National Treasures: Shaping the Future of Preservation

Ana Edwards, Gabriela Rosado, and Seri Worden
Moderated by Denise Gilmore

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Panelists

• Ana Edwards, Chair, Sacred Ground Historical Reclamation Project, Defenders for Freedom, Justice and Equality

• Gabriela Rosado, Spring 2018 Graduate, B.A. Anthropology, Florida International University

• Seri Worden, Senior Field Officer, New York Office, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Moderated by Denise Gilmore, Community Development Specialist, National Trust for Historic Preservation
Preservation for People: A Vision for the Future

May 2017
Preservation must put people first.

A people-centered preservation movement:

• Hears, understands, and honors the full diversity of the ever-evolving American story.

• Creates and nurtures more equitable, healthy, resilient, vibrant, and sustainable communities.

• Collaborates with new and existing partners to address fundamental social issues and make the world better.
National Treasures

Our nation’s historic places reveal the richness of the American story
Shockoe Bottom

Ana Edwards
Chair, Sacred Ground Historical Reclamation Project, Defenders for Freedom, Justice and Equality

Photo courtesy Tvnewsbadge
Shockoe Bottom Historic District

Named for the creek that ran through Shockoe Valley to the James River, Shockoe's bottom land was the site of the original 1737 footprint of the city of Richmond and later of the largest trade in enslaved Africans north of New Orleans. In the early years of the Trans-Atlantic trade, African men, women and children who survived the horrors of the Middle Passage were brought by ship up the James River, unloaded at Manchester Docks and forced to walk to the slave jails of Shockoe Bottom.

Richmond's role in this trade was relatively minor compared to other areas, particularly the port city of Charleston, South Carolina. Other cities had their periods as leading entry ports, including Boston and New York. After a ban on U.S. participation in the international slave trade took effect in 1808, Richmond increasingly became the hub of the domestic trade in human beings. Just north of here is the African Burial Ground (1750-1816), the only municipal cemetery for African people in that period and the execution site in 1800 of the great slave-rebellion leader Gabriel and many of his co-conspirators. See the historic highway marker across East Broad Street.

Nearby trading sites: R.C. Ballard (1833-1834, 1836-1845), Goodwin & Templeman (1834-1836)

Learn more at SacredGroundProject.net
The Significance of Shockoe Bottom

- The African Burial Ground, oldest city cemetery for black people, and the execution site of Gabriel and many of his comrades involved in “Gabriel’s Rebellion” (15th & E. Broad)
- Henrico Courthouse - site of the 50 associated trials (21st & E. Main).
- Solomon Northup stayed a night in Goodwin’s Jail on his way to sale in Louisiana (1841). Henry “Box” Brown’s debarkation point (1849).
- Largest domestic slave trading district, second only to New Orleans, in the 30 years leading up to the Civil War.
- Devil’s Half Acre / Lumpkin’s Jail - Anthony Burns held for 4 months (1854)--buildings leased after Civil War by Lumpkin’s widow Mary to Colver Institute which later became Virginia Union University.
Tools of preservation activism

• Exposure, Repetition, Persistence
  – dedicated committee (Sacred Ground Project)
  – public forums (local:international issues + historical context)
  – annual commemoration at the site (October 10)
  – monthly newspaper (The Virginia Defender)
  – weekly radio show (DefendersLIVE)
NO Stadium in Shockoe Bottom!
Phases of activism (engagement)

• 2002-2004 Gabriel’s Rebellion
  – Reclaiming lost or misinterpreted history: education
• 2005-2011 Reclaiming Richmond’s African Burial Ground
  – Making invisible places visible: persistent engagement
• 2012 - 2014 NO Stadium in Shockoe Bottom
  – Preservation and community activation: coalitions & interpretation
• 2015 - Present Community Proposal for Shockoe Bottom
  – Accepting victory: planning and advocacy
Little Havana

Gabriela Rosado

Spring 2018 Graduate, B.A. Anthropology, Florida International University

Photo by Misha Mehrel
Little Havana - Miami, FL

Neighborhood in South Florida that for decades has become the home for many newly arrived immigrants.

– Most well known for wave of Cuban migrants but has a diverse Latino population that includes people from both Central and South America.

– Large population of Spanish speakers has shaped the neighborhood into a multicultural landscape.
  • Ex. founded first bilingual school in the country, outside fruit vendors, restaurants (Cuban, Honduran, Mexican, etc.)
Calle Ocho - historic and active commercial Main Street area in Little Havana.

Aerial shot of the neighborhood -- close to Marlin Stadium.
Unique Characteristics of Little Havana

- Mix of architectural styles, some which date back to the 1920s.
- Proximity to central areas of employment in Miami
- Large population of Spanish speakers allows for more employment opportunities for residents.
- Many restaurants, local shops, and institutions (ex. churches) that are unique to the residents’ cultures and customs.
- Walkable neighborhood with few high-rise buildings.
Historic Designation / ‘Mom and Pop’
Historic Neighborhoods of Philadelphia

Seri Worden
Senior Field Officer, New York Office, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Photo by Neal Santos
How Philadelphia Compares Nationally

• 3rd most total buildings (behind NYC and Los Angeles)
• 2nd most buildings constructed before 1945 (only NYC has more)
• Highest average number of building parcels per square mile (4,078)
• Lower than average historic designations
  – 2.2% locally designated compared to 4.3% 50-city average
  – 4.2% on National Register compared to 6.8% 50-city average
• Higher than average Historic Tax Credit activity (2001-2015)
  – 296 projects, 3rd behind New Orleans and Baltimore
  – $1.9B private investment leveraged, 4th behind St. Louis, Chicago, and NYC
Preservation Leadership Forum
Best Practice Research in Historic Preservation

Incentives
City Tax Credit/Abatement
TIF / PILOT Funding
Low-Cost Loans
Grants/Rebate
Flexible Zoning Use/Building Codes
Vacant Property Reuse
TDRs
Density Bonus programs
ARO
Parking Relief
Permit Fee Waivers

Regulation
Demolition delay/review
Tailoring system of preservation and conservation districts
New Construction

Survey and Documentation
Crowdsourcing
Using technology, GIS
Survey management: data and process

Outreach & Education
City Agencies
Improved OTC and Technical assistance
How preservation agencies can utilize outreach resources of city larger agency
Online resources
Non-profits
Comprehensive outreach strategies
innovative programming,
simplifying language of preservation
PANEL DISCUSSION

Use the chat box on the bottom right to ask questions of the speakers.

Discussion moderated by Denise Gilmore
Community Development Specialist, National Trust for Historic Preservation
Keep Talking

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