

LEOH Trip

The POST– Houston

September 13, 2023





We were greeted by our POST guide Aaron, who began our tour by discussing the history of the building, and its current uses.

Built in 1934, it began as a depot adjacent to Houston's Grand Central Station, replacing an 1886 train depot.

With the Cold War in mind, the U.S. government purchased the building in the late 1950's and redesigned it to meet FBI security standards, including installation of nuclear bomb shelters. The building served as a major regional post office.

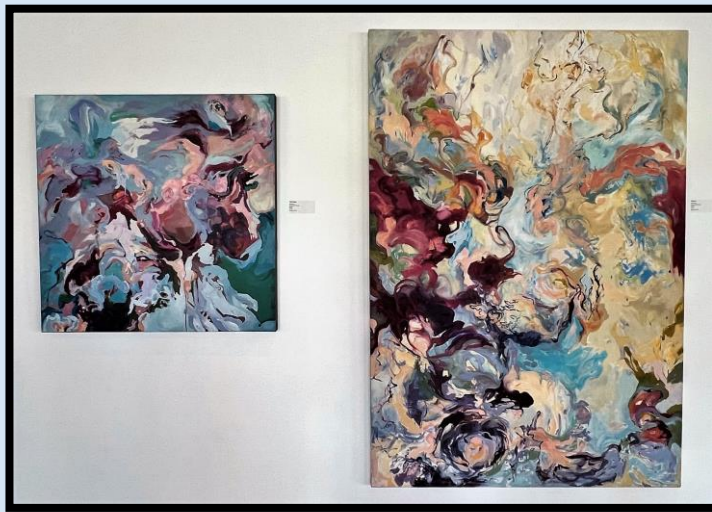
It was renamed in 1984 for Congresswoman Barbara Jordan. At one point, over 2,000 postal employees worked overnight, sorting millions of pieces of mail.

Unfortunately, it closed in 2015, due to postal service budget cuts. The property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The original vaults are still in place (but obviously not in use)! One was used for money orders, the other for stamps and valuables.

Trip leader Ann cautiously looks inside one of the vaults.





Above:
“Water Break” by Carrie Swim
acrylic and oil on canvas

This mixed-use facility displays ever-changing works of art, and hosts a variety of cultural, educational, and entertainment events.

Events occur throughout the building, including the 5-acre rooftop Skylawn and sustainable organic farm, and the 713 Music Hall, which seats 5,000.


EXPANSION

Women in the Visual and Literary Arts (WiVLA) presents their 2023 art exhibition *Expansion*. Since 1994, WiVLA has provided a forum where visual artists, writers, and other creatives can meet in an atmosphere of support and mutual respect. Throughout its 29 years, WiVLA has encouraged development, opportunities for expression, and connection to the larger Houston arts community. This biennial event is usually open to WiVLA members only, but this year, we are pleased to present the artwork from our members and creative women in the Greater Houston Area.




Our Mission

To provide an inspiring forum for women to explore and advance their creative development, to promote their work in the marketplace, and to infuse the community with their spirit of cooperation and invention.



Network. Connect. Find support.

Participate in our workshops, exhibitions, readings, and group outings.



WiVLA
wivla.org

POST Live Performance

More Events: posthix.com/event

SEP 15 Rooftop Concert - Rod Stewart Tribute Band
SEP 27 Rooftop Concert - Soda Stereo Tribute Band
OCT 10 Rooftop Concert - Steely Dan Tribute Band
OCT 25 Rooftop Concert - Foreigner Tribute Band
NOV 8 Rooftop Concert - Chicago Tribute Band

713 MUSIC HALL UPCOMING SHOWS

AUG 01 DON'T DRINK AT THE BAR TOUR DOMINIC FIKE	AUG 30 THE BARTOLLO TOUR BABYMETAL & DETHLOK
AUG 04 STOP ME STARS DREAMCATCHER & CIX	SEP 03 ASKING ALEXANDRIA & THE HU FEAT. TAYLOR SWIFT AND ZAYN MALIK
AUG 05 BANDS TOUR 2023 JESSE & JOY WITH SPECIAL GUEST FRANCIS MONTELLA	SEP 07 THE CHERRY LA BACH TOUR GERA MX & NAMA BASICO
AUG 07 JIMMY EAT WORLD & MANCHESTER ORCHESTRA	SEP 12 THE CONTEMPORARY MUSIC TOUR DANIEL CAESAR WITH SPECIAL GUEST
AUG 18 STARS TOUR DANNA	SEP 22 SUMMER SLANDER
AUG 23 THE MUSIC WORLD TOUR BRENT FAIYAZ	SEP 23 WOMEN OF THE WORLD TOUR EDEN MUÑOZ

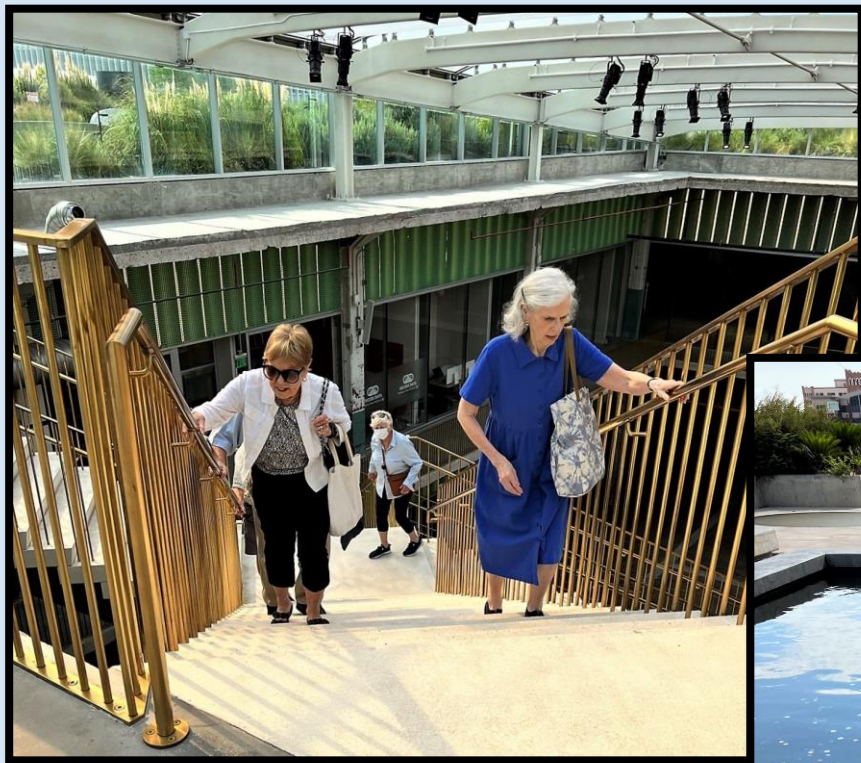
SEE MORE SHOWS ON BACK
713MUSICHALL.COM



To the left: Aaron points out certain architectural building features, such as original pillars purposely left in their original state. Looking up, we noted one of the suspended lookout galleries used by postal supervisors to watch employees sorting mail, to ensure no one was stealing mail or valuables. These galleries were also called “spy tunnels”, with good reason – the lookout glass was one-way, and microphones were used to listen to the staff below.

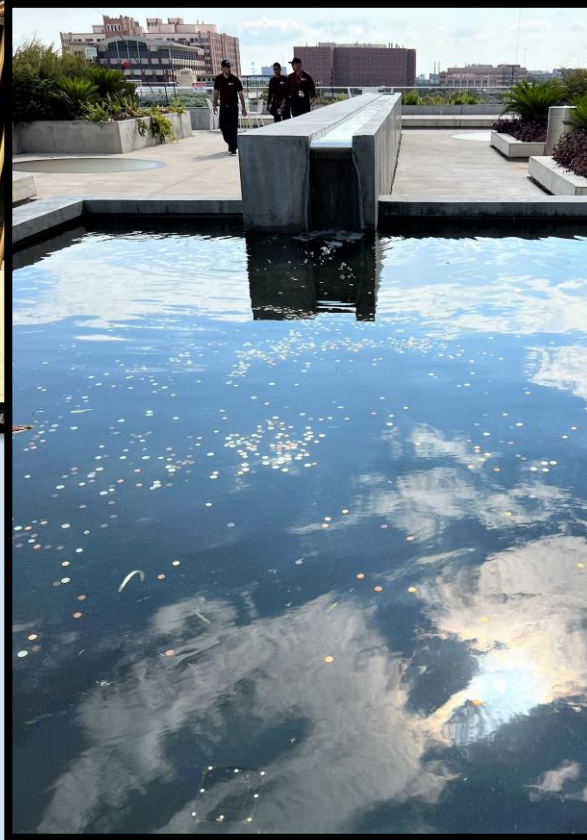


Examples of the building's mixed-use are this NASA office, with its huge rotating globe, and the CAMH Lab.



Everyone made their way to Skylawn, some hardy (or foolhardy?) members by stairs, others by elevator.

Our first views of the area included a rooftop pond, some sculpted gardens and trees, and unobstructed views of downtown.



POST is LEED Gold Certified by the U.S. Green Building Council.

HISTORIC BUILDING REUSE

By reusing this historic structure the energy in the materials was conserved and diverted from landfill. Percentages of original building shell materials reused: 12% wood, 99% concrete, 60% steel, 3% glass, 100% brick, and 2% drywall.

LOW-EMITTING MATERIALS

Use of low emitting plants, adhesives, sealants, flooring, and composite wood contributes to healthier indoor spaces.

INDOOR WATER USE REDUCTION

POST achieved a 41% overall water use reduction, resulting in an annual savings of 1,264,106 gallons.

GREEN-E® CERTIFIED EACs sourced from a new renewable energy facility were procured on behalf of the property addressing 40% of GHG emissions associated with total energy use in shared spaces for 10-years.

HEAT ISLAND REDUCTION

POST uses a combination of plant life and high reflective surfaces to minimize heat island effects on microclimates and human and wildlife habitats.

LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION

The farm at Skylawn enables 26,000 ft² of food producing garden.

CONSTRUCTION WASTE MANAGEMENT

This project diverted over 88% of all demolition and construction waste from landfills.

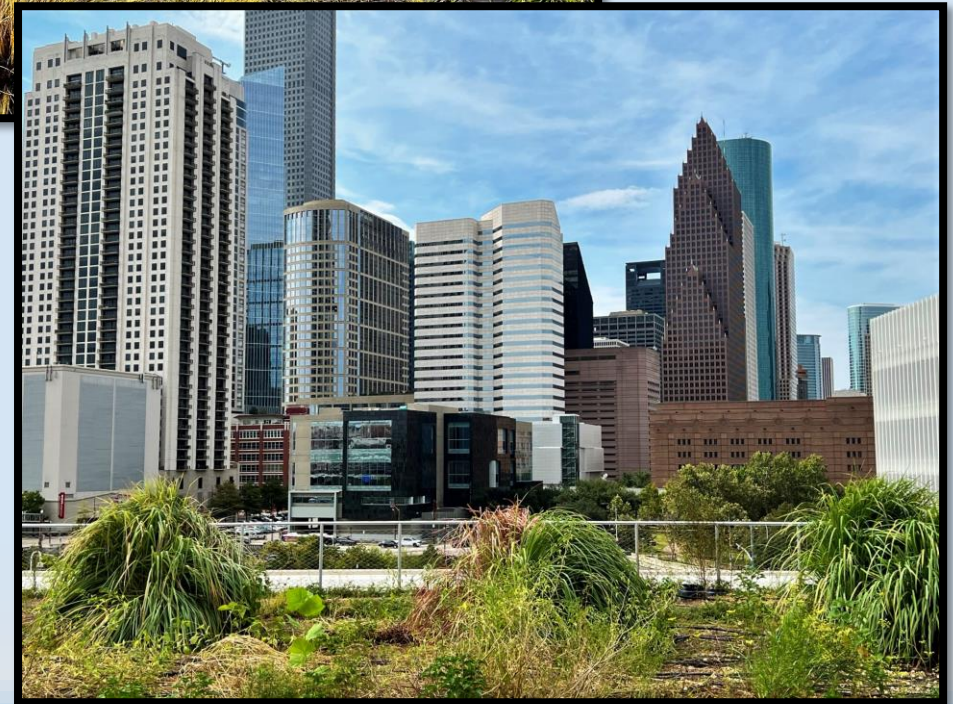
ACCESS TO QUALITY TRANSIT

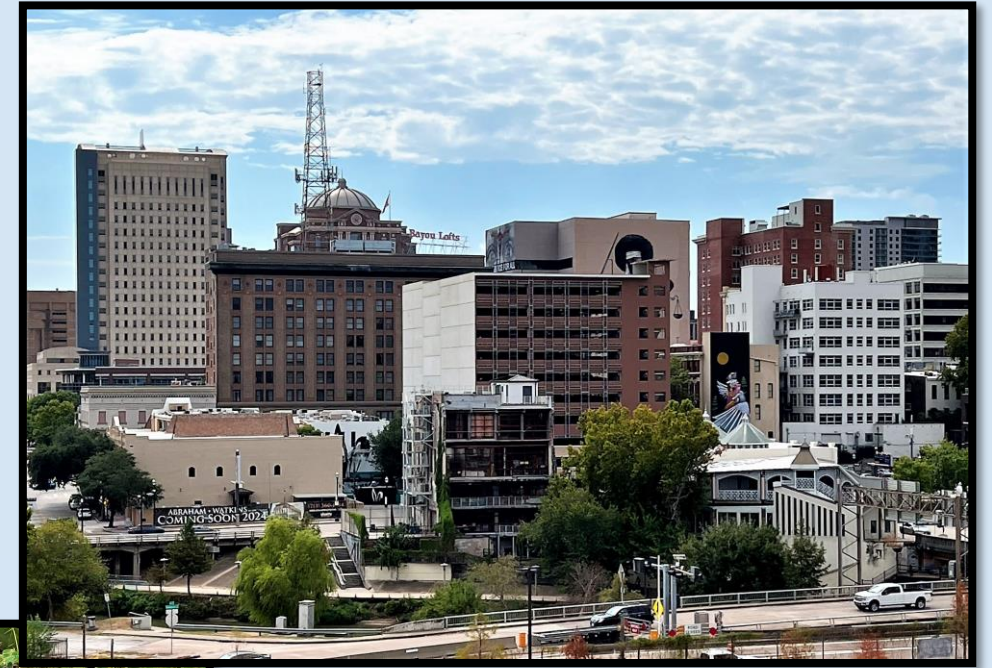
POST is served by public transportation providing over 360 weekday trips and 216 weekend trips.

COOLING TOWER WATER USE

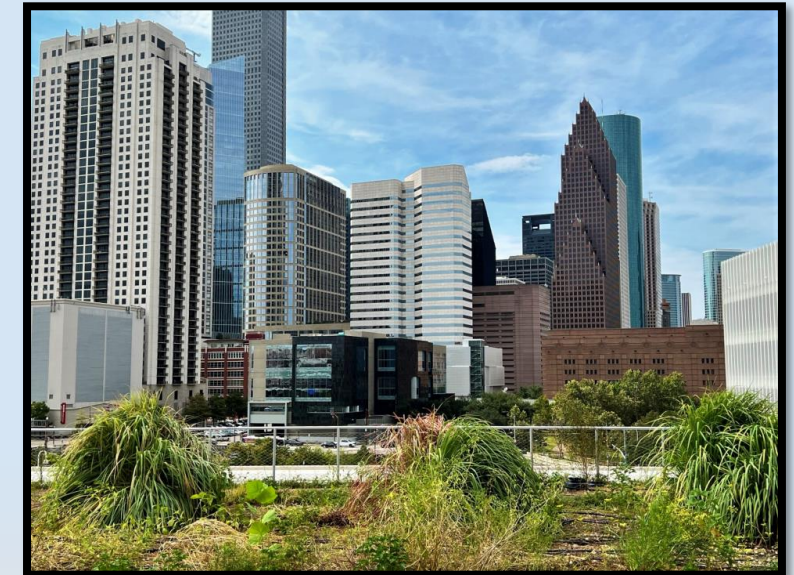
Cooling tower technology installed at Skylawn saves over 6.5 million gallons of water annually.







Aaron continued the tour and lecture in a comfortable rooftop setting. He shared that the vegetables and flowers were thriving until watering restrictions were implemented. We did spot one hardy melon!





Last but not least, we explored the food court for our lunch selections. Cuisine choices were numerous in this colorful and vibrant area. On closer inspection, one might even spot a different type of offering!

Thank you, trip coordinator Ann Fairchild. The POST was definitely an interesting, historic, and fun place to visit.

