Deadline Pending for Courthouse Preservation Program Grant Applications

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) is now accepting applications for Round VIII of its award-winning Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. With a $4.2 million appropriation from the 83rd Texas Legislature, the Round VIII grants will be limited to funding smaller courthouse projects addressing urgent needs, rather than full restorations.

The THC requested $20 million for the Round VIII grant cycle, but was appropriated only what remained in Proposition 4 bond funding. Round VIII emergency grants will address serious building deficiencies affecting usability, structural, and safety issues. The local cash match is 50 percent of the total project cost, and the maximum award is $450,000.

Past emergency grant awards have covered such issues as termite-damaged windows, foundation stabilization, roof repairs, and accessibility upgrades for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The deadline for applications is February 13, 2014; forms and procedures are available at www.thc.state.tx.us. For information, contact the THC’s Architecture Division at 512.463.6094.

NEW STATEWIDE AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY CONFERENCE PLANNED

The inaugural Texas African American History Conference will take place February 23-28 in Dallas. The event’s theme—“Creating Preservation Partners to Protect and Locate Historic African American Places and People”—emphasizes the need to assist preservationists across Texas.

Planned tours include historic African American churches and neighborhoods as well as “Sacred Burial Grounds” and “Political and Military Giants.” Tours and meals are available for individual purchase, and a full-access conference admission is also available. Registration deadline is February 15. A Dallas-based Preservation League’s Dr. Ray Clark, a descendant of the town’s namesake, will discuss “Personalizing the THC’s Texas History Conference.” Clark will receive a “behind the scenes with the THC” heritage tourism trip in the Texas Heritage Trail Region of his choice, the Texas Tropical Trail Region.

Clark is the seventh generation of his family to live in Clarksville, and is senior vice president of the State Bank of De Kalb. He serves as treasurer of the Red River County Historical Society and helps lead historical house tours.

Clark’s April 2014 journey will be chronicled in an upcoming Medallion heritage travel article. To start planning your own trip in one of Texas’ heritage travel regions, visit www.texasitivemtravel.com.

SANCINTO DAY FESTIVAL AND BATTLE REENACTMENT APPROACHES

Organizers of the San Jacinto Day Festival promise “booming cannons, cracking musket fire, thundering hooves, and battle cries will resound” on April 26 as hundreds of history reenactors recreate the events leading up to Texas winning its independence at the decisive Battle of San Jacinto.

The event commemorates historic events at the San Jacinto Battleground, where Gen. Sam Houston led his Texian soldiers to victory over the Mexican Army in 1836. This dramatic battle reenactment is the centerpiece of the free San Jacinto Day Festival, held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the 1,200-acre San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site in La Porte, just east of Houston.

For more information, visit www.sanjacinto-museum.org or call 210.392.9047.

TEXAS TIME TRAVEL SWEEPSTAKES WINNER ANOUNCED

Clarksville resident Jim Clark, a descendant of the town’s namesake, was the winner of the THC’s Texas Time Travel Sweepstakes. Clark will receive a “behind the scenes with the THC” heritage tourism trip in the Texas Heritage Trail Region of his choice, the Texas Tropical Trail Region.

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Plan Now for Preservation Month

Celebrate CHCs with Fun Family Events in May

By Amy Hammons

County Historical Commission Outreach Coordinator

When planning activities for 2014, be sure to celebrate Preservation Month in May. Use this opportunity to join your CHC’s voice with other preservation advocates to demonstrate the importance of saving real places that tell real stories.

Preservation Month acknowledges the mission we share with communities across the country to cultivate a love of historic places. Together, we help others understand the importance of saving history.

Construct an event or activity that enables all ages to learn about the historic resources in your county. This celebration should demonstrate how preservation efforts are not only educational but also fun and engaging.

For those who have already scheduled events for May, consider taking a few moments during your event to recognize Preservation Month, and mention this celebration in your publicity efforts to show your commitment to saving real places that tell real stories.

Plan Now for Preservation Month is a good time to join forces with other preservation organizations in your area and co-host an event. Regardless of the degree of involvement, be sure to include local, regional, and statewide partners in your promotional efforts and event announcements.

TTHC staff has suggestions for those looking for a Preservation Month project, or who just want to expand their current scope of work. Visit www.thc.state.tx.us and search “Preservation Month Ideas” to see recommended projects.

Consider holding CHC programs during Preservation Month in May. Above: Bill Sulfenfuss welcomes visitors to a Kendall County “Heritage Passport” event, inviting them to walk along the Historic Pinta Trail. This activity demonstrates preservation fun for all ages.

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To protect and preserve the state’s historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment, and economic benefit of present and future generations.

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