



ANNUAL REPORT

2012/2013

1100 BAGBY ST. ♦ HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002
713/655-1912
www.heritagesociety.org

MISSION

The Heritage Society (THS), a 501(c)(3) non-profit museum complex at Sam Houston Park, collects, preserves, exhibits, and celebrates the diverse history of the Houston region. The Heritage Society's unique setting in Sam Houston Park offers visitors a hands-on experience where history comes alive to impart its story.

SAM HOUSTON PARK

Construction on the Sam Houston Park Master Plan began in January, 2013 and work is expected to be completed by early fall. The master plan will bring visitor-friendly upgrades such as reconfigured sidewalks and parking, additional lighting, a children's play area, and provide the opportunity for The Heritage Society to present an exciting, non-traditional interpretation of an historic building of great importance to Houston's African-American heritage. This work comprises Phase 1 of The Heritage Society's *Vision 2020*, the strategic plan for restoration activities, programs, and campus improvements to be accomplished by the year 2020.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

The Heritage Society offers a wide variety of educational programming driven by the principle that through learning of our shared past, the community can build a shared future. Throughout 2012-13, the on-going construction of the Sam Houston Park Master Plan limited access to the park and, as a result, attendance numbers for park activities were significantly lower than usual.

Guided Tours of Historic Structures and Museum – The number of tour and museum visitors in 2012-13 totaled 15,115 with approximately 50,000 additional visitors coming to Sam Houston Park for festivals, athletic events, and civic celebrations. In addition to local and regional visitors, The Heritage Society hosted visitors and conducted 81 tours for international students, consular groups, and tourists from around the world. Thirty percent of all visitors were children ages 18 years or younger; 60% were adults ages 19-64; and 10% were senior citizens. Of the total attendance, 30% were identified as tourists or business visitors.



John P. McGovern Heritage Tours for Children – Thanks to the generosity of the John P. McGovern Foundation, free tours were provided to 1,929 students and their chaperones during 2012-13. Tours involved viewing an interactive video about pioneer life and visiting Duncan Store, the 1823 Old Place, the 1905 Staiti House and the 1890 St. John Church. Children were challenged to compare and contrast pioneer life with early 20th century lifestyles as they toured these historic buildings and exhibits.

Cell Phone Tours – During 2012-13, 930 visitors to the park who chose not to participate in a guided tour, who were visiting Sam Houston Park after tour hours, or who were visually impaired, learned about Houston's diverse cultural history through The Heritage Society's free cell phone tour program.

50th Annual Candlelight Tour – On December 7, 8 and 9, 2012, more than 3,539 visitors experienced Houston's history through vignettes in THS's house museums that incorporated historical events and/or former residents of the buildings into the storylines. Mayor Annise Parker served as Honorary Chair of the 50th Annual Candlelight Tour and welcomed guests, recognized descendants of the Reverend Jack Yates for their





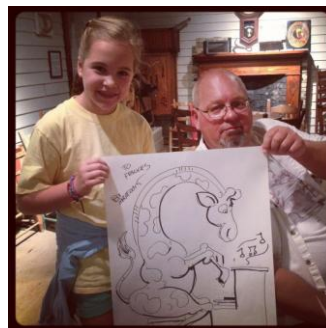
continued support, and issued a Proclamation declaring December 7, 2012, as The Heritage Society's Candlelight Tour Day. In conjunction with Candlelight Tour, THS hosted a Holiday Tea. This educational program included information about holiday traditions brought to Texas by its early settlers and an exhibition of antique tea pots and cups from The Heritage Society's permanent collection.

Traveling Trunk Shows – Traveling trunk shows introduced children to the region's history through presentations at public libraries, local schools, and Boy and Girl Scout day camps. The trunk shows demonstrated some of the same kinds of objects that children who visit THS would see on a tour. Costumed volunteers entertained and delighted children with stories about pioneer life, dress, and play. A total of 1,305 children experienced The Heritage Society's trunk shows during 2012-13.

Adult Community Outreach – Adults who were not able to visit Sam Houston Park experienced Houston's history through The Heritage Society's adult outreach programs. During the 2012-13 program year, 277 adults at retirement homes, assisted living facilities, churches, and community centers enjoyed one of THS's community outreach programs.

Heritage Family Days – More than 318 children and adults participated in free Heritage Family Days during 2012-13. These family-friendly events are designed to provide an educational and entertaining Houston History experience for both children and adults. Heritage Family Days are held in conjunction with Museum Gallery exhibitions and incorporate hands-on activities, performances, and tours of the historic structures.

The June 16, 2012, Heritage Family Day, *Journey Through Houston*, was a two-part event. Children and their families were invited to travel through the Museum Gallery following the Baker Family Playhouse on its journey through Houston from 1893 to 2010. They learned about the important events occurring in Houston during this time period. Hands-on activities included playing old-fashioned children's games and making their own books of Houston history. Artist Bill Megenhardt helped children create illustrations of what their own playhouse might look like. Entertainment was provided by singer/songwriter Leah White, and refreshments were served at the Baker Family Playhouse. Participants then journeyed across the street to the Norma Meldrum Children's Reading Room at the Julia Ideson Library. HGOco read and sang the recently published *The Very Long Life of Alice's Playhouse; a Survivor's Story*, written by Andrea White and illustrated by Bill Megenhardt. A total of 126 children and their families attended the events.



Eighty-eight guests attended the *Fall Festival Heritage Family Day* on Sunday, September 23, 2012. In conjunction with the Museum Gallery exhibition *William Marsh Rice: The Man and His Legacy*, ambassadors from the Wildlife Center of Texas brought owls and spoke with children on their native habitat and habits. Artist Bill Megenhardt was again on hand to help children create their own drawings of the

owls on display, while a volunteer read stories to the children.

Seventy guests attended the *Spring Fling Heritage Family Day* on Sunday, March 3, 2013. Children listened to tales about native Texas wildflowers told by Cherie Colburn, author of *Bloomin' Tales*. Experts from the Cockrell Butterfly Center taught children about butterflies and butterfly gardens. Visitors also made nature crafts, visited the 1823 Old Place, viewed the exhibit: *Olivewood Cemetery: Past, Present and Future* and got to take home a packet of wildflower seeds to plant in their own gardens.

Jerry and Marvy Finger Noontime Lecture Series – During 2012-13, more than 411 people attended these noontime lectures, which are held on the third Thursday of each month in The Heritage Society Tea Room. Lecture topics during 2012-13 were:

Jesse Jones: FDR's Secret Weapon by Steven Fenberg (June 21, 2012)

HPD Progressing Through the Years: The Department Then and Now by Tom Kennedy (July 19, 2012)

William Marsh Rice and His Institute by Randall Hall (August 16, 2012)

College Park Memorial Cemetery by Randall Riepe & Jenny Bailey (September 20, 2012)

Fair Park Deco: Art & Architecture of the Texas Centennial Exposition by Jim Parsons & David Bush (October 17, 2012)

Captain James Baker by Kate Kirkland (November 15, 2012)



Foleys Department Store by Teresa Tomkins-Walsh (January 17, 2013)

The Art and Architecture of Houston's City Hall by Will Howard (February 21, 2013)

Houston Women: by Betty Chapman by (March 21, 2013)

The Bayous of Houston by Matthew Zeve & James Sipes (April 18, 2013)



Neil Armstrong by Anthony Pizzitola (May 16, 2013)

The **Building Arts Distinguished Lecture Series** began in 2011 and continues to be well received by historians, architects and those interested in the building arts. Two lectures took place during 2012-13 with 123 participants:

The Architecture of Rice University was presented by Stephen Fox (August 29, 2012) in conjunction with the opening reception for the exhibition, *William Marsh Rice: The Man and His Legacy, 1816-1900*. Fox presented a survey of the architectural heritage of the Rice University campus, with emphasis on the original conception of the campus architecture by the Boston architect Ralph Adams Cram. The campus design of Rice University was inspired by the medieval architecture of Southern Europe, but Houston's hot, humid climate required Cram to adapt the buildings to be more accommodating.



The History and Application of Terrazzo by Leigh Ann Hill (November 28, 2012) explained the origins of terrazzo, how the terrazzo flooring technique was mastered by 15th century artisans, and how the art of terrazzo flooring is practiced today.

Texas History Teacher Workshop – The Heritage Society's *Best Little Workshop in Texas*, a professional development program for teachers of 7th grade Texas History, focused on primary resources related to the Texas History curriculum used by Texas school districts. With the aid of volunteer educators, guest facilitators, and lecturers, workshop participants gained new skills for teaching Texas History and for engaging students in the learning experience. Thirty-one middle school teachers representing 20 schools from ten local school districts and one private school attended this event. Workshop



speakers included Dr. Richard Murray, Director of the Center for Public Policy, University of Houston; Dr. Michael Cline, Associate Director of the Hobby Center for the Study of Texas, Rice University; and Betty Trapp Chapman, past chairman of the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission and noted author and historian. Speakers gave presentations on Texas politics, Texas demographics and the area's built environment. The primary focus of the workshop was the three breakout sessions that demonstrated specific lesson plans on the topics of *Parties, Politics and Pressure Groups*, *Texas Style*; *The Changing Face of Texas: Demographic Changes and Their Impact on the State*; and *Discovering History Through the Built Environment: How to Read Historic Buildings*.



Exhibitions – In addition to the permanent displays inside The Heritage Society Museum Gallery, six temporary exhibitions were also on view during 2012-13:

Blues in All Its Colors
(May 30 through August 5, 2012)

In 2009, artist Martin Miglioretti began a series of poster tributes to Houston blues legends. The designs hail the iconic imagery of Houston's native blues royalty. Artists from the early Peacock Records days, such as Amos Milburn and Big Mama Thornton, share the spotlight with Rockefeller's stalwarts Albert Collins and Jerry Lightfoot. All brought to life, infused with the vibrant rainbow colors of the vintage show cards of Liberty Hall, Eldorado Ballroom and Pleasure Pier in Galveston. This exhibit was a collaborative effort with The Houston Blues Museum and, in addition to the posters, featured one-of-a-kind pieces from personal collections of blues artists, including guitars and memorabilia from performances.

William Marsh Rice: The Man and His Legacy, 1816-1900
(August 14 through November 4, 2012)

Inspired by the 100th anniversary of the opening of Rice Institute, the story of William Marsh Rice was told through a collection of rare documents and photographs on loan from Rice University, made all the more personal by the proximity of Rice's Greek Revival home maintained as a historic house museum at The Heritage Society. The exhibition was organized with the assistance of Guest Curator Lee Pecht of Rice University's Woodson Research Center.



Foley's Department Store: Houston's Community Partner, 1900-2005
(November 13, 2012 – February 10, 2013)



Foley's was more than a department store to Houston. Pat and James Foley opened their Dry Goods Company in 1900. By 1922, Foley's was Houston's largest department store, offering employment, entertainment, fashion, and support for community projects. The exhibition featured archival records including early ledgers with minutes of Foley's first stockholders' meeting in 1911. Photographs detailed construction and amenities of the 1947 Main Street store, the store's segregated soda fountain, and the protests at the store's entrance in the 1960s. The exhibit

came to The Heritage Society as a traveling exhibit from the University of Houston Libraries Special Collections.

Antique Quilts and Daly Glass Collection
(July 2012 – March 2013)

A collection containing 44 pieces of glass representing major American and European glass makers was bequeathed to the organization



by Dorothy Daley and displayed in The Heritage Society's Museum Gallery. The West Houston Quilters Guild loaned eight magnificent handmade holiday quilts, which were displayed on the walls of the Tea Room.

Neil Armstrong Autographs from the Collection of Anthony Pizzitola
(April 3 – June 28, 2013)



The Heritage Society hosted an extensive display of Neil Armstrong autographs from the collection of Anthony Pizzitola who began pursuing the modern day Christopher Columbus in 1979. The exhibition included both famous and rare signed photographs. Pizzitola is a member of the Universal Autograph Collectors Club and is the author of *Neil Armstrong: The Quest for His Autograph*. Pizzitola also contributed to *First Man*, Armstrong's authorized biography by Dr. James Hansen. Based on his collection and knowledge of the famous astronaut, Pizzitola is a recognized authority who has been interviewed by the local media and the BBC.

Olivewood Cemetery: Past, Present & Future
(February 20 – June 22, 2013)

Just northwest of downtown Houston, near a bend of the White Oak Bayou and in the shadow of the Katy Freeway, lays the city's first incorporated African American burial ground—Olivewood Cemetery. Years of overgrowth have made the cemetery virtually unknown to many who drive past it every day, but guarded therein are the remains of former slaves, veterans of the armed services, and many of Houston's prominent African American founders. The struggle for survival of the cemetery itself parallels the collective struggles of the community who built it. Incorporated a mere 10 years after emancipation, Olivewood is the final resting place of ministers and shopkeepers, educators and seamstresses, soldiers and musicians. Many of the mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters buried there were the men and women who transitioned Houston's African American community from slavery to freedom, and navigated through life in the Jim Crow-era South. This exhibition was developed in coordination with the Descendants of Olivewood, a 501 (c) 3 organization dedicated to the restoration, preservation and maintenance of Olivewood Cemetery.



In 2012-13, The Heritage Society also mounted the following exhibitions in the first floor rotunda of Houston's historic City Hall:

Celebrate Spring: The Staiti Gardens
(May 1 through July 31, 2012)

Tea Time
(August 1 through Oct 31, 2012)



Keeping House

(November 1, 2012 through February 1, 2013)

Landers Shoe Shop

(May 3, 2013 – Aug. 3, 2013)

COLLECTIONS

The Heritage Society's permanent, teaching, and exhibit support collections include nearly 20,000 regional items, each carefully preserved and used to tell the story of Houston and its place in Texas History. A few of the items added to the permanent collection during 2012-13 were:



Emma Richardson Cherry Collection – A collection donated by Mrs. Cherry's great-granddaughter includes letters, postcards, and ephemera from Mrs. Cherry's life in Houston and her travels in Europe during the time period in which she owned and lived in the 1850 Nichols-Rice-Cherry House.

Daley American and European Glass Collection – Bequeathed to The Heritage Society by the Dorothy M. Daley Estate, the collection was amassed during the lifetime of Tom Daley, a Houston resident and Rice University graduate. Pieces from manufacturers Steigel (United States), Lalique (France), Waterford (Ireland), Galle (France), Steuben (United States) and Baccarat (France) exemplify the utilitarian material culture of the 19th and 20th centuries.



DeGeorge Collection – The DeGeorge family home and other properties once occupied the site that is now Houston's City Hall Annex Building. The collection includes silver, glassware and furnishings used by the family and relates directly to the time periods of many of The Heritage Society's historic buildings.



Texas Furniture: The Cabinetmakers and Their Work, 1840-1880 – Nine of The Heritage Society's Texas-made furniture pieces were included in the revised edition, published by UT Press, of this catalog of more than two hundred pieces of important Texas-made furniture.

William J. Hill Artisans and Artist Archive – The Heritage Society became Bayou Bend's first institutional partner in its new online archive that documents the lives, works, practices, and products of artisans and artists working in

Texas prior to 1900. More than twenty items from The Heritage Society's outstanding collection of Texas furniture, paintings, pottery, and textiles have been included in the archive. Numerous additional items will be added to the archive over the next year.

Jack Yates House Furniture - A donation consisting of a bed, chest of drawers and an upright piano were donated by Martha Goodard and Sammy Ellis, daughters of Martha Whiting the Granddaughter of Rev. Jack Yates. The furniture has been installed in the Jack Yates house.

Houston Postcard Collection - A sizeable collection of Houston related post cards were donated to THS by Phyllis Tucker in honor of Bart Truxillo. The 44 post cards, some rare, and all depicting various aspects of Houston History are a colorful and compact way to study Houston history.

PRESERVATION



During 2012-13, The Heritage Society worked to solidify plans for upcoming preservation projects. Construction documents that will be used in a multi-phase, permanent foundation stabilization project for the 1847 Kellum-Noble House were finalized. This work will enable THS to preserve the house, which is Houston's oldest structure on its original site, for future generations. Additionally, a plan was developed for the 1866 Fourth Ward Cottage to restore the structure's exterior and

stabilize the interior. Through this process, the building itself—which was a rental property for over 100 years and underwent significant alterations—will be used to tell its history. Rather than period furniture, textiles, and objects, the ghost of a removed staircase, layer upon layer of paint and wall coverings, and evidence of other alterations will be used to tell the story of the Cottage's rich past. This architectural archeology exhibit, which was planned in lieu of a traditional house museum interpretation, will be a first for The Heritage Society. The cottage was moved to its permanent location in April of 2013. It is now resting on temporary cribbing and will be lowered onto piers once the construction of the piers is complete. Following the lowering of the cottage, the exterior restoration will begin.



The Heritage Society also moved forward with the interior restoration of the 1868 Pillot House through the installation of sheet rock throughout the interior. The house was severely flooded in 1999 and 2001 and was raised in place 14 feet through the construction of an artificial berm and foundation piers in 2005. An exterior restoration soon followed. This year, The Heritage Society was able to focus attention on the interior of the structure. All walls and ceilings were covered with sheet rock and received two coats of primer, in preparation for final finishes which will include period appropriate paint colors. The newly restored interior was opened for the 2012 Candlelight Tour.

Although construction of the Sam Houston Park Master Plan has limited access to the park, The Heritage Society has made significant progress on the restoration and preservation of these three important structures.

VOLUNTEERS

A total of 463 volunteers performed a variety of duties around The Heritage Society during 2012-13. Volunteers contributed 5,815 hours of service, valued at \$128,744. Members of the Board of Directors devoted their time to the organization's governance and to developing policies, evaluating programming, raising funds, helping preserve and expand the collections, and planning for the future. Tour and Museum Guides provided invaluable information about the historic structures' unique histories and the items and subject matter presented in temporary exhibitions. Other volunteers participated in a number of special events and projects including Candlelight Tour, Heritage Family Days, Bayou City Arts Festival, workshops, outreach presentations, cataloging, inventorying collections items, completing research projects, painting, and landscaping. Corporate volunteers from Ernst & Young devoted a half-day to help with preparations for the annual Candlelight Tour. Students from Rice University assisted the Curator of Collections to accession several items into The Heritage Society Collection. Eleven volunteers went through a four-week training process and joined the organization's corps of Tour Guides, and fifteen volunteers began volunteering monthly as Museum Guides.



FINANCIAL

An overview of The Heritage Society's income and expenses for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2013 appears below. Complete financial statements are available for review on The Heritage Society's website (www.heritagesociety.org).

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Support & Revenue: | \$1,181,206 |
| Program Expenses: | \$671,593 |
| Management & General Expenses: | \$130,162 |
| Fundraising Expenses: | \$125,515 |
| End of Year Net Asset Balance: | \$1,529,160 |

2012/2013 Fiscal Year Donors

\$75,000 +

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\$50,000 - \$74,999

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