



# TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

## *Michael C. Duda Preservation Awards*



*From left to right: an expanded Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum featuring the Trautwein and Cook & Day buildings, Cuero; the Smoot House, operated by the Flower Hill Center, Austin; the Wheelock School House, Wheelock; work at the Simms House, Houston.*

April 10, 2024

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Call 512-453-2154 ext. 1 for more information,  
project & event photos available upon request.**

### **Four Texas Preservation Groups to Receive Duda Preservation Award**

DALLAS, Texas— Four groups to be recognized for excellence in architectural preservation at inaugural Texas Historical Foundation Michael C. Duda Preservation Awards event, held April 20, 2024 in Dallas.

Following a rigorous selection process that considered dozens of nominees from across the state, four groups have been chosen for recognition at the 2024 Texas Historical Foundation Michael C. Duda Preservation Awards. The Award, named in honor of architect and late Foundation Board Member Michael Duda, recognizes excellence in preservation of historic architecture, offering monetary prizes of \$100,000, \$30,000, \$20,000, and \$10,000 towards the completion of the top projects—the largest award of its kind in the state.

Winners will be announced at the April 20 event at the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas, attended by preservationists from across the state. Groups honored include (in alphabetical order):

- **[Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum, Cuero](#)** – *Since opening in 2013, Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum has become an example of the transformative power of preservation in small town public life, both on and off the Museum campus. The group will be recognized for their restoration of the historic Trautwein and Cook & Day buildings, offering expanded space for exhibitions and public gatherings.*
- **[Flower Hill Center, Austin](#)** – *Flower Hill Center will be recognized for their work at the 1877 Smoot House, from which the group operates the Urban Homestead Museum. Situated in Austin’s urban core, the property’s distinctive main house and outbuildings offer a window into the city’s past while exulting civic engagement and promoting local arts and culture.*
- **[Friends of the Wheelock School House, Wheelock](#)** – *The group will be honored for their work at the eponymous 1908 Wheelock School House, through which Friends of the Wheelock School House demonstrate the potential of grassroots organizing and the power of community engagement to preserve cherished public spaces.*
- **[Rutherford B.H. Yates Museum, Houston](#)** – *For decades, the Yates Museum has preserved what is among the most complete examples of an urban Freedmen’s Town, drawing into focus a rich portrait of this critical piece of history. Their vision for the restored 1907 Simms Cottage as one of six Freedmen’s Town Museums interpreting Houston’s Freedmen’s Town Historic District will allow visitors to engage with this dynamic site in its totality.*

These organizations, while diverse in geography and purpose, are aligned in their uncompromising dedication to serving their communities by preserving spaces that connect us to our shared past. Each exemplifies the transformative qualities that architectural preservation offers – the fellowship and pride of place inherent to experiencing our collective heritage as Texans.

Since 1954, the Texas Historical Foundation has empowered communities to preserve their own pieces of Texas history through our grants program. For more information, visit [texashistoricalfoundation.org](http://texashistoricalfoundation.org).

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