



SOUTHEAST TEXAS REGIONAL PRESERVATION SUMMIT

November 16, 2023 | Beaumont | McFaddin-Ward House Visitor Center

PROGRAM

09:00 a.m. | WELCOME & PRESERVATION TEXAS SOUTHEAST TEXAS REGIONAL PROGRAM UPDATE

Derrick Birdsall, Board of Directors, Preservation Texas
Evan Thompson, Executive Director, Preservation Texas

09:15 a.m. | SOUTHEAST TEXAS: REGIONAL HERITAGE

Dr. Jimmy Bryan, Director, Center for History and Culture of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast at Lamar University

Dr. Bryan will give a general overview of the region's built culture and present some of the ways in which Lamar University's Center for History and Culture of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast can assist scholars and preservationists.

09:30 a.m. | DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & RECOVERY WORKSHOP - PART I

Rob Lackowicz, Gulf Coast Disaster and Resilience Director, SWCA Environmental Consultants
Sharon Fleming, Preservation Architect, Texas Historical Commission and Constant Springs Consulting

As part of the new Texas Historical Commission Statewide Preservation Plan effort and due to the far-reaching damage caused by Hurricane Harvey in 2017, the THC published three new documents related to disaster risk assessment, disaster preparedness, and disaster recovery of historic resources. In Part I, Rob and Sharon will provide a summary of the key information contained within these documents, discussing the challenges related to historic resources subject to disasters including case studies and finding building materials that meet both historic preservation and disaster protection needs. The presenters will then obtain attendee input and concerns.

10:30 a.m. | BREAK

10:45 a.m. | DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & RECOVERY WORKSHOP - PART II

Rob Lackowicz, Gulf Coast Disaster and Resilience Director, SWCA Environmental Consultants
Sharon Fleming, Preservation Architect, Texas Historical Commission and Constant Springs Consulting

In Part II, attendees will be broken into groups based on their needs and be given forms to fill out. Rob and Sharon will provide individualized input and guidance during this process. Attendees will then have the opportunity to discuss their group findings and learn how to utilize disaster forms and preparation plans for their own historic buildings, their communities, and their historic neighborhoods.

11:30 a.m. | HISTORIC TAX CREDITS & DISASTER RESPONSE

Hannah Curry, Architectural History Project Manager, SWCA Environmental Consultants

The Texas Legislature created the 25% state historic tax credit in 2013, and the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit program provides a credit for federal income taxes equal to 20% of qualified expenses. Half of all state projects apply for both state and federal credits, receiving a total of 45% in eligible credits. To date, this historic tax credit program has

resulted in more than 500 Texas applications in 45 cities across the state, representing places of worship, hotels, industrial buildings, cultural nonprofits, historic downtowns, universities, and private residences. In this session Hannah will discuss how these tax credits can be used by historic property owners to prepare for and recover from natural disasters.

12:00 p.m. | LUNCH & TOUR OF THE McFADDIN-WARD HOUSE

01:15 p.m. | EVALUATING HOUSES & DISTRICTS IN DISASTER RECOVERY

Erin Edwards, Associate Project Architectural Historian, SWCA Environmental Consultants

Ella McIntire, Associate Project Architectural Historian, SWCA Environmental Consultants

If a disaster is declared eligible for federal funding, damaged homes are evaluated to see if they are listed or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This assessment not only includes NRHP-listed and local historic districts, but also potentially NRHP-eligible neighborhoods. In this session Erin and Ella will discuss how architectural historians evaluate historic houses and districts, how NRHP-eligible districts have been defined in the past for recovery programs, and how private insurance can affect these neighborhoods' historic setting over time. They will also present some best practices for preparing a historic house or district for a natural disaster.

02:15 p.m. | THE WOOD MANSION: AN INSIDER'S PERSPECTIVE ON NAVIGATING DISASTER RECOVERY

Jon Breeden, Owner, Wood Mansion Historical Site

Jon will share his unique perspective on disaster recovery based on his experience navigating the complex process of restoring the John Howland Wood Mansion in Bayside. He invites the audience to learn as he reflects on successes and mistakes while pointing to preventative measures that he has learned through the historic restoration process.

02:35 | THE BOLIVAR POINT LIGHTHOUSE: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

Amy Chase, Executive Director, Bolivar Point Lighthouse Foundation

The Bolivar Point Lighthouse has welcomed the world to Texas since 1872, and is one of Texas's few surviving 19th-century lighthouses. Decommissioned in 1933, the lighthouse has withstood decades of severe weather and storms, leaving the structure in a state of deterioration. The Bolivar Point Lighthouse Foundation was formed in 2015 with the mission of saving the lighthouse and sharing its legacy. In this talk, Amy will provide a historical overview and share about the Foundation's ongoing efforts to preserve this landmark for generations to come.

02:55 | LONE STAR COASTAL NATIONAL RECREATION AREA: LEVERAGING NATURAL, CULTURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES TO UNDERPIN A RESILIENT COASTAL ECONOMIC SECTOR

Elizabeth Winston Jones, Executive Director, Lone Star Coastal Alliance

Following Hurricane Ike, the idea for the Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area emerged with the goal of building a tourism sector around the natural and historic resources of the region as an approach to long-term coastal resilience. It would leverage open space to create a sector that would recover quickly after flooding, reduce disaster risk, and help preserve and enhance the region's ecology by increasing its measurable economic value to the community. Elizabeth will share her insights on how the natural, cultural and historic resources of the Upper Texas Gulf Coast can work together to promote coastal resilience and foster heritage tourism.

03:15 | SAVING COASTAL TEXAS CASE STUDIES Q&A DISCUSSION

03:45 | PRESERVATION TEXAS SOUTHEAST TEXAS HONOR AWARDS CEREMONY & CLOSING REMARKS