

**2010 Annual Historic Preservation Conference
Vision Wall and Workshops
April 22–24, 2010
Houston, TX**

Summary

More than 100 stakeholders contributed to the vision for preservation in Texas through workshops and a vision wall at the THC's Annual Historic Preservation Conference on April 22–24, 2010 in Houston. The vision wall was a place where attendees could contribute their ideas and read others between conference sessions or during breaks. It was self-paced and open all-day during the conference. The vision wall elicited a broad range of ideas, from local accomplishments to statewide change. In addition, there were two facilitated workshops during the conference where 70 participants worked individually, in small groups, and then shared their vision ideas with the room.

Vision ideas can be organized into the following themes:

- A culturally diverse, multi-generational community knowledgeable and active in the preservation of Texas' historic places
- Preservation is an economic generator, revitalizing downtowns and communities
- Historic buildings are a key ingredient in healthy, livable and sustainable communities
- Texas has a comprehensive survey of historic places across the state and a technologically savvy information network for preservation
- Communities champion local preservation through planning, policies and incentives

Vision Wall

“Close your eyes and imagine it is the year 2020. How do you want Texas (or your community) to look as a result of preservation in action? What have we accomplished?”

- In 2020 I would like to see persons of all ages informed and actively involved in the preservation of the history of their community.
- I would want all aspects of the different cultures that make up Texas preserved.
- I would like the history of Texas retold accurately.
- All cultural contributions to TX history and place making are respected and represented rather than stricken from memory.
- Preservation both in word and deed is seen as one of the most effective economic and community development tools for small and large communities.
- Those who practice or advocate for preservation are respected in their communities and their opinions are valued
- Prosperous downtown areas where people live. Historic districts and neighborhoods working together for common good of city.

- School districts utilizing local/regional treasures in curriculum development.
- In 2020, my community includes a dense, walk able, and bicycle friendly central city. Preserved historic buildings co-exist with architecturally interesting infill development. Protected green space surrounds the central city.
- Our professional preservation community is more efficient through use of technology—especially the Atlas and GIS that helps share knowledge and survey information.
- It's hard to make plans to preserve when you don't know what you have, so a statewide survey effort should be a first major step. By 2020 have 80% of the state surveyed.
- Organizations and individuals are better educated and more effective stewards of our heritage resources.
- Preservation of downtowns and “main streets” have revitalized our small towns and big city neighborhoods alike
- More support for basics: survey, Atlas, cooperation with other state agencies for mapping
- Update the Atlas. Helpful tool but many improvements are necessary to be an effective tool
- A montage of buildings both new and restored. Smaller communities within the county will have adopted preservation friendly ordinances.
- My community has developed a thoughtful, inclusive process for evaluating what is significant (sites, homes, buildings, etc.). We have put the necessary resources into protecting and preserving those which are most significant. We have also developed a way to look at resources that are just becoming historic each year to see where they stand in the area of significance. We have in addition dedicated resources to maintaining these properties.
- I imagine every town and city in Texas having a “local preservation officer” who champions the quality and distinction of the history of that location. I also envision the preservationists of that community being aware of the opportunities to collaborate with others in their region.
- I envision the THC having more use of the internet and video conferencing to consult with the communities there by extending the agency reach because of great staff with limited travel time and limited budget
- In 2020 Texans have much more confidence that historic preservation makes economic sense, so they are choosing historic houses when they buy, historic hotels when they travel and historic buildings for their businesses.
- The THC has been walking the talk, holding the annual conference in historic hotels/venues, and making their offices green. Please hold future conferences in downtowns and/or historic venues. How can we sell anyone on why they should conduct business in historic resources if the THC is choosing the cheap/easy chain hotel conference package over the creative reuse of historic hotels? We need you to lead by example, not cave in to the bottom line or profit motive.
- Missions Initiative—linking all Texas missions through interpretive brochures, trails, mutual preservation goals and strategies. Statewide archives initiative for inventorying, cataloging, digitizing, and properly storing these important records. Vision: Preserving Texas history through education and preservation but without “recreating” history. Balanced plan of historic preservation for education and public outreach and economic development.
- Community partnering and participating in museums planning. Business that support my retirement years. Gonzales Centennial Museum restored.

- For San Antonio: green belt and parkway connection, S.C. resources of the San Antonio River basin, Bexar, Wilson, and perhaps Karnes County. More protection for rural landscape structures that are being swallowed up by urban sprawl. Metro area land development plans that emphasize minimizing development of current green spaces, economic aging multi-use development in bilingual areas and along transportation corridors.
- I would like to see all of the counties in the Hill country go through the THC VIP process. This process would not necessarily be the full program it is today, but a modified version that allows more communities to take part. I want to see everyone have preservation ordinances in place that are meaningful to their time and place, voted on, and agreed upon by a majority with provision for the changes that occur in administrations plans that are meant to withstand the test of time.
- Networking all of our museum resources together—open at the same hours. State and or local markers at the graves of our famous persons at our cemetery. Restore several of our historic houses and buildings—put into adoptive re-use
- There should be more of a concerted effort to save our modern architecture. The recent past is important too.
- I'd like to see more local communities utilizing more preservation programs (Main Street or CLG)
- We should focus on saving iconic buildings such as the Astrodome. Some are already safe, but we can't take them for granted
- There is a strong, influential preservation caucus that carries forward important legislation and successfully, continually passes HP budget items
- Preservationists are hot commodities because everyone wants us
- Our towns and cities are losing too much of what makes them unique. Our statewide preservation plan should emphasize maintaining community heritage so all of Texas isn't a continuous string of strip centers and Wal-marts
- Dellwood Park, site of the old hotel and mineral springs is refurbished. Lighted fountains with narratives of the history of the mineral springs and hotel and the old trolley route from the courthouse square to the now replaced manmade pond has become a site for civic and arts outside entertainments. In motion, the Galdo Invasions return inaugural event annually to their previous old camp ground here. A weeklong "pow wow" and celebration. Old Ft. Sherman had an historic marker and Titus, Franklin, Camp, Morris County have developed a partnership and shown in the revenues from their mutual history. Andrew Jackson Titus, Kendall Lewis, Henry Clay Thruston and Benjamin Gooch have become icons on the Forest Trail Heritage Tours
- Every state agency in Texas has a plan/program for addressing the needs of historic/cultural resources under their review and funded.
- There is a plan for implementing the statewide preservation of our next courthouse-type program (e.g. County jails, dance halls, stone ranch houses etc.)
- Continued restoration of business districts in Alpine/Marathon
- Broad expansion of cultural facilities at Mesquite Historical Park.

Visioning Workshops

Individually, in small groups, and then as a whole, participants brainstormed, discussed and refined their responses to a key question: “Close your eyes and imagine it is the year 2020. How do you want Texas (or your community) to look as a result of preservation in action? What have we accomplished?”

1:30pm Meeting: “Preservation struggle turns into fun”

Planning	Sustainability	Heritage Tourism	Incentives	Preservation	Transportation	Collaboration
More planning in cities and communities	Buried utility lines	Maintain historic lakes	Incentives (\$) for maintaining neighborhoods	Preserve buildings adaptive reuse	Consider historic transportation	People play nice
More green space preserved	Logical blending of green technologies into renovation/preservation	Development of cultural and tourism facilities	Awards to those who have made significant contributions	Secondary buildings restored/rehabilitated	Consider historic areas in transportation planning	Better sharing through technology
Tackle tough issues like rural population loss	Green preservation solutions	History PR plan	Limit teardowns	Preserving cemeteries—RIP program takes off		Local networking and cooperation—plans, venues, people, better sharing
Broader engagement across communities	Happy co-existence of old and new buildings	More RTHL’s	Preserve living legends	Maintain historic/public parks		Collective passion replaces individual passion
Work with elected officials on all levels		More stories preserved in more towns		Restore the downtown district		Partnerships with colleges and universities
Update atlas with survey info		Interpretation of history for different levels		Develop historic districts		Process models developed for all to use—less duplication, sharing

Thoughtful inclusive process for preservation evaluation		Expand scope of historic tours				Mediate respect for private property rights with preservation initiatives
More preservation ordinances in place						Architectural profession becomes less egocentric

4pm Meeting: “Proud, clean, inviting, safe, lovely, colorful, joyful people saying hello in communities;” and “creative use of technology in all of the following categories:”

Education	Heritage/Cultural Diversity	Economic Development	THC Effectiveness	Resource-type Preservation	Planning and Policies	Survey & Inventory
Adult leadership, cultural diversity, pride=action, sense of place	Public is aware of cultural heritage/identity	Marketing economic development strategy plan	Adequately funded and enforced TX historical commission agenda	Cemeteries are preserved and designated	County wide planning—county calendar of events	“Open spaces”—survey, ID
Relevant, engaging, sustainable, promotable	All varied cultural contributions to Texas History are recognized	Reframe “preservation” as one of the most effective economic and community development tools	Follow-up for programs like main street and VIP	All courthouses restored	Planning and prioritizing preservations as community	Comprehensive survey of historic resources
“hands on” participation, archeological field school, oral history project	Recognition of heritage assets beyond the city limits		THC information is kept up-to-date and disseminated			Provide support (training and funding) to enable surveys
Authentic	Better stakeholder				Small communities	

interpretation of history and historic sites—no Disney	partnership and unity				within county will enforce, create HP ordinances	
Help people understand the purpose of HP programs						
Curriculum development age appropriate/culturally significant						
Historical resource center—county wide						

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