



## New Museum Focusing on Texas' Mexican American History Coming to Dallas



*THF President & CEO David Preziosi (left) and TMAMT President Gus Hinojosa (right)*

The Mexican American Museum of Texas (TMAMT) is the first of its kind in the state dedicated solely to the Mexican American experience within nine cultural regions in Texas. Founded in 2022, the museum will provide a home to share and celebrate our unique experience with its Indigenous, Afro, Spanish, Mexican and Tejano roots, an experience and history that is foundational to what makes Texas the great state that it is today.

Eight community leaders, all of whom are members of various non-profit Hispanic organizations including Dallas Mexican American Historical League (DMAHL), the Hispanic Organization for Genealogy and Research (HOGAR de Dallas), Dallas Legacy Mission, Inc. and The Last Patrol, joined forces to establish TMAMT.

The museum will be in Dallas, and location options are currently being considered as programming is planned and implemented. The goal of the museum is to tell our stories in our own words and through our own perspective. A future permanent collection, along with visiting collections from all regions of Texas, will serve as the foundation for vibrant and educational cultural activities.

TMAMT is currently developing relationships with leaders from around the state to ensure that all regions are thoughtfully engaged. We seek representatives from each region to write their own stories and gather artifacts that best represent their regional experiences. TMAMT will provide a home for all these stories and items so that a visitor can learn, in a single location, about the broad trajectory of the Mexican American experience, from its past to the present and into the future.

Our current exhibit, [Life & Death on the Border 1910-1920](#), opened on May 5, 2024 at the University of Dallas' Beatrice M. Haggerty Gallery. The exhibit was produced by the Bullock Texas State History Museum in partnership with the Refusing to Forget Project, an award-

winning educational nonprofit. TMAMT, in collaboration with the Latin American Studies at the University of Dallas, has brought this important exhibit to the North Texas area for the first time.

The exhibit explores the decade of great violence and upheaval along the Texas-Mexican border. It also examines the causes and effects of state-sanctioned racial violence against ethnic Mexicans during this period and explores the actions that Mexican Americans took to advance the cause for justice and civil rights.

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*“The exhibit *Life and Death on the Border 1910-1920* is an important reminder of the history of the borderlands and the people who have lived there. The exhibit highlights the resilience and determination of the Mexican American community in the face of adversity. It also explores the problematic legacy of the 1910-1920 decade for the border region, a legacy which can still be felt today. Most importantly, the exhibit is an important and timely exhibit that sheds light on a dark chapter in American history and reminds us of the importance of standing up for justice and equality for all people.” - TMAMT board member Dr. Ruben Arellano, PhD*

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By Gus N. Hinojosa  
TMAMT President

TMAMT’s founding members are Gustavo (Gus) N. Hinojosa, president; Juanita H. Nuñez, vice-president; Linda Ramírez, secretary; Alex Martínez, treasurer; David Treviño, Robert Ramírez, Albert González and Ruben Arellano, Ph.D. We hail from various cities around Texas, aligning with our focus of representing all regions of Texas. The founding Board members include historians, educators, architects, engineers, and businesspersons.

The Mexican American Museum of Texas is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Visit [The Mexican American Museum of Texas](http://www.themexicanamericanmuseumoftexas.org) website for more information.



[\*Life and Death at the Border 1910-1920\*](#) exhibit at the University of Dallas' Beatrice M. Haggerty Gallery



The Mexican American Museum of Texas' founding members

# Grants Update

June has been a busy month for THF! Directors visited multiple cities to present THF grants to

organizations that are preserving pieces of Texas history in their regions, and we have some wonderful projects to tell you about...



## Cavalla Historical Foundation

Cavalla Historical Foundation in Galveston received grant funding to help restore the USS Cavalla, a Gato-class submarine first launched in the 1940s, and now a beloved fixture of the Galveston coast. The Foundation was established in 1999 with the mission of preserving two WWII-era naval ships previously slated to be scrapped – the USS Stewart and Cavalla. After securing ownership, CHF opened the ships to the public as part of the [Galveston Naval Museum](#) and created the Seawolf Park campus where the Museum is situated. Today, Seawolf Park attracts thousands of visitors per year who are eager to explore the vessels and immerse themselves in Naval history.

## Palacios Area Historical Association

The Palacios Area Historical Association received a grant that will be used for developing AI-powered kiosks that will collect regional oral histories at their [City By the Sea Museum](#). In addition to the fascinating exhibits, the museum itself is housed in a historic two-story commercial building from 1910, one of the oldest structures in Palacios. The museum serves as a valuable resource for visitors to explore and learn about the diverse cultures and history of the area.



## Dabney Hill Missionary Baptist Church

Dabney Hill Missionary Baptist Church has received grant funding to help with the costs associated with getting the Dabney Hill Lodge Hall listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This enables the group to participate in Preservation Texas' [Texas Rural African American Heritage program](#) and to receive an [additional \\$75,000 in funding](#) to restore the building. The former fraternal lodge was built in 1910 and is the sole remaining institutional structure associated with the Dabney Hill Freedom Colony, established in 1887. This project was one of four to receive THF grants to list endangered African American heritage sites on the National Register.

# Jean Mills Jefferson Memorial Fund

The Jean Mills Jefferson Memorial Fund received grant funding to help with the associated costs of listing the Brenham Normal and Industrial College building, built in 1905, on the National Register. The school provided elementary through secondary education for children of emancipated families in Washington County until 1927. Inclusion on the National Register enables the group to participate in Preservation Texas' [Texas Rural African American Heritage program](#) and to receive an [additional \\$75,000 in funding](#) for restoration. This project was one of four to receive THF grants to list endangered African American heritage sites on the National Register.



# Brenham Heritage Museum

[Brenham Heritage Museum](#) received grant funds in support of their upcoming exhibit, *European Immigrants to Washington County*, which will explore the cultural roots of the hill country community. Brenham and the

surrounding area were opened to settlement in 1821, one of the earliest settled areas in Texas. In addition to pioneers from other parts of the United States, immigrants from Northern Europe and Germany settled here. Many were fleeing political and religious persecution in their homeland, and they moved to the colony to take advantage of liberal land grants. BHM's exhibit will facilitate interaction with this history and explore how this confluence of culture produced many of Brenham's present-day features.

# The Bryan Museum

The inaugural Bryan History Symposium at The Bryan Museum in Galveston was held on Saturday, June 15th. THF was the presenting sponsor and supported the symposium with a grant. This new, annual event explores topics in Texas history with leading scholars from across the state. This year, the symposium examined the lives of Texans of Mexican descent during Texas' most volatile era. Among the impressive list of speakers was THF Board Member Frank de la Teja (pictured), who spoke about Erasmo Seguín and the Creation of Mexican Texas. The symposium coincided with the opening of the museum's special exhibit [Tejanos of Revolutionary Texas](#) (June 15 - July 7, 2024).



# Next Round of Grant Funding Closes Sept. 1st!

Texas Historical Foundation's Quarterly Grants Program is an open-submission application process considering applications from eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofits for funding up to \$8,000.

[Learn More](#)



## 2024 Save Texas History Symposium



Save the date! The focus for the next 2024 Save Texas History Symposium is *Cartographic Frontiers: Putting Texas on the Map*. It will be held Sept. 6-7, 2024 at the AT&T Hotel and Conference Center at the University of Texas at Austin. The Save Texas History is a project of the Texas General Land Office, and you can find full information and registration on their website.

[Info & Registration](#)



## Braniff History and Architecture Conference: When You Got It, Flaunt It

Tickets are now on sale for the fourth Braniff History and Architecture Conference to be held in Dallas on Saturday, September 14. An impressive list of entertainers, speakers, and Braniff employee group interviews will be presented at the most popular Braniff event of the year. The Braniff Airways Foundation will also present the new Hall of Fame inductees for 2024.

[Info & Registration](#)

### Lone Star Society

Lynn Smith

### Pioneer

Robert Oliver, Cuero

### Ranger

Deborah Cartwright, Austin; Curt Frisbie, Dallas

### Contributing

Daniel Elder, Temple; Katherine Homan, Dallas;

Bill Smith, Duncanville

### Institution

Dallas Historical Society; Excelsior Foundation, Inc., Jefferson;  
Friends of Wooldridge Square, Austin; Houston Public Library;  
Neill Cochran House Museum, Austin; Pioneers Rest Cemetery  
Association, Fort Worth; Taylor County History Center, Buffalo  
Gap; The Williamson Museum, Georgetown

A BIG TEXAS-SIZED

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AND RENEWING  
MEMBERS



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