

TEXAS HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD

Improving the Historical Records Infrastructure in Texas Strategic Plan for 2019-2022

Approved, October 4, 2019

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 – Continue 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.

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

Action Items

- Establish partnerships with other organizations, including the Texas State Historical Association’s Archives Committee, Friends of Libraries and Archives of Texas, and Society of Southwest Archivists.
- Develop case statements, talking points and other tools that can be used by record-keepers to educate resource allocators.
- Provide advocacy training workshops and webinars for record-keepers.
- Meet with elected officials to discuss policy and funding needs.
- Promote and participate in Archives Month programming activities throughout the state.
- Promote and expand awards/recognition program.

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

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

Strategy – Partner with the Texas Historical Commission to connect with and provide regional training on records issues to county historical commissions.

Action Items

- Provide training opportunities that develop digital skills and competencies.
- Provide training opportunities that develop the management skills of archivists and records managers.
- Offer a series of AASLH’s “Basics of Archives” Continuing Education workshops.
- Provide regular program sessions or workshops at THC Real Places Conference

- Promote training opportunities through THRAB's social media and online presence.
- Produce info-videos on archival topics such as personal digital archiving geared to the general public.

Goal #3 - Promote and preserve access to 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 TexTreasures 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.
- Develop advocacy award.

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.

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.
- 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.