

History Gram
The Newsletter of the
Metropolitan Historical Commission



February 2015

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What's New with the MHC and MHZC?

Join us! 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. **If you did not pre-register, you may register on the day of the event.**

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 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! 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. (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.

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 to sign up!

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! Property categories include residential, infill, commercial, industrial-engineering, religious, and educational.

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 jessica.reeves@nashville.gov

AROUND TOWN

New! Two Hearts Craft and Antique Show at Two Rivers Mansion

Friday, February 13 10:00am-6:00pm
Saturday, February 14 10:00am-6:00pm
Sunday, February 15 12:00pm-4pm

The Friends of Two Rivers Mansion will start the year off with the Two Hearts Craft & Antique Show on Friday Feb. 13 from 10am - 6 pm, Saturday Feb. 14 from 10am – 6 pm. and Sunday Feb. 15 from 12 – 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. 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.

The Friends has also released their list of scheduled public events for 2015. The next community-wide event will be Phil the House with Art & Friends scheduled for May 17, with a special Garden Dedication to reveal the restored boxwood maze and the repaired fountain. Music at the Mansion will return with three dates on June 18, July 18 and August 15, and the Nashville Symphony is also booked to return for a special performance on Thursday, June 18. Halloween at the Mansion is slated for October 24 and Holiday Historical Tours will be on December 11, 12, and 13. 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.

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.

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