



Press Release

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Texas State Library and Archives Commission
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Texas State Library and Archives Commission receives \$500,000 grant for Conservation Lab

Lorenzo de Zavala
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AUSTIN, Texas – The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) received a \$500,000 grant award, to be issued over a three-year period, from the Summerlee Foundation of Dallas for the new Conservation Lab and Conservation Program at the Lorenzo de Zavala Building.

The lab will be the archival equivalent of a “hospital” where documents, photographs, maps and other materials that are in need of stabilization and protection from corrosion and deterioration will be treated. The lab will implement different methods to treat historical documents to ensure the long-term availability of materials in the Texas State Archives. Treatments include cleaning, mending, deacidifying and encapsulation.

“We thank the Summerlee Foundation for its support in saving Texas history,” said Peggy D. Rudd, TSLAC director and librarian. “We have thousands of 19th century maps and ledger books, Civil War Muster Rolls, photographs, early Supreme Court Case and Legislative Bill Files and other one-of-a-kind and irreplaceable documents that need our attention because of their fragile condition.”

The creation of physical space for the TSLAC Conservation Lab is part of the current \$15.5 million legislative appropriated renovation of the Lorenzo de Zavala Building that is in progress. It will be located on the southeast corner of the first floor and will have a glass window to enable the public to view conservation activities.

The grant will be used for non-construction items to outfit the state-of-the-art Conservation Lab with general conservation tools, furnishings, lab equipment, book conservation and binding equipment, microscopes, isolation glove box, tracking software, hazardous and flammable proof storage, water filtration system, UV lighting filters, washers, freezers and a desiccating oven.

The Texas State Archives include public records dating from the mid eighteenth century and currently has over 60,000 cubic feet of archives. TSLAC acquires 1,350 cubic feet of new materials for processing and storage each year, the equivalent of 211 four-drawer file cabinets.

“Without conservation, a large portion of the treasures of Texas history will be lost forever,” said Rudd.

Along with the lab, TSLAC plans to exhibit the tools and methods used for conservation as a part of its public education program. The program will also acquaint the public with the importance of conserving historical materials and the value of their own personal family documents and materials.

Created in 1988 by Dallas philanthropist Annie Lee Roberts, the Summerlee Foundation is a private, non-profit charitable foundation restricted to programs in animal protection and Texas history.

The grant was awarded to TSLAC's Friends of Libraries & Archives of Texas which is in the midst of a \$10 million Capital Campaign for items not covered by the legislative appropriation, such as furniture, compact shelving, fixtures and equipment for the Lorenzo de Zavala building.

To join or make a contribution to the Friends of Libraries & Archives of Texas, contact Charlotte McCann, director of development, at (512) 936-2505 or by email at friends@tsl.state.tx.us. More information can be found at www.texaslibraryfriends.org.

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ABOUT THE TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION

TSLAC helps Texans find the information they seek. The people of Texas utilize TSLAC services and programs to effectively use information and materials that improve their lives, the lives of their families, and their communities. Since 1909, TSLAC has carried out a commitment of making information work for all Texans by providing history and genealogical services, federal and state government documents, electronic research, and library services to Texans of all ages who are unable to read standard print material due to visual, physical, or reading disabilities. For more information, go to <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us> or email pio@tsl.state.tx.us.