

## History Gram

The Newsletter of the  
Metropolitan Historical Commission



## January 2015

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Exciting News for Music Row,  
Nashville Conference on African-American History and Culture,  
Old House Fair,  
Nashville 101,  
and more...*

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### What's New with the MHC and MHZC?

#### **Ongoing! MHZC Needs Your Input for Old House Fair**

The Historic Zoning Commission is looking for your thoughts on what companies should exhibit at the Old House this March 7, 2015. We are particularly interested in craftspeople and contractors who work with older homes. Have a great recommendation for refinishing porcelain tubs? Know just the guy to repair slate roofing? Had a great experience with a talented landscaper? Let us know!

A primary goal of the Old House Fair is to pair owners of older properties with the people who know how to work with them, but those crafts persons and small one-person shops are sometimes hard to find. Please send the name of the craftsperson or company along with any contact information you might have to [robin.zeigler@nashville.gov](mailto:robin.zeigler@nashville.gov). (Please note: exhibit space is by invitation only so once we receive your ideas a committee will decide who to invite to assure that the Fair provides a good mix of exhibitors.)

Thank you so much for your help! We look forward to receiving your recommendations.

#### **New! Exciting News for Music Row**

Courtesy of the National Trust for Historic Preservation:

#### ***Nashville's Music Row Deserves a Future as Bright as its Past!***

Last year, RCA Studio A on Nashville's famed Music Row was threatened by demolition. Built by the RCA Corporation and opened in 1965 as the premier sound engineering marvel of its time, the studio's client list reads as a "Who's Who" of music legends and modern-day musicians. Everyone from Dolly Parton to the Beach Boys, Elvis Presley to Keith Urban, and many more have recorded at Studio A. Ben Folds

served as the public face of the Save Studio A campaign after his company was given an eviction notice this summer by the developer who purchased the building and planned to demolish it to build condos and a restaurant.

Studio A was saved in the 11th hour by preservationist Aubrey Preston, who was recently joined by Chuck Elcan and Mike Curb to form Preservation Partners, a nonprofit organization that will manage the building.

The near-demolition of Studio A has sparked a broader discussion in Nashville — how does the community encourage development while still keeping the “music” in Music Row?

Additionally, 2015 is a milestone year as Music Row celebrates its 60th anniversary as the center of the sounds of American music and the historic RCA Building marks its 50th year under new ownership.

Please join the [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#) and the [Music Industry Coalition](#) on **Monday, January 12, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in RCA Studio A, 30 Music Square West**, as we announce a new partnership and our plans to work together with numerous Nashville partners to celebrate Music Row’s milestones, to tell its unique story, and to plan a vibrant future for this area that made Nashville “Music City U.S.A.”

Speakers for the announcement to include:

- The Honorable Karl Dean, Mayor of Metro Nashville
- David Brown, Executive Vice President and Chief Preservation Officer, National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Ben Folds, Multi-platinum selling artist, owner of Grand Victor Sound Studio at historic RCA Studio A
- Aubrey Preston and Chuck Elcan, Studio A Preservation Partners
- Mike Kopp, Chair, Music Industry Coalition
- Sharon Corbitt-House, Vice President, Grand Victor Sound Studio

Kindly [RSVP](#) if you plan to attend.

**Register today! 2015 Nashville Conference on African-American History & Culture**

*Friday, February 13, 2015*

*Tennessee State University*

*Avon Williams Campus, Downtown*

For over thirty years, the Metropolitan Historical Commission and Tennessee State University have celebrated the contributions of African Americans to Nashville and Tennessee through the Nashville Conference on African-American History and Culture. The 2015 conference continues this tradition, focusing on unsung heroes in Tennessee history from slavery through the 20th century. The speakers scheduled for this year include Belmont professor and noted author Dr. Sybril Bennett, and Tennessee State Historian Dr. Carroll Van West. Continuing the Conference’s long-standing commitment to honoring the contributions of African-Americans to Nashville’s cultural scene, the Nashville Public Library’s Wishing Chair Productions will stage “Anasazi the Spider,” in honor of the rich story-telling traditions of the African-American community.

New this year will be the airing of the winning student documentaries from 2014's Tennessee History Day competition. Students from Memphis and Knoxville received honors for the best Tennessee projects in African-American History, sponsored by the Nashville Conference Committee, at the 2014 competition. These will be honored for their work, and their documentaries will be screened at the conference.

Mark your calendar and make plans to join us for the 2015 conference on Friday, February 13, 2015. The conference will meet at Tennessee State University's Avon Williams Campus in downtown Nashville. Additional [conference details and registration information](#) are available on our website. Registration is \$20.00 and includes lunch. **Pre-registration closes Friday, January 23, 2015.**

### **Save the Date! 2015 Old House Fair**

*Saturday, March 7, 2015*

*Sevier Park Community Center*

*3021 Lealand Lane*

The Metropolitan Historical Commission Foundation and partners will host the 2015 Old House Fair on Saturday, March 7, 2015 at the Sevier Park Community Center, 3021 Lealand Avenue. The Old House Fair is a FREE day-long festival showcasing new ideas, practical advice, innovative materials, and quality services for homeowners to learn more about sustainable and historic products and services, and gain tips for planning and executing residential preservation projects.

The OHF will include presentations and hand-on demonstrations, such as:

- enhancing energy efficiency
- funding your rehab
- evaluations of defining features and replacement materials
- dealing with toxic substances such as lead paint and asbestos
- repairing windows and faux painting
- children's activities

Exhibitors will include companies, retailers, and artists experienced in working with homes of many ages and styles, from Antebellum to Mid-century Modern. As always, we'll have children's activities for young preservationists and great raffle items from our exhibitors and sponsors. Need a quick snack or staying for lunch? We'll have one of Nashville's most popular food trucks on hand, too.

**Sponsorship opportunities are still available.** If you are interested in being a sponsor, please contact Robin Zeigler at [robin.zeigler@nashville.gov](mailto:robin.zeigler@nashville.gov) or 615-862-7970 ext. 79776.

More details coming soon! In the meantime, visit our [website](#) to learn more about the 2014 Old House Fair and the great programs and exhibitors to look for in 2015.

### **Ongoing! Historic Home for Sale**

We rarely, if ever, feature historic home listings in our monthly newsletter, but 3111 Hydes Ferry Road is a special case, so we are making an exception! If you are looking for your next preservation project, consider the Stephens House on Hydes Ferry Road. Built by the Hyde Family, this amazing antebellum home totals 2,580 sq. ft. on a lovely .98 acres. Additionally, the home is known as one of the houses used by Jesse

and Frank James during their time in the Bordeaux and Jordonia communities. The owner is very interested in selling the house to a preservation-minded individual or group. The sale price is \$75,000. For more information, call Barbara Wayman at 615-293-1882. Photos are available on our [Facebook page](#) or by request. As always, MHC/MHZC staff is available to offer preservation advice and resources, such as those offered at the annual [Old House Fair](#).

**Ongoing!**

**Love Research, Writing, and Nashville History? If so, Nashville Needs YOU!**

The Metropolitan Historical Commission and Davidson County Historian, Dr. Carole Bucy, are teaming up with other Metro departments including the Mayor's Office, Information Technology Services, Metro Government Archives, and the Nashville Public Library to embark upon a comprehensive on-line ***Encyclopedia of Nashville and Davidson County***. We need your help! If you are interested in researching and writing one or more articles of approximately 500 words pertaining to people, places, or events significant in Nashville history, sign up to become a writer! Check out <http://writers.nashville.gov> for more information and the "Guidelines for Writers" -- then email [encyclopedia@nashville.gov](mailto:encyclopedia@nashville.gov) to sign up!

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**2015 PRESERVATION AWARDS**

**New! Call for Nominations: 2015 Preservation Awards**

We are now accepting nominations for the 2015 Preservation Awards. 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 13, 2015**, so please plan accordingly. We will not extend the deadline for photographs or incomplete nomination packets.

To learn more about the awards program and to request a nomination form, please visit [Preservation Awards](#) or email [scarlett.miles@nashville.gov](mailto:scarlett.miles@nashville.gov).

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**AROUND TOWN**

**New! Andrew Jackson's Hermitage Offers Free Admission on January 8**

*Thursday, January 8*

*The Hermitage*

*4580 Rachel's Lane*

As part of the Bicentennial celebration of the Battle of New Orleans on January 8th, Andrew Jackson's Hermitage is proud to unveil a new exhibit *Andrew Jackson: Born for a Storm*. This state-of-the-art, 1.1 million dollar exhibit tells the rich story of Andrew Jackson's meteoric rise from his humble beginnings to his tumultuous presidency through bold visuals and a series of interactive displays.

Enjoy FREE admission on January 8 as well as a variety of free activities that will entertain visitors of all ages:

- Wreath laying ceremony honoring Andrew Jackson
- 101st Airborne Division Band
- Listen to eye witness accounts, military records and other documents that tell the story of Jackson's great victory at New Orleans. Sign the muster roll and join Jackson's regiment! Families will receive a haversack of supplies and get to experience what a soldier's life was like during the War of 1812.
- Learn about naval warfare at The Battle of New Orleans and build your own souvenir boat to compete in the Raingutter Regatta! Made possible by the Middle Tennessee Council Boy Scouts of America.

[Preview the new exhibit](#) and [reserve your free tickets](#) today!

Can't make it on the 8th? Enjoy [special 1812 programs](#) throughout the weekend.

**New! Ancestors, Antiques, and Heirloom Artifacts**

*Saturday, January 17, 2015—1:00 p.m.*

*Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society*

*FiftyForward Knowles*

*Patricia Hart Building*

*174 Rains Avenue, across from the State Fairgrounds*

Join the MTGS for a Special Meeting to “Show and Tell” interesting things about your family. Share your own history by bringing photos, artifacts, or heirlooms of your ancestors, such as clothing, jewelry, your personal family history book, or other books that talk about your ancestors and their heritage, pictures of artifacts, or anything else you think would be fun to share. Who knows, you may just meet another cousin or someone researching your name or related family line! Join us for a day to share and honor our past! And, make friends for the future! Bring something to share or just come and see what others have found. For more information, please visit [www.mtgs.org](http://www.mtgs.org). Refreshments will be served. No charge for this meeting.

**Back by Popular Demand! Registration Now Open!**

**Nashville 101: Nashville History from its Beginnings to the Civil War**

*Thursdays in February—10:30 a.m. to Noon*

*Fort Negley Visitors Center*

*1100 Fort Negley Blvd.*

Would you like to learn more about Nashville history? Davidson County Historian Dr. Carole Bucy will teach **a series of classes to help Nashvillians tie the historic places they see around town to the story of our history**. Beginning with Native peoples who followed animals to the salt lick near a bend in the Cumberland River, “Nashville 101” will follow the Robertson and Donelson parties who settled the area and founded Fort Nashborough through Tennessee statehood, Nashville’s rise as a commercial center, its designation as the state capitol, Nashville as the Athens of the South, and its strategic location during the Civil War.

Classes will be held at the Fort Negley Visitors Center for four consecutive Thursdays, beginning on February 5, 2015 (Feb. 5, 12, 19, and 26), from 10:30 to noon. Space is limited, so reservations must be paid in advance. The cost is \$25.00. All proceeds for this series of “Nashville 101” will benefit the *Encyclopedia of Nashville and Davidson County* project.

To register, make your check payable to the MHC FOUNDATION and mail or hand-

deliver it along with your [registration form](#) to the MHC Foundation: 3000 Granny White Pike, Nashville, TN, 37204. For registration confirmation, please include an email address (preferred) or phone number with your check. Paying for multiple participants? Please include everyone's name and contact information with your check. Have questions? Please call the Historical Commission at 615-862-7970.

**Save the Date!** **Nashville 102** will take place on Thursdays in April (9, 16, 23, and 30) from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Registration information will be available in the March newsletter.

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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](mailto:scarlett.miles@nashville.gov), with E-NEWS in the subject line.

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Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County • Karl F. Dean, Mayor