



THE PRESERVATION PULSE

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From NPF's Executive Director
Dr. Figanbaum

Preserving history is never without its challenges, as seen with the Lear Theater, a vital piece of Nevada's heritage. Despite dedicated funding and community interest, this architectural gem remains in limbo, highlighting the complexities of historic preservation. Stories like this remind us why our work is so

important—to ensure these sites are not lost.

Looking ahead, I'm beyond excited for Home + History Las Vegas 2025! It's our 10th anniversary, and we're planning some amazing events—from walking tours to the fan-favorite Sunday Home Tour. Tickets are already on sale, so grab yours and join the celebration!

Thank you for being part of this journey with us!



PRESERVATION SPOTLIGHT

The Historic Lear Theater Left in Limbo

The Lear Theater, one of Nevada's most endangered historic buildings, faces another setback after the Reno City Council reallocated \$827,373 in federal ARPA funds originally designated for its restoration. In March 2023, \$1 million was dedicated to improving the theater's landscaping and security, but with no bids received by the November deadline, the funds were redirected to other city projects.

The theater, designed in 1939 by renowned Black architect Paul Revere Williams, has remained vacant for over 20 years due to financial challenges. While \$172,627 was used for a historic structures report and design plans, no additional funding was allocated to its renovation. Councilmember Naomi Duerr stressed the community's interest in the theater's future, but without funding, its fate remains uncertain—a stark reminder of the challenges in preserving historic landmarks.

For more details, check out [Jaedyn Young's article in the Reno Gazette-Journal](#).



Visiting Reno for the holidays?

Explore its rich history with the free Reno Historical app! Featuring location-based stories, images, audio, and videos curated by experts, this app brings Reno's history to life. Perfect for holiday travelers seeking a deeper connection to the "Biggest Little City." Download Reno Historical today and discover the stories behind the places you visit! <https://renohistorical.org/>

NPF'S LEGACY: PAST PROJECTS

The year Nevada Preservation Foundation was founded also marked the launch of the **Vintage Vegas Home Tour**—an afternoon of historic open houses that evolved into the three-day celebration now known as Home + History Las Vegas (HHLV). This lively festival shines a spotlight on the history, people, and architecture of Las Vegas, perfectly timed to launch Historic Preservation Month in May and enjoy the last “cool” days of spring before summer heats up. Home + History is NPF’s largest fundraiser, and its support enables us to educate the community year-round about historic preservation and the many efforts involved in saving Nevada’s historic resources. This year mark your



calendar for May 1-4, 2025, as we celebrate HHLV’s 10th anniversary with the theme Vegas Then. Vegas Now. Tickets are already on sale for walking tours and our favorite Sunday Home Tour!

Join our mailing list to stay in the loop for our second ticket launch, featuring exclusive, underground iconic stops. Don’t miss your chance to celebrate 10 years of history, architecture, and Vegas vibes!

U P C O M I N G P R O G R A M M I N G



SPOTLIGHT ON A HOME + HISTORY WALKING TOUR!

Booming Las Vegas Neighborhood Walking Tour

Friday, May 2nd 8:30am and

Saturday, May 3rd 8:30am

\$35

Take a trip to the origins of modern Las Vegas residential development! From working class WWII Huntridge to the exclusive and luxurious Marycrest, this tour will introduce you to the war time men, women, and families who kept the city and the war effort running as well as the stars and celebrities of postwar booming Las Vegas. Take a peek at the neighborhoods where modern Las Vegas truly began to transform from desert town to glamor capital, and learn about the transition from interwar era transitional Minimalism to the iconic Mid Century Modern “booming” optimism. As a tour bonus, guests will visit a fabulous home that bridges the two neighborhoods for an inside look into the architecture of the era!

Tickets at nevadapreservation.org



VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT



For the past 10 years, Patrick has been a dedicated volunteer with NPF. Originally from a small town in Kentucky, Patrick was drawn to the allure of Las Vegas after a whirlwind vacation, eventually settling in the Beverly Green neighborhood. His passion for history led him to work alongside NPF founder Heidi Swank in successfully establishing Beverly Green Neighborhood as a Historic District.

Patrick's journey with NPF has taken him on incredible adventures—from leading vintage neighborhood tours and walking in Elvis' footsteps at the Westgate to exploring the Underground Mansion and guiding guests through a historic graveyard. Each experience has deepened his connection to the city and its stories.

"I'm always learning something new about my city and myself," Patrick shares. "I'm grateful for the opportunities to celebrate and preserve our cultural heritage with NPF, and I'm excited to see what's next!"

Thank you, Patrick, for your unwavering dedication and passion!

A LOOK AHEAD

The next round of tickets for Home + History is approaching fast! Get ready to explore even more historic neighborhoods, step inside beautifully curated homes, and embark on the thrilling *Underground Icons & Hidden Hollywood Bus Tour*. Secure your spot before they're gone!

