

MINUTES
TEXAS HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD
October 7, 2022

The Texas Historical Records Advisory Board (THRAB) meeting was called to order at 10:00am. on October 7, 2022, in room 209 of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) at 1201 Brazos St. Austin, Texas 78701.

Members Present: Jelain Chubb, coordinator; Linda Barrett, Malinda Cowen, Phyllis Earles, Leslie Stapleton, Tara Turk-Zaafran, Carla Alvarez, Mike Miller

Members Absent: Chris McDougal

Also Present: Gloria Meraz, Director and State Librarian; Tim Gleisner, Assistant State Librarian; Guests: Coyote Shook, Alejandra Martinez, Daniel Zmud, Jim Kuhn, Harry Ransom Center; Daniel Alonzo, Mark Lambert, General Land Office; Aaron Choate, UT Libraries; Amy Bowman, Briscoe Center for American History; Ada Negrararu, James Williamson, Southern Methodist University; Molly Hults, Austin History Center, Kristi Nedderman, Dallas Municipal Archives, Penny Castillo, Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO).

Staff Support: Peggy Price, principal assistant

1. Welcome and introductions

Jelain Chubb welcomed everyone, introduced Gloria Meraz and Tim Gleisner from TSLAC, and asked the board members to introduce themselves.

2. Roll call for members and establishment of quorum

Chubb called roll and established a quorum with Linda Barrett, Malinda Cowen, Leslie Stapleton, Phyllis Earles, Carla Alvarez, Tara Turk-Zaafran, and Mike Miller.

3. Approve minutes of the June 7, 2022 meeting

Mike Miller moved to approve the minutes and Leslie Stapleton seconded. The board unanimously approved the minutes for the June 7, 2022 meeting.

4. Public comment.

There were no comments from the public.

5. Consideration of resolutions and certificates of appreciation

There were no recommendations for resolutions or certificates of appreciation.

6. Recognition of Archival Awards for 2022

Chubb invited Peggy Price to introduce the 2022 THRAB archival award recipients and Linda Barrett to distribute award trophies to the representatives from each institution. THRAB awarded the Archival Award of Excellence to the University of Texas' Harry Ransom Center for the Radcliffe Hall and Lady Trowbridge Papers project, accepted by Jim Kuhn, Alejandra Martinez, Coyote Shook, and Daniel Zmud. The Advocacy for Archives Award went to the consortium Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO), accepted by Aaron Choate, Molly Hults, Kristi Nedderman, Amy Bowman, Ada Negraru, James

Williamson, and Rebecca Romanchuk. The 2022 David B. Gracey II Distinguished Archival Service Award went to the Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA), accepted by representatives Daniel Alonzo, Mark Lambert Kristy Sorensen, and Brian Stauffer. The meeting was paused for five minutes while award recipients posed for photos and took their leave.

7. Update on National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)

Chubb updated the board on the NHPRC. The Archivist of the United States, David Ferriero retired in April and President Biden nominated Colleen Joy Shogan as the next Archivist. She is the first woman to be so nominated and is going through the confirmation process. Regarding the budget, the NHPRC is funded through December 16 under the continuing resolution. NHPRC will meet in November to consider state programming grants, which they may award contingent on funding from Congress. There was no update to the 2021 strategic plan. Chubb also mentioned that NHPRC had recently published THRAB's Texas Archives Month poster on its social media channels.

8. Update on the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's (TSLAC) activities

TSLAC Director and State Librarian Gloria Meraz invited new Assistant State Librarian, Tim Gleisner, to tell the board about himself. Gleisner shared his background in library and archives, including some work with the Michigan State Historical Records Advisory Board (M-SHRAB). Meraz provided an update on TSLAC activities. She discussed requests in the budget, including an increase in staff salaries, additional positions, and support for Shoal Creek facility expansion. Meraz took questions from the board and discussion ensued.

Chubb added information regarding additional space at the Shoal Creek facility which is called the State Records Center. TSLAC needs additional space for archival storage and other state agencies, such as the Texas Historical Commission and Texas Parks and Wildlife, also need collection storage space. Chubb participates on a work group with representatives from the various state entities to develop a report on collaborative collection storage spaces. The interim report in September proposed two plans of action, one for TSLAC storage based on records and another for the remaining groups to share collection storage of mainly objects. One large facility was estimated at around \$200 million compared to two facilities estimated at around \$100 million. Another component of a potential collaboration that interested the legislature was a shared catalog containing all of the collections. The estimate for that was \$17 million and an effort that would take about 20 years. The final report is due in December. Chubb will share the report with the board.

Chubb went on to inform the board that the TSLAC commissioners were meeting in November and would be considering a request to post two new rules for public comment in the Texas register. The State Archives has two new rules, or one is a revision to rules for loans, and the other is a new rule that governs deaccession procedures. Anyone may offer comment during the 30-day period, after which the commissioners will review them and consider whether or not to approve the rules.

9. Discussion of current State Board Programming Grant activities

Chubb updated the board on the report submitted to NHPRC August 31, 2022. THRAB achieved all objectives not prevented by COVID. That grant concluded and the current grant that started July 1, 2022 is in progress. The first two objectives were producing the Texas Archives Month poster and presenting THRAB's archival awards. Price reported that the Leslie Stapleton, Phyllis Earles, and Mike Miller developed the poster and webpage on the theme concept of analyzing primary sources. The board provided feedback on the poster and discussed the topic of primary sources and publicizing the poster. Chubb opened a discussion on National History Day which will be held April 15, 2023 in Austin and

requested volunteers to serve as judges. Leslie Stapleton, Tara Turk-Zaafraan, and Malina Cowan offered to participate. Another objective will be sponsoring a session at the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) annual meeting in 2023. Chubb shared with the board that she will be presenting a session with the General Land Office's Mark Lambert at TSHA in 2024 on the Archives War. Other updates included participating in the upcoming DFW Archives Bazaar in Fort Worth on November 6, 2022 and other bazaars in the future. Stapleton mentioned that San Antonio will hold their first in October of 2023. Another objective Chubb will be working on is the preservation assessments with Rebecca Elder. TARO will conduct three training workshops in the spring of 2023 in West Texas, the Rio Grande Valley, and the Panhandle. THRAB will contract with the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) to offer the Basics of Archives online course again and focus on the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUS), Hispanic-Serving institutions, and the Rio Grande Valley. THRAB will hold three board meetings in 2023, with February as a teleconference and perhaps Galveston for the June meeting. The board took a break for lunch.

10. Discussion of updates to THRAB's Strategic Plan

Chubb led a discussion on the strategic plan. Continuing partnerships with affiliate groups like the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA), the Texas Library and Archives Foundation (TLAF), and the Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA). The new grant objectives include supporting an archival intern through SSA. Another strategy is to develop a Communications Plan to educate policy makers and educators and the public about the value of archives and records management. THRAB has not yet developed talking points and other tools for records keepers to use to educate others. THRAB may want to reconsider that action item and shift to providing advocacy training workshops for records keepers. Also meeting with elected officials, which only certain members of the board can do, may be considered as legislative session begins in 2023. Other topics included promoting the awards program to solicit more applicants, partnering with SAA and AASLH on training, surveying smaller institutions about their needs, and perhaps offering more training on grant management and mentorship. It was suggested that Humanities Texas might offer the training. THRAB might more closely align with the TSLAC's Texas Treasures grant process. Chubb will reach out to the program administrator and remind them of THRAB's offer to review applications.

Board members engaged in a planning session. Some points made included: Identifying past initiatives that THRAB no longer needs to continue, perhaps continue but scale back, or aim toward passing on knowledge through the "train the trainer" process to reach those who have been on waiting lists for workshops. Additionally, THRAB may offer mentoring for the grant process and lead a similar initiative with surveys. THRAB would conduct a survey of institutions to determine needs that THRAB may address. The survey may be aimed at particular types of repositories, such as at HBCUs and Hispanic-Serving institutions. THRAB may also follow up with funding and training possibilities similar to the guidance with preservation assessments. The survey would reveal categories of need that could be addressed through different grant cycles with perhaps one element each year.

Chubb introduced the topic America 250 in 2026 to consider any tie-ins with THRAB that year. Chubb serves on a committee with others in leadership at cultural institutions in Texas which is working to develop a board and identify the role of Texas in the celebrations. THRAB and/or its members may consider participating and identify how to best engage with the anniversary. THRAB's poster for 2026 could connect to the anniversary or the 2025 poster could anticipate the upcoming celebration. The group discussed ideas such as milestones in a timeline, the parallels of Texas independence and U.S. independence, and the focus on records to tell the story of history.

The board discussed how to appeal to those joining the work force to consider the archival professions. Perhaps Texas History Day would be an opportunity to share information about the field. Other ideas included creating videos and promotional tools on archival topics.

11. Discussion of future meeting dates and locations

Board members discussed locations for future meetings. The February meeting will be held via teleconference. The June meeting may be held in Fredericksburg with the October meeting possibly in Galveston.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:56 pm.