

SAC 2017 Events & Projects

March 4, 2017 & November 4, 2017: It's My Park Day, co-sponsored by The Austin Parks Foundation. Volunteers cleaned trash from Oakwood Cemetery at both events. Photography documenting completed at the November event with over 20 lots documented.

April 8, 2017: Speaker Series, Ray Spivey presented his documentary "The Last of the Moonlight Towers" in 2 sold-out screening sessions at Yarborough Library

July 2017: Launched revamped website site with new design and content. Relaunched SAC Instagram & Twitter accounts.

September 16-17, 2017: [Oakwood Austin Museum Day](#) tours, co-sponsored with the Austin Museum Partnership. SAC featured both guided and self-guided tours of Oakwood residents' gravesites with links to well-known Austin names like Bergstrom, Scarborough, and Zilker.

October 7, 2017: "SAC Member Appreciation Day" & Election of SAC Board for 2018-2019

October 28, 2017: 11th Annual Murder, Mayhem & Misadventure Tour

Initiatives Throughout 2017

- SAC Continued the Oakwood photo documentation project began over 10 years ago which is now 75% complete with over 10,700 monuments documented. Sessions are held annually October-May.
- Started a comprehensive gravestone cleaning program in 2017 using D2 Biological Solution to prevent further deterioration of historical markers from environmental hazards. Over 400 1800s-early 1900 gravestones were cleaned in 2017 in the Community Grounds (called colored/Mexican/Stranger-white in sexton records) and Old Grounds.
- Attended many meetings covering topics such as the Oakwood Chapel burials, Cemetery Rules Revisions, and other issues escalated by SAC on behalf of our SAC members. We completed a comprehensive research project on the burials in the area of Oakwood chapel and compiled a detailed report about the various burials we determined are located in the area near the chapel which include the newly located first "Mexican Grounds", first "Stranger Grounds" (white), and the previously designated "Colored Grounds."