

TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

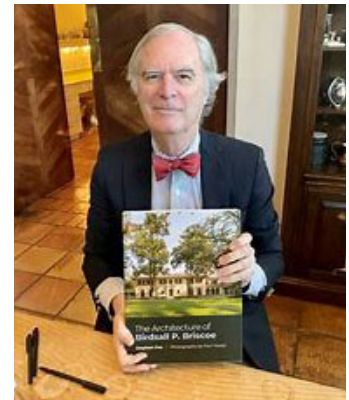
A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room (FTxR)
(Incorporated November 31st, 2002)
Volume 21, Number 3, July 24th, 2023

The Friends of the Texas Room seeks to support the historical collections of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC) located in the Julia Ideson Building of the Houston Public Library. The Texas Room is the reading room in the Julia Ideson Building.



Stephen Fox to Speak at July 24th Meeting

Join Friends of the Texas Room for an evening with architectural historian Stephen Fox as he discusses his new book *The Architecture of Birdsall P. Briscoe*, which examines Briscoe's country houses, offering a glimpse into the architect's methods and analyzing how Briscoe built a "social architecture" to frame his clientele during periods of economic expansion and contraction. Fox will showcase how Briscoe cultivated and managed elements of taste, style and fashion to embody class identity and solidarity, and the ways Briscoe and his peers interpreted and reflected early 20th-century Progressive Era ideals to realize the vision of local and civic leaders.



Stephen Fox

Here is the **Zoom link** to join us for this free event on **Monday, July 24th at 7pm:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84115509758?pwd=VzllbHJzS3NVRmNHSlpDWnVyd2Z4dz09>

VISIT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM WEBSITE

www.friendsofthetexasroom.org

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2023 FTxR Zoom Meetings

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the FTxR Officers and Board of Directors have decided to conduct our 2023 quarterly Monday meetings virtually at 7:00 pm using the Zoom platform. Those wishing to attend the meeting live, are welcome to join President Mister McKinney at the Houston Heritage Society’s Tea Room located at 1100 Bagby Street. Free Heritage Society parking is available across Allan Parkway in the Heritage Clay Street Parking Lot and Heritage Clay Street garage. Whether participating on-line or live, members and guests may attend the business meeting conducted by President Mister McKinney, watch the speaker’s presentation, and ask questions.

2023 FTxR QUARTERLY MEETING DATES AND SPEAKERS



January 30th General Meeting: Michael Abboud

April 24th General Meeting: Robert Kimberly

July 24th General Meeting: Stephen Fox

October 23rd Annual Meeting: TBA

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 24th, 2023, FTxR GENERAL MEETING

President Mister McKinney called the FTxR to order on April 24th, 2023, at 7:00 pm for “An Evening with Digital Sig Byrd Archivist Robert Kimberly.” Through our Zoom meeting platform, FTxR President Mr. McKinney interviewed our guest on the topic of the Digital Sig Byrd Archive, an online repository of *Houston Press* columns by Sigman Byrd, the mid-century chronicler of a Houston long gone. Kimberly, who started the archive in 2007, took FTxR members on a journey through his research aided by the HMRC collection.



Sig Byrd

Currently, Kimberly serves as the Installations Manager for the Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston and has worked for some of Houston's most important arts

institutions, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Houston Center for Photography; and the Rice University Art Gallery.

The Digital Sig Byrd Archive is ongoing project that works to preserve Byrd's daily columns from October 1947 through mid-1950s. The site offers an introduction to his writings and provides names, places, maps, and calendars to offer a broad overview of his writings during his time at the *Houston Press*.

Byrd's writings leave behind a distinctive portrait of Houston's upstanding citizens as well as those who lived on the fringe of the city's respectable society including junkies, hookers, hustlers, street-corner preachers, pawnshop owners, and honky-tonk angels. Monday's program was a rare treat for FTxR members and guests!

After Mr. Kimberly's presentation, Mister McKinney brought the evening to a close at 8:00.

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Letrice Davis

The Houston History Research Center is pleased to announce the hire of Kim Vera as the new programming coordinator and Digi tech. She comes to us from the Houston Community Colleges system; however, she also has experience from the Houston Museum of Natural Science and The Menil Collection. She started at the beginning of July and is busy getting acclimated to her new roles.



Photo by Joel Draught

Collection News

1. Completed Digi projects: Dr. S.O. Young Papers & Dr. George Ebey Papers, and the TX Jazz Archive Part II. These will be added to HPL Digital Archives soon.
2. Several new additions to the architecture collections and a donation from Mrs. Leslie Contreras Schwartz who was the Houston Poet Laureate from 2019-2021.

Programs and Events Update

August

Archival Collection Spotlight – Miller Outdoor theatre – 8/16/23 at 2:00 PM via Microsoft Teams

For 100 years the Miller Outdoor Theatre has been an integral part of Hermann Park, in honor of its Centennial anniversary, check out the different resources at the Houston History Research Center focused on this longstanding theatrical site.

September

Hispanic Heritage Month Program – TBD via Microsoft Teams

As part of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Houston History Research Center will highlight the contributions of Hispanics to the growth and development of Houston. We will use the Hispanic Archives Collection to tell a part of their rich historical presence in the Houston community.

Archives Watch Party – Labor Movement – TBD via Facebook and YouTube

HHRC is continuing our program series, "Archives Watch Party." Archivists curate a selection of films from the HHRC collections around a certain topic. This one celebrates Labor Day with clips from the Houston History Research Center's KHOU-TV Collection. The watch parties can be viewed on Facebook and YouTube.

October

History of the Astrodome - The Making of a Houston Landmark – 10/10/23 at 2:00 PM via Microsoft Teams

Join us for a real-time virtual presentation about the creation of the Astrodome, one of the most well-known landmarks in Houston's history. The presentation will feature photos from the Houston Metropolitan Research Center's special collections showing early promotional ads, construction of the dome, and the lavish interiors that were only available to the elite.

You can register for these programs at: [Special Collections Upcoming Library Events](#)

Please follow us on the HPL social channels, using #HPLHMRC or #HoustonHistoryResearchCenter

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/houstonlibrary>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/houstonpubliclibrary/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/houstonlibrary>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/houstonlibrary>

FTxR 2023 Membership Benefits

Photograph Reproductions

Each 2023 member of the Friends of the Texas Room is allowed up to five photographic reproductions at half-price this year. Send your requests to:

Photo.Reference@houstontx.gov

Behind-the-Scenes Tour of the Archives

FTxR members may arrange a tour of the seldom-seen HMRC archives that house an amazing collection of historic documents related to Houston and Texas history.

Texas Room Hours



Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Wednesday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Thursday: 12:00 noon – 7:00 pm

Friday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday: Closed

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

Please contact Jeff Lindemann, editor of the *Texas Room Dispatch* (lindemann@SBCglobal.net), with information about your volunteer service at the HMRC and about projects you are working on that utilize HMRC resources.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM POLICIES

The FTxR policies relate to the Houston Metropolitan Research Center which includes the Collections of the Archives and Manuscripts Department, the Texas and Local History Department, and the Special Collections Department of the Houston Public Library.

A. Contributions

From time to time, the Friends of the Texas Room will purchase and contribute to the Houston Metropolitan Research Center of the Houston Public Library items that will enrich and enhance the above-named collections and ensure their preservation.

All such contributions will be purchased by the Friends directly and then given to the Library with specific stipulations as to how such contributions are to be used by the Library to enhance and ensure the preservation of the HMRC collections.

The Friends will give no money directly to the Library, will not buy expendable supplies for the Library, or fund Library personnel.

B. Relationship to Administration and Staff

The Friends of the Texas Room is not to be involved in the administrative or employee actions of the Center, except that the Friends can question policies which, in its opinion, negatively impact the ability of the Center to provide service to the public.

CULTURAL MATCHING GIFTS

Are you or your spouse working for or retired from a corporation which makes cultural matching grants or volunteer involvement awards if you give to or do volunteer work for a cultural institution?

Will your employer match your gifts to cultural institutions that qualify under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code?

The Friends of the Texas Room has such a qualification. Send your corporation's cultural matching funds form with your check for membership in FTxR. If you volunteer your time as an officer of FTxR or in the Texas Room or HMRC, keep track of your hours and turn them in to your corporation so that the FTxR may obtain a grant from your corporation's program. This is "found money" for FTxR and can be used towards making a difference to the Texas Room and HMRC.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM: WHO WE ARE

Mission: The Friends of the Texas Room seeks to support the collections of the Texas and Local History Department, the Archives and Manuscripts Department, and the Special Collections Department of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center of the Houston Public Library.

2023 Board of Directors (Officers and Directors):

President: Mister McKinney

Vice President: Susan Teich

Secretary: *Open Position*

Treasurer: Frank Jones

Directors: Jim Bailey, Nancy Burch, Anthony Cavender (Julia Ideson Award Chair), J.J. Gonzalez (Membership Chair), Carol Haddock, Rebecca Harris, Jeff Lindemann (*Texas Room Dispatch* and Website Editor), and George Slaughter.

HOW TO CONTACT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

Send membership applications, dues, donations, and mail for Board Members to: Friends of the Texas Room, P. O. Box 27827, Houston, TX 77227-7827. Submissions and comments for the *Texas Room Dispatch* should be emailed to the editor, Jeff Lindemann, at lindemann@SBCglobal.net.

2023 FTxR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For Membership Year: 1/1/2023 – 12/31/2023

Mail with dues to:

P.O. BOX 27827 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77227-7827

Or apply and pay with PAYPAL online at: www.friendsofthetexasroom.org

DATE: _____

Check applicable: _____ RENEWING APPLICATION _____ NEW APPLICATION

FIRST PERSON: _____ SECOND PERSON AT SAME ADDRESS (if applicable): _____

first name, middle, last name

first name, middle, last name

MAILING ADDRESS (include street or P.O.): _____

CITY/TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP +4: _____

TELEPHONE, FAX, EMAIL

FIRST PERSON:

SECOND PERSON (if different)

HOME: _____

HOME: _____

OFFICE: _____

OFFICE: _____

FAX: _____

FAX: _____

E-MAIL: _____

E-MAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (please check category)

_____ Benefactor \$500

_____ Patron \$250

_____ Sponsor \$100

_____ Donor \$50

_____ Family \$30

_____ Individual \$20

_____ Senior \$10

_____ Student \$10

NOTE: Friends of the Texas Room is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization operating under IRS Code 501(c) (3). Membership and additional contributions over and above membership are tax deductible to the extent of the law. Is your gift eligible as a “matching gift” from an employer or other entity? If so, please give the name and include the appropriate form.

Additional contribution: \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: (Membership plus contribution): \$ _____

VOLUNTEER INTERESTS: Please check below to volunteer for FTR activities or library services:

___ COLLECTIONS VOLUNTEER: Be trained and increase your own knowledge about research techniques.

___ NEWSLETTER: Writing articles about materials in the collections or reporting on related activities.

___ MEMBERSHIP: Maintain up-to-date membership list and send out renewal notices.

___ HOSPITALITY: Meeting room preparations, greeting people, refreshments when needed, etc.

___ PROGRAMS: Help develop programs or special seminars or workshops.

___ PUBLIC RELATIONS: Developing posters, displays, news releases, handouts, etc.

___ SPECIAL PROJECTS

___ OTHER: _____

2023 Friends of the Texas Room Call for Entries for the Julia Ideson Award



**Houston Public Library
Friends of the Texas
Room**

Deadline: May 1, 2023

This is a call for entries for the annual Julia Ideson Award sponsored by the Friends of the Texas Room at the Houston Public Library. The award commemorates the Houston Public Library's first director, Julia Bedford Ideson (1885-1945), and it recognizes distinguished projects that document Houston and Texas history and culture.

The 2023 award category is for a scholarly and researched film or video presentation, website, published article, monograph, master's thesis, or doctoral dissertation. The category of published books (excluding doctoral dissertations) will be accepted in 2024.

Entries: The 2023 award category is for a scholarly and researched film or video presentation, website, published article, monograph, master's thesis, or doctoral dissertation completed within the last five years (2017 – 2023) documenting local Houston and/or Texas history and culture using the resources of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center significantly, but not

necessarily exclusively. The category of published books (excluding doctoral dissertations) will be accepted in 2024.

The Julia Ideson Award and a prize of \$500.00 will be presented to the winner by the Friends of the Texas Room at its annual meeting on October 2023.

For additional information, visit www.friendsofthetexasroom.org or contact Anthony B. Cavender at Anthony.cavender@pillsburylaw.com (713-276-7656).

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH EACH ENTRY:

1. Name, address, telephone number, and e-mail of the person submitting the entry/nomination.
2. Name, address, telephone number, and e-mail of the person(s) or organization responsible for the project, if not the nominator.
3. Brief description of the entry.
4. LIST OF THE SPECIFIC RESOURCES OF THE TEXAS ROOM / HMRC USED IN THE PROJECT AND BRIEF STATEMENT OF HOW SUCH RESOURCES WERE UTILIZED.
5. Explanation of how the project contributes to a better understanding of local or Texas history/culture.
6. **Three copies** of the entry.

Submission:

Entries must be submitted in the name of the person(s) or organization responsible for executing the project. Submitting an entry constitutes agreement to the terms of eligibility and also serves as agreement that the Friends of the Texas Room may publicize the award and accompanying details about the recipient(s). **All physical entries become the property of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center.**

Send entries to:

Friends of the Texas Room
P.O. Box 27827
Houston, TX 77227-7827