

PATRONATO

Mission San Xavier del Bac Fall 2017



Photo by Balfour Walker Photography

Thinking Big, Taking the Long View

Global recognition for Mission San Xavier from the World Monuments Fund (our historic Mission was added to WMF's biennial "Watch List" in October 2015) helped the Patronato Board of Directors identify two important issues.

First, it was time to update the preservation master plan that serves as the blueprint for all preservation activities. It is now two decades since the last plan was developed.

Second, the Board is crafting long-range timelines for the entire preservation effort rather than engaging the community project by project. This includes timelines and costs for each stage as well as costs of ongoing maintenance well into the future. This will help Patronato expand our fundraising across Arizona and nationally.

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Enter the Talented Stranger

Our interior conservators have been engaged in painstaking preservation of the altar rails for the past few months. Severe termite damage and moisture had degraded the wood and made the railing unstable. Recently, a stranger on a special tour of the Mission returned to question our conservators about their work. After some conversation, he asked if he could volunteer his help. When they agreed, he disappeared briefly, reappearing in a lab coat and with full tools of the trade.

It turns out that our volunteer, Luke Addington, is an expert in wood restoration. He trained at the American School of French Marquetry in San Diego under W. Patrick Edwards and Patrice Lejeune, who were trained at Ecole Boulle in Paris. Luke's expertise has been invaluable: he has helped repair rotting timbers and made custom molds that allow the team to recraft the original shapes that define the altar-railing base.

Beneath the dirt and polish that has built up over the years and rendered the railings black, the team discovered that the railings were, at one time, highly colored. Their work has revealed layers of pigment in bands of color.

Luke is now restoring five pine beams, thought to have been part of the original Jesuit chapel. These beams may predate the current Mission building and have been reused in the east Convento wing.



Luke Addington of Addington Furniture LLC.

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We engaged an internationally-renowned preservation architect, Tony Crosby, earlier this year to consult with us on next steps. The Board is working to implement his recommendations.

As part of the preservation plan update, Tony recommends a comprehensive assessment of all the buildings that comprise the Mission. This will help order priorities so that the most iconic and endangered sections are addressed first. Condition assessments on all Mission buildings yet to be preserved are underway. When priorities are established, we will quickly create scopes of work for the most urgent projects.

Not Just a Local Treasure

To date, the bulk of funds raised to restore Mission San Xavier has come from Southern Arizonans, who we will continue to engage. But Mission San Xavier is an important part of our State and our nation's history, so we are planning to take the restoration story to other communities to engage their support.

An important part of connecting Mission San Xavier and the restoration project with people from around the world is our very successful docent program. Begun in 2011, we now tour nearly 30,000 visitors each year.

Community Engagement

An important part of 21st century preservation planning is learning more about peoples' expectations of the results of restoration work and how it impacts them. With that in mind, we plan to reach out to groups that have a stake in the preservation of the Mission: the Parish, the Tohono O'odham community, Patronato donors, and members of our wider community. Several community meetings are in the planning stages.



Professor Frank Matero (right) addresses Patronato Board members in the nave of Mission Tumacacori. Pictured: Nancy Odegaard, Chuck Albanese and Park Service interpreter Melanie Rawlands.

Expert Collaboration Continues

For nearly 40 years, Patronato has worked with some of the best experts in preservation, restoration and conservation. This year, we've added a new voice to our expert panel: The School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania, a premier academic center for preservation architecture and training in the United States. For many years, the school has brought graduate students to sites throughout the country including Mesa Verde and Tumacacori to conduct research and develop special projects.

Members of the Patronato Board recently visited with Professor Frank Matero and his student team from the University of Pennsylvania at Tumacacori, where they were stabilizing plaster on the Mission interior using new grouting materials they developed through careful research. Patronato hosted a return visit to Mission San Xavier.

Now, Patronato and the university are in discussion to establish Mission San Xavier as a research site, creating opportunities to expand the preservation activities at the Mission and to craft joint collaborative projects with students from both the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Arizona. Patronato Board member Nancy Odegaard will be instrumental in building these connections.

One of the first projects under discussion is a detailed mapping of the iconic façade of the Mission, a project just completed at Tumacacori. This groundwork is a necessary part of the restoration planning and involves careful analysis of the façade, which, when first created, was thought to be highly decorated with color pigment, long since degraded by weathering.

The Mission Goes to the Classroom

Mission San Xavier culture is part of the history curriculum for elementary students in our region. With the number of school tours of the Mission growing, several Patronato docents who are retired educators created lesson plans that teachers can access from the Patronato website. The plans include classroom activities for teachers to use prior to a visit to the Mission, as well as post-tour activities to consolidate student understanding. This summer, 19 teachers from Tucson Unified District participated in a continuing education class with docent trainers to prepare for visits during the school year. This program will expand to other school districts and to private school networks in the coming months. For more information visit our website: Patronatosanxavier.org



Teachers in the St. Clare room at the Mission enjoying a break during an intense morning of study.

— PATRONATO SAN XAVIER —

1783 SOCIETY

Our Thanks

We recently launched our Legacy Society to honor and acknowledge donors who are choosing to leave a permanent legacy to Patronato's endowment. Their generosity helps ensure on-going restoration and maintenance forever.

From time to time we will list our 1783 Society members. To date, the following families have made a significant gift to our legacy campaign or notified us of their intent to leave legacy gifts.

Anonymous

Chuck and Clare Albanese

Arch and Laura Brown

Dr. William and Margaret Horst

Thomas and Patricia Killoran

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pettis

Eileen Rakita

Paul and Leeann Wieser





Ann Fallon 1918- 2017

Remembering Ann Fallon

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Ann Fallon. She was a former Board member and significant financial underwriter of our annual Christmas concert series. Ann's passion for the Mission and its restoration was central to her life from the time she arrived in Tucson in 1976.

Ann quietly funded many projects at the Mission. It was these acts that brought her to the notice of the Patronato Board, which she joined in 1997. Her underwriting of the first Christmas concert ensured its enduring legacy and she was a staunch financial supporter up until her passing.

Ann's underwriting enabled the production of the PBS video "Christmas at San Xavier," a taping of one of the early concerts that continues to play on public television stations across the country during the holiday season. Ann played many key roles on the Board, and she was voted to Patronato's emeritus Board and to the Founders Circle for her enduring work.

He's a Man on a Mission

Since joining Patronato San Xavier as Executive Director in 2015, Miles Green has spent time visiting other missions to assess the visitor experience and learn more about preservation values and current restoration projects. To date, Miles has visited all 21 missions in the California system, three of the four in San Antonio, the three that make up the Tumacacori State Park, and two in the Sonoran chain.

"I've learned a great deal on these explorations, but the greatest takeaway has been a deeper understand of what a treasure we have in Mission San Xavier. No other mission contains as much of the original interior art and though I concede to a level of bias, no other mission eclipses the beauty of the 'White Dove of the Desert,'" said Miles.



"I have learned...a deeper understanding of what a treasure we have in Mission San Xavier."

— Miles Green, Executive Director



Mary Okoye



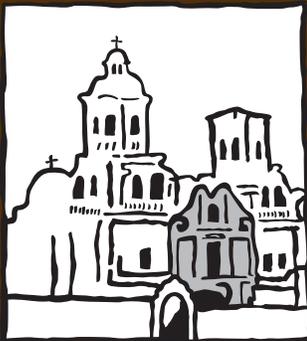
Jennifer Harris

Two Join Patronato Board of Directors

Mary Okoye and Jennifer Harris are our newest board members. Mary, an attorney, served for two decades as the Director of Intergovernmental Relations for the City of Tucson and currently heads the Tucson office of the Public Affairs company, Scutari and Cieslak. Jennifer serves as Director of Advancement at Salpointe Catholic High School and has served on several nonprofit boards. Both are long-time residents of Tucson and bring extensive philanthropy and community relations experience to the Patronato Board.



Photo by Richard Fenwick



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In addition to this printed newsletter, you can connect with Patronato via our website www.patronatosanxavier.org



While you are on our website, click "Contact" and sign up to receive timely email from Patronato with concert information and more.



Find Patronato on Facebook: Patronato San Xavier. Please like the page and share your thoughts and your Mission photos for our Facebook community to enjoy.

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Interior Conservators

- Timothy Lewis
- Matilde Rubio
- Tohono Restorations LLC*
- Patronato intern: Susie Moreno

Project Architect

- Robert Vint,
- Vint & Associates, Architects, Inc.*

Project Contractor

- Daniel Morales,
- Morales Restoration & Builders*

Executive Director

- Miles Green

Join us for the 21st Annual Christmas Concerts

Regular Performances: December 12, 13 and 14

Go to www.patronatosanxavier.org to purchase tickets for our regular performances with Sons of Orpheus: The Male Choir of Tucson and the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus. Seating priority is based on the date of sign-up. **Tickets are available for the 8 p.m. performances only** (6 p.m. performances are sold out).

General tickets \$100 per person / premium seats \$125 per person

The special signature concert on December 11, featuring our two choirs together with special guest tenor, Carlos Zapién and the Tucson Girls Chorus is sold out.

A big thank you to these businesses and individuals for helping to ensure the success of our Christmas Concert series.

Corporate sponsors: Desert Diamond Casinos and Entertainment, Merrill Lynch (Bank of America Corporation), Long Realty Cares Foundation, Tucson Electric Power, and Snell and Wilmer.

Family underwriters: Arch and Laura Brown, Fred and Mary Frelinghuysen, Kathy and Michael Hard, Hank and Barbara Peck and Chuck and Pat Pettis.

Media sponsor: Tucson Lifestyle



Photo by Balfour Walker Photography

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