

8/22/2019

Dear Historical Landmark Commissioners,

My wife and I moved to the East Side in 2012, and were honored to have known the remarkable Eulalio Edward Rendon for the last six years of his life.

During that period, we spent many hours at his home at 1705 Haskell Street, either at meetings or family functions.

Our introduction to Welo's (as everyone called Edward Rendon), home was an interesting one-- the house façade, porch and walkways created by Edward Rendon's own hand labor, and remarkable masonry skills.

Never had we been in one place so teaming with advocates and activism. We later learned the house had been a hotbed of activism for more than 30 years!

- The Town Lake Boat Races were sent packing after community meetings at 1705 Haskell.
- The East Town Lake Citizen's Neighborhood Association, the first of its kind on the East Side, was founded at 1705 Haskell and continues on today.
- A Town Lake Park Master Plan predating the 2014 Master Plan by 30 years was first conceived at 1705 Haskell.
- The Holly Power Plant Decommissioning started here and ended in talks with the City leading to the dismantling and complete removal of the plant.
- The East Town Lake Citizens Park Planning Committee convened at 1705 Haskell to craft a community response to the Festival

Beach/Edward Rendon Park Master Plan that led to Council adoption of a compromise plan that let all sides of the debate win.

- Arte Texas launched at this location to begin restoration of local art murals.

Countless community-based events including charities, home repair and elder education programs and so many others were born or found expression in this home. Many more such events occurred before our arrival in the neighborhood. The house often teamed with prominent community organizers and advocates.

Most importantly, this home, though humble, a community found its voice and its strength. Community leaders emerged, now either respected or fondly remembered, from the front door of the home of Eulalio Rendon, and they helped Austin into a new era.

We hope that you will honor this wonderful center of caring, of community involvement, wealth of culture and now history, with historical designation. If any East Austin home deserves it, this one does.

Sincerely,

Phil Thomas & Carol Stall  
Holly Neighborhood