

Patricia Marilyn Martin Smith

1928-2021

We deeply regret to inform you that Patricia “Pat” Smith; founding Board Member, Past President, and Curator Emeritus of the Hollywood Historical Society passed away in August. When the Hollywood Historical Society was incorporated in 1974, Pat was a member of the first Board of Directors. She was elected HHS President just one year later. It was the intention of the original, 1974 Board to collect and preserve photos, papers, books, and ephemera related to the history of Hollywood from its beginnings, and through years-long dedication Pat was chiefly responsible for creating our current extensive archive. As one example, when the *Hollywood Sun-Tattler* ceased operation in the 1990s, it was Pat who personally rescued the discarded bound volumes and microfilm copies of the paper, thus preserving a substantial guide to Hollywood’s history.



Pat Smith 1928-2021

Pat was a strong proponent of preserving our historic buildings as well. In 1978 she was a speaker in Tallahassee in favor of saving the old State Capitol Building, and later wrote, “I like to think that something I said helped to convince the Cabinet members to save the building.” In Hollywood, she documented perhaps all of the structures built before 1930, creating notebooks of photos of homes and apartments, with dates. She was the chief source of info and co-author of a guide to historic Parkside, and she led graduate students from FAU on a tour of historic Hollywood beach (later published). Her knowledge of people, places and dates contributed greatly to Joan Mickelson’s books on Hollywood. At her retirement from Hollywood, the Board voted her the permanent title of Curator Emeritus in recognition of all she had done.

Pat was born on Hollywood beach in the city’s first hospital, to Dorothy and Valentine Martin. She attended Hollywood Central School and South Broward High School, and graduated from the University of Miami with a bachelor's degree in Physical Education. She married Elmer Smith, and had four daughters. She was a Broward County school bus driver for fourteen years.

Pat was a member of the Broward County Historical Commission from 1983 until 1992; Board Member, Past Membership Chair, and member of the Driftwood Civic Association since 1994; Past-Member of Hollywood’s Citizens’ Advisory Board; and Millennium Board Member of Hollywood’s Economic and Redevelopment Task Force of the Citywide Master Plan. Additionally, she was a member of Friends of the Everglades and involved in the Save Our Coasts Program.

Some awards she received were: Broward County Pioneer in 1998; from the Historical Commission: Pioneer Days 1997 Exhibit Chairman, Mason Wachtstetter Award in 1997, Judge Clayton L. Nance Memorial Award in 1995, and the Cooper Kirk Memorial Award in 1995. Also, City of Hollywood Pioneer in 1995 for Hollywood’s 70th anniversary, and the Historical Commission History & Heritage award in 1976.

Also part of Pat’s legacy is an endowed fund she established to eventually provide some income toward supporting the paid position of Executive Director of the Hollywood Historical Society. If you are interested in learning more about this fund, please contact the HHS at hollywoodflhistory@att.net

For decades Pat was the heart of the Hollywood Historical Society archives/Research Center, always willing to find answers to questions about our city’s history, built landscape, and pioneering people. She will be greatly missed.