with the letters "HW" carved in the front, was brought to Houston in 1846 and passed down through the Warneke family. Descendants of Heinrich Warneke, the trunk's original owner, sold the land that would become Rice University.



Three small metal sculptures, two drawings and a sketch book by artist Frank Dolejska



These items were donated by Shirley Nelson, sister of Frank Dolejska, one of the artists featured in *This WAS Contemporary Art*. Mrs. Nelson is currently writing a book about her brother, the son of immigrants from Austria-Hungary and Moravia. Born in Houston in 1921, Frank Dolejska was one of the first non-objective painters in Texas, with early works dating from 1938. Largely self-taught, Dolejska studied with Ola



McNeill Davidson. After serving in World War II, Dolejska returned to Houston, where he was a founding member and curator for the Contemporary Arts Association (now Contemporary Arts Museum). He began working with metal, creating sculpture with copper and lead. Along with other artisans in Houston, he co-founded Handmakers in 1957.

TOURS FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

The Heritage Society operates ten historic buildings in Sam Houston Park that are available for in-depth, docent- guided tours at specified times. The buildings tell the stories of Houston's past, from the settlers who received land grants from Stephen F. Austin to the Gulf Coast oil boom of the early 20th century.



The Heritage Society's historic buildings give young people an opportunity to take an active role in learning about Texas history. Students start their tours with a video about pioneer life in Texas, then visit the Duncan General Store and Old Place, where they are challenged to find items that were featured in the video. The children then visit the 1891 St. John Church, where they explore rural life, the role of immigration and the cultural and religious practices immigrants brought with them that have influenced Texas to this day. The last stop on their tour is the 1905 Staiti House, where they can compare and contrast 19th century pioneer life with early 20th century lifestyles.

On average, nearly 1,700 students and their chaperones participate in free or reduced-price tours each year. Large school groups often come on multiple days, and in addition to historic building tours, participate in other educational activities such as scavenger hunts in the park or pioneer trunk shows. Student tours are tailored to their grade level and focus of study.

Among the school groups touring The Heritage Society in 2016/2017 were Mark Twain Elementary School, Hogg Middle School, Windsor Village Elementary School, School of the Woods, Wesley Academy, Deer Park Junior High School, St. Catherine's Montessori, St. John Lower School, The Rhodes School, Brookside Intermediate, San Jacinto Trio Upward Bound, St. John Paul Catholic School, Magnolia Jr. High Honor Society, Harmony Fine Arts and Technology Academy, Cub Scouts groups and third graders participating in the Caring Aggies Mentoring Program (CAMP). Upper-grade level groups included Waltrip High School, Davis High School and Kinkaid School.



SEE INTERESTING PLACES

The Heritage Society's Fall 2016 See Interesting Places (SIP) series, chaired by Randy McKinney with co-chairs Bill Baldwin and Jason Fuller, began in September with a classic 1964 Mid-Century Modern home in Meyerland with a unique feature - a spectacular, nationally recognized model train layout.



In October, SIP subscribers toured a contemporary compound on Saint Street that is a showcase for art and Houston history.

Next on the calendar was Houston's only Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home, which was painstakingly restored and expanded by the current owners.



The Fall SIP Series ended on a high note in November at the historic Beaconsfield building on Main St. Five of the building's beautiful residential spaces were open for guests to tour while they sipped cocktails and enjoyed hors d'oeuvres.



The 2017 Spring SIP Series kicked off with visits to the legendary Kirby Mansion and the historic Morales Funeral Home in the East End, site of Houston's first Latino radio station, where guests were treated to the Morales family's warm hospitality and had an opportunity to pose with a vintage 1936 LaSalle hearse.



In April, SIP toured another mid-century gem in Glenbrook Valley and sampled the charms of the home's very own hipster bar, the Kit Kat Lounge. The series ended with visits to Trinity Episcopal Church, built in 1921, and the adjacent historic home of the Bering family.



Because adults visit The Heritage Society for a variety of reasons, tours are customized to their particular interests. Many of the 1,386 adults who participated in group tours during 2016/2017 were tourists seeking information about Houston's cultural heritage. Two such groups included the National Trust for Historic Preservation and a Chinese delegation from the U. H. Asian American Program.



Local groups seeking language and cultural training or a continuing education experience during 2016/2017 included Houston Accueil, Destination English and Trotter YMCA. Outpatients from TIRR Memorial Hermann Challenge Program toured The Heritage Society as a part of their physical rehabilitation program, and teen clients from MHMRA and mentally challenged adults from South Texas Adult Day Treatment Center visited as an enrichment activity.

Sam Houston Park is a popular cultural venue for senior group outings. Many of these groups use Harris County's free precinct buses and include THS on their day trips. During 2016/2017, visiting senior groups included AARP, the Deaf Seniors Conference and Exxon/Mobil retirees, among others.



Free cell phone audio tours are also available. Visitors pressed for time or who come to the park when the tour office is closed can dial a number on their cell phones and listen to a brief commentary about each building. During 2016/2017, 2,131 people took the opportunity to learn about Houston's history via cell phone.

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR TEACHERS

The Heritage Society provides annual continuing education for middle school teachers through *The Best Little Workshop in Texas*. At the 2016 program, held on June 13, Dr. Gregg Cantrell from Texas Christian University gave a presentation on the major filibustering expeditions into Spanish Texas. Ed Cotham, former President of the Houston Civil War Roundtable, discussed how modern archaeology has increased our understanding of the key Civil War battles in Texas. Finally, Mike Vance, founder of Houston Arts and Media, spoke on the role Tejano Texans played in the early Republic and the roles of other prominent Texans in the



Civil Rights Movement. The workshop was certified by the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented for two hours of Texas History CEUs and four hours of Creativity and Instructional Strategies CEUs.

Since its inception in 2007, 491 teachers have attended the workshop. In the most recent session, there were 56 participants representing 36 middle schools and 12 area school districts. Collectively, these teachers reach more than 6,700 students each year, creating a significant educational impact throughout the Greater Houston area. This year's workshop will focus on Spanish Texas, 19th century immigration and the civil rights movement. In

2017, THS received Continuing Education Unit accreditation for the workshop from the Texas Education Agency.

On April 4, 2017, THS also sponsored a free oral history workshop to train new volunteer interviewers with an eye toward reinvigorating the Neighbor to Neighbor Oral History Program that HAM created ten years ago, placing over 150 hours of interviews into the HMRC at the Houston Public Library and the Woodson Research Center at Rice.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Another way THS serves children in the Greater Houston community is through its traveling pioneer history trunk shows, staffed by THS volunteers in period costume who demonstrate spinning wheels and other domestic implements that were common fixtures in pioneer households. In 2016/2017, 1,915 children and adults learned about domestic life in early Texas at seven area locations. Venues included Windsor Village Elementary, St. John's School, DoubleTree Hotel Greenway and the City of Houston's Water Week Festival.



THS staff members also presented outreach programs about Houston's History to 568 adults in the community. The presentations took place at St. Thomas More Church, the Jewish Community Center (4 presentations), Hines Center for Spirituality, Fonteno Senior Citizen Center, Thomas Glazier Senior Citizen Center, Brae Burn Country Club, Texas German Society/North Harris County Chapter, and Gardens of Bellaire.

HERITAGE FAMILY DAYS



Texas Cowboy Culture Heritage Family Day took place on Sunday, February 27, 2017. Re-enactors from Texas Recollections Farm brought longhorns Liberty and Justice along with two young calves, while children's author Laurie Cockerell read from her book about Sam Houston, *Magnificent Sam*. Old Place, which dates from the days of Stephen F. Austin's Colony, was open for tours and staffed by a costumed re-enactor. The Celtaire String Band provided entertainment, and there were frontier craft activities for children and cowboy grub for all in the Duncan General Store. This family-friendly celebration of cowboy culture connects THS' unique historical resources to one of our city's

most popular traditions, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HOUSTON

To celebrate Houston's 180th anniversary on Sunday, August 28, 2016, THS hosted a birthday party in Sam Houston Park. Treating the anniversary as an actual birthday party with cake and punch helped make the day more engaging and meaningful for younger visitors, and actors in period costume (including John Kirby Allen and Charlotte Allen) helped them understand the challenges faced by the early settlers along Buffalo Bayou. House tours, musical entertainment and family-friendly craft activities added to the fun. Funding for Houston's birthday party was provided by Central Bank and HEB; R.W. McKinney II and Councilmember Robert Gallegos served as co-chairs.



EVENTS

CANDLELIGHT TOUR

The Heritage Society's 54th ***Candlelight Tour*** was held on December 10th and 11th, 2016. Sarah and Peter Tropoli chaired the event, continuing their family tradition of Candlelight Tour.



Nearly 2,000 people attended the festivities, with Calpine's *Elves on the Run* family fun run again collaborating on the festivities. Visitors were treated to music, decorations, arts and crafts activities and holiday treats. Arts and crafts created by talented local and regional artists were available for sale at the Holiday Art Market in Connally Plaza. Nearly 400 community volunteers contributed over 800 hours to make Candlelight Tour a success.



EVENING OF HERITAGE

The elegant Art Deco lobby of 1001 McKinney provided a fitting and beautiful setting for "Evening of Heritage" on Tuesday, February 28, 2017, as chairs Kaitlyn and Michael Scheurich hosted 100 friends and colleagues to an intimate dinner supporting The Heritage Society. Dougal Cameron, owner and CEO of Cameron Management, graciously opened 1001 McKinney for the event and surprised guests midway through the evening with an announcement that Hines would match the evening's donations to support The Heritage Society's educational programs and collections.



Serving as Masters of Ceremonies were the droll and delightful Jo and Jim Furr. Jim, who introduced the evening's speaker, Justice Ken Wise, 14th Court of Appeals. Justice Wise's address, "Know Your Houston Story", explored the fascinating histories of some of Houston's most prominent early residents, including Rev. John "Jack" Yates and Nathaniel Kellum.

HOUSTON HISTORY LUNCHEON

The historic Bayou Club provided the perfect setting for this year's Houston Heritage Luncheon on Wednesday, May 17. Hosted by Co-Chairs Nita Vandiver Jackson and Catherine Campbell Brock, the sold-out luncheon and silent auction benefitted the work of The Heritage Society. Guest speaker Joanne King Herring brought her signature style and inimitable personality to the event, regaling a rapt luncheon crowd with tales of her childhood among the founders of River Oaks, their sumptuous homes and their fascinating (and occasionally scandalous) lives.





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