



**To Prospective Preservation Volunteers and Friends of Project RESPECT, Inc.**

Thank you for your expressed interest in our Cultural Preservation Work!

Project RESPECT is a State of Texas Cultural Preservation & Community Development organization that originated in calendar year 1995. We successfully constructed, designed, and aided in the passage of legislation to aid in the identification, preservation, and rehabilitation of abandoned and neglected cemeteries. We formed a lobby of City of Houston and State of Texas officials to pass HB-814 that is now a part of the State of Texas Statutes - Health and Safety Code - Section 711 - Historic Cemeteries. With that enabling legislation we are now embarked on a much more challenging project. Our organization goal is to organize and preserve African-American and Hispanic Cultural Resources in the State of Texas

In the State of Texas there are more than three thousand abandoned and neglected cemeteries. Many of these cemeteries are historic slave properties and have never been inventoried or digitally mapped. Some are in serious decay and many have disappeared into the landscape. Currently there is no other known organized plan to save these relics of history.

In our communities there are many structures and objects of history that need to be preserved for our legacy, our history, and heritage. Project RESPECT has chosen several local projects to cleanup, rehabilitate, restore, and preserve as historical landmarks. Our current project at Houston’s Evergreen Negro Cemetery has been underway for more than two years. During that period of time we have achieved major milestones. We have been joined by community partnerships, preservation organizations, and major corporations in our volunteer preservation programs, and project funding activities.

Project RESPECT has become a resource for communities seeking expertise and technical resources to identify, research, and preserve monuments of history in the State of Texas. The Evergreen Negro Cemetery project is an example of the work that needs to be accomplished. We are seeking working partners in this and other local community projects. We herein request your personal or any associated organization assistance.

At your convenience we invite you and/or your associated organization to join us in our clean-up and clearing projects in local communities. On select Saturday mornings volunteers join us in activities at the various cemetery sites.

Our Evergreen Negro Cemetery project includes all aspects of Historic Preservation, and is also inclusive of the following activities and programs:

- \* Fence construction
- \* Removal of debris
- \* Landscaping
- \* General rehabilitation of the cemetery property.
- \* Monument Treatment
- \* GIS/GPR and other technical projects
- \* Recording of Oral Community History

We have a huge amount of work ahead of us if we are to save what remains of the remnants of our history and heritage. Typically, these abandoned and neglected properties encompass several acres of land. There is a tremendous need for this work and you are an important ingredient in our projected success. Can we count on your participation?

A Project RESPECT Membership Recruitment officer will telephone you soon to encourage you to become a part of the Cultural Preservation and Community Projects we have identified and organized. A Project RESPECT brochure is attached for your reading and information.

If you have questions or desire additional information, please contact us at your earliest convenience. We welcome the opportunity to visit with you or your organization's representatives to explain our programs and activities. Our contact information is as follows:

**Project RESPECT, Inc.**

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Sincerely,

Project RESPECT, Inc.  
W. W. Jones, II, President/CEO



Project RESPECT  
A Non-Profit Preservation Association

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Preserving Our History and Heritage in Texas Cemeteries.

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