



**NEWS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **TEXAS DECLARATION, TRAVIS LETTER EXHIBIT EXTENDED** **Historic display draws thousands to state library**

Lorenzo de Zavala  
State Archives and  
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**AUSTIN** – The Texas State Library and Archives Commission’s exhibit of the original Texas Declaration of Independence and William B. Travis letter from the Alamo has proven so popular, the historic treasures will remain on display through April 29 at the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building, 1201 Brazos St.

The lobby exhibit, which also features other artifacts from the Republic of Texas era, is available for public viewing weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

“The number of visitors to see the displays has been tremendous, especially school groups using them as teaching and learning tools,” says TSLAC Director and Librarian Peggy D. Rudd. “Students, teachers and history buffs have clearly appreciated this rare opportunity to see the actual documents that shaped our great state.”

The declaration and Travis letter, part of an exhibit commemorating the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Texas’ independence, originally were to be displayed through the April 21 anniversary of San Jacinto Day, which commemorates the final battle fought during the 1836 Texas Revolution. But more than 3,000 people visited the library and archives to view the state’s most valuable historic documents, including state Sen. Craig Estes of Wichita Falls, who was visibly moved while reading a copy of Travis’ letter as he stood by the original.

“From a preservation standpoint and to protect them from rapid fading, we need to return them back to the archives,” says state archivist Jelain Chubb. “We will have them on display periodically, but exposure to continuous light is not good for these icons of Texas history.”

Also on display are Sam Houston’s 1861 proclamation confirming Texas’ secession from the United States, passports of significant Texans, letters, circulars, documents regarding Texans of African descent, a Texas cavalry battle flag and replicas of Alamo and San Jacinto battlefield maps drawn by Andrew Jackson Houston.

The next display will be announced in early May. For more information, Lynne Margolis at (512) 463-5462, [lmargolis@tsl.state.tx.us](mailto:lmargolis@tsl.state.tx.us).

**PHOTO CAPTION:** The Texas Declaration of Independence display in the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building lobby. Images from the lobby’s “Texas Moves Toward Statehood” mural are reflected in the display-case glass.

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### **ABOUT THE TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION**

Formed in 1909, TSLAC is committed to giving Texans access to information and programs they can use to improve their lives and communities. We provide historical and genealogical search assistance, federal and state government documents, electronic research and library services to all Texans, including those who cannot read standard print materials. For more information, visit [www.tsl.state.tx.us](http://www.tsl.state.tx.us).