



UTSA
Center for Cultural
Sustainability



Activity Report

2020–2021
(09.01.2020–08.31.2021)



Message from the Director



Despite its challenges and unique circumstances, the 2020–2021 academic year was among the UTSA Center for Cultural Sustainability’s most successful. Our center booked more than \$370,000 in new revenue between September 1, 2020, and August 31, 2021. Additionally, we hired one full-time research fellow in October 2020 and were in the process of hiring a second in August 2021.

We advanced our work regarding disaster resilience in the Texas Gulf Coast region—evaluating the vulnerability of nine historic case-study structures, convening two virtual “Knowledge Café” workshops to connect stewards of historic resources with government emergency managers, and crafting our Resilience Performance Indicators to help historic houses of worship gauge their ability to withstand future disasters. The final project deliverable, a toolkit written for a nontechnical audience, is expected to be complete by April 2022.

In May 2021, our center partnered with the National Park Service to hold a three-day virtual symposium regarding Best Practices in Stone Building Preservation Management for the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. We anticipate completion of the accompanying *Manual of Best Practices* by year’s end. Additionally, our center’s continued research on the intersection of preservation and energy efficiency at the San Antonio Missions has resulted in three academic papers published/presented, two accepted for presentation or under review, and three in progress.

Another project expected to wrap by December 2021 is our work with Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA). With funding from Argonne National Laboratory, our center evaluated 22 buildings and two districts for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. In August, we provided training in digital photography and documentation of historic buildings to JBSA personnel.

With funding from local banker Pat Frost, our faculty and staff researched the history of two properties associated with San Antonio’s early African-American history. Our work resulted in Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation for one of the city’s

first African-American-owned businesses.

And after five years of trying, we were awarded a grant from the prestigious Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation. An initiative of the U.S. State Department, the Ambassadors Fund grant will allow our faculty to consult on preservation efforts at the 12th-century Heday Nazar Mausoleum on the outskirts of Bayramaly, Turkmenistan. The grant complements a related cultural exchange project, also funded by the State Department, through which representatives from Turkmenistan will join UTSA faculty in visiting UNESCO World Heritage sites in Colorado, New Mexico, and here in San Antonio. The purpose of the visit, expected for early 2022 pending COVID-19 developments, is to provide the Turkmens with case studies of economic activity driven by heritage tourism at U.S. historic and cultural resources.

Finally, our center this summer launched the first year of a four-year project at Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado. With funding from the U.S. Department of the Interior, we will be investigating structural issues at the park’s Ancient Puebloan Cliff Palace.

Indeed, this has been a year like no other. And we look forward to many more successful years to come.

Sincerely,

William A. Dupont, FAIA, NCARB | UTSA Center for Cultural Sustainability, Director
Conservation Society of San Antonio Endowed Professor

On the Cover
(Clockwise from top right) Dr. Antonio Martinez-Molina and students installing data monitors at one of San Antonio’s Spanish Colonial missions, the interior of St. Mary’s Cathedral in Galveston, and UTSA’s Anthony Vannette and Kelsey Brown, joined by the National Park Service’s Kay Barnett at Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado.

New Research

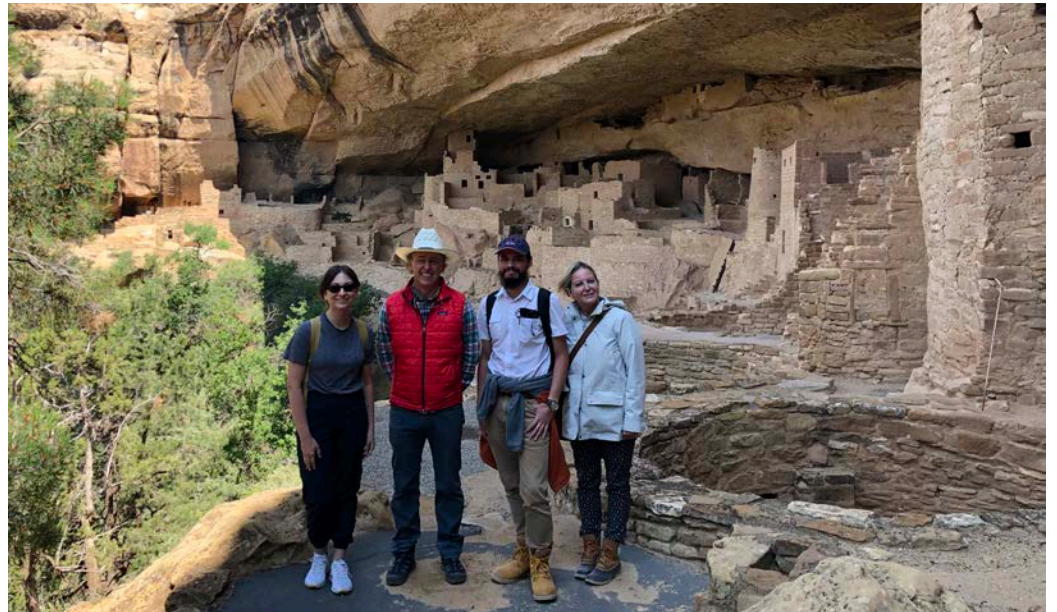
U.S. State Department Sponsored Projects

- Preservation of Huday Nazar Mausoleum (pictured below) in Turkmenistan, Central Asia—UTSA faculty will provide consultation on preservation and partial restoration of the 12th-century structure.
- Cultural exchange program—Government representatives from Turkmenistan will visit historic sites in Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado to study the role of heritage tourism in economic development.



State Historic Landmark

Early 20th-century photo of the P.F. Roberts store, which in 2021 was granted Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) status.



Mesa Verde National Park

Research team (from left) Kelsey Brown, William Dupont, Anthony Vannette, and Angela Lombardi at Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado, August 2021. The four-year project, sponsored by the National Park Service, focuses on the park's Ancient Puebloan Cliff Palace structures.

Existing Projects

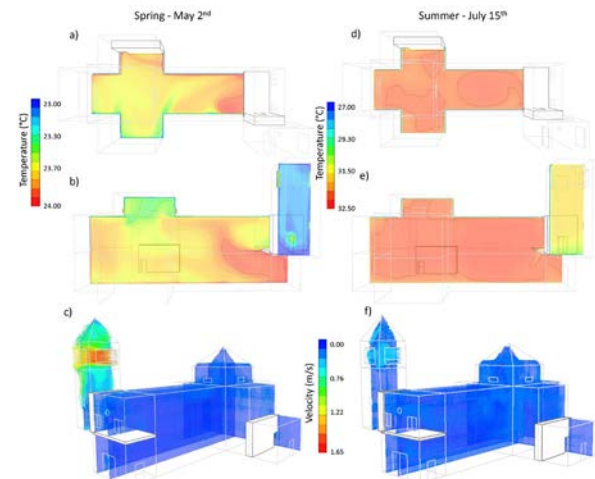
Disaster Resilience and Sacred Places

With funding through the Texas Historical Commission from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria (HIM) Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund (ESHPPF), nine case-study structures across three counties have been analyzed. Recommendations for individual case studies as well as a *Resilience Roadmap* for all historic houses of worship along the Texas Gulf Coast are expected to be available by spring 2022.



Joint Base San Antonio

- Digital photography and historic building documentation workshop for JBSA personnel (pictured).
- Assessment for inclusion on the National Register of Historic places.



San Antonio Missions

Thermal comfort research sponsored by the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training.



Matthew Klimow, U.S. Ambassador to Turkmenistan, leads an August 25, 2021, virtual kickoff ceremony for preservation of the Huday Nazar Mausoleum. The event aired on Turkmen television and featured participation from UTSA's William Dupont and Dr. Angela Lombardi, as well as Wentworth Institute of Technology's Dr. Sedef Doganer.

Media Coverage

<https://savingplaces.org/stories/strength-in-community-and-culture-at-mission-concepcion#.YJP6IG5FzD5>

<https://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local/history-culture/article/Site-of-one-of-San-Antonio-s-first-Black-owned-16274293.php>

<https://www.expressnews.com/news/local/article/UTSA-seeks-recognition-for-one-of-the-few-16291201.php#photo-21193765>

<https://www.klrn.org/blogs/station-news/utsas-push-for-historical-recognition-for-an-eastside-home/>

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/tx/south-texas-el-paso/news/2021/07/15/researchers-push-for-historical-status-to-commemorate-civil-rights-efforts-on-san-antonio-s-east-side-#>

Outreach

- Presentation for City of San Antonio's World Heritage Festival | September 9, 2020 | Dr. Angela Lombardi
- Presentation for APT & National Trust for Canada Joint Conference October 3–7, 2020 | Dr. Antonio Martinez-Molina and Kelsey Williamson
- Presentation for ARCC 2021 International Conference | April 7–10, 2021 | Dr. Antonio Martinez-Molina
- National Symposium: Best Practices in Stone Building Preservation Management | May 19–21, 2021 | Gathering of experts from throughout the country to guide preservation practices for San Antonio Missions National Historical Park
- Knowledge Café for Sacred Places | May 25, 2021 | Focus group featuring stewards of historic houses of worship and the role they play in disaster prep/recovery along the Texas Gulf Coast
- Presentation at Keeping History Above Water Conference | June 13–15, 2021 | Charleston, SC | Dr. Angela Lombardi

Research Fellow

Anthony Vannette joined the Center in 2020 as Heritage Resilience Fellow. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture and Master of Science in Historic Preservation from the University of Texas at Austin.

As Heritage Resilience Fellow, Anthony joins an interdisciplinary team of research faculty analyzing vulnerability and past performance of historic structures to enhance future resilience against extreme weather events.



The project—which focuses on sacred places along the Texas Gulf Coast—has been made possible by a grant through the Texas Historical Commission from the National Park Service's Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria (HIM) Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund.

Research Project Teams

Sacred Places, Disaster Resilience

Faculty	William Dupont (PI), Dr. Angela Lombardi, Dr. Sedef Doganer, Dr. Sandeep Langar, Dr. Saadet Beeson, Dr. Jie Huang
Staff	Anthony Vannette, Tracie Quinn
Students	Kelsey Brown, Jesus Perez Tonches, Selina Angel, Akshata Hiremath
Other	Sarah Jones, Partners for Sacred Places Dr. Kazim Korkmaz, Eastern Michigan University Emri Gani, Istanbul Technical University

San Antonio Missions Climate Management

Faculty	Dr. Antonio Martinez-Molina (PI)
Staff	Tracie Quinn
Students	Kelsey Brown, Panagiotis Karaiskos, Mayra Landin, Karen Llamas, Dennis Fichman

Joint Base San Antonio

Faculty	William Dupont (PI), Dr. Angela Lombardi (PI)
Staff	Tracie Quinn
Students	Selina Angel, Kelsey Brown, Michael Broyles

P.F. Roberts Historic Landmark

Faculty	William Dupont (PI), Dr. Charles Gentry
Staff	Anthony Vannette, Tracie Quinn
Students	Kelsey Brown

Ambassadors Fund and Cultural Exchange

Faculty	Dr. Angela Lombardi (PI), William Dupont
Staff	Tracie Quinn
Other	Dr. Sedef Doganer, Wentworth Institute of Technology

Mesa Verde National Park

Faculty	William Dupont (PI), Dr. Angela Lombardi (Co-PI)
Staff	Anthony Vannette, Tracie Quinn, Sara Rodríguez Jimeno (starting September 2021)
Students	Kelsey Brown

New Revenue

\$254,113 From the U.S. Department of the Interior, for first year of a four-year project investigating the Ancient Puebloan Cliff Palace structures at Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado

\$147,394* From the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation, to provide technical advisory support for full-scale preservation and principal-façade restoration at the 12th-century Huday Nazar Mausoleum, located inside the Ancient Merv UNESCO World Heritage Site

\$85,000 From the U.S. Department of State, for Cultural Exchange Program with representatives from Turkmenistan's National Department of Protection, Research, and Restoration of Historical and Cultural Sites

\$16,000 From Pat Frost, to pursue Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) status for two properties associated with San Antonio's African-American history

\$15,000 Seed funding from newly formed UTSA College of Engineering and Integrated Design

\$370,113 Total,
2020–2021

Image Credits

Cover: Photo at Mesa Verde National Park by William Dupont. Photo of St. Mary's interior by Anthony Vannette. Photo inside San Antonio Mission interior courtesy Antonio Martinez-Molina.

Page 2: Photo of William Dupont courtesy Kathryn E. Kanzler.

Page 3: Image of Huday Nazar Mausoleum courtesy Turkmenistan's National Department of Protection, Research, and Restoration of Historical and Cultural Sites. Image of P.F. Roberts storefront courtesy UTSA Special Collections. Image of research team at Mesa Verde courtesy Kay Barnett, National Park Service.

Page 4: Map of Texas Gulf Coast and sacred places by Anthony Vannette. Photo of JBSA personnel by Angela Lombardi. Images of temperatures at San Antonio mission by Antonio Martinez-Molina.

Page 5: Photo of Ambassador Klimow courtesy the U.S. Embassy in Ashgabat. Image of Anthony Vannette courtesy Anthony Vannette.

* Contract signed September 21, 2021. Dollar amount will apply to revenue total for 2021–2022.