

TEXAS HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD

Improving the Historical Records Infrastructure in Texas Strategic Plan for 2013-2015

Approved December 10, 2012

VISION STATEMENT

The future of Texas is one in which all Texans are knowledgeable about their heritage, and where the 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 value and significance of historical records

Strategy - Develop partnerships with affiliate groups to coordinate and disseminate information on a variety of topics.

Strategy - Develop a communications plan to educate policy makers, managers, educators, and the public about the value of archives and records management.

Action Items

- Establish a Legislative Affairs Committee in partnership with other organizations, including the Texas Library Association and the Texas State Historical Association’s Archives Committee.
- Develop case statements, talking points and other tools that can be used to educate officials at all levels of government.
- Meet with elected officials to discuss policy and funding needs.
- Promote Archives Month through the creation of an annual poster and on the THRAB web page.
- Create an awards/recognition program.

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

Strategy - Partner with professional organizations to identify needs and provide opportunities for in person and web-based training at basic, intermediate and advanced levels.

Strategy - Develop a framework for ongoing communication and a statewide best practices exchange.

Action Items

- Conduct a series of “Basics of Archives” Continuing Education workshops throughout the state.
- Sponsor workshops on managing digitization projects.
- Promote and coordinate training opportunities in the management of electronic records.
- Conduct a series of NHPRC grant application workshops.
- Utilize the Connecting to Collections repository survey to identify training needs and communicate information.
- Convene a “best practices forum” for small repositories.

Goal #3 - Promote Collaboration among repositories

Strategy - Develop a listing (database) that can be updated by registered users; could possibly be done through the TSHA Archives committee.

Strategy - Conduct a forum for the exchange of information, possibly in conjunction with the TSHA annual meeting or other statewide meeting.

Action Items

- Conduct regional forums to promote communication and collaboration among those responsible for records.
- Encourage the submission of collaborative grant proposals to NHPRC.

Goal #4 - Financial resources must be allocated for preservation of and access to the valuable historical records in Texas

Strategy - Secure additional public and private funding for historical records programs and activities.

Action Items

- Encourage preparation and submission of grant applications to national, state, and local funding sources.
- Review grant proposals presented to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission by Texas institutions and organizations.
- Encourage the Texas State Library and Archives Commission to seek state funding for the preservation of historical records throughout the state.
- Advocate for sufficient funding of archival and records management programs.