



THE PRESERVATION PULSE

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From NPF's Executive Director Dr. Figanbaum

Thank you to everyone who helped make our 10th Home + History Las Vegas festival a success! From walking tours to synchronized swimmers, it was a celebration to remember. As we continue our mission to preserve Nevada's unique past, we're also

looking ahead. Don't miss the return of **Cocktails & True Tales** in June or our upcoming **Coffee + Cruising** bike tour with RTC. Plus, we're thrilled to welcome **Amy Raymer** as NPF's new Board President!



PRESERVATION SPOTLIGHT

Endangered Icon: THE PINK ELEPHANT OF LAS VEGAS

The iconic pink elephant of Las Vegas, a beloved roadside figure for over 60 years, is now for sale—its future uncertain. Originally part of the Bagdad Inn in the early 1960s and later relocated to the Desert Isle Motel—eventually renamed the Diamond Inn—the 13.5-foot-tall elephant has stood as a whimsical symbol of mid-century Las Vegas for over 60 years. Tied to the legacy of motel owners Arby and Ruth Alper, the elephant is rumored to have originated from a Walt Disney project before becoming a lasting fixture on the Strip.

Though once celebrated in advertisements and local architectural tours, the Diamond Inn was closed in 2023 for code violations and is

now posted for sale. The fenced-off site, including the elephant, faces an uncertain future. As one of the last reminders of Las Vegas' postwar roadside culture, the pink elephant represents a fading piece of architectural whimsy. Preservationists urge public awareness as this unique piece of Las Vegas history awaits its fate.

For more on the Pink Elephant's history—and a personal perspective from someone who grew up with it—[read the full article](#) by Kassidy Whetstone, M.A., Curator of Library, Manuscripts, and Photographs at the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas.



NPF'S LEGACY: PAST PROJECTS

Thank You for Celebrating 10 Years of Home + History Las Vegas!

We want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our **10th annual Home + History Las Vegas** festival, held May 1–4! From the bottom of our hearts, we are so grateful to everyone who showed up, shared stories, and celebrated Las Vegas history with us.

This year's festival was full of unforgettable moments—from spontaneous neighbor greetings during our McNeil walking tour to laughs on the **Historic Henderson Bus Tour** (thanks to the Historic Henderson Society!). People got to attend great educational programs

like Tina's fun and informative **"Fakeitecture"** talk, a trivia quiz with vintage menus awarded as prizes.

Evenings were equally magical. Our **Lei'd in Las Vegas** luau featured live music by The Hypnotiques, a surprise MidModMakers sign unveiling, and synchronized swimmers! **Alan Hess** packed the house Saturday night at the Fremont Hotel with a dynamic keynote on mid-century design. And Sunday's **Vintage Vegas Home Tour** wrapped the weekend in style, with The Mesquite Club hosting a refreshing stop during the tour.



UPCOMING PROGRAMMING



Cocktails & True Tales: An Oral History Happy Hour

Friday, June 27, 2025 at 5PM
\$20

Tickets at nevadapreservation.org

Back by popular demand, Cocktails & True Tales returns—NPF's lively storytelling series where we shake up Las Vegas history with firsthand memories and a splash of fun!

In June, we're diving into what it was like **Growing Up in Las Vegas**. Your ticket includes one complimentary drink, and Happy Hour food and cocktails will be available for purchase. We'll end the night with an open mic—so bring your best Vegas memory to share—then stick around for cocktails, conversation, and community. Don't miss this spirited evening of local legends and real-life tales!





MEET TEAM NPF

Meet Nevada Preservation Foundation's New Board President: Amy Raymer!

We're thrilled to introduce **Amy Raymer** as the new President of the Nevada Preservation Foundation Board!

A recent retiree from the Clark County School District administration, Amy has been one of NPF's most dedicated volunteers since 2017. She joined our Board in 2020, previously served as Vice President, and continues to lead as our Programming Chair. But that's not all—Amy also serves on the board of directors for Preserve Nevada, bringing her passion for preservation to multiple corners of the state.

As a self-described "history geek," Amy enjoys researching, developing, and facilitating opportunities for others to engage with Nevada's rich history which she put to good use as a volunteer tour guide for the Neon

Museum from 2010-2018. Amy currently lives in the historic John S. Park neighborhood in a 1954 ranch home that she has restored to the period it was built, including purchasing and installing a full 1955 Youngstown kitchen, complete with fully working 1950 Frigidaire refrigerator and 1962 Flair stove featured on the Home + History 2022 Vintage Vegas Home Tour. Recently Amy purchased a 1961 Palmer and Krisel model 2 home in Paradise Palms and has used era-specific materials in bringing the home back to its original mid-century aesthetic.

Originally from Illinois, Amy is almost considered a local after recently



reaching her 26th year of Las Vegas residency. She is also a proud UNLV Rebel, holding a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction and Master of Arts in Urban Leadership degrees from the university.

To hear more about Amy and her incredible work in historic preservation and with the Nevada Preservation Foundation, [tune in here](#).



A LOOK AHEAD

Coffee + Cruising: Bike Tour of Lawyer's Row & Lost Motels

Get ready to ride through history! We're teaming up with RTC for a one-of-a-kind bike tour that explores the hidden stories of Fremont Street's historic motels and the iconic Lawyer's Row.

Pedal through the past as we uncover how these forgotten landmarks helped shape Las Vegas into the entertainment capital of the world. We'll wrap up the ride with a well-earned coffee stop at a beloved local café.

Whether you're a history buff or just love a good ride with great stories—this tour is for you! Stay tuned—more details coming soon!