



TRUST THE FUND

THC GRANTS HELP ENDANGERED HISTORIC RESOURCES THRIVE

By Ashley Salie
TPTF Program Coordinator

It's a common question in Texas' preservation community: How can I get grant funding to help with my preservation project?

One option is the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Preservation Trust Fund (TPTF), which helps organizations and individuals receive financial assistance for viable rehabilitation and educational projects. Although funding is limited, the program provides a rare option of financial support for eligible archeology, architecture, heritage education, and historical survey projects. TPTF grants offer endangered structures an opportunity to become stabilized, archeological resources to be properly stored and protected, and untold educational topics to be preserved and promoted.

The program provides matching, reimbursable grants—typically ranging from \$10,000 to \$30,000—to government entities, nonprofit organizations, and private property owners. Due to the small amount of funds available each year, the program is competitive and focuses on the most endangered and viable projects. For those interested in applying to the program, the next opening will be December 2023.

“With rising construction costs due to product shortages and inflation, funding assistance is more valuable than ever to ensure Texas' historic resources are preserved,” says Elizabeth Brummett, director of the THC's Architecture Division, which oversees the program. “We're also reminding people that we're encouraging TPTF applications for proposals associated with ethnic diversity and other historically underserved subjects, groups, and property types.”

Brummett adds that there are two steps in the grant application process. First, applicants are required to submit an initial form to the THC for review, due in February 2024. The THC selects the highest-priority projects from the initial applications and invites those applicants to move forward to the second step, the project proposal stage.

At both steps, applications are scored in four areas: endangerment, significance, project viability, and special considerations. Project proposal applications, to be submitted in July 2024, provide more detailed information for staff and the TPTF Advisory Board to better understand the project's viability and intent. Applicants eligible to receive grant assistance must provide a minimum of one dollar in cash matching to each state dollar for approved project costs.

PRESERVATION UNDERWAY THE REEDY CHAPEL AME CHURCH

Galveston

The Galveston congregation received a development grant award for rehabilitation activities to its termite-damaged, structurally compromised interior balcony.

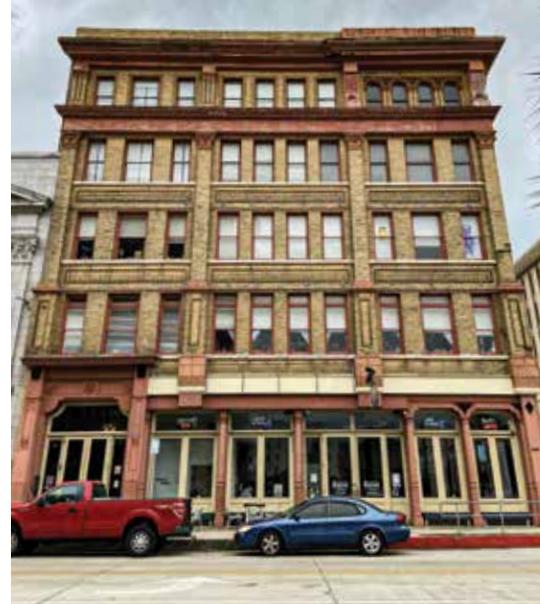
CLAY HISTORY AND EDUCATION SERVICES, INC.

This nonprofit organization produced the Aya Education Programs about Texas Freedom Colonies, which were held both virtually and in person.

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The group completed a curatorial project to inventory and create reports pertaining to the Harrison-Greenbelt Site in Donley County.

Twelve projects awarded in Fiscal Year 2023 are currently underway, encompassing a variety of preservation initiatives



such as creating planning documents for the circa 1863 Henry G. Madison Cabin in Austin; window rehabilitation activities for the National Hotel Artist Lofts/E.S. Levy Building in Galveston; and the continued development of K-12 curricula for the Texas Beyond History educational program's webpage.

"Recent TPTF funds have also helped people tackle a phase of a larger project, such as roofing repair, construction document preparation, or educational curriculum planning with a historic emphasis," Brummett notes.

TPTF: FYI

TPTF program staff receive numerous questions throughout the year about funding logistics and the application process. Please note the following items before applying to the program.

- TPTF grant funds are not available to retroactively reimburse work already completed prior to the issuance of the grant award, but are paid as reimbursement of eligible expenses incurred during the project after the award is made.
- TPTF grants specifically provide funds for curatorial and development projects in archeology, planning and development in architecture, building and site acquisition, historic resources survey development, and heritage education projects. Properties must have, or be determined eligible for, a historic designation. To determine if your resource is eligible for, or has already earned, one of these designations, contact the THC's History Programs Division at 512-463-5853.
- Applicants located within a Certified Local Government (CLG) community seeking grant funding for historic

resources survey projects are ineligible for TPTF survey grants and must apply to fund survey work through the CLG Program. Eligible CLG grant applicants are CLG communities in good standing, non-CLG cities within a CLG county, as well as nonprofit organizations and educational institutes located within a CLG. For more information about the CLG Program, see the article on page 12.

- The Fiscal Year 2025 grant round will continue to offer earmarked funding opportunities for select projects located within the City of Dallas and Panhandle areas. Each earmarked fund has its own priorities: City of Dallas earmarked funds prioritize historic properties with military ties (specifically U.S. Navy); the Panhandle area earmarked funds to prioritize industrial sites related to Amarillo/Potter County and Randall County science and/or military history.

"Now is the time to plan your project for the upcoming grant round and let us know about your endangered Texas resource!" Brummett says.

For more information about the Texas Preservation Trust Fund Grant Program, please contact Ashley Salie, Program Coordinator, at ashley.salie@thc.texas.gov or 512-463-6047. For detailed information about the program and its project categories, visit thc.texas.gov/tptf.

ABOVE, FROM LEFT: The Reedy Chapel in Galveston, the Madison Cabin in Austin, the E.S. Levy Building in Galveston, and the Texas Beyond History homepage.