



CITY OF FRESNO

MEDIA RELEASE

ASHLEY SWEARENGIN, MAYOR

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City of Fresno Announces Historic Preservation Awards

FRESNO -- Mayor Ashley Swearengin today announced the winners of the City's 2015 Historic Preservation awards which honor individuals and community groups who have demonstrated excellence in the restoration of a historic building, leadership in preservation planning, cultural heritage or neighborhood revitalization.

The winners will be recognized at a ceremony at the City Council Thursday, April 30 at 8:30 a.m. Nominations for the awards were solicited from the public and staff and reviewed by a panel prior to submission to the Mayor for approval.

The winners are:

- The Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency, Marlene Murphey Executive Director, Michele Randel (architect) and Davis-Moreno (contractors) for the Armenian Town Project. Five early 20th century homes and a summer kitchen associated with Fresno's early Armenian population were relocated to a parcel at the corner of M Street and Santa Clara and faithfully restored.
- Scott Oliver for the restoration of Sham's Rio Grande Service Station, a Streamline Moderne style building constructed in 1938 at 205 Fulton Street within Fresno's Armenian community. Mr. Oliver carefully rehabilitated the station, Historic Property #246, following two devastating fires.
- The Fresno Airports, Kevin Meikle and staff, for their recycling efforts with the demolition of a former Hammer Field Barracks, including removal and donation of original windows for use as a display at the Veteran's Memorial Museum and for Habitat for Humanity.
- The Fresno Housing Authority and Kiel Schmidt for the public art project at the site of the Droge Building. The three panels affixed to the exterior of the new infill housing project at this location interpret the major historic events that occurred at this site, including Fresno's fruit packing history.

- Three individuals recognized for their contributions to their respective neighborhoods or communities include Mike Harris (Veteran's Memorial Museum), Larry Cusick Ph.D. (American traditional music) and Allan Jendian (Mt. Ararat Armenian Cemetery).
- The Huntington Boulevard Homeowners are being honored under the Community Group Award for the work of the neighborhood over the past years to celebrate and preserve the history and architectural character of Huntington Boulevard, one of the crown jewels of the City of Fresno.
- RPM Planing Mill, Inc. is recognized for its work since 1948 in carefully replicating original wood sash windows for many of the City's designated historic properties.
- John and Barbara Chookasian, Armenian traditional musicians for their role in preserving and educating students about the cultural heritage of Fresno's Armenian community.
- John Rupe has been named the "Horizon" award winner, a category which recognizes individuals who have recently made a significant contribution to Fresno's preservation efforts. Through research and forensic evidence, Mr. Rupe "uncovered" the Expositor Building, Fresno's first newspaper and helped with the documentation which led to its recent designation by the City Council as Historic Property #292.
- Finally, this year's "Russell and Pat Fey Memorial Preservationist of the Year" award is given to preservation architect, Scott Vincent. Mr. Vincent has both donated his time and worked as a paid professional on numerous historic projects including the rehabilitation of the Helm Home, the Chandler Airport Terminal and the Montgomery Thomas House. Both the Helm Home and Thomas House restorations were recognized for state awards by the California Preservation Foundation.

For more information please contact Karana Hattersley-Drayton, City of Fresno Historic Preservation Project Manager, (559) 621-8520 or karana.hattersley-drayton@fresno.gov.

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