



Florida Trust for Historic Preservation  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Announces, Celebrates  
2022 Florida Preservation Award Winners**

**DeLand, July 29, 2022** – The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation recognized excellence in historic preservation throughout the state with its 2022 Florida Preservation Awards during the 2022 Preservation on Main Street conference, which was held July 28 in DeLand.

The awards were conferred along with the Secretary of State Awards, which were a central part of the annual conference. Award nominations were submitted by the public with recipients selected by a five-member jury. Preservationists and projects from around the state were awarded in four categories: Restoration/Rehabilitation, Preservation Communications/Media, Organizational Achievement and the Sallye Jude Award for Resilient Preservation. Additionally, the Board of Trustees granted its President’s and Legacy Awards.

“We are proud to acknowledge the significant and impactful work of this year’s Florida Preservation Award Winners,” said Florida Trust Board President Jenny Wolfe. “Communities across Florida are stronger because of these projects, and we congratulate all those who were a part of them. We know much of preservation is local, and our award winners this year are great examples of preservation successes at the local level.”

Here are this year’s Florida Preservation Award winners, as well as a brief description of the winning projects:

Each year the Florida Trust Board of Trustees recognizes exceptional service and commitment to community through its two Board Awards.

The first of these awards, the Legacy Award, is the Trust’s most prestigious honor for an individual. The award recognizes a person whose life exemplifies the guardianship of Florida’s historic properties through philosophy and action. This year’s Legacy Award recipient is Don Slesnick, II.



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Don Slesnick spent a lifetime supporting historic preservation efforts and volunteering for historic preservation organizations and projects in both his personal and professional life. His work has made an impact in local communities, as well as at the statewide and national levels.

Slesnick has served on numerous boards and committees to further the cause of preserving and protecting places of historic and cultural import in the South Florida community and around the State of Florida. A former mayor of Coral Gables, Slesnick fought for historic preservation, encouraging and initiating stronger preservation policies throughout his career, and has been honored with the University of Florida's 2005 Beinecke-Reeves Distinguished Achievement Award in Historic Preservation. He currently serves as Chair of the State of Florida Historic Preservation Advisory Council, Chair of the Coral Gables Landmark Advisory Board and Vice Chair of the Friends of Florida History, a Citizen Support Organization for the Florida Division of Historical Resources. Slesnick is also a founding Board Member of the University of Florida's Historic St. Augustine, a support organization for state-owned historic buildings in St. Augustine.

The second Board Award is the President's Award, which recognizes an individual's lifelong achievements and leadership in state and national preservation arenas and service to the Florida Trust. This year's President's Award recipient is Clay Henderson.



Clay Henderson is an environmental lawyer, educator, author and one of Florida's leading voices in historic preservation, conservation and environmental policy. Over the years, he has made a tremendous impact on the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, where he served as Board President from 2015 to 2017, and helped establish the organization's preservation easement program.

He has negotiated the purchase of lands now part of national and state parks, forests and wildlife refuges. Furthermore, he directed key elements of the Everglades Restoration, authored the large-scale planning sections of the Florida Community Planning Act and coauthored the Florida Water and Land Legacy Initiative, the largest conservation funding initiative in United States history. He has been recognized with a Public Service Award from the Nature Conservancy, as well as the Bill Sadowski Memorial Award from the Environment and Land Use Section of the Florida Bar.



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Awards in the Restoration/Rehabilitation category acknowledge the proper restoration or rehabilitation of a structure to an earlier or original appearance.

### **Restoration/Rehabilitation**

#### **Outstanding Achievement: St. Augustine Waterworks**

St. Augustine, St. John's County



Built in 1898, the St. Augustine Waterworks was designated as a local landmark in 2013 by the City of St. Augustine and is listed on the National Register for Historic Places. After years left vacant, the building had been deemed structurally unsound in 2005.

Multiple architects, engineers, tradespeople, archaeologists and historians collaborated over fifteen years to rehabilitate the building, culminating with the final public open house in

September 2021. Today, the waterworks serve as a community center and host art, culture and heritage programs.

This significant project required conducting a historic structure report and engaging public outreach, as well as navigating the difficulties brought on by the pandemic and the economic downturn. The building's rehabilitation included structural stabilization, demolition of non-historic features and additions, restoration of the wood truss system and historic windows and doors, repairing the roof decking, as well as the reconstruction of a semi-circular music platform according to the 1928 architectural plans.

#### **Outstanding Achievement: J.C. Newman Cigar Factory**

Ybor City, Hillsboro County



Located in the historic Ybor City neighborhood and a contributing structure to the Ybor City National Historic Landmark District, the Regensburg cigar factory is nicknamed El Reloj in honor of its iconic clock tower. The clock tower became a local landmark for the community when it was built in 1910. In the more than 100 years since, El Reloj's chime has marked the time for local cigar rollers and their families throughout the day.

The J.C. Newman Cigar Company, one of the oldest premium cigar makers in the world, bought El Reloj in 1952 when the company moved from Ohio. The Newman family decided to update, modernize and restore this 110-year-old building. All work was done with a focus on preserving the historic identity of the building and celebrating its character-defining features. As a result, the project was deemed eligible by the National Park Service in 2021 to receive the federal Historic Preservation



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**Tax Credit.** The renovation includes an expanded lobby, a multimedia museum, a retail space, an expanded event venue space and a new room for J.C. Newman Cigar Company’s Tampa-based hand rolling operation.

The factory restoration of El Reloj represents a substantial investment by a family-owned business to showcase the beauty and history of an iconic local landmark. The use of the building is an extraordinary example of historic character aligning with contemporary function.

### **Outstanding Achievement: Julia Sunday House**

Pensacola, Escambia County



The Julia Sunday House was constructed in 1901 for Julia, the wife of John Sunday. John Sunday was a formerly enslaved Union soldier, businessman, landowner, state legislator and civic leader who held several political offices in Reconstruction-era Pensacola. Built by A. R. Langford in the Seville Historic District, this simple gable-roofed cottage is typical of working-class housing constructed in Pensacola at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Carter Quina of Quina Grundhoefer Architects undertook the restoration of the house, which was used as storage for 25 years by the previous owner. There was neither kitchen nor working bathroom in the home and all the utilities had to be replaced. Original building methods were used, including wood sills, brick foundation piers, novelty board siding and wood double-hung windows. The 1901 structure was preserved, including the old pine floors, plaster walls and wood ceilings. To retain authenticity, the new walls in the historic structure were lathed and plastered using traditional building methods. Sustainable features include carefully placed solar panels on the new addition, a whole house water filtration system and a screened outdoor living space. This restoration provides a valuable example of how an old, neglected structure can be revived and demonstrates that it is possible to achieve excellence in preservation.

### **Meritorious Achievement: Sacred Heart Cathedral**

Pensacola, Escambia County



The Sacred Heart Cathedral’s history in Pensacola goes back 117 years. The present church was built in the historic East Hill Neighborhood in 1967 as a modern interpretation of the Romanesque Basilica style. In 1975, Pope Paul established the diocese co-cathedral at Sacred Heart.

The cathedral was thoughtfully renovated to better reflect its importance in the parish and to meet current user needs. The project included creating transepts by removing the south



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choir balcony and north cry room and storage, adding a new balcony at the front entry above an expanded narthex, removing the rear wall of the sanctuary and constructing an apse with a new rose window. Furthermore, the sanctuary platform was reshaped and new, custom-made marble floor, altar, ambo, bishop's chair and reredos were installed. New floor finishes and lighting improvements completed the extensive renovation, in keep with the history of the surrounding community.

While the church is just 55 years old, it has become a landmark in the East Hill neighborhood, an area that would be eligible as Pensacola's next historic district after Old East Hill and North Hill. The church would certainly be a contributing structure in that hoped-for historic district.

The Sallye Jude Award for Resilient Preservation recognizes creative integration of resilient and sustainable design practices in preservation projects that respond to short- and long-term environmental threats. It was named after Sallye Jude, one of the Florida Trust's founding members and a significant voice for the inclusion of resiliency in historic preservation.

### **Sallye Jude Award for Resilient Preservation**

### **Flood Mitigation Design Guidance for Historic Residences**

City of St. Augustine, St. John's County



St. Augustine has a National Historic Landmark District, eight National Register Historic Districts, 26 buildings listed individually on the National Register, five National Register-listed archaeological sites, two National Register-listed cemeteries, a National Register-listed bridge (Bridge of Lions) and a National Monument (Castillo de San Marcos) – all of which are threatened by flooding and in some cases have experienced severe damage from storm events over the last five years.

The Flood Mitigation Design Guidance project included field work, design recommendations and policy descriptions to provide property owners and the local Historic Architectural Review Board with the necessary tools to promote compatible flood mitigation programs. The guide translates flood regulations, mitigation options and architectural compatibility questions that are often overwhelming for the average property owner through visual aids, supporting explanations and architectural designs.

The document provides streetscape, building, foundation and access recommendations for various types of architecture represented in St. Augustine. Additionally, it covers basic improvements, floodproofing and maintenance needs for historic resources and information on restoration of historic materials after a flood event. The final product is a colorful and architecturally rendered publication that provides a model for other communities to identify and address compatible flood mitigation measures that are suitable for their preservation ethic and



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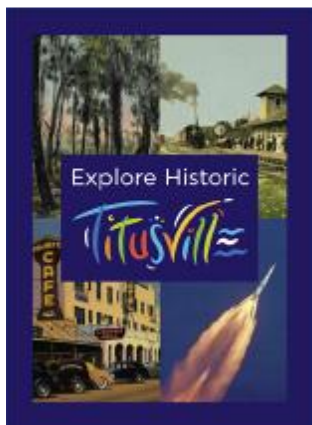
historic landscape. The document is already being applied to a statewide hazard mitigation grant undertaken by the Florida Division of Historical Resources.

Awards in the Preservation Communications/Media category recognize outstanding heritage education programs, including books, brochures, curricula, DVDs, websites, interactive media and other publications that deal with historic preservation, archaeology or local history.

### **Preservation Communications/Media**

#### **Outstanding Achievement: “Explore Historic Titusville”**

City of Titusville, Brevard County



The “Explore Historic Titusville” booklet, interactive website and mobile app developed by the Titusville Historic Preservation Board allows people to discover the sites of Titusville’s long history – from its earliest Native American inhabitants, through its rough-and-tumble pioneering era, to its growth as a modern city with close connections to Cape Canaveral and the American Space Program. Self-guided walking and driving tours direct residents and visitors to dozens of highlighted spots on the interactive GPS-enabled map and mobile app, providing stories, historic images and vivid narration at each location.

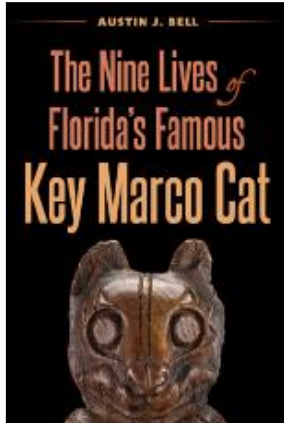
The booklet is a visual, easy to read text that highlights personalities, themes and historic events and stops on a series of driving and walking tours in the greater Titusville area. With its entertaining and informative presentations on Titusville, it can serve as stand-alone reading or as a guidebook to tours. The integrated website features an interactive map and audio corresponding to the booklet. The app provides a mobile audio tour application for Android and IOS devices, where visitors can view the interactive map, find a location through GPS and listen to oral histories. The “Explore Historic Titusville” project has already successfully captured the interest of visitors to the Kennedy Space Center, Canaveral National Seashore and the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Additionally, it serves as an excellent community resource for local citizens and students.

#### **Meritorious Achievement: “The Nine Lives of Florida’s Famous Key Marco Cat”**

Marco Island, Collier County



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In September 2021, Austin J. Bell, curator of collections for the Marco Island Historical Society and a consulting scholar at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (Penn Museum), published “The Nine Lives of Florida’s Famous Key Marco Cat,” through University Press of Florida.

As museum objects go, few have had a more fascinating trajectory than Florida’s Key Marco Cat. It is one of Florida’s most famous archaeological artifacts, excavated from a waterlogged archaeological site on what is now Marco Island, on March 5, 1896, by legendary anthropologist Frank Hamilton Cushing. Since then, the object has taken on new meanings and new lives, while subtly revealing clues about its former ones. Austin Bell explores nine periods in the life of the six-inch high wooden carving, beginning with how it was sculpted with shell and shark tooth tools, to what it may have represented to the ancient Calusa – perhaps a human-panther god.

The Key Marco Cat likely began as an object of religious importance to the Calusa or their forebears at least five centuries ago. Now, it is an object of economic importance to the same region of Florida. In both contexts, it has stimulated countless discussions, ideas, stories and thoughts.

Awards in the Organizational Achievement category acknowledge achievement in preservation by a group, corporation, neighborhood or other organization.

### **Organizational Achievement**

#### **Marco Island Historical Society**

Marco Island, Collier County



In 2021, the Marco Island Historical Society acquired and restored a unique 11-foot handmade wooden skiff transferred from the Museum of Florida History in Tallahassee. The skiff, partially held together by hand-whittled wooden pegs, is of completely original design. Built around 1945 by a recluse named Paul Teachout in the Ten Thousand Islands near Marco Island, it was donated to the museum in 1982. Curator of Collections Austin Bell personally brought the skiff back to Marco Island.

Enlisting the volunteer services of master boatbuilder Roger Johnson and Marco Island Historical Society member Ronald Rutledge, the skiff was methodically stabilized and conserved over the course of more than six months using materials as close as possible to the original.



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**About the Florida Trust**

The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation is the state’s nonprofit dedicated to protecting Florida’s extraordinary heritage and history. Founded in 1978, the Florida Trust has collaborated to save irreplaceable Florida treasures like the Historic Florida Capitol and is a statewide partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Learn more at [www.FloridaTrust.org](http://www.FloridaTrust.org) and follow us on Twitter @FloridaTrustHP.