

Executive Committee

July 20, 2023



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

AGENDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Saint George Hall
113 E. El Paso Street
Marfa, TX 79843
July 20, 2023
1:45 p.m.

(or upon the adjournment of the 12:15 p.m. Historic Sites committee meeting, whichever occurs later)

This meeting of the THC Executive committee has been properly posted with the Secretary of State's Office according to the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code. The members may discuss and/or take action on any of the items listed in the agenda. NOTE: The Executive Committee may go into executive session (closed meeting to the public) on any agenda item if appropriate and authorized by the Open Meetings Act, TGC, Chapter 551.

1. **Call to Order** – *Chairman John Nau*
 - A. Committee member introductions
 - B. Establish quorum
 - C. Recognize and/or excuse absences
2. **Consider approval of the Executive Committee meeting minutes from April 27, 2023** – *Nau*
3. **Consider approval of the project Fundraising Priorities list requiring private funds in excess of \$50,000 for FY 2024** – *Zutshi/Wolfe (Item 14.2)*
4. **Consider confirmation of appointments and reappointments to the Board of Trustees of the Friends of Texas Historical Commission** – *Zutshi/Wolfe (Item 14.3)*
5. **Consider approval of recommended THGAAC Education Grants** – *Wolfe (Item 14.4)*
6. **Human Resources, Information Technology, and Administration updates** – *Dr. Egele*
7. **Committee Chairman's Report**
 - A. Ongoing Projects; and
 - B. Updates and Upcoming Events
8. **Adjourn**

NOTICE OF ASSISTANCE AT PUBLIC MEETINGS: Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services such as interpreters for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, readers, large print or Braille, are requested to contact Paige Neumann at 512-463-5768 least four (4) business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MINUTES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Embassy Suites Austin Central Agave A-B 5901 N. Interstate Hwy 35 Austin, TX 78723 April 27, 2023 4:24 p.m.

(or upon the adjournment of the 1:45 p.m. Historic Sites committee meeting, whichever occurs later)

Note: For the full text of action item, please contact the THC at P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711 or call 512-463-6100.

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) Executive Committee was called to order by Chairman John L. Nau, III at 4:24 p.m. on April 27, 2023. He announced the meeting has been posted to the *Texas Register*, was being held in conformance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, and that notice had been properly posted with Secretary of State's Office as required.

A. Committee member introductions

Chairman Nau welcomed everyone, and introductions were made around the table. Members present included:

Chairman John Nau	Commissioner Pete Peterson
Vice-Chair Catherine McKnight	Commissioner Daisy White
Commissioner John Crain	

B. Establish quorum

Chairman Nau reported a quorum was present and declared the meeting open.

C. Recognize and/or excuse absences

Chairman Nau noted Commissioner Garrett Donnelly was absent. Commissioner Crain moved, Commissioner White seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to excuse the absence of Commissioner Donnelly.

2. Consider approval of the Executive Committee meeting minutes

A. Minutes from February 1, 2023

B. Minutes from March 3, 2023

C. Minutes from April 11, 2023

Commissioner Peterson moved, Commissioner White seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2023, March 3, 2023, and April 11, 2023, executive committee meetings.

3. Consider adoption of new rule to the TAC, Title 13, Part 2, Chapter 18, Section 18.9 related to the THGAAC Administrative Grant Rules without changes as published in the February 17, 2023 issue of the *Texas Register* (48 TexReg 785-787) (Item 7.6)

Chairman John Nau recommended adoption of Chapter 18, Section 18.9 Grant Rules. Commissioner White moved, Commissioner Peterson seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to send forward to the

Commission and recommend adoption of the new rules to TAC, Title 13, Part 2, Chapter 18, Section 18.9 related to the THGAAC Administrative Grant Rules without changes to the text as published in the February 17, 2023, issue of the *Texas Register*.

4. Consider approval of the agreement between the Friends of THGAAC and the THC (Item 15.2)

Director Wolfe reminded the members that the THGAAC was created after its previous Commission was eliminated through the Sunset Review process. Wolfe noted the new organization by statute is required to enter into an agreement to establish terms with the new Friends of THGAAC and THC. He reported the agreement was drafted by the Attorney General's office with assistance from staff. Commissioner Crain moved, Commissioner Peterson seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to send forward to the Commission and recommend the approval of the agreement between the Friends of the THGAAC and the THC.

5. Consider approval of THGAAC Education Grant Handbook (Item 15.3)

Director Wolfe reported based on the recommendations from the Sunset Review and legislative requirements of prescribing for the program, the commission may provide matching grants to assist in the implementation of the advisory commission's goals and objectives. He stated the THC and THGAAC worked together to create an Education Grant Handbook. Commissioner Crain moved, Commissioner Peterson seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to send forward to the Commission and recommend the approval of the THGAAC Education Grant Handbook.

6. Information technology and Human Resources updates

Dr. Carol Egele, Deputy Executive Director of Administration, reported on the THC mobile app, officially referred to as the Texas History Navigator. She noted the staff are working on collecting and organizing images. Dr. Egele reported that the initial released testing occurred April 17-26, 2023, to test the basic functionality and that phase 1 of the app is scheduled to go live by June 3, 2023, with content updates through August 31, 2023.

Dr. Egele went on to report that the THC is working with a new vendor, Hughes Network Systems, LLC to improve the Historic Sites Internet connectivity. She stated the initial kick-off was scheduled for May 2023 and the equipment will be installed and managed by the vendor.

Dr. Egele reported that vendor RESPEC Company, LLC had been secured for the upgrade to the Atlas Database to create a more modern code base and functionality. She noted the project team and vendor plan to complete the project by March 1, 2024.

Lastly, she reported that THC continues to struggle with hiring new and experienced staff, particularly in the Staff Services area of the agency, due in part that other employers are more liberal in allowing teleworking options. Chairman Nau asked what THC guidelines are being followed for this process. Director Wolfe informed the members of the current telework agreement with staff allowing them to remote work up to three days a week. He noted the agency has drafted an updated telework policy to bring forward to the commission after the legislative session. Chairman Nau stated he was waiting on legislative and Governor's office direction on policy moving forward.

7. Committee Chairman's Report

- A. Ongoing Projects; and
- B. Updates and Upcoming Events

Chairman Nau stated he would defer his report to the end of the full Commission meeting and that no further report was necessary.

8. Adjourn

At 4:38 p.m., on the motion of the chairman and without objection, the meeting was adjourned.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Item 14.2
Texas Historical Commission
Quarterly Meeting
July 20-21, 2023

Review and approve projects requiring private funds in excess of \$50,000 for FY 2024

Background

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Texas Historical Commission and the Friends of THC projects exceeding \$50,000 requiring funding from the Friends must be approved by a vote of the Commission or by a vote of the Executive Committee of the Commission.

The attached list of projects (*attachment provided for your review*) was developed by the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission, with input from, and consultation with, the division directors of each THC division, as well as with final review by the Executive Director of the THC. Upon approval by the Commission, the Board of the Friends of the THC will approve this list of projects requiring private funds in excess of \$50,000 at their quarterly Board meeting on July 28, 2023, and will direct staff to begin/continue their fundraising efforts.

Suggested Motions (Committee)

Move that the committee send forward to the commission to approve projects as presented and to request that the Friends proceed with fundraising.

Suggested Motions (Commission)

Move to approve projects as presented and to request that the Friends proceed with fundraising.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
PROJECT FUNDING PRIORITIES FY 2024 (FINAL, for Commission approval)

June 27, 2023

Notes:					
1. Friends fundraising priorities are categorized into three focus areas - Capital, Education, and Stewardship					
2. Projects marked with a plus sign (+) were approved in previous fiscal years, but have amended (increased) \$ goals.					
2. Projects marked with a minus sign (-) were approved in previous fiscal years, but have amended (decreased) \$ goals.					
Project name	Division	Project Description	Fundraising Goal	FY	Notes
Priority 1					
Mobile App <i>(Education)</i> <i>(new)</i>	Admin	Develop and launch Phase 2 features of the app	Funding in place.	2024 to 2025	Phase 1 is complete. Fundings in place for Phase 2
Texas Archeology Stewardship Network <i>(Stewardship)</i>	Archeology	Ongoing training/workshops for the TASN	\$10,000	2023-2024	Still a priority - Archeology Division is expanding the program and exploring ideas for regional workshop; coming up on the 40th anniversary year
Texas Archeology Month <i>(Education)</i>	Archeology	Funding to expand and grow the Texas Archeology Month program	\$16,000	2023-2024	Request submitted for TAM 2023 (in FY 2024). Decision expected in June.
The 1554 Shipwrecks at 50 - the Archeology of North America's Oldest Excavated Shipwrecks <i>(Education)</i> <i>(new)</i>	Archeology	Raise research funding for the re-release of previous publications as digital files in English <i>and translated into Spanish.</i>	\$75,000 - \$85,000	2024 to 2025	NEW PROJECT; Note from BJ: Would particularly like to see the existing publications re-released by THC as digital resources (we already have them, but we need to do some marketing) with Spanish translation versions.
Real Places Conference & Awards Banquet <i>(Education)</i> (+)	CHD	Conference underwriting and scholarships for students and community organizations	\$120,000	2023-2024	\$80K already committed in a Title sponsorship and a City of Austin Heritage Programs Grant.
Undertold Markers <i>(Education)</i> (New)	HPD	Additional funds for the fabrication of 15 Undertold Markers starting in FY 2024	\$15,000	2023-2024	The Undertold Markers Program is partly funded through the application fees paid for the historical markers program. The cost of fabricating these markers has increased significantly, thereby significantly depleting the fund. The funding identified here is for FY 2024, and is a portion of the total program cost of \$30,000 for 15 Undertold Markers. A portion of this cost (\$16,100) will be funded through fees received from the THC historical Markers Program. The projected goal will support the fabrication of 15 Undertold Markers each year going forward.
Eisenhower Birthplace <i>(Capital)</i> (-)	HSD	Pedestrian Plaza Capital Improvements - Monument, landscape design, upgrades	\$781,241	2023-2024	Total cost of the planned capital improvements is \$2.762 million, with \$1.636 million committed in state funds. Total fundraising goal is \$1.126 million. \$345,000 raised in cash and pledges towards this goal. (MAY BE PARTIALLY FUNDED THROUGH TRUST FUND DISTRIBUTIONS)

PROJECT FUNDING PRIORITIES FY 2024 (FINAL, for Commission approval)

Project name	Division	Project Description	Fundraising Goal	FY	Notes
Caddo Mounds - Visitor Center Phase II <i>(Capital) (+)</i>	HSD	Construction of Phase II (education building) of the Caddo Mounds SHS visitor center and outdoor educational infrastructure; match for \$2.9 million in state appropriations	\$3,140,000	2023-2024	Numbers included here are for the Education Center building only (as provided by Richter Architects), and do not include support buildings (renovation of the old packing building and site improvements), additional storm protection, as well as archeology.
Goodnight Ranch - Acquisition <i>(Capital) (new)</i>	HSD	Acquisition of the neighboring property as an addition to Goodnight Ranch SHS	\$480,000	2023-2024	PROJECT ON HOLD PENDING CONTACT WITH HEIRS. FTCH to buy and hold until THC receives statutory authority to spend SGST \$s to acquire from the Friends.
Levi Jordan Plantation Museum <i>(Capital)</i>	HSD	Capital Improvements and interpretation over the next 3-5 years	TBD	2024-2026	To begin and complete a full campaign feasibility analysis as recommended by the Friends. Funds expended for this process will be included in the final campaign budget and will be reimbursed to the Friends.
Star of the Republic Museum <i>(Capital)</i>	HSD	Construction of the museum	No fundraising by the Friends	N/A	The fundraising is being coordinated by WOBHF, with the FTCH supporting. FTCH Staying on this project as a consultant, support the WOBHF's campaign.
San Jacinto Monument - Museum Addition <i>(Capital - Planning) (new)</i>	HSD	Feasibility study	No fundraising by the Friends	2024-2026	Priority 1 project, but TBD about Friends of the THC involvement in the fundraising. On the project as a consultant.
K-12 Education Access Program for Historic Sites <i>(Program) (New)</i>	HSD	The program will provide funding for economically disadvantaged school districts, for transportation and admission for field trips to SHSs	\$100,000	2024-2026	The access needs have been identified over the years by several HS managers and educators who are currently doing outreach to school districts ahead of the 2023-24 school year. Transportation and admission fees are among the primary hurdles, especially for schools from economically disadvantaged districts, to send students on field trips.
Priority 2					
Archeological Stewards and Staff Research Fund <i>(Stewardship)</i>	Archeology	A grant program for Stewards to support on-site research	\$20,000	2023-2024	Provide grant funding to TASN stewards for on-site research, like chronometric dating, or materials analysis. Also provide additional funding for regional review staff for research.
Courthouse Stewardship Program <i>(Stewardship)</i>	Architecture	Two regional and one statewide workshop	\$20,000	2023-2024	Request approved for FY 2024.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
PROJECT FUNDING PRIORITIES FY 2024 (FINAL, for Commission approval)

June 27, 2023

Project name	Division	Project Description	Fundraising Goal	FY	Notes
Texas Music History Trail <i>(Education) (new)</i>	CHD	Visioning/Planning to develop the full scope of the Texas Music History Trail Program, and to identify long term resource needs. Initial funding will provided for professional planning expertise.	\$50,000	2023-2024	The 85th legislature, by passing H.B. 2079 authored by Rep. Todd Hunter, calls for the Texas Historical Commission to develop a Texas Music History Trail program to promote tourism related to the musical heritage of the state. The THC is working with the Texas Music Office of the Office of the Governor, the Center for Texas Music History at Texas State, and Texas Folklife to bring together musicians, scholars, and experts to realize this project.
Historic Sites Virtual Learning Portal, Phase II <i>(Education)(new)</i>	HSD	Continue to build on Phase I, which was supported by the IMLS Cares Act grant	\$300,000	2023-2025	NEW. TO build on the IMLS funded virtual learning portal.
THC Digital Archives <i>(Education & Stewardship)</i>	THC	A complete management system (software license and server/cloud storage) to digitize all THC-owned images, videos, oral histories, designation application files, permit files, legal documents such as funding agreements and easements, completion reports, historic structure reports, and construction documents to be shared between THC divisions.	\$500,000	TBD	This has been identified as a priority by multiple divisions. Mark and Carol's input required to define scope, identify requirements, archival standards, etc.
Priority 3					
Cemetery Support Fund <i>(Stewardship) (new)</i>	Archeology/H PD	Grant program to assist private landowners with preservation of prehistoric and abandoned or lost cemeteries.	??	2023-2024	To fund a grant program to assist private landowners with preservation efforts for prehistoric & abandoned or lost cemeteries, including recording, and protecting. The changes to the Health and Safety Code has created tension between landowners and their interest groups & archeologists, and developing a program that could provide resources might be a way to mitigate the anxiety and lack of trust.
Museum on Main Street <i>(Education) (new)</i>	CHD	Funding to provide seed funds for travel and transportation for the first seven communities selected for the MoMS 2024 program.	\$25,000	2023-2024	This new program will bring a Smithsonian exhibit to Texas for a 10 month period and will engage six Texas communities that will offer this exhibit for a 6-week period each.
Main Street First Lady's Tour <i>(Education) (+)</i>	CHD	Main Street Tour	\$30,000	2023-2024	Traditionally funded primarily by IBAT. May not need funds for tours, but might for other event in FY 2024, to address the First Lady's request for additional engagement with the program.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
PROJECT FUNDING PRIORITIES FY 2024 (FINAL, for Commission approval)

June 27, 2023

Project name	Division	Project Description	Fundraising Goal	FY	Notes
Texas Main Street Leadership Council <i>(Education) (new)</i>	CHD	Build on the existing Anice Read Main Street Center Fund to support the Main Street Leadership Council.	\$15,000	2023-2024	The current funding available (through memorial gifts in honor of Julian Read) will support the council's inaugural efforts. Additional funding needed for travel stipends for the council, and for meeting expenses.
THC Education Program <i>(Program)</i>	HPD	A comprehensive Education Program that provides funding for K-12, post-secondary, and professional development programs.	\$30,000	2023-2024	\$10,000 for Youth Education (virtual summer camps and content development); \$10,000 for 3rd party e-learning platform for K-12 education & professional development; and \$10,000 for Museum Services Webinars program.
Digital Collections Archives <i>(Education)</i>	HSD	Expanding capabilities of the existing Digital Collections Database to enable all collections to be digitally inventoried, and collection information made "web ready". Cost: part time staff, equipment, software, ops costs, etc. Focused primarily on archeological sites.	\$225,000	2024 to 2025	Working on identifying potential federal funding sources for this project; previous application under NEH was not funded. Project management from the HSD side to be identified.
Archeology Outreach and Public Program Development	HSD & Archeology	Develop and implement archeology-focused public programs and educator workshops that center place-based understanding of archeological resources. Programs will be extensible and can be leveraged by individual historic sites to engage the public. Costs: consultant staff, equipment and supplies, curriculums, materials for travelling trunks, and design costs.	\$250,000	2024 to 2025	Grant opportunities possible under Humanities Texas, U.S. Department of Education, National Archives and Records Administration - Teaching with Primary Sources. Expansion of Texas Archeology Month education offerings and CPE teacher training (Project Archeology). ON THE LIST PENDING CLARIFICATION FROM HSD.
Ft. Griffin - Longhorn Herd <i>(Capital) (+)</i>	HSD	Land/easement acquisition (~2,000 acres) for effective management of the THC longhorn herd at Ft. Griffin	\$14.675 Million - \$19.0 million	TBD	Address herd needs with consolidation. On the list, but with priority focus on securing a long term lease.
Friends Fundraising - PRIORITY 1					
Preservation Scholars Program <i>(Education)</i>	Friends - Restricted	Stipend for at least four interns for FY 2023	\$25,000	2023-2024	Per FTHC 2024 Draft Budget
Friends Unrestricted Fundraising <i>(Gen Operating)</i>	Friends - Unrestricted	Unrestricted \$s from the Spirit of Texas program.	\$50,000	2023-2024	Per FTHC 2024 Draft Budget

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
PROJECT FUNDING PRIORITIES FY 2024 (FINAL, for Commission approval)

June 27, 2023

Project name	Division	Project Description	Fundraising Goal	FY	Notes
Unrestricted fundraising from foundations & Corporations <i>(Gen Operating)</i>	Friends - Unrestricted	Unrestricted funds	\$25,000	2023-2024	Per FTHC 2024 Draft Budget
FTHC 2024 Gala <i>(Gen Operating)</i>	Friends - Unrestricted	Unrestricted funds or revenues to be board directed.	\$75,000	2024	Per FTHC 2024 Draft Budget
Development Seminars <i>(Education)</i>	Friends - Unrestricted	One annual seminar at RP, and one field seminar hosted at a historic site, and multiple virtual seminars offered	\$5,000	2023-2024	Per FTHC 2024 Draft Budget

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Item 14.3
Texas Historical Commission
Quarterly Meeting
July 20-21, 2023

Confirm re-appointments and new appointments to Board of Trustees of the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission

Background:

The Friends of the Texas Historical Commission (Friends) is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to supporting the historic preservation programs of the THC. The Friends was formed in 1996 to assist the THC in the protection, preservation, and promotion of the state's rich heritage, and in educating Texas citizens about their shared legacy. Through the Friends, the THC has raised more than \$16 million to support programs such as the *La Belle* Shipwreck Project, the Red River War Battle Sites Project, the excavation of La Salle's Fort St. Louis, the Texas in World War II Initiative, the THC Diversity Internships, the Texas Civil War Monuments Fund, and most recently the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site Museum. A board of trustees, including the executive director of the Texas Historical Commission, oversees the Friends.

Trustees are appointed for three-year terms and are selected to provide preservation, operational and investment advice to the organization and to ensure that the activities of the organization support the preservation efforts of the THC.

In order to facilitate a close working relationship, the Commission appoints at least one more than half of the Trustees who serve as "Commission-appointed Trustees". The Friends board appoints the remaining trustees as "Corporate Trustees". The current Board of Trustees includes twelve (13) Commission appointees, and eight (8) Corporate appointees. Please see the attached "*Trustees Term of Service FY 2024-2026*".

Suggested Motion (Committee)

Move to send forward to the commission to confirm the **re-appointment** of **Sarita Armstrong Hixon, Harriet Latimer, and Dianne Duncan Tucker** as Commission Trustees of the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission for another three-year term (FY 2024-2026), beginning on September 1, 2023 and ending on August 31, 2026, and confirm the **new appointments** of **Kristine Navarro McElhaney** and **Vanessa McElwrath** as Commission Trustees of the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission for a three-year term (FY 2024-2026) beginning September 1, 2023 and ending on August 31, 2026.

CLASS III (September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2026) – Commission Appointees

Sarita Armstrong Hixon (re-appointment)

Harriet Latimer (re-appointment)

Kristine Navarro McElhaney (new appointment – bio attached)

Vanessa McElwrath (new appointment – bio attached)

Dianne Duncan Tucker (re-appointment)

Suggested Motion (Commission)

Move to confirm the **re-appointment** of **Sarita Armstrong Hixon, Harriet Latimer, and Dianne Duncan Tucker** as Commission Trustees of the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission for another three-year term (FY 2024-2026), beginning on September 1, 2023 and ending on August 31, 2026, and confirm the **new appointments** of **Kristine Navarro McElhaney** and **Vanessa McElwrath** as Commission Trustees of the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission for a three-year term (FY 2024-2026) beginning September 1, 2023 and ending on August 31, 2026.

CLASS III (September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2026) – Commission Appointees

Sarita Armstrong Hixon (re-appointment)

Harriet Latimer (re-appointment)

Kristine Navarro McElhaney (new appointment – bio attached)

Vanessa McElwrath (new appointment – bio attached)

Dianne Duncan Tucker (re-appointment)

memo

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

To: Mark Wolfe
From: Anjali Zutshi
CC: Sally Anne Schmidt, Board Chair; Aaron Dorfner, Chair, Board Development and Governance Committee
Date: June 13, 2023
Re: Friends of the THC Board - Commission Appointee Prospects

Mark,

Attached, for review and consideration by Chairman Nau and you, are the biographies of two proposed Commission appointees to the Friends Board.

As you know, the Friends board takes a very intentional approach to board development as we identify new board members each year. The Board uses what it calls an “Affinity Matrix”, which outlines the Friends’ priorities for geographic representation as well as for skills required for effective governance and fundraising. Existing board members are placed on this matrix to classify their geographic representation overlapped with their expertise and skills, thereby identifying gaps in either area. Additional filters including demographics, help us identify board prospects that reflect the audience that we serve – the people of Texas.

For the upcoming fiscal year, we have identified a couple of areas – specifically expertise in wealth management and relationship with academia and preservation practice – that we would like to build on the board. The two individuals presented for your consideration as potential Commission appointees address these priorities.

You are already very familiar with **Vanessa McElwrath’s** background, and I appreciate you bringing her name up as a potential board member. I have attached a brief bio that Vanessa has shared with us, along with a resume for **Kristine Navarro-McElhaney**, for the Chairman’s and your review.

Please do let me know if you have any questions as you review the attached information. I have also attached the latest matrix for the Chairman’s and your benefit, should there be other individuals that he or you would like to consider.

Should these individuals be approved as Commission nominees, their approval will be on the agenda for the July Commission meeting.

Sincerely,

Anjali

KRISTINE NAVARRO McELHANEY

Email: Kristine.navarromcelhaney@austin.utexas.edu

Summary

Detail oriented administrator with 20+ years' experience in fiscal management, overseeing and implementing historically significant projects in public history with emphasis on oral history programs and initiatives. Comprehensive knowledge of organizational and financial administration of centers of higher education and public history based non-profit professional service organizations including executive oversight. Skills portfolio includes program development and administration, accounting oversight, budgeting, compliance, board governance, strategic planning, financial forecasting, human resource management and overall stewardship based on best practices and procedures.

Professional Experience

Assistant Director

Voces Oral History Center, University of Texas at Austin

2022 – present

- Represent Voces to various stakeholders on and off-campus, including campus partners, professional organizations in oral history/public history/Latino Studies, community groups, potential sponsors.
- Develop strategic academic and community partnerships to advance Voces' research, education, and community programs.
- Work with Director to conduct strategic planning process and develop and implement Voces' initiatives.
- Provide leadership to staff on planning, implementation, and evaluation; including developing workflows, defining, launching, and driving project activities and protocols.
- Develop strategic academic and community partnerships to advance Voces' research, educational and community programs.
- Oversee major components and operations of Voces, including budget, personnel, and associated resources related to Voces' research and initiatives.

Chief of Operations and Special Initiatives

New Mexico Historic Sites Division, Department of Cultural Affairs

2019 – 2022

- Oversee day-to-day administrative functions of the division's Central Office, including human resources and finance, and ensure division adherence to State statutes and agency policies and procedures.
- Serve as division liaison in supporting collaborative efforts with external organizations state-wide including DCA sister divisions, other local, state, and federal government entities, and cultural institutions.
- Produce reports and other written materials; works with Department of Cultural Affairs legal counsel on various issues pertaining to the division and serve as liaison to the Museum of New Mexico Collections Committee in assuring compliance to collections policies and best practices.

Research Administrator

School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies (SHPRS), Arizona State University

1/2015 - 2019

- Analyze and present financial data and quality metrics to leadership to support the ongoing goals of the Public History program.
- Provide leadership with guidance and input on specific activities and initiatives of the public history projects within SHPRS, including the fiscal management and implementation of strategic projects and program activities.
- Employ multiple strategies to implement public humanities initiatives in partnership with local, state, and national constituencies.
- Project manager for several ongoing public history projects, including VAST, Glen Canyon Dam ADP, Park Central Mall, and Connecting 2 Communities
- Supervise graduate students on current initiatives including Glen Canyon Dam, Undocumented Voices, Park Central Mall, VAST, and Connecting 2 Communities
- Teach public history courses, supervise internships, and coordinate professional experiences.

Interim Executive Director

Oral History Association

2/2016 – 1/2018

- Implemented association priorities and initiatives, broadly defined as those activities that sustain and develop the association and further the practice of oral history nationally and internationally.
- Provided regular analysis and quantifiable information from raw data for financial forecasting, strategic planning, and decision-making.
- Instituted OHA's first organizational policy for regular audits and subsequently coordinated two successful audits with an outside accounting firm.
- Conducted review of risk management policies and managed RFP process for D & O insurance coverage.
- Developed and implemented accounting and financial processes and controls.

Director, Institute of Oral History

University of Texas at El Paso

11/ 2000 – 12/2014

- Awarded *Outstanding Service Achievement Award* from the College of Liberal Arts in 2008 and *Outstanding Public History Project Award* from National Council of Public History in 2010.
- Directed and conducted oral history collections, field interview strategies, post-interview processing methods and preservation techniques consistent with the professional principles, standards, and guidelines of the field.
- Led the development, organization, and oversight of the single largest collection of oral histories of Braceros (temporary Mexican agricultural workers) in existence.
- Developed exhibitions, projects, publications, and initiatives of local, regional, and national significance through collaborative partnerships with communities, non-profits, government, academia and the private sector with an emphasis on Latino history and populations.

Past Professional Appointments

- Executive Director, Mission Trails Association, 02/00-11/00
- Research Fellow, Public Policy Research Center, UTEP, 8/98-2/00
- Teaching Assistant, Department of History, UTEP, 8/97-8/98
- Research Assistant, African American Studies, UTEP, 8/96-8/97



VANESSA McELWRATH

As a wealth advisor and financial planner, Vanessa assists individuals, families, and non-profits to develop long-term investment strategies based on Nobel-prize winning research. Vanessa sees her role as her clients' chief financial officer – someone who can view their financial situation with the perspective needed to help them make smart financial decisions that are aligned with their goals and values. Her passion for economic security leads her to frequently speak on topics including the science of investing, the women's retirement gap, and the value of conflict-free financial advice. Vanessa is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and a Certified Financial Planner (CFP®). She graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration and Master of Professional Accounting from the University of Texas at Austin.

Vanessa is currently a Wealth Management Partner at Maxwell Locke & Ritter in Austin. Previously, she gained experience at Dimensional Fund Advisors, a global investment management firm. Her background in providing capital markets research, regression analysis, and multi factor-based portfolio theory has enabled her to help individuals, families, and institutions design portfolios and plans to achieve their financial goals.

Outside of work, Vanessa is active in her community. She currently serves on the Elizabeth Ann Seton Board. Previously, she spent time on the boards of Preservation Austin, the Ballet Austin Guild, and KIPP Texas Public Schools.

Today, Vanessa lives in Austin, TX with her husband Mac, sons McCammon and Holden, and their yellow lab Boone.





**Trustee Terms of Service
FY 2024-2026
(September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2026)**

Class I (Term Expires August 31, 2024)

Donna Carter – Commission
Sehila Mota Casper – Commission
Rowena Houghton Dasch – Corporate
Courtney Read Hoffman – Commission
John Mayfield – Corporate
Wes Reeves – Commission
Sally Anne Schmidt – Corporate
Brian Shivers – Commission

Class II (Term Expires August 31, 2025)

Jane Cook Barnhill – Commission
Lareatha Clay – Commission
Terry Colley – Corporate
Bonnie McKee – Commission
Joe Thrash – Commission
Kay Timme – Corporate
Welcome Wilson, Jr. – Commission

Class III (Term Expires August 31, 2026)

Aaron Dorfner – Corporate
Sarah Zenaida Gould – Corporate
Francisco Guajardo – Corporate
Sarita Armstrong Hixon – Commission REAPPOINTMENT
Harriet Latimer – Commission REAPPOINTMENT
Kristine Navarro McElhaney – Commission NEW APPOINTMENT
Vanessa McElwrath – Commission NEW APPOINTMENT
Dianne Duncan Tucker – Commission REAPPOINTMENT

THC Commission Liaisons

Monica P. Burdette
John W. Crain
John L. Nau, III

Advisory Board

Killis Almond	
Diane Bumpas	
Mary Stripling Duncan	Lynn McBee
Stuart Gleichenhaus	Joan McLeod
Albert "Boo" Hausser	Robert Oliver
Michael Hurd	MariBen Ramsey

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Item 14.4
Texas Historical Commission
Quarterly Meeting
July 20-21, 2023

Consider approval of the recommended THGAAC Education Grants

Background:

In the enabling legislation for the Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission (THGAAC), HB 3257, the commission may provide matching grants to assist in the implementation of the advisory commission's goals and objectives. The new THGAAC Administrative Rules were adopted at the April THC Quarterly Meeting, and the THGAAC Grand Handbook was approved.

The THGAAC opened a grants cycle from April 10, 2023, to May 8, 2023, and formed a grants subcommittee to score the applications. During the May 31 THGAAC Quarterly Meeting, the THGAAC commissioners reviewed the recommendations of the grants scoring committee and voted to increase the Educational Grants award budget to up to \$340,000.

The THGAAC Commissioners voted to approve the top scoring twelve projects of the twenty-two eligible applicants. To fund all twelve projects fully, number eleven, the "Digitizing Self-Published Memoirs by Houston-Area Holocaust Survivors from Holocaust Museum Houston for \$8,050, is receiving partial funding of \$2,100 from the THGAAC and the remaining \$5,950 from a private donation to the museum.

Recommendations:

The recommendation is for the THC to consider approval of the THGAAC Education Grants.

Committee Motion:

Move that the committee send forward to the Commission and recommend approving the THGAAC Education Grants.

Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission

2023 Education Grant Recommendations

May 25, 2023

The Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission's (THGAAC) 2023 Education Grant application period was active from April 10, 2023 to May 8, 2023; each applicant could request up to \$50,000.00 per project.

We received a total of 23 applications, with 22 of those being eligible. Applications came from all over the state, from organizations of varying sizes and missions.

Scoring took place between May 9, 2023 and May 24, 2023. The scoring committee met on May 25, 2023 to discuss recommendations. This document presents the recommendations of the scoring committee.



Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission

Projects and Scores

The THGAAC received 23 applications for this grant, with 22 of those being eligible for scoring. Below are the ranked total scores for each application, from highest to lowest.

Rank	Applicant	Project	Total
1	El Paso Holocaust Museum and Study Center	"2023 Biennial Educators' Conference: Tools for Teaching the Holocaust in Today's Classroom"	116.8
2	Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum	"Ten Stages of Genocide Graphic Novel Animation"	116
3	Holocaust Museum Houston	"Antisemitism Toolkit"	114.6
4	St. Sarkis Armenian Church of Dallas-Fort Worth	"Seeing the Humanity in Each of Us: The Lessons of the Armenian Genocide"	114.2
5	Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum	"'Hidden History: Recounting the Jewish Shanghai Story' Special Exhibition"	107.2
6	Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County	"The Sh'ma Project"	105.4
7	Holocaust Museum Houston	"Spanish Edition of Holocaust Remembrance Toolkit"	100
8	Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio	"Hate Ends Now—The Cattle Car Project"	98.6
9	Holocaust Remembrance Association	"Holocaust Garden of Hope: Virtual Access"	97.6
10	Museum of Biblical Art	"'Celebration of Survival: Holocaust Heroes' Museum Exhibition"	97.4
11	Holocaust Museum Houston	"Digitizing Self-Published Memoirs by Houston-Area Holocaust Survivors"	94.8
12	Amarillo Public Library	"Stories of Exile"	92.8
13	Austin Jewish Film Festival	"Austin Jewish Film Festival 2023"	88.5
14	Congregation Beth Israel	"8 th Grade Journey to Holocaust Museum Houston"	88.2
15	Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas	"10 th Annual Interfaith Seder"	84.6
16	Clarion Project, Inc.	"Empowering Education and Public Awareness: Combating Antisemitism and Genocide"	84.2
17	Polkaworks	"Two Worlds—One Path"	82
18	Jewish Federation of San Antonio	"No-Hate Zone—Combating Antisemitism and Hate in Bexar County and Beyond"	78.8
19	Mesorah High School for Girls	"A Student-Led Exploration of the Holocaust and Genocide"	72.4
20	World Affairs Council Austin	"The Geography of the Genocides: Ten Genocides"	72.4
21	Chabad RGV	"Through the Awareness of Truth—Peace and Tolerance Can Be Achieved"	65.4
22	Shalom Austin	"Speaking My Ancestors' Truth"	62.75
23	Center for Medicine After the Holocaust	"Medical Student Education about Medicine and the Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism"	N/A



Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission

Recommended for Funding

1.) *El Paso Holocaust Museum and Study Center: “2023 Biennial Educators’ Conference: Tools for Teaching the Holocaust in Today’s Classroom”*

Amount Requested: \$10,350.00

This grant will allow the museum to hold their biennial educators’ conference on teaching the Holocaust.

2.) *Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum: “Ten Stages of Genocide Graphic Novel Animation”*

Amount Requested: \$50,000.00

The museum currently uses print and digital copies of graphic novels they created to help demonstrate the Ten Stages of Genocide. This grant will allow them to animate certain graphic novels, thereby providing more in-depth student instruction on these stages.

3.) *Holocaust Museum Houston: “Antisemitism Toolkit”*

Amount Requested: \$36,000.00

This will allow the museum to provide an educational toolkit that focuses on antisemitism, including its history and the dangers it presents. The toolkit will be made available in English and Spanish.

4.) *St. Sarkis Armenian Church of Dallas-Fort Worth: “Seeing the Humanity in Each of Us: The Lessons of the Armenian Genocide”*

Amount Requested: \$46,500.00

This grant will allow St. Sarkis to provide a variety of community programming throughout the grant cycle, aimed at educating the public on the Armenian Genocide. Programming includes a cultural heritage festival, a teacher workshop, a student art expo, and an Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day event.

5.) *Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum: “Hidden History: Recounting the Jewish Shanghai Story’ Special Exhibition”*

Amount Requested: \$50,000.00

This grant will allow the museum to host an exhibit that examines the experiences of Shanghai's Jewish community, which was formed when its inhabitants fled Nazi Europe.

6.) *Jewish Federation of Fort Worth & Tarrant County: “The Sh’ma Project”*

Amount Requested: \$25,000.00

Dr. Suki John is the child of a Holocaust survivor, and she has created a film that depicts her family's story through dance and music. The Federation will use this grant to create a version of the film specifically for students, and to deliver corresponding workshops.



Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission

7.) *Holocaust Museum Houston: “Spanish Edition of Holocaust Remembrance Toolkit”*

Amount Requested: \$9,000.00

This grant will allow the museum's Holocaust Remembrance Toolkit to be translated into Spanish, to be used by students still learning English. The museum will also provide corresponding educator workshops.

8.) *Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio: “Hate Ends Now—The Cattle Car Project”*

Amount Requested: \$50,000.00

This grant will allow the museum to bring a replica cattle car to San Antonio and Austin, to stand as a traveling exhibit. The cattle car houses virtual materials that use primary sources to provide a 360° presentation about the Holocaust to visitors.

9.) *Holocaust Remembrance Association: “Holocaust Garden of Hope: Virtual Access”*

Amount Requested: \$46,000.00

This grant will allow the Holocaust Remembrance Association to provide virtual interactive Holocaust programming, centered on the open-air Holocaust Garden of Hope.

10.) *Museum of Biblical Art: “Celebration of Survival: Holocaust Heroes’ Museum Exhibition”*

Amount Requested: \$10,000.00

This grant will allow the museum to host an exhibit that examines the role of the Righteous Among the Nations during the Holocaust.

11.) *Holocaust Museum Houston: “Digitizing Self-Published Memoirs by Houston-Area Holocaust Survivors”*

Amount Requested: \$8,050.00

This grant will allow the museum to digitize the written memoirs of Holocaust Survivors, thereby facilitating their preservation and accessibility.

12.) *Amarillo Public Library: “Stories of Exile”*

Amount Requested: \$5,000.00

This grant will allow the museum to digitize the written memoirs of Holocaust Survivors, thereby facilitating their preservation and accessibility.

Total Budget: \$340,000.00

During the quarterly meeting, Commissioners discussed increasing the grant budget to \$340,000.00. The motion was to fund the highest scoring projects in addition to the \$5,000



Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission

grant request to the Amarillo Public Library and present these recommendations to the Texas Historical Commission. This would allow full funding for #1-#10, partial funding for #11, and full funding for #12. Commissioner Mitzner identified alternative funding for the remainder of #11, in the amount of \$5,900.00.

