

The Tile Heritage Story

How DID Tile Heritage come to be? Thirty years ago, during the first few days of January 1987, the Tile Heritage Foundation was conceived while Sheila and Joe were driving back to California from a holiday in Arizona.

Since leaving McIntyre Tile Company two years prior, Joe had been engaged unearthing the history of California tiles, seeking information in libraries and interviewing the old timers in the industry. Although little had been published on tiles at that point, every story we heard opened new doors that resulted in helpful discussions as we attempted to trace the origins of tiles adorning the architecture throughout the state and beyond.

It was the people we met, contractors, dealers and the tile makers themselves who encouraged both our excitement and determination to continue. Many remarked “Let us know what we can do!”

On the 4th of January we stopped at a bookstore in Santa Barbara and purchased Anthony Mancuso’s book on forming a nonprofit organization. We then went to work preparing the necessary paperwork and submitting it all to the state and feds: we received our 501(c)(3) status six months later. For the first time in our nation there was now an organization specifically designed to research and preserve America’s ceramic surfaces. Imagine that!

Although historic information began to flow into our library from throughout the country, support through membership development was a deeper challenge. “Flash Point,” our quarterly news bulletin first published in 1988 helped a great deal, and as we began focusing on public education, presenting annual symposiums in cities across the country, more and more people and companies joined and generously supported the Foundation.

Work with others, share with others and together create and support an American tile archive for posterity! Today Tile Heritage embodies a validation of the industry, past and present, and we have deep gratitude for the financial support of this enterprise by so many over the past 30 years. Thank you all!

Sheila Menzies & Joe Taylor



The THF logo was designed by Earl Rand Barnett, a California architect, and produced by Solon & Schemmel, San Jose, circa 1920s



Tile Heritage Foundation
www.tileheritage.org

***TEAM UP with Tile Heritage . . .
. . . EMBRACE the community!***



Document, Protect, Preserve, Ceramic Surfaces in America

Tile Heritage Foundation Today

The Tile Heritage Foundation, founded in 1987 and having amassed information about ceramic surfaces for thirty years, is today ideally positioned to provide information and related services to the industry and to the public to assist in the preservation of these culturally significant claddings.

The Foundation's library and research facility, open to the public by appointment, contains a large selection of books and catalogs about tiles worldwide as well as files on companies that have produced and installed tiles and architectural terra cotta in the United States during the past 150 years. In addition, the library contains "open files" on contemporary tile artists and artisans, architectural ceramists, mosaicists, and tile installers, into which information is added as received. Also, many of these "open files" have a corresponding digital file of images of work in progress as well as completed projects.



The Tile Heritage Collection, consisting primarily of historic tiles donated to the Foundation for safekeeping, represents one of the largest public collections in the country of decorative and glazed tiles from the early decades of the 20th century. These tiles, which are professionally accessioned, are available to galleries and museums for display and exhibitions as well as to the public for personal examination.

The primary goal of Tile Heritage is to assist in the preservation of ceramics surfaces: its legendary history, significant installations, as well as the objects themselves. By providing pertinent information, unbiased consultation and specific recommendations when needed, the Foundation serves both the industry and the public at large as no other agency can. The body of information on hand, coupled with expertise resulting from almost 60 years of combined experience in the field and access to a network of experts worldwide, provides assurance of both helpful and accurate answers to questions and solutions to problems.

Validation of the Art for Posterity With the development of the vision for Tile Heritage an important aspect has always been education through integration—the bringing together of all those with a vital interest in ceramic surfaces. To this end Tile Heritage opened the doorway through lectures, educational symposiums and hands-on tile and mosaic workshops. From these venues tile makers, merchants, installers, historians and collectors became linked with each other, utilizing the Foundation as a "hub" for communication and as a resource for information about the importance of tile making in both the historical and contemporary context.



Today this integration is manifest in the Foundation's collaborative relations . . .

. . . with the Tile Council of North America (TCNA), the Tile Contractors' Association of America (TCAA), the Society of American Mosaic Artists (SAMA), the National Tile Contractors Association (NTCA), the Ceramic Tile Distributors Association (CTDA), the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA), Mountain Re-Source Center/ Tile Partners for Humanity (MRC/TPFH), the Institute of Mosaic Art (IMA), the Handmade Tile Association (HTA), Artisan Tile Northwest (ATNW), among others.

Over time as technology has advanced, the means of communication and information gathering have altered the ways the Foundation operates, broadening the opportunities for those who wish to take advantage of the available resources. Augmented by the Foundation's website, www.tileheritage.org, social media such as Facebook & Twitter and with a conscientious response to incoming email, messaging and phone inquiries, Tile Heritage provides the public with pertinent information within the industry and a viable resource for architects, designers, teachers, schools and the community at all educational levels.

Honoring the work and artistry of tile makers and installers of the past and present through the archiving of their accomplishments validates the art for posterity. The Foundation is in the process of developing and maintaining this body of work as a living archive through applied technologies - digital files, imagery and finding-aid data-based indices.

The Foundation's website, www.tileheritage.org, **Twitter** <https://twitter.com/TileHeritage> and **Facebook** page www.facebook.com/TileHeritageFoundation, serves the public as a means of obtaining information about tiles and other ceramic surfacing materials.

Historic tile catalogs as well as back issues of Tile Heritage publications, including the THF Resource Directory, are available for sale, and access to the Foundation's library and photographic archives is publicly available by appointment.



Sponsors and contemporary tile artists and installers are honored in the Member Tile Gallery where images of their work are linked to their respective websites.



“E-News,” a periodic report online as well as the ongoing web posts to Shards ’n Snippets keeps members apprised of what’s happening at Tile Heritage as well as current events around the country. A periodical, **Tile Heritage: A Review of American Tile History**, is published in print from time to time as well. A Calendar of upcoming events and opportunities is maintained; a select number of Workshops across the country are featured throughout the year as well.

A Virtual Tile Exhibition is posted at the Tile Heritage web site. Ongoing “Exhibitions” will be developed as time allows featuring the Foundation’s permanent collection. The current exhibition has been promoted in industry publications and news articles. Future postings will appear in architectural and interior design publications as well.

TEAM UP WITH TILE HERITAGE

As a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) this is YOUR organization. [BECOME A MEMBER](#) or [SPONSOR](#) of the TILE HERITAGE FOUNDATION!

MAJOR DONOR INQUIRIES: We have an additional two year Archiving Fulfillment plan with budgets outlined for 2016 & 2017. (Details are available in a formal Strategic Plan document. Want the details? Email: foundation@tileheritage.org)

UTILIZE & CONTRIBUTE to its resources . . .

. . SUPPORT the archives for posterity

It’s YOUR industry’s HISTORY!

Benefits of Membership and Sponsorship

- Your company will be prominently displayed as a donor and supporter on the Tile Heritage website, print media and other media platforms.
- You will be sponsoring the ongoing research into the history of ceramic tile and other ceramic surfaces in the United States and abroad.
- You will be assisting in the continued development of a unique library of information and archival materials that are available to the industry and the public for purposes of research, restoration preservation and contemporary connections.
- You will become part of an international network of tile advocates & enthusiasts dedicated to preserving tiles, tile-related information and significant installations.
- You will receive “E-News” and Shards ’n Snippets periodically and the opportunity to link your company to the largest display of ceramic tile art online in the Member Tile Gallery. As a Sponsor, you will have a banner listing as well, a free listing in the Tile Heritage Resource Directory, member discounts on historic tile catalogs as well as on related services offered by the Foundation.
- Most importantly, you can rest assured that your support is contributing to the preservation of a national treasure: tiles produced and installed in the American tradition.



Document, Protect, Preserve, Ceramic Surfaces in America

TILE HERITAGE STAFF

Sheila A. Menzies - Executive Director

Joseph A. Taylor - Public Relations

Dale Wiley - Membership Secretary

Brechelle Ware - Collections Manager

Jim Hamilton - Archives finding-aid developer

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Alistair Hamilton, internet technology

Jenny Meeker, archives management

Linda Huang, social media

Chris Blanchett, tile historian

Olga Khroustaleva, tile researcher

Florian Dejako, IT and social media



Beautiful public tile art at Alpine Library, Alpine, California. Completed in April 2016 by THF Member Betsy Schulz Studio of Del Mar, California.

TILE HERITAGE FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Tile Heritage Foundation operates on a small budget.* These 2015 Tile Heritage figures reflect all income and expenses of our programs and services for the most currently filed 990 Informational IRS Return. With our present focus on the THF archives digitizing and finding-aid index project it is important to note that the development and expenses for that current, ongoing undertaking represent approximately 65% of the budget - approx. \$82,000.

2015 Total Income (all sources): \$ 126,230 2015 Total Expenses: \$ 133,729

Other Assets 12/31/15: \$ 52,951 Total Assets 12/31/15 \$100,823

Unrestricted Funds as of 12/31/15: \$36,760 Restricted Funds: as of 12/31/15: \$ 7,112

One scholarship was granted in 2015: \$2,500 Four THF Tile Prizes valuing \$400 were disbursed during exhibitions.

*Note: Copies of the Tile Heritage Foundation past Federal 990 filings are available online from the IRS or upon request: foundation@tileheritage.org. In addition the Foundation has a Strategic Plan with budgets in place (available upon request) for the Archiving and Indexing project. Our current primary focus as an organization is to MANIFEST the reality of our 30 year established mission and vision utilizing current technologies to protect and continue to Validate Tile Making in America for Posterity!



WAYS TO CONNECT WITH TILE HERITAGE

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