

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

GRANT FUNDING AND ASSISTANCE FOR HISTORY MUSEUMS

The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Museum Services Program staff provides this document as a brief guide to grant sources. The document is not intended to serve as a grant writing or proposal development manual. While it can guide you in your search, it is not intended to serve as a comprehensive listing of all existing grant programs for museums. If you have any questions, contact the THC's Museum Services Program staff at 512.463.5853.

GRANT WRITING RESOURCES

Competition for grants remains steady. A poorly written proposal may not be considered at all, no matter how worthy the cause. **Before thinking about *where* to look for grants, invest in some quality grant writing training.** The following are a few resources to get you started:

- The Friends of the Texas Historical Commission offers a development seminar series designed to coach participants on effective fundraising techniques, best practices in grantsmanship, and strategies for planning organizational funding efforts. Visit www.thc.state.tx.us/grantsincent/grawork.shtml or call 512.936.2189.
- *Is Your Museum Grant-Ready? Assessing Your Organization's Potential for Funding*, by Sarah S. Brophy, is a must-have book for any museum. It provides an accessible, step-by-step guide to assessing your museum's readiness for the grant application process and includes seven real-life examples of institutions that have successfully achieved grant-readiness. Available from any online bookseller or directly from the publisher at www.altamirapress.com.
- Many colleges and universities offer grant writing workshops. Check the course catalog of an institution near you for upcoming opportunities.
- The Foundation Center offers a variety of free and low-cost training opportunities in a traditional classroom setting and online. Visit <http://foundationcenter.org/getstarted> for schedules.
- Additionally, the Foundation Center offers resources through its Cooperating Collections program. These are free funding information centers in libraries, community foundations, and other nonprofit resource centers that provide a core collection of Foundation Center publications and a variety of supplementary materials and services in areas useful to grant seekers. Many of these information centers also offer grant writing training courses. The following is a list of Cooperating Collections located in Texas (listed alphabetically by city):

[Amarillo Area Foundation](#)

Grants Center
801 S. Fillmore, Ste. 700
Amarillo, TX 79101
806.376.4521

[Arlington Public Library](#)

George W. Hawkes Central Library
101 E. Abram St.
Arlington, TX 76010
817.459.6900

[Regional Foundation Library](#)

Community Engagement Center
1009 East 11th St., 2nd Fl.
Austin, TX 78702
512.475.7373

[Southeast Texas Nonprofit Development Center](#)

700 North St., Ste. D
Beaumont, TX 77701
409.832.6565

[Dallas Public Library](#)

Urban Information
1515 Young St.
Dallas, TX 75201
214.670.1400

[Southwest Border Nonprofit Resource Center](#)

The University of Texas-Pan American
1201 West University Drive, ITT 1.404H
Edinburg, TX 78541
956.292.7566

[University of Texas at El Paso](#)

Community Non-Profit Grant Library
500 W. University
Benedict Hall, Room 103
El Paso, TX 79968
915.747.5672

[Funding Information Center of Fort Worth](#)

2701 W. Berry St., Ste. 128
Fort Worth, TX 76109
817.334.0228

[Houston Public Library](#)

Bibliographic Information Center
500 McKinney St.
Houston, TX 77002
832.393.1313

[United Way of Greater Houston](#)

50 Waugh Dr.
Houston, TX 77007
713.685.2300

[Texas A&M University - Kingsville](#)

Jernigan Library
700 University Blvd., MSC 197
Kingsville, TX 78363
361.593.3416

[Texas A&M International University](#)

Bi-National Center
5201 University Blvd.
LBV #201
Laredo, TX 78041
956.326.2834

[Longview Public Library](#)

222 W. Cotton St.
Longview, TX 75601
903.23.1350

[Lubbock Area Foundation, Inc.](#)

2509 80th St.
Lubbock, TX 79423
806.762.8061

[North Richland Hills Public Library](#)

9015 Grand Ave.
North Richland Hills, TX 76180
817.427.6800

[Tom Green County Public Library](#)

33 W. Beauregard Ave.
San Angelo, TX 76903
325.655.7321

[Center For Nonprofit Support](#)

110 Broadway, Suite 230
San Antonio, TX 78205
210.242.4770

[United Way of Tyler/Smith County](#)

Nonprofit Development Center Library
4000 Southpark Dr.
Tyler, TX 75703
903.581.6376

[Victoria College/University of Houston](#)

Victoria Library
2602 N. Ben Jordan
Victoria, TX 77901
361.570.4166

[Waco-McLennan County Library](#)

West Waco Library & Genealogy Center
5301 Bosque Blvd., Ste. 275
Waco, TX 76710
254.745.6018

[Nonprofit Management Center of Wichita Falls](#)

2301 Kell Blvd., Ste. 218
Wichita Falls, TX 76308
940.322.4961

In addition to the nonprofit assistance centers listed above, inquire about the grant-related services available from the following:

Center for Community-Based and Nonprofit Organizations

Austin Community College
5930 Middle Fiskville Road
Austin, TX 78752
512.223.7111

Greenlights for NonProfit Success

1301 W. 25th St., Suite 400
Austin, TX 78705
512.477.5955

Texas Association of Nonprofit Organizations

8001 Centre Park Drive Suite 120
Austin, TX 78754
512.381.1490

Center for Nonprofit Management of Dallas

2902 Floyd Street
Dallas, TX 75204
214.826.3470

Executive Service Corps of Houston

2630 Fountain View, Suite 428
Houston, TX 77057
713.780.2208

Nonprofit Management Center of the Permian Basin

200 N. Loraine, Suite 500
Midland, TX 79701
432.570.7971

FINDING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Most of the nonprofit resource centers listed above provide access to grant directories either in print, on CD or online. Public libraries often provide these resources as well. Other helpful web sites include:

- The Foundation Center: <http://foundationcenter.org>
- The Catalog for Federal Domestic Assistance: www.cfda.gov
- All federal grants: www.grants.gov
- Texas eGrants: www.texasonline.state.tx.us/tolapp/egrants
- TexasNonProfits: www.txnp.org

Before applying for any grant, make sure you do adequate research to determine the funder's purpose, eligibility requirements, restrictions, geographic focus, deadlines, and application process. Most of this information can be found on the funder's web site. Always check and double-check the rules and requirements before submitting an application or proposal. Federal and state grant programs usually have a program officer available to answer questions about eligibility and application procedures. Call them before applying to make sure your institution and your project are eligible. Many private foundations will also speak to you in advance of an application, but not always. Some of them accept proposals by invitation only. Check their web sites to learn about their preferences.

The following list represents a few of the grant sources available to history museums. This is not a comprehensive listing, but it contains dozens of grant programs specifically intended for museums. Keep in mind there are many other grant programs that are not specifically targeted to history museums, but may fund museum projects. Museums are generally defined as “educational institutions,” and as such, they are eligible for funding from a variety of agencies that may not be traditional museum funding sources. Similar cross-over opportunities on the state, county, city, and private funding levels can also be found. The Grantsmanship Center compiles listings of the top giving foundations in Texas, community foundations, and corporate giving programs that museums might find useful. Start your search here:

www.tgci.com/funding.shtml.

As you use the following list, please keep in mind that funding priorities, eligible projects, funding ranges, and application deadlines are subject to change. Confirm all details prior to completing an application.

American Association for State and Local History (AASLH): www.aaslh.org

Alderson Internship Grant – Grant is awarded each year to an institutional member of AASLH to bring a graduate-student intern to their facility. AASLH will award up to \$1,000 based on a 1:4 match by the host institution to cover the intern’s salary. Eligibility is based on the institution being a member of AASLH with an annual operating budget of less than \$250,000. Application deadline is typically in December.

Costume Society of America: www.costumesocietyamerica.com

Grants to Support Costume in Small Museums - Funding is intended to assist the costume and textiles collections of small museums, and may be used for appropriate supplies or display items, the services of a specialist, or other projects. Maximum award is \$1,500. Deadline for applications is typically in February.

Federal Emergency Management Agency: www.fema.gov

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Provides grants to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration.

Public Assistance Grant Program – Provides assistance to alleviate suffering and hardship resulting from major disasters or emergencies declared by the president. Funds can be used for the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities, and the facilities of private nonprofits.

Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation (FAIC): www.conservation-us.org

Lecture Grants – This program provides funds toward the presentation of public lectures to help advance public awareness of conservation. Up to \$500 may be used to help defray lecturer travel costs, honoraria, site fees, and publicity costs. Application deadlines are typically in February and September.

Regional Angels Outreach Grants – Program grants up to \$1,000 toward the development and implementation of conservation projects not associated with AIC's Annual Meeting. Funds can defray organizational costs, necessary materials and supplies, and other expenses such as marketing and publicity. Application deadlines are typically in February and September.

Tru-View Optium Conservation Grant – This grant, funded by Tru-View and administered by FAIC, supports projects in glazing applications for the preservation of museum and library collections. A conservator must be involved in the project. Application deadlines are typically in November and May.

Humanities Texas: www.humanitiestexas.org

Community Project Grants – Grants fund comprehensive public programs such as lectures, seminars and conferences; book and film discussions; interpretive exhibits and materials; town forums and civic discussions; and teacher workshops. Awards are generally for \$1,500 and up. Application deadlines are typically in September and March.

Media Project Grants – Grants fund film, radio or interactive programming related to the humanities. Applicants may request funds for any phase of the project, including scripting, development, production, post-production, and, in some cases, distribution and free public screenings. Awards are generally for \$1,500 and up. Application deadlines are typically in September and March.

Mini-grants – Grants fund up to \$1,500 of costs associated with public programs. These grants are particularly appropriate for funding a speaker and/or the rental of a traveling exhibit, including those provided by Humanities Texas. An organization might also apply for a mini-grant to pay for the services of a humanities consultant or exhibit designer, or to develop public programming related to an unexpected local, national, or international event. Applications are accepted year-round.

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS): www.ims.gov

As of 2013, all grants will be due on 15 January.

Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) – CAP is supported through a cooperative agreement between IMLS and Heritage Preservation. The program provides eligible museums with an overall general conservation assessment, conducted by a conservation professional, which provides an overview of all of the museum's collections as well as its environmental conditions and policies and procedures relating to collections care. Assessments are funded on a first-come, first-served basis. Application Deadline December 1, 2012

Museum Assessment Program (MAP) – MAP is supported through a cooperative agreement between IMLS and the American Association of Museums. It is designed to help museums assess their strengths and weaknesses, and plan for the future. Museums complete a self-study and receive a site visit by one or more museum professionals produce a report evaluating the museum's operations, making recommendations and suggesting resources. Subsidized fees to participate in the program are based on size of operating budget; museums with budgets of less than \$125,000 can participate for free. Application Deadline December 1, 2012.

Museums for America – This is IMLS' largest grant program for museums. Grants are designed to be flexible. They can be used for ongoing museum activities, research and other behind-the-scenes activities, planning activities, new programs or activities, purchase of equipment or services, or other activities that will support the efforts of museums to upgrade and integrate new technologies into their overall institutional effectiveness. Maximum grant request is \$150,000. Application deadline January 15, 2013.

Museum Grants for African American History and Culture – Grants are intended to build professional capacity in the African American museum community. The program provides opportunities for the staff of African American museums to gain knowledge and abilities in the areas of management, operations, programming, collections care, and other museum skills identified as a high priority by applicants. Grant awards range from \$5,000 to \$150,000. Application deadline January 15, 2013.

National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards – These awards recognize and support outstanding community arts and humanities programs that celebrate the creativity of America's young people by providing them with learning opportunities and chances to contribute to their communities. The program is a project of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities in partnership with IMLS, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Awards of \$10,000 each are presented to the honorees. Application Deadline October 15, 2012.

National Medal for Museum and Library Service – The National Medals honor outstanding institutions that make significant and exceptional contributions to their communities. Selected institutions demonstrate extraordinary and innovative approaches to public service, exceeding the expected levels of community outreach. Recipient institutions receive \$10,000 and are honored at an awards ceremony that is held in Washington, DC. Application Deadline October 15, 2012.

Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services – The program promotes enhanced learning and innovation within museums and museum related organizations, such as cultural centers. The program provides opportunities for Native American tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge by strengthened museum services in the areas of programming, professional development, and the enhancement of museum services. Grant awards range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. Application deadline January 15, 2013.

Learning Labs in Libraries and Museums Grants- This program helps museums and libraries to create Learning Labs for middle school and high school students to use out of school time. The program enables grantees to develop comprehensive plans for programs, space, staffing, and budgeting for their Labs. The project should include current research, design, and programming principles in order to create effective spaces for youths to combine digital and traditional media. Award amount up to \$100,000. Application Deadline January 15, 2013.

National Leadership Grants for Museums- The program supports projects that address current and future needs in the museum field and that have the potential to advance practice in the profession so that museums can improve services for the American public. Selected institutions should produce results, like models, tools, research findings, services, practices, and/or alliances, which can then be widely used, adapted, or replicated to extend and leverage the benefits of federal investment. Application Deadline January 15, 2013.

Sparks! Ignition Grants for Libraries and Museums- These small grants encourage libraries, museums, and archives to test and evaluate specific innovations in the ways they operate and the services they provide. The program supports the deployment, testing, and evaluation of promising and groundbreaking new tools, products, services, or organizational practices. Grant awards range from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Application Deadline January 15, 2013.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): www.neh.gov

America's Historical and Cultural Organizations: Implementation Grants – These grants support interpretive museum exhibitions and the interpretation of historic sites and houses and include support for accompanying publications, web sites, and public programming. Applicants must have completed most of the planning for their projects, including the identification of key humanities themes, relevant scholarship, and program formats. Awards usually do not exceed \$400,000. Application deadline is typically in August.

America's Historical and Cultural Organizations: Planning Grants – Planning grants support the refinement of the content and interpretive approach of projects prior to implementation. Applicants should have already identified the appropriate humanities content of their projects and consulted with scholars and programming advisers. These projects include interpretive exhibitions, the interpretation of historic sites and houses, and other complementary components such as publications, public symposia, and digital products. Awards range from \$40,000 to \$75,000. Application deadline is typically in August.

America's Media Makers: Development Grants – Grants are available for the planning phases of radio, television, and digital media projects that explore stories, ideas, and beliefs in the humanities. Awards typically range from \$40,000 to \$75,000. Application deadline is usually in August.

America's Media Makers: Production Grants – Grants are available for the production phases of radio, television, and digital media projects that explore stories, ideas, and beliefs in the humanities. Awards typically range from \$100,000 to \$800,000. Application deadline is usually in August.

Challenge Grants – Matching grants help institutions secure long-term improvements in and support for humanities programs and resources. Challenge grants are offered only when NEH funds will help institutions carry out long-term plans and enhance their financial stability. Grants most commonly augment or establish endowments that support humanities activities in education, public programming, scholarly research, and preservation. Grants range from \$30,000 to \$1 million. Applications are typically due in May.

Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants – This program is designed to encourage innovations in digital humanities. Applicants must propose an innovative approach, method, tool, or idea that has not been used before in the humanities. Projects should result in plans, prototypes, or proofs of concept for long-term digital humanities projects prior to implementation. Awards range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. Application deadline is typically in September.

Humanities Collections and Reference Resources – This program supports projects that provide an essential foundation for scholarship, education, and public programming in the humanities. Funding strengthens efforts to extend the life of collections and make their intellectual content widely accessible, often through the use of digital technology. Awards are also made to create various reference resources that facilitate use of cultural materials. The maximum award is \$350,000. Application deadline is typically in July.

Landmarks of American History and Culture – Designed to support series of one-week, residence-based workshops for a national audience of K-12 educators and/or community college faculty, this program uses historic sites to address central themes and issues in American history, government, literature, art, music, and other related subjects in the humanities. Awards range from \$110,000 to \$180,000. Application deadline is typically in March.

Preservation and Access Education and Training – These grants help the staff of cultural institutions obtain the knowledge and skills needed to serve as effective stewards of humanities collections. Grants also support educational programs that prepare the next generation of preservation professionals. The maximum award is \$125,000 per year for two years. Application deadline is typically in June.

Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions – Designed to help small and mid-sized institutions improve their ability to preserve and care for their significant humanities collections. Applicants must draw on the knowledge of consultants whose preservation skills and experience are related to the types of collections and the nature of the activities that are the focus of their projects. Maximum award is \$6,000 and requires no matching funds. Application deadline is typically in May.

Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections – Program helps cultural institutions meet the complex challenge of preserving large and diverse holdings of humanities materials for future generations by supporting preventive conservation measures that mitigate deterioration and prolong the useful life of collections. Awards range from \$40,000 to \$400,000. Application deadline is typically in December.

National Film Preservation Foundation: www.filmpreservation.org

Basic Preservation Grants – These grants are awarded for laboratory work to preserve culturally and historically significant film materials. Awards generally range from \$1,000 to \$15,000 in cash and/or laboratory services. Application deadline is typically in July.

Matching Grants – This program funds complex, large-scale preservation, reconstruction, or restoration projects involving a single film or film collection of special cultural, historic, or artistic significance. Awards range from \$18,001 to \$40,000. Application deadline is typically in March.

National Historical Publications and Records Commission: www.archives.gov/nhprc

Digitizing Historical Records – Funds proposals that use cost-effective methods to digitize nationally significant historical record collections and make the digital versions freely available online. Projects must make use of existing holdings of historical repositories and consist of entire collections or series. Maximum award is \$150,000. Application deadline is typically in June.

Documenting Democracy: Access to Historical Records – Supports such activities as establishing archives programs, processing archival collections at the basic or detailed levels, surveying and accessioning archival records, and converting existing archival collection finding aids to new online formats. Maximum award is \$200,000. Application deadline is typically in October.

Publishing Historical Records – The purpose of this program is to publish historical records of national significance. Projects may focus on the papers of major figures from American life or cover broad historical movements in politics, military, business, social reform, the arts, and other aspects of the national experience. Awards typically range from \$20,000 to \$250,000 annually, for up to three years. Applications are typically due in July and October.

National Trust for Historic Preservation: www.preservationnation.org

Starting in 2012, only members of the National Trust at the Forum and Main Street levels are eligible to apply for funding from the National Trust Preservation Fund grant program.

Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors – Fund provides grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 to assist in the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of historic interiors. Funds may be used for professional services and advice, print and video communications materials, and education programs. Application deadline is typically in February.

Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation – This fund provides grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 for projects that foster appreciation of our nation's diverse cultural heritage and preserve the livability of the nation's historic communities. Funds may be used for professional services and advice, conferences, workshops, and education programs. Application deadline is typically in February.

National Trust Preservation Fund – Grants are awarded for planning activities and education efforts focused on preservation. These grants help stimulate public discussion, enable local groups to gain the technical expertise needed for particular projects, introduce the public to preservation concepts and techniques, and encourage financial participation by the private sector. Grants generally range from \$500 to \$5,000. Application deadlines are typically February 1, June 1, and October 1.

Texas Historical Foundation: www.texashistoricalfoundation.org

The purpose of the foundation's grants are to 1) support projects and activities in education, research, archeology and the preservation of Texas history 2) sponsor publications and materials relating to Texas history 3) encourage activities promoting Texas traditions, values and patriotic events 4) collaborate with state, regional and local historical groups in strengthening preservation endeavors, and 5) communicate to the general public the unique role and function of the Texas Historical Foundation. Grant applications must be received in the THF office by the first day of March, June, September, and December.

For help identifying which grant program might be most appropriate for your museum's needs, please contact the THC's Museum Services Program staff at 512.463.5853 or history@thc.state.tx.us.

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