

TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION FUNDING ELIGIBILITY FACTSHEET

Who is eligible for Texas Historical Foundation funding?

Quarterly Micro Grants Program (8-10 grants up to \$8,000 are awarded every 3 months)

Eligible applicants are 501(c)(3) organizations* with a project supporting the preservation of and public engagement with Texas history (preserving historic structures and sites, history education, archeological research, preservation advocacy, museum programming, archives and collections preservation, legal history, publishing, contributions to the body of historical knowledge, and promotion of Texas arts and culture).

The most compatible applications are from smaller, community-based nonprofits where grant funds augment or seed a project with pronounced public benefit.

Other eligibility factors include:

- For past recipients of a Quarterly Micro Grant, one year must have elapsed since your successful application (for example, if your most recent grant was approved in the Spring 2024 cycle, you can reapply in the Spring 2025 cycle).
- If a past grant has been awarded, the organization must be current with follow up reports and in compliance with the grant agreement contract.
- Open requests or recent grants from other THF funding programs do not affect eligibility. For example, a receiving an Annual Grant does not preclude consideration of a Quarterly Grant application and vice versa.
- Where grant funds would be applied to a project that improves the value of a property, the property must be owned by the applicant or its fiscal sponsor.
- Routine maintenance and operation costs are generally not eligible. Similarly, underwriting general costs for academic conferences is not usually an eligible area.
- For religious institutions, private clubs, and schools, the benefit of the project must extend beyond the immediate group or congregation in a clear and tangible way.

**Organizations without 501(c)(3) status may apply using a 501(c)(3) nonprofit as a fiscal sponsor for otherwise compatible projects.*

Annual Grants Program (single grant of up to \$25,000 awarded annually)

Eligible applicants are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations with a project supporting the preservation of and/or public engagement with Texas history (for example, preserving historic structures and sites, history education, archeological research, preservation advocacy, museum programming, archives and collections preservation, legal history, publishing, contributions to the body of historical knowledge, and promotion of Texas arts and culture).

The most compatible applications are from smaller, community-based organizations where granted funds have the potential to make a significant impact on a project with pronounced public benefit.

Other eligibility factors include:

- If a past THF grant has been awarded, the organization must be current with follow up reports and in compliance with the grant agreement contract.
- If you are a past recipient of Annual Grant funding, the previous project awarded funds must have concluded.
- Concurrent applications and grants awarded from other THF funding programs do not preclude consideration for an Annual Grant. For example, an organization recently awarded a Quarterly Grant is still eligible for an Annual Grant.
- Where a grant project improves the value of a property, the property must be owned by the applicant or its fiscal sponsor.
- Routine maintenance and operation costs are generally not eligible. Similarly, underwriting general costs for academic conferences are not usually an eligible area.
- For religious institutions, private clubs, and schools, the benefit of the project must extend beyond the immediate group or congregation.
- An applicant organization does not need to be based in Texas, however the project must relate to the history of the state or former Republic of Texas, take place in the state or former Republic of Texas, **or** primarily benefit Texans.
- Applicants without 501(c)(3) status are eligible with a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor.

Duda Preservation Awards (*4 awards from \$10,000 - \$100,000 given every other year*)

The Duda Preservation Awards are held biennially and seek to honor excellence in the field of preserving historic architecture, offering monetary awards up to \$100,000 for use in an ongoing and significant architectural preservation effort.

Organizations eligible for the Duda Preservation Award are 501(c)(3) nonprofits or governmental entities with an active architectural preservation project and a track record of excellence in the preservation of historic architecture.

In order to qualify:

- Applicant must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or government organization with a track record of success in preserving historic architecture and an active architectural preservation project.
- Applicants or their fiscal sponsor must own the structure where award funding would be used.
- The structure must have at least one formal historic designation (National Register of Historic Places, National Historic Landmark, State Antiquities Landmark, World Heritage

Site, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, local designation as a historic landmark and/or inclusion within a local historic district as a landmark or contributing structure)

- Professionalism, organizational capacity, and best practice standards must be demonstrated through past work.
- Project budget must be \$100,000 or greater and the project must be viable in terms of existing financial and organizational capacity, including future upkeep.
- The outcome of the project must have a pronounced public benefit, either through the preservation of a historically or architecturally significant site, public access, or contribution to the body of historic knowledge.

Please note that while the above criteria remain consistent, some eligibility factors in the Duda Preservation Awards may change slightly year to year. For the most current eligibility and requirements, please visit texashistoricalfoundation.org.

What criteria does THF consider when awarding funding?

The following are the top criteria used by reviewers when evaluating a proposal. While most applications won't "tick every box", keeping these items in mind while preparing a submission can be helpful:

Public Benefit: The ideal project demonstrates a strong benefit to the public, be it through access, community involvement, preservation of an endangered heritage resource, contribution to the body of knowledge, etc.

Community Support: The strongest applications show a record of community support. An application should demonstrate that residents, local businesses and/or community leaders are invested in the project.

Adherence to Best Practices: Adherence to best practices is an important factor in consideration. This can mean having a preservation plan in place for a structure, using appropriate materials for handling archives, or adhering to government or professional guidelines for treatment of historic structures, artifacts, and archeological sites.

Ability to See the Project Through: Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate the ability to obtain to the financial resources necessary to ensure the project's completion. Factors such as additional grant requests, planned fundraising campaigns, events, volunteer involvement, partnerships with other organizations, etc. help show your organization is in it for the long haul.

Perpetuity: Another factor that the board takes into account is longevity of outcomes. For bricks-and-mortar projects, consideration is given to the feasibility of upkeep. Is the work part of a broader preservation goal? Is there sufficient funding to maintain it?

For more information, please visit our [Grants FAQs page](#) or contact THF staff at grants@texashistoricalfoundation.org