



July 5, 2016

TO: Commissioners Court
FROM: Eric Nishimoto, Public Information Officer
RE: County Historical Commission Grant Program 2016 Recommendations

Attached are the CCHC's recommendations to the Commissioners Court for their 2016 historical grants program awardees. The CCHC recommends ten grant awards totaling \$25,000.

2016-2017 Grant Recipients

Ten applicants requested \$27,772.80

The Collin County Historical Commission approved ten grant applications for \$25,000 on June 30.

1. Historic Preservation: Plano Old City Cemetery Association Wildflower Restoration Project Requested \$800 Grant \$800

The project for which grant funds are being request is a prairie wildflower restoration project within the confines of Plano Old City Cemetery, located at 12th and H in downtown Plano, Texas. Open areas in the cemetery have been set aside to restore native wildflowers and allow native grasses to regrow by ending regular mowing except for once a year in winter after seed has set and been allowed to fall to the ground. These areas will naturally increase over time and the success will encourage other cemeteries to adopt this approach to lower maintenance. This one time grant-funded activity will be accomplished by a hired contractor who will perform all of the activities including installing a temporary fence with signage around these specific areas in the cemetery that do not include marked graves so that they will not be mowed down while they grow in and bloom.

2 Historic Preservation: Anna Area Historic Preservation Society Anna Train Depot Restoration Requested \$5,000 Grant \$4,500

The 1885 Anna Depot belongs to the Anna Area Historical Preservation Society and is in a location behind the Anna Food Mart located in Highway 5 on the West side of the road. The Anna Depot is scheduled to be moved to a new location this year in order for remodeling to begin. The Depot is in desperate need of repair before it falls in complete ruin. Most of the agent's window is missing, but there is sufficient evidence that the window existed. The Anna Depot is 20 feet wide by 32 feet 8 inches plus a 4 feet x 8 feet 6 inch bay window at the south end of the depot.

The Anna Area Historic Preservation Society wants to restore the building to its original condition. When the restoration is complete, the building will be moved to a permanent location where the Anna Depot will serve as a museum and educational facility. This grant will be used to start the restoration process before the Anna Depot is moved. There is come exterior faming work that needs to be done before the depot can be moved to prevent further damage.

3. Historic Preservation: Bear Creek Cemetery Foundation Tree Removal and Pruning Requested \$2,000 Grant \$2,000

The Bear Creek Cemetery, near Nevada, contains about 180 marked graves. The cemetery contains a number of larger healthy trees, but there are also at least six large dead trees. The dead trees are close to many grave markers, so if they fall they could cause a lot of damage to our newly restored grave markers. There is also quite a bit of pruning and dead branch removal that needs to be done. With the help of volunteers we are able to keep up with most of the pruning, but need professional help with the really high branches. This a matter of safety for the workers, for visitors to the cemetery, and

for the grave markers. This work will not only improve the appearance of the cemetery, but also protect the historic grave markers. We want the memory of the early Empire community to live on.

4. Historic Preservation: Chambersville Cemetery Association Marker Repair, Cleaning and Leveling of Monuments Requested \$3,500 Grant \$3,000

The Chambersville Cemetery has been in use since 1853. It is located in Collin County approximately ten miles North West of McKinney, Texas, at the intersection County Road 206 and 281 and is an active cemetery. The Texas Cemetery Restoration, LLC under the leadership of James “Rusty” Brenner-Owner/Craftsman will undertake a project to repair, level and clean monuments in the Cemetery. In addition the markers will be restored to their original readability through marker cleaning. Community involvement would be encouraged by using the contact data base of community and family members to solicit additional funding to repair, level and clean family monuments. Weather permitting the project will begin in October 2016 and be completed in January 2017.

It is the goal of the Board of the Chambersville Cemetery Association to use the conservation prioritized repair recommendations provided by the Texas Cemetery Restoration LLC, and evaluate needed repairs to monuments on an on-going basis to ensure that the Cemetery remains a vital source of community pride and historical heritage for years to come.

5. Historic Education: Heritage Association of Frisco Interactive Museum Exhibit Requested \$1,445.30 Grant \$1,445

This grant will fund the creation of an interactive museum exhibit focused on the role of occupations and community in historical context for early childhood education. The exhibit was designed with specific learning outcomes used by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills curriculum (TEKS) for Social Studies in elementary schools. The Frisco Community Interactive Education exhibit will especially help children in grades Kindergarten through Third Grade.

A child chore table will be outfitted with objects used by residents in early 20th century Frisco available for children to touch alongside basic narratives explaining how the objects were used to complete chores. The objects include a wooden butter churn, a hand pump used on a family well, cooking utensils including a rolling pin, flour sifter, and rotary egg beater, and a horse brush to explain animal care. The costume cart role playing will include a custom made costume cart and approximately sixteen occupational themed costumes for a child four to ten. This part of the exhibit will include the purchase of new materials and the use of materials on hand to display information about key figures in Frisco’s early history. Some of the occupations include doctors, firefighters, police officers, train engineers, construction workers, ranchers, farmers and chefs.

Upon completion of the exhibit the project can continue to grow through partnership with the Heritage Association Frisco’s Third Sunday program. The mission of the Frisco Community Interactive Education exhibit is to educate the community about the history of Frisco and greater Collin County.

6. Historic Preservation: Heritage Guild of Collin County Repair Windows and Porch Ceiling for the Dulaney Cottage Requested \$4,000 Grant \$2,875

The 1870's Dulaney Cottage has suffered significant water damage. After consulting with several local builders and contractors, they stated that in order to seal and secure the home, at least 5 of the windows will need to be replaced, repaired, and flashed. Material that is necessary to complete this project include: metal flashing, period appropriate lumber to complement the existing architectural features, caulk and paint.

The front entrance of the Cottage is under a covered porch. Although the front porch is in relatively good condition, the porch ceiling, which is attached to the front elevation is in critical need of repair. Both water and varmint damage have caused the ceiling of the porch to crack, sag and rot. Repairing the ceiling will require purchasing large panels of bead board, nails, paint and caulk, in addition to labor. In addition, these repairs will preserve the cottage, its story and the legacy it will leave for future generations.

7. Historic Education: Heritage Farmstead Museum of Plano Publish a children's story book and create a children's tour Requested \$4,000 Grant \$3,400

The Heritage Farmstead Museum would like to produce a children's story book, **This Old Farm**. A book written for children ages 0-8 but enjoyed by people of all ages. The message of the book is heritage preservation. The audience will become attached to the old farmhouse and hope for a happy ending where it can be maintained for years to come. The Farmstead would like to sell the book with all monies going to the museum to help our historical education and preservation mission. Then the education department would like to build a new themed tour around the story. The children's tour will begin in the Historic Pole Barn with a reading of **This Old Farm**. The tour will continue with a visit with the farm animals, a chance to milk the cow, a look at all of the historic buildings and hands on activities that brings the past to life. At the end of the tour the children will be given a certificate identifying them as an official preservationist by the Heritage Farmstead Museum.

8. Historic Preservation and Education: The Murphy Historical Society Print Murphy Family Cemetery book Requested \$500.00 Grant \$500.00

The Murphy Historical Society has completed the renovation of the Murphy Family Cemetery. All broken stones have been repaired and all stones cleaned and leveled. The Society is awaiting the arrival of a stone to place beside the unreadable Boise D'arc marker of Minday McMillen.

The Old Family Cemetery Book will contain less than 200 pages printed in black ink on both sides of the page. A local Murphy business will print the books with a spiral spine and a clear plastic cover on the front of the book and black plastic cover on the back. Photographs of the gravestones will included and a professional photographer will take photographs of the grave stones and the cemetery.

The cemetery books will serve as a valuable resource for research and to preserve the memory of pioneer families buried in the cemetery. The recorded history will benefit both the county and the community.

9. Historic Preservation: John Abston Chapter National Society DAR Cleaning and Leveling Stones Requested \$4,081.50 Grant \$4,034

The Abston (Old Bellew) Cemetery, located one mile north of Lavon on Highway 78, is one of the historic sites of Collin County. John Abston (1761-1856) was the only soldier from the American Revolution buried in Collin County. The John Abston Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution is committed to restoring the headstones of these early settlers of Collin County located in the historic section of the Lakeview Cemetery. Much of the work involves safely cleaning stones, leveling, replacing failed masonry, replacing markers on bases, filling cracks and repairing broken pieces. Texas Cemetery Restoration, LLC evaluated the tombstones and provided a quote for the work for each headstone. About one-third of the work of \$3,723.65 was completed in January 2016.

Our plan is to complete the remaining two-thirds of the stones. Of the remaining stones, fourteen are rated as a #1 priority. There are two stones each with the name Jacob Stinebaugh and two with the name Nancy Stinebaugh. These actually represent four different individuals. In the final phase of restoration of the headstones, ten stones will need to be included in the future.

10. Historic Education: Collin County Historical Society and Museum Interactive History Classrooms Requested \$ 2,446 Grant \$ 2,446

The Collin County Historical Society and Museum would like to request funding to set up an educational program called Interactive History Classroom. The history museum has a vast collection of historical artifacts, photographs and documents related to the history of Collin County and Texas. This program is a unique way to reach beyond the walls of the museum and connect with students to share these resources by utilizing FaceTime, a free app available on the iPad. A docent at the museum will talk with the students and take them on a digital tour of a museum exhibit, artifacts, and photographs by using the camera on the iPad. Students can interact and ask questions with the museum docent. The teacher has the iPad or MacBook computer connected to a projector providing a large screen picture. The museum needs to purchase an iPad for the museum docents in order to conduct the tour.

In addition the museum would like to purchase a MacBook to be used by museum docents to create interactive books. These interactive books can be easily created through a free program, available only on the MacBook, called iBooks Author. The museum will upload these books on the museum website. Teachers and students can download these books onto their devices. Now students and teachers can be brought to the museum by technology.