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Awards Honor Outstanding Achievements in Historic Preservation

LITTLE ROCK—On January 28, 2022, Preserve Arkansas hosted its annual Arkansas Preservation Awards dinner and program to honor individuals and organizations for projects focused on historic preservation, education, and advocacy throughout the state. Honorees and guests celebrated with a reception and banquet at the Arkansas Governor's Mansion in Little Rock, followed by a program recognizing Gary W. Clements, AIA, of North Little Rock and 17 preservation projects. State Historian David Ware of Little Rock served as Master of Ceremonies for the event. Silver Table Sponsors for the 2021 Arkansas Preservation Awards were Clements and Associates Architecture, Inc., the Division of Arkansas Heritage, and the University of Arkansas Fay Jones School of Architecture + Design. Photos from the event are available at PreserveArkansas.org.

2021 Arkansas Preservation Award Recipients

Named in honor of Preserve Arkansas's founding president, the **Parker Westbrook Award for Lifetime Achievement** was given to **Gary W. Clements, AIA, of North Little Rock**. A lifelong history enthusiast, Gary Clements has been an ardent supporter of historic preservation since 1981, when he graduated from the University of Arkansas School of Architecture. Clements began working on projects at the Arkansas State Capitol in 1985, and this work continued to the present. Today, there are only a few spaces in the building, from the dome to the basement, where he has not worked. In addition to his notable work at the State Capitol, Clements has completed restoration and rehabilitation projects throughout Arkansas and served on numerous preservation-related boards and commissions.

The **Award for Excellence in Heritage Preservation** was presented to **Washington County and Davis Videos** for the **Washington County Oral History Project**, which included in-depth interviews with former and current county officials and local residents, greatly contributing to the preservation of the county's - and our state's - rich heritage.

The **Award for Excellence in Preservation through Rehabilitation** was presented to the **Old Jail Bed and Breakfast at Historic Washington State Park**. Originally constructed as the Hempstead County Jail, the building was rehabilitated to serve as a bed and breakfast at the state park. The Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism, WER Architects/Planners, Contech Contractors, and GEP Contractors were recognized with the award.

The **Award for Excellence in Preservation through Restoration** was presented to the **Coca-Cola Bottling Plant at Morrilton**. With the help of federal and state historic tax credits, the 1929 Coca-Cola Bottling Plant was carefully restored and now serves as the corporate office of Crow Group, Inc. Crow Group, Inc. and Terry Burruss were recognized with the award.

An **Honorable Mention for Excellence in Preservation through Restoration** was given to **26 W. Center Street in Fayetteville**. This project removed a 1960s façade to reveal the original 1898 Richardsonian Romanesque building, restored window and door openings, and reworked the interior. 26 W. Center, LLC, Skiles Architects, PA, and Dan Minkel were recognized.

The **Award for Outstanding Achievement in Preservation Education** went to **Bob Keltner of Little Rock** for his short film, "Knoopy and Kavanaugh: Back in the Old Neighborhood." In his role as Chair of Preservation and Planning for the Hillcrest Residents Association, Keltner created a film to highlight the neighborhood's historic architecture and educate residents about the importance of preservation.

The **Award for Outstanding Achievement in Preservation Advocacy** was presented to **Marshall Ray of Jacksonville.** Ray is an outspoken advocate for historic preservation in Arkansas, with a particular interest in establishing training programs in preservation trades and technology.

Named for Eureka Springs writer and historic preservationist Ned Shank, the **Award for Outstanding Preservation Publication** was presented to ***Arkansas Made: A Survey of the Decorative, Mechanical, and Fine Arts Produced in Arkansas through 1950, 2nd Edition*** **by Swannee Bennett, Jennifer Carman, and William B. Worthen, published by the University of Arkansas Press.** The two-volume second edition of *Arkansas Made* is the culmination of Historic Arkansas Museum's exhaustive investigations into the history of the state's material culture.

The **Award for Excellence in Personal Projects** was presented to **James and Ann Ballard Bryan** for the **Marshall House** at 2009 S. Arch Street in Little Rock. The couple recently completed a 25-year effort to restore the home, as closely as possible, to its original 1908 appearance.

The **Award for Outstanding Achievement in Adaptive Reuse** was presented to **The ARTSpace and ARTWORKS on Main in Pine Bluff.** The Arts and Science Center for Southeast Arkansas converted two underutilized historic buildings into vibrant, mixed-use spaces that engage with the community and restore hope in downtown Pine Bluff. The Arts and Science Center for Southeast Arkansas, AMR Architects, and East Harding Construction were recognized with the award.

An **Honorable Mention for Outstanding Achievement in Adaptive Reuse** was given to the **Ellis Building/Atlas Restaurant in Fayetteville**. Built in 1923 to house the Ellis Motor Company, the Ellis Building's adaptive reuse highlights the building's original character in its new guise as Atlas, a locally owned restaurant. Quantum Properties, DEMX Architecture, and Oelke Construction were recognized.

The **Award for Outstanding Preservation Reporting in the Media** was presented to **Jim Pfeifer, AIA, of Little Rock** for his regular articles in *Hillcrest Life* and *Heights Living* magazines as well as posts on his "History of the Heights" Facebook page.

The **Award for Outstanding New Construction in a Historic Setting** was presented to **Hill Station in Little Rock**. Located in the heart of Hillcrest, this project rehabilitated a 1955 service station and connected it to a new addition designed to complement nearby historic commercial buildings to house Hill Station, a locally owned restaurant. Little Gidding, LLC, JAMESON Architects PA, and Cline Construction, Inc. were recognized with the award.

An **Honorable Mention for Outstanding New Construction in a Historic Setting** was presented to the **Alpha Delta Pi Sorority House at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville**. The 1930 Tudor Revival-style chapter home was renovated, and a 1960s addition replaced with a new design that increases

the usable square footage of the house and its dedicated spaces. Alpha Delta Pi House Corporation, WER Architects/Planners, and Kinco Constructors were recognized.

An **Honorable Mention for Outstanding New Construction in a Historic Setting** was presented to **The Haywood in El Dorado.** Infilling a long-vacant surface parking lot, the 70-room hotel provides a literal front porch for patrons and locals to observe and participate in the vibrant life of the Murphy Arts District. El Dorado Hospitality Services, LLC, AMR Architects, and Clark Contractors were recognized.

The **Award for Outstanding Work by a Craftsperson** was given to **Justin Elbert of CJE Construction** for his work to restore and recreate interior elements of the Marshall House in Little Rock based on original drawings.

An **Honorable Mention for Outstanding Work by a Craftsperson** was presented to **Renaissance Roofing of Rockford, IL**, for the copper dome project at the Mississippi County Courthouse at Osceola, Arkansas.

The **Award for Outstanding Service in Neighborhood Preservation** was presented to **The Events Center at Fairview Park in Camden** for the restoration of the Fairview Gymnasium, an important neighborhood landmark and gathering place.

Preserve Arkansas is the only statewide nonprofit advocate for the preservation of Arkansas's historic places. The organization works to build stronger communities by reconnecting Arkansans to our heritage and empowering people to save and rehabilitate historic places. For more information about Preserve Arkansas or the Arkansas Preservation Awards, contact Rachel Patton at 501-372-4757, rpatton@preservearkansas.org, or visit PreserveArkansas.org.

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