



THE PRESERVATION PULSE

Issue 14, October 2025

From NPF's Executive Director, Dr. Figanbaum

Happy October, preservation friends! I hope everyone has been enjoying our **Woodlawn Cemetery Tours**, including the new spooky edition. It has been such a fun way to celebrate the season.

In this issue, you'll read about the exciting progress surrounding Reno's historic **Lear Theater**, led by Dr. Alicia Barber, along with updates on our own programs here in Southern

Nevada. Everywhere you look, preservation is blooming.

At NPF, we know that keeping history alive means more than just protecting old buildings. It is about helping our communities grow in creative and sustainable ways. Our recent spotlight on eco-friendly landscapes and mid-century homes shows how history and sustainability can truly bloom together.

Next month's Boomerang Bloom:

Our **Autumn Garden Tour** will keep that spirit going with stunning historic neighborhoods and plenty of garden inspiration. I hope you will join us as we celebrate the places, stories, and people that make Nevada's history flourish.

Thank you for being part of our preservation community. Together, we are keeping the past alive and planting new roots for the future.

PRESERVATION SPOTLIGHT

Progress for the Lear Theater

Reno's historic **Lear Theater** is once again at the center of a promising preservation effort, thanks to the dedication and leadership of Dr. Alicia Barber. Following recent discussions at City Council, the Historical Resources Commission (HRC) met on October 9th to begin organizing a public "Lear Summit," an open workshop that invited residents, preservationists, and city leaders to collaborate on a shared vision for the theater's future.

Dr. Barber, a respected historian and preservation planner, helped guide the HRC's initial discussion on how best to structure this community-driven event. Her thoughtful approach emphasizing transparency, participation, and informed decision-making has helped restore optimism for the Lear's next chapter. The summit provided a space for attendees to learn about the building's history, its architectural significance as a design by Paul Revere Williams, and the challenges and opportunities surrounding its restoration.



While the path ahead will require continued coordination and funding, this renewed public process represents meaningful progress. With Alicia Barber's expertise and

the City's renewed commitment to engagement, there's growing hope that the Lear Theater can finally move toward preservation and reuse as a cultural landmark.

Be sure to follow Alicia Barber's newsletter, *The Barber Brief*, for thoughtful stories and important updates on preservation and community news across Northern Nevada.

Photo: A view from the rear of the sanctuary shows the half-completed stage area. Alicia Barber

HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS: NPF'S PAST PROJECTS & RESEARCH

For NPF, historic preservation means more than protecting buildings; it is about helping vintage homes continue to thrive in our desert environment.

Earlier this year, NPF hosted an educational program that explored how sustainable landscaping can beautifully complement mid-century architecture. Held at a 1955 Glen Heather home featured in *Atomic Ranch* magazine (February 2025), the program highlighted retired landscape designer Julie Deamer's five-year transformation of 3,000 square feet of lawn into a habitat-friendly desert oasis. Using native plants, rain harvesting, gabion walls, and creative hardscape



design, she demonstrated how thoughtful landscaping can be both environmentally responsible and true to a home's historic character.

Programs like this show how preservation and sustainability work hand in hand, proving that vintage properties can remain vibrant and relevant while embracing eco-friendly practices.



Building on this momentum, NPF will continue hosting programs that connect history, design, and environmental stewardship, including our upcoming Boomerang Bloom: Autumn Garden Tour this November. Join us as we celebrate the beauty, creativity, and sustainability of Nevada's historic homes and landscapes.

UPCOMING PROGRAMMING

Boomerang Bloom Autumn Garden Tour

Saturday, November 8th at 10:45am \$45

Tickets at nevadapreservation.org

- ✿ Take in the colors of the desert Autumn on NPF's first annual garden tour. As you meander through the streets of some of the most charming vintage Vegas neighborhoods you'll enjoy access to a selection of private sanctuaries tucked behind the gates of historic homes dating from the 1930's to the 1960's.
- ✿ View stunning wildlife habitats and discover how these homeowners have adapted their landscapes to meet the needs of the modern environment while keeping the integrity of their vintage spaces intact.
- ✿ As a bonus, the **Downtown Cactus Club Plant Sale** is happening, so you can get inspired, pick up new plants, and get to gardening!
- ✿ What's included
 - Duration: 11 AM – 2 PM
 - Drive-Yourself: Multiple start times available—select your preferred time when registering.





MEET THE TEAM

After moving to Las Vegas with her fiancé in early 2025, Kendall began volunteering with the Nevada Preservation Foundation to build a deeper connection to her new city and its history. A leukemia survivor, Kendall emerged from her 2020 diagnosis with a renewed sense of purpose and gratitude. She created her brand, Sick Vampyre, to raise awareness about blood cancers and honor the donors who helped save her life.

A lifelong equestrian, animal lover, and creative spirit, Kendall brings nearly 30 years of experience in broadcast media. She began her career at just 14 years old at a local radio station and now runs her



own media company, K-Talk Now ~ Aviva Las Vegas, while also working as a Sales Account Executive and On-Air Talent at KSHP Radio.

In 2011, Kendall launched Midikat, an online shop featuring her favorite vintage, thrift, and estate sale finds. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her fiancé and pets, thrifting, photography, gardening, cooking, baking, DIY projects, karaoke, and concerts—especially anything involving Mike Patton.

An avid admirer of mid-century homes, Kendall is proud to support NPF's mission to preserve the architecture and history that make Las Vegas unique.

A LOOK AHEAD



HOLIDAY ORAL HISTORY HAPPY HOUR – COMING THIS DECEMBER!

We're wrapping up the year with a festive twist on one of our favorite programs! Join us this December for a special **Holiday Edition of Oral History Happy Hour**, where we'll raise a glass to the people who help keep Nevada's history alive. Expect stories, laughter, light refreshments, and plenty of holiday cheer—plus a few surprise storytellers sharing seasonal memories from Nevada's past.

Whether you're a longtime preservation supporter or just discovering our programs, this is the perfect way to celebrate the season and connect with fellow history lovers.

Have a story to share? We'd love to hear it! Email us at info@nevadapreservation.org to see if you'd like to take the mic that night.

Stay tuned for the official date, location, and RSVP details—we can't wait to celebrate history and the holidays with you!