In this issue we talk to Jeff Pappas, State Historic Preservation Officer and Director (SHPO) for New Mexico and discover the points of intersection for our endeavors and their mission. We also review the last days of 2014 and how they have positioned HSFF going forward.

WELCOME

Welcome to 2015. Best to you all as we recover from the holidays and begin a new chapter in the long story of the Historic Santa Fe Foundation. Please note once again that the Foundation office is now operating under winter hours which are noon – 4PM, Monday through Friday. You can visit the office anytime during those hours to view the art or the incredible El Zaguan and can stroll in the winter garden Monday through Saturday from 9:00 to 5:00.

Our interview this month is with Jeff Pappas, SHPO for the state of New Mexico Historic Preservation Division and so is responsible for the state historical marker program, archeological permits, protection of historic and prehistoric sites and buildings, administering a grant program, the State Preservation Awards and more. The mission of the Historic Preservation Division is to protect, preserve and interpret the unique character of New Mexico by identifying, documenting (recording), evaluating and registering prehistoric and historic properties throughout New Mexico – so very similar to our own mission. Given our like-mindedness we are committed to working together and making the history of Santa Fe and New Mexico come alive for citizens and visitors alike. —Pete Warzel, Executive Director, HSFF
We ended 2014 and begin the new year with 100% occupancy of our leased properties which is a very good omen given the lagging economic recovery in Santa Fe. Our property rentals are the main source of income for the Historic Santa Fe Foundation and key to our economic health.

Likewise, the matching grant challenge issued in December by one of our dear friends was met and 2014 ended with a good push after a year of disturbing decreases in donations and memberships month to month. Given that, we are still in great need of financial support and hope you consider the $5000 gift challenge an ongoing target for 2015.

Our goal for 2015 is to increase our membership base by 25% to get back to levels of involvement we sustained before the economic downturn. We hope you all can and will participate.

We are already in the process of planning the specifics of the 2015 Mothers Day Tour to be held this year on Sunday, May 10 from 1:00-4:00pm. It looks to be an exciting event in the downtown area with close walking distance between buildings and an enticing afternoon for visitors and locals on a spring afternoon. We will send you updates when the details are finalized in the next several months.

The clock is ticking in 2015.
Jeff Pappas has been the SHPO for New Mexico since July 2012. A native of Massachusetts he spent 20 years in the National Park Service in a variety of capacities in Yosemite National Park, Casa Grandes Ruins and the Mall in Washington D.C. He received his undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University and a PhD from Arizona State University, specializing in American Indian History. He talks here about the direction of the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division and his life in Santa Fe.
Q: You were born and raised back east but sound like you are a true westerner at heart.

A: There was a powerful draw to the west for me as a young adult. I spent time with my family in the mountains in New Hampshire and was attracted to the bigger mountains, bigger landscapes in the Rocky Mountain West. On way to Brigham Young I flew from Boston to Denver then on to Salt Lake and everything came to life. It was visceral.

Q: That was a long time ago and you are now the State Historic Preservation Officer for the State of New Mexico. You’ve gone from exploring to having tremendous responsibility.

A: We oversee some 188,000 archeological sites in the state, and it is theorized there are 1.2 million in total. This is the richest and most complex cultural history in the United States.

Q: So how does the Historic Preservation Division approach this breadth of scope of duty?

A: We are framed by a 5 year Preservation Planning document – a Strategic Plan if you will. The state funds 40% of the projects in the plan and the U.S. government funds 60%. So there is constant coordination at the Federal level. It is an odd structure within state government.

Q: What does 2015 look like for the Division?

A: We have set 12 priority projects in addition to our day-to-day operations. We are intent on holding the 2nd annual Building Creative Communities Conference, which the Historic Santa Fe Foundation participated in and helped sponsor last November. We have also received a National Park Service Grant to host a New Mexico tribal summit to discuss cultural resource management.

What is very exciting is a knowledge exchange program we are working on, and hope to sign a Memorandum of Understanding soon, with Saudi Arabia. The connection there is Iberian history and culture and adobe architecture that informed early Spanish New Mexico.
When the MOU is completed the Museum of International Folk Art will display Saudi folk art, we will host a Saudi architect and explore heritage tourism as the Saudi’s are very interested in creating a tourism industry around their cultural sites.

Q: Finally, what do you see as the pressing issues going forward for preservation and the promotion of our history?

A: Getting young people involved. Who will take the standard forward? I think the preservation world today speaks a language that does not translate to young people. We need to take a hard look at that. We need to create jobs that attract people in the preservation field.

The joint internship that we – the Historic Preservation Division and the HSFF – are starting in autumn 2015 on oral history is a very good thing that hopefully we can expand over the years. As I said, New Mexico is so rich with cultural history that there is much a student or new graduate can sink her/teeth into here. We need to make that potential clear.
OUR MISSION

Our mission is to preserve, protect, and promote the historic properties and diverse cultural heritage of the Santa Fe area, and to educate the public about Santa Fe’s history and the importance of preservation.

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Please send us your ideas for articles and calendar updates.

Credits: Photos by Max Carlos Martinez; photo editing by Anna Yarrow; designed by Dominic Cappello—El Zaguán Artists in Residence.

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HSFF STAFF

Executive Director
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Charles Coffman
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Friday, Jan 30, 2015, 5:00 – 7:00 PM. El Zaguán Gallery. Opening show “Tha-lassa” by Carolyn Riman, Resident Artist at El Zaguán.

Wednesday, January 28, 2:00-4:00 PM. In the lobby of the New Mexico History Museum through Lincoln Avenue entrance. Announcement by The National Trust for Historic Preservation and partners, with activities at the Palace of the Governors. Free. Open to the public.

Friday, Feb. 6, 5:30 PM. Garcia Honda Auditorium, George Pearl Hall, UNM, Albuquerque. A lecture by Nancy Meem Wirth, Santa Fe Preservationist.

Sunday, February 15, 1:00-5:00 PM. Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Santa Fe. Opening Reception and Exhibit of an extensive body of work by native artist David Bradley. Events scheduled through opening day. Museum admission fee.