

TEXAS HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD

Improving the Historical Records Infrastructure in Texas Strategic Plan for 2024-2026

Approved June 21, 2024

VISION STATEMENT

The future of Texas is one in which all Texans are knowledgeable about their heritage and where the documentary record of the past and the present is valued, preserved, and made universally accessible.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Texas Historical Records Advisory Board is to promote awareness of historically valuable records through education and training; to foster and support the identification, preservation and effective public access to these records; and to advocate and encourage collaborative funding and resource sharing.

AUTHORITY

Governor Dolph Briscoe established the nine-member Texas Historical Records Advisory Board (THRAB) in 1976, with all members appointed by the governor, by means of an executive order so that the state could receive grant funds from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) in support of archival and records management programs. In 1997, the board was officially established in state statute within the Texas Government Code, Chapter 441, Subchapter N. In accordance with that statute, the Governor appoints three members of the board and the Director and Librarian appoints the remaining six. In addition to continuing the board's responsibility for reviewing grant proposals submitted to the NHPRC, that legislation also established the board as the central advisory body for historical records planning and projects funding by the NHPRC that are developed and implemented in the state, and gave the board responsibility for fostering and supporting cooperative networks and programs dealing with historical records in conjunction with the goals of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

GOALS and STRATEGIES

Goal #1 – Effectively communicate the importance of historical records to stakeholders

Strategy – Partner with allied organizations to coordinate and disseminate information on the value and significance of historical records.

Strategy – Use social media to educate the public about the value of archives and records management, and careers in those fields.

Action Items

- Sponsor educational sessions that focus on archival records and have THRAB informational booths at regional and state historical association meetings.
- Participate in Texas’s America 250 activities in 2025 and 2026 by developing talking points and educational tools that highlight the importance of archives and career opportunities in those fields.
- Participate in regional Archives Bazaars and similar programming activities throughout the state.
- Increase Archives Month promotion on social media platforms.

Goal #2 – Promote the use of best practices through education and training

Strategy – Provide archivists with opportunities for in person and web-based training at basic, intermediate, and advanced levels.

Strategy – Partner with allied organizations to provide archival institutions with information and tools that support continued development.

Action Items

- Provide training opportunities that develop digital skills and competencies.
- Provide training opportunities that develop the management skills of archivists and records managers.
- Produce info-videos on archival topics such as personal digital archiving geared to the general public.

Goal #3 - Promote the use of Texas’s historical records

Strategy – Provide record keepers with the tools and opportunities to facilitate and expand access to collections.

Strategy – Advocate for greater access to historical records.

Action Items

- Promote and participate in application reviews for the TexTreasuries grant program.
- Support continued development of Texas Archives Resources Online (TARO) catalog.
- Encourage applications for digitization grants.
- Engage County Historical Commissions through education and training opportunities.
- Identify threats to access to historical records.
- Advocate for open records and accessibility.

Goal #4 – Encourage additional public and private funding for preservation of and access to Texas’s historical records

Strategy – Advocate for increased financial support for historical records programs and activities.

Strategy – Provide record-keepers with training, tools, and opportunities to help them advocate for authority and resources.

Strategy – Promote the preparation and submission of grant applications to national, state, and local funding sources.

Action Items

- Review grant proposals presented to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) by Texas institutions and organizations.
- Recognize and publicize outstanding work in archives through the archival awards program.
- Encourage the submission of collaborative grant proposals to NHPRC.
- Encourage the Texas State Library and Archives Commission’s efforts to seek state funding for the preservation of historical records throughout the state.
- Advocate for adequate funding of archival and records management programs.