



The Evolution of Caddo Indian Pottery: A Journey Through Time



Traditional Caddo homelands

Guest blogger and THF Director Lane Transou celebrates Archeology Month with an informative article about Caddo pottery...

Caddo Indian pottery is a significant aspect of the cultural heritage of the Caddo Nation, a Native American tribe that originally lived in the southeastern United States. Their traditional territory includes areas that are now parts of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. Their pottery, renowned for its intricate designs and functional artistry, evolved significantly over the centuries and reflected social changes, tribal economic status, and autonomy over time.

Early Beginnings

The origins of Caddo pottery can be traced back to 1300 BC. Early Caddo potters primarily created utilitarian vessels for everyday use, including cooking pots, storage containers, and ceremonial items. The materials used – clay tempered with natural substances like crushed shell or sand – were locally sourced and shaped by hand. These early pieces featured simple geometric designs, often incised or painted with natural pigments. The vessels were formed in coils added to a flat base and smoothed with round river pebbles. This method continued for centuries although design, shape and utilization evolved.

Classic Caddo Periods

As the Caddo society developed, so too did their pottery. By the time of the Caddo's more complex societal structures around 800 CE, pottery became...

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[Chase Kahwinhut Earles](#) teaches students how to make Caddoan pottery using traditional methods at a Caddo Mounds State Historic Site workshop in July 2024. The class was supported by a THF grant.



Photo by Killy Photography

THF President and CEO wins Award from Texas Society of Architects

This month, David Preziosi received the Award for Excellence in the Promotion of Architecture through the Media in Honor of John G. Flowers from the Texas Society of Architects. The award recognizes his media-savvy advocacy work to engage the public in the importance of preserving historic architecture. According to the Texas Society of Architects, he has demonstrated an exceptional ability to spark conversation about the built environment in Texas through his countless articles, lectures, exhibits, videos, books, and other media work. They also said his writing masterfully weaves together rich and timely insights, making complex topics both relatable and intriguing. [Read more...](#)

THF Welcomes Two New Directors at October Meeting

At their quarterly Board Meeting in Jefferson this month, THF Directors approved two new members. We welcome **Danelle Baldwin Smith**



of Dallas and **Matthew Boyle** of Irving to the board. Danelle and Matthew's expertise we be a great asset to our organization, and we look forward to their valuable input.

The board had a lovely time exploring Jefferson, and we extend a special thank you to our wonderful hosts from the Excelsior Foundation, the Jefferson Tourism Board, the Jesse Allen Wise Garden Club, and the Jefferson Historical Society Museum. You can [view photos](#) of the visit on our Flickr page.

Grants Update



Texas Archive of the Moving Image Receives 2024 Annual Grant

We are delighted to announce Texas Archive of the Moving Image (TAMI) as the inaugural recipient of Texas Historical Foundation's Annual Grants program. The nonprofit group has operated since 2003 conserving all manner of Texas film media and making it available to researchers, educators, students, and the interested public at no cost. The \$25,000 grant will support their Preserving KPRC: The Eyes of Texas

Pilot Project.

The effort began when the group recovered a trove of KPRC-TV Houston video footage, including the long-running and beloved *The Eyes of Texas*, bound for the landfill. While the footage was saved, the clock was already ticking... [Read More...](#)

Gault Film Premieres at Austin Film Festival

"The Stones Are Speaking" documentary premiered at the Austin Film Festival this month. The film highlights archeologist Dr. Michael Collins and his work to save and study the Gault site, a long-looted archeological site that turned out to be one



of the most significant in the Western Hemisphere. Olive Talley produced and directed the film. Former Executive Director of the Gault School of Archaeological Research and current THF board member Dr. Clark Wernecke featured prominently in the documentary and gives his review below. Plans for the film include showing it on PBS in the Spring. We will keep you updated!

"The film covers some of Dr. Collins's life journey of not only directing archaeology at the Gault Archaeological Site but personally saving it for posterity. The Gault Site has helped rewrite what we know about the peopling of the Americas with dates for the first "Texans" of 16-20,000 years ago. I attended the first showing (full disclosure – I'm in the film as well) to a crowded theater of very appreciative viewers. Olive received a standing ovation, as did Dr. Collins, and more than a few Kleenexes came out. A THF grant helped make this documentary happen, and it is something that I think we can all be proud of."

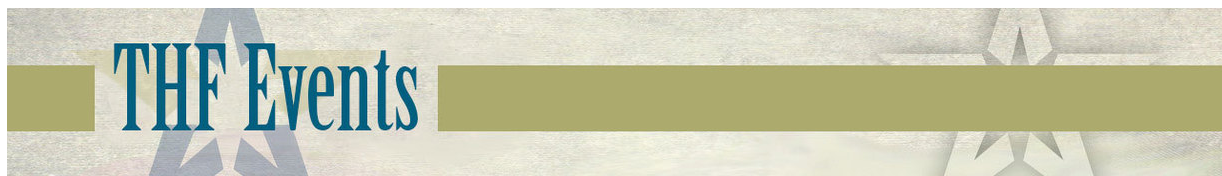
- Dr. Clark Wernecke, Archeologist and THF Director



Sam Houston Memorial Museum

THF Directors visited the Sam Houston Memorial Museum & Republic of Texas Presidential Library in Huntsville to present a grant to Sam Houston State University. The grant supports museum's digital artifact repository and work to make their expansive collection of Sam Houston artifacts available to scholars and the public.

A promotional graphic for a grant application deadline. The background is dark blue with a pattern of small white dots. On the left, there is a logo for the Texas Historical Foundation, featuring a star and the text "70 TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION EST. 1954". Below the logo is a yellow megaphone icon. In the center, a dark blue banner contains the text "DECEMBER 01" in white, followed by "GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE" in large, bold, yellow letters. To the right, a green starburst graphic contains the text "NOW ACCEPTING REQUESTS FOR UP TO \$8000" in white. At the bottom center, there is a red circular button with the text "CLICK HERE" in white.



Duda Forum: New Building in Old Cities

November 15-16, 2024 | San Antonio

Join us for the second annual Duda Forum on Historic Preservation and Sustainable Development! The Forum's theme this year is "New Building in Old Cities" and will feature presentations by public officials, architects, developers, and advocates who are involved in historic preservation and sympathetic new construction in historic settings. The Forum will start with an evening reception on Friday, November 15, followed by the sessions on Saturday, November 16th. Registration is \$20 and includes a box lunch on Saturday. Please register by **November 12th**.



[View Schedule | Register](#)

**VIEW
OUR
CALENDAR**



2025 TSHA Annual Meeting

Feb. 27 - Mar. 1, 2025 | Houston, TX

TSHA's Annual Meeting is the premier gathering for aficionados of Texas history, welcoming both seasoned professionals and independent scholars alike. The 2025 annual meeting includes 150 speakers and over 40 panels. It also offers immersive offsite tours and numerous special engagements. For more information or to

register, visit the [2025 TSHA Annual Meeting website](#).



Thank You

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