



PATRONATO

Mission San Xavier del Bac Spring 2021

The Façade: Our New Priority Project

Having successfully secured the funds required to complete the East Tower Project, we are now turning our focus towards the research phase that will inform the conservation of the façade; the iconic ornate entry to the church. Some prior studies were completed over a decade ago, but it is important to learn as much as possible about how this architectural feature appeared when the church was first built. Analysis of the plasters and pigments, found within the layers of plaster, will provide valuable information to the conservators.



EAST TOWER UPDATE

The last phase of the East Tower project broke ground in February, a decade after the White Dove capital campaign was launched to fund the conservation of this section of the Mission church. Following several pauses due to funding setbacks, the contract to manage this last phase was approved by Patronato's Board at their January meeting.

The first phase, work on the foundations, and in the interior spaces of the first floor and the adjacent Convento wing, was completed between 2014 through 2018. The current work will be much more visible with scaffold covering the exterior of the tower for much of 2021. This will allow crews to remove the concrete plasters from the tower walls and to replace them with traditional lime-based renders that protect the adobe bricks beneath.

Our "Friends" Program is Evolving

Friends of Patronato are our Friends in Philanthropy.

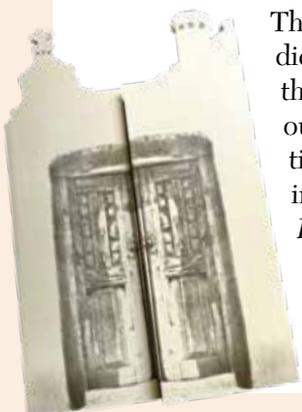
When the *Friends of Patronato* program was created in 2016, it provided an opportunity for philanthropic donors to the Mission conservation to receive a benefit separate from our concert supporters, people who came every year to the concerts but whose support was provided exclusively through the donation portion of their ticket purchase.

The primary "benefit" was to receive the iconic die-cut invitation to our concert series before the general public. That first year, almost 500 of our supporters signed up to be a *Friend*. Across time, more benefits have been added such as invitations to events, and participation in our *Friends of Patronato* lecture series.

Now, our *Friends* group numbers almost 1000 and we have a need to make some changes to the program.

KEY CHANGES:

- All *Friends* status will renew at the start of Patronato's fiscal year, July 1.
- *Friends* status will be determined by Patronato receiving a qualifying philanthropic gift across the previous fiscal year.
- Cumulative gifts received across the prior fiscal year will establish your *Friends* level, each of which attract different benefits.
- Cumulative gifts of \$100 establishes you as a "Concert Friend" the level required to receive the early invitation to the concerts.
- Cumulative gifts across the prior fiscal year of \$1,000 or more make you part of our new Kino Society.
- For more information about our *Friends* program, visit our website www.patronatosanxavier.org





THANK YOU!

In 2020 Patronato's Christmas went virtual, and you responded

Faced with the uncertainty of COVID, Patronato's Board decided in April to cancel their major fundraiser, "Patronato's Christmas at San Xavier," our signature concert series at the Mission. The concerts typically provide 20% of Patronato's operating income.

Instead, a "virtual" concert was created. Attempting to capture some of the concert magic, traditional elements were blended with performers filmed throughout the Mission, allowing the Mission to star. Our cinematographer, to capture the detail of the artwork, obtained wonderful interior shots by flying a drone inside the Mission.

Working with the choirs was a challenge as keeping performers safe was a core value. Performers were filmed lip synching, or filmed separately with images merged in the editing room.

Friends of Patronato received a concert "invitation" including the DVD in late November ready to enjoy during the holiday season. The invitation asked Friends to consider a gift in lieu of the seats they would typically purchase. Meanwhile an "on-demand" portal opened to the general public in December asking a donation in return for the option to stream the concert.

And you were very generous. Not just with positive feedback about how much you enjoyed the concert, but with donations to Patronato in lieu of seats, or as year-end gifts. Thanks to all our wonderful donors, we almost met the revenue goals of a traditional concert series. This generous support ensures several important preservation projects will launch this coming year.

Patronato extends our thanks to the following for their support of our virtual concert production.



General Sponsors and In-kind Gifts



Snell & Wilmer
LAW OFFICES

OUR FAMILY SUPPORTERS

Pat and Chuck Pettis
Laura and Arch Brown
Barbara and Hank Peck
Mary and Fred Frelinghuysen
Kenneth J. and Margaret F. McNealy
Charitable Trust

2021 Concert Plan. Our 25th Season

With the live 2020 concert canceled last year, we are receiving numerous inquiries about our plans for 2021. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the founding concert, when Linda Ronstadt brought her magic to the Mission, performing from the choir loft while Sons of Orpheus and Tucson Arizona Boys Choir sang at the altar. So we are anxious that we can host a live event.

The indicators are that, by December, it will be safe for people to gather again in groups. So, at this time, we are planning to host a live concert series. Currently the dates are set for 6th through 9th of December.

Because of the success of our virtual concert, and because we were able to use this to reach an audience well beyond Southern Arizona, our goal is to launch a new "virtual" version; build on the 2020 production, re-film some elements, and add new segments. This way we will have a contingency should it not be possible to host the live series.

We look forward to welcoming you all to the Mission for "Patronato's Christmas at San Xavier" either in person or virtually!



BECOME AN UNDERWRITER

Have you or your business thought of becoming an underwriter of our Concert series? This year we have four levels of support: \$2,500, \$5,000, \$10,000 and in this, our 25th anniversary year, we are looking for a major underwriter to provide support at the \$25,000 level. Call Kimberly or Miles to discuss the array of benefits that attach to underwriting.



West Transept Project

Despite COVID, the husband wife conservator team, Tim Lewis and Matilde Rubio (operating as their own “pod”) have been able to continue the four-phase project in the West Transept. Their work builds on the cleaning and conservation carried out by the European team now almost thirty years ago. That campaign saw the conservators arrive and work for three to four months across the winter season for a period of six years.

The current preservation work, without the constraints of time, has allowed more in-depth work. This has resulted in new elements being “discovered” within the paintings, and the paintings are taking on a new life. Work within the West Transept is supported by a generous grant by the Troller Fund held by the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona.

Problems Created by Desert Creatures

An often-overlooked aspect of conservation work at the Mission is the impact of desert creatures. Sited in a semi-rural setting and surrounded by open land on two sides, problems are created by a number of desert-dwellers. Pigeons constitute a major problem. At many times of the year, it is not uncommon to see as many as 300 birds settled on the domes and parapets of the church creating a picture-perfect image of the “White Dove”. However, their droppings pose major problems as the acids attack the lime-based plasters.

The saguaro rib ceilings around the arcade provide perfect hiding spots for bats at various times of the year again creating problems. Ground squirrels and chipmunks create burrows in and near the foundations, causing damage that needs to be addressed. As the Mission is staffed by a Franciscan order that owes its origins to St Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of animals and the environment, addressing these concerns needs to be managed creatively and humanely.

Termite Control

Following discussions with a prominent entomologist, along with representatives of Corteva (former Dow AgroSciences) about the problem of subterranean termites and other wood-boring insects at the Mission, the Corteva representative, the makers of the **Sentricon** termite colony elimination system, partnering with **Northwest Exterminating** offered to install and maintain the Sentricon system at the Mission at no charge to the Mission or the Patronato. This system involves installing a number of bait stations around the perimeter of the Mission. Termite colonies that feed on the bait will be eliminated, protecting the structure.

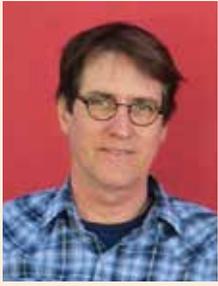
We are very grateful for the foresight of these two organizations offering their time and talent to support conservation at the Mission.



The conservators were surprised to discover they had a new assistant on this project. Working high on the scaffold one day, they encountered a cacomistle, a relative of the raccoon, who had managed to find its way into the church. Thanks to speedy work by personnel from Animal Experts, the ring-tailed or miner’s cat, as it is sometimes referred to, was relocated.



The Patronato's Architect, Bob Vint



For people who have been associated with the Patronato for many years, Bob Vint needs no introduction. But for people new to our organization, Bob has been the architect on the Mission projects since 1988.

A Tucson native, Bob is a graduate of the University of Arizona College of Architecture where, along-side managing his own practice Vint and Associates, he now teaches.

Following graduation, Bob trained with renowned Tucson architect, James Gresham, whose passion for the Mission Bob quickly captured. (Jim was both a Founder of the Patronato San Xavier and, for a time, its President.)

Bob's work with Gresham and Mexican architect Jorge Olvera, along with knowledge he acquired on numerous trips into Mexico to study both the Sonoran Missions, and historic church architecture throughout that country, lead him to recommend the replacement of the Portland cement-based plaster at San Xavier. Cement plaster was applied to the Mission during the restoration campaign in the 1950's (as occurred at many historic sites around the world.)

Bob's study determined these plasters were incompatible with adobe structures like the Mission, as they trapped water, allowing it to accumulate and move through the walls and vaults, thereby damaging the interior finish. His recommendation to return to a traditional lime-base plaster, mixed with mucilage extracted from the Nopal cactus, has guided conservation work at the Mission for the last three decades. Bob has authored a number of grant proposals including to the Getty Grant Program, and the National Park Service 'Save America's Treasures' Program bringing in over a million dollars across the years for conservation work at the Mission.

Most recently, Bob prepared drawings and specifications for the conservation of the East Tower in support of the Patronato's successful grant application to the National Fund for Sacred Places. These construction documents were subsequently used in bidding and negotiation to select the restoration contractor, Eric J. Means of Means Building LLC, to carry out the work. Vint's drawings and specifications continue to guide conservation work now under way at the East Tower.

Bob, having worked closely with another Patronato founder, anthropologist Bunny Fontana, is an expert on all things San Xavier, the Sonoran Mission chain and preservation architecture in general. If you ever have an opportunity to participant in a lecture on the Mission by Bob, you will leave enlightened.



Bob Vint (left) consults with contractor, Eric Means and engineers on aspects of scaffold design. Fr. Bill Minkel (right) looks on.

BOARD NEWS:

July 2020 saw new officers appointed to lead the Patronato Board.

President for the next three-year term is Michael Urman. Michael joined the Board in 2013 and is an attorney and shareholder in the law firm, DeConcini McDonald Yetwin and Lacy.

Nancy Odegaard Ph.D. is elected Vice President. A member since 2016, she is Conservator Professor Emerita at the Arizona State Museum.

Clague Van Slyke 111 is elected Board Secretary. He joined the Board in 2013 and recently retired from his own law practice. Clague is now a resident of Phoenix.

David Yetman Ph.D assumes the role of interim Treasurer for a year. David is well known for his PBS television series, "The Desert Speaks" and "In the Americas with David Yetman." He has served on the Board since 2016

Three join the Board

Daniela Nuñez

Daniela is a Tucson native currently working at Poster Mirto McDonald, an architectural firm that specializes in Historic Preservation, Restoration and Community Architecture. Daniela grew up going to Mission San Xavier frequently, and eagerly joins the Patronato to bring her perspective with regards to conservation.



Frank Valenzuela

Frank is a Tucson native who has worked in the banking industry and has been a member of a number of local Boards.



Kathleen Porterfield

Kathleen moved to Tucson six years ago following a career as Managing Partner of the Northwest Division of KPMG.





Patronato San Xavier Board of Directors

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Michael Urman, *President*
Nancy Odegaard, *Vice President*
Clague Van Slyke III, *Secretary*
David Yetman, *Treasurer*

Members

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Charles Albanese
Kristin Almquist
Robert Alpaugh
Fr. John Arnold
Martin DeSoto
Jennifer Harris
Daniela Nuñez
Mary Okoye
Barbara Peck
Kathleen Porterfield
Frank Valenzuela
Jeff Willis

Ex Officio Members

Fr. Bill Minkel, *Mission San Xavier*
Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger,
Diocese of Tucson
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Dianne Bret Harte
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Lorraine Drachman
Ann Fallon*
Bernard Fontana*
Alex Garcia*
James Gresham*
Patricia Pettis*
John Schaefer
Clague Van Slyke II*

*deceased

Staff

Miles Green, *Executive Director*
Kimberly Ely, *Development Director*
Kathy Baily, *Scheduling Coordinator*

Multiple Projects: An Exciting Period for Conservation Work at the Mission

At their most recent meeting, the Board approved a further 7 projects that will take place at the Mission this coming fiscal year. These will launch in addition to the major projects currently underway: completion of the East Tower and the interior maintenance on the art in the west transept. These new projects move us closer to the goal of completing the first round of conservation across all the buildings that comprise the Mission campus.

Project list:

- The research phase of the façade. Comprehensive studies of the original material used to construct the façade, along with analysis of pigments. The aim is to gain necessary information to inform how this section of the church will be preserved.
- Repairs to the mortuary chapel adobe and plaster. This will be phased with similar work on the walls that surround the original cemetery,
- Another set of doors will be conserved.
- Environmental monitoring. This project will see data-loggers installed throughout the Mission that will track temperature and humidity variations within, and outside the Mission. This monitoring is critical to understanding how the building responds to environmental conditions.
- The final phase of the bells project. A workshop is planned to train conservators from around the country, sharing the protocols developed during the research phase of the work performed last year.
- Complete the installation of the Museum rooms.
- Video Project. Using some of the footage shot during the concert production to build a new story to share with the public.

Call if you see a specific project that you might wish to underwrite.

Later this year, a strategic plan will be crafted by the Board that will refine a timeline and budget for the next decade of Patronato's work.



PATRONATO SAN XAVIER

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www.PatronatoSanXavier.org

Help Preserve San Xavier:

An Important part of our Cultural Heritage

Ways to Help. If you believe in Mission San Xavier's undeniable Power of Place, you can stay connected and make a difference by:

- Becoming a monthly donor supporting the Annual Fund, the Restricted Conservation & Preservation Fund or the Endowment
- Joining, renewing and increasing your fiscal year giving as a *Friend of Patronato*
- Making a gift to the Conservation & Preservation Fund (Current Priority Project: The Iconic Façade)
- Making a "forever" gift to our permanent Endowment Fund
- Making a gift in honor or in memory of someone special
- Leaving a Legacy Gift to the Patronato as a member of the 1783 Society
- Attending our events throughout the year
- Encouraging a friend to partner with us, or attend an event
- Taking a Docent-led Tour when available
- Connecting with us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube
- Visiting our website and subscribing to our eNewsletter at www.PatronatoSanXavier.org/email-sign-up

Make your gift today by:

Phone: 520.447.8940

Mail: Patronato San Xavier, PO Box 522, Tucson Arizona 85702

Online: www.PatronatoSanXavier.org

*Please let us know
how we can assist:*

Executive Director:

Miles Green

miles@patronatosanxavier.org

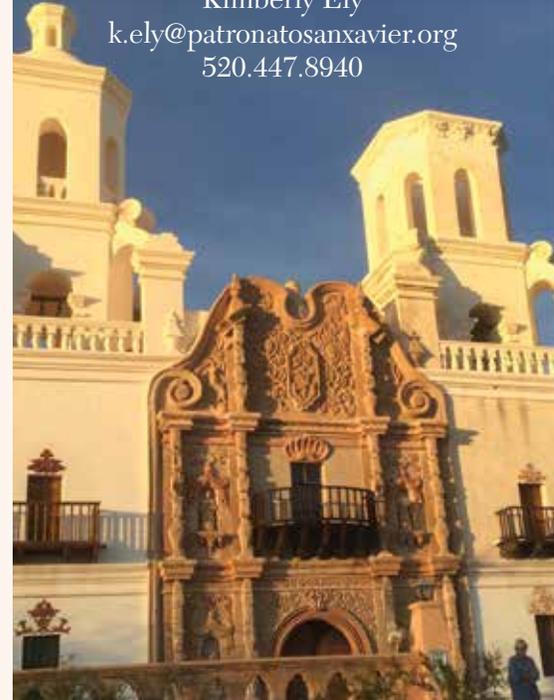
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