



VISIONARIES IN PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Visionaries in Preservation Program empowers Texas communities to shape the future of their historic preservation efforts through visioning and planning, and provides training and assistance tailored to achieve local preservation goals.

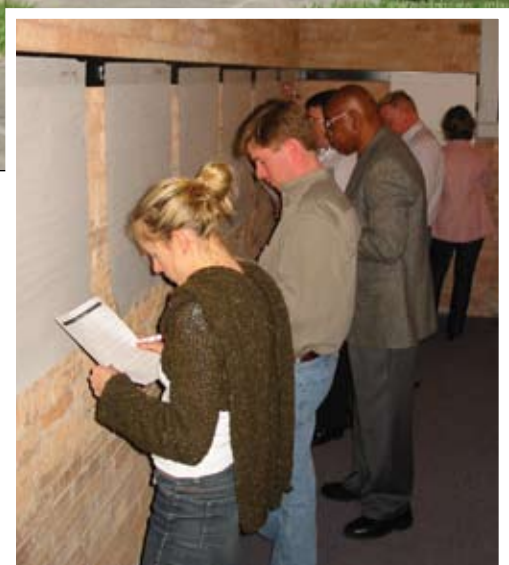
What We Do

Preserving a community's heritage doesn't just save a part of the past. Historic preservation is a vital part of a promising future. It creates new jobs, provides affordable quality housing, increases economic development and revitalizes downtown business districts. The Visionaries in Preservation Program helps communities develop a path to capture these benefits.

The Visionaries in Preservation Program is modeled after an innovative planning process known as "visioning." Visioning is a tool that brings a community together to develop a shared image of the future and form an action plan for achieving that vision. The process is based on four simple, yet often overlooked, questions: Where are we now? Where are we going? Where do we want to be? How can we get there?

Through the Visionaries in Preservation Program, communities can:

- Build partnerships among diverse groups and interests.
- Foster preservation leadership.
- Develop unified preservation goals and action plans.
- Receive priority status for local training and assistance from the THC.
- Enhance their capability to secure grants and funds for preservation projects.



Through the visioning process, communities can identify character-defining features of neighborhoods that are important to preserve.

How It Works

Any enthusiastic community group interested in developing a preservation vision can apply for the program. Cities, counties, regions or even large neighborhoods are eligible. A community must demonstrate broad support for the initiative as well as organize and host a series of local meetings and workshops. To ensure success, it is critical for this process to be community-based and inclusive. The THC hopes to accept three communities in the program each year.

The three basic steps of the process are:

- Profiling preservation in your community.
- Creating a Preservation Vision.
- Developing a Preservation Action Plan.

Each community organizes a leadership group to garner support for the initiative, research the issues, organize and advertise community workshops and keep up local momentum. The THC facilitates a series of local workshops and helps each community produce a vision statement and Preservation Action Plan. The THC will work with each community to design the most effective visioning process and timeline. This process requires a commitment of approximately one to one and a half years.

Once the local vision and plan are complete, the THC provides the necessary preservation training to facilitate success.

How to Become a Visionary in Preservation

The Visionaries in Preservation Program accepts applications annually the last business day in August.



Residents of Corsicana make consensus decisions on important landmarks to preserve and protect.

How to Reach Us

For more information and an application, please contact the Visionaries in Preservation Program at the Texas Historical Commission at 512.463.3345 or visit us on the web at www.thc.state.tx.us.



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

P.O. BOX 12276 • AUSTIN, TX 78711-2276
PHONE 512.463.6100 • FAX 512.475.4872
www.thc.state.tx.us