

CHC Reporters

Online Tool Helps Highlight Significant Accomplishments

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Each year, CHCs are asked to report their activities to the Texas Historical Commission (THC) as directed by the Texas Local Government Code. While reporting may seem routine to some, this exercise results in a variety of direct and indirect benefits to CHCs and the preservation community.

The CHC Outreach Program uses this information to improve how the THC responds to CHC needs and to help others understand the importance of CHC work. Here are several ways CHC reports help Texas' preservation community:

- **Individual evaluations:**

We read each report to gain a better understanding of the activity levels, priorities, and needs of each CHC.

- **Collective evaluations:**

We use the summaries generated by the online reporting tool to identify educational needs that are most prevalent, and to help CHCs understand the breadth of their statewide contributions.

- **Information sharing:**

We make this information available to CHCs, THC staff, and preservation partners to promote CHCs as a source of local preservation leadership.

- **Preservation testimonials:**

We use CHC accomplishments to quantify the value of CHC service, to illustrate CHC impact on local communities, and to inspire other local preservationists.

Since its creation in 2008, the CHC Outreach Program has used online tools to expedite the reporting and review process. Prior to CHC Outreach, the THC did not have the personnel to evaluate the paper reports submitted each year. Currently, we read reports and distribute CHC information and concerns to THC staff. Additionally, online reporting allows us to generate and share cumulative results with all CHCs, while providing one-on-one evaluations with CHCs that have an interest in improving their level of activity.

The larger preservation community benefits from CHC reporting because the information demonstrates how to



Atascosa CHC received a 2011 Distinguished Service Award; they strive to share county history in meaningful ways.

accomplish goals within the Statewide Preservation Plan. CHC Outreach staff formatted the CHC reports to affirm the plan and use its online platform (www.preservationconnection.com) to post CHC projects and reinforce accomplishments.

Annual reporting is a record of a CHC's service and a method to measure preservation success, so please make efforts to report each January. For more information about CHC reporting, summary documents, and ongoing efforts, visit www.thc.state.tx.us/county_commissions/chcannlrpt.shtml. ★

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