

First Lady's Texas Treasures Award General Information

INTRODUCTION

Since 2009, The First Lady of Texas, acting as honorary chair, in partnership with the Texas Historical Commission (THC) has honored communities that have shown a high level of creativity and ingenuity in recognizing and preserving their authentic Texas sense of place. These communities use the resources and preservation tools available from the THC and others to realize significant economic benefits as a result of their strong cultural and historic preservation stewardship.

Economic and social benefits of preservation occur when a community carefully and responsibly researches, identifies and preserves structures, neighborhood character or landscapes and then integrates them into contemporary life through innovative new or historic uses. Revitalization of a downtown, protecting an archeological site or obtaining a Historic Texas Cemetery designation locally also provides opportunities to educate and engage citizens and visitors with those resources through events, outreach and interpretation, reinforcing their value to the community. A community that emphasizes the characteristics of its special Texas place by preserving its authentic historic and cultural environment enhances the quality of life for residents while realizing economic outcomes through historic preservation.

The First Lady's Texas Treasures Award promotes and recognizes the heritage experiences locally created to share and preserve our state's diverse legacies. Communities honored serve as models of successful and collaborative preservation initiatives, encouraging others to protect the treasures that distinguish their unique place. The award recognizes community-wide preservation efforts and ethic rather than single projects, initiatives, or organizations.

Now in its sixth year, the nine previously awarded communities provide diverse case studies that shine through in the voices and images of the award videos. Collaboration between city and county government and heritage and civic organizations is a hallmark of the award readily evident in the videos. Visit the THC web site to learn about the preservation achievements of designated communities and view these inspirational award videos.

ELIGIBILITY

The award is presented annually to a community demonstrating sustainable preservation efforts related to the THC programs and tools. The community must express an increasingly strengthened preservation ethic through their initiatives and serve as an example for others across Texas.

Each year, one Texas community may be presented with an award based on selection through a nomination process.

The First Lady's Texas Treasures Award recognizes:

- Historic preservation initiatives and/or projects that combine several tools and programs offered through the THC and other preservation organizations
- Demonstrated commitment to increase awareness of the connection between the values and actions of preservation and economic development in Texas
- Partnerships and programs that foster increased tourism and provide economic benefits
- Creative and responsible community preservation initiatives that highlight the diverse culture and history and showcase historic resources of Texas

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CRITERIA

In order to receive the First Lady's Texas Treasures Award, a community may apply or be nominated for the award based on criteria established by the THC that are listed on the **First Lady's Texas Treasures Award Nomination Form**. Nominated communities must be active participants in several of the programs offered by the THC.

NOMINATION FILING

The following completed items must be **received or postmarked on or before 5:00 p.m., August 30, 2013** to be considered for a First Lady's Texas Treasures Award:

- First Lady's Texas Treasures Award Nomination Form
- Optional supporting documentation to illustrate the nomination narrative

Award winner will be announced during a special event to take place spring 2014. Date and nature of the presentation event will be determined by THC and winning community. Scope of future events is heavily dependent on capacity and resources of community receiving the award.

Please feel free to contact our office with questions regarding any part of the nomination or award process. Over the past five years of the award it has been observed that successful nominations are most often a locally collaborative effort involving a comprehensive gathering information from the many civic and preservation groups and city and county offices contributing to local preservation successes. We are happy to discuss this award and your community achievements to help you prepare the best possible nomination. Please contact: April Garner at 512.463.6092

Submit nominations to:

Mail application packet:

Texas Historical Commission
Attn: First Lady's Texas Treasure Nominations
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711-2276

Physical address for surface delivery: (UPS, FedEx or hand delivery):

1304 Colorado St.
Austin, TX 78701
512.463.6092

First Lady's Texas Treasures Award Nomination Guidelines

Each year, the First Lady's Texas Treasures Award recognizes a community for exemplary preservation initiatives that bring together the tools and programs of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) while strengthening the local preservation ethic and economic outcomes. Exemplary preservation initiatives emphasize the unique cultural and historic characteristics of special Texas communities. These communities value preservation and the economic benefits of keeping places authentic. Eligible communities participate in preservation programs available from the THC. One award may be presented each year. Previously awarded communities may reapply after a 10-year period based on preservation achievements subsequent to the initial award.

REQUIREMENTS

- A completed nomination form including:
 1. A list of preservation programs in which the community participates with the THC
 2. A description (not to exceed two double-spaced pages) of the nominee's achievement(s) in community preservation initiatives/programs
 3. A list of program participation, designations or grants with other Texas state agencies or preservation organizations (not to exceed two double-spaced pages)
 4. A list of local city and county offices and preservation, historical and cultural organizations involved in the achievement (not to exceed two double-spaced pages)
- Each nomination may also include supporting testimony or illustrations. Supporting documents not to exceed five pages.
- The nominee's achievements should be consistent with good preservation practice.
- Award decisions will be made by the THC based on recommendations of a committee of THC and Office of the Governor staff.

DEADLINE: Nominations must be received or postmarked on or before 5 p.m., August 30, 2013.

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First Lady's Texas Treasures Award Nomination Form

Community nominee

County

Nomination submitted by (name & title)

Mailing and physical address

Daytime telephone (include area code)

Email address

Texas State Representative

Texas State Senator

Mayor (include full mailing address and phone number)

County Judge

1. In which of the following Texas Historical Commission programs has the community successfully participated?

- Certified Local Government Program
- County Historical Commission Organization
- Investment Tax Credit Program
- Historic Cemetery Preservation Programs
- Military Sites Program
- Museum Assistance Program
- National Register of Historic Places Program
- Official Texas Historical Marker Program
- Preserve America Community Designation
- Texas Archeology Month/Archeology Program
- Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program
- Texas Heritage Trails Program
- Texas Main Street Program
- Texas Preservation Trust Fund Grant Program
- Texas Treasure Business Award Program
- Visionaries in Preservation

2. Describe the community's achievement(s) in preservation initiatives and programs, including work involving each of the tools and programs of the THC checked above. (See the Nomination Guidelines and General Information)
Description not to exceed two double-spaced pages

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3. Identify programs of other agencies or groups that have contributed to the overall success of the community preservation achievement(s). One example might include achieving Preserve America Community designation, making communities eligible for Preserve America grants for heritage tourism, education and historic preservation planning. Other examples include being a certified participant in the Texas Department of Agriculture GO TEXAN Rural Community Program, utilizing a Texas Commission on the Arts performance support grant for a cultural event, or preserving a landscape through the Lone Star Land Steward Program of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Description is not to exceed two double-spaced pages.

4. Identify and describe the ways local preservation, historical and cultural organizations, as well as city and county offices have contributed to the success of the preservation achievements and how they continue to work together to strengthen the overall preservation ethic within your community. Description is not to exceed two double-spaced pages.

All materials must be received or postmarked on or before 5 p.m., August 30, 2013 to be considered for the award. Submit materials to:

Mail application packet:

Texas Historical Commission
Attn: First Lady's Texas Treasure Nominations
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711-2276

**Physical address for surface delivery:
(UPS, FedEx or hand delivery):**

1304 Colorado St.
Austin, TX 78701
512.463.6092

If you have questions regarding this nomination form or the award process you are encouraged to contact our office. We are happy to talk with you. Contact: April Garner at 512.463.6092

Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276
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real places telling real stories

www.thc.state.tx.us