

2022 CHC PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION OUTREACH PROGRAM

TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES



BARRIO FEST- PECOS CHC



A WORD FROM THE CHC OUTREACH PROGRAM

Texas is home to over 200 County Historical Commissions (CHCs) that assist county commissioners courts and the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in the preservation of Texas' historic and cultural resources. In 2022, CHCs were asked to share their accomplishments with the THC.

The efforts featured in this document were chosen because they exemplify best practices in historic preservation and the value of CHC contributions. We hope that you enjoy learning from their successful efforts to preserve Texas' historic resources.

NANO CALDERON

OUTREACH PROGRAM COORDINATOR

JACLYN ZAPATA

OUTREACH PROGRAM SPECIALIST

ATASCOSA CHC

JOURDANTON FOUNDER'S DAY

Atascosa CHC partnered with the Jourdanton 1909 Association and the Longhorn Museum to host Jourdanton Founder's Day, a celebration of the county seat's founding.

The CHC collaborated with the Longhorn Museum to create a pop-up exhibit for the event which included photographs and artifacts from Jourdanton's history. The CHC also researched Jourdanton's founder, Jourdan Campbell, and invited his descendants to attend the event as guests of honor.

After an opening ceremony and a presentation of Honorary Keys to the City to Campbell's descendants, the celebration kicked off with food, crafts, music, performances, and a dance. After the event, the CHC helped the Campbell family locate their ancestor's homes, churches, and graves at the Campbelltown Cemetery.

Learn more about telling your community's compelling stories [here](#).

(top to bottom) Jourdan Campbell's grandsons, street view, Old West Gunfighters pose with Tri-City Martial Arts. Courtesy of Atascosa CHC.





BELL CHC

LOCAL GRANT PROGRAM

Bell CHC created a local grant program to support countywide historic preservation efforts. From September to October, the CHC accepted applications from local non-profit organizations and administered \$7,865 in grant money. The following projects received funding in 2022:

- Carpenter Cemetery, for the purchase of two stone bases for headstones.
- Bartlett Activity Center, for the restoration of the historic bell tower. Originally a grammar school constructed in 1909, the activity center was designed by A.O. Watson.
- Dyess Family Cemetery, to conduct a boundary survey of the cemetery. The Dyess Family Cemetery contains some of the earliest burials in Bell County.
- Salado Historical Society, to construct a walkway leading to the M. H. Denman Cabin. The cabin is a Recorded Texas Historical Landmark.

Learn more about funding resources for preservation projects [here](#).

Photo of the Bartlett Activity Center bell tower. Courtesy of Bell CHC.



CHEROKEE CHC

EL CAMINO REAL DE LOS TEXAS

Cherokee CHC partnered with the Stella Hill Memorial Library and El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association to host a traveling exhibit in Alto. The trail is a series of routes laid by Indigenous Texans and later followed by Spanish colonists, French explorers, Anglo-American settlers, and enslaved people seeking freedom.

The exhibit has three themes focusing on the role of the trail in cattle drives to support the American Revolution, the trail's influence on settlement patterns throughout Texas and Louisiana, and how to see and experience the trail today. The CHC is also working with the Trail Association and the Texas Department of Transportation to install official signage along the trail's original route in Cherokee County. Signage installation will be completed in 2023.

You can read more about the traveling exhibit and the work of the Trail Association [here](#).

CHC appointees pose in front of exhibit displays. Courtesy of Cherokee CHC.

COMAL CHC

PARK OPEN HOUSE

Comal CHC assisted in the open house for the Mission Hill Park in New Braunfels. The ten-acre park has a unique history that includes the presence of Native Americans, Spanish in the 1740s, and Germans in the 1840s.

A CHC appointee researched and wrote tour scripts for the event, and appointees reviewed the park's interpretive signage for accuracy. At the event, CHC tour guides led visitors through the completed first phase of the park, interpreting the history of the surrounding area and plans for additional park development. Building on this collaboration, the CHC worked with the City of New Braunfels Parks and Recreation department to submit a State Historical Marker application for Mission Hill in 2023.

Learn more about submitting your own State Historical Marker application [here](#).

(top to bottom) CHC members review signage at the Mission Hill Park in preparation for tours, event flyer. Courtesy of Comal CHC.



DUVAL CHC

COMMUNITY EXHIBIT

Duval CHC researched and developed a new exhibit for the Duval County Museum.

The Baseball Building Communities exhibit interprets baseball's influence on local communities through the story of Adolfo Arguijo, a notable major league baseball player from Duval County. The exhibit traces Arguijo's origins from being a local baseball icon to becoming one of the earliest Hispanic major league baseball players and pitcher for the New York Yankees. After leaving the major leagues, Arguijo served as a mentor to young baseball players in Texas.

Learn more about creating your own local history exhibit by visiting the [Museum Services webpage](#).

Exhibit displays. Courtesy of Duval CHC.





FORT BEND CHC

TEXAS HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST

Fort Bend CHC partnered with Lamar Consolidated ISD and Fort Bend ISD to sponsor a Texas history essay contest for 4th and 7th grade students.

To commemorate Fort Bend's bicentennial, Stephen F. Austin and the Old 300 Settlers were chosen as essay topics. College students were recruited to judge essays alongside CHC appointees. One winner was chosen from each grade and presented with a cash prize and copy of *The Old 300: Gone to Texas* for their school's library. Contest winners were also recognized during a CHC meeting. As a result of the program's popularity, the CHC is considering holding a countywide history essay contest in 2023.

To learn more about how you can engage youth in historic preservation projects, click [here](#).

(left to right) 4th grade winner, Kathleen Davin, with CHC members Chris Godbold, Vickie Tonn, Dr. Paul Spellman, teacher, and parents. 7th grade winner, Neel Heblikar, with CHC members Linda Burkes, Chris Godbold, and Vickie Tonn. Courtesy of Fort Bend CHC.

FRANKLIN CHC

SYRUP MILL RESTORATION

Franklin CHC restored a syrup mill for the purpose of demonstrating early syrup production.

CHC appointees used original manuals, guides, oral histories, and consultations with syrup producers to determine what it would take to make the mill operational. The CHC hired local tradesmen to make repairs. To reflect the type of cane processed in the region in the 1920s, cane was sourced from a local farmer.

The syrup mill was restored in time for the Mt. Vernon Country Fest, the county's largest festival. A demonstration of the mill was held, and attendees were able to learn how cane was harvested, pressed, refined, and strained before consumption.

Learn more about interpreting local history using interactive demonstrations [here](#).

(top to bottom) Volunteers feed cane through press and move juice through pan. Courtesy of Franklin CHC.



JEFFERSON CHC

HISTORIC CEMETERY TOUR

Jefferson CHC partnered with the Magnolia Cemetery Association, the McFaddin-Ward House, the Hinchee House Project, and the City of Beaumont Convention and Visitors Bureau to host the second annual Historic Tour of the Magnolia Cemetery in Beaumont. The event coincided with the county's Museum Madness Weekend.

CHC appointees spent months researching the cemetery's history and the individuals interred there. A cemetery guidebook was created for attendees to reference and take home. During the event, ten docents gave tours of the cemetery and interpreted the lives of notable individuals.

With over 100 people in attendance, the event proved to be an excellent recruitment opportunity. Four people from the event took interest in the CHC and were appointed as new members in January.

To learn more about preserving historic cemeteries in your county, click [here](#).

Tour guide, Rayanna Hoeft, poses next to the McFaddin plot. Courtesy of Jefferson CHC.



LAVACA CHC

HISTORICAL CONFERENCE

Lavaca CHC hosted the 24th annual Alton C. Allen Historical Conference after a two-year hiatus.

This year's conference theme was "Driving Cattle: Trails and Tribulations." Lectures included:

- Kevin S. Fontenot- "La Valse du Vacher: The Louisiana & Texas Cattle Connection"
- Donald D. Hoffman- "The Birthplace of the American Cowboy, Between the Nueces, San Antonio & Guadalupe Rivers."
- Wayne Ludwig- "The Chisholm Trail, Evolution of a Legend."
- Doug Kubicek- "Where's the Beef: Who Stole My Cattle?"

The Texas Archeology Society, Hallettsville Art Guild, Lavaca County Quilting, and several book vendors set up display tables. Over 140 people were in attendance, including high school students and teachers from the Hallettsville Future Farmers of America program.

See tips and tools for planning your own public program, [here](#).

(top to bottom) Conference attendees, Doug Kubicek, Donald D. Hoffman. Courtesy of Lavaca CHC.





LUBBOCK CHC

MONTHLY LECTURE SERIES

Lubbock CHC partnered with the Groves Branch of the Lubbock Public Library to organize “Glimpses of Lubbock History,” a monthly lecture series.

CHC appointees recruited local historians to give lectures and promoted the event using social media, flyers, and public service announcements. Lecture topics included:

- Congressional Medal of Honor recipients from the county.
- Preservation of the Slaton Harvey House.
- The Nicolett Hotel.
- First women elected to Lubbock County offices.
- C.B. Stubblefield’s influence on local music and barbecue.

Both the CHC and the library accomplished their public outreach goals, and the program has continued in 2023.

To learn how you can build strong community partnerships, click [here](#).

(left to right) Dr. Paul Carlson presents on the history of The Nicolett Hotel. Sally Still Abbe discusses the Congressional Medal of Honor. Courtesy of Lubbock CHC.

MATAGORDA CHC

KIDS & KARANKAWAS

Matagorda CHC partnered with the Matagorda County Museum and Holy Cross Catholic School to host Kids and Karankawas, an educational program for elementary school students. The Karankawa were distinct groups of Native Americans that shared a common language and culture and inhabited Texas' coastal plains and shorelines.

For the event, CHC appointees prepared six interactive learning stations which interpreted Karankawa history, food, language, culture, and rituals. Students were given Junior Archeologist badges and bags to collect items including shell necklaces, arrowheads, pecans, and a Karankawan number chart. In celebration of Texas Archeology Month, THC archeology publications were given to students.

Order free archeology posters, and educational brochures for your next event by submitting a Public Outreach Materials Order Form.

Images of kid's camps. Courtesy of Matagorda CHC.





NACOGDOCHES CHC

ARCHEOLOGY FIELD TRAINING

Nacogdoches CHC partnered with the [Texas Archeological Stewardship Network \(TASN\)](#) to host archaeology field training at [Mission Dolores State Historic Site](#) in San Augustine.

During the program, participants were taught about laws and best practices for archeological sites. TASN volunteers set up an archeological site grid in an area containing artifacts from a nineteenth century farmhouse. Participants were then assigned to sections of the grid to dig for artifacts. If an item was found, it was flagged and recorded. Participants then made a sketch of the item before it was reburied.

Learn more about archeology in Texas and how your organization can partner with Archeology Stewards [here](#).

CHC appointees and Stewards lead field training. Courtesy of Lisa Savage, Educator/Interpreter at Mission Dolores State Historic Site.

NAVARRO CHC

UNDERTOLD HISTORY

Navarro CHC produced vodcasts, performance scripts, and newspaper articles to raise awareness for and promote the county's untold history.

CHC appointees researched, wrote, and filmed vodcast episodes which featured the history of two local African American churches, the Bethel AME Church and the First Independent Baptist Church. Performance scripts included a biography of Doak Roberts, first president of the Texas Baseball League, and the Jackson High Bears, an African American school team that won several state championships. The scripts were used during the 2022 Oakwood Odyssey event "Let the Games Begin," a sports-themed performance held at the Navarro County Pioneer Village. Newspaper articles included the history of the Winkler community and the Chandler Store in Eureka.

Learn how to expand your knowledge of local untold history and provide opportunities to share it with the public [here](#).

(top to bottom) Tinnis C. Manning discusses the Jackson High School Bears. Mary Wilson discusses G.W. Jackson High School.



PECOS CHC

BARRIO FEST

Pecos CHC partnered with the Fort Stockton Community Theater to present Barrio Fest, a four-day celebration of the Hispanic community and culture.

The CHC assisted in organizing event activities which included a street dance, car show, screenings of Spanish language movies, presentations, walking tours, and a Texas Treasure Business Award ceremony for five local businesses. Activities for children included a demonstration on making tamales at the Comanche Tortilla & Tamale Factory, information on quinceañeras, and stories from local veterans.

Guest speakers for the event include Hoven Riley from the Big Bend Yucca Company and San Juana Lopez Day, real estate agent and former director of the Permian Basin Workforce Commission. Both discussed their experience with the Bracero Program. The Homecoming Queen for the event was 92-year-old Sarita Swonke, who also spoke about her time in Fort Stockton. A KMID newscast of the event can be viewed [here](#).

To learn more about Hispanic heritage in Texas, click [here](#).

(top to bottom) Presenter leads a youth education class. Sisters Beauty Salon. Former Miss Fort Stockton, Bella Sanchez, pictured with Sarita Swonke. Courtesy of Pecos CHC.





TRAVIS CHC

RURAL SCHOOLS RESEARCH

Travis CHC documented early twentieth century schools in the northwest region of the county.

The CHC met with representatives of Cox Springs, Nameless, Travis Peak, and Round Mountain schools to assess preservation needs, assist with restoration, and plan for historic designation.

Archeologists will conduct preliminary tests to see if there are any remaining artifacts at each site. Using their research, the CHC plans to develop a rural schools tour, much like [Gillespie County's Country Schools Driving Trail](#).

Learn how to apply for a State Historical Marker to help preserve your county's historic resources [here](#).

Travis CHC tours the Nameless school. Courtesy of Travis CHC.

WICHITA CHC

LOCAL HISTORY PODCAST

Wichita CHC partnered with the Museum of North Texas History and the Wichita County Archives to create North Texas Tales, a local history podcast.

The ten-episode series interprets the diverse history of Wichita County. Each topic was researched and recorded by CHC appointees. Topics include Lottie Lobaugh and women in baseball, the Kiddie Land amusement park, African American doctor C. B. Fuller, travelling preacher J.M. Hart, philanthropist Louis Sikes, and more! The series is now available to listen on Spotify.

Podcasts are an innovative way to share local history and expand your audience. Learn more about the benefits of podcasting [here](#).

(top to bottom) Podcast image, CHC appointee John Yates records podcast episode. Podcast subjects. Courtesy of Wichita CHC.

