



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER

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MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 27, 2009

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Patterson set to unveil Stephen F. Austin mural

Historically accurate depiction of Father of Texas brought NY artist back to Texas

AUSTIN — To help kick off Texas History Month, Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office, will unveil a mural depicting the life of Stephen F. Austin at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 4 in the Stephen F. Austin Building on Congress Avenue.

“We’re making history with this mural,” Patterson said. “Finally, there is a mural that honors Austin in the building and town that bear his name. This is long overdue.”

Commissioned in 2008 by Patterson’s Save Texas History program, the mural -- entitled “Stephen F. Austin: Spanish Land, Texas Home” -- fulfills both an aesthetic and educational need.

Over 17 feet wide, it dominates the ground floor of the Stephen F. Austin Building, home of the Texas General Land Office and its historic archives. Paid for by donations to Save Texas History’s education and outreach fund, the mural cost about \$15,000 with an additional gift of \$5,000 from the Texas Commission of the Arts.

Patterson says the mural is also one of the most historically accurate portrayals of Austin ever made.

“From his coat buttons to his pistol, the depiction is accurate and informative,” Patterson said. “I want future generations to use this mural as a part of their study of Austin. It’s that good.”

After seeking proposals from some of Texas’ most renowned artists, Patterson selected Sara Lee Cely, a Dallas native who was working as an artist in New York. In preparation for the work, Cely studied Austin’s life and the history of the “Old Three Hundred,” -- the first 300 families Austin brought to settle Texas.

The completed artwork was almost 4 feet high and more than 11 feet wide. For the final mural, the original was digitally scanned and enlarged to a Texas-size 6 feet tall and 17 feet wide.

The mural will hang in the lobby of the Stephen F. Austin Building, only steps away from the Land Office archives, and is viewable by the public.

WHO: Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson and Texas artist Sara Lee Cely
WHAT: Unveiling of a mural honoring Stephen F. Austin
WHEN: 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 4
WHERE: Ground floor of the Stephen F. Austin Building, 17th and Congress
WHY: To honor and promote a better understanding of Texas history

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