

Metropolitan Historical Commission

Newsletter ▪ February 2014



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What's New with the MHC and MHZC?

New! Nashville Conference on African-American History and Culture

Friday, February 14, 2014—8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Tennessee State University

Avon Williams Campus

10th and Charlotte Avenues, downtown

On February 14, 2014 join Tennessee State University's College of Arts and Sciences and the Metropolitan Historical Commission for a celebration of the contributions of African Americans to Nashville and Tennessee history. For over thirty years, this award-winning conference has brought together historians, students, educators, community leaders, and others interested in African-American history and culture. This year's conference will focus on the educational and musical legacies of Nashville's African-American community to our city and state.

Dr. Sonya Ramsey of the University of North Carolina-Charlotte will focus on the legacy of African-American schoolteachers in Nashville, the subject of her recent book, *Reading, Writing, and Segregation: A Century of Black Women Schoolteachers in Nashville*. Several of Ramsey's interviews come from our own Conference attendees! Ramsey's book has been called "groundbreaking" and "fascinating" by reviewers.

Dr. Don Cusic will speak on educator, poet, and activist James Weldon Johnson. Janet Walsh with the TSU Libraries and Beverly Robertson with the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis will highlight the research and interpretation of the African-American experience at their institutions. In commemoration of the Sesquicentennial year of the Battle of Nashville in the American Civil War, Norm Hill will join Dr. Tim Johnson to discuss the Civil War experiences of Nashville's African Americans during the Battle of Nashville.

Please make plans to join us for this exceptional program. The [full program brochure](#) for the 2014 Conference is now available. Pre-registration is closed, but we'll take

walk-up registrations at the event. If you have questions, please call the Historical Commission at 615-862-7970. Visit [Nashville Conference on African-American History and Culture](#) for updates or find us on Facebook!

Save the Date! Third Annual Old House Fair

Saturday, March 8—9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Martin Center

2400 Fairfax Avenue

The Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission and partners are pleased to announce the third annual [Old House Fair](#) on Saturday March 8, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at The Martin Center, 2400 Fairfax Avenue, Nashville.

The Old House Fair is a FREE day-long festival that introduces property owners to new ideas, practical advice, innovative materials, and quality services through exhibitors, presentations and hands-on demonstrations. The event includes door prizes, the Smoke et al food truck, and the opportunity for children to learn more about historic architecture. Historic Nashville Inc. will be providing hands-on activities for children of all ages including a scavenger hunt in the Hillsboro-West End neighborhood.

Lectures and hands-on demonstrations focus on enhancing energy efficiency, maintaining and restoring old houses, and appropriate design elements for the architectural styles and eras found here in Nashville. “We will have a full range of sessions,” said historic zoning administrator Robin Zeigler, “everything from how to make an old house more energy efficient, to the processes involved with faux painting techniques, to funding your rehab.” There will even be a table set up where you can get feedback on your project from the codes and historic departments. Even if you are not a DIYer, these sessions will help you know what to look for and what to ask for when planning projects for your old home. The entire schedule of lectures and hands-on demonstrations and exhibitor’s list is available online at www.oldhousefair.org.

David Currey, president of organizing partner Tennessee Preservation Trust, explained that the Hillsboro-West End neighborhood makes a lot of sense for this year’s Fair. “The Hillsboro-West End neighborhood is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. They have an existing neighborhood conservation zoning overlay for part of their historic district and are in the process of expanding that overlay to include the rest. Having the Old House Fair there is a great way to celebrate everyone’s hard work in protecting their neighborhood’s character.”

Participants will have a chance to talk to exhibitors and get advice and information on their specific projects. Exhibitors include companies that specialize in old houses, and retailers and artists who cater to owners of Antebellum, Victorian, Bungalow, Tudor and Mid-century Modern homes.

2014 PRESERVATION AWARDS

New! Call for Nominations: 2014 Preservation Awards

We are now accepting nominations for the 2014 Preservation Awards. This is new for us, so please bear with us as we work out the details of a rolling nominations process. We’ll provide information about judging and the awards ceremony as it becomes

available. In the meantime, feel free to nominate your favorite preservation project as soon as it is complete!

The deadline to submit nominations is **Friday, March 14, 2014**. This is earlier than in years past, so please take note. We will not extend the deadline for photographs or incomplete nomination packets.

To learn more about the awards program, please visit [Preservation Awards](#) or email scarlett.miles@nashville.gov.

IN THE NEWS

New! Friends of Kellytown Works to Preserve Site

At the intersection of Hillsboro Pike and Old Hickory Boulevard, on seven acres of undeveloped land near Congregation Micah, rests a portion of an ancient Native American village. Although the property is undeveloped, the pressures of suburban growth and commercial expansion constantly threaten this historic site, earning the Kellytown Historical Site a spot on Historic Nashville's Nashville Nine endangered sites list in September 2013 and prompting the recent formation of Friends of Kellytown.

In just a short amount of time, the Friends of Kellytown has made significant progress in growing as an organization and advocating for the preservation of Kellytown. The group of concerned citizens has developed a website, created an informative brochure, proposed a conceptual plan for the site, and established an ambitious fundraising campaign to purchase and preserve the site. The real estate development trust which owns the property has agreed to sell the land for \$1.2 million. The [City of Forest Hills](#) has pledged \$100,000 towards the purchase of the site and many generous donors have contributed to the group's efforts to meet the asking price. Additionally, the governments of Forest Hills, Nashville, and Brentwood are working with state and local preservation and conservation groups to support this initiative.

Despite its good work, time is running out and Friends of Kellytown still needs you! To learn more about Kellytown and how you can help save this important archaeological site, visit www.friendsofkellytown.com today.

Ongoing! NashvilleNext.Net!

Work continues on a new Nashville General Plan which will provide a vision for our city's future over the next 30 years, along with guidance for growth and development in Davidson County and much of Middle Tennessee. Called "NashvilleNext," this is an ongoing, integrated plan for Nashville's future - and information about the plan is now available on a constantly updated webpage which includes contact information, volunteer opportunities, details of the plan in progress, and video comments from some of the many community leaders who are already part of the NashvilleNext initiative. Visit www.nashvillenext.net or find Nashville Next on Facebook for the "next" big news!

Concerned about what this means for Nashville's historic resources? Read the [Historic Preservation Background Report](#) and the [Historic Preservation Fact Sheet](#), and [share your comments](#) about the future of historic preservation in our city.

New! African-American History Month at The Hermitage

The Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson, will host several FREE events throughout February to celebrate African-American history and culture while paying tribute to the enslaved community who lived at The Hermitage. "[African-American Contributions to Nashville](#)" is the theme for the 2014 series. Building upon 2013's theme of "Emancipation and the Meaning of Freedom," these four programs will trace the path of The Hermitage's enslaved community from bondage to full citizenship by looking at the contributions emancipated African-Americans have made in the Nashville metropolitan area. For more information and a detailed schedule, visit www.thehermitage.com.

New! Friends of Two Rivers Presents The Two Hearts Craft & Antique Show

Friday through Sunday, February 14 – 16

Two Rivers Mansion

3130 McGavock Pike

The Friends of Two Rivers Mansion will start the year off with the Two Hearts Craft & Antique Show. This year over twenty vendors will showcase their finest antiques and crafts. Visitors can sip on coffee and munch on sweets purchased at the Coffee Shoppe while they peruse the merchandise and enjoy the beauty of the mansion throughout the three-day event.

"This is a great opportunity to experience the mansion, marvel at the restorations, and do a little shopping for that special Valentine," former President Phil Howard says. Howard stepped down as president and the President-Elect Jeff Syracuse assumed leadership in January 2014.

Friends officially launched the organization to the public in May 2011. Since then, they have grown their membership base and accomplished all of their originally planned renovation projects.

To date the Friends group is responsible for the roof replacement on the 1802 House and the repairs on the millwork, windows and sashes, and the door repairs on the main home. The chandeliers have been cleaned and refurbished and the gentlemen's parlor redecorated. The most noticeable is extensive restoration on the back veranda. "Donelson as a community is witnessing reinvestment and new energy and the incredible restoration occurring at the Two Rivers Mansion has become figurative for the whole community. It is gratifying and exciting to be part of the Friends of Two Rivers Mansion as we continue our work to bring new life to the mansion and surrounding 14-acres," Syracuse says.

The Two Hearts Crafts & Antiques Show is set for Friday Feb. 14 from 10am - 4 pm, Saturday Feb. 15 from 10am – 4 pm. and Sunday Feb. 16 from 1 – 4 p.m. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children. Members are admitted free. All events are supported by Metro Parks & Recreation.

The Friends has also released their list of scheduled public events for 2014. The next community-wide event will be Phil the House with Art & Friends scheduled for May 18. This year's featured artist, Pat Johnson, will showcase her work against the exquisite backdrop of the antebellum mansion. Wine and cheese will be served.

Music at the Mansion will return with three dates on June 21, July 19 and August 16. Halloween at the Mansion is slated for October 25 and Holiday Historical Tours will be on December 12, 13, and 14. Tours are offered throughout the year. A complete listing of those dates and times may be found on the website.

Proceeds raised will fund the restoration of the mansion. Friends of Two Rivers Mansion is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization therefore all membership fees are tax deductible.

For more information for upcoming events and membership visit the website at www.friendsoftworiversmansion.org or contact Events Manager Laura Carrillo at 615-862-8431 ext 233.

The Metropolitan Historical Commission publishes this monthly newsletter to keep you informed on events and happenings at the MHC. If you have questions, comments, or news to pass along, please email scarlett.miles@nashville.gov, with E-NEWS in the subject line.

Metropolitan Historical Commission

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