

## Speaker Event: The Story of Flower Hill and the Smoot Family

(August 4, 2018 10:30am)

Please join us to learn about the Flower Hill Foundation and the Smoot family in North Village Branch Library at 2505 Steck Avenue. Presenters will be Robin Grace Soto, Executive Director of Flower Hill Urban Homestead Museum, and Tabita Molett, Board of Directors of The Flower Hill Urban Homestead Museum. They will bring a "Smoot-case" filled with some fun artifacts about urban life in early Austin with photographs, Smoot family letters, and a few items from the Flower Hill Urban Homestead Museum collection. The presentation will include some of Miss Smoot's footage including her oral histories!

Flower Hill is located at 1316 W. 6th Street in Austin. Built in 1877, this house was purposed as the home of Rev. Richmond Kelley Smoot and his family home. He, his children, and eventually his granddaughter, Jane Smoot, lived here until Miss Smoot's death in 2013. The house eventually grew into a fourteen-room, four-hall, and four-porch estate that would become a gathering place for "relatives, artists, students, professors, and religious leaders to live, study and work."

The Flower Hill Foundation was established in 2003 and honors the late Jane Smoot's vision to celebrate an Austin founding family of civil servants; preserve one of the city's last historic homesteads; and empower, inspire, and engage the diverse Austin community of today and tomorrow. For more information, visit: <https://www.flowerhillfoundation.org>

*Include photo with Tagline*



*Miss Smoot in front of the family home, Flower Hill*

### Presenters

**Robin Grace Soto**, Executive Director of the Flower Hill Urban Homestead Museum, has been working in non-profit management and direction and education for the past fifteen years. In addition to serving as the Director of Flower Hill, she is the Director of Camp Shakespeare at Winedale through the University of Texas, alongside the Founder of Shakespeare at Winedale, James Ayres. Mrs. Soto also serves on the founding Board of "Play's the Thing," a program offered to terminally ill children and their families through Dell Children's Hospital that explores the power of play and performance through Shakespeare's works.

**Tabitha Molett**, Board Chair of the Flower Hill Urban Homestead Museum, has been working in education and program development for almost twenty years. In addition to serving as the Board Chair for Flower Hill, she is the Dean of Faculty and Academic programs at a small private school here in Austin.