



HAWAII THEATRE CENTER PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL TRUST PRESENTS HIGHEST PRESERVATION HONOR AWARD TO HAWAII THEATRE CENTER TODAY, NOVEMBER 2

The National Trust for Historic Preservation presented its prestigious National Preservation Honor Award to the historic Hawaii Theatre Center at its week-long National Preservation Conference in Pittsburgh today.

HTC President Sarah Richards and Chairman Emeritus Robert R. Midkiff are in Pennsylvania accepting the award on behalf of the non-profit theatre, which has been called "The Pride of the Pacific." According to Richards, this is the most significant award given to the Hawaii Theatre since its reopening in 1996 after its interior restoration.

"Movie palaces are all about fantasy--but the restoration of the Hawaii Theatre has sparked a revitalization that is a vibrant reality," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "The restoration of the Hawaii is a lasting tribute to a community that refused to see a cherished icon lost forever."

In singling out the Hawaii Theatre for the award, the National Trust for Historic Preservation cited it as a "financially successful--and drop-dead glamorous--performance venue that attracts more than 100,000 patrons annually," saying its success has jump-started revitalization all over Chinatown, reversing decay and attracting reinvestment that has spruced up every building in the theatre's vicinity. More than 60,000 people now live in the area, and thousands more flock to the restaurants, stores and galleries that have sprung up since the theatre's reopening.

Considered the most important award in the national preservation arena, awards also were given November 2 to Amoskeag Millyard in New Hampshire, Cadillac Hotel in Seattle, Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, First Security Bank in Salt Lake City, Henry Ford Museum's Rosa Parks Bus in Michigan, Mather Tower in Chicago, North Dakota State University School of Visual Arts & Architecture, Save-a-Landmark Program by Hampton Hotels, Socorro Mission in El Paso, Southwest School of Art and Craft in San Antonio, Trinity Church in Boston, Vulcan Park in Alabama, Wentworth-by-the-Sea Hotel in New Hampshire, and 90 West Street in New York City.

The National Preservation Awards are bestowed on distinguished individuals, nonprofit organizations, public agencies and corporations whose skill and determination have given new meaning to their communities through preservation of our architectural and cultural heritage. These efforts include citizen attempts to save and maintain important landmarks; companies and craftsmen whose work restores the richness of the past; the vision of public officials who support preservation projects and legislation in their communities; and educators and journalists who help Americans understand the value of preservation.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, non-profit membership organization dedicated to protecting the irreplaceable. Recipient of the National Humanities Medal, the Trust was founded in 1949 and provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize communities.

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., it has 270,000 members and thousands of local community groups in all 50 states.

This latest award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation represents the Hawaii Theatre's second year in a row for being singled out for national attention. In 2005, the League of Historic American Theatres gave it the Award for Outstanding Restoration.