

December 4, 2024

**TO:** Monique Hill, Asst. Director  
Park & Recreation Department

**FROM:** Rena Lawrence, Historic Site Supervisor  
Log Cabin Village, PARD



**SUBJECT: ACTIVITY REPORT – NOVEMBER 2024**

**FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS:** **AASLH:** American Association for State and Local History, **ALHFAM:** Association for Living History, Farm, and Agricultural Museums, **COFW:** City of Fort Worth, **FWNCR:** Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge, **FWISD:** Fort Worth Independent School District, **LCHF:** Log Cabin Heritage Foundation, **LCV:** Log Cabin Village, **MH:** Monique Hill, **NCPH:** National Council on Public History, **PARD:** Park & Recreation Department, **PMD:** Property Management Department, **RL:** Rena Lawrence, **SN:** Shae Nawoj, **TAM:** Texas Association of Museums, **TCU:** Texas Christian University, **THC:** Texas Historical Commission, **TLHA:** Texas Living History Association, **VZC:** Van Zandt Cottage, **VZCFI:** Van Zandt Cottage Friends, Inc.

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**Events/Classes:**

- November 1: City of Fort Worth's **Arbor Day** program at LCV (50 participants—partnership with PARD Forestry Section)
- November 2: **Lone Star Dutch Oven Society** (Prairie Dog Chapter) cooking demonstration (128 participants)
- November 2: LCV Historical Interpreter **Albert Nungaray** presenting at **FWNCR National Bison Day** program
- November 10: **Chronicles of a Crime: A Village Murder Mystery** program (65 participants)
- November 30: **Fermented Foods Workshop** (11 participants); presented by Argentina's own "**La Fermentadora,**" **Daniela Lopez Camino**, a **culinarian** who tours the world teaching about the ancient art of fermentation

**Meetings/Happenings/Consultation:**

- November 1: RL provided **log cabin consultation** via email to Beverly Short with the **Johnson County Historical Society**
- November 4: RL attended the **Texas Lakes Trail (TLT) quarterly meeting** (Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum); RL serves on TLT's **Visitor Experience** sub-committee
- November 6: RL/SN met with **local nonprofit consultant** Melissa Prycer re: **current issues in the museum/history field** and LCV updates
- November 6: SN met with **COFW Volunteer Coordinator Madalyn Mackey** re: the limitations and **future of LCV's volunteer program**
- November 8: SN attended **NCPH's Long-Range Planning Committee** meeting via Zoom; SN was recently appointed to this national committee
- November 12: RL attended MH's **Recreation Division** leadership staff meeting at new City Hall
- November 12: SN met with Safety Officer Keith Jones to **investigate a recent fall/Worker's Comp claim** at LCV
- November 19: SN participated in an **Exhibit Design and Artifact Care Workbook** focus group with consultants from Story + Reason via Zoom; this is part of a larger project focusing on the **development of a workbook focusing on Indigenous approaches** to traditional museum topics; museum professionals and archaeologists comprised this initial focus group

- November 20: SN attended the monthly **COFW Volunteer Coordinators** meeting via MStEams
- November 20: RL/SN met with **architectural historians Tyra Brunz and Mitch Ford (SWCA Environmental Consultants)** re: LCV operations and preservation; **Tyra attended RL/SN's recent presentation at Preservation Texas' Log Building Summit** and wanted to visit LCV
- November 20: RL attended the **PARD Park & Recreation Advisory Board** monthly meeting
- November 21: RL/SN met with friend/colleague **LeAnna Schooley (Director of TCU's Center for Texas Studies)** re: collaboration opportunities and the state of the history/museum field
- November 27: With the upcoming **retirement of longtime employee Steven Suarez**, RL/SN posted the **(Museum) Skilled Trades Tech II position** (closes December 11, interviews will be held shortly after); this is **the first time the position will be filled** since its strategic reclassification in 2022; the **reclassification combined our Maintenance Worker position with a vacant .5 Customer Service Representative I** position to create one with competitive pay and a more accurate reflection of job duties; while Steven currently focuses more on interpretation, the **newly hired person will truly be a facility caretaker** able to handle minor repairs, maintenance, groundskeeping, and basic cleaning to **reduce reliance** on PARD Trades, PARD Central Operations, and PMD, who are often themselves strapped for human and other resources; this will allow us to engage the external entities for major projects while **handling small but urgent tasks** on site.

#### Media/Marketing/Tourism/Advertising:

- **Guest register (October 1 to date):** 35 states, 25 countries

#### Training:

- November 7: RL/SN attended the **Feeding the Unseen (ALHFAM Historic Foodways Committee)** webinar presented by Michael Twitty; Mr. Twitty is a culinary historian specializing in the various foodways of **southern, Jewish, African, and enslaved ancestors**
- November 13: RL/SN attended the **2024 COFW Employee Values Summit**
- November 15: SN attended the **Understanding Place: Relationship Building with Indigenous Communities** (Museum Association of New York) webinar via Zoom
- November 20: SN attended the **Lead Yourself/Winning Culture (COFW Emerging Leaders—Session 2)** at new City Hall; SN is in the year one cohort of COFW Emerging Leaders

#### Maintenance/Site Improvement:

- November 2: **Greater Fort Worth Herb Society** monthly workday at LCV
- November 5: Caleb (PARD Trades) **adjusted the timers** on the LCV landscape lights
- November 7: Russell Broome (Lookup Construction Services) measuring **grist mill waterwheel**; PMD has contracted with Lookup for **waterwheel replacement** (no cost to LCV); there is no estimated completion date yet
- November 14: Art/Caleb (PARD Trades) **replaced bulb/fixed LCV landscape light**
- November 21: Mason and others (PARD Trades) **moved five cubic yards of dirt from service drive to large border planters** (after RL/SN realized this project was too large to be completed by shovels/wheelbarrows alone)
- November 25: James (PMD) fixing **light socket in LCV's museum store**
- November 26: Jeff (Cantu) completed **monthly pest control** at LCV and VZC
- November 26: Edgar (PMD) **cleaning/fixing heater** in LCV women's restroom
- November 26-27: Sergio, Mason, and others (PARD Trades) **rebuilding pergola** in LCV herb garden