



200 S. Lamar Boulevard, Austin, TX 78704 | 512-974-6700 | austintexas.gov/parks

For immediate release:

August 14, 2020

Media Line: Austin Parks & Recreation Dept - Communications & Engagement Office, (512) 974-6723

All Together Here: A Community Symposium for Discovery and Remembrance

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) presents “All Together Here: A Community Symposium for Discovery and Remembrance,” an online public symposium October 9-10, 2020.

In 2016, during the rehabilitation of the [Oakwood Cemetery Chapel](#), archeologists monitoring construction discovered human remains beneath the chapel footprint. Following careful exhumation and analysis of the artifacts and burials that date from the nineteenth century, a detailed report with findings was released in May 2020.



The online symposium will provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about the project and what the field of archeology can reveal about people who lived more than a century before. The event will also provide an

opportunity for the community to provide ideas about how these individuals are honored and memorialized. The symposium will be divided into two key themes:

Day 1: Discovery

Friday, October 9, 2020, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Day 1 sessions will address the archaeologist's report and what it means. Participants will hear from the project team members involved in the exhumation, professional analysis as well as the impending reinterment. Additionally, researchers from the University of Connecticut who are partnering with the City of Austin will discuss what DNA analysis can reveal about the individuals from the past and the opportunities for locating descendants.

Day 2: Remembrance

Saturday, October 10, 2020, noon to 5 p.m.

Day 2 sessions will cover the historical context of the people who were found and how the context expands our understanding of 19th century Austin, cemetery history, and cultural expressions of grief and reverence of ancestors. In addition, we will explore how the City of Austin's process can be improved in the future and what the community would like to see at the site as a permanent memorial.

Speakers and panelists include local community advocates, cemetery stakeholders, local and national archaeologists, and renowned historians. The two-day symposium will be broadcast online and through live social media channels.

For more information on the symposium, visit the [Oakwood Cemetery Chapel Rehabilitation project webpage](#).

###

About Oakwood Chapel

Through historical tours, exhibits, events and memorial services, the Oakwood Cemetery Chapel provides a place to connect, heal and reflect, that is open to all.

For more information:

[Oakwood Cemetery Chapel](#)

Museums and Cultural Programs Division

Parks and Recreation Department

City of Austin

1601 Navasota Street

Austin, Texas 78702

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. For assistance please contact (512) 974-3914 or Relay Texas 7-1-1.