



CHC OUTREACH PROGRAM

County Historical Commissions (CHCs) are appointed by county government to preserve local historic resources. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) created the CHC Outreach Program in 2008 to support CHC efforts to save the real places that tell the real stories of Texas. Currently, there are more than 200 CHCs that volunteer more than 290,000 hours of service each year.



CHC Outreach staff develop educational workshops. This training was held at the King Ranch Museum in Kingsville.

WHAT WE DO: HOW CHCs BENEFIT

CHC Outreach staff creates opportunities for each CHC to build the capacity of its organization.

Staff provides the following services to CHCs:

- Educate through training and technical assistance
- Promote achievements to county officials and the public
- Expand partnership and communication networks
- Provide CHC recommendations to county officials
- Empower appointees to be local preservation leaders

State statutes direct CHCs to follow recommendations of the county commissioners court and the THC. For this reason, CHC Outreach staff provides recommendations that are specific to the programs and initiatives that THC experts feel are most beneficial to the short- and long-term success of local preservation efforts. Staff works with other THC personnel to provide preservation technical recommendations and standards.

CHC STATUTORY PARAMETERS

The responsibilities of a CHC are set forth in the Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 318. The statute is fairly broad, leaving latitude for CHCs to organize and undertake activities appropriate to their county's region and resources. CHCs vary in size and workload, which affects the number and type of projects each CHC pursues.

The capacity of a CHC depends on the amount of support—monetary and in-kind—from county officials and the breadth of appointee skill sets. Regardless of size, CHCs are valuable resources for county history and wonderful partners for area organizations.

Additional information about CHCs is available at thc.texas.gov/CHCoutreach

HOW TO REACH US

CHC Outreach staff is available to answer questions and provide assistance. Please contact us at:

Phone: 512-463-9052

Email: history@thc.texas.gov

