



Explore Texas History and Art on the Tom Lea Trail Mobile Tour



In the heart of the American Southwest, a unique blend of history and art comes alive through technology with the Tom Lea Trail Mobile Tour. Named after the iconic native Texan artist, writer, and war correspondent Tom Lea, this immersive experience is a journey through the life and works of a man who left an indelible mark on the cultural landscape of the Southwest.

The mobile tour highlights hidden gems in 12 large cities and small towns, ranging from the *Pass of the North* mural in El Paso's historic U.S. Courthouse to the *Comanches* mural in Seymour's Post Office. Each work of art reveals characteristics of the place where it is found, and the presentation is designed to engage tourists and educators alike.

Visit our blog to read more about this exciting new immersive mobile tour from Tom Lea Institute's Executive Director Holly Packard Cobb.

[Read More](#)

THF News



MICHAEL C. DUDA PRESERVATION AWARDS

APRIL | 20TH | 2024



Join us for the inaugural Texas Historical Foundation Michael C. Duda Preservation Awards! The event will be held on April 20, 2024, at the George W. Bush Presidential Center on the SMU campus. The awards honor the memory of former Foundation board member Michael C. Duda by focusing on architectural and archaeological projects in Texas that will be the most impactful for heritage preservation. THF will recognize the best of the best preservation efforts at this event with three top prizes. 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. Sponsorships and tickets are now available on our website.

[Sponsorships and Tickets](#)



70 YEARS OF TEXANS PRESERVING TEXAS

The Texas Historical Foundation is celebrating a milestone this year with our 70th anniversary. We have done much in that time to preserve the places and stories that tell the history of our great state. The Foundation has an interesting history, and many don't know how we were once tied to the Texas Historical Commission.

In 1953, the Texas Legislature established the Texas State Historical Survey Committee to survey and record Texas history and sites. They were also charged with the review of historic sites for their worthiness before the state purchased them. The Texas Historical Foundation was formed as a nonprofit on January 11, 1954, to raise funds for the Survey Committee's work.

In 1962, the historical marker program for Texas was established under the Survey Committee's authority, and in 1968, the state archeological program and a museum services program were added to the Committee's work. The responsibility for the National Register of Historic Places program in Texas was also given to them as part of their designation as the State Historic Preservation Office after the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966.

When the state assumed the funding role for the Survey Committee in 1971, the Texas Historical Foundation began independently seeking out worthy preservation projects, exploring critical preservation efforts, and establishing endowments to support projects around the state.

Two years later, the Survey Committee was renamed to the Texas Historical Commission. Their role was expanded with additional powers to protect historic places in Texas. They were also tasked with educating Texans about the importance of historic sites and the role they played in the development of the state.

With its growing endowments, the Texas Historical Foundation established itself as a champion for Texas history by providing grants to conserve artifacts, archive documents, restore historic buildings and sites, pursue archaeological investigations, and gather and share stories relating to Texas history and the Lone Star culture. Since 1990, the Texas Historical Foundation has given out over \$2 million in grants to over 400 projects around the state and beyond. Grants are given out quarterly through a competitive grant application process and are selected by the THF Board of Directors. One of the Foundation's largest projects was the restoration of the Goodnight House which is now part of the Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight Ranch State Historic Site administered by the Texas Historical Commission.

In 1983, the Foundation created the Texas HERITAGE magazine to tell the stories of the people and places related to the rich and diverse history of the state. Publication of the magazine ended last December as the Foundation entered into a partnership with Authentic Texas magazine which focuses on the heritage of Texas. THF will provide content to the magazine and all THF members will receive the magazine as part of their membership. All the past issues of HERITAGE magazine are available on the [UNT Portal to Texas History](#).

THF created the Star of Texas Award in 2012 to honor individuals or businesses for their exceptional contributions toward preserving the Lone Star State's history and culture while inspiring its future. Past recipients of the award have included Frost Bank, J.P. Bryan, Red McCombs, and most recently Cavender Family.

This April, the inaugural [Michael C. Duda Preservation Awards](#) will be given out honoring the memory of architect and former THF board member Michael C. Duda. The monetary awards are for excellence in historic preservation with a focus on projects making significant contributions to Texas cultural heritage through architectural or archeological preservation efforts. We also debuted our Michael C. Duda Forum on Historic Preservation and Sustainability last year in

partnership with Notre Dame University and SMU with plans to hold the second forum this fall.

Here's to our 70th with much more to come for the Texas Historical Foundation as we continue to grow the organization and build upon the great work of the past seventy years. We greatly thank all those who made our work possible including our supporters, Board of Directors, staff, and our members.

Grants Update



Italian Cultural & Community Center

THF presented a grant to the [Italian Cultural & Community Center](#) in Houston this month. ICCC Houston was founded in 1976 as an umbrella group to coordinate the 20+ active Italian clubs operating in Houston at the time, and the group's focus is the preservation of Italian American culture and history within the unique context of the city. Since 1982, the group has conducted this work through the beloved 1923 Milford House, also known as the Logue House, a classically detailed country house designed by Houston architect William Ward Watkin situated in the city's Museum District. The grant supports repairs to the House following a ceiling collapse last year.

Glenwood Cemetery Historical Preservation Foundation

THF presented a grant to the [Glenwood Cemetery Historical Preservation Foundation](#) at their iconic cemetery in the urban heart of Houston. The cemetery was established in the 1870s and is an early example of a Victorian park-style cemetery. It is notable for its elaborate period craftsmanship, famous Texas residents, and a large archive of genealogical records. THF's grant supports the establishment of a state-of-the-art public Archive and Genealogy Room on the cemetery grounds. This resource be a huge help to historians and genealogists, both amateur and professional, as interest in family history continues to grow.



Edward Lengel Chosen as THC's New Director



The Texas Historical Commission named **Edward Lengel** as its new Director earlier this month. Lengel is a noted military and presidential historian, author, and museum executive who has served as the senior director of programs at the WWII Museum in New Orleans, and as vice-president of the visitor experience at the National Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington, Texas. We are excited that Lengel will be leading Texas' official state agency for historic preservation, and we congratulate him on his new role. We would also like to thank Mark Wolfe for his service to THC. He retired at the end of 2023 after serving as the executive director of the agency since 2008. He led the agency through a period of unprecedented growth and expansion of service.

Texas Historical Commission's Real Places 2024 conference is coming up this Spring! It will take place both virtually and in person, in Austin, April 3–5. Presented by the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission in partnership with Phoenix I Restoration and Construction, LLC, Real Places is the premier historic preservation and heritage tourism event in the Lone Star State, where anyone interested in protecting our past can work directly with industry-leading experts to learn practical, actionable solutions they can apply in their community. Please visit the [Real Places 2024 website](#) to register.



Registration is now open for the Texas State Historical Association annual meeting and conference in College Station. The conference will take place on the A&M campus and will feature a gala at Kyle Field with a special live auction featuring a wide range of rare Texana collectibles and a performance by award-winning musician Clay Walker.

Please visit [TSHA's website](#) to view event information and to register.

A banner with a dark blue background. On the left is the Texas Historical Foundation logo (a star in a circle above the word 'TEXAS' and 'HISTORICAL FOUNDATION EST. 1954'). In the center, a green box contains the text 'MARCH 01'. Below that, the words 'GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE' are written in large, bold, gold letters. At the bottom center is a red circular button with a white border and the text 'CLICK HERE'. On the left side of the banner, there is a yellow megaphone icon.

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)

Your membership truly makes a difference towards helping us fulfill our mission to preserve Texas history for future generations.

[JOIN NOW](#)

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