

Ada Anderson Fernandez

Lovingly only known as Pete Fernandez by her many friends

Pete Fernandez has been involved in so many facets of Irving. Her commitment to Irving reaches all areas of the cultural and historical parts of our community.

Pete was a founding member of the Irving Art Association. The group evolved when some artists first met in the homes and needed to expand. The organization was founded in 1956. Pete was an integral part of the many art shows and sales held at the Jaycee Center for the Art and a major part of the leadership of that organization.

Pete is a life time member of the Heritage Society as well as a past President. She was part of the creation of the Bracebridge Dinner held for a number of years recreating the Christmas story by Washington Irving. Her artistic ability and creativity served as the basis for the decorations and programming.

As a downtown merchant with an art shop called the Main Arterie, Pete led the merchants in serving the community in so many different ways. She and Pat Cook and others were the founding members of the original Main Event held in the fall to bring artisans, vendors, and the community together.

Pete was the person who “found” the depot which now stands at Heritage Park. As an artist, she was out in the country looking for area to paint when she spotted an old depot building. Through the Irving Heritage Society as well as the City of Irving along with support from the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau, an offer was arranged to purchase the depot and move it to what we now know as Heritage Park. Actually there were two depots for by the time an offer was ready to be made, the first building was no longer available....and a second depot was located.

Pete was one of the board members of the Irving Community Concert Association, founded in 1955, and now called the Entertainment Series of Irving. Her love and appreciation of art include music, stage as well as visual arts.

The cookbook created by Helen Widener for the Irving Centennial has on the cover a painting by Pete of the home of Robert and Becky Power. Numerous times she has generously donated artwork that she has created for the benefit of other organizations....without any compensation for her work. For a number of years, she did pen/ink drawings of the homes open for tours during the Irving Heritage Festival. These drawings were made into note cards to be sold for the benefit of the organization and the originals framed and given to the home owners as a thank you gift for allowing the tours.

She has served on various boards including the Parks board I believe as well as Keep Irving Beautiful.

The list of accomplishments goes on and on for this generous and talented lady!

Mary Higbie

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