



TEXAS MAIN STREET PROGRAM

Part of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Community Heritage Development Division, the Texas Main Street Program helps Texas cities revitalize their historic downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts by utilizing preservation and economic development strategies.

What We Do

Each year, the THC selects up to five Texas cities and urban areas as official Texas Main Street cities. Selected communities are eligible to receive a range of services.

THC staff:

- Coordinates ongoing comprehensive training for Main Street managers and board members.
- Trains communities in successful economic development and marketing approaches.
- Provides a three-day, on-site evaluation and full report with recommendations.
- Provides design assistance.
- Consults with downtown merchants about visual merchandising and window display.
- Advises communities on other Community Heritage Development Division programs.

A Proven Track Record

The Texas Main Street Program began in 1981. Affiliated with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Texas Main Street Program is among the most successful downtown revitalization programs in the nation.



*Shown above: downtown San Angelo
Inset: Nacogdoches, a Texas Main Street City*

The THC has assisted more than 160 Texas cities through the program. The results:

- Private reinvestment of \$1.47 billion in Texas downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts.
- Almost 23,000 new jobs in Texas.
- More than 6,135 business starts, expansions or relocations.

How to Apply

Texas cities with historic commercial buildings in their downtowns and neighborhood business districts may apply for Main Street designation. Applications are available by April 1 and due no later than 5 p.m. on the last working day of July for the following program year.

Requirements Based On Population

- Cities with populations 50,000 and under must agree to hire a full-time Main Street manager and provide funding for the local program for three years.
- Cities with a population of more than 50,000 must cooperate with a private nonprofit organization, hire a staff of two for at least five years and provide funding for the local program. The program is also required to pay a graduated fee of \$7,500 the first year, \$2,500 the second year and \$1,500 each year thereafter.
- Cities that complete the initial three or five-year phase generally continue as sustaining programs.

A community may be designated a provisional Texas Main Street city if it applies for the official program the previous year and meets other program requirements. Manager training and limited technical assistance is available to provisional participants.

A Dedicated Team

The experienced staff of the Texas Main Street Program has a rich educational background in preservation, design, heritage tourism and economic development.

How to Reach Us

The Texas Main Street Program office is located at 1304 Colorado in the Christianson-Leberman building. Staff members are available to answer questions and provide preservation assistance. Please contact us at:
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