

DATE: May 15, 2009

Building a Team

As Preservation of Wilson becomes stronger, it will only happen by building an outstanding team. This is why we have decided to partner with Theater of the American South as we collaborate on a two-part antiques event to be held Saturday afternoon, May 30, 2009.

The first portion of the program will be an antiques auction benefiting Preservation of Wilson. The auction will run from 1:30 to 2:30 pm and will be conducted by Wilson auctioneer Bobby Langston. The winner of the raffle for the antique pine table will be announced at the conclusion of this event. Tickets are still available and you can get them during intermission at all performances.

The second part of the program, the Antiques Streetshow, modeled on the PBS series *Antiques Roadshow*, will be held from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Wilson dealers and appraisers will be on hand to offer informal valuations of antiques and collectibles brought to the site by their owners. There will be separate tables for furniture, jewelry, glass and silver, clocks and watches, and possibly other categories.

Why this collaboration? We complement each other. Together we have the opportunity to get more folks downtown. Our separate events will do better and because of it, we will encourage a greater festival experience during Theater of the American South. This will be just one of our many win-win partnerships. Plan to come out this weekend and celebrate the South and our rich antique history. You will find us under the festival tent in the Farris and Farris parking lot on Saturday afternoon.

Who's on our team? Our current membership is over 180 families and new folks are getting involved weekly. Our Board of Trustees has 19 members and we are up to an additional seven working directly at the committee level. Preservation of Wilson needs your time, talent and/or treasures. It's your time – volunteer doing what you know and enjoy.

A team needs partnerships to be successful. We thank the City of Wilson, Wilson County, Wilson Tourism Authority, Old Wilson Neighborhood Association, Wilson Downtown Properties, NC Community Foundation and the Covington Foundation to name just a few.

We are working to get a better understanding of the many non-profits and how we might work together. As an example, Erin Day, Director of the Wilson County Substance Coalition, joined the Visioning Committee when they met with Chief Tyson. *Another collaboration that complements each other.*

We want to invite the non-profits that have a role in neighborhood revitalization to be part of our team. If you don't call us, we will call you. Preservation of Wilson sees no reason to recreate the wheel.

I remember an interview with the Wilson Times when I first accepted this position. The reporter asked me what I will do if our work does not succeed. My response was and still is today: *It will work. Our historic neighborhoods will come back. There are too many people in our community that want to see it happen.*