



CELEBRATING THE BEST OF
PRESERVATION IN TEXAS

MICHAEL C. DUDA PRESERVATION AWARDS

APRIL 30 2026

SAN ANTONIO



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



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The second biennial Texas Historical Foundation Michael C. Duda Preservation Awards, presented in the spring of 2026, will continue to honor the memory of architect and former board member Michael C. Duda, who passed away in 2019.

Focusing on impactful preservation in Texas, the awards recognize organizations that have a sustained track record of work to save the historic resources of Texas. Texas Historical Foundation (THF) will recognize the best of the best of those efforts by awarding the top four organizations with awards of \$100,000, \$30,000, \$20,000, and \$10,000 to be applied towards the completion of their architectural preservation projects.

Born in Dallas, Michael found a passion and wonder for Texas history at an early age. Characterized by family and friends as "a man for others," Michael was also a young man unafraid to forge his own path. He founded the now nationally competitive Jesuit Rugby Club as a high school student before departing the state to obtain a degree in architecture at the University of Notre Dame. After a short time working in California, he returned to Texas and earned an MBA in marketing and real estate from Southern Methodist University. He then went to work for the Duda family real estate development company, where he applied his passion for historic architecture to his work. He joined the THF board in 2011 and was a beloved member.

Michael had a great love for Texas, even after traveling much of the world and living in several states and countries. In his THF board application, he stated, "Everything I love is here, be it the music, food, or atmosphere. I hope I will never take for granted the variety of experiences Texas offers, and if given the opportunity, I would be glad to help preserve everything that has made this state the best in the nation."

THF is proud to present these awards with the same spirit of service and enthusiasm for Texas heritage preservation that defined Michael's life and legacy. **Proceeds from the Michael C. Duda Historic Preservation Awards event will go towards the work of THF to preserve the rich history of Texas and support the Michael C. Duda Endowment for Historic Preservation.**



Michael Christopher Duda drawing the Alamo from a bronze relief sculpture for the Michael Christopher Duda Center for Preservation, Resilience, and Sustainability by Andrew Wilson Smith, at the Walsh Family Hall of Architecture, University of Notre Dame, 2022.



MICHAEL C. DUDA *award* PRESERVATION AWARDS

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UNDERSTANDING WHAT WE DO

Since 1954, the Texas Historical Foundation's mission has been to preserve the unique and rich heritage of Texas by supporting nonprofit organizations that restore historic structures and sites; conserve and archive rare documents; share Texas stories through education, research, and the arts; and uncover historic and prehistoric archaeological sites and artifacts.

Using millions of dollars in private funding, the Texas Historical Foundation saved irreplaceable relics of Texas history. The Foundation board administers eleven endowments that provide grant funding to help communities and organizations of all sizes save their piece of Texas history for future generations. From Orange to El Paso and Edinburg to Amarillo, Texas Historical Foundation grants have touched all areas of the state by supporting projects in wide-ranging areas of interest.

"THE DUDA AWARD ISN'T JUST A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION - IT IS A POWERFUL REMINDER THAT PRESERVATION WORK CONNECTS PEOPLE ACROSS TIME AND SPACE."

Rena Frank, Friends of the Wheelock School House



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2024 AWARD-WINNING ORGANIZATIONS

Four organizations received recognition at the inaugural Michael C. Duda Preservation Awards for their outstanding commitment to historic preservation over a sustained period. The winners included Friends of Wheelock School House (Wheelock), Flower Hill Center (Austin), Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum (Cuero), and Rutherford B.H. Yates Museum (Houston).



Wheelock School House - Before



Wheelock School House - After

FRIENDS OF WHELOCK SCHOOL HOUSE, WHELOCK

Through their work at the 1908 Wheelock School House, the Friends have consistently shown the potential of grassroots organizing and the power of community engagement to preserve a cherished public space. The group received a \$100,000 award, which has been used to complete the exterior restoration of the building that serves as an important center for the small community.

Friends Vice-President Rena Frank said that the 2024 award "validated years of community effort and affirmed that the history we are working to preserve matters—not only to us, but to the greater story of Texas."



MICHAEL C. DUDA *MC Duda* PRESERVATION AWARDS

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FLOWER HILL CENTER, AUSTIN

In Austin's urban core, the 1877 Smoot House is home to the Urban Homestead Museum, operated by the Flower Hill Center. The distinctive property offers a window into the city's past while highlighting the civic engagement of the Smoot family and promoting local arts and culture. Flower Hill Center is using its \$30,000 award for architectural and engineering plans to stabilize the foundation of the former Smoot home.



CHISHOLM TRAIL HERITAGE MUSEUM, CUERO

Since opening in 2013, the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum has exemplified the transformative power of preservation in small-town public life, both on and off the museum's campus. The \$20,000 award for the museum will assist with the restoration of the 1894 Trautwein and 1920 Cook & Day buildings to expand the museum campus for exhibitions on Texas history, art, regional culture, and public gatherings.



RUTHERFORD B.H. YATES MUSEUM, HOUSTON

For decades, the Rutherford B.H. Yates Museum has preserved what is among the most complete examples of an urban Freedmen's Town, drawing into focus a critical piece of Texas history. The group received \$11,000, which they have used for architectural and engineering services to plan for the restoration of the 1907 Isabella Simms Cottage for increased visitor engagement within this dynamic site.

More information about these organizations can be found online at [TexasHistoricalFoundation.org](https://www.TexasHistoricalFoundation.org).



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PRESENTING SPONSORSHIPS

PREMIER PRESENTING | \$100,000

- (4) Tables of 10 – Premier seating
- Premier location of full-page congratulatory message
- Premier location of full-page business ad in program
- Separate signage for presenting sponsorship at event
- Premier signage on the presentation screen during event
- Premier recognition from podium
- Two-year THF membership – Lone Star Society

PRESENTING | \$50,000

- (2) Tables of 10 – Premier seating
- Primary location of full-page congratulatory message
- Primary location of full-page business ad in program
- Separate signage for presenting sponsorship at event
- Primary signage on the presentation screen during event
- Primary recognition from podium
- Two-year THF membership – Lone Star Society

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