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# County Historical Commission TIPS & TOOLS

**T**he Texas Historical Commission (THC) hosts workshops across the state each year, and many County Historical Commissions (CHC) supplement these regional educational opportunities with their own preservation training. These activities often feature the expertise of CHC members or from an experienced outside source.

CHC Outreach staff members have fielded several inquiries about providing local preservation events and would like to share the following tips to assist CHC members in this worthy pursuit:

- Determine if your proposed subject matter is needed or if it interests your CHC or community; consider providing material that is beneficial to a broad audience.
- Check with THC staff and the agency's web calendar to see if educational opportunities already exist in your county or region.
- Coordinate the timing of your training with other local or regional events; this allows you to support your partners' events and for them to support yours.
- Attend regional events when possible. THC marker workshops are held annually across the state; if an

event is offered in a nearby county this year, the following year's workshops may be farther away.

- Use the CHC listserv and speak with other CHCs to find out about preservation expertise in your region.
- When using a non-THC speaker, supplement the presentation with THC information. Visit our agency's website or contact a THC staffer to secure the latest flyers and handouts that relate to the topics.
- Remember that policies and procedures regarding program and grant applications change annually; make sure you are working with current application documents and that your speaker has an

effective and current track record with using these documents.

- When using a non-THC speaker be sure to check his or her qualifications; longevity with a particular resource or topic does not ensure a quality speaker.
- Check references for people, projects, and products before recommending them to others.

Please remember to contact CHC Outreach with any of your questions and concerns. Our program exists to help you empower your CHC and provide preservation education to your community.



*Houston CHC members worked with the THC on an archeology survey to locate the site of Trinidad de Salcedo. The THC is among the Houston CHC's many partners offering education and training for their appointees and county.*

**CORRECTION:** An article about a proposed historic highways program in the Jan/Feb 2011 issue of *The Medallion* erroneously referred to a portion of road between Terrell and Dallas as eventually becoming part of the Bankhead Highway (instead of the Dixie Overland Highway). It also incorrectly attributed this information to Jerry Flook, a historical researcher.