



Brewster CHC partners to create signage that educates locals and tourists about regional history and prehistory; the project is funded with hotel or motel tax.

CHC Outreach Program

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) formed the County Historical Commission (CHC) Outreach Program in 2008 to support CHCs in their efforts to save the real places that tell the real stories of Texas. The program exists to:

- Empower CHCs through training and assistance
- Educate officials and strengthen public policy concerning preservation
- Expand partnerships and communication networks for CHCs
- Elevate the social and economic benefits of preservation
- Equip sustainable CHCs
- Explore funding opportunities for CHC training and projects

Contact Us

For information on programs that contribute to the livelihood of your county, contact:

Amy Hammons
CHC Outreach
Program Coordinator
512.475.2692
amy.hammons@thc.state.tx.us

Tom Green CHC provides preservation leadership to its region and the state. Below, Golda Foster, CHC Chair, speaks at a public forum for Texas' Statewide Preservation Plan held at the historic Cactus Hotel in San Angelo.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

County Historical Commissions



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

www.thc.state.tx.us



Matagorda CHC uses Certified Local Government grants to fund professional services and rehabilitation projects. Grant money was used for the historic Luther Hotel in Palacios (above).

What Is a CHC?

County Historical Commissions (CHCs) were established by the Texas Legislature to assist county commissioners courts and the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to preserve the cultural and historic resources of our state.

Texas' Local Government Code directs CHCs to initiate and manage activities as prioritized by their county and the THC.

CHC responsibilities include:

- Annually report to the county commissioners court and the THC
- Meet at least four times each year
- Survey county historic resources
- Assess and maintain historical markers, buildings, and sites
- Create awareness and appreciation of historic preservation
- Partner with other preservation entities
- Promote cultural and historic sites to develop and sustain heritage tourism
- Participate in THC programs and consult with THC preservation specialists

Notable CHC Projects

Over 400,000 CHC volunteer hours are provided annually. Note the broad range of CHC achievements listed below:

- **Bell CHC** partnered with public and private organizations to map over 170 cemeteries in Bell County; maps are available to the public.
- **Carson CHC** gathers oral histories of military veterans; copies of interviews are given to veterans' families, local museums, and Southwest Collection at Texas Tech University.
- **Collin CHC** surveys to locate, catalog, and map historic sites; information is made available to the public on CHC's county website.
- **El Paso CHC** is working with Southwest Airlines and the City of El Paso Airport Authority to display county history through photographs, artwork, and video at airport Gate B-6; information will also be accessed by smart phones.
- **Milam CHC** encourages re-investment in the county with their Preservation Grant Fund, which awards matching grants for preservation work.
- **Newton CHC** is publishing a book about their historic county courthouse from its conception in 1845 to its rededication in association with THC's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program.
- **Nueces CHC** preserves and catalogs historic government records and research materials for public accessibility to emphasize the importance of the county to regional, state, and national history.
- **Pecos CHC** manages and maintains three historic county-owned buildings: the Rollins-Sibley House, the Hovey School, and the 1883 county jail.
- **Van Zandt CHC** promotes a positive image for their county by providing presentations to schools and civic clubs, as well as history displays in the courthouse, county library, and at local festivals.

CHC Appointee Selection

Potential CHC appointees should demonstrate an interest in and an understanding of local history and historic resources, and may already be serving with other preservation organizations. Final selection should create a commission with a broad range of ages, ethnicities, and skills, as well as include representation from each precinct.

Before making appointments, consider the following selection criteria recommended by CHC Outreach staff:

- Willing and able to serve
- Positive attitude when working with people within and outside the CHC
- Continually seeks preservation-related educational opportunities
- Able to field inquiries, conduct site visits, and report site conditions to the THC
- Understands the need to pursue a rich and diverse interpretation of county history

CHC Appointments

County commissioners courts should confirm appointments in January of odd-numbered years, securing a two-year term commitment. Each county should report the CHC roster to the THC with contact information for each appointee; include name, address, telephone number, and email address.

Atascosa CHC develops positive relationships that help to create meaningful preservation experiences.

