



DECEMBER 2021

Under The Lone Star

The Official Newsletter of the Texas Historical Foundation

At this special time of the year, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who support our work. Happy holidays to all Texas Historical Foundation supporters—and have a great new year!

Thank You

As 2021 comes to a close, the Texas Historical Foundation is thankful to our members, donors, and directors who have helped us preserve the great history of Texas for future generations. With your generous support, THF has given grants in 2021 to organizations and facilities that have unique missions and priorities to promote their programs and facilities. Grants were awarded in small towns and large cities, to train stations, museums, archeological sites, and movies created to encourage 7th-grade history students to become lifelong Texas history learners. Please [visit our website](#) to view all grants awarded.

As we prepare for 2022, THF asks for your help again by making a tax-deductible, year-end gift now that will help support THF's mission. For every financial gift over \$50, you will receive a complimentary one-year subscription to THF's award-winning magazine, [Texas HERITAGE](#). Click the button below to make your donation now.

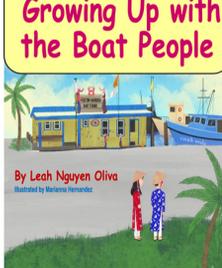
Thank you again for endorsing our work in 2021! Happy New Year y'all!

[DONATE TODAY!](#)

Grants Spotlight

The History Center for Aransas County

THF Funds First-Generation Refugee Research in Aransas County



[The History Center for Aransas County](#) (THCAC) recently received grant assistance from the Texas Historical Foundation for a unique project that will document the stories of Vietnamese immigrants along the state's Gulf Coast.

"Vietnamese Culture: 40 Years in the Coastal Bend" will consist of several components: an exhibit opening January 22, 2022, introduced by former Dallas Cowboys linebacker Dat Nguyen, who grew up in Fulton and whose family fled South Vietnam; a book, *Growing up with the Boat People: The Vietnamese on the Gulf Coast of Texas*, about the escape and resettlement of Vietnamese cousins on the coastal bend; and video interviews with community members who left the Southeast Asian country for new homes in the United States—eventually landing in Aransas County.

According to Pam Stranahan, president of the THCAC, "The United States has always been a country of immigrants, but not all those stories have been documented. With this exhibit, our organization is able to shine a light on this population and tell a more complete story of 20th-century Texas."

As she collected information and interviewed refugees who fled from Vietnam in the 1970s, Stranahan came to realize that while the accounts of their escapes varied, their motivations were largely the same: fear and a desperation to avoid life under communism. The stories, she said, carry similar themes: narrow escape, relocation camps, sponsors who aided them, hard work to help their children achieve their dreams, and quiet pride in their own successes.

Stranahan added, "Sometimes they were able to locate and join family members already in the States, but most times, they waited for sponsors who welcomed them into their communities. All the interviewees expressed gratitude to be in the United States and for its many opportunities."

During the course of the research, Stranahan discovered that the stories of these first-generation refugees have been closely held and not widely shared—even among their own families. Often, she said, grandchildren didn't even know about their ancestors' journeys.

"It was important to hear and record this information while that first generation is still alive and can recount complete details," said Stranahan. As a result, 15 video interviews will now be placed in three Rockport venues—the History Center, the Fulton Mansion State Historic Site, the Texas Maritime Museum—and another slightly further afield at TAMU-Kingsville.

[This is the fourth THF grant The History Center for Aransas County](#) has received to support its work through the years. However, this most recent gift was especially impactful because it was the first award THCAC received to assist with the Vietnam culture exhibit and research. That acceptance lent credibility to the project and inspired the group to approach other foundations, including the Coastal Bend Community Foundation, the Margaret Sue Rust Foundation, and Humanities Texas—all of which have now joined as supporters of the program.

Picture Ref. Growing up with the Boat People: The Vietnamese on the Gulf Coast of Texas by Leah Nguyen Oliva

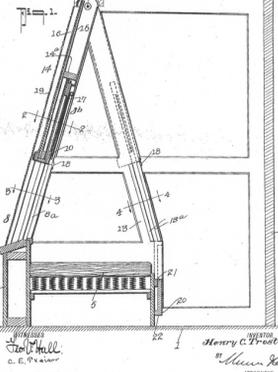
Website Update

Renown Architect - Blog

New Blog Spotlights Another Side of Distinguished Architect Henry Trost

Henry Trost and his brother Gustavus formed the architectural firm Trost and Trost in 1903, later to be joined by another sibling Adolphus. Together, they transformed the built landscape of Far West Texas. The contributions of Trost and Trost, especially in El Paso, were featured in the most recent issue of [Texas HERITAGE magazine](#).

While many know about Henry Trost's architectural achievements, few realize that he was also an inventor. Pamela Murtha, assistant editor of the THF publication, uncovered an interesting story about the renown architect's design of a sleeping porch compartment, consisting of an oversized window contained within a specially constructed A-shaped frame with arms attached to both ends of a bed. Hotels that installed these "outside/inside beds" could create extra spaces for guests without having to add on to the building. Though little is known about the sleeping compartment's success or failure, the story of this invention, along with others by the famous architect, adds a new dimension to the life of Henry Trost.



Read more by checking out Murtha's blog post, which will be uploaded to the THF website in mid-January.



Around Texas



Friends and supporters of the Texas Historical Foundation gathered at 3 Nations Brewery in Carrollton on December 3 to socialize, learn about the work of THF, and raise funds. Scholar Director Donald Frazier, Ph., D. gave attendees an overview of the various big conversations going on across the state concerning the Texan identity.

Preservation Conference Slated for February



Hundreds of preservationists from around the state will gather at the [Texas Historical Commission's Real Place Conference in Austin February 2-4](#) to hear from industry-leading experts and learn practical solutions they can apply in their community. THF is proud to be partner with THC in this premier historic preservation and heritage tourism conference.

THF leaders are at the forefront of historical preservation in Texas. When THF Chairman Emeritus Marshall J. Doke, Jr., receives the Ruth Lester Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Historical Commission on February 3, he will join three other award winners from the Texas Historical Foundation. Those include current organization president Sylvia Tillotson, director and archeologist Kay Hindes, and Gene Krane, executive director.

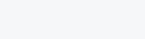


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