



# THE PRESERVATION PULSE

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## From NPF's Executive Director Dr. Figanbaum

At the heart of preservation is the belief that old spaces can find new purpose. Adaptive reuse is one of the most effective ways to honor the past while creating meaningful places for today and tomorrow. By reimagining historic structures instead of tearing

them down, we preserve community stories and keep our neighborhoods vibrant.

Across Nevada, we see inspiring examples of this work. Reno's oldest home, the **Benham-Belz House**, is being carefully restored, while in Las Vegas the **Arts District** has transformed former garages and storefronts into breweries, galleries, and gathering spaces. These efforts

remind us that preservation and innovation are strongest when they work together.

This fall, our programs continue that tradition. Join us for the **Paradise Palms bike tour** or step into spooky season with October's **Tombstone Tales**. Together, we celebrate Nevada's past while building a brighter future through preservation.

## PRESERVATION SPOTLIGHT

### Reno's Oldest Home Finds a New Life



Reno's oldest surviving house, the Benham-Belz Home, has officially begun its next chapter. Built in the late 1860s at the time of the city's founding, the home once stood at 347 West Street for more than 150 years. In July, it was relocated to a new site near Mayberry Drive and McCarran Boulevard after Jacobs Entertainment sold it for just \$1, with the condition that it be moved and preserved.

The new stewards, Logan and Angelina Needham, lifelong Reno residents, were selected from a pool of applicants for their commitment to preserving the home. The couple has embraced the project with enthusiasm, documenting the process on Instagram at @ourdollarhouse,

where they share both the challenges and joys of restoring a 19th-century home.

Plans for the Benham-Belz House include removing later brick siding to reveal the original wood, repairing the roof, and bringing the property up to modern code while honoring its historic character.

Originally purchased in 1868 by Isaac Theodore and Linda Benham, and later owned by barber John Belz, the home represents Reno's earliest days as a community. Thanks to the Needhams' dedication, this rare survivor of Nevada's early history is being saved from demolition and will continue to tell Reno's story.



Photos: Alicia Barber, Reno Historical

# NPF'S LEGACY: PAST PROJECTS

One of NPF's past programs, the **Hops + History walking pub crawl**, explored the Las Vegas Arts District, also known as 18b. This neighborhood, once a postwar hub for auto shops, furniture stores, and commercial businesses, has been reimagined in recent years as a lively center for breweries, galleries, restaurants, and vintage shops.

Through this tour, people discovered how the district's mid-century storefronts and industrial buildings have been adapted to serve new purposes. Historic garages now operate as craft breweries, and former service buildings have been transformed into art studios, demonstrating how preservation and reinvention can work together.

The story of 18b Arts District underscores the importance of adaptive reuse, which is the process



of repurposing existing buildings outside their original context. Sometimes called recycling or conversion, adaptive reuse is a sustainable approach that helps preserve cultural heritage, slows urban sprawl, and creates new community

gathering places. In the case of 18b, it has turned once utilitarian buildings into anchors of one of Las Vegas's most vibrant cultural districts, proving that preservation is not only about protecting the past but also about shaping a thriving future.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMMING



### **Pedaling Through Paradise: Paradise Palms Bike Tour**

**Saturday, September 20 at 9am \$35**

Tickets at [nevadapreservation.org](http://nevadapreservation.org)

Take a ride through one of the city's most iconic historic neighborhoods!

Paradise Palms is a showcase of classic Mid-Century Modern architecture that, in its heyday, attracted a who's who of celebrities and notable local residents. Join us for an autumn bike ride as we wind through the quiet streets of this sprawling neighborhood. Along the way, we'll see striking homes, learn about the designs that led to the neighborhood's historic designation, and discover what makes this community unique as it experiences a vibrant revival today.



# VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

By day, Mickey is a supervisor with UPS, where he's worked for more than 25 years. During his career, he held numerous roles including customer service phone technician, tech lead, trainer, process designer and writer, supervisor, and even on-screen host for the company's vlog What's UPS!. In 2009, UPS sent him to Europe to help train and open its European support call center.

Mickey earned his bachelor's degree in journalism and media, with a minor in theatre, from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2019. He specialized in integrated marketing communication, completing coursework in media relations, public relations, publicity, corporate communication, and advertising.



His hobbies include performing in local theatre productions and volunteering with Critical Care Comics, a nonprofit where members dress as superheroes to visit children

in hospitals with toys and comics. His current heroes include Dr. Fate, Mr. Fantastic, and Superman. He also volunteers with Miracle Flights, bringing to life their mascot, Miles the Bear.

By night, Mickey is known as Justin Kase, an emcee and character actor on stage and screen for more than a decade. With chameleon-like skills and sharp comedic timing, he makes every event memorable.

Although Mickey has long enjoyed history, especially the Mid-Century Modern era, he first came to volunteer with NPF at his wife's invitation. Since then, he has enjoyed lending a hand and looks forward to becoming even more involved in the future.

## A LOOK AHEAD

### COMING IN OCTOBER: Tombstone Tales

This October, our popular **Tombstone Tales Walking Tours** return to Woodlawn Cemetery just in time for spooky season. Guides will share the fascinating stories of early Las Vegas laid to rest in this historic cemetery.

New this year, select weekend tours will feature a "dark side" twist with spine-tingling tales of mystery, mischief, and the more shadowy chapters of Las Vegas' past. Whether you join us for history, for haunts, or for a little of both, Tombstone Tales is the perfect way to celebrate October with a mix of heritage and Halloween fun.

