

# Resources for Historic Preservation

*Research, Funding, and Other Support, 2017*

## Organizations with Resources

Organization	Link	Description
National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) <i>National</i>	<a href="#">link</a>	The NTHP is a national advocacy group for preserving buildings and neighborhoods with a field office in Houston. They promote the concept of ReUrbanism, or the preservation and rehabilitation of existing buildings to enhance neighborhood quality of life and character.
Main Street America <i>National</i>	<a href="#">link</a>	<b>Membership based</b> - A subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Main Street America encourages and empowers local groups to preserve their main streets through training and technical assistance (along the lines of their <a href="#">Four Point Approach</a> ). Main Street America members are also given access to tools, trainings, discounts, funding opportunities, a fundraising toolkit, and inroads into the Main Street America network. Locally, Rosenberg, Bay City, Huntsville and Sealy are all members.
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) <i>National</i>	<a href="#">link</a>	A federal entity, the ACHP promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our nation's historic resources. They offer guidance on national regulations and statutes regarding historic preservation.
Texas Historical Commission (THC) <i>State</i>	<a href="#">link</a>	THC is the state level historic preservation office and offers a wide range of resources and services for local governments. THC is also the state liaison to <a href="#">county historical commissions</a> . Some of their programs and resources include approval of historic designations, the Certified Local Government program, the Town Square Initiative, the <a href="#">Downtown Online Inventory</a> , the Texas Preservation Trust Fund, and building code resources among others.
Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) <i>State</i>	<a href="#">link</a>	The TSHA does not have an explicit focus on historic preservation, but offers a broad range of resources for any research into Texas history through the online free <i>Explore Texas History Resource Center</i> . This can be useful when finding information about the history of current structures.
Texas Main Street Program (TMSP) <i>State</i>	<a href="#">link</a>	<b>Membership based</b> - Membership as a TMSP comes with a wide range of technical assistance and education for members including design services, technical consultation with business and property owners, strategic planning, program capacity building and organizational management assistance, on-site training, and much more. Rosenberg, Bay City, Huntsville, and Sealy are all local members. TMSP members are also eligible for supportive services from the <a href="#">Town Square Initiative</a> .

Houston History Alliance (HHA) <i>Local</i>	<a href="#">link</a>	The HHA was originally a task force formed by Mayor Bill White, but evolved into an independent non-profit. They refer to themselves as the connection point and catalyst between the general public and Houston’s many history-centric organizations whose mission it is to tell a particular part of the city’s story. They maintain archives and the <i>Handbook of Houston</i> . They also offer resource about research at the neighborhood scale.
Houston Mod <i>Local</i>	<a href="#">link</a>	Houston Mod is a non- <div data-bbox="863 300 1980 342" style="background-color: black; height: 26px; width: 100%;"></div> legacy and seeks support from members and the general public to achieving this goal.
Preservation Houston <i>Local</i>	<a href="#">link</a>	Preservation Houston is the city’s only Houston-wide organization advocating for historic preservation and has voiced strong support for better public policy and protection of irreplaceable historic resources. Preservation Houston also offers technical assistance and advice on various preservation processes for organizations and individuals through their Historic Neighborhood Resources program. Preservation Houston works to gain historic district and landmark designations through the City of Houston. City of Houston has a process for granting historic district and landmark designations at the municipal level.
Houston Metropolitan Research Center <i>Local</i>	<a href="#">link</a>	The HMRC is housed in the Texas Room of the City of Houston Central Library and houses regional research resources, including maps and newspapers.
Houston-Galveston Area Council <i>Local</i>	<a href="#">link</a>	The Houston-Galveston Area Council offers a range of resources for communities looking to revitalize their historic downtowns and main streets, particularly through quarterly workshops of the Bringing Back Main Street Program.

## Research Resources

<b>Title</b>	<b>Link</b>	<b>Description</b>
A Guide to Researching Your Neighborhood History	<a href="#">link</a>	From the Houston History Alliance (2009) - Although parts of this document are Houston-centric, it does offer a great introduction to general strategies for building- and neighborhood-level historic preservation resources. The guide also reviews state and federal designations and details other resources available for communities interested in historic preservation.
Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO)	<a href="#">link</a>	Housed at the University of Texas, the Texas Archival Resources Online makes it easy to search for specific historic topics in the states many archival, manuscript and museum collections. Searchable repositories include those at the University of Texas, Baylor University, the Austin Library, and many more.
TXGenWeb Project	<a href="#">link</a>	The Texas Genealogy Web Project provides a wealth of county-by-county resources.
The Portal to Texas History from the University of North Texas	<a href="#">link</a>	This website offers direct links to primary resources from a simple search.

## Funding Resources

Compilation of funding resources and strategies from the Texas Historical Commission [here](#) and specific strategies for funding a main street program [here](#).

Source	Link	Description	Amount Awarded
Community Facilities Programs	<a href="#">link</a>	<p>Community Facilities Programs offer direct loans, loan guarantees and grants to develop or improve essential public services and facilities. Public bodies, non-profit organizations and federally recognized American Indian Tribes can use the funds to construct, expand or improve facilities that provide health care, education, public safety, and public services. Projects include fire and rescue stations, village and town halls, health care clinics, hospitals, adult and child care centers, assisted living facilities, rehabilitation centers, public buildings, schools, libraries, and many other community based initiatives. Financing may also cover the costs for land acquisition, professional fees, and purchase of equipment. These facilities not only improve the basic quality of life, and assist in the development and sustainability of rural America.</p> <p><b>Direct Loans, Loan Guarantees &amp; Grants</b> (<a href="#">link</a>): Grants, loan guarantees, or direct fixed-rate loans for rural cities with no more than 20,000 residents. Grants are awarded on a scale, see link.</p> <p><b>Technical Assistance &amp; Training Grant</b> (<a href="#">link</a>): Grants for technical assistance and training with respect to essential community facility programs for rural cities and non-profits in municipalities with no more than 20,000 residents. (Maximum grant of \$250,000 with no match requirement).</p> <p><b>Economic Impact Initiative Grant</b> (<a href="#">link</a>): This program provides funding to assist in the construction, expansion or improvement of essential community facilities in rural communities with extreme unemployment and severe economic depression. An essential community facility is one that provides an essential service to the local community, is needed for the orderly development of the community, serves a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings. Eligible communities include rural communities</p>	See links for details

with no more than 20,000 residents and have a “Not Employed Rate” of 19.5% or greater.

<p>Transportation Alternatives Program</p> <p><i>Federal – U.S. Department of Transportation</i></p>	<p><a href="#">link</a></p> <p>The federal Transportation Alternatives (TA) program funds 10 different types of transportation-related activities. The Historic preservation and rehabilitation activity, communities rehabilitate and restore transportation facilities significant to the history of transportation in America. These rehabilitated facilities help to educate the public and to give communities a unique sense of character that attracts tourists and generates a vibrant economic life. Since the Transportation Enhancements (TE) program began in 1992, approximately 17 percent of available TE/TA funds have been programmed for historic preservation and rehabilitation projects.</p>	<p>Project sponsors are expected to match 20% of project cost</p>
<p>Federal and State Preservation Tax Incentives</p> <p><i>Federal/State – National Park Service, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Texas Historical Commission</i></p>	<p><a href="#">link</a></p> <p>Tax exemptions for rehabilitation of historic buildings exist at the federal and state level. Some municipalities also have local preservation incentives.</p>	<p><b>Federal:</b> 20% income tax credit for the rehabilitation of historic, income-producing buildings, and a 10% income tax credit for rehabilitation of a non-historic building.</p> <p><b>State:</b> 25% tax credit for the rehabilitation of historic buildings; A state sales tax exemption on labor is available for buildings on the National Register of Historic Place.</p> <p>See <a href="#">this document</a> for a deeper definition of funding requirements.</p>
<p>Rural Texas Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)</p> <p><i>Federal, State Administered – U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Texas Department of Agriculture</i></p>	<p><a href="#">link</a></p> <p>The primary objective of the Texas Department of Agriculture Community Development Block Grant program is to develop viable communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environments, and expanding economic opportunities principally for persons of low- to moderate-income.</p> <p>Eligible applicants are non-entitlement cities under 50,000 in population and non-entitlement counties that have a non-metropolitan population under 200,000 and are not eligible for direct CDBG funding from HUD may apply for funding through any of the Texas CDBG programs.</p>	<p>Not specified</p>

<p>Certified Local Government Grants</p> <p><i>Federal, State Administered – National Park Service, Texas Historical Commission</i></p>	<p><a href="#">link</a></p>	<p><b>Membership Based</b> - The Certified Local Government (CLG) Program is a local, state, and federal government partnership designed to help cities and counties develop high standards of preservation to protect a wide range of important historic properties. Local governments that participate in the <a href="#">CLG Program</a> act independently to develop and maintain a successful preservation program. The Texas Historical Commission administers the program at the state level and the National Park Service is the responsible federal agency. Texas municipalities that achieve CLG status from the NPS are eligible to receive valuable technical assistance, training and matching grants tied to developing and maintaining a local comprehensive preservation planning program. The City of Houston, the City of Galveston, and Matagorda County are all CLG certified municipalities.</p>	<p>Grants typically range from \$2,000 to \$30,000. Find examples of grant recipients from 2015 <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p>Main Street Improvements Program</p> <p><i>State – Texas Department of Agriculture</i></p>	<p><a href="#">link</a></p>	<p>The Texas Department of Agriculture offers funds to enhance livability and install public infrastructure in historic main streets. Eligible applicants are non-entitlement local governments that are not currently participating in, nor are eligible to participate in the entitlement portion of the federal Community Development Block Grant Program.</p> <p>Applicants interested specifically in funds for <b>downtown revitalization</b> must be an incorporated municipality and NOT be designated as an official Texas Historical Main Street City. All proposed infrastructure improvements must be on public property located in a designated downtown district (see link for more details).</p> <p><b>Membership based</b> - Applicants interested specifically in funds for <b>main street revitalization</b> must be an incorporated municipality WITH designation as an official Texas Historical Commission Main Street City.</p>	<p>Awards range from \$50,000 to \$250,000 and must be matched by the applicant.</p>

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All proposed infrastructure improvements must be on public property located in a designated main street district (see link for more details).

<b>Texas Preservation Trust Fund</b> <i>State – Texas Historical Commission</i>	<a href="#">link</a>	The Texas Historical Commission awards grants for preservation projects from the Texas Preservation Trust Fund (TPTF). Grants are distributed to qualified applicants for acquisition, survey, restoration, preservation, planning, and heritage education activities leading to the preservation of historic properties and archeological sites. Competitive grants are awarded on a one-to-one match basis and are paid as reimbursement of eligible expenses incurred during the project.	Grants are typically between \$10,000 and \$30,000. Find examples of 2016 grant recipients <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Community Enhancement Fund</b> <i>State – Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	<a href="#">link</a>	<p>This funding opportunity from the Texas Department of Agriculture assists communities in achieving the goals of the TxCDBG program by developing enhancements that address any of the following needs: (1) Public Health; (2) Community Centers; (3) Workforce Development/Education; (4) Public Safety; and/or (5) Renewable Energy (as part of a public facility).</p> <p>Eligible applicants are non-entitlement local governments. Non-entitlement cities that are not participating in urban county programs through existing participation agreements are eligible applicants (unless the city's population is counted towards the urban county CDBG allocation).</p> <p>Non-entitlement cities are located predominately in rural areas and are cities with populations less than 50,000 thousand persons; cities that are not designated as a central city of a metropolitan statistical area; and cities that are not participating in urban county programs. Non-entitlement counties are also predominately rural in nature and are counties that generally have fewer than 200,000 persons in the non-entitlement cities and unincorporated areas located in the county.</p> <p>Priority is given to those applicants with strong partnerships, with a high number of low- and moderate income residents, and a proven source of money to leverage or match the grant.</p>	Minimum award is \$50,000; Maximum award is \$500,000

<p>Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program (THCPP)</p> <p><i>State – Texas Historical Commission</i></p>	<p><a href="#">link</a></p>	<p>The THCPP provides partial matching grants to Texas counties for the restoration of their historic county courthouses. The program awards three types of grants: <i>planning</i> grants for the county to produce architectural plans and specifications; <i>construction</i> grants for the county to undertake construction of some kind; and <i>emergency</i> grants to address issues endangering a historic courthouse or its occupants. The program awards planning and construction grants based upon the sum of scores assigned to 20 criteria, and emergency grants based primarily upon the score assigned to the endangerment category.</p>	<p>Grants between \$450,000 and \$5,000,000 in 2015 (<a href="#">here</a>).</p>
<p>Planning and Capacity Building Fund</p> <p><i>State – Texas Department of Agriculture</i></p>	<p><a href="#">link</a></p>	<p>The Planning and Capacity Building Fund is a competitive grant program for local public facility and housing planning activities. Localities apply for financial assistance to prepare a “comprehensive plan” or any of its components. Section 105(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, outlines all the generally eligible activities. Eligible activities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Address needed local planning elements;</li> <li>2. Assess local needs;</li> <li>3. Build or improve local capacity; or</li> <li>4. Develop strategies to address local needs.</li> </ol>	<p>Varying match requirements (up to 20%) depending on the population of the community; Grant maximum of \$55,000.</p>
<p>Downtown Public Spaces Improvement Program</p> <p><i>Local – Houston-Galveston Area Council</i></p>	<p><a href="#">link</a></p>	<p>The Houston-Galveston Area Council offers some grants to help municipalities, counties, and non-profit organizations enhance public spaces such as gateways, parks, waterfronts and business districts. Eligible enhancements must be part of a plan or strategy to improve the area to stimulate reinvestment and commercial activity, to restore and preserve the historic character of the community and to improve the appearance of downtown and gateway areas.</p>	<p>Matching grant program up to 50% of the estimated project cost with a maximum of \$25,000 per project.</p>