



The Restoration of the Clay House in Nacogdoches



The African American Heritage Project (AAHP) was founded in the 1990s with the mission of recording and educating the public on the topic of Nacogdoches' African American heritage. The 1900 Clay House was saved from demolition by the group in 2010 with the plan of restoring it for use as a community center and local history museum.

The Clay House is located in the Zion Hill Historic District of Nacogdoches, described by leading conservation group Preservation Texas as "one of the most intact early 20th-century African American working-class neighborhoods in Texas." Built for Charlie Clay, a local grocer and founding deacon of the adjacent Zion Hill Baptist Church, the house is widely considered to be among the finest examples of the District's distinctive vernacular architecture.

Read the full update on the Clay House's restoration on our blog...

[Read More](#)



MICHAEL C. DUDA PRESERVATION AWARDS

APRIL | 20TH | 2024



The inaugural Texas Historical Foundation Michael C. Duda Preservation Awards is fast approaching! Join us for this inspirational dinner event on April 20, 2024, at the George W. Bush Presidential Center on the SMU campus, honoring the best in Texas preservation.

The Awards honor the memory of former Foundation board member Michael C. Duda, focusing on projects that have had an outsized impact on Texas heritage preservation. The event will announce the top three winning projects, as well as debut a series of short films highlighting their contributions and the lasting legacy of Michael C. Duda.

We are honored to offer these awards in the same spirit of service and enthusiasm for Texas heritage preservation that characterized Michael's life and legacy. Sponsorship information and tickets are available on our website.

[Sponsorships and Tickets](#)

Twelve Non-Profits Awarded THF Grants



Cindy Walker Foundation staff and volunteers pause their hard work to pose for a photo

The Texas Historical Foundation is pleased to announce that twelve grants supporting historic preservation across the Lonestar State have been awarded in our latest grant cycle.

Congratulations to the following organizations:

- **San Jacinto Museum & Battlefield Association**, La Porte, will use its grant to safeguard archives and collections at the Museum dedicated to the battle that won Texas its independence.
- **Palacios Area Historical Association**, Palacios, received funding to develop AI-powered kiosks to collect regional oral histories at their City By The Sea Museum.
- **Vision Historic Preservation Foundation**, Rockdale, secured funding in support of Rockdale's sesquicentennial event, a month-long celebration of the city of Rockdale's diverse past through historic walking tours, exhibitions, and performances.
- **Cavalla Historical Foundation**, Galveston, has been approved for funding to restore the superstructure of the U.S.S. Cavalla, a World War II-era Gato-class submarine at the Galveston Naval Museum
- **El Paso Museum of History Foundation**, El Paso, will use their grant to develop the latest installment of their "Neighborhoods & Shared Memories" exhibition series, centering on El

Paso's historic Rio Grande District. The project will produce a museum exhibit as well as on-site programs and installations throughout the neighborhood developed by local students.

- **African American Heritage Project**, Nacogdoches, will use their grant towards work on the 1900 Clay House, a jewel of Nacogdoches' historically black Zion Hill neighborhood and future home to a community center and museum on Nacogdoches African American history.
- **Texas State Historical Association**, Austin, received a grant in support of their 2024 Annual Meeting to be held February 28 - March 2, 2024 in College Station, TX. In the tradition of TSHA, the meeting will draw attendees from academics, historians, and lay enthusiasts alike to address the pressing matters faced by the field today.
- **Friends of Tye Preston Memorial Library**, Canyon Lake, secured matching funds in support of their popular 2024 Canyon Lake Reads program. The grant will support a month of lectures, trips, and educational activities centered around "Bold Crossings", a piece of historical fiction
- **The Bryan Museum**, Galveston, will receive support for their first-ever Bryan Museum of History symposium, taking place June 15, 2024. The subject for the inaugural event is "Tejanos of Revolutionary Texas."
- **Tom Lea Institute**, El Paso, will use their grant in the development of a travelling exhibition drawing on the work of renowned Texas painter and artist correspondent Tom Lea as an entry point for exploring World War II.
- **Castroville Colonies Heritage Association**, Castroville, won funding for an updated National Register Survey of Medina County, supporting the preservation of some 150 pioneer-era structures in the region.
- **Cindy Walker Foundation**, Mexia, secured a grant to preserve the Mexia home of legendary country music songwriter Cindy Walker for use as a museum and community music center dedicated to her legacy.

If you would like more information about THF's grant program please [visit our website](#).



THF President David Preziosi and Board Member Frank de la Teja presented Texas State Historical Association's President Ken Wise and Executive Director J.P. Bryan with THF's grant on 2/29/2024.

TEXAS Preservation



Only a few days remain to book your spot at the Texas Historical Commission's Real Places 2024 conference before the final rate increase. [Register](#) by **Thursday, February 29 at midnight** at the full conference rate of \$550—which includes all meals, snacks, and drinks during the

conference, as well as the welcome reception and the THC Awards Banquet. On March 1, the full conference rate will increase by \$100.

THANK YOU to our new and returning members:

Contributing

Vanessa Baker, Dallas

Catherine Blair, Dallas

Diane Sherman, Dallas

Partner

Elizabeth & Robert Gunby, Dallas

Patsy & Scotty Light, San Antonio

Henry Mayo, College Station

Institution

North Texas Masonic Historical Museum & Library Foundation, Plano

Dallas County Medical Society Alliance Foundation, Dallas

Williamson Museum, Georgetown

Longview Public Library, Longview

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