

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



THE TEXAS COURTHOUSE STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP Sponsored by the Texas Land Title Association

Thursday, October 17, 2013

8:00 – 8:30 Meet and Greet/Light Breakfast

8:30 – 8:35 **Call to Order:** Bess Althaus Graham, Architect
Texas Historic Courthouse Stewardship Program

8:35 – 8:55 **Welcome:** Mark Wolfe, Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission (THC),
Joe Grealish, President, with Leslie Midgley, Executive Vice President,
Texas Land Title Association (TLTA),
Rex Hall, Assistant Executive Director, Texas Association of Counties (TAC)

8:55 – 9:10 **Introduction of Workshop Attendees:** Bess Althaus Graham, Architect

9:10 – 9:45 **Keynote Presentation: Courthouse Tourism and First Impressions**
Anne and Aaron Mason, aka “the Courthouse Couple”

Schoolteachers Anne and Aaron Mason began visiting all 254 Texas courthouses in 2010, culminating with their marriage at the Ellis County Courthouse in Waxahachie and receipt of proclamations from both houses of the 83rd Texas Legislature. They offer a unique outsider's perspective on which aspects of Texas county courthouses attract heritage tourists and their first impressions of the places they've visited.

9:45 – 9:55 Refreshment Break

9:55 – 10:10 **Courthouse Program Update:** Sharon Fleming, Director
Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program

10:10 – 10:50 **Session 1: Clean Living: Exploring the World of Green Cleaning**
Michael Ray, Branch Manager, Gulf Coast Paper Company

This session focuses on professional cleaning strategies centered on a more holistic approach that reduces lifecycle cost. The program provides a roadmap for creating green cleaning policies that incorporate aesthetics, the importance of considering occupant exposure and chemical hazards, and increasing productivity.

10:50 – 11:50 **Session 2: Work Orders, Preventive Maintenance, and Facility Management Software**
Tony Butler, Applications Engineer, FacilityDude, a facility management software company
Tim Flower, Facilities Manager, Hood County, TX
Ricky Kerr, Facilities Manager, Cooke County, TX

A single facility maintenance software system offers an efficient means of handling work orders and maintenance jobs. Two county facilities managers will share their experiences with one software package by demonstrating how they handle daily and weekly management tasks, generate reports, make informed decisions based on past use, and efficiently plan preventative maintenance projects.

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- 11:50 – 12:40 **Affinity Lunch** (*provided on-site for all participants*)
Attendees will relax in regional groups with THC staff to facilitate networking and support.
- 12:40 – 1:20 **Session 3: Holiday Celebrations on the Courthouse Square**
Bess Althaus Graham, Architect, Texas Historic Courthouse Stewardship Program
As the Christmas holidays approach, it's helpful to start thinking about your community's expectations for celebrating the season and how to accommodate those requests. We'll suggest that you envision a way of decorating and lighting your courthouse and square that allows you to gain community support, reduce cost, improve installation efficiency and safety, as well as safeguard the building from permanent damage. Examples and solutions will be presented and discussed.
- 1:20 – 2:00 **Session 4: Courthouse Square Trees: Managing Community Landmarks**
Oscar Mestas, Urban Forester, Texas Forest Service
Courthouse squares provide a focal point in many Texas towns for community events and special occasions. Learning how to inventory and care for the trees on the square will not only improve the square's appearance, but may provide payback in energy conservation and avert risk management issues in the future.
- 2:00 – 2:10 Refreshment Break
- 2:10 – 3:00 **Session 5: Courthouse Security: Better Safe than Sorry**
Oscar Cervantes, County Architect, Bexar County, TX
Ray Dunn, Chief Executive Officer, Guardian Security
In light of recent incidents and growing concern for safety, this session will address security measures being considered for one of Texas' busiest urban courthouses. Techniques and goals for minimizing the physical impact while effectively reducing threats will be reviewed. We'll also discuss simple measures being implemented in Texas' rural counties and explore new security practices and technology.
- 3:00 – 3:35 **Session 6: Success Story: First Lady's Texas Treasures Award**
April Garner, State Coordinator, Heritage Tourism Program, THC
After viewing a 16-minute video created to showcase preservation work in Paris, Texas, a brief overview will explain how this small northeast Texas community saved the historic structures, settings and stories that serve as a source of pride for residents and as a tourist destination for travelers.
- 3:35 – 5:00 **Session 7: Interactive Discussion Session – Case Studies from the Field**
Susan Gammage, Assistant Director, Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program
Mark Cowan, Project Reviewer, Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program
As one of our most popular workshop sessions, the audience will break into small groups to problem solve and make recommendations to address common issues experienced by counties and THC program staff in the care and preservation of their courthouses. One member of each group will present the case study discussion and remedies to the workshop attendees.

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8:00 – 8:30 Networking/Light Breakfast

8:30 – 8:45 **Welcome Back:** Sharon Fleming, Director
Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program

8:45 – 10:35 **Session 8: Wood Window Repairs**
John Hindman, Red River Restorations
Jonathan Thompson, Sunsational Solutions

Faced with maintaining wood sash windows, courthouse maintenance staff may be challenged with the unusual task of managing and occasional repair of traditional window systems and re-glazing windows panes. John will demonstrate the special skills needed with tips on practices and products needed to improve efficiency and prolong the life of these valuable assets.

10:35 – 10:45 Refreshment Break

10:45 – 11:15 **Session 9: Steel Frame Windows/Energy Efficient Window Adaptations**
Nolan Bees, J. C. Stoddard Construction
Bess Althaus Graham, Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program

Proper care of steel window systems in 20th century courthouses will extend the life and beauty of this distinctive building element. While Nolan shows how these windows have been restored and maintained, Bess will describe additional retrofit strategies to improve energy efficiency and comfort.

11:15 – 11:35 **Session 10: Texas Historical Marker Maintenance**
Bob Brinkman, Coordinator, Historical Markers Program, THC
Barbara Westbrook, Vice-President and Marker Chair,
Atascosa County Historical Commission

Refinishing historical markers on the county square can improve the overall appearance of the courthouse, as well as engender community pride and support. This session will provide instruction on how to refinish Texas historical markers using common household tools and supplies. The session will also illustrate how a County Historical Commission's energies can be harnessed to support maintenance activities county-wide.

11:35 – 12:00 **Stewardship Award and Door Prizes**

The workshop will conclude with recognition for Outstanding County Courthouse Stewardship and random drawings for door prizes. Workshop evaluations will be collected.