



PRESERVATION GRANT GUIDE

Funding can often be the most difficult part of a historic preservation project. As a service to those needing an extra dose of motivation to get their projects off the ground, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) offers this guide with easy-to-find information about applying for agency grants.

For additional assistance, consider attending one of the THC's summertime Grant Writing Workshops. For more information about the workshops, visit www.thc.state.tx.us or call 512/463-6092. The THC offers the following grants:

Texas Preservation Trust Fund Grants

The THC provides grants for a wide range of preservation projects through the Texas Preservation Trust Fund (TPTF). From downtown theaters to history-related web sites, countless Texas projects have benefited from this initiative. TPTF grants pay up to one-half of total project costs to help preserve the real places of Texas. Grant funds are awarded for acquisition, development, planning and heritage education.

Who may apply? THC staff assess potential grant eligibility based on specific criteria. These requirements are available at www.thc.state.tx.us or by calling 512/463-6094. Projects eligible for grant assistance include: commercial buildings, public buildings (such as schools, city halls, libraries and museums), unique historic structures (such as bridges, water towers, lighthouses and ships), archeological site surveys, and training for individuals and organizations about historic resources and preservation techniques.

Application Process and Deadlines: Applications will be available early each year. There are two steps in the grant application process. First, all applicants are required to submit brief application forms for the THC to review. The THC will select the highest priority projects from the initial application and invite those applicants to move forward to the second step. Successful applicants will continue the process by submitting detailed project proposals. Full project

proposals will be considered by the agency's commissioners in the fall of each year. The exact timetable will be published on the THC web site as grant cycles are announced.

Review process: An interdisciplinary panel of agency staff and the TPTF Advisory Board review the applications and project proposals. The agency's commissioners give final approval.

Project example: The 1910 railroad depot in Sterling City underwent a major rehabilitation effort that converted the structure into a senior citizens center. The renovated building features an arts and crafts room, meeting room, dining room and kitchen. The \$14,000 TPTF grant helped repair the existing brick chimneys, clay tile roof, decking and framing.

Funding information: TPTF is an interest-earning pool of public and private monies. The earned interest and designated gifts are distributed yearly as matching grants to public and private owners of eligible historic properties and archeological sites. In fiscal year 2008, the THC reviewed 123 initial applications requesting over \$4.9 million in grant funds. Forty-four projects were selected from the application stage to proceed to the project proposal stage. The agency awarded 25 matching grants totaling \$515,000.

For more information: Call 512.463.6094 or email lisa.harvell@thc.state.tx.us.

Certified Local Government Grants

Certified Local Government (CLG) grants enable communities to develop quality preservation programs. Eligible projects include: training for local preservation commissions, completing or updating surveys of historic resources, producing historical walking or driving tour materials, and preparing preservation plans and National Register of Historic Places nominations. CLG grants require a cash or in-kind service match from the community.

Who may apply? Cities or counties officially designated as CLGs are eligible.

Deadline: Applications are due in the summer of each year.

Review process: An interdisciplinary panel of agency staff reviews the applications and the agency's commissioners approve them.

Project example: With its CLG grant, Abilene developed a comprehensive strategic plan to direct preservation activities. One of the city's historic highlights is the Grace Cultural Center, a renovation project located in the 1909 Grace Hotel.

Funding information: CLG grants are funded with money appropriated by the federal government for preservation efforts through the National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). By law, the THC must set aside at least 10 percent of its HPF appropriation for CLG grants each year. Grants typically range from \$250 to \$10,000.

For more information: Call 512.463.5997 or email derek.satchell@thc.state.tx.us.

Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program

The THC announced in June 1999 that the Texas Legislature and Gov. George W. Bush had established the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. The program provides partial matching grants to Texas counties for the restoration of their historic county courthouses.

Who may apply? Texas counties seeking to restore their historic county courthouses are eligible. To participate, counties must submit a master plan for renovating and maintaining the courthouse. For more information about developing a master plan and for deadline information visit www.thc.state.tx.us or call the THC's Architecture Division at 512.463.6094.

Review process: Once a master plan is submitted, THC staff will review it and it may either be accepted, with suggested changes and resubmitted, or rejected. THC commissioners make final decisions regarding approval of grants.

Project example: The THC awarded Red River County a \$3.47 million grant to assist in the restoration of its courthouse. A supplemental grant of \$377,443 helped uncover decorative paintings, hidden for years beneath layers of paint in the courthouse. Discovering these decorative finishes was a significant find, changing the originally targeted building restoration date from 1910 to 1884. In addition, renovated faux cherry and walnut wood graining, coffered beamed ceilings and hand-carved wood finials contributed to the restoration of the courthouse's unique Victorian character.

Funding information: The program began in 1999 with a \$50 million appropriation for the grants, which were awarded in two rounds. In 2001, legislators approved another \$50 million allocation to fund Round III grants. In 2003, the 78th Texas Legislature approved the sale of \$45 million in bonds to continue the program; Round IV

grants were awarded in 2004. In the 80th legislative session the appropriations bill passed \$62 million in bond authority to fund Round V of the program. In Rounds I – V, the THC has received 133 courthouse master plans. Of those 133 master plans, 122 are approved. To date, THC has assisted in the restoration and preservation of 68 county courthouses.

For more information: Call 512.463.6094 or email sharon.fleming@thc.state.tx.us.

History Museum Grants

History museum grants provide small Texas history museums with assistance in preserving their collections. Each year, nearly a dozen museums, ranging from community heritage centers to historic sites, receive financial assistance from the grant program.

Who may apply? THC staff assess potential grant eligibility based on specific criteria. These requirements are available at www.thc.state.tx.us or by calling 512.463.5853.

Deadline: Applications are due in mid-October each year.

Review process: THC staff review applications and make recommendations to the agency's commissioners, who make the final selections.

Project examples: Funding is available for conservation and preservation projects, and/or supplies such as acid-free storage materials, archival storage units, UV filtering products, conservation surveys and artifact conservation.

Funding information: The maximum grant amount per museum is \$1,000, with grant funds payable upon completion of the project as reimbursement for expenses incurred.

For more information: Call Carlyn Hammons at 512.463.5756 or email carlyn.hammons@thc.state.tx.us.

How to Reach Us

Staff members are available to answer questions and provide preservation assistance. Please contact us at:

Phone: 512.463.6094

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