

# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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## CHC Outreach Program—Sample Discussions

### Discussion 1A: Evaluating Organizational Capacity—What do our existing programs accomplish?

**Discussion 1A** will help your appointees evaluate efforts within your organization—projects, partnerships, or services provided by your CHC. After identifying your most productive contributions, your CHC can use **Discussion 1B** to consider improvements or additions to enhance efforts that have already proven to be quality investments of time and money. **Discussion 1C** will evaluate the existing resources—time, money, and manpower—of your organization and consider what can realistically be accomplished to improve or enhance existing projects.

*Note to discussion leader: For the first question, go around the room and have each participant provide an answer; for subsequent questions do your best to let everyone comment rather than one or two individuals to monopolize the conversation. As a discussion leader your role is to keep the conversation on track, rather than serve as the main contributor of ideas. Have someone in your group take notes so that you know who said what. Make sure that in note taking that a participants words are recorded accurately rather than paraphrasing, which may change the meaning of the comment.*

**Discussion 1A Questions** (Allow 1-1/2 to 2 hours for this discussion.)

1. What were our organization's key efforts and events in the past two years?
2. Which of these key efforts/events provided recognition, new interest, support, or other positive results for our organization?
3. What skills do our appointees/members possess that contributed to these positive results?
4. Which key efforts fell short of your expectations?
5. What may be the reasons for these less than desirable results?
6. What may be the reasons for the positive results?

**Read aloud the mission of a CHC** or replace this statement with the mission of your organization. Please keep in mind that preservation involves helping people experience historic places through appropriate historic rehabilitation and tourism initiatives.

Mission of CHCs as defined by the Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 318: The commissioners court of a county may appoint a county historical commission for the purpose of initiating and conducting programs suggested by the commissioners court and the Texas Historical Commission for the preservation of the county's historic cultural resources.

7. Which of the projects resulting in positive results most directly contributes to the mission of our organization? *An effort may be worthwhile yet not directly relate to preserving historic cultural resources. Discussion 1B will follow up on this topic.*
8. What were some lessons learned from our work over the past two years?
9. What steps can we take to be more efficient and effective in the future?

In closing, thank the participants for their time and their contributions to the discussion. Consider commenting on the more successful discoveries made during the discussion.

