

**Sunday, May 13, 2018**

**For Immediate Release**

**Blackwell School Kicks Off Final Phase of Building Report**

**Marfa, Texas**

The Blackwell School Alliance is hosting a public meeting on Friday, May 18, at 4:00 p.m. for the purpose of updating the community about its Historic Structure Report. The Alliance has hired an architect who specializes in historic preservation and adobe structures to complete the report. She will discuss what has been done already, what she will be doing over the summer, and why the completed report is important for restoring the building. In addition, guests will have the chance to ask questions and make comments.

Last summer, students from the U.T. San Antonio graduate program in Historic Preservation Architecture conducted research at the Blackwell School in support of the report, including investigations of the historic adobe school house to determine how and when it was constructed, review of historic documents and photographs, deed research, a Community Conversations event, and individual interviews with former students, educators, and community members.

Now our licensed architect will incorporate that research, conduct the remaining necessary investigations, and determine how the Blackwell School should be restored—in a way that both honors its history and follows historic preservation standards, and allows the Alliance to make necessary upgrades in utilities, safety, and accessibility.

“It feels good to step back and make a plan for our future,” says Alliance Vice-President Mario Rivera. “This report will allow us to approach foundations for grants and to take everything into consideration when we restore the building. It’s exciting to see a way forward for our museum.”

The Blackwell School Alliance invites former students of the Blackwell School, friends and neighbors, and everyone interested in the preservation of Marfa history to attend. The presentation is Friday, May 18, at 4:00 p.m. at the Blackwell School. It is free and open to everyone. The Blackwell School is located at the corner of South Abbott and Waco Streets in Marfa. For more information, please call Gretel Enck at 432.295.3359.

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