



We welcome you to the rebooted Specifacts newsletter for the CSI Nashville Chapter! Please take a look and enjoy.

SpecHeads Meeting

We look forward to welcoming Matt Wilhelm, Taylor Wilhelm, and Mason Stokes!



Connecting Cognitive Science and Design to Create Integrated Learning Spaces.

Date: Tuesday, December 9th

Location: SESCO Lighting at 636 Grassmere Park, Suite 150, Nashville, TN 37211

Program Summary:

The evolution of learning environments and the principles of human-centered design are converging as we recognize the profound impact of space on cognitive function, safety, and engagement.

Educational spaces are no longer just backdrops for instruction but active contributors to cognitive clarity, collaboration, and overall occupant welfare. By integrating evidence-based strategies, vertical learning systems, and thoughtful organization, designers can create learning environments that support mental health, safety, and the overall well-being of their occupants.

Attendees Will Learn How to:

- Define cognitive overload and analyze its impact on occupant well-being.
- Discuss how clear visual hierarchies and clutter-free design enhances accessibility, reduces mental fatigue, and improves cognitive performance.
- Examine the impact of writable, sensory, and acoustic surfaces on collaboration, engagement, and well-being.
- Identify actionable strategies for integrating vertical learning solutions into both new school designs and modernization projects.

Presented by:

Matt Wilhelm, Taylor Wilhelm, and Mason Stokes, representing Platinum Visual Solutions and P360 Wall Solutions.

AIA and IDCEC CEU: 1-Hour LU | HSW

[Please click here for more information!](#)

Previous CSI Chapter Meeting

Thank you, Justin, for a very interesting Chapter meeting presentation!

**Preserving History,
Building the Future:
Understanding the
Federal Historic
Tax Credit Program**



Presentation by:



Historic Preservation Supervisor and Historic Tax Credit Reviewer

Tennessee Historical Commission

Justin Heskew



Tuesday, November 18th

11:30 a.m.

Tech Hill Commons
500 Interstate Blvd. South

AIA CEU: **1.0 LU**

Lunch provided

CSI  **CHAPTER
MEETING**
NASHVILLE CHAPTER

“Preserving History, Building the Future: Understanding the Federal Historic Tax Credit Program”

Program Summary:

The Federal Historic Tax Credit (HTC) is a 20% income tax credit for qualified rehabilitation expenditures on certified historic buildings. Administered by the National Park Service (NPS) and the IRS, it incentivizes private investment in preserving historic structures for income-producing uses. Since its inception in 1976, the program has leveraged over \$130 billion in private investment and revitalized thousands of properties nationwide. For construction and specification professionals, understanding HTC is critical because it impacts project financing, compliance with preservation standards, and documentation requirements. The program involves a rigorous three-part certification process and detailed documentation, including photographs, drawings, and compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. Real-world examples demonstrate how HTC projects transform communities, create jobs, and preserve cultural heritage.

Attendees learned:

- What the Federal Historic Tax Credit is
- Why it matters to professionals in construction/specification
- What kind of documentation is involved
- A preview of real-world project examples

Program by:

Justin Heske, Historic Preservation Supervisor & Federal Historic Tax Credit Reviewer

Tennessee Historical Commission

Speaker Bio:

Justin Heskeew serves as the Federal Programs Supervisor and Federal Historic Tax Credit Reviewer at the Tennessee Historical Commission. In this role, he guides applicants through both the Federal Historic Tax Credit Program and the Tennessee Historic Development Grant Program—two key initiatives that encourage private investment, create jobs, and help preserve Tennessee’s rich architectural heritage.

With more than 17 years of experience in historic preservation, Justin has worked extensively at the state and local levels in both Tennessee and Mississippi. At the Tennessee Department of Transportation, he served in a leadership role overseeing Section 106 and Section 4(f) compliance, consultant coordination, and project related preservation concerns across the state. Earlier in his career, Justin held architectural history and planning positions with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the Department of Urban Development in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. His expertise includes architectural history, cultural resource management, architectural surveys, GIS mapping, and community-based preservation planning.

Justin is passionate about helping communities balance preservation goals with thoughtful development—ensuring the historic places that tell our stories continue to thrive.

[Please click here for more information!](#)

CSI Christmas Party

Let the **good times roll**
with **CSI Nashville**

Benefiting
TOYS FOR TOTS

Admission:
one unwrapped toy donation,
per person

Dinner, drinks, and
games are included!

2025 CSI Holiday Party
Tuesday, December 2nd
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Pins Mechanical
1102 Grundy Street, Nashville, TN
(discounted parking at Whole Foods)

PINS
MECHANICAL COMPANY
HIGHEST-MADE

Members may bring one guest—
Space is limited, **RSVP required**

CSI[®]
NASHVILLE CHAPTER

Holiday Party:

Date: Tuesday, December 2nd, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Location: Pins Mechanical, 1102 Grundy Street, Nashville, TN

Admission: Members + 1 guest are free (with 1 unwrapped toy per person)

RSVP by: Monday, December 1st

[Please click here to RSVP Today!](#)

Holiday Party Sponsorships Available!

Interested in being a sponsor for the Nashville Chapter's CSI Holiday Party? We're still looking for interested folks! Please contact Harry Harris through email at hharris@hnharchitects.com.

Sponsorships still available as of November 20th:

\$500 - Santa's Sips Sponsorship

3 still available!

A big **Thank You** to the ones who sponsored at these levels:

4 at \$100 - Reindeer Games

5 at \$250 - Santa's Belly Shook Like A Bowling Alley

1 at \$500 - Santa's Sips

1 at \$1000 - Buddy The Elf*

**What's your favorite color?" 😊

CDT Classes

The Nashville chapter of CSI will offer CDT classes in 2026 through Zoom. As we have done in the last few years, the classes are open to anyone in the Gulf States region. As you think appropriate, please let CSI members in the Gulf States know about these classes. Additional information, preliminary agenda and a registration form is on our chapter website:

<https://csinashville.org/Certification>

Please let us know if you have any questions or comments.

A Note from Your Editors

“Every neighborhood has a certain character. And if I lived in your neighborhood, that character would be me.” – Dan Clark

“Architecture is the art of turning ‘what if’ into ‘why not?’—with a roof that doesn’t leak.” - Mel Cox

We are honored to be the new editors of Specifacts going forward, and are looking forward to working with you as we advance the built environment in Middle Tennessee. Stay tuned for more!

Melody Cox cox.mel.csi.nash@gmail.com

Dan Clark dan.clark@hdarchitects.com

Please visit us at the [CSI Nashville Chapter](#).

Happy Thanksgiving!

