



# SOCGRAM

September/October, 2001

## **Federal Save America's Treasures Grant awarded for tomb preservation in St. Louis Cemetery No. 1**

SOC is pleased to announce that it has received a National Park Service Federal Save America's Treasures grant from the Department of the Interior for the restoration of tombs in St. Louis Cemetery No. 1. The \$150,000 grant will provide funding to restore selected tombs under the leadership of internationally recognized architectural conservator Frank Matero of the Department of Historic Preservation, Graduate School of Fine Arts, at the University of Pennsylvania. Frank stated that "Federal recognition and funding from the Save America's Treasures program establishes the significance and continuing relevance these cultural sites have had to resident and visitor alike for over two centuries. The grant will allow unprecedented funding to begin implementation of a new approach to their conservation and management." Frank has been involved with SOC for more than a decade, guiding the organization's restorations projects in Lafayette Cemetery No. 1 and St. Louis No. 1.

Matching funds will be provided by the New Orleans Archdiocesan Cemeteries, owners and caretakers of the site. Receiving word of the grant, Mike Boudreaux, Director of the New Orleans Archdiocesan Cemeteries and SOC Board member said "We are delighted that the Federal

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## **Grant Awarded** *(continued from page 1)*

Government and the community are recognizing the importance of restoring our historic cemeteries. These funds will help us to renovate some of the most critically important tombs.”

St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 is New Orleans’ oldest extant cemetery dating from 1789. Save Our Cemeteries listed St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 on the National Register of Historic Places on July 30, 1975. Friends of New Orleans Cemeteries listed St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 as an official project of Save America’s Treasures through the National Trust in 2000.

The Save America’s Treasures grant will compliment projects already underway that were funded by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior through the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Office of Cultural Development, Division of Historic Preservation. The funding for the above mentioned projects totals \$50,000 for the years 2001 and 2002. The recipients, the University of Pennsylvania, Tulane University, and SOC are using the funds to create a site conservation and management plan for St. Louis Cemetery No. 1. These projects identified the tombs that will be restored using the Federal Save America’s Treasures grant. They also

established guidelines for future restoration and conservation work in New Orleans Cemeteries.

In response to hearing the great news, Mary Louise Christovich, SOC founder, said “This has been our dream. It is so gratifying to see that not only the Federal Government, but the community is recognizing the importance of these cemeteries to America’s cultural heritage.”

The first order of business is to create a community advisory board to insure involvement from interested segments of the local community and the field of historic preservation. This board will help to insure that the latest conservation methods are in use and that the grant has far reaching effects through education and training.

### **Reminder!**

Send in your completed  
HENA donation form for their  
December Auction to benefit  
SOC!! A copy of the form can  
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