

News Release



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Volunteers lauded for preservation efforts of historic cemetery

HOUSTON, May 8, 2012 – The 2012 Mayor’s Citizen Award for Historic Preservation was awarded to two volunteers for their unwavering support of one of Houston’s oldest cemeteries.

Margott Williams and Charles Cook were the recipients of the award, which is given by Mayor Annise Parker annually to individuals who demonstrate dedication and support for local preservation. Williams and Cook exemplified those values in their efforts to restore, preserve and maintain Olivewood Cemetery, Houston’s oldest African-American cemetery.

The pair was presented with a proclamation that recognizes their work with the Descendants of Olivewood Cemetery, an organization where they serve as co-presidents, during a City Council meeting on May 8 at City Hall.

The recipients were nominated by the Education Committee of the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission and selected by the mayor.

Along with their past and present actions, Williams and Cook have beautification plans and other projects for Olivewood Cemetery to make sure it remains an historic, cultural and educational site.

Olivewood Cemetery was incorporated in 1875 and has more than 700 family plots. The eight acres were neglected in the 1960s before the non-profit was formed in 2003 to provide care and protect the historic grounds.

For more information about Olivewood Cemetery, visit www.descendantsofolivewood.org. For more about the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission, visit www.houstonpreservation.org.

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