Austin's first suburb. In the post, Fisher traces the history of several La Villita properties from land-grant status to the function they serve today, explaining significant architectural details.

Beard explained, “VHPFI will host a live music event on May 7, bringing arts appreciation to residents and tourists alike. This project, however, comes with a significant cost, and VHPFI will continue to pursue grants and have already received vital funding from not only THF, but the National Endowment for the Arts and the Texas Commission on the Arts.”

As to the importance of THF’s assistance, Curah Beard, VHPFI spokesperson, said, “THF has a long history of supporting preservation projects of this scope throughout Texas. Their grants have been instrumental in ensuring that projects like ours are not only possible, but successful.”

In January, VHPFI applied for and received a THF grant for the restoration of the 1895 restoration project. The THF grant will fund the restoration of plaster, and reconstruction of the bell tower. The restoration will begin at the end of 2022. Phase One will focus on the front facade on the building’s south face and includes restoring and replacing windows, removal of stucco and masonry, and improvements to the roof. The project is expected to be completed in 2024.

The 1895 building, known as the Old City Hall, is believed to be the architect’s only City Hall Romanesque Revival-style structure. It was the work of architect Arthur O. Watson of Austin, who is better known for creating courthouses and stately homes. This building is significant for its architectural style and for its role in the history of Austin, serving as a public building designed and constructed that year by architect Arthur O. Watson.

Women in History Month, Clara Tarpley

Clara Tarpley, has the distinction of being the oldest family-owned and operated business of its kind in Texas—four generations strong, with a fifth waiting in the wings. Founded in 1927 by corporate grant, the Milam County Historical Commission, and at least one corporate grant.”

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