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2024 AIA Fellowship

Candidate Ronald H. Frantz, Jr.
Organization Christopher C. Gibbs College of Architecture, University of Oklahoma
Location Norman, Oklahoma
Chapter AIA Oklahoma;

Category of Nomination

Object 4 (Government, Industry Org, Public Service) > Public Service

Summary Statement

Ronald Frantz dedicates his career to revitalizing our historic communities. By equipping citizens with preservation training and tools, guiding design in preservation, and inspiring students in placemaking, he protects these architectural treasures for future generations.

Education

The Tulane University of Louisiana, 2004, Master of Architecture
The Tulane University of Louisiana, 1976-1981, Bachelor of Architecture

Licensed in:

Oklahoma

Employment

Christopher C. Gibbs College of Architecture, University of Oklahoma, 2011-present
Oklahoma Main Street Center, 2003-2011
The Frantz Alliance, LLC 2000-Present
Architectural Design Group (ADG), 1999-2000
Savannah College of Art & Design, 1997-1999
Oklahoma Main Street Center, 1986-1997
Rees Associates, Robison & Associates, and Triumvir Architecture + Design, 1981-1986
Logan County Historical Society, 1981-1984



September 30, 2023

Lisa Lamkin, FAIA, Chair, Jury of Fellows
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20006-5292

RE: Sponsorship of Mr. Ronald H. Frantz Jr., AIA, for Elevation to Fellow

Dear Chairperson Lamkin and Members of the Jury,

With great enthusiasm, I am pleased to offer my sponsorship of Mr. Ronald H. Frantz, Jr., AIA, the nationally recognized preservation advocate and educator, for elevation to the AIA College of Fellows under *Object Four: Public Service*. I have spent more than 25 years admiring Mr. Frantz's tireless work partnering with community members to transform and preserve historic built environments, serving the AIA and other community organizations, and educating and mentoring students and professionals with an empathetic and learner-centered approach.

I first met Mr. Frantz in the late 1990s, when I was co-designing the Oklahoma City National Memorial in memory of those affected by the domestic terrorist attack on the Murrah Federal Building. The horrific bombing killed 168 people and caused catastrophic damage to OKC's urban fabric, including dozens of historic buildings along "Automobile Alley," the widest street in downtown. Mr. Frantz was personally appointed by the Mayor of Oklahoma City to lead a large team focused on how this area could be revitalized. He became the unforgettable, passionate voice of the district through his tireless advocacy work and continued his partnership with the community when it joined the Oklahoma Main Street Center. I observed first-hand as it was added to the National Register of Historic Places and saw more than \$100 million in investment, and I can connect much of this extraordinary urban transformation to the leadership of Mr. Frantz.

The transformation of Automobile Alley is just one example of Mr. Frantz's dramatic ripple effect, which reads more like a wave across his 42-year career. I have personally witnessed his sustained, meaningful contributions through public service as a practicing architect and educator. As the state's first-ever Main Street Architect, Mr. Frantz ushered hundreds of Oklahoma Main Street Center-affiliated projects to fruition in communities big and small, with the crown jewel being his decades of work revitalizing Oklahoma's territorial capital city, Guthrie. In turn, these projects have served as key precedents informing national preservation experts and community leaders when he shared lessons learned in more than 220 presentations in 26 states and the District of Columbia, contributed to more than 20 national publications, and led workshops at Main Street America's Certification Institute for 20 years. From Texas to Washington to New Hampshire and beyond, Mr. Frantz's reputation, design drawings, advocacy, and expertise have affected not only the architecture profession, but the lives of historic communities nationally.

Perhaps more precious than his decades of impactful nation- and state-wide service, Mr. Frantz has been a hero and beloved professor to hundreds of planning, design, and construction students at the University of Oklahoma (OU) since 2011. As Dean of the OU Gibbs College of Architecture, I have observed the impacts of Mr. Frantz's leadership of the college's Environmental Design program, teaching of Historic Preservation classes, and contributions to OU's Institute for Quality Communities. Through this work, Mr. Frantz has generously and enthusiastically applied his professional experience to curate coursework and experiences that prepare future advocates and leaders for the architecture, preservation, and community engagement professions. He has led or co-led more than 60 environmental design interventions that have allowed students to serve, partner with, and benefit Oklahoma towns, cities, and neighborhoods. Many of his students have already received their own awards from the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office because of these service-learning efforts! Suffice to say, Mr. Frantz's ethic of service is rubbing off on the next generation.

In 2023, Ronald H. Frantz Jr.'s numerous, tireless contributions through public service to government agencies, industry organizations, and education were recognized with the AIA Oklahoma's highest honor, the Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Frantz is a vocal and productive ambassador, advocate, and community-engagement liaison who understands that our future is stronger when it's built upon the shared lessons of our past. I am extremely proud to support and sponsor his nomination to the AIA College of Fellows.

Sincerely,

Hans E. Butzer, FAIA, BAU_Butzer Architects and Urbanism
Dean, University of Oklahoma Gibbs College of Architecture
Recipient of the 2016 AIA Thomas Jefferson Award for Public Architecture

RONALD H. FRANTZ, JR.



Summary of Achievements

Ronald Frantz dedicates his career to revitalizing our historic communities. By equipping citizens with preservation training and tools, guiding design in preservation, and inspiring students through placemaking, he protects these architectural treasures for future generations.

■ Equipping Citizens with Preservation Training and Tools

As an architecture student in the 1970s, Frantz happened upon an article about a new National Trust for Historic Preservation pilot program to revitalize three historic downtowns. When the Trust expanded the program to create Main Street America (formerly the National Main Street Center), Frantz knew he would work with this program, somewhere, somehow, and proceeded to specialize in historic preservation. By 1986, he had earned his dream job when, after a national search for their very first architect, the Oklahoma Main Street Center selected Frantz. He worked with the Oklahoma Main Street Center for almost 20 years, where he developed collaborative relationships with community partners in over 100 Oklahoma towns, districts, and neighborhoods. Through these partnerships, Frantz equipped local Main Street board members, Design Committee members, volunteers, business owners, and building owners with knowledge about preservation techniques and methods to secure funding necessary to carry out revitalization projects.

Frantz's public service in this area has yielded incredible results, quite literally changing the landscape of Oklahoma's historic downtowns and main streets. For example, six of the towns Frantz partnered with have been designated Great American Main Street Award Winners by Main Street America. As evidence of his national reach, Frantz was invited to serve as a content advisor for Main Street America's Design Manual, and his Main Street façade work has been featured in more than 20 national publications, including the National Trust's *Preservation Press* and *Traditional Building*.

■ Guiding Design in Preservation

While much of Frantz's public service has involved partnering directly with community members, he has also shared his architecture and preservation expertise through service on national, regional, and local committees and boards. As a national leader in main street preservation techniques, Frantz played an active role on organizing committees for important national conferences, including the National Main Streets Conferences (1992, 2010), National Trust for Historic Preservation Conferences (1998, 2008), National Brownfields Training Conference (2022), and the Congress for the New Urbanism Conference (2022). His commitment to bringing together experts from across the country to share knowledge and experience helps to ensure that future leaders in historic preservation have access to the latest information and can learn from one another.

In Oklahoma, Frantz has personally overseen the preservation of main street façades in dozens of towns, including Okmulgee, Ponca City, Pawhuska, Miami and others. As part of this work, he prepared over 1,300 hand-drawn renderings of the total 1,551 as-built drawings of historic buildings and over 30,000 photograph slides that he donated to the Oklahoma Historical Society for future use in preservation projects. In recognition of his leadership, the collection has been re-named the Ron Frantz Oklahoma Main Street Collection. Further evidence of his service as an architect and preservationist, Frantz contributed to the preservation of key historic sites in Oklahoma's Territorial Capital, Guthrie, a National Historic Landmark District; Automobile Alley after the Murrah Federal Building bombing; and, an important Oklahoma City historic neighborhood, The Paseo. This illustrates Frantz not only "talks the talk" of preservation, but he "walks the walk," down to the finest detail.

■ Inspiring Students Through Placemaking

In 2011, Frantz turned his attention from training community leaders to educating the next generation of architects and preservationists when he joined the University of Oklahoma (OU) Architecture faculty. At OU, he serves as the Director of Small Town Studios in the Institute for Quality Communities, and as Coordinator of the Environmental Design Program and DesignWorks. Through this work, Frantz has introduced national and international students from multiple design disciplines to real-world projects, enriching the unique character of more than 60 Oklahoma communities and neighborhoods. As evidence of the impact of this program, his students have earned four Citations of Merit from the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office. For example, they prepared critical documentation to aid in preserving a historic reservoir in Altus, recommended new facility design in the Chickasaw National Recreation Area in Sulphur, one of Oklahoma's only National Recreation areas, as well as guidelines for historic homes in Sapulpa and Oklahoma City.

After 42 years working in hundreds of communities and neighborhoods, Frantz's legacy of public service has touched six generations, from working with building owners from the Greatest Generation to educating Gen Z designers at the university. Threaded across his career is a commitment to protecting architectural treasures for future generations by raising awareness of preservation techniques, offering expert guidance, and training the next generation of architects and preservationists.

Significant Work

Education, Employment & Leadership

Work History

2011 – present	University of Oklahoma, Associate Professor
2003 – 2011	Oklahoma Main Street Center, Architect
2000 – present	The Frantz Alliance, LLC, Vice President and Co-Owner
1999 – 2000	Architectural Design Group, Business Development
1997 – 1999	Savannah College of Art and Design, Historic Preservation Chair
1998	Savannah College of Art and Design, Assistant Dean
1996 – 1997	Oklahoma Main Street Center, Assistant Director
1986 – 1997	Oklahoma Main Street Center, Architect
1981 – 1986	Rees Associates, Robison & Associates, and triumvir architecture + design, Architect Intern
1981 – 1984	Logan County Historical Society, Preservation Consultant



Education

2004	Master of Architecture, Tulane University
1981	Bachelor of Architecture, Tulane University

Professional Registrations & Certifications

#2769	Licensed Architect, State of Oklahoma
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AIA Leadership & Volunteerism

2023	Educator of the Year and AIA Iowa Architect, Selection Committee
2008 – present	AIA Central Oklahoma Chapter, Committee Member & Volunteer
2005 – 2007	AIA Central Oklahoma Chapter, Board Member
2006	AIA Central Oklahoma Chapter, President
2000 – 2002	AIA Central Oklahoma Chapter, Board Member
1989 – 1992	AIA Central Oklahoma Chapter, Volunteer
1983 – 1986	AIA Central Oklahoma Chapter, Volunteer

Civic Activities & Affiliations, Select

1987 – present	Main Street America's Architects and Designers Committee, Member
1996 – 1997 & 2008 – present	Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office's Historic Preservation Review Committee, Member
2012 – present	Oklahoma Main Street Center's State Advisory Board and Foundation, Member
2012 – 2016	Oklahoma Art Council's Cultural District Initiative, Consultant
2015 – 2023	Congress for the New Urbanism, Member
1989 – 2019	Oklahoma's Annual Statewide Preservation Conference's Planning Committee, Member
2015 – 2018	Urban Land Institute, Member
2004 – 2017	Preservation Oklahoma Inc.'s Most Endangered Places Selection Committee, Member
2015 – 2017	Great American Main Street Awards, National Selection Committee, Member
2013 – 2014	Oklahoma's 26th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference Planning Committee, Co-Chair
2022 – present	Prairie House Preservation Society, Board Member

Significant Work

For more than 40 years, Frantz has been a leader in public service. This selection of projects represents his work creating preservation training and tools, providing design expertise to communities, and inspiring students through placemaking.



■ National Trust Main Street America’s Certification Institute, Professional Main Street Management

Washington, D.C.

Role: Lead Instructor (Design), Institute Planning Committee Member, 1989-2009
Organization: Main Street America

Frantz served as the Lead Instructor for Design during the annual Professional Main Street Management Certification Institute for more than 20 years. During each year’s Institute, Frantz taught more than 20 Main Street professionals from across the United States and abroad who had been admitted into this selective national four-part two-week program. This Institute played a key role in ensuring that the next generation of Main Street Professionals were ready to support their communities in promotion, economic restructuring, and historic preservation.

■ Design Guidelines for Revitalizing Oklahoma’s Downtowns

State Publication

Awarded a **Citation of Merit**, OK State Preservation Office.

Role: Author, published 1987; rev. 1992
Organization: Oklahoma Main Street Center

Frantz authored and illustrated the book *Design Guidelines for Revitalizing Oklahoma’s Downtowns*, published by the Oklahoma Main Street Center. Published as a resource for community leaders, business and building owners, and Main Street Design Committee members, this simple-to-use book provided technical information about styles, materials, and preservation processes of historic Oklahoma buildings. It was made available to libraries state-wide. Due to its popularity as a resource, this book was re-issued and continues to serve as an invaluable resource for downtown revitalization in Oklahoma’s historic Main Streets.

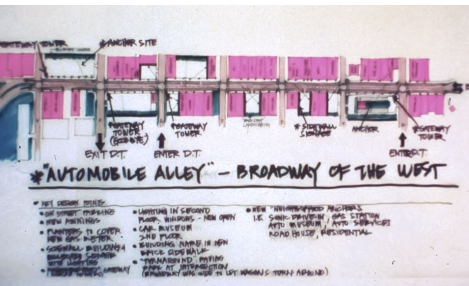


■ Automobile Alley Documentation, Post-Oklahoma City Bombing

Oklahoma City

Role: Team Leader, 1995
Organization: City of Oklahoma City, Appointed by the Mayor

In the wake of the Oklahoma City Bombing in 1995, Mayor Ron Norick invited design professionals to step forward and assist with documenting the extensive damage. Frantz was assigned leader of “Team II,” which focused on Broadway Avenue, the widest street in downtown Oklahoma City. Leading 27 other volunteers, many local architects, the group meticulously documented the status of some 70 severely bomb-damaged buildings in the area. The North Downtown Design Workshop Kickoff happened on July 6, 1995, in downtown Oklahoma City. The team met for planning sessions on July 6th, 12th, 13th, and 19th, 1995, in a space on Automobile Alley.



■ Placemaking Conferences

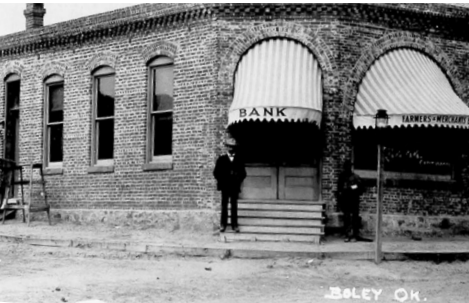
Norman, Oklahoma

The Congress for the New Urbanism listed the Placemaking Conference among its **“Top 10 techniques for educating community leaders about placemaking.”**

Role: Co-Organizer, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2023
Organization: OU Institute for Quality Communities (IQC)

Frantz has co-organized the biennial Placemaking Conference at the University of Oklahoma five times. These conferences have brought over 50 internationally known speakers to Oklahoma to share best practices and insights on placemaking with more than 4,000 attendees from 60 Oklahoma counties and more than 15 states. Continuing education credits are offered at the conference for members of the AIA and APA.





Boley: DesignWorks *Boley, Oklahoma*

Role: DesignWorks Team Architect, 2015
Organization: OU Institute for Quality Communities (IQC)

Boley, Oklahoma, is the largest and most prominent of the more than 50 “All-Black” towns of Oklahoma and one of just thirteen that still exists. The Coltrane Group, a private organization partnered with the City of Boley, desired to create a “Boley Gateway,” at U.S. Highway 62 and Pecan Street (Main Street). Frantz co-led a group of OU faculty, staff, and graduate assistants in a two-day, immersive team visit exploring the Gateway concept, as well as recommending a memory exhibition for Boley’s history, and creating an interactive public art exhibit to gather community feedback. Discussions also included Boley’s role as a safe haven for Black travelers along this major highway, the only east-west, border-to-border route in the country. The team prepared preliminary design recommendations, which were published in a *Boley: DesignWorks* book.

AIA Central Oklahoma and AIA Oklahoma *Oklahoma City*

Role: President/Committee Member/Volunteer, 1983-present

Frantz was awarded the AIA Oklahoma Honor Award for Community Service (2020) and the AIA Oklahoma Lifetime Achievement Award (2023).

For nearly 40 years, Frantz has served the AIA Central Oklahoma and AIA Oklahoma in various volunteer capacities, including as president of AIA Central Oklahoma in 2006. Among his accomplishments include establishing an annual Architecture Week and Architecture Week Tour that continue to this day. He has helped to organize conferences and spoken during many conference sessions, as well as led downtown walking tours at the annual AIA Oklahoma Conference on Architecture, spoken at the monthly AIA Central Oklahoma Chapter luncheons, assisted with Lunch & Learn Continuing Education Units (CEU) opportunities, and more.

Automobile Alley/Downtown Oklahoma City Partnership *Oklahoma City*

Role: Chair, 2000-2002; Board Member, 1999-2002; Supporter, 1999-present
Organization: Automobile Alley Urban Main Street Program

The Downtown Oklahoma City Partnership grew out of the revitalization efforts that followed the Oklahoma City bombing, comprised of six downtown districts including Automobile Alley. The nonprofit partnership coordinates placemaking, including new public art, neighborhood cleanliness, and beautification efforts. Frantz served as a board member and president for the Automobile Alley area of this partnership, and continues to serve as a supporter by leading walking tours with various groups and during national conferences.

Paseo Bungalow *Oklahoma City*

Role: Architect, Owner, 1982-1994

Featured in numerous publications, including the Old-House Journal, and won several awards, including an Oklahoma Historical Society Citation of Merit and an American Society of Interior Designers Award.

Frantz painstakingly restored this 1912 Arts and Crafts bungalow. It was in original condition except for a circa-1940s addition and minor updates. Restoration work included removing five layers of roofing materials, structurally rebuilding basement walls, reworking the 36 original wood windows, repainting the exterior in four colors, plastering walls, upgrading its minimal heating, adding cooling, replacing the plumbing and electrical systems, refinishing the original maple, oak, and pine floors, and painting the interior in period colors. Frantz later used the house to demonstrate local craftsmen’s work as well as a teaching tool for the “old house owners.”



Significant Work



■ Altus City Reservoir

Altus, Oklahoma

Received a **Citation of Merit** from the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office.

Role: Instructor, University of Oklahoma
2017 Spring Semester, Environmental Design Capstone
Organization: City of Altus, Oklahoma

Originally constructed in 1910 and expanded in 1937, the Altus City Reservoir served as the City's drinking water supply. City leaders desired to improve the reservoir and develop an adjacent 63 acres into a mixed-use park for recreation. Frantz led Environmental Design Capstone students as they made recommendations for the park based on historic documents, site tours, and regional materials and design vernacular, including similar city parks from throughout Oklahoma.



■ Vinita: DesignWorks

Vinita, Oklahoma

Vinita adopted the recommendations and received an **AARP Community Challenge Grant** to fund a major recommendation: the conversion of an alley into a small community space.

Role: DesignWorks Team Architect, 2017
Organization: OU Institute for Quality Communities (IQC)

Working with community leaders and citizens in Vinita, Frantz co-led a group of IQC staff and graduate students and conducted public meetings and activities. Recommendations that emerged from the meetings and activities resulted in a report on steps for preserving Vinita's architectural heritage, ways to create a downtown cultural campus, options to redesign Wilson Street for walkability and traffic calming, and a concept for a walk/bike network through the town's core.



■ Frank House

Sapulpa, Oklahoma

Received a **Citation of Merit** from the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office.

Role: Instructor, University of Oklahoma
2016 Fall Semester, Historic Preservation Planning
Organization: The John Frank House Foundation

The Frank House, designed by Bruce Goff and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, included many bricks and tiles hand-glazed by the Frank Family in their Frankoma Pottery (company founded in 1933) facility. Frantz led fourteen undergraduate and graduate students as they completed a report that focused on key preservation issues of the home, ranging from landscaping elements to exterior materials to interior issues. In addition to a digital copy, the final report was placed in a three-ring binder for the owner's ease of rearranging and prioritizing work to be done.



■ Capitol Hill Pop-Up Plaza

Oklahoma City

After the community saw the impact of the pop-up plaza, The City of Oklahoma City allocated **\$2.1 million** for a permanent public space, extending it one full city block.

Role: Team Architect, 2018
Organization: OU Institute for Quality Communities (IQC)

For almost 25 years, community leaders worked to create some form of public space in this area that once was a separate blue-collar small town that is now a thriving Hispanic neighborhood within Oklahoma City. Frantz participated with an IQC group that conducted workshops on site to get community feedback for ideas. As a result, IQC staff, including Frantz, and graduate assistants, along with volunteers from Calle Dos Cinco and the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Association of REALTORS created a pop-up plaza. The creation of this tied into an "Open Streets" event coordinated by the City of Oklahoma City.

Significant Work



■ Paseo Neighborhood Association

Oklahoma City

Named one of the **"Top 10 of America's Most Transformed Neighborhoods"** by *Forbes Magazine* (2010).

Role: President, 1982-1991

Frantz served as President of the Paseo Neighborhood Association for nine years. During this time, he connected the low-income neighborhood to the citywide Neighborhood Alliance; helped establish the Uptown Renaissance to address historic Route 66 commercial corridor; collaborated with the Paseo Artists' Association; created the annual Old-House Fair; and worked with members of the First Presbyterian Church to establish an after school program for children. Special designations include being named among the **"Top 10 Neighborhoods in the Country"** by the American Planning Association (2010) and **"One of the Most Beautiful Neighborhoods in the United States"** by BBC Radio (2011).



■ Art in Public Places Oversight Committee

Statewide

Role: Committee Member, 2020-present
Organization: Oklahoma Arts Council

Frantz serves on this committee, reviewing proposed public art pieces to be installed throughout the State of Oklahoma under the direction of the Oklahoma Arts Council. During Frantz's tenure, the committee has reviewed and given final approval to six projects in three towns totalling \$1,035,645 in public art installments.



■ Tulahassee: DesignWorks

Tulahassee, Oklahoma

Featured in the *Washington Post*, and the community recently received a **National Trust for Historic Preservation** grant to continue work on the A.J. Mason Building.

Role: DesignWorks Team Architect, 2021
Organization: OU Institute for Quality Communities (IQC)

Incorporated in 1902, Tullahassee is Oklahoma's oldest, existing Black township. Although the population is a stable 106 people, the community remains the hub of a much larger population in this part of Oklahoma. Frantz co-led a design team that explored and made recommendations on the following issues: reconstructing the interior of the historic A. J. Mason Building, a prominent commercial building; refurbishing the historic John Ford Field House, a location of many fierce basketball games; an adaptive reuse of the burned out stone shell of the historic Carter G. Woodson School; and creating a walking path that connects these landmarks with the rest of the core community.



■ Urban Track, National Town Meeting

Portland, Oregon

Role: Coordinator, 1997
Hosted by: Main Street America and the National Trust for Historic Preservation

Oklahoma was only the second state to have an "Urban Main Street" component as part of its statewide Main Street programs. Most programs throughout the country were primarily focused on small and mid-size towns. With a national growing interest in urban Main Street Programs, Frantz proposed and coordinated an "Urban Main Street Track" at the National Town Meeting conference. Today, there is an Urban Main Street program at the national level that works with cities throughout the country.



■ Paseo Revitalization Committee/Positively Paseo

Oklahoma City

Role: Founding Member, 1987-1991

Seeing the need for additional resources to support the revitalization of the Paseo Neighborhood, Frantz collaborated with leaders from adjacent neighborhoods to create a Paseo Revitalization Committee. Frantz led the committee's advocacy work for resources for OKC's urban core, reaching out to the Neighborhood Alliance and the city council to advocate for Paseo to become a pilot revitalization project for the city. Under his leadership, the committee morphed into "Positively Paseo," a nonprofit community housing development organization that works to restore and revitalize four Oklahoma City neighborhoods to create more affordable housing.



■ Sundial House

Oklahoma City

Received a **Citation of Merit** from the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office.

Role: Instructor, University of Oklahoma

The Sundial House is a 1919 Mediterranean-inspired villa built by John Sinopoulo. Listed on the National Register, the house has 7,700 square feet on three levels with an 1,816 square foot basement. It sits on 10 landscaped acres. Frantz led 19 undergraduate and graduate students from seven disciplines for historic documentation of the house. Their documentation was shared in video format.



■ Old House Fair

Oklahoma City

Role: Co-Founder, 1984-1986
Hosted by: The Neighborhood Alliance of Central Oklahoma

To increase awareness of deteriorating housing stock in Oklahoma City's urban core, primarily within the 26-square mile, pre-1944 city limits, Frantz led a group of neighborhood leaders to organize three Old-House Fair events. The events brought together craftsmen, contractors, realtors, architects and interior designers to give demonstrations and presentations about proper historic preservation techniques for older houses. Promoted through local neighborhood associations, many homeowners attended the events, which were held in historic commercial buildings.



■ Westville: DesignWorks

Westville, Oklahoma

The community received **\$1.4 million** from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to continue this work.

Role: DesignWorks Team Architect, 2022
Organization: OU Institute for Quality Communities (IQC)

A small town with fewer than 1,400 residents located near the Oklahoma-Arkansas border, Westville is one of the poorest communities in the state. It is also located within one of the poorest counties in the state. Westville's health challenges align with its poverty levels. Community leaders invited the IQC team to explore a large slab in the middle of their town and propose a new town square or public park where the community's hospital and nursing home once stood. Frantz co-led a team that looked at how to connect this site to schools and other destinations, as well as potential walkability and streetscape improvements, which included Williams St. (Main Street).



■ Downtown Muskogee: Landscape of Hope

Muskogee, Oklahoma

Role: DesignWorks Team Architect, 2016
Organization: OU Institute for Quality Communities (IQC)

In 2023, Neighbors Building Neighborhoods of Muskogee non-profit resource center received a \$750,000 grant from the National Park Service Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant Program for building rehabilitation.

Frantz co-led a group of faculty and students in the Architecture, Urban Design, Landscape Architecture, and Regional City Planning divisions, and IQC programs as they worked with community leaders to develop recommendations for attracting more people to downtown, increase walkability and bikeability, save historic buildings, create green spaces, and revitalize a 40-year-old mall, adjacent to downtown.



■ Oklahoma Main Street Center State Advisory Board and Foundation

Statewide

Role: Member, 2012-present
Organization: Oklahoma Main Street Center

This state-wide advisory board meets quarterly to discuss issues related to the Oklahoma Main Street Center. Key responsibilities of the board include providing resources to state staff to help address challenges, maintaining a budget for the annual awards banquet, and volunteer duties, including public speaking, helping with special events, and making connections across the state.



■ Pryor: DesignWorks

Pryor Creek, Oklahoma

Role: DesignWorks Team Architect, 2020
Organization: OU Institute for Quality Communities (IQC)

Pryor Creek adopted these recommendations and recently received over \$850,000 from TSET and TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) to support implementation.

Working with the Pryor Main Street Program and other local organizations, Frantz co-led a group of IQC staff and graduate assistants as they conducted a series of meetings with community members in Pryor Creek. Recommendations that emerged from the meetings included specific wayfinding signage, park signage, pedestrian wayfinding signage, ideas for safer crosswalks, a downtown landmark (or entry), a pocket park, and an urban park, as well as a monument commemorating a devastating 1942 tornado.

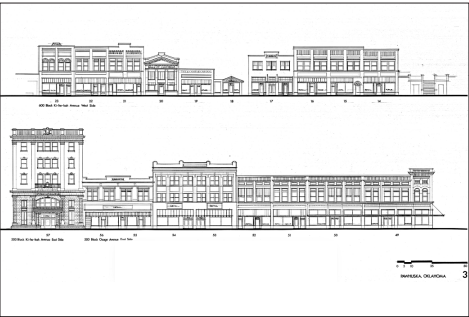


■ Urban Design Commission

Oklahoma City

Role: Committee Member, 1999-2001
Organization: City of Oklahoma City Planning Department

Frantz served as an appointed member of Oklahoma City's Urban Design Commission, helping to oversee design proposals for projects in key commercial districts, including the Asian District, Automobile Alley, MidTown, N.W. 23rd Street (historic Route 66), and Plaza District. The program later expanded to include Paseo and Capitol Hill.

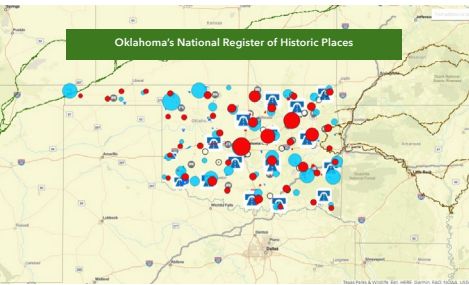


■ **Pawhuska Main Street** *Pawhuska, Oklahoma*

Role: Architect, 1984–present
Organization: Various organizations, including the Pawhuska Main Street Program

Three major motion pictures, including “*Killers of the Flower Moon*,” by Martin Scorsese, have now been filmed in Pawhuska.

Frantz dedicated nearly four decades to preservation work in Pawhuska, including surveying all 1500+ pre-1944 buildings within the city limits, hand drawing proposed façade restorations of 101 downtown buildings based on historical research; preparing a National Register of Historic Places nomination for these buildings; and creating a base map of the proposed district. Frantz also prepared preservation documents for the Pawhuska City Hall (former Osage Council House), former Bank of Commerce, and Constantine Theater (former Ki-he-kah Theater). He also conducted Pawhuska Main Street Design Committee trainings and community presentations and leads walking tours to this day. Today, Pawhuska is a sought-after tourist destination, now home to the Pioneer Woman’s Mercantile.



■ **State Historic Preservation Review Committee** *Oklahoma*

Role: Member, 1996–1997; 2008–present
Organization: Historic Preservation Review Committee

Frantz serves on the Historic Preservation Review Committee for the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, reviewing, commenting on, and approving nominations for the National Register of Historic Places. Twenty-seven downtown historic register nominations came from official Oklahoma Main Street towns in which Frantz worked as architect for the Oklahoma Main Street Center. He educated building owners about the importance of having properties on the National Register and using federal & state investment tax credits for historic building preservation. Frantz has been appointed to this committee by two different Oklahoma governors.

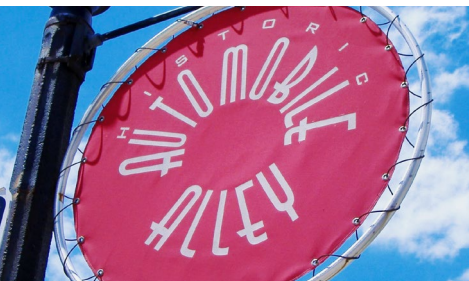


■ **Gaffney Building** *Guthrie, Oklahoma*

Role: Preservation Consultant, 1984
Organization: Logan County Historical Society

Included in the **National Historic Landmark District** in Guthrie, Oklahoma.

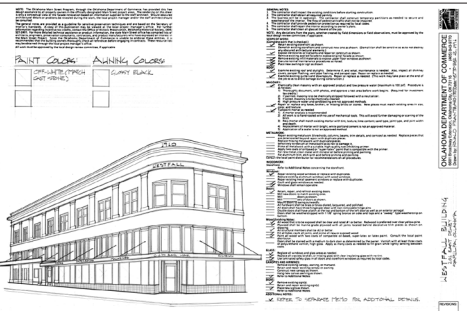
Frantz served as a preservation consultant on this 1890 Territorial-era building (~8000 sf). On the exterior, he provided design assistance for reconstructing its wooden storefronts, restoring the original doors with beveled oval glass panels, removing paint from limestone and sandstone details, repointing brick, installing 10 custom-made wood windows and restoring its ornate pressed metal cornice. Inside, he made sure that the floor plan respected the original room layout and retained the center hallway with a massive, linear skylight. The work adhered to The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and qualified for the federal investment tax credits for historic buildings.



■ **Automobile Alley Urban Main Street Designation** *Oklahoma City*

Role: Architect, 1996–2000
Organization: Oklahoma Main Street Center

Frantz’s guidance as team leader of the Automobile Alley committee led to the area being designated an Urban Main Street, the second Urban Main Street program in Oklahoma’s Main Street Center. The group had a paid staff person, four committees, and promotional materials. Frantz continued to serve Automobile Alley after its designation in his role as architect for the Oklahoma Main Street Center.



■ **Ron Frantz Oklahoma Main Street Collection**

Okla. Historical Society

Recognized with multiple awards, including the **George Shirk Memorial Award** from the Oklahoma Historical Society (1991).

Role: Architect, 1986–1997; 2003–2011
Organization: Oklahoma Main Street Center

Frantz hand-drew more than 1,300 of the 1,551 renderings of historic buildings in more than 70 Oklahoma Main Street towns that are now housed in the Research Center Archives of the Oklahoma Historical Society, in a collection known as the “Ron Frantz Oklahoma Main Street Collection.” Additionally, Frantz helped create a collection of over 30,000 slides documenting the revitalization of Oklahoma Main Streets, which are archived at the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office.



■ **Neighborhood Alliance of Central Oklahoma**

Oklahoma City

Role: Vice President & Board Member, 1983–1990
Organization: Neighborhood Alliance of Central Oklahoma

The Neighborhood Alliance is a citywide organization that works with more than 400 neighborhood associations in Oklahoma City. Frantz served as a board member and vice president of the Neighborhood Alliance for seven years, and during that time, he advocated for the preservation of older homes, worked with neighborhood associations, offered old house workshops, wrote articles about old house preservation, created the Old House Fair, and even co-hosted events that included city council members.



■ **Chickasaw National Recreation Area**

Sulphur, Oklahoma

Received a **Citation of Merit** from the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office.

Role: Instructor, University of Oklahoma
 2016 Spring Semester, Environmental Design Capstone
Organization: National Park Service

The Chickasaw National Recreation Area is home to historic structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Frantz co-led a group of five students to create proposals for rehabilitating existing and designing new facilities that both respect the historic “parkitecture” as well as meet current National Park Service guidelines.

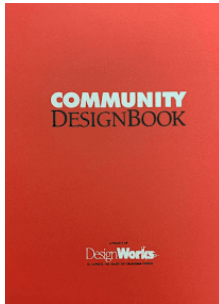


■ **Great American Main Street Awards**

Six Oklahoma Towns

Role: Main Street Staff Architect, 1986–1997; 2003–2011, Oklahoma Main Street Center
 GAMSA Selection Committee Member, 2015–2017, Main Street America

Main Street America administers the “Great American Main Street Award,” GAMSA, which recognizes exceptional Main Street communities whose successes serve as a model for comprehensive, preservation-based commercial district revitalization. Frantz served as Main Street Staff Architect for six Oklahoma Main Street towns which received GAMSA recognition: Kendall-Whittier District in Tulsa (2020), El Reno (2006), Okmulgee (2002), Enid (2001), Newkirk (2000), and Cordell (1999). This recognition gives these towns a national stage to showcase their decades-long commitments to excellence in downtown revitalization.



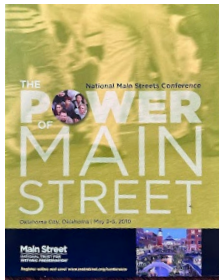
■ **Oklahoma Community DesignBook**

State Publication

Made possible with support from the **National Endowment for the Arts.**

Role: Contributor, 1993
Published by: The State Arts Council of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Main Street Center, and the Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service

Frantz co-authored and helped illustrate the *Oklahoma Community DesignBook*, published through a unique partnership with the State Arts Council, Oklahoma Main Street Center, and Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service. This reference book was created as a useful resource for community members to learn about architectural design, landscape design, graphic design and signage, and city planning techniques. The *DesignBook* was published in an open access format allowing easy photocopying and distribution to community members as needed.



■ **National Main Street and Historic Preservation Conferences**

Four National Conferences

Role: Planning Committee Member, 1992, 1998, 2008, 2010
Hosted by: Main Street America and the National Trust for Historic Preservation

Frantz served on planning committees for two national Main Street Conferences and two National Trust Conferences hosted by the Main Street America and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, respectively, including the National Town Meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma (1992); the National Trust Conference in Savannah, Georgia (1998); the National Trust Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma (2008); and the National Main Streets Conference in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (2010).

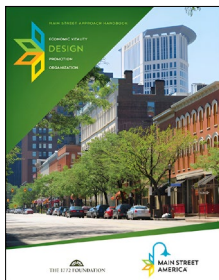


■ **Main Street America's Architects and Designers Meetings**

National Events

Role: Organizer/Leader/Participant, 1987-present
Hosted by: Main Street America

Since 1987, Frantz has been involved with annual meetings and tours in the days prior to the National Main Street Conference. Over the years, Frantz helped expand the series of events to include interior designers, landscape architects, and economic vitality specialists. In 1992, when the national conference was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, he introduced the concept of an all-day field trip to Bartlesville, Oklahoma, to explore the architecture of Bruce Goff and Frank Lloyd Wright. This field trip concept continues to this day, most recently during the 2023 meeting in Boston.

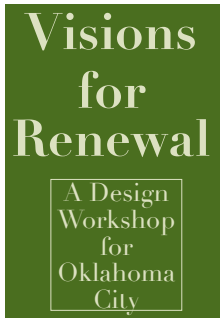


■ **Main Street America Design Manual**

National Publication

Role: Contributor, 2018
Published by: Main Street America

Frantz contributed design guideline content and reviewed text and graphics for Main Street America's *Design Manual*, which was created as a reference for use by all members of the National Main Street Network. Various design elements were considered, including common elements that most communities must address, such as commercial district master planning and zoning, public improvements, parking management, building rehabilitation, historic preservation tools, social benefits of design and more.

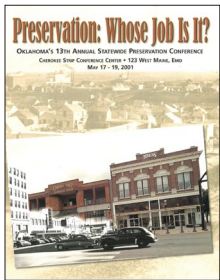


■ **Urban Land Institute (ULI) Design Charrette, “Visions for Renewal”**

Oklahoma City

Role: Team Leader, 1995
Organization: City of Oklahoma City, Appointed by the Mayor

Frantz led a team of volunteers who participated in an ULI charrette entitled “Visions for Renewal, A Design Workshop for Oklahoma City.” During the charrette, his team presented the results of their documentation and ideas for Automobile Alley to ULI consultants. Many of their ideas for Automobile Alley were recommended, including the creation of an image based on the history of the area, considering this area as the gateway or front door to downtown Oklahoma City, supporting fun events along Broadway, and implementing short term actions like strong graphic and streetscape image. Long term actions included enhancing the image of the area through design and recruitment of businesses and activities that support the “Automobile Alley” image. The “Visions for Renewal” workshop took place in Oklahoma City, July 24-25, 1995.

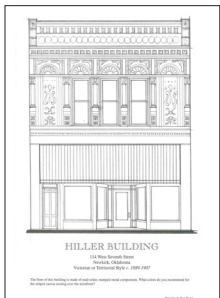


■ **Oklahoma’s Annual Statewide Preservation Conference**

Statewide

Role: Co-Founder and Co-Organizer, 1989-2019
Organization: Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office

Frantz co-founded Oklahoma Statewide Preservation Conference in 1989, and co-led the planning, programming, and hosting duties of this significant conference for more than 30 years. Approximately 200 people from around the state attended the conference each year. The conference expanded to include 3 days of tours, professional development activities, and sessions that qualified for AIA Continuing Education Units. The Preservation Conference offered a critical venue for advocacy and skill development of Oklahoma’s cherished architectural treasures.



■ **Oklahoma Main Street Coloring Book**

State Publication

Role: Co-Author and Co-Illustrator, 2003, 2004, 2007-2009
Published by: The Oklahoma Main Street Center

Frantz co-authored and co-illustrated five Oklahoma Main Street Coloring books, which were created as design tools to educate fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade students throughout the State of Oklahoma about historic buildings in their towns and expose them to the architectural and historic preservation professions. These coloring books each highlight dozens of beautiful historic Oklahoma Main Street façades from small towns like Sapulpa, Prague, and Poteau, Oklahoma, helping kids throughout the state appreciate the beauty of design in their own small communities.



■ **Okmulgee Main Street**

Okmulgee, Oklahoma

Okmulgee was awarded the **Great American Main Street Award** from the National Main Street Center (2002).

Role: Architect, 1986-1997; 2003-2011
Organization: Okmulgee Main Street Program

Founded in 1868, Okmulgee is the capital of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. In his role as architect for the Oklahoma Main Street Center, Frantz provided assistance for business and building owners, including 40 façade drawings and 350 site visits and building inspections for historic commercial structures in Okmulgee. This work led to a revitalization of Okmulgee’s Main Street, and it has been recognized in national publications, including *Main Street News*, *Construction News*, and *Historic Preservation Forum*.

Awards, Honors and Recognition

Frantz's leadership in public service has been recognized with dozens of awards in the areas of historic preservation, downtown revitalization, and engaged teaching, including the 2023 AIA Oklahoma Lifetime Achievement Award.



AIA Citizen Architect Pin,
2010 Selectee

■ AIA National

2010 Citizen Architect/Civic Engagement Program Selectee

■ AIA Oklahoma

2023 Lifetime Achievement Award (AIA Oklahoma's highest honor)

2020 Honor Award for Community Service

■ AIA Central Oklahoma

2015 William Wayne Caudill Award for Promoting the Architectural Profession

1995 Special Award for Promoting Downtown Revitalization in Historic Main Street Towns

1990 Honor Award for Citizens Bank Restoration in Okmulgee, Oklahoma (Architectural Assistance Contributor)

■ Preservation Leadership Awards

2017 Oklahoma Main Street Legacy Award for promoting the preservation and revitalization of Oklahoma's historic Main Streets and neighborhoods

2014 Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. Leadership Award for promoting historic preservation throughout the State of Oklahoma

2010 25th Anniversary Founders Award for being an early leader in establishing the statewide Oklahoma Main Street Center

2010 Hometown Hero Award for the 2010 National Main Streets Conference in Oklahoma City

1997 Governor's Commendation for role writing *MAIN STREET: THE BIG PICTURE* book

1996 Notable Document Award, American Library Association, for *MAIN STREET: THE BIG PICTURE*

1995 Award of Special Merit, Oklahoma Heritage Association, for promoting downtown revitalization and historic preservation in historic Main Street towns throughout the State of Oklahoma

1993 Governor's Arts Award for promoting downtown revitalization and historic preservation in historic Main Street towns throughout the State of Oklahoma

■ National Historic Preservation Nominations Prepared

2007 Board of Advisors Award for preservation efforts on the Gold Dome, landmark along historic Route 66 in Oklahoma City

1988 Preservation Honor Award for restoration and revitalization of the Territorial Capital of Oklahoma, Guthrie (Co-Recipient)

1986 Pawhuska Downtown Historic District, National Register of Historic Places



AIA Citizen Architect Certificate,
2010 Selectee



Interior of the Frank House

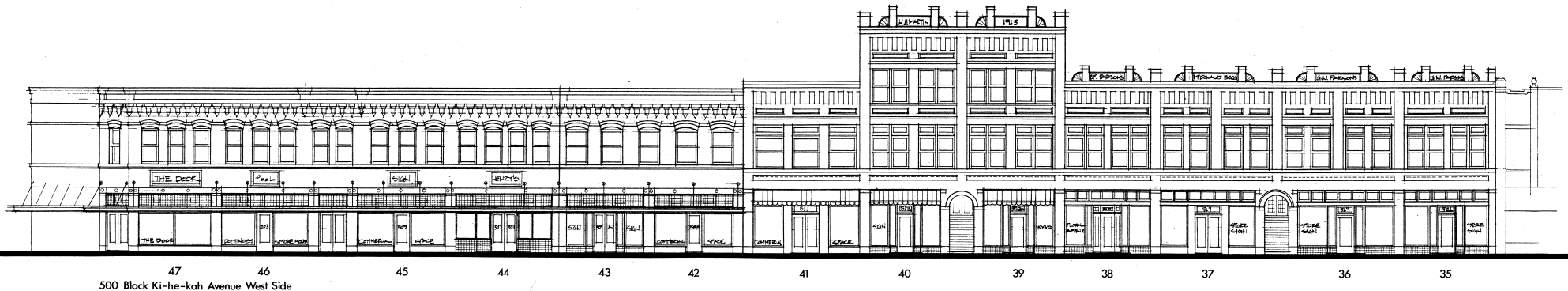
■ Oklahoma Historical Society

- 2018 Citation of Merit for the 1910 Altus City Reservoir Project
- 2018 Citation of Merit for the 1955 Frank House
- 2017 Citation of Merit for the 1919 John Sinopoulo House
- 2017 Citation of Merit for the Chickasaw National Recreation Area
- 2006 Citation of Merit for a 1921 Prairie School Designed Residence
- 1994 Commercial/Public Historic Interiors Preservation Award for the 1926 Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Nomination Prepared)
- 1993 Private Residence Historic Interiors Preservation Award for a Historic 1912 Paseo Bungalow
- 1992 George Shirk Memorial Award for Promoting Historic Preservation throughout Oklahoma
- 1992 Citation of Merit for Publishing *Oklahoma Design Guidelines* for preserving and restoring commercial Main Street storefronts and building façades
- 1992 Citation of Merit for a Historic 1912 Paseo Bungalow
- 1991 Charles F. Colcord Award for preservation efforts in Oklahoma City

■ Teaching Awards

- 2021 Teaching Award, Gibbs College of Architecture, University of Oklahoma
- 2019 Provost's Community Engagement Award for Outstanding Engaged Teaching, University of Oklahoma

Block View of Historic Buildings
in Downtown Pawhuska, Oklahoma
(Line drawing by Ron Frantz)



Awards, Honors and Recognition

Frantz has given over 220 presentations in 26 states and the District of Columbia and served on more than 50 planning committees. Below is a representative selection of his presentations.

Speaking Engagements



ANNUAL
**GOVERNOR'S
ARTS AWARDS**
FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS

1993 Recipient of Oklahoma Governor's Arts Award, Oklahoma Main Street



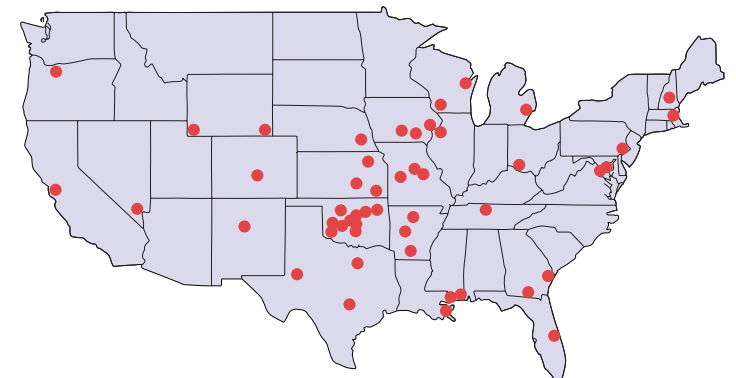
Governor's Arts Award Medal

* Served on planning committee

National Speaking Engagements, Select

2023	Main Street Now	Boston, MA	1995	Texas Downtown Association Annual Conference	Odessa, TX
2022	Congress for the New Urbanism	Oklahoma City, OK (OKC)	1995	American Planning Association/American Society of Landscape Architects Regional Conference	OKC
2022	Iowa Downtown Conference	Pella, Iowa	1993	Wisconsin Main Street Program Design Workshop	Oshkosh, WI
2021	Interior Designer Educators Council	Online	1993	Architecture and the Great Plains Conference	Lincoln, NE
2020	Mayors Institute on City Design*	Online	1991	Association for Preservation Technology Annual Conference	New Orleans, LA
2019	International Downtown Association	OKC	1990	Missouri Main Street Program Design Committee Training	Boonville, MO
2018	Environmental Design Research Association*	OKC	1989	American Planning Association Regional Conference	OKC
2015	National Signage Research and Educational Conference	Norman, OK	1989	Texas Downtown Association Annual Conference	Austin, TX
2014	Creating_Making Forum*	Norman, OK			
2013	Missouri Preservation Conference	Boonville, MO			
2011	Kansas Main Street Managers Training	Coffeyville, KS			
2010	Main Street Iowa, 24th Annual Iowa Downtown Summit	Davenport, IA			
2009	Main Street Arkansas, Destination Downtown Conference	El Dorado, AR			
2008	Mississippi Main Street Association, Destination Downtown Conference	Bay St. Louis, MS			
2006	New Hampshire Main Street Design Workshop	Laconia, NH			
2005	National Rural Development Partnership Conference	OKC			
2000	National Trust for Historic Preservation, Technical Assistance Team	Rock Island, IL			
2000	Iowa, Wisconsin & Illinois Main Street Programs' Joint Program Manager Training	Mineral Point, WI			
1999	Savannah Symposium on the City Square*	Savannah, GA			
1996	Arkansas Municipal League Annual Conference	Hot Springs, AR			
1996	Mountains/Plains Museums Association Regional Conference	Guthrie, OK			

National Speaking Engagement Locations



Awards, Honors and Recognition

Speaking Engagements



Frantz, the 1991 recipient of the Oklahoma Historical Society's Charles F. Colcord Award for preservation efforts in Oklahoma City.

National Trust for Historic Preservation Engagements

Main Street Now Conference, Speaker
2023, 2013, 2010*, 2008, 2005-2003, 1997*, 1996, 1995, 1993, 1992*, 1990, 1989

National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference Speaker
2008*, 1998*, 1981

National Main Street Certification Institute, Speaker
2009, 2007, 2005, 2003, 2001, 1999, 1997, 1991-1994, 1989

AIA Speaking Engagements, Select

2023	AIA Oklahoma Conference	Enid, OK
2021	AIA Oklahoma Conference*	Edmond, OK
2020	AIA Oklahoma Conference*	Online
2019	AIA Oklahoma Design Awards	OKC
2019	AIA National Conference	Las Vegas, NV
2019	AIA Central Oklahoma*	OKC
2017	AIA Central Oklahoma Honor Awards	OKC
2013	AIA Central States Region Conference*	OKC
2010	AIA Oklahoma Conference	Stillwater, OK
1997	AIA Wyoming 50th Anniversary Conference	Cheyenne, WY



Frantz shares his architectural expertise teaching community leaders about their downtown buildings and their historical significance.

Oklahoma's Annual Statewide Preservation Conference

Sponsored by the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office/ Oklahoma Historical Society and Oklahoma Main Street Center/ Oklahoma Department of Commerce

2019*, 2017*, 2016*, 2015*, 2014*, 2013*, 2012*, 2010*, 2009*, 2008*, 2007*, 2005*, 2004*, 2001, 2000, 1997*, 1996*, 1995*, 1994*, 1993*, 1992*, 1991*, 1989*

Oklahoma Speaking Engagements, Select

2017	Keep Oklahoma Beautiful	Anadarko, OK
2016	Department of Environmental Quality	Quartz Mtn, OK
2016	Oklahoma American Planning Association	Altus, OK
2016	Oklahoma Arts Council	Quartz Mtn, OK
2014	Oklahoma City Foundation for Architecture	OKC
1996	African-American Tourism Conference	Tulsa, OK
1987	Oklahoma Main Street Downtown Revitalization Conference*	OKC
1986	Oklahoma Main Street Downtown Revitalization Conference*	OKC



Oklahoma Department of Commerce agency-wide recognition ceremony by Executive Director Don Paulsen

* Served on planning committee

Publications

Frantz's work has been published widely throughout his career. His work has appeared in dozens of publications, including the Washington Post, Main Street News, Old-House Journal, and many others.

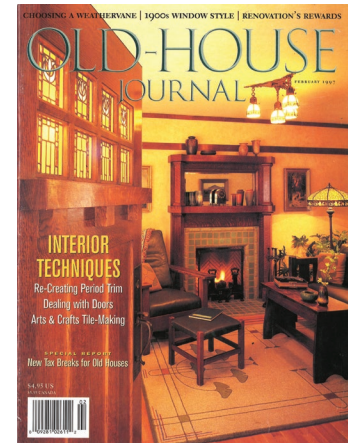
National Publications

2018	Main Street America	Main Street America's Design Manual	Contributor
2009	Main Street America	Revitalizing Main Street	Contributor
2009	Main Street News, Main Street America	2010 National Main Street Conference, OKC	Author
2008	The Tullanian Magazine	Centering in Oklahoma City	Work Featured
1997	Old-House Journal	Rich As Oil In an Oklahoma Bungalow	Work featured
1996	Governing, Congressional Quarterly	Return to Main Street	Work featured
1996	Traditional Building	Main Street Make-Overs	Work featured
1996	Traditional Building	Downtown Deceptions	Work featured
1994	Preservation Press, National Trust for Historic Preservation	America Restored	Quoted, Work featured
1994	Maintenance Tech Note	Wood Storefront Details	Co-Author
1994	Independent Banker	Back to the Future	Work featured

"Under Frantz's leadership, the team developed a plan for the rebirth of the area (Automobile Alley). By 1998, many buildings had been refurbished, new sidewalks laid and new streetlights installed."

Arthur Nead, The Tullanian

1994	Traditional Building	Making Oklahoma Main Streets More than Alright	Work featured
1993	Historic Preservation	Charts of Change	Quoted
1993	Main Street News, Main Street America	Fires in Downtowns	Contributor, Quoted
1991	Historic Preservation Forum	Okmulgee, Oklahoma: Bust to Boom	Work featured
1991	Craftsman Homeowner Newsletter	Don't Bungle That Bungalow!	Author, Illustrator
1990	Craftsman Homeowner Newsletter	House Calls	Author
1990	Historic Preservation	Main Street Makes Good	Work featured
1988	Main Street News, Main Street America	Oklahoma's Wide Open Spaces	Author
1988	Construction News	Small Town Bank Restoration Becomes Brick-by-Brick Job	Work featured
1988	Main Street News, Main Street America	Small Town Design Assistance: An Oklahoma Case Study	Author
1986	Conserve Neighborhoods, National Trust for Historic Preservation	Trade Shows for Urban Dwellers	Quoted
1984	Blueprints: National Building Museum	Local Architect Designed: Guthrie, OK	Co-Author



National publication featuring Ron Frantz and his Paseo Bungalow



"Don't Bungle That Bungalow" Cover Article, Roycrofters-at-Large (RALA) Association's Quarterly Journal

Publications

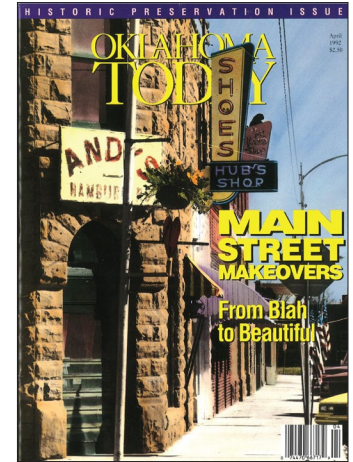
Magazine and Newspaper Articles (Regional & Local)

2013	Sooner Magazine	What Makes a Great Place	Work featured
2010	Oklahoma Today	Revive on a Dime	Work featured
1999	Oklahoma Gazette	Historic Preservation in Oklahoma City: Taking an Effort Beyond the Minimum	Work featured
1997	Oklahoma Main Street Newsletter	A Decade of Success on Main Street	3 articles, Work featured
1993	Commerce Folio, OK Dept. of Commerce	600 Storefronts Redrawn to Enhance Main Street Towns	Profiled
1986-1997, 2003-2011	Oklahoma Main Street Newsletter	Spotlight on Main Street	Author

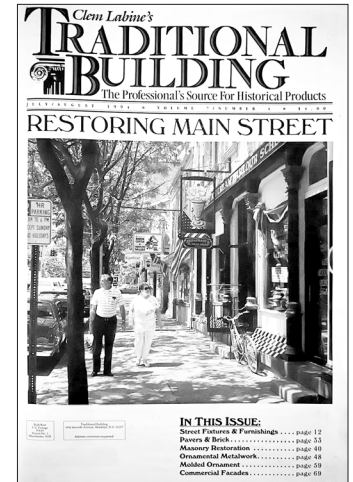
“On a bright, brisk February afternoon, Tullahassee’s town hall took on the air of a family reunion as current and former residents came together to talk to planners from the University of Oklahoma’s Institute for Quality Communities about what they wanted for their town. As people laughed over barbecue and distant cousins worked out how they were related, community members sketched out their vision...By the end of the weekend, the team from the University of Oklahoma had drawn up an action plan.”

Emmanuel Felton, Washington Post

1992	Oklahoma Today	Ron Frantz, Living His Work	Profiled
1992	Oklahoma Today	The Hip House	Contributor
1991	The Journal Record	“Decline and Potential of Oklahoma City’s Inner City”	6 articles, Contributor
1990	Oklahoma Gazette	Fighting for Paseo’s Future	Interviewed
1990	The Sunday Oklahoman	State Main Streets Discovered	Work featured
1986	The Oklahoman’s Real Estate Magazine	Bungalows Big Hit in Earlier Home-Building Era	Work featured
1984	Guthrie Illustrated	The Gaffney Awakens From A Ninety-Four Year Slumber	Work featured
1983	Oklahoma Gazette	Pioneering in Paseo	Author, Work featured
1982	Territory of Oklahoma Literature and the Arts	Guthrie: Art and History in Architecture	Author
1982	Oklahoma Home-Garden	Guthrie Restoration: Putting Up An Old Front	Interviewed



Oklahoma Today special edition featuring Oklahoma Main Street successes



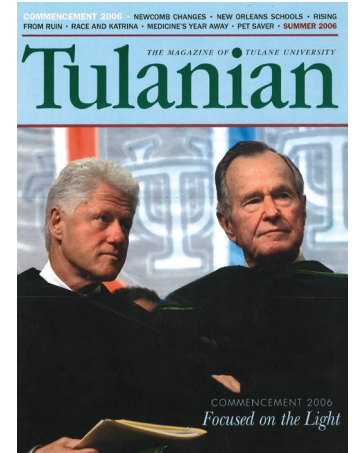
Profile article with work featured, “Making Oklahoma Main Streets More Than Alright”

Academic Publications

2021	Interior Design Educators Council Conference Proceedings	<i>"All that Jazz: Teaching Diversity and Inclusion through a Service-Learning Project During a Pandemic"</i>	Co-Author
2018	Interior Design Educators Council Conference Proceedings	<i>"Demonstrating an Understanding of Lighting Design Theory Through a Multimodal Experiential Learning Project"</i>	Co-Author
2016	Social Science Quarterly	<i>"Rebuilding Oklahoma City: The Development of Automobile Alley in the Wake of the Bombing"</i>	Author

"According to outgoing Board (Logan County Board of Realtors) President Ludd Lentz, Frantz was a principal player in bringing Guthrie's restoration to life. 'He has done more for Guthrie than any other architect in our period,' Lentz said."

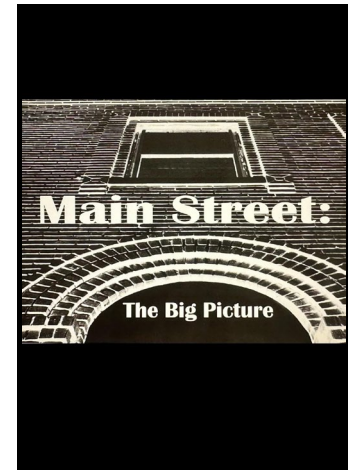
President Ludd Lentz, The Logan County News



Frantz's Automobile Alley work featured in this internationally-circulated alumni magazine

Book, Film & TV Appearances

2011	Images of America, Souderton (Book)	<i>Main Street Memories</i>	Introduction
2010	Discover Oklahoma (TV - NBC)	<i>Discover Oklahoma: Main Street Edition</i>	Interviewed
2006	Full Circle Press (Book)	<i>OKC: Second Time Around</i>	Work featured
1996	Oklahoma Main Street Program (Book)	<i>Main Street: The Big Picture</i>	Co-Author
1995	Island Press (Book)	<i>Designing the City: A Guide for Advocates and Public Officials</i>	Work featured
1993	State Arts Council of Oklahoma (Book)	<i>Community DesignBook</i>	Contributor
1992	Oklahoma Main Street Program (Book)	<i>Oklahoma Design Guidelines</i>	Co-Author
1987	Oklahoma Main Street Program (Book)	<i>Oklahoma Sign Design Guidelines</i>	Contributor
1987	Oklahoma Main Street Program (Book)	<i>Design Guidelines for Revitalizing Oklahoma's Downtowns</i>	Co-Author
1987	Oklahoma Main Street Program (Film)	<i>New Territory: Upstairs, Downtown</i>	Screenwriter, Photographer



Award-winning 10th Anniversary book for Oklahoma Main Street

- Exhibit 3.1
From Resignation to Resurgence
Training and Tools to Revitalize America's Historic Main Streets
- Exhibit 3.2
Turning Terror into Triumph
Automobile Alley, an Urban Commercial District's Rise from Tragedy
- Exhibit 3.3
No Further to Fall
Paseo, an Inner-City Neighborhood's Emergence from Wreckage to Recognition
- Exhibit 3.4
Generating Synergy by Creating Possibilities Through Partnerships
The OU Institute for Quality Communities
- Exhibit 3.5
Expanding Potential with a Multi-Faceted, Service Learning Approach to Design Education
The OU Environmental Design Program
- Exhibit 3.6
Envisioning Opportunities No Matter the Obstacles
DesignWorks
- Exhibit 3.7
Recapturing the Beauty of a Territorial Gem
Guthrie, Oklahoma
National Historic Landmark District
- Exhibit 3.8
Uncovering the Sparkle of Our Forgotten Jewels
Main Street Façades
- Exhibit 3.9
A Commitment to Serving
An Architect's Passion to Go Beyond the Basics
Automobile Alley in Oklahoma City, present day



■ Position

Architect/Assistant Director,
Oklahoma Main Street Center,
1986-1997, 2003-2011

■ Highlight

Provided Training and Tools to
33 National Register of Historic
Places, "Historic Districts"

Awarded the "Main Street
Legacy Award,"
Oklahoma Main Street Center,
2017

■ Featured Publications

*Main Street America's
Design Manual*,
Contributor, 2018

"Main Street Make-Overs,"
Project featured in
Traditional Building, 1996

"America Restored,"
Project featured in
Preservation Press, 1994

"Main Street Makes Good,"
Project featured in
Historic Preservation, 1990

■ Challenge

With most Oklahoma towns having been founded between 1889 and circa 1920, Oklahoma had thousands of unique and high quality buildings constructed in the state's earliest commercial centers. With the onset of the Dust Bowl and Great Depression in the 1930s, outmigration of "Okies" to California created severe population losses. By the 1980s, the Great Oil Bust led to disinvestment and outright abandonment of historic buildings across the state. Meanwhile, there was a severe shortage of licensed architects in the state. ***How could Oklahoma's historic main streets be preserved despite these challenges?***

Main Street America was established by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1980 to help address issues faced by older and historic downtowns across the U.S.

■ Impact

As the first architect ever hired by the Oklahoma Main Street Center, Frantz shaped not only how the role would bring value to local communities, but also its relationship to **Main Street America**. To begin with, Frantz leveraged his architectural expertise to organize and create the training and tools needed to help communities revitalize America's historic Main Streets. On the national level, Frantz helped connect a fledgling group of Main Street architects and designers in official Main Street state networks. And, in 1988, Frantz led the group during its first official meeting in Denver. From there, Frantz continued to guide and direct the group as it established a national network of sharing preservation best practices, contractor references, material suppliers, and organization information that continues to this day.

Beginning with its inception in 1989, Frantz contributed to the **National Trust Main Street America's Certification Institute in Professional Main Street Management** for 20 years. In this role, he co-created the curriculum and training manual content for design and served on the design faculty each year. This program has had a significant impact on professionalizing the Main Street program nationally, ensuring that local Main Street program managers from over 200 communities have access to the latest knowledge and tools.

■ Role

Frantz saw the opportunity to provide architectural design assistance to these communities that did not have a local architect while promoting the value of licensed architects for projects. It was through his work as an architect for the Oklahoma Main Street Center at the Oklahoma Department of Commerce that he was able to achieve both goals of providing design assistance while promoting the value of the architectural profession. Frantz helped create national and statewide trainings for over 500 Main Street volunteers; offered localized trainings to more than 650 people including Main Street boards of directors, community members, and supporters; led hundreds of walking tours to raise awareness of needs and opportunities; developed sign and revitalization guidebooks for use by community members; and coordinated the development of over 1,300 documentation drawings of historic Oklahoma façades.

Around that same time, Frantz partnered with colleagues across the state to found Oklahoma's Annual Statewide Preservation Conference in 1989. For 30 years, Frantz continued to help plan the conference, lead tours, and moderate sessions each year. The conference continued to attract over 200 architects and preservationists, illustrative of the legacy of preservation that Frantz has helped to root throughout the state of Oklahoma.

As evidence of his reputation as a national leader in Main Street preservation, Frantz is a highly sought-after speaker. He has presented or led tours during 38 national/international conferences, 16 regional conferences, over 160 state and local conferences. Through this work, Frantz has helped educate thousands of citizens and architecture professionals about preservation techniques, in turn helping to preserve historic Main Streets throughout the United States and beyond.

National Trust Main Street America's Certification Institute offered four-part, two-week, on-site training programs which alternated between trainings on organization and promotion one year, and trainings on economic restructuring and design the next. Participation in the Institute's programming was highly selective, with approximately 20 attendees from across the U.S. and beyond admitted to each cohort.



01



02



03



04

"He instructs and corrects while preserving the dignity of the individual. He teaches appreciation and understanding of not only the 'George Washington Slept Here' kind of historic, but also the importance of more humble places that bear witness to the history of any community. I have seen no other architect have an impact on rural communities in the way Ron has and still does."

Beverly Abell, Downtown Development Director, Mesquite, TX

"For decades, Ron has been at the forefront of design education for the national network of Main Street programs - as a role model to other architects, an instructor for the program's top-level professional training program, and a trusted colleague."

Kennedy Smith, Senior Researcher, Institute for Local Reliance



05

3.1 Declaration of Responsibility

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed here. That responsibility included: Conducting site visits in official Oklahoma Main Street communities, organizing Design Committee training and community presentations, serving on planning committees for local, state-wide, and national conferences, presenting best practices at conferences, and writing articles for publications to promote the "design" component of the Main Street 4-Point Approach for Downtown Revitalization.

Buffy Hughes

Director
Oklahoma Main Street Center, Oklahoma Department of Commerce
Director of statewide Oklahoma Main Street network for downtown revitalization

- 01 Frantz participating in Dr. Downtown booth during Main Street Now National Conference
- 02 Frantz and Main Street Architect & Designers participating in field trip during the annual Main Street Now Conference
- 03 Frantz training Downtown Pawhuska docents for upcoming tours tied to the release of the movie, Killers of the Flower Moon
- 04 Special issue of Oklahoma Today magazine focused on Main Street revitalization with issues for Main Street Now national conference
- 05 Frantz participates in annual Main Street Architects and Designers' field trip in Chicago, IL

■ Position

Team Leader, North Broadway Avenue Revitalization, Mayor-appointed

■ Highlight

Automobile Alley added to the National Register of Historic Places, 1999

■ Featured Publications

"Rebuilding Oklahoma City: The Development of Automobile Alley in the Wake of the Bombing," *Social Science Quarterly* Author, 2016

■ Select Presentations

National Town Hall Meeting, Main Street America, 1997

AIA Central States Regional Conference, 2001

Congress for the New Urbanism, 2022

■ Challenge

On April 19, 1995, Oklahoma City experienced an unimaginable tragedy. A domestic terrorist planted a bomb that exploded downtown, just outside the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, killing 168 people and wounding hundreds more. More than 300 buildings were also severely damaged, including dozens on North Broadway Avenue, home to "Automobile Alley." In the 1920s, more than 50 automobile dealerships were located in beautiful brick showrooms on Broadway, including Chevrolet, Studebaker, Graham-Paige, Buick, and more. By 1995, even before the bombing, Automobile Alley had become dilapidated and desolate. The widest street in downtown Oklahoma City, it was flanked by the biggest concentration of intact historic buildings. **How could Automobile Alley's historic fabric be revitalized to once again serve as a "front door" to downtown Oklahoma City?**

■ Impact

In 1999, Automobile Alley was added to the National Register of Historic Places, and well over \$100 million of public and private investment has occurred in the neighborhood, including building renovations, all new sidewalks, lighting, intersection paving, and banners. This designation, as well as the investment, is a direct result of the work led by Frantz in 1995. Today, more than 80 percent of Automobile Alley's historic buildings have been completely restored. While there were no retail businesses and just one restaurant in the neighborhood at the time of the bombing, it is now a thriving commercial district with many diverse restaurants—from Lebanese to Mexican food, to coffee shops and steakhouses—as well as upper-floor lofts, architects' and engineers' offices, dance studios, nonprofit headquarters, light manufacturing, retail shopping, and more. Today, the Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau describes Automobile Alley as "Revitalized. Revamped. And really cool."

Right: Frantz, Automobile Alley Association Chair, attending Automobile Alley's annual Employee Appreciation Lunch.

■ Role

In the aftermath of the bombing, due to his preservation and architectural expertise Frantz was appointed by Oklahoma City Mayor Ron Norrick to lead a team of 27 volunteers focused on the revitalization of North Broadway Avenue. Frantz coordinated the team of architects, engineers, interior designers, and students as they documented the buildings, assembled photographs, developed presentations, and worked quickly and carefully to produce a complete building inventory and accompanying report of Automobile Alley. Under Frantz's leadership, the team also used the report to advocate that Automobile Alley be redeveloped into a retail district that included restaurants and upper-floor housing and offices. In addition, Frantz helped the team establish the Automobile Alley Urban Main Street Program, part of the Oklahoma Main Street Center, to support the ongoing preservation and revitalization work.



"Now, instead of dusty downtown streets where you might picture tumbleweeds bouncing down the pavement, a vibrant energy exudes from the shops as the area booms again."

The Oklahoman Newspaper, 2015



01

"I am not one who is capable of going in and rescuing people. This is just not me. But, please give me the strength, the courage, the wisdom, the guidance to step forward and help with any rebuilding that needs to be done. Let me use my talents in ways that I have never considered. Let me do something that will remember my friends who just died. Let me do something that will honor those friends who are injured. Please watch over us." Stand-up prayer in my office just after the bombing happened. When all was known, Frantz had friends and acquaintances that numbered 24 injured and 42 killed."

Ron Frantz, *Social Science Quarterly*



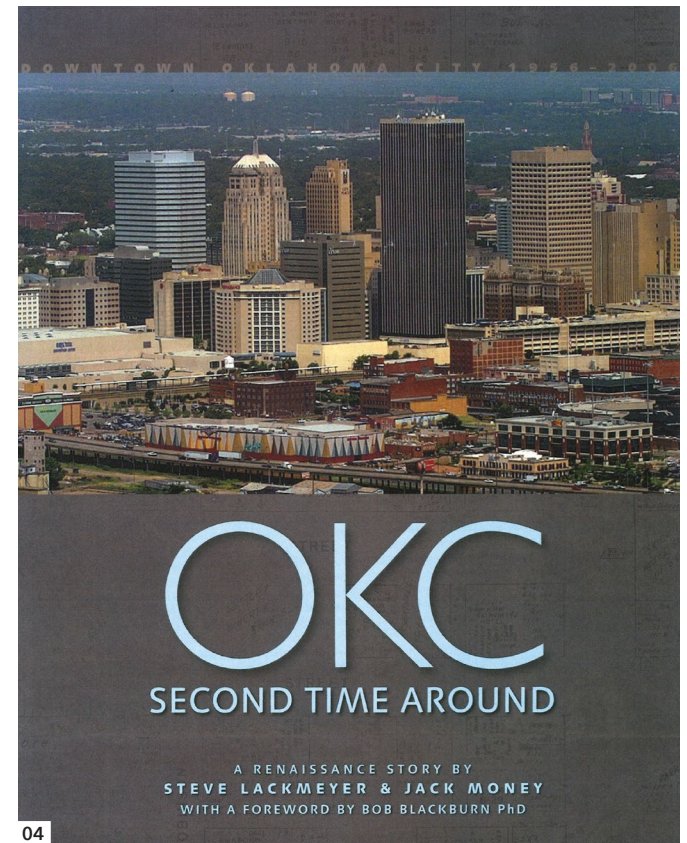
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"After the bombing, property owners were helped by Ron Frantz to push on with their plans. Meg Salyer noticed Frantz sparked frank discussion between property owners. In these tense moments, the street became a community."

OKC, Second Time Around, book by Steve Lackmeyer & Jack Money (2006)



04

3.2 Declaration of Responsibility

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed here. That responsibility included: Working as the first Team II volunteer leader appointed by Oklahoma City Mayor Ron Norick's Office, serving as a community volunteer, transitioning to the staff architect of the Oklahoma Main Street Center for providing façade design assistance, and serving on the board of directors and as the Chair of the Automobile Alley Main Street organization.

Meg Salyer

Board member, Automobile Alley District building owner, business owner, former Chair of Automobile Alley Urban Main Street Program, former city councilperson, former vice mayor

- 01 Automobile Alley is now a vibrant commercial district with retail shops, restaurants and businesses along with off-held car shows and festivals
- 02 Display of significant Automobile Alley milestones and memorabilia at Automobile Alley Main Street reception
- 03 Historic photo of Automobile Alley, Oklahoma City
- 04 Frantz featured in Steve Lackmeyer's *OKC, Second Time Around* book about the resurgence of Automobile Alley and downtown Oklahoma City after the Murrah Bombing

■ Position

President, Representative to OKC, Paseo Neighborhood Association, 1982-1991

■ Highlights

Paseo added to the National Register of Historic Places, 2004

Recognized as "10 Great Neighborhoods for 2010," American Planning Association

"Top 10 of America's Most Transformed Neighborhoods," Forbes, 2010

"Most Beautiful Neighborhoods in the United States," BBC Radio, 2011

Oklahoma Historical Society and American Society of Interior Designers "Citation of Merit," 1993

■ Featured Publications

"Rich as Oil in an Oklahoma Bungalow," *Old-House Journal*, 1997

"Fighting for Paseo's Future," *Oklahoma Gazette*, 1990

"Pioneering in Paseo," *Oklahoma Gazette*, 1983

■ Select Presentations

AIA Exhibition Opening, 1995

Statewide Historic Preservation Conference, 1994, 2001

■ Challenge

Just north of downtown Oklahoma City, The Paseo is an L-shaped neighborhood of 30 square blocks of frame bungalows and brick apartment buildings originally developed as a streetcar district in the pre-war period. While the main street had artists' studios and hosted the Paseo Arts Festival on Memorial Day Weekend, by the early 1980s, the surrounding neighborhood had among the highest rates of murder, crime, arson, and truancy in the city. Its reputation was so poor that the neighborhood was simply depicted as a dark square on the neighborhood association map produced by the Neighborhood Alliance of Central Oklahoma. It was a common refrain that local real estate agents would drive around the area when showing houses in other neighborhoods.

Was it possible to restore The Paseo to a thriving neighborhood with revitalized housing?

A CHDO, or Community Housing Development Organization, is a private non-profit, community-based organization that helps provide affordable housing for the community it serves.

■ Impact

What was a blighted neighborhood in the early 1980s, with homes selling for as little as \$1,500, has transformed into what BBC Radio called one of the "Most Beautiful Neighborhoods in the United States." Due to Frantz's advocacy and support of the neighborhood, Paseo was also listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2004.

This transformation is a testament to Frantz's advocacy work at multiple levels in the neighborhood—from building strong, neighborly relationships to raising awareness of architectural preservation practices among community members with his newsletters, tours, and workshops. He understood that many people who lived in the neighborhood were renters who had little power over the condition of their homes, so he advocated for improvements directly with neighborhood leaders and building owners. He also worked with *Positively Paseo!* to help secure federal funding to ensure safe, affordable housing was available. This group has expanded its mission into other parts of Oklahoma City, including the Classen-10-Penn (northwest), Capitol View (northeast), and Capitol Hill (southwest) neighborhoods; building or rehabilitating over 50 homes to date.

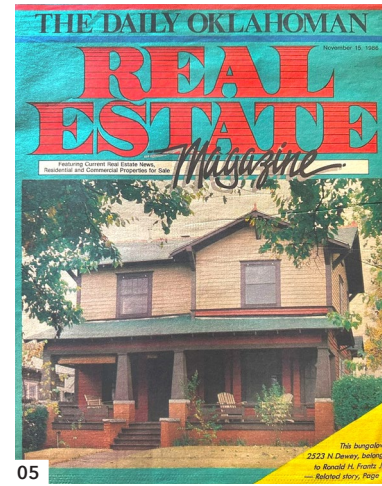
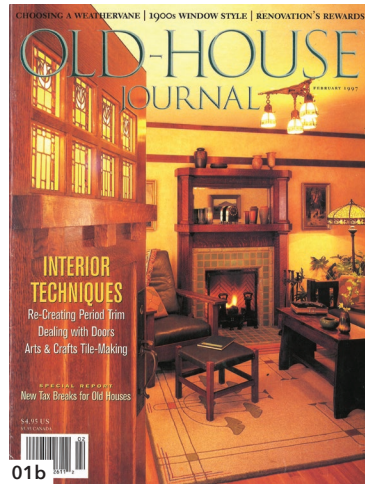
■ Role

In 1982, Frantz purchased an inexpensive bungalow in The Paseo with plans to restore the home. He immediately expanded his vision beyond restoring just one building to revitalizing the whole neighborhood. He began by restarting the defunct Paseo Neighborhood Association and serving as its President (1982-1991). In order to help boost the image of the area and connect it with useful and relevant resources, Frantz joined the board of directors for the Neighborhood Alliance of Central Oklahoma (1983-1990). He began writing articles about the neighborhood for the monthly "Cornerpost" newsletter, co-founded an annual Old-House Fair, co-organized monthly old-house workshops that educated homeowners on the proper care and maintenance of their properties, and worked with other neighborhood leaders as a way to cross invisible lines separating the neighborhood associations. As a volunteer for the AIA Central Oklahoma Chapter, Frantz helped start the Chapter's Architecture Week Tour in 1992, offering the semi-completed bungalow as a stop on the tour. Then, with a number of other leaders, Frantz helped start *Positively Paseo!* in 1989, a housing revitalization program that became a **CHDO**, which received federal money to develop affordable housing.

He even helped to reduce truancy by co-developing an after-school program with a local church that is active to this day, even expanding into another central Oklahoma City neighborhood.

Meanwhile, Frantz's bungalow restoration received national recognition, including coverage in *The Old-House Journal*. In 1994, when Frantz and his family outgrew it, the bungalow sold for full price in just 30 days, a marked difference from averages 10 years earlier, when homes might sit on the market for six years and sell for under \$5,000. One neighbor remarked, "All these things you've been telling us all these years proved to be true. Believe in this area and do quality work!"

Today, the Paseo is a safe place for families and one of the hottest priced neighborhoods in Oklahoma City, with homes often topping \$300,000. The artists' district now has award-winning restaurants, including one that recently received a nomination for a James Beard Award. The Paseo Arts Festival is larger than ever, with over 60,000 visitors attending each year. In 2010, the American Planning Association named the Paseo as one of its "10 Greatest Neighborhoods for 2010."



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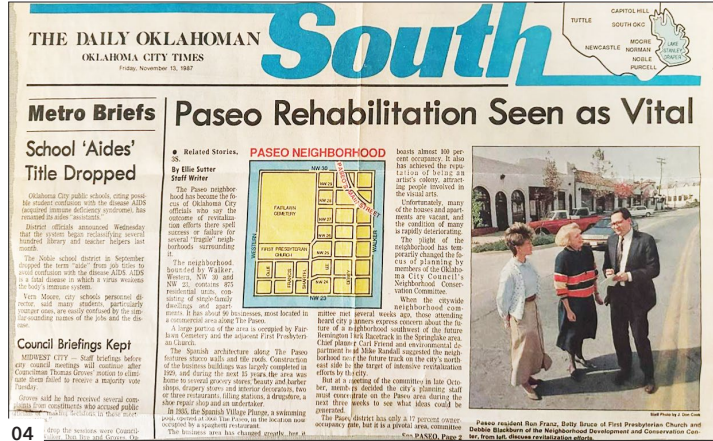
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"A bustling artists' colony before neglect and blight nearly destroyed it, The Paseo is today one of Oklahoma City's more coveted addresses. Its colorful bungalows attract residents seeking homes with character, its art galleries, restaurants, and shops draw residents and visitors alike, and its commercial area ... brings professionals and businesses desiring a place close to downtown yet with a different vibe."

American Planning Association, 2010

"I decided to serve as president of the Paseo Neighborhood Association - who else will do it? I'm only the second new homeowner in more than a decade."

Ron Frantz, Old-House Journal

3.3 Declaration of Responsibility

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed here. That responsibility included: Serving as the President of the Paseo Neighborhood Association, serving on the board and as VP of the Neighborhood Alliance of Central Oklahoma, contributing to the Cornerpost newsletter with maintenance tips for old house owners, co-organizing monthly old house workshops and a tool lending library, co-creating the annual Old-House Fair, and co-creating the Positively Paseo Community Housing Development Organization.

Debbie Blackburn
Neighborhood Advocate, Board Member Positively Paseo Community Neighborhood Housing Organization, Former Director of Neighborhood Alliance of Central Oklahoma, former Oklahoma House of Representatives Legislator, District 88

- 01 Frantz's Paseo bungalow is featured in the Old-House Journal magazine, February 1997
- 02 Neighborhood Alliance's The Cornerpost newsletter featured a story written by Frantz about the Paseo Neighborhood's revitalization efforts
- 03 Oklahoma Gazette interviewed Frantz for their cover story featuring the Paseo Neighborhood's revitalization efforts, August 1990
- 04 The Daily Oklahoman ran a story about the Paseo Neighborhood's revitalization efforts featuring Frantz's work, November 13, 1987
- 05 The Daily Oklahoman's Real Estate section focused on historic bungalows, including Frantz's which was on the cover, November 15, 1986
- 06 Originally designed by Frantz in 1982, the Paseo Neighborhood's pylons remain over 40 years later. Frantz is pictured here at the 2023 Paseo Arts Festival

■ **Position**

Director of Small Town Studios, 2011-present

■ **Highlights**

Top Ten Techniques for Educating Community Leaders About Placemaking, Congress for the New Urbanism, 2016

OU Christopher C. Gibbs College of Architecture Teaching Award, 2021

■ **Featured Publications**

“What Makes a Good Place?” *Sooner Magazine*, 2013

“A Revamped Downtown Gives Muskogee, OK Renewed Life,” *Livability*, 2017

“Crafting Charrettes that Transform Communities,” *American Planning Association*, 2018

“A Historic All-Black Town Wants Reparations to Rebuild its ‘Safe Haven’” *Washington Post*, 2022

■ **Challenge**

The University of Oklahoma (OU) established **The OU Institute for Quality Communities (IQC)**, its signature community outreach and service-learning program, in 2008. The IQC was charged with improving the lives of local citizens, with an emphasis on enhancing the condition and appearance of Oklahoma’s small towns. Historically, Oklahoma’s rural areas are better connected to the state’s land-grant university, Oklahoma State. Thus, the IQC’s faculty and staff needed to develop new relationships and partnerships with community members around the state.

Would it be possible for the IQC to change lives around the state through revitalization projects?

The OU Institute for Quality Communities (IQC) is OU’s signature community outreach and service-learning program.

■ **Impact**

Frantz has developed close connections to community leaders around Oklahoma for more than 30 years through his work with the Oklahoma Main Street Center. As the Director of Small Town Studios, he has leveraged these connections to build bridges between rural community and urban neighborhood leaders around the state and OU’s Institute for Quality Communities. Over this period, the Institute for Quality Communities has completed more than 50 community projects in 28 Oklahoma counties, resulting in dozens of formally adopted plans, successful grant applications, and implemented changes. In 2022 alone, Frantz helped lead the IQC as it engaged over 160 Oklahomans and more than 300 students, completed 11 projects in 10 communities, and raised more than \$100,000 to support graduate assistant positions. These numbers tell the story of the thriving community engagement program that the IQC has become, inspiring OU students to contribute their professional design skills to improve their local communities.

The IQC conferences have attracted more than 4,000 attendees from 60 Oklahoma counties and beyond, establishing the IQC as a key learning, networking and facilitating incubator for community advocates, civic leaders, and industry professionals throughout the state.

Right: Final Student Presentations for IQC Project at special community event in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma.

■ **Role**

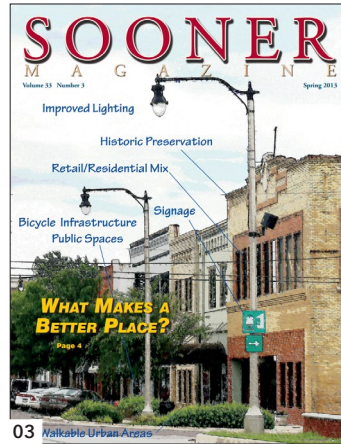
As the IQC’s inaugural Director of Small Town Studios, Frantz partners communities throughout the State of Oklahoma with OU faculty, staff, and undergraduate and graduate students to deliver design assistance to overlooked and underserved places that may not have access to professional design services. Through this work, Frantz mentors and trains OU students in community engagement techniques. The students learn how to identify community members’ desires for their downtowns and then craft beautiful and actionable proposals that towns can use to apply for grants and hire design professionals to undertake the proposed work. In addition, Frantz has helped the IQC develop and host five biennial Placemaking Conferences that bring internationally known leaders in city design and development to the OU campus to share best practices during an all-day event.

To make this work possible, Frantz has supported the IQC in developing connections to OU’s programs in Architecture, Environmental Design, Interior Design, Landscape Architecture, Regional and City Planning, and Urban Design. He has also helped to formalize important IQC partnerships with external organizations including the American Institute for Architects Central Oklahoma Chapter (AIA-COC), the American Planning Association (APA-OK), the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG), the Oklahoma Arts Council, the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, Urban Land Institute, Oklahoma Main Street Center, TSET (Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust), Oklahoma Municipal League, and other programs, agencies, and organizations throughout the state.





01



03 Walkable Urban Areas

"Ron's deep experience, his one-of-a-kind warm character, and the trust his extensive network places in him, have been essential to establishing IQC as a top public interest design resource. Ron has made a life-changing impact on hundreds of community partners and students."

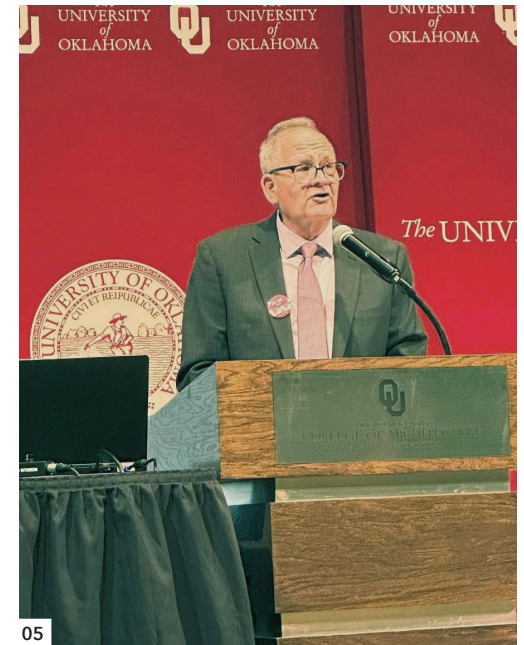
Shane Hampton, Executive Director, IQC



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"The conference was not only a first for Oklahoma, but many of the day's speakers remarked that it also was the best collection of thought-leaders on this topic ever gathered."

Sooner Magazine, Spring 2013

3.4 Declaration of Responsibility

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed here. That responsibility included: Serving as the Director of Small Town Studios, working with IQC staff and graduate assistants on community outreach projects in Oklahoma towns, and organizing service learning activities for hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as co-organizing the biennial IQC Placemaking Conference, co-developing multiple community workshops, and collaborating with local, statewide, and national partners.

Shane Hampton

Director, OU Institute for Quality Communities, Christopher C. Gibbs College of Architecture, The University of Oklahoma Coordinates Oklahoma community outreach work with staff, faculty, graduate assistants, and students for service learning projects

01 Frantz, along with the IQC team, were recipients of the OU Christopher C. Gibbs College of Architecture Teaching Award

02 Even during the pandemic, IQC delivered community assistance by hosting workshops such as this, Spring 2021

03 *OU Alumni* magazine featured the inaugural IQC Placemaking Conference in 2013 where Frantz was a speaker

04 Students worked on a capstone project for the 50th anniversary of a suburban neighborhood. This was tied to the 2015 IQC Placemaking Conference

05 Frantz speaking at the 2023 IQC Placemaking Conference

Expanding Potential *with a Multi-Faceted, Service Learning approach to Design Education:* *The OU Environmental Design Program*

■ Position

Coordinator, Environmental Design Program, 2013–present

■ Highlights

Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office Citations of Merit, Four Citations

Provost's Community Engagement Award for Outstanding Engaged Teaching, University of Oklahoma, 2019

■ Featured Publication

"Chickasaw National Recreation Area," *Institute for Quality Communities*, 2016

"Ron has an innate talent for helping students identify their design passions. His fingerprints are on great places and spaces across Oklahoma. If Mister Rogers was an architect, his name would be Ron Frantz."

Rebecca Blaine, OU PhD Student & Graduate Assistant

Right: Frantz leads students on a field trip in downtown El Reno, OK for part of the Historic Preservation Planning class.

■ Challenge

By May 2013, the University of Oklahoma's (OU) Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design (En D) program enrollment was at a historic low, having dwindled from over 50 students to just four students. The program was perceived as a safe "dumping ground" for students who could not succeed in rigorous degree paths, like architecture, and needed to graduate as soon as possible. There was not a sense of cohesion and shared purpose among En D students. ***How might the program be transformed to become an attractive degree path for students who want to help their communities?***

■ Impact

The new Environmental Design program curriculum has an emphasis on community revitalization and placemaking and is organized around four core courses: Historic Preservation Planning, Urban Real Estate Development, Environmental Design Practicum and Environmental Design Capstone. Notably, one of Frantz's priorities was ensuring that 75 percent of the core courses be designated "service learning" courses by the Provost's Office, meaning that they allow students the opportunity to serve real-world, off-campus clients. Within the redesigned En D program, Frantz also created a close affiliation with OU's Institute for Quality Communities (IQC), OU's community outreach and service learning program, so that students in Environmental Design classes could directly serve communities around the state. Frantz teaches two of the courses himself. Their enrollments have grown significantly—Historic Preservation by 350 percent and Capstone by 82 percent—illustrating the success of Frantz's teaching methods using real-life community projects to train students.

Frantz has also led the development of four accelerated master's programs that would allow Environmental Design students to remove one year from the time it takes them to earn both a bachelor's and master's degree. Programs have already been approved allowing En D students to earn accelerated master's degrees in Landscape Architecture or Regional and City Planning, and options in Interior Design and Urban Design are forthcoming. Today, about 60 percent of En D graduates pursue a graduate degree in programs such as architecture, interior design, law, public health, city planning, and urban design.

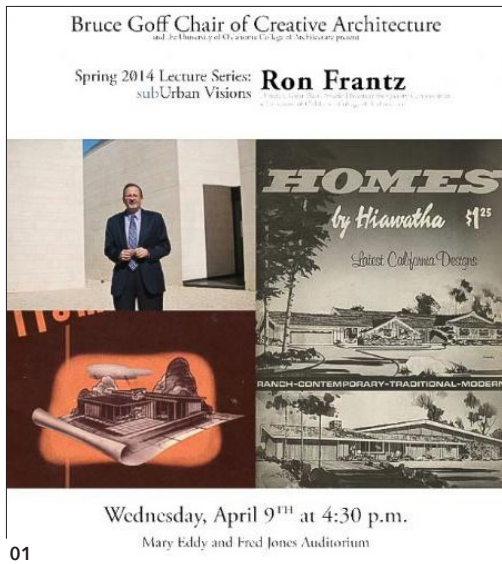
■ Role

That same year, due to his vast array of professional experience and accomplishments, Frantz was selected coordinator of the En D program, which is embedded in OU's Gibbs College of Architecture. Frantz set the goal of improving the program's image and crafting a more cohesive academic experience for students. He partnered with Gibbs College academic advisors, as well as faculty and staff from OU's Institute for Quality Communities, working to create a program that mattered to students, communities, and employers. Frantz led the process of reworking the curriculum over a two-year period (2013–2015).

In addition to OU's grad programs, students have been accepted into competitive programs like the Architectural Association School of Architecture in London, University of Chicago, University of Pennsylvania, Syracuse University, and other universities throughout the world.

By 2023, the OU Environmental Design program has grown to a cohort of 93 students under Frantz's leadership—an exponential increase from the four students enrolled in 2013. Students feel a sense of shared pride in their work serving Oklahoma communities, and their work has been honored with multiple Citations of Merit from the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, as well as recognized in local newspapers and blogs. The degree path is now highly sought after by students who want to make a difference in urban neighborhoods, downtowns, and rural communities.





01

“Studying Environmental Design at the University of Oklahoma helped prepare me to be a leader of tomorrow due to its practical learning opportunities, where students are allowed to work and collaborate with communities to solve real-world problems.”

Vireak They, En D Graduate, Design Director and Founder, Osmosis Architects, Phnom Penh, Cambodia



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3.5 Declaration of Responsibility

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed here. That responsibility included: Serving as the Coordinator for the Environmental Design (En D) undergraduate program to coordinate core coursework, design service learning-designated classes, and recruit a significantly larger En D student body. In addition, the nominee collaborated with faculty in Architecture, Construction Science, and Interior Design, Landscape Architecture and City Planning to develop design outreach and service learning projects.

Hans Butzer, FAIA
 Architect; Dean
 Butzer Architects and Urbanism
 Christopher C. Gibbs College of Architecture, The University of Oklahoma
 Supervises the growth and management of this undergraduate program

- 01 Promotional piece for OU College of Architecture's Bruce Goff Lecture Series where Frantz spoke about well-known residential designer, Hiawatha T. Estes
- 02 Frantz leads a group of Environmental Design Capstone students on a tour of Herb Greene's Prairie House as part of a "Dream House" assignment
- 03 Frantz was first recipient of OU Provost Outstanding Engaged Teaching Award for Community Outreach and Service Learning, May 2019
- 04 Frantz explains architectural elements on the façade of a downtown Norman, OK building for students in Historic Preservation Planning
- 05 Frantz illustrates historic architectural elements in a building for his class.
- 06 Frantz and students in his Historic Preservation Planning class stop for a photo op in downtown El Reno, OK while researching Route 66 resources
- 07 Frantz leads a group of students on a walking tour of downtown Norman, OK as part of this Historic Preservation Planning class

■ Position

DesignWorks Co-Founder and Coordinator, 1990–present

■ Highlights

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. Leadership Award, 2014

■ Featured Publications

DesignWorks Community DesignBook, 1993

DesignWorks Video, 1993

■ Challenge

In 1990, Oklahoma state employees hosted a conference to explore how to promote the arts and design in communities hit hard by the oil market crashes of the 1980s. The conference was organized by staff from the Oklahoma Arts Council, with support from the Oklahoma Main Street Center, Oklahoma Department of Commerce, and the State Historic Preservation Office. In addition to state employees, the conference was attended by professionals from the private sector, including artists and designers. The conference issued the following challenge: ***How might state leaders deliver design assistance to people in small towns and rural areas throughout Oklahoma?***

DesignWorks was founded in 1990 to provide conceptual design services to communities throughout Oklahoma. Led by Ron Frantz, DesignWorks continues to serve small and mid-size towns by connecting them with design and planning students at the University of Oklahoma.

■ Impact

Since the founding of the program, more than 80 communities have been served by DesignWorks Team Visits, with Frantz himself participating in many of the charrettes. The communities often go on to implement ideas that emerge from these charrettes.

Examples of DesignWorks concepts that have been implemented include traffic interventions to improve children's safety when walking to school in Guymon, Oklahoma; converting a forgotten alley into a vibrant community space in Vinita, Oklahoma; and even securing \$2.1 million from Oklahoma City's Strong Neighborhood Initiative to develop a permanent plaza for a Hispanic neighborhood in Oklahoma City. Many of the communities served through DesignWorks have even chosen to join the Oklahoma Main Street Center in order to receive more comprehensive downtown revitalization services.

With the DesignWorks program being relocated to the University of Oklahoma in 2011, Frantz has continued his vital work matching communities with design professionals while mentoring students through this unique process. At OU, two dozen DesignWorks projects have been carried out. All told, these projects have engaged more than 150 architecture, interior design, environmental design, landscape architecture, city

■ Role

As the architect for the Oklahoma Main Street Center, Frantz led the response to this challenge. Working with a group of 24 volunteers, Frantz began researching and developing a framework for design assistance that would benefit rural communities. The group named the program **DesignWorks**, and decided to provide three tools and services: a Community DesignBook, a DesignWorks Video, and DesignWorks Team Visits. Frantz contributed to the DesignBook, which outlined architectural design, landscape design, graphic design, and planning strategies. Frantz also helped create the DesignWorks video, which provided examples of both good and bad community design strategies from the perspective of a business development expert. Finally, Frantz helped develop the framework for DesignWorks Team Visits, that bring in four to six design professionals to lead two-day intensive design charrettes with community members and result in a public presentation of outcomes. When Frantz joined the University of Oklahoma (OU), he brought the DesignWorks program to the University.

planning, and urban design students in charrettes in mid-size, small, and very small towns throughout Oklahoma.

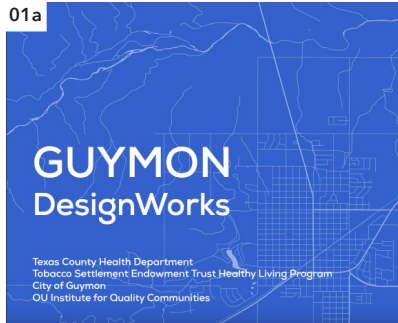
Who would have guessed that the challenge issued during the 1990 conference would result in more than three decades of providing conceptual design services around the state? The common thread through this time is Frantz's commitment to adapting the program amid changing agency funding and staffing contexts. He first oversaw DesignWorks as it transitioned from the Oklahoma Arts Council to the Oklahoma Main Street Center, and then, again, when it moved to the University of Oklahoma. All throughout, Frantz has helped to connect local communities with architectural firms throughout the state.



"I'll never forget the magic in designing the revitalization of my childhood neighborhood as a student with Ron. He was my greatest support through my education and continues to inspire my career through his mentorship and commitment to our communities."

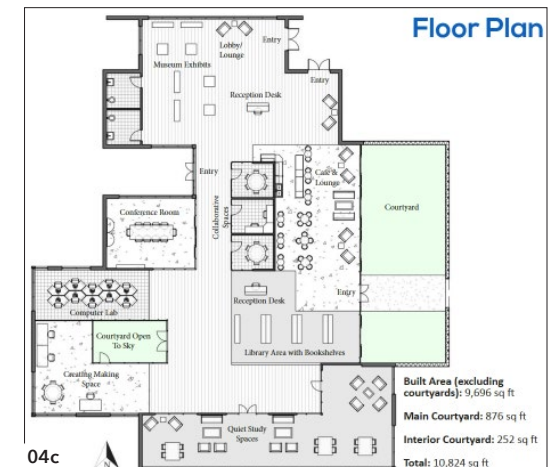
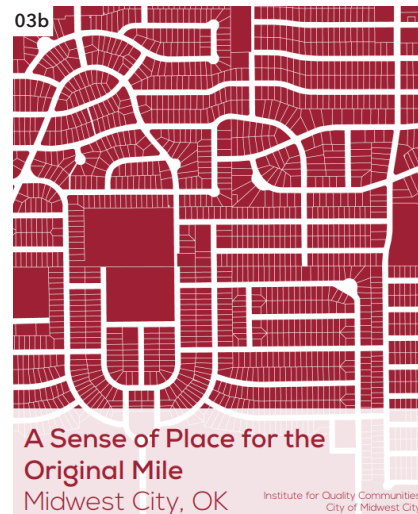
Sonia Ramirez, Architectural Designer, O'Connell Robertson (OU alumna)

Right: Guymon DesignWorks mock-up of expanded pedestrian zone.



"Consulting an architect can save you money. The expertise of an architect does cost; however, the savings will surface during the project because a well-conceived project can be built more efficiently; energy-efficient and site-responsive buildings eliminate future costs; quality materials and careful construction techniques will require less frequent or extensive maintenance; with good drawings and specifications, more accurate costs can be estimated for materials and contractors, thereby keeping the budget on schedule."

Ron Frantz, Architectural Designer, Community DesignBook, Oklahoma State Arts Council



3.6 Declaration of Responsibility

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed here. That responsibility included: Co-organizing the original planning conference to evaluate and respond to needed design assistance, serving on the development committee for the DesignWorks Program, and serving as a member for the DesignWorks Team Visits to various Oklahoma communities, and continuing to coordinate the state-wide DesignWorks program today.

Fred Schmidt, FAIA

Architect, FSB Architects

Co-developed the DesignWorks Program as a volunteer; continues to support efforts in the Christopher C. Gibbs College of Architecture by serving on its Professional Advisory Board.

- 01 Design assistance provided by OU's Institute for Quality Communities during the Guymon DesignWorks team visit. Recommendations focused on creating safer crosswalks for school children on wide streets
- 02 Design assistance on the Tahlequah DesignWorks' visit focused on completing a walking trail and highlighting landmarks along the route with wayfinding signage in both English and Cherokee languages
- 03 Community design assistance provided by OU's Institute for Quality Communities for Midwest City, OK as the city grapples with creating an identity in its original square mile
- 04 Preliminary design assistance for a new community library and museum in Comanche, OK done through a DesignWorks team visit

■ Position

Preservation Consultant,
1981-1984

Pro-Bono Preservation
Consultant,
1984-present

■ Highlights

Preservation Honor Award for
preservation efforts in Guthrie,
Oklahoma, National Trust for
Historic Preservation, 1988

George Shirk Memorial Award
for preservation efforts in
Oklahoma, Oklahoma Historical
Society, 1992

■ Featured Publications

“Local Architect Designed:
Guthrie, OK”, *Blueprints*, National
Building Museum, 1984

“Guthrie Restoration: Putting Up
an Old Front,”
Oklahoma Home-Garden, 1982

■ Featured Presentation

“From Land Runs to Oil Booms:
The Incredible Quality of Early
Oklahoma Architecture,”
Oklahoma Main Street Downtown
Revitalization Conference, 1986

■ Challenge

Founded as the Territorial Capital of Oklahoma Territory during the Oklahoma Land Run in 1889, Guthrie went from open prairie to a vibrant city overnight. A young Belgian-born architect, Joseph Foucart, left his job of working on the design for the new Paris (France) City Hall to find a fresh canvas for his architectural designs. Foucart brought with him an Eastern European design flair, molding whimsically detailed Victorian façades from Oklahoma sandstone and red-clay prairies. After the Oklahoma capital was moved to Oklahoma City in 1910, Guthrie’s boom days subsided but the largest and best preserved collection of pre-statehood buildings in the state remained. By the 1970s, dozens of the original Victorian façades had been covered with aluminum slipcovers, obscuring the city’s unique architectural past. With the Great Oil Bust of the early 1980s, Guthrie’s downtown fell further into decline. ***Was it possible to restore Guthrie’s historic Main Street to its original grandeur?***

■ Impact

The preservation work led by Frantz in downtown Guthrie set standards for Oklahoma communities across the state. In 1989, Guthrie served as the location of Oklahoma’s first-ever Statewide Preservation Conference, which Frantz helped organize, as well as the location of many early Oklahoma Main Street Center trainings and tours. In 1988, the National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded the Logan County Historical Society, which Frantz coordinated with on the preservation work, a Preservation Honor Award. Downtown Guthrie was elevated to a National Historic Landmark District in 2000. In 2018, Guthrie was designated a “Great Place in America” by the American Planning Association. In the intervening years, Guthrie has become a popular filming location for feature films, with over 150 films, including *Twister* and *Rain Man*, filmed in Guthrie. These developments illustrate how Frantz’s careful work consulting with dozens of building owners throughout downtown Guthrie to document and restore the city’s one-of-a-kind Main Street paid off in the form of national recognition and local pride.

“Ron’s architectural preservation work in Guthrie bookended the original designs of European architect Joseph Foucart launched in 1889. Without Ron’s expertise and passion, much of the city’s structural treasure-trove would have been lost to the future.”

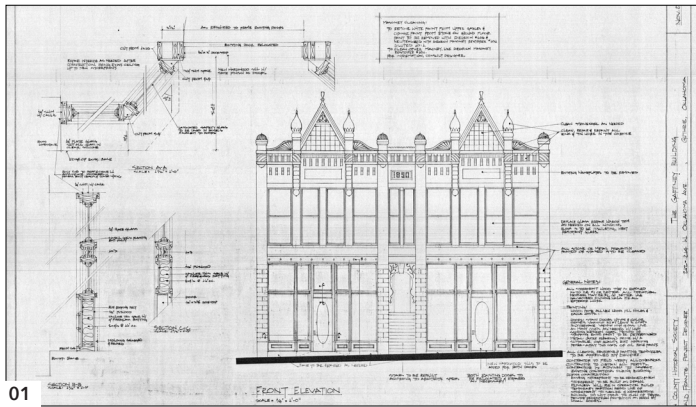
Jay Hannah, Head of Financial Services, BancFirst

■ Role

Today, Guthrie has the largest concentration of Territorial-era (1889-1907) buildings remaining. Understanding the historical significance of Guthrie’s downtown, and in coordination with the Logan County Historical Society, Frantz began working as a preservation consultant, and he meticulously prepared façade drawings to document the original architectural designs of 88 buildings in downtown Guthrie (82% of all commercial buildings in the district). In addition, Frantz worked with building owners of architectural gems including the Gaffney Building, J.B. Beadles Building, Filtsch Block and many others to ensure that these buildings were restored and preserved down to the finest detail. Frantz also led the work of removing aluminum slipcovers from 12 historic storefronts to reveal the original, ornate façades just in one block alone. With Frantz’s help, building owners were also able to make use of the Investment Tax Credits for Rehabilitation Program, helping to defray restoration costs. Frantz also created and provided architectural tour training to docents at two local museums.



100 Block West Oklahoma Avenue, North Side: All 12 buildings had metal slipcovers when Frantz provided design assistance.



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3.7 Declaration of Responsibility

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed here. That responsibility included: Conducting site visits in downtown Guthrie and providing design assistance to building owners, business owners, and community volunteers, following up with technical assistances and façade renderings that addressed maintenance issues, design considerations and restoration techniques consistent with The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Additional design assistance included design trainings, community presentations, and museum docent trainings as needed.

Susan Guthrie Dunham

Former Executive Director (1981-1983), Logan County Historical Society, Guthrie, Oklahoma, Coordinator of all downtown revitalization efforts in the Territorial Capital of Oklahoma

- 01 Frantz's façade rendering and details for restoration of 1890 Gaffney Building in downtown Guthrie, OK
- 02 Preliminary façade rendering by Frantz of historic Adler & Lipe Buildings, Guthrie, OK
- 03 Reconstruction rendering for the façade of the J.C. Wicks Building, Guthrie, OK
- 04 Gaffney Building façade restoration in progress, Guthrie, OK
- 05 Frantz and building owner, Ruby Tryon, looking out of one of the Gaffney Building's upper floor windows while building under construction
- 06 Frantz stands next to plaque that highlights his design assistance in both 1983 and 2008 for the restoration of the historic Mineral Wells Park Pavilion



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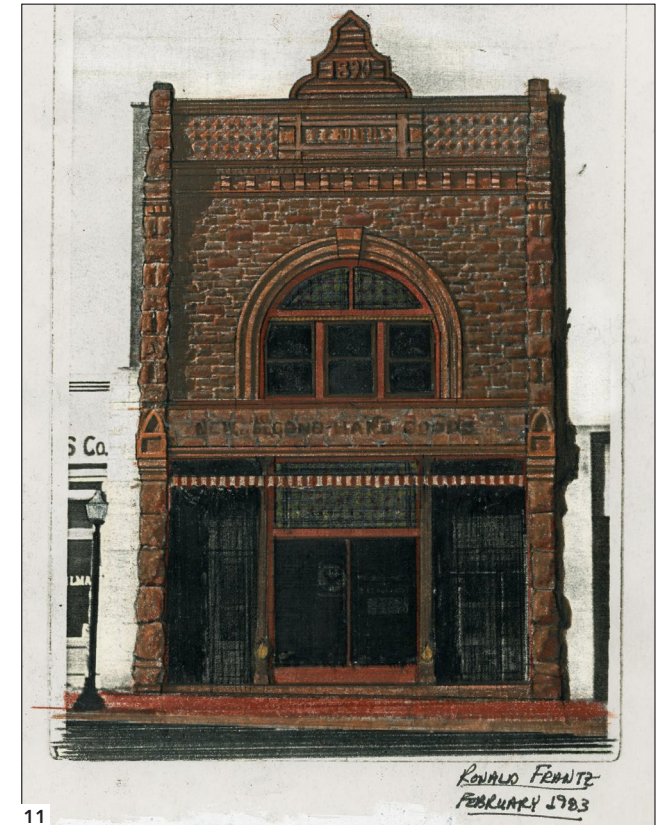
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“Guthrie, Oklahoma’s original territorial capital town, is oft-touted as ‘Oklahoma’s Christmas Capital.’ From the historic Blue Belle Saloon to the majestic Oklahoma Territorial Museum and Carnegie Library, Guthrie’s downtown, with its brick streets and Victorian architecture, does look like a movie set straight out of a Hallmark holiday flick.”

Southern Living Magazine



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07 Spurllock Building façade rendering completed by Frantz

08 Current day corner view of The Victor Block, a significant building in downtown Guthrie, OK. Frantz assisted with the façade restoration

09 Cover article of National Building Museum’s Blueprints newsletter featured the architecture of Guthrie, OK and Frantz’s restoration work

10 One of two street elevations of the Blue Belle Saloon prepared by Frantz

11 Façade rendering prepared by Frantz for the restoration of the 1890 F.C. Bonfils Building in Guthrie, OK

■ Position

Architect/Assistant Director,
Oklahoma Main Street Center,
1986-1997, 2003-2011

■ Highlights

Governor's Arts Award, State
Arts Council of Oklahoma, 1993

Charles F. Colcord Award
for preservation efforts in
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Historical Society, 1991

Special Award, American
Institute of Architects, 1995

■ Featured Publications

"Oklahoma's Wide Open Spaces,"
Main Street News, 1988

"Okmulgee, Oklahoma:
Bust to Boom,"
Historic Preservation Forum, 1991

"Main Street Make-Overs,"
Traditional Building, 1996

■ Featured Presentations

"Main Street Memories,"
Main Street America
Small Towns Conference,
Keynote Speaker, 1994

"Plains Commercial Architecture
and Materials,"
Main Street America National
Town Meeting, 1992

"Guiding Design on Main Street,"
Main Street America National
Town Meeting, 1996

■ Challenge

When Frantz was an architecture student at Tulane University in the 1970s, he came across a copy of Vincent Scully's *American Architecture and Urbanism* (1969). Inside, he made special note of the small towns and historic Main Streets featured inside, including Faith, South Dakota (circa 1915), Oklahoma City (1890), and Utopia, Texas (population 211). While his peers were intrigued by flashy postmodern projects like Venturi Scott Brown's Vanna House, Frantz knew immediately that his passion was helping to revive small towns and historic Main Streets. After graduation, he moved to Oklahoma, home to many rural communities. On his own time, Frantz immediately set out making connections with community leaders in towns like Chandler, along Route 66, and Pawhuska, headquarters for the Osage Nation. He began leading twilight walking tours and offering presentations to civic clubs to raise awareness about the historic importance of these towns' built fabric. As he criss-crossed the state, Frantz encountered many people who didn't believe it was necessary or possible to save their downtowns. Common sentiments included: "Our town does not need an architect;" and, "They are just old, red brick buildings. Who cares?" as well as, "Our town is nothing special." ***Was it possible to restore a sense of pride to small towns across Oklahoma?***

■ Impact

During his 19 years with the Oklahoma Main Street Center, Frantz worked tirelessly to provide design assistance in 75 Oklahoma towns, including over 17,000 one-on-one site visits and building inspections for historic commercial structures located within officially designated Oklahoma Main Street districts. These Main Streets have been recognized with many awards and honors from statewide organizations, including the Oklahoma Arts Council, Keep Oklahoma Beautiful, the State Historic Preservation Office, Preservation Oklahoma and other state agencies and non-profit organizations for their downtown beautification, historic preservation, and revitalization efforts. In 2023, Frantz was honored for his efforts when the Oklahoma Historical Society named its collection of Main Street drawings, mentioned above, the "Ron Frantz Oklahoma Main Street Collection."

These efforts have been recognized nationally as well. For example, Main Street America has honored six Oklahoma towns that worked with Frantz with the "Great American Main Street

■ Role

In 1985, when the Oklahoma Main Street Center was created, Frantz found his dream job when he was hired on as Staff Architect. In this role, Frantz was able to leverage the connections he had been developing across the state over the past four years to offer design assistance directly to businesses and building owners. Design assistance included identifying historic materials and resources, sharing contractor information, and providing technical details for each individual building. Frantz ensured that all information, materials, and processes met The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, as well as stipulations for qualifying for Investment Tax Credits (federal and state levels) without harming or diminishing the fabric of each building, many of which are now part of **National Register Historic Districts**. He also led the work of preparing renderings of over 1,300 drawings of historic buildings and created a slide collection of over 30,000 photographs documenting Oklahoma's historic Main Streets, which now reside in the Oklahoma Historical Society.

National Register Historic Districts (NRHD) are part of the U.S. National Register of Historic Places program. An NRHD designates a defined geographical area that should be preserved due to its historical or artistic value.

Award," recognizing outstanding revitalization efforts: Cordell (1999), Newkirk (2000), Enid (2001), Okmulgee (2002), El Reno (2006), and Kendall-Whittier in Tulsa (2020). As of early 2023, 33 Oklahoma Main Street downtowns have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Suffice to say, over the past 40 years, Frantz's efforts connecting with small town community leaders and advocating for historic preservation have not only led to hundreds of revitalized buildings, but have also restored a sense of pride in small towns across the state.

Through his role with the Oklahoma Main Street Center, Frantz also developed collaborative relationships with community partners in over 100 Oklahoma towns, districts, and neighborhoods. During Frantz's tenure, the Center provided design assistance for more than 3,800 façade restorations and 7,000 building rehabilitations, and total reinvestment in Oklahoma towns exceeded \$773 million.

■ Position

Service to Statewide and Local Committees and Organizations, 1983-present

■ Highlights

Lifetime Achievement Award, AIA Oklahoma, 2023

William Wayne Caudill Award for promoting the profession, American Institute for Architects Central Oklahoma Chapter, 2015

AIA Oklahoma Award for Community Service, 2020

Citizen Architect/Civic Engagement Program Selectee, AIA, 2010

■ Select Service Appointments

President, AIA Central Oklahoma Chapter, 2006

Main Street America's Architects and Designers Committee, 1987-present

Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office's Historic Preservation Review Committee, 1996-1997; 2008-present

"Countless communities have benefitted from Ron's contagious energy and enthusiasm for the built environment. His tireless dedication to historic preservation, community service, and thoughtful guidance have elevated the design discourse in every town he engages."

David Pettyjohn, Executive Director, Idaho Humanities Council

■ Challenge

The beginning of Frantz's architectural career in the early 1980s coincided with the Great Oil Bust. This economic depression gripped Oklahoma for more than a decade, and many young intern architects and even many seasoned architects left the state for better opportunities. During one AIA Central Oklahoma Chapter meeting, it was revealed that Oklahoma had the lowest number of licensed architects per capita in the country. By 2023, the state's economy has improved, and the awareness of the importance of licensed architects and the value of quality design is much higher. However, the number of licensed architects (785) is still a small fraction of Oklahoma's total population (4.05 million people)—about half the national average. ***With so few licensed architects in Oklahoma, how might one person help ensure all Oklahomans benefit from the architecture profession?***

■ Role

Throughout his career, Frantz has worked as a Citizen Architect, actively seeking public service, volunteer, and outreach opportunities that extend beyond his paid professional activities. Taking into account the Oklahoma Art in Public Places Oversight Committee, the Oklahoma Main Street State Advisory Board and Foundation, the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Review Committee (including chairing the committee three times), the OKC Urban Design Commission, and many, many others, Frantz has volunteered for over three dozen organizations, investing his design acumen in supporting his community along the way. In several cases, he co-founded or served as a founding member of these organizations, illustrating how, when Frantz sees a need in his community, he actively seeks solutions and develops the necessary infrastructure to get the need met. For example, he co-founded the "Uptown Renaissance!" group in Oklahoma City, which focused on revitalizing a historic Route 66 stretch of N.W. 23rd Street. Today, this streetscape is among the premier entertainment districts in OKC.

As evidence of his standing in the state, Frantz has been appointed by two Oklahoma governors to serve on the state's Historic Preservation Review Committee (1996-1997; 2008-present), where he reviews, comments on, and approves nominations for the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, Frantz served as the AIA Central Oklahoma Chapter (AIA-COC) President and volunteered extensively with both the AIA Central Oklahoma and AIA Oklahoma groups, leading downtown walking tours at the annual AIA Oklahoma

■ Impact

Frantz's commitment to serving has led him to work tirelessly to raise awareness and advocate on behalf of the architecture profession while improving lives in his community. In recognition of these efforts, Frantz's impactful contributions have been honored with significant awards including the AIA Oklahoma Award for Community Service (2020) and the AIA Central Oklahoma Chapter's William Wayne Caudill Award for promoting the profession (2015). He has become a trusted and sought after architect-volunteer across the state, with organizations of all scales—from the local to the state-level benefitting from his willingness to give freely of his expertise. There may not be many licensed architects in Oklahoma, but Ronald H. Frantz, Jr. has dedicated his life to making sure as many Oklahomans as possible benefit from his skills as an architect.

Conference on Architecture, speaking during monthly AIA Central Oklahoma Chapter luncheons, assisting with Lunch & Learn CEU opportunities, and more. Some of Frantz's key accomplishments include partnering with the AIA-COC to establish an annual Architecture Week and Architecture Week Tour in 1992, which he helped revive in 2002 and which continues to this day.

In 2023, Frantz received the **AIA Oklahoma Lifetime Achievement Award**, AIA Oklahoma's highest honor, which recognized his "lifetime of distinguished leadership and dedication to the architecture profession and the community."



Frantz and family pictured with his 2023 AIA Oklahoma Lifetime Achievement Award. (Ron Frantz, far right)



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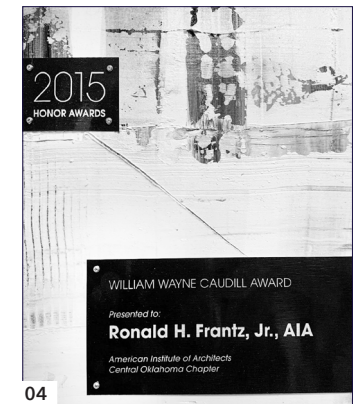
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“Ron’s creativity and enthusiasm for Oklahoma’s architecture and its preservation made him the perfect partner for launching our first statewide preservation conference in 1989 and for sustaining it for thirty years. His presentations were always conference favorites.”

Melvina Heisch, past Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)



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“I often refer to our world of downtown and rural development as a Laubach-model process: each one teaches one. But in the case of Ron Frantz, one has taught thousands. And those thousands have taught thousands more. As I have the privilege of teaching community development, I take with me the skills and knowledge shared with me by Ron Frantz. In spirit, Ron has traveled everywhere with me, from the five local programs I have managed to my time at the National Main Street Center and with the Civic Trust in England.”

Beverly Abell, Downtown Development Director, City of Mesquite, TX

3.9 Declaration of Responsibility

I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed here. That responsibility included: Serving as a volunteer, board member, and president for the AIA Central Oklahoma Chapter, being involved with activities and conferences for the AIA Oklahoma state-wide organization, and participating in multiple events and activities that promote Central Oklahoma’s architecture and architectural profession over four decades. The nominee was designated as a “Citizen Architect” by The American Institute of Architects in 2010.

Lisa Chronister, FAIA

Assistant Planning Director, The City of Oklahoma City Planning Department; President, AIA Central Oklahoma Chapter, 2002 & 2016; Active member of the AIA Central Oklahoma Chapter, AIA Oklahoma state-wide organization, and AIA national organization, 1994–present

- 01 Frantz receiving the 2017 Oklahoma Main Street Legacy Award at their annual banquet (theme of banquet: Beatles), Oklahoma City, OK
- 02 For thirty years, Frantz has been a speaker at Oklahoma’s Statewide Preservation Conference. Frantz has served on most of the planning committees and was one of the original founders of the conference
- 03 Frantz was the recipient of the 2020 Honor Award for Community Service from AIA Oklahoma
- 04 Frantz was the recipient of the AIA Central Oklahoma’s 2015 William Wayne Caudill Award for promoting the architecture profession
- 05 Charles F. Colcord Award Presentation
- 06 Frantz served on the original AIA Central Oklahoma Chapter’s home tour planning committee; pictured is the tour’s brochure featuring Frantz’s Paseo Bungalow. The annual Architecture Week Tour continues to this day, over thirty years later