



TEXAS MAIN STREET PROGRAM

Part of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Community Heritage Development Division, the Texas Main Street Program helps Texas cities revitalize their historic downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts by utilizing preservation and economic development strategies.

WHAT WE DO

Each year, the THC may select up to five Texas cities and urban neighborhoods as official Texas Main Street cities. Selected communities are eligible to receive a range of services.

THC STAFF:

- Coordinates ongoing comprehensive training for Main Street managers and board members.
- Trains communities in successful economic development and marketing approaches.
- Provides onsite evaluations and recommendations to participating communities, businesses, and property owners.
- Provides design and historic preservation assistance.
- Consults with downtown merchants on small business practices and issues.
- Maintains DowntownTX.org, a real estate and building inventory tool that lists commercial building stock in historic downtowns.
- Advises communities on other Community Heritage Development Division and THC programs.



Shown above: Downtown San Angelo.
Inset: Downtown Nacogdoches.

A PROVEN TRACK RECORD

The Texas Main Street Program began in 1981. Affiliated with the National Main Street Center, a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Texas Main Street Program is among the most successful downtown revitalization programs in the nation.

The THC has assisted more than 180 Texas cities through the program. The results:

- Private reinvestment of \$2.6 billion in Texas downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts.
- More than \$4 billion in overall reinvestment.
- More than 40,000 new jobs in Texas.
- More than 10,000 business starts, expansions, or relocations.

HOW TO APPLY

Texas cities with historic commercial buildings in their downtowns and neighborhood business districts may apply for Main Street designation. Please contact the Community Heritage Development Division at 512-463-6092 for application deadlines and procedures.

REQUIREMENTS BASED ON POPULATION

- Cities with populations of 50,000 and under must agree to hire a full-time Main Street manager and provide funding for the local program for at least three years.
- Cities with a population of more than 50,000 must hire a staff of two for at least five years and provide funding for the local program, which can either be a part of local government or a nonprofit.
- Cities that complete the initial three or five-year phase generally continue as sustaining programs.

A community may be designated a provisional Texas Main Street city if it agrees to apply for the official program the following year and meets other program requirements. Designation as a provisional Main Street community can occur in any current application cycle while the applicant and the state office work to address weaknesses in the application. A provisional community then reapplies the following year.

A DEDICATED TEAM

The experienced staff of the Texas Main Street Program has a rich educational background in preservation, design, heritage tourism, and economic development.

HOW TO REACH US

The Texas Main Street Program office is located at 1304 Colorado St. in the Christianson-Leberman Building. Staff members are available to answer questions and provide preservation assistance. Please contact us at:
Phone: 512-.463-5758
Fax: 512-463-5862
Email: community-heritage@thc.texas.gov



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