



PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF FERNANDINA BEACH, FL

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FERNANDINA BEACH ANNOUNCES FIRST HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS

FERNANDINA BEACH, FL, APRIL 22, 2010: The City of Fernandina Beach is pleased to announce the winners of the City's first Historic Preservation Awards. On April 19, 2010 a panel of three judges traveled to Fernandina and toured the nominated projects before deliberating and rendering their decisions. The recipients of the first City Historic Preservation Awards include:

- **The Amelia Island Museum of History for restoration of the Nassau County Jail building.** In their report, the judges remarked, "This effort unified two separate buildings into a cohesive whole. The result is a fully accessible, attractive building which provides comfort to visitors. The AIMH Board and Staff are to be commended for their farsighted approach and financial resourcefulness in securing resources to tackle a daunting project and complete it successfully."



Photo by Mike Rooney, City Staff.

- **Kenneth Smith Architects for restoration of the Amelia Island Lighthouse.**

In reviewing this nomination, the judges concluded that “This project demonstrates the high level of preservation which can be accomplished with government agencies and community organizations working together for the greater good of the citizens and visitors. The attention to detail was significant, i.e. exposure of the brick floor, reproduction of original windows and doors, structural repair to the oil house, as well as the complete restoration of the light tower features. An asset has been returned to the community.”



Photo by Mike Rooney, City Staff.

- **The Germano family for the restoration of Amelia Dream Cars on South Eighth**

Street. About this project, the judges stated, “This effort improved both the building's facade and the streetscape, taking a utilitarian building and converting it to an asset along the streetscape. This completely privately-funded, personal investment can be a catalyst to spur other work along the block nearby.”



Photo by Mike Rooney, City Staff.

The inaugural judging panel included:

- **Carmen Godwin** is the Executive Director of Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP), which protects one of the largest historic districts in the southeast and is the parent company of the Riverside Arts Market. Godwin serves on the board of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and is the past Chair of the Florida Association of Museums Foundation. She holds a B.A. in U.S. history from Rutgers University and an M.A. in U.S. history from the University of Florida. Prior to her employment at RAP, Ms. Godwin served as Director of the Amelia Island Museum of History for six years. Ms. Godwin recused herself from all discussion and evaluation of the Museum project due to potential conflict of interest. She did not participate in any of the deliberations regarding the project.
- **Wendell Hall** is a registered architect with 40 years of experience and has been in private practice in Orange Park, Florida, since 1974. He is co-founder of Bhide & Hall Architects, and is the sitting Vice Chair of the State Board of Architecture and Interior Design. He is a registered architect in Florida, Georgia, Ohio, and Colorado. A native of Florida, he was raised in Southwest Florida, primarily Ft. Myers and Everglades City.
- **Leslee Keys** is the Director of Corporate, Foundation & Government Relations for Flagler College, adjunct faculty in History, and also

oversees campus historic preservation efforts. She serves as Vice-President of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, on the St. Johns County Economic Development Council, is the President of the Chamber's Historic St. Augustine Area Council, and is the College's representative to the St. Augustine Sister Cities Board. She has 31 years of experience in historic preservation, holds a master's degree in planning from Virginia Tech, and is a Ph.D. student in historic preservation at UF.



2010 Inaugural Judging Panel

L to R: Leslee Keys, Carmen Godwin, Wendell Hall

Photo by Suanne Thamm, HDC Chair.

Historic District Council Chair Suanne Thamm underlined the importance of the awards program stating, "All three of these projects illustrate a commitment to preserving and enhancing Fernandina Beach's architectural heritage." The Amelia Island Fernandina Restoration Foundation assisted the City in the launch of this awards program, an initiative of the City's Historic District Council. The awards will be presented to the winners at the May 4, 2010 City Commission meeting.

For more information, please contact Adrienne Dessy, Preservation Planner, at 904-277-7325.