Preservation Updates

508 Park Avenue - Good things are in store for the building where Robert Johnson, Bob Wills, and other musicians recorded during the 1930s. First Presbyterian Church, which purchased the building and made a commitment to preserve it, is working with author, filmmaker, and historian Alan Govenar to revitalize the building to house exhibition spaces a recording studio, and a gift shop and café. There will also be an outdoor amphitheater adjacent to the building. The tentative opening date is June 2013, but Govenar is planning a June 2012 event to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Robert Johnson’s recording sessions in the building.

Belle Nora - Fairy tale endings are again in store for Belle Nora, the fabled 1929 Mount Vernon-style residence on Garland Road across from White Rock Lake. The home, featured on a recent Preservation Dallas Intown Outing, was purchased by musical instrument retailer Dave Anderson for his sixteen year old daughter. Anderson’s daughter had jokingly asked if he would buy the house for her - and he did - wrapping it with a pink bow and gift tag for her birthday. The sale quells worries that the property would be purchased for its land value and the historic residence demolished.

by Jack Keene
number of preservation organizations in Texas. A copy of the position description is available here. Please feel free to pass it along to people you know who might be good candidates.

New Members

Individual:
Kerrington Adams
Sarah Carlson
Elizabeth Elliott
Natalie Roetzel
Alicia Schroeder

Double:
Phillip Cobb
Debra Gray

Sustainer:
Patrick Fields
Bill Hersch and Liz Casso

Welcome and Thanks!

Corporate Members

Grace and Oak Lawn United Methodist Churches - Partners for Sacred Places, an organization that promotes the preservation and use of historic church buildings, has made grants to Oak Lawn United Methodist and Grace United Methodist. Both church congregations have participated in the Partnership’s New Dollars program, which helps churches learn how to maximize their financial assets and physical facilities to best serve their neighborhoods and the broader community.

Good Samaritan Hospital - Vanessa Baker’s efforts to revitalize the 1920 Good Samaritan Hospital (and Baker Residential Hotel) building at 4526 Leland got a boost earlier this month when it was listed as the City’s 140th Dallas Landmark. Between 1920 and 1945, Good Samaritan housed a community hospital that offered, in addition to general medical services, a place where unwed mothers could go to have their babies. Baker’s parents purchased the hospital building in the late 1940s and turned it into a residential hotel for African-Americans. Baker now plans to restore the building as a community center with a theater, meeting rooms and other spaces for neighborhood children.

Old Home Supply House

Postal Partners LP

Ron L. Seibler - Remodeling, Renovations & Historic Restorations

Dallas Public Schools - Of the eleven schools Dallas Independent School District is proposing to close, three (Wheatley, Harlee, and Fannin) are either in City Of Dallas historic districts or are individually
Thank you for your support!

Thank You to Our Generous Donors*

Ann K. Abernathy, Anonymous, Kathryne Bishop, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Boeckman, Linda Darfer, Jan and Richard Doherty, Jo Cleaver Doremus, Thomas M. Dunning, Ebby Halliday, Vicki Ford, Harriet Halsey, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Hammack, Marlow C. Hunter, Tom and Kathi Lind, Jacquelyn and John McElhaney, Judy and Cameron McMillen, Allie Mysliwy, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Pak, Ralph McBride Randall Paul and Joan Ridley, Carol Roark, Katherine and John Henry Seale, Cynthia Timms

*a as of 1/6/2012

Designated as Dallas Landmarks. In addition, three more (City Park, Frazier and Bonham) are historic and worthy of historic designation. O. M. Roberts has already been demolished and Dade Middle School (originally John Brown Elementary) will be replaced with new construction.

How can we use these significant places? Brent Brown’s bcWORKSHOP chose Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to highlight four historic sites/buildings by placing art installations at the sites and inviting public suggestions about how they could be used. Included are the Knights of Pythias Temple (Union Bankers Life), the site of Sunshine Elizabeth Chapel, the site of Fred Douglass School and the Forest Theater. See the project online and make your suggestions at http://pia.bcworkshop.org.

Preservation Dallas Celebrates 40 Years!

It's hard to believe, but in 2012 Preservation Dallas is celebrating forty successful years as an advocate for historic buildings, neighborhoods and places in Dallas. Born in 1972 as the Historic Preservation League, our members were instrumental in establishing the preservation program at the City of Dallas, designating Swiss Avenue as a National Register Historic District, and helping to save the houses in the Wilson Block. More recently, Preservation Dallas saved two of the cities most endangered properties, the Parks Estate and Baldwin House. The name changed to Preservation Dallas in 1994, about the time that our offices moved into the Wilson House.

While our advocacy work and support of historic designations continues, Preservation Dallas has built a reputation for quality educational programming -- including the Historic House Specialist seminars, Summer Sizzlers, and the ever-popular Intown Outings. Our Preservation Achievement Awards (read more about the 2012 awards) honor the best preservation projects and bring them well-deserved recognition. We're planning to celebrate throughout the year, starting with an appearance at the Oak Cliff Mardi Gras parade on February 19. Join us for the fun -- and remember that it's your support that helps keep this organization strong.

City of Dallas to be Honored at 2012 Preservation Achievement Awards

LINKS:

Dallas Arts District
Dallas Architecture Forum
Dallas Center for Architecture
Preservation Texas
National Trust for Historic Preservation
National Parks Service
The stage is being set for a Preservation Achievement Awards where both the venue and the program will be splendid. Mark your calendars now for the extravaganza to be showcased on Wednesday, May 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Majestic Theatre in downtown Dallas. The Majestic recently underwent a facelift, with a new roof, new HVAC system, historically appropriate colors in areas needing repainting and a new sound and lighting system.

Come shine with us!

Preservation Dallas is now taking nominations for the 2012 awards in the areas of:

- Rehabilitation or Adaptive Use of a Residential Historic Building
- Rehabilitation or Adaptive Use of a Commercial, Institutional, or Mixed-use Building
- Rehabilitation of a Historic Landscape, Park or other Historic Resource
- New Construction/Infill in a historic neighborhood. This can include an addition directly attached to a building, or an entirely new building (in-fill) which enhances the historic nature of the original building or streetscape or urban environment
- Unrealized projects incorporating rehabilitation or adaptive use of historic resources
- GREEN projects that appropriately integrates new technologies and materials to improve the efficiently of the property while maintaining its historic character

Click here for the nomination form and send us your submission today! Deadline is March 9, 2012.

Stand with us! Preservation Dallas will showcase the City of Dallas' best historic preservation projects and unveil the new Main Street Gardens interpretive signs. Stand with us by becoming an event sponsor and share the spotlight on this magical evening.

Cliff May in Dallas: Bringing California Ranch Homes to Texas
by Bryan McKinney

The Casa View Oaks neighborhood, part of Greater Casa View, was developed by H. Leslie Hill on the east side of White Rock Lake, roughly bordered between Gus Thomason Road and Buckner Boulevard. This major housing development project comprised several hundred homes, including a number designed by the prominent
California builder Cliff May, known as the creator of the California Ranch Home.

H. Leslie Hill started working in the home construction business in 1934 and built thousands of homes in the Dallas area over the course of his career; his business model focused on low-cost homes that were aggressively advertised to appeal to the needs and demands of Dallas’ growing post-war population. During the 1950s Dallas experienced a business and population explosion - at the beginning of the decade, the city had 434,462 residents, and by 1960 it had grown to 679,684. New neighborhoods and developments would be needed to house these new citizens. Read more...

Click below to view vintage advertisements:
Sample 1
Sample 2

Featured Upcoming Event

AT THE ANVIL
FEBRUARY 18 • 9:00AM • DALLAS HERITAGE VILLAGE
PRESENTED BY

& Demonstration:
Exploring Architectural Blacksmithing
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
FREE for Members of Preservation Dallas or Dallas Heritage Village; $10 for guests

Join Preservation Dallas and Dallas Heritage Village to learn more about the technique and artistry of architectural blacksmithing. Acclaimed artisans Ward Brinegar and Ronald Siebler will demonstrate basic forging techniques and tools as well as complex production skills used to make elaborate scrollwork and other architectural details. Warm clothing is encouraged.
Afternoon Blacksmithing Workshop
12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
$50 for Members of Preservation Dallas or Dallas Heritage Village; $75 for guests. Price of workshop includes lunch.

Try your hand at blacksmithing in an afternoon hands-on workshop with Ward Brinegar and Ronald Siebler. Workshop space is limited so that participants may experience one-on-one instruction with these experienced blacksmiths. Hone your forging techniques and take home your own hand-crafted piece. Please wear close-toed shoes, a long sleeve, 100% cotton shirt and 100% cotton long pants.

For questions or to reserve your spot, email ikays@preservationdallas.org or call 214-821-3290.

Click here to view the full flyer.

Upcoming Preservation Dallas Events

**PDYP Happy Hour**
Times Ten Cellars
January 25, 6:00-8:00pm

Join the Preservation Dallas Young Professionals (PDYP) at the Lakewood location of Times Ten Cellars. Enjoy a glass of their wine, bottled on site, while you hear why the owner’s chose a historic building for their location. As always, you’ll mingle with other PDYPers and meet new friends with similar interests! New PDYP members join for their age this night only!

**13th Annual Legacies Dallas History Conference: Defining the Spirit of Dallas**
Hall of State, Fair Park
January 28, 8:30-12:30pm

Click here to register online. Join Preservation Dallas and 11 other local organizations for a day of provocative presentations by professional and lay historians focusing on the history of our city.

**Service Project: Calvary Baptist Church**
Calvary Baptist Church
January 28, 1:00-5:00pm

Calvary Baptist Church, built in 1924, is undergoing a major renovation project to sensitively restore it to its historic appearance, including removing the 1960s concrete screen that hides the original Doric columns. They need assistance with cleaning and organizing interior rooms as part of this process. Contact Ariel Kidwell by email or 214-821-3290 if you would like to sign up to volunteer.
Discussion and Book Signing
Wilson House
March 6, 6:00 - 8:00pm

Join Chris Meister, author of James Reily Gordon: His Courthouses and Other Public Architecture, to learn more about this important architect who started his prolific career in Texas.

To register for these events, please call 214-821-3290 or email lkays@preservationdallas.org.