Friends of FORT OWEN Established 1850 Stevensville, Montana

Working in partnership with Montana State Parks
to save, restore, maintain, and enhance Fort Owen State Park.

January 24, 2022

To Members and Supporters of the Friends of Fort Owen:

As you know, Montana State Parks received a grant last year that will enable them to make great progress on the restoration and preservation of the East Barracks at Fort Owen State Park this spring. Since this building is the most historically significant asset in the park, we are pleased that State Parks has made it a priority. They have contracted with Lesley Gilmore, Gilmore Franzen Consulting, LLC, who will be recommending what should be done to the building to protect it for years to come.

As part of the research phase of this project, Friends of Fort Owen has invited Alex Lim, Adobe Specialist from Arizona, to come to Stevensville to participate in the discussion of what techniques should be used to preserve the adobe structure. While he is here, we have asked him to make a presentation on the history of adobe building and share his thoughts on how to preserve this historic treasure.

We invite you to join us for his presentation:

"When Local Soil Is Your History: Caring for Earthen Architecture"
He will provide a brief overview of the history of earthen architecture in the U.S, the basic principles of earthen architecture design and craftmanship and share his experiences conserving select sites in the US and abroad.

February 4, 2022
4:00-5:00 PM at the Summit Career Center at the Fort Owen Ranch.

Please join us if you can. Hope to see you there.

Margaret Gorski

Sincerely,
Margaret Gorski, President
Friends of Fort Owen

I thought you might be interested in what's happening at this historic site in the County –

Margaret

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JAN 26 2022

Ravalli County Commissioners

2022 Alex Lim Bio

Alex B. Lim specializes in the conservation of architecture and archaeological sites. Since 2012, he has conserved earthen buildings and their remains in the border region of the U.S.-Mexico, focusing on Hispanic and Native American heritage on both sides of the border.

Prior to Arizona, he has worked on archaeological sites in the arid climate of the U.S. Southwest and of the Mediterranean/Middle East. They include Mesa Verde National Park, El Morro National Monument in the U.S. as well as sites in Gordion, Turkey; Oglanqala, Azerbaijan; and Megalopolis, Greece. As a conservator, he is educated and has experience in environmental monitoring, site recording and conditions assessment, and interventions. He particularly enjoys collaborating with the communities at respective sites to help them cherish their history and to follow their leads.

In 2009, he won the outstanding thesis award from the University of Pennsylvania for his study on the use of soil and vegetation to protect the exposed masonry wall tops at archaeological sites. Called soft vegetative caps, his study highlighted a sustainable alternative to crack-prone cementious hard caps. His method was applied at the archaeological site of Gordion, Turkey with help from the community.

He regularly initiates public outreach and student mentorship through hands-on workshops, tours, internship programs, and teaching to advocate for heritage stewardship. He speaks fluent Korean and conversational Turkish and Spanish.

Title of Presentation: **When Local Soil Is Your History: Caring for Earthen Architecture**
I will briefly go over the history of earthen architecture in the U.S., share my experience in conserving select sites in the U.S. and abroad, and finally review the basic principles of earthen architecture design and craftmanship. I will then invite the participants to ask me questions about earthen architecture in general.