



News Release

Media Contact: Claire Jenkins, claire@cibolo.org, 210.464.8676

**Cibolo Nature Center & Farm Receives
Preservation Texas 2016 Honor Award**

Award granted for rehabilitation of the Herff Homestead

February 23, 2016- BOERNE, Texas – The Cibolo Nature Center and Farm received the 2016 Honor Award from Preservation Texas, Inc. for their rehabilitation of the Herff Homestead located at the Herff Farm here in Boerne. The Honor Award was presented at a special ceremony at the historic State Theatre on Congress Avenue in Austin as part of the Preservation Texas 2016 Summit on February 18. Founded in 1985, Preservation Texas is a member-supported non-profit historic preservation advocacy and education organization based in Austin, Texas.

The Herff Homestead is listed as one of Preservation Texas' Most Endangered Places in 2010, and has been carefully restored through the efforts of the Cibolo Nature Center & Farm, an organization that has remained dedicated to protecting the Cibolo Conservation Corridor.

Built in 1883 by Ferdinand and Mathilde Herff, the house was at the center of a large farm near the newly established town of Boerne. Though the farm decreased in size over the years, the house and surrounding buildings were maintained for more than a century before the last inhabitant passed away and they fell into disrepair. The Friends of the Cibolo Wilderness purchased the farm in 2007 and spent years rehabilitating the Homestead as a learning center, carefully restoring the house while fighting battles to protect the property from sprawling, unchecked suburban development. The project team included the Cibolo Nature Center & Farm and Alamo Architects.

The Herff Homestead, which has been open to the public since 2014, serves as an anchor for the surrounding land, which is being transformed into a learning center where sustainable living practices and the stewardship of nature are celebrated.

“We are proud of the dedication of the Cibolo Nature Center and the citizens of Boerne for saving the Herff Homestead,” said Preservation Texas executive director Evan Thompson. “The preservation of historic rural resources is a critical issue in Texas, as we continue to lose farm and ranch land to sprawling, unchecked suburban development at a breathtaking pace.”

This award comes at a time when the Cibolo Nature Center & Farm is undergoing an exciting transformation. Plans are underway to turn the 60-acre historic Herff Farm into a regional center of sustainable living. With a mission to conserve natural resources through education and stewardship, we are showcasing best practices in energy conservation and renewables and thoughtful land management.

The Herff Homestead is located at 33 Herff Road in Boerne and is open for tours on Saturdays from 9:30am-12:30pm during our Farmers Market season which kicks off on March 12. On March 26, the Kendall County Historical Commission invites the public to join them at 10am on the Historic Herff Farm for another honor, the unveiling of a new Texas Historical Commission marker for Dr. Ferdinand Ludwig Von Herff.

The Cibolo Nature Center & Farm is a public greenspace with four distinct ecosystems. As a leader in environmental education in the Texas Hill Country, Cibolo offers outdoor programs for adults and children, plus 160 acres of natural areas for hiking and wildlife viewing.