



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 areas 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 a three-day, on-site evaluation and full report with recommendations.
- Provides design assistance.
- Consults with downtown merchants on small business practices and issues.
- Advises communities on other Community Heritage Development Division and THC programs.

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.



Shown above: downtown San Angelo
Inset: Nacogdoches, a Texas Main Street City

The THC has assisted more than 170 Texas cities through the program. The results:

- Private reinvestment of \$1.9 billion in Texas downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts.
- More than \$2.9 billion in overall reinvestment.
- More than 31,000 new jobs in Texas.
- More than 8,100 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 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 applies for the official program the previous year and meets other program requirements.

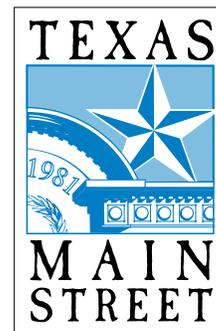
Designation as a provisional Main Street community can occur in any current application cycle while the applicant and the state office work to address weaknesses in the application. A provisional community then reapplies in the following year.

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 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.state.tx.us



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

P.O. BOX 12276 • AUSTIN, TX 78711-2276
PHONE 512.463.6100 • FAX 512.475.4872
www.thc.state.tx.us