

Metropolitan Historical Commission

Newsletter ▪ January 2010



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FROM THE DIRECTOR:

2009 was a year of successes. In partnership with the CVB, we hosted the National Trust for Historic Preservation's (NTHP) Annual Conference, which drew more than 2,000 people from around the country, and the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training's (NCPTT) Cemetery Preservation Workshop. We held our 34th annual Preservation Awards program, co-hosted the 28th annual Nashville Conference on African-American History and Culture with Tennessee State University, and partnered with the Nashville City Cemetery Association (NCCA) on the Memorial Day Dash and the City Cemetery Living History Tour. We updated our MHC and Footnotes Downtown Walking Tour brochures and our department's website. The MHZC and Metro Council increased the number of protected properties by designating an additional two historic overlay districts and one landmark district.

2010 will be a year of transitions. It promises to hold many challenges and opportunities for the Commission and its staff as we continue to promote the preservation of our city, its history, and its buildings and sites. In a time when our city, state and nation are becoming more energy and budget conscious, we must challenge ourselves and re-evaluate the way we conduct business. We must be efficient as well as effective. We will continue to promote the reuse of historic buildings, a "green initiative" that parallels our Mayor's efforts in creating an Office of Sustainability, and also continue to partner with public, private, and non-profit agencies to preserve our important historic resources.

Goals for the year include publishing an update to the book, *Nashville: A Short History and Selected Buildings*; recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Nashville Civil Rights Movement; preparing for the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War; completing the City Cemetery Restoration project with the installation of interpretive panels; updating several brochures on our city's history and culture; beginning a speaker series; and partnering with Metro Schools for the annual History Day.

Finally, I want close by thanking the many agencies and groups that partnered with the MHC and MHZC in 2009 and made our work so successful. They include Historic Nashville, Inc., Tennessee Preservation Trust, NTHP, NCPTT, NCCA, Habitat for Humanity, the Nashville Civic Design Center, the Nashville Convention and Visitors Bureau, TSU, MTSU, Fisk University, the Master Gardeners of Davidson County, The Nashville Zoo, the Land Trust for Tennessee, the Tennessee Historical Society, the

Tennessee Historical Commission, Metro Parks, Metro Archives, Metro Public Library, Metro Planning, Metro Codes, Metro Public Works, MDHA, Metro Nashville Public Schools, our many historic neighborhoods, and the Metro Council and Mayor Dean. These partnerships are the reason for our past successes and I know together we will make 2010 a memorable year for the Metro Historical Commission.

Tim Walker
Executive Director

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/EVENTS

Registration Now Open!

29th annual Conference on African-American History and Culture

February 10, 2010

TSU's Avon Williams Campus

330 10th Avenue North

For almost 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. Each February, Nashvillians come together to honor these individuals through historical and cultural presentations by historians, artists, students, dramatists, musicians, genealogists, and others interested in the history of our city and state. The long-running series, *Profiles of African Americans in Tennessee*, a collection of almost two hundred short publications, makes the Conference research available to the public.

The 29th annual Conference will be a special commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Nashville Sit-In Movement, and is one of the kick-off events for the citywide celebration of that significant Movement. Mark your calendars now, and make plans to attend.

Noted lecturer, fair housing advocate, and activist for human and civil rights, Dr. Diane Nash will be the special guest speaker at this year's conference. Dr. Nash led the Nashville Sit-Ins and was a founder of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) while a student at Fisk University in 1960.

For more information and to register, please visit the Conference page of our website: www.nashville.gov/mhc/conference.asp You may also call or email the Metropolitan Historical Commission to add your name to the Conference mailing list.

Save the Date!

"Deeds & Land Transactions in Genealogical Research"

February 20, 2010, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Tennessee State Library and Archives

403 Seventh Avenue North

Sponsored by the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA), this workshop will address the history of owning property, explore property transactions and property

rights, and the associated terminology. Paul R. White, attorney and author of *Taproots: A Virginia Carolina Legacy* and “George Washington: America’s Man for All Seasons,” will lead the free workshop.

Those wishing to attend this workshop must contact TSLA to reserve a seat as the number of participants is limited. Please visit the TSLA website for details and to register - www.tennessee.gov/tsla

To learn about other genealogy workshops in the Nashville area, please visit the website of the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society: www.mtgs.org

ONLINE SURVEY

Let Metro Know! Would classes and workshops on green topics be useful to you as a builder, developer, or homeowner? What topics should they cover?

The Metropolitan Planning Department and other Metro departments are developing training sessions related to green and sustainable construction and development - but first, they need to know which topics would be most useful to you. This [online survey](#) provides a quick and easy way to share your thoughts and suggestions – the link will be open through early January. To read more about the development process, please visit the Development Services website (also features a link to the online survey):

www.nashville.gov/ds

CONTESTS

Deadline Approaching! Nashville 2054 – Call to Artists

How will Nashville look fifty years after the release of *The Plan of Nashville*?

The Nashville Civic Design Center, in partnership with the Arts and Business Council of Greater Nashville, announces a Call to Artists seeking submissions for artwork depicting the “Nashville of the Future.”

The resulting piece should be reflective of the efforts of the citizens of Nashville to make their city a more beautiful and functional city for all; a celebration of the hard work of the citizens of Nashville in the creation of *The Plan of Nashville*. **Entries are due Wednesday, January 13, 2010.** Entrants must submit notification of intent via email or fax prior to submitting their final entry (see link to competition website).

The competition is part of the activities scheduled to celebrate *The Plan of Nashville*, released in 2004. The winners of the competition will be announced February 2010.

For information on *The Plan of Nashville* and the Nashville 2054 Design Competition (including prizes and contest rules), please visit the [NCDC’s Competition website](#).

EXHIBITS

Closing Soon!

The Plan of Nashville: Avenues to a Great City, Celebrating Five Years

Tuesday, October 6th 2009 through Sunday, January 10th 2010
Courtyard Gallery of the Nashville Public Library, 615 Church Street
The Nashville Civic Design Center and the Nashville Public Library are proud to announce **The Plan of Nashville: Avenues to a Great City, Celebrating Five Years** exhibition, in the Courtyard Gallery of the Downtown Public.

The exhibit chronicles the creation of **The Plan of Nashville**, a community-based, fifty-year vision of how the urban core of Nashville should look and work in the future. *The Plan*, completed in 2004, was conceived and orchestrated by the Nashville Civic Design Center (NCDC), a non-profit organization committed to urban design and fostering public participation in the design process.

The visioning process that created *The Plan* involved more than 800 people in 50 community meetings that took place over two and a half years. *The Plan of Nashville: Avenues to a Great City* book was published by Vanderbilt University Press in 2005, and written by Christine Kreyling.

The exhibit features more than 250 original drawings, chronicling Nashville's historic development, the process that created the plan, the plan's vision for the future, and work the NCDC has done in the past five years since the Plan's release. This is the first time these drawings have collectively appeared on display in Nashville.

For more information about the Nashville Civic Design Center, *The Plan of Nashville*, and events celebrating *The Plan*, please visit the NCDC website:
www.civicedesigncenter.org

THANK YOU! Final National Preservation Conference Follow-up

Please visit the "National Preservation Conference" page of our website to see the incredible list of more than 400 individuals and groups from Nashville and Middle Tennessee who helped make the conference such a success : www.nashville.gov/mhc

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.

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