2012 Preservation Achievement Awards

By Donovan Westover, Event Coordinator

Preservation Dallas presented its 13th Annual Preservation Achievement Awards on Wednesday, May 16. More than 300 people joined the celebration at the Majestic Theatre, and there was plenty of applause as we honored outstanding projects that recognized the best efforts to renovate Dallas' historic buildings and places, as well as the people who contribute to the city's history. The Awards Committee and our Master of Ceremony, State Representative Rafael Anchia, produced a great ceremony and reception.

This year's awards included a special tribute to the City of Dallas for its stewardship and vision for our great city, both past and present. A video highlighting the City's preservation initiatives, produced in partnership with YouPlus Dallas, premiered at the awards ceremony. Photographs from the Awards event as well as the video tribute to the City of Dallas may now be viewed on the Preservation Dallas website.

Read more about the ceremony and award winners . . .

Photo: Rodger Mallison

History of the Majestic Theatre

Venue for the 2012 Preservation Achievement Awards
By Marcel Quimby, FAIA
Quimby McCoy Preservation Architecture, LLP

The Majestic Theatre opened April 11, 1921, and was the flagship theatre of Karl Hobitzelle’s Interstate Amusement Company. It replaced the first Majestic Theater (built 1906) on Commerce and St. Paul streets, following its destruction by fire in 1916. John Eberson, from Chicago and known for remarkable ‘atmospheric theaters,’ was the architect and Lang and Witchell the associate architects for the building. In addition to being Dallas’ most opulent theatre, the building housed Interstate’s headquarters in three levels of office space at the front of the building. Read more . . .

Photo: Rodger Mallison

Preservation Updates
By Carol Roark, Interim Executive Director

Praetorian Building
There is every indication that the Praetorian Building and other small buildings around it to the north and east will be demolished. Although the original Praetorian Building was the first skyscraper west of the Mississippi when it was constructed in 1908, a 1959-60 remodeling replaced both the exterior and interior fabric, essentially creating a new structure. Continue reading . . .

S&D Oyster Company Expansion
The S&D Oyster Company unexpectedly received approval from the Zoning Board of Adjustment to create an outdoor patio and additional parking. This may require the demolition or removal of one of the few remaining turn-of-the-century houses (fronting on Boll Street) left in Dallas. S&D made a similar request a decade ago to build a parking lot, and Preservation Dallas was able to find someone to take and move the house. Continue reading . . .

Titche-Goettinger Building
The University of North Texas System is proposing alterations to the 1955 Titche-Goettinger Building at 1901 Main Street, which currently houses the Universities Center at Dallas and UNT System offices. Plans call for the insertion of courses of stone-colored windows with aluminum screens on the third through sixth floors and removal of the Titche-Goettinger cartouche. The building will provide temporary facilities for the new UNT Law School, which will eventually be housed in the nearby Municipal Building. Continue reading . . .

Gail Thoma Patterson Memorial Marker Unveiling at Main Street Garden

On May 9, Preservation Dallas unveiled a new series of destination signage at downtown’s Main Street Garden. The five signs, which ring the perimeter of Main Street Garden highlight the historically significant buildings that surround the park. The signs were placed in memory of Gail Thoma Patterson, a longtime supporter and former president of Preservation Dallas. Members of Gail’s family and many of her friends joined us for the unveiling, as did John Crawford and his colleagues from Downtown Dallas, Inc. and representatives from the City of Dallas. These signs are the first in a series that will expand throughout downtown Dallas in the years ahead. The signage will help connect the people who live, work and play downtown with the wonderful story of the city’s urban fabric.
Welcome and thank you!

Join/Renew
Donate
Volunteer

Save the Date
Preservation Dallas Annual Meeting

Monday, June 25, 2012
6 to 7:30 p.m.
U.S. Post Office and Courthouse Building
400 N. Ervay | Downtown Dallas
{directions}

RESERVATIONS
This is a complimentary, members only event
RSVP by phone to 214-821-3290 or by email

This year's Annual Meeting will be held in the Magistrate Lounge at the 1930 U.S. Post Office and Courthouse
Building, a 2012 Preservation Achievement Award recipient for outstanding restoration/re-adaptation of a commercial property. The building had been conceived early in the 20th Century as an opportunity to centralize Federal office and services in a central location for the burgeoning city of Dallas. Land for the site was first obtained about 1912, but funding problems and political infighting prevented the project from beginning construction until 1929.

Among the facilities in the building were multiple courtrooms, including the courtroom for the Federal District Court of North Texas. Before relocating to the Cabell Federal Building in the 1970's, many cases of national importance were heard in that courtroom. Perhaps most famous is the landmark case of Roe vs. Wade which set national policy on abortion rights to this date. One of the jurists who heard Roe vs. Wade was Judge Sarah T. Hughes. She was a personal friend of President Lyndon Johnson and administered the oath of office to him following President Kennedy's assassination. A former law clerk of Judge Hughes now has an apartment in the newly renovated building.

At the meeting, preservation architect Norman Alston will talk about the renovation of the building, and several apartments will be open for viewing. The Board Development Committee also will present a slate of board nominees and officers for election to the 2012-2013 Preservation Dallas Board of Trustees.

Light refreshments will be served, courtesy of Norman Alston Architects.