

# *Annual Report 2018-2021*



**WESTCOTT**  
**CEMETERY** ASSOCIATION

# FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



February 2022

Dear Friends and Fellow Descendants,

The start of a new year is a good time for us to look back over what we've accomplished so far and to set our sights on goals for the coming year. In this, the Westcott Cemetery Association's first Annual Report, you'll find a brief recap of the past four years and our plans for 2022 and the future. We have been so fortunate to have your support — whether you've been a cheerleader, volunteer, or donor — and we're excited to share this good news with you.

Now that WCA has the legal authority to make improvements at the historic McDaniel Street Cemetery, we finally can invite volunteers to join us for clean-up days and other events. This year, we'll also start reaching out to our neighbors to find out how the cemetery can begin to serve as a new, accessible greenspace for the surrounding area. The Westcott portion of the cemetery was founded in the 1800s to serve the community, and we look forward to making it an asset that the neighborhood can be proud of and use, in ways that are respectful and appropriate for a burial ground.

This annual report includes a summary of our financial position and a list of all who have made our work possible to date.

Please don't hesitate to sign up for our newsletter or to let me know if you have any questions or ideas that you'd like to share. And if you know any descendants of the people buried at the cemetery, we would love to hear from them!

Thank you again for your interest in the historic McDaniel Street Cemetery and for supporting the Westcott Cemetery Association.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara W. Haynes".

Sara Haynes  
President, Board of Directors  
Westcott Cemetery Association, Inc.

*The cover photo was taken by members of the Texas Historical Commission Cemetery Preservation Program staff in 2005. It provides a reminder of what the cemetery could look like again, as our work progresses.*

# ABOUT MCDANIEL STREET CEMETERY

## 1850–1900

In the 1850s, Richard D. Westcott bought 696 acres of land and established a homestead. After his wife Almira's death in 1869, he began to give parcels from that property to his children—all daughters. The land given to the youngest daughter, Jennie Gammon Westcott Kendall, in 1889 included the Westcott family homestead and cemetery. Kendall formally dedicated the ¼-acre Westcott family cemetery for community use in 1893.

Over time, Kendall sold land from her parcel to a small group of intermarried neighboring families, including the McDaniel, McDonald, Cours, Farmer, and Schuller families. The remaining land became part of the larger cemetery property. John Farmer later added a ¾-acre of land to the west side of the cemetery. Family plots for the Farmer, Cours, and Poirier families were also established.

## 1900–1960

During the early 1900s, John Farmer sold other land that he owned to raise money for the cemetery's maintenance. People continued to be buried there through the early 1960s.

## 1970–2018

The cemetery was maintained by volunteers until at least 2005. At some point thereafter, it fell into disrepair. Between 2013–2018, the neighborhood rallied to clean up the cemetery and keep it mowed. Their efforts resulted in a 2013 Keep Houston Beautiful Mayor's Proud Partners Award for the Greater Northside Management District and City of Houston Department of Neighborhoods.

## 2018–2021

In 2018, the Westcott Cemetery Association was formed by three Westcott descendant siblings. Each year, WCA made connections with more and more descendants and community members and organizations.

In 2021, working with Texas Historical Commission, the previously unnamed property containing the Westcott and other family cemeteries was collectively named McDaniel Street Cemetery and designated a Historic Texas Cemetery. Westcott Cemetery Association became the legal conservator of the cemetery in October 2021 and today is responsible for its care and maintenance.



*Above: 2018 marker discovery and resetting by volunteer Roger Beeler*

# WCA ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2018–2019

## 2018

- Incorporated the nonprofit Westcott Cemetery Association with State of Texas
- Submitted IRS application for tax-exempt status

## 2019

- Received tax-exempt status from IRS
- Began participating in community events: Houston Northeast Community Development Corporation's "Jensen Jubilee" and the Greater Northside Management District's "Tour of the Northside"
- Developed relationships with Eastex/Jensen Super Neighborhood 46
- Received major gift from Nina Zilkha to hire consultants McDoux Preservation LLC



Left: Jensen Jubilee banner; center: WCA board members Sara Haynes and Tebben Lewis at 2019 Jensen Jubilee; right: Sara and Super Neighborhood 46 president Pastor David Smith at 2019 Tour of the Northside

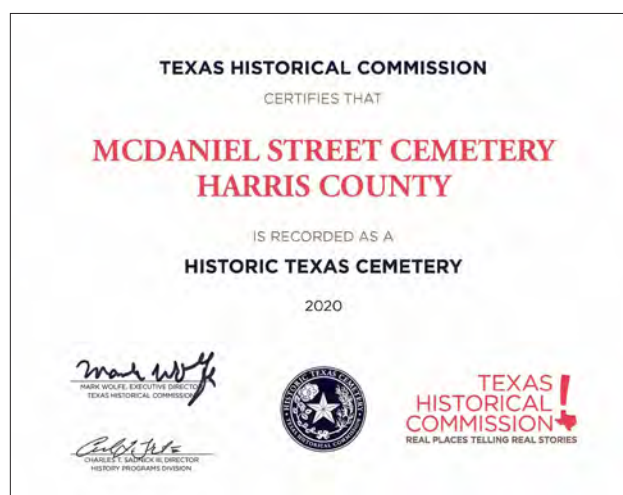


Left: Sara Haynes shares cemetery information at the 2019 Jensen Jubilee; right: volunteers at the May 2019 clean-up day at the cemetery included (from left) Houston City Councilmember Karla Cisneros, Linda Smith, and WCA board members Tebben Lewis and Loida Casares

# WCA ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2020–2021

## 2020

- Began working with historic preservation consultants at McDoux Preservation LLC.
- Completed the deed research/chain of title needed for Historic Texas Cemetery application, which established the legal boundaries of the cemetery. (Previously it was identified as a vacant lot in Harris County Appraisal District records.) Completed and submitted application for Historic Texas Cemetery designation.
- Applied for and was awarded a \$45,000 challenge grant from The Fondren Foundation to pay for the Cemetery Vision Plan and initial improvements to the cemetery
- Held clean-up days at the cemetery with the Marsh Young Professionals Group (photo below), Danielle Ford, Madison Stalder, Gerardo Murillo, Brandi Dowler, Steven Meta, and Daniel Duarte.



## 2021

### Fundraising

WCA was required to raised \$45,000 in matching funds in order to receive The Fondren Foundation challenge grant. We achieved that goal in October 2021, three months ahead of schedule, thanks to gifts from descendants, friends, the Board of Directors, and major gifts from The Summerlee Foundation and the Estate of Lynna Kay Shuffield.

Lynna Kay Shuffield was a Houston-area historian who worked tirelessly throughout her life to preserve and document Texas cemeteries. Ms. Shuffield, who died in 2018, was well-known for her passion for genealogy and the historical preservation projects that benefited from her inner need to make things right. Her mother's motto—"If it ain't right, fix it!"—became Ms. Shuffield's mantra as she came across situations where she could do a good deed or "fix it."

*Right: Lynna Kay Shuffield*



## Friend Raising

WCA kicked off The Fondren Foundation challenge in April 2021, hosting descendants, friends, community members, and local officials to showcase the cemetery's potential as a neighborhood asset. City Councilmember Karla Cisneros, County Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Pastor David Smith, and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee shared their support for the property's preservation and revitalization. Local resident Roni Cabrera brought her Art Bus with activities for the kids, and WCA advisory council member Mister McKinney provided his Houston History Bus and sound system for the speakers. Consultant Steph McDougal provided interpretive signs throughout the cemetery (and a map) to showcase special grave markers and tell the story of the cemetery property and plans for preservation. In October 2021, WCA and friends were back on the Houston History Bus to raise additional funds with a ticketed tour of historic downtown Houston, chaired by Lona McManus and Drew Anderson.



Top, left to right: Sara Haynes, County Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Pastor David Smith, Greater Northside Management District executive director Rebecca Reyna, Steph McDougal, and City Councilmember Karla Cisneros; bottom left, left to right: Lois Lewis, Quincy Harris, Yuroba Harris; bottom right (left to right) WCA Board member Gayle Roane and volunteer Barbara Hass.

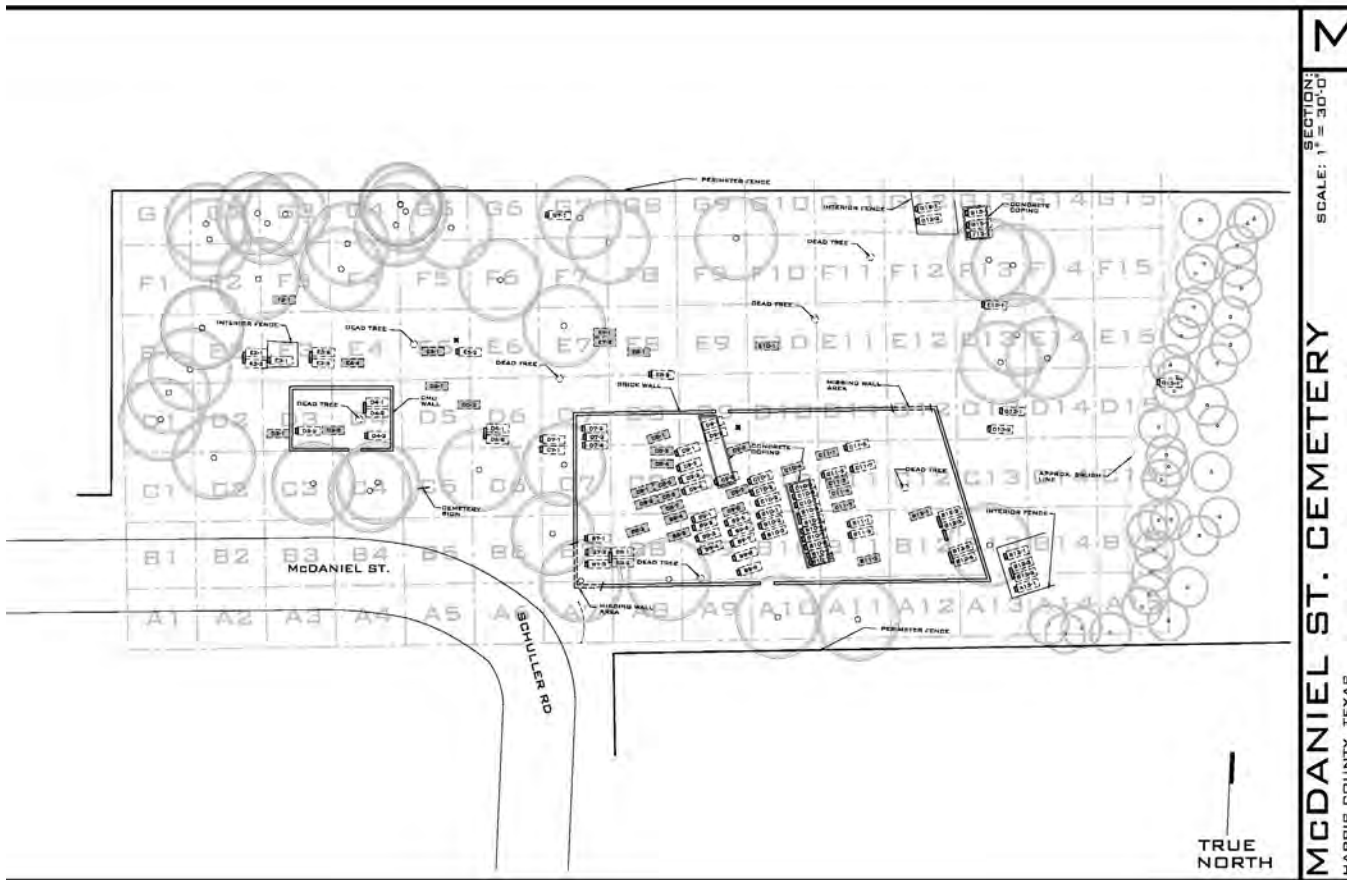
# Conservatorship

In October 2021, WCA was awarded legal conservatorship of the historic McDaniel Street Cemetery, enabling us to make improvements to the cemetery. We were required to post a public notice at the cemetery to notify the neighborhood (right).

Thanks to The Fondren Foundation, The Summerlee Foundation, and other generous donors, we were able to begin work right away.

We hired a new groundskeeper to mow, trim, remove fallen branches, etc. and installed a temporary security fence around the cemetery to prevent illegal dumping and deter vandalism.

We also hired Texas Cemetery Restoration Services to map all of the 78 grave markers in the cemetery using GPS technology and assess the condition of each grave marker. They provided us with a report for each marker with recommendations on how it should be treated going forward. Some grave markers have been toppled or damaged and need to be repaired or reset, while others just need to be cleaned. TCRS returned in December to conduct Ground Penetrating Radar investigation of the entire cemetery, identifying 32 potential unmarked graves (see map below).





**WESTCOTT** ASSOCIATION  
**CEMETERY**

Cemetery Improvements In Progress  
2021-2025

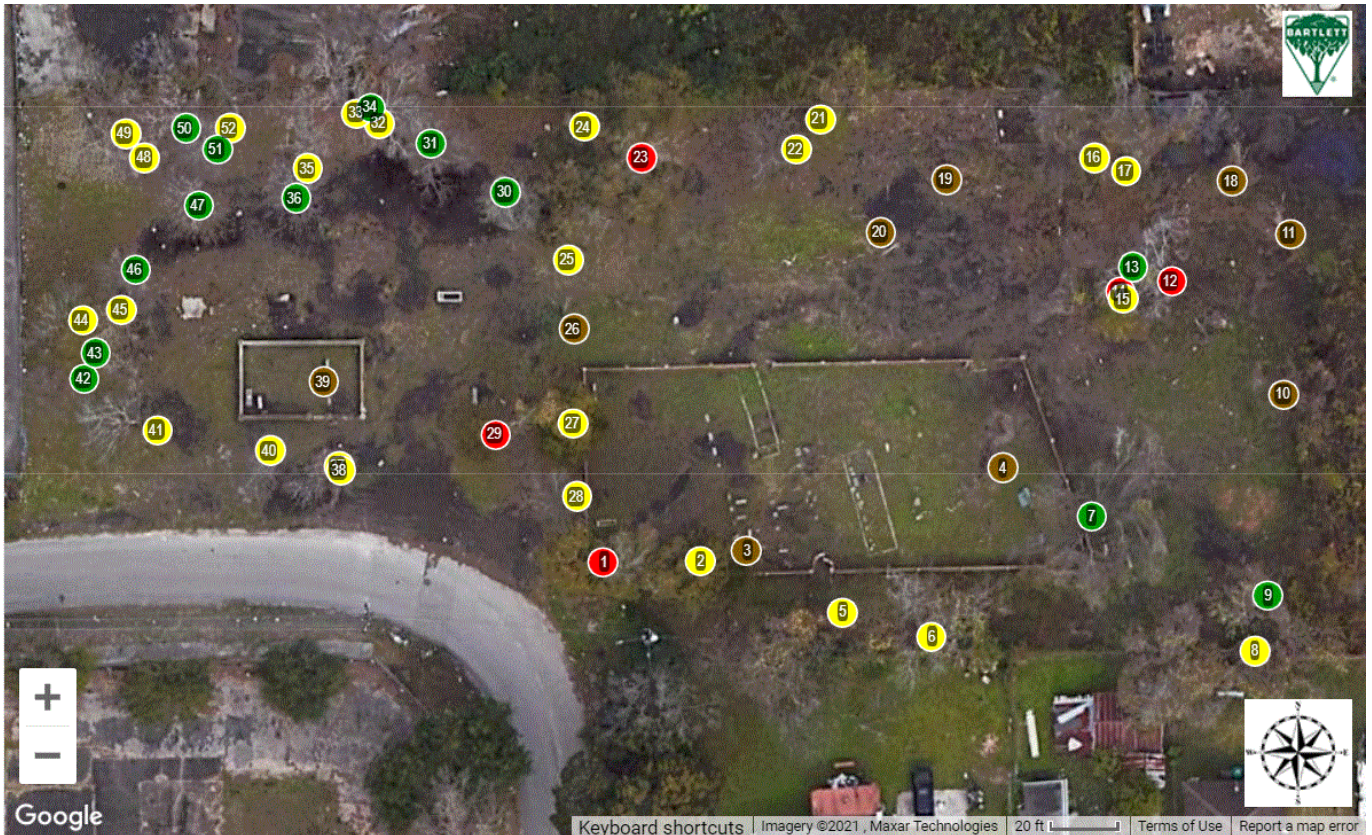
[www.westcottcemeteryassociation.org](http://www.westcottcemeteryassociation.org)

*Clockwise from top left: Westcott descendants from Dallas and Houston at lunch after the April 2021 event; Texas Cemetery Restoration staff during ground-penetrating radar investigation in October 2021; Art Bus at April 2021 event; Mister McKinney's History Bus party in November 2021; banner installed on security fence in December 2021.*



# OUR VISION

While 2022 is already off to a strong start, WCA is looking to the future. At the end of 2021, we received the report from arborists at Bartlett Tree Service, who we hired to evaluate each tree on the cemetery property. Based on their recommendations, this spring we will have seven trees removed which have damaged or are near the brick wall surrounding the Westcott Cemetery (within the larger McDaniel Street Cemetery). These are trees 1-7 on the map below.



**Condition:** ● Good ● Fair ● Poor ● Dead

Removing these seven trees will enable us to repair the brick wall in the future, depending on funding. We are currently looking for qualified brickmasons to assist us with this project.



Later this spring, Texas Cemetery Restoration Services will be back to reset and/or repair grave markers. Markers to be included in this phase of restoration are the most expensive to reset/repair:

Richard Westcott  
Almira Westcott  
Margaret Westcott  
James Westcott  
Charles Westcott  
Hampton Westcott  
H. Westcott  
Emma Westcott  
Josephine Scranton

John Farmer  
Margrate Prevett  
Marie-Adelaide Cours  
Arthur Cours  
Albert Cours  
Joseph-Almira Cours  
Eugene Cours  
Robert-Dora Blackwell

Anne Poirier  
Tryphena Preston  
Margaret Ansley  
Hettie Miller  
Harriet Gravis  
Mary Sayers  
George McDaniel

We will also hold a Volunteer Marker Cleaning day on March 19, 2022, as we begin reaching out to the surrounding residents to let them know what we are doing and how they can get involved.



WCA has also received proposals for the development of an online interactive map of grave markers, based on the mapping done by TCRS, and for conceptual designs by a landscape architecture firm with experience in Houston cemeteries. Finally, all of this information is being gathered into our Cemetery Vision Plan, which will guide our activities over the next several years.

Finally, we will continue community outreach, including visiting with our neighbors in the area around the cemetery and learning about their preferences for how the cemetery can become an asset to the neighborhood and a passive greenspace for their enjoyment.

# WCA 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WCA has grown from a three-member founding board to seven board members and an Advisory Council. We are now beginning to prepare for future sustainability. Descendants and community members are invited to become involved at a level that meets your personal needs. In the meantime, meet our Board Members for 2022.

## OFFICERS

Sara Westcott Haynes brings more than twenty years of nonprofit management experience. She served as a community council member of the David M. Underwood Chapter of the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance at University of Houston; completed the Nonprofit Executive Certificate program at University of Houston; is a graduate of Leadership Houston's XXV Class; and is active in various ministries at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church. Sara was elected president of the board of directors of The Council on Recovery (formerly The Council on Alcohol and Drugs/Houston) and is an honorary lifetime board member. After serving as the property manager of a historic real estate asset for a trust, Sara retired. She is the founding president of the board of Westcott Cemetery Association.



Loida Casares is a native Houstonian, growing up in the Bonita Gardens/Kashmere Gardens neighborhood, close to McDaniel Street Cemetery. Her father used to own Nick's Barbershop on Jensen, near the corner of Bennington in the 1960s and early 70s. She still lives nearby in the Lindale Park area. Loida volunteered in the past on the board of Ad2, a local advertising organization, as both the Diversity and Education Chairs, organizing diversity job fairs and shadow days for college students. She has also volunteered as a mentor with ProjectGrad, mentoring high school girls and as a mentor for University of Houston students in the Program for Excellence in Selling. Loida works in advertising by day for the Houston Chronicle and is a writer by night. She has been blogging at ShoeGirl Corner for over ten years, where she has blogged about Westcott Cemetery. She has read several times with a Houston literary group, Nuestra Palabra, Latinos Having Their Say and has appeared on their radio program on KTRU and Radio Pacifica. Loida was elected secretary of the board beginning 2019.

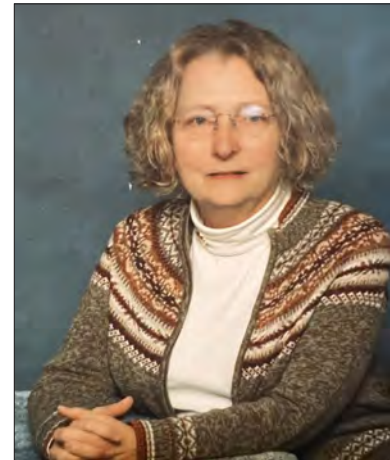


Donna S. Muñiz is a third generation Houstonian, a product of public schools and the Heights neighborhood where she grew up and still lives. She's a graduate of Texas Woman's University and Houston Baptist University, earning a BBA and MAP, respectively. She has worked in a multitude of non-profit organizations since the mid-1980s, including organizations with preservation and green space missions, primarily in a financial reporting role. She has a lifelong interest in Houston's architecture and history. Several years ago, she began to acquire rental properties in Houston's historic East End. She has renovated each of her properties with every effort exerted to preserve the historic exterior of the property. Donna took a job at a private equity funded mid-stream oil and gas firm in July 2018 and married in January 2019. Donna was elected treasurer beginning in 2020.



## ***DIRECTORS***

Penny Dunn spent the first twenty years of her life at 1717 East Crosstimbers, directly across from her grandparents' (Sam Houston Dickerson and Violet Rosalie Lotshaw) home which was built by Sam's dad, Cray Dickerson who is buried beside his wife, Arcilla Ray in Westcott Cemetery. Penny's great-great-grandmother Louella Whitaker Montgomery (Violet Rosalie Lotshaw's grandmother) is buried in Westcott Cemetery beside her husband, George Manford Montgomery. Penny has 10 family members buried in Westcott Cemetery. After attending schools in the neighborhood, Penny taught at Sam Houston High School and raised 11 children. Penny volunteered with Historic Hollywood Cemetery for many years.



Tebben Lewis is a native Houstonian. She grew up in the Archer Acres area, almost right around the corner from McDaniel Street Cemetery including Westcott Cemetery. She loves and continues to work toward cleaning and caring for her neighborhood to make it better and help those in need. She served as President of the Sunbeam Curry Civic Club for five years and as Secretary of Super Neighborhood 46. Tebben is a spokesperson for the Harris County Sheriff's Office Media Relations. She enjoys working with her neighbors, City of Houston, Harris County Sheriff's Office, churches and other agencies and businesses in and out of the area.



Lona McManus has a twenty-year track record in professional non-profit management and service as a fundraiser in the Texas Medical Center and as a development officer working at cultural institutions in Houston. After earning an MBA in 2020, she realized her professional aim as a lifetime resource for people to support them in making strong financial decisions and advancing the causes they care about. Lona's work in the community focuses on economic justice, equity and inclusion. Lona is devoted to her Bikram yoga practice, is an avid theater fan, and she is married to Drew, the light of her life, for the past fourteen years.



Gayle Haynes Roane contributes fifteen years of nonprofit financial experience to the board as the founding treasurer of Westcott Cemetery Association. Gayle served as the Financial Director and Assistant Director of Development of a local nonprofit. She spent a year-and-a-half working at City Hall, for a city Council Member. She volunteered with the American Cancer Society and served as a board member on the Friends of Stehlin Foundation. She also served on the PTO board at her children's schools. Since retiring in 2010, Gayle has acted as treasurer for a small family-owned LLC.



## ***ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS***

Individual Advisory Council members in 2022 include:

- Dylan Carroll
- Todd Figura
- Mister McKinney
- Peter Patout
- Vann Vaughan
- Nina Zilkha

Representatives of the following organizations also serve on the Advisory Council:

- Greater Northside Management District
- Houston Northeast Community Development Corporation
- Sunbeam Curry Civic Club

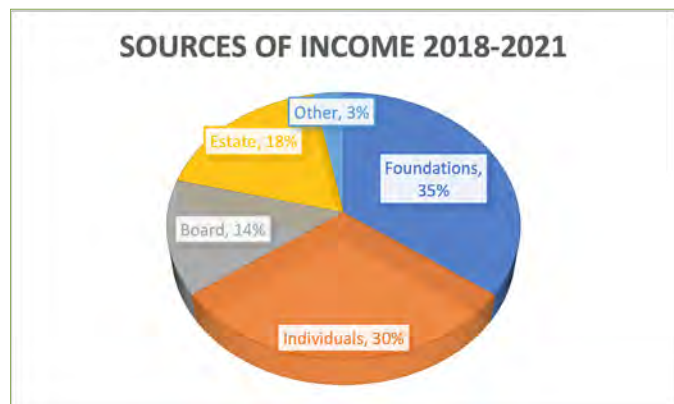
Our gratitude to former board members Perry Baraban and Justin Steen; and to Roger Beeler, representing Preserving and Protecting Texas History on the Advisory Council.

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

WCA had raised enough money over the past few years to enable us to begin work in the cemetery as soon as we were granted conservatorship in Fall 2021, and we are well-positioned for our work in 2022.

Year	Income	Expenses	Net Income	Balance
2018	\$5,217	\$4,717	\$500.00	\$500.00
2019	\$19,934	\$3,934	\$16,000	\$16,500
2020	\$8,279	\$17,386	-\$9,107	\$7,393
2021	\$108,213	\$45,634	\$62,558	\$69,951
2022 (Projected)	\$38,400	\$93,494	-\$55,094	\$14,857

Our expenses over the 2018–2021 period were primarily for programming (57%), with the remainder divided between professional services (16%) and administrative/fundraising costs (27%).



WCA's budget for 2022 includes:

## Income

\$26,500	Income to be raised from donations
\$7,150	Income to be raised from events
\$4,750	Donations pledged by Board of Directors

## Expenses

\$36,000	Vision Plan and vendor management
\$17,000	Arborist services
\$12,000	Grave marker resetting and repairs
\$10,000	Landscape architecture conceptual design
\$6,000	Admin/Fundraising (includes general liability insurance, community engagement, nonprofit donation software, etc.)
\$5,050	Cemetery security/maintenance
\$5,000	Interactive online StoryMap of grave markers/burials

# OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Special thanks to everyone who has made this possible:

## *Individual Donors*

Marie Adams  
Ed Allday  
Gayle Alstot  
Anonymous 1  
Anonymous 2  
Berkely Arrants  
Tony Asch  
Perry Baraban  
Sally Bartolameo  
Douglas Bell  
Ginger Bertrand  
Gina Biondo  
Cindy Bishop  
Brigitte Z. Bosarge  
Martha Bowen  
Suzanne Brooks  
Victor Brooks  
Carlie Brown  
Clay Brown  
Loida Casares  
Barry Caver  
Deborah Charette  
Joseph Cooper  
Marianne Crain  
Sharon Crane  
Carolyn Critz  
Penny Dunn  
Melanie and Ira Ferguson  
Donna Firman  
Laura and Todd Figura  
Weezie Fitzhugh  
Bill Flores  
Catherine and Keith Frazier  
Anne Gee  
Hart Goodrich  
Lucy Goodrich  
Jolyn and Marc Greer  
Chuck Gulick  
Barbara Hartley  
Barbara Hass  
Sara W. Haynes

Blair and Mike Henderson  
Rhonda Holley  
Stacey A. Holzer  
Bob Ittner  
Clare Jackson  
Gretchen Jameson  
Gail Jordan  
Bill Keenan  
Betty Key  
Johnna Kincaid  
Mike Kuhn  
Victor Lamas  
Lynn Lasher  
Mary Ann Layden  
Kathleen Leonard  
Tebben Lewis  
Tom Looney  
Judy and Jeff Lyman  
Michelle Lynn  
Bailey McCarthy  
Steph McDougal  
Patricia McMahan  
Lona Leigh McManus  
Kimberley Mickelson  
Margie and Brannon Miley  
Ginger Millican  
Mister McKinney  
Nancy Mosley  
Jane Mulholland  
Donna Muñiz  
Jenny Murphy  
Kerry Murphy  
Margaret O'Donnell and Rick  
Herman  
Peter Patout  
Marcia Patrick  
Mollie and Malcom Pettigrew  
Gayle and Tad Roane  
Shelley and Ricky Roquemore  
Mimi Roth  
Kirsten Schachter  
Pamela M. Shaw

Leigh Sinclair  
Barbara and Chris Spofford  
Mary Ann Starks  
Perla and Justin Steen  
Judy Stockton  
Gregory Stokes  
Tye P. Taft  
Jamie Mize and Dan Tidwell  
Mills Toomey  
Juan Torres  
Anibeth Turcios  
Carlisle Vandervoort  
Vann Vaughan  
Jaqueline Velasquez  
Carolyn Watson  
Byrom Wehner  
Dolores Westcott  
Mike Wheeler  
Karen LeBlanc Winkelman  
Nina Zilkha

## *Foundations*

The Fondren Foundation  
The Summerlee Foundation

## *Estate Gift*

Estate of Lynna Kay Shuffield

## *Corporations*

Horizon Advisory Group  
Houston Northeast Community  
Development Corporation  
Mass Mutual

## *In-Kind Support*

Susan E. Backes  
Iglesia Vision Global  
Keurig/Dr Pepper  
Steph McDougal  
Middle Tennessee State University  
Mister McKinney  
Teresa Southwell



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[info@westcottcemeteryassociation.org](mailto:info@westcottcemeteryassociation.org)