

**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
*real places telling real stories*

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June 10, 2016

The Honorable Keith Self  
Collin County  
2300 Bloomdale Road, Suite 4192  
McKinney, TX 75071

Dear Judge Self,

We are pleased to inform you that the Collin County Historical Commission (CHC) is a recipient of our agency's **Distinguished Service Award** for accomplishments during the 2015 year of service!

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) gives this award to CHCs that document well-rounded preservation programs to save the history and character of Texas. Thank you for supporting your CHC in its efforts to promote county history and enrich the livelihood of communities across the state.

To mark this achievement, we ask that you **present the enclosed Distinguished Service Award (DSA) certificate to CHC appointees during a formal meeting of the commissioners court.** Public affirmation is the most effective way to show gratitude for a CHC's service to the county. A formal award ceremony honors CHC efforts, while promoting the positive aspects of county government.

Please share the accomplishments of your CHC with the public. **Enclosed is a press release** that can be used to promote the DSA award and the ways in which your CHC has served successfully. An electronic copy of this press release is posted here: <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/information-2015-dsa-winning-chcs>.

Congratulations to you and your CHC appointees on a job well done!

Sincerely,



Amy Hammons  
CHC Outreach Coordinator  
Texas Historical Commission

Enclosed: DSA certificate, Press Release, Promotional Suggestions



# PRESS! RELEASE

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**CONTACTS:** (COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION CHAIR NAME, PHONE, EMAIL)

Amy Hammons, 512-475-2692, amy.hammons@thc.state.tx.us

**DATE:** June 10, 2016

## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION HONORS (COUNTY NAME) COUNTY WITH DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

**AUSTIN, Texas**—The Texas Historical Commission (THC) has recognized the (COUNTY NAME) County Historical Commission (CHC) with a Distinguished Service Award for the 2015 year of service. The THC issues Distinguished Service Awards each year to CHCs that document well-rounded programs of history- and preservation-related projects. The award (WAS or WILL BE) presented during a meeting of the county commissioners court on (MONTH, DAY) to commend the CHC's dedicated service and stewardship of Texas' unique cultural and historic sites.

“County Historical Commissions are the backbone of historic preservation and education in communities across Texas,” said THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe. “The Texas Historical Commission is proud to recognize the exceptional efforts of the (COUNTY NAME) County Historical Commission in appreciation of its high level of performance during 2015.”

Texas CHCs provided more than 480,000 volunteer hours in 2015, which is an in-kind donation to the state valued at \$11.3 million. The THC assists CHCs statewide through programs and services that preserve Texas' heritage for the education, enjoyment, and economic benefit of present and future generations. The THC's advisory role to CHCs is outlined in the Texas Local Government Code, the statute that enables county commissioners courts to establish CHCs. The volunteer appointees, as directed by county officials, initiate and conduct programs that preserve the historic and cultural resources of Texas.

For more information about CHCs in Texas, visit [www.thc.state.tx.us/chcoutreach](http://www.thc.state.tx.us/chcoutreach) or contact the History Programs Division at 512-463-5853.

[www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us)

## PROMOTING COUNTY GOVERNMENT SUCCESS STORIES

Your CHC's Distinguished Service Award reflects positively on county government

### ▪ HONORING YOUR CHC FOR ITS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD (DSA)

Please include formal acknowledgement of your County Historical Commission (CHC) during an upcoming meeting of the county commissioners court. Public affirmation rewards appointees and county officials for this accomplishment.

Please make sure CHC appointees are given sufficient notice to attend the meeting in which formal acknowledgement is made. **Be sure to take pictures to document the joyful occasion!**

### ▪ DSA PRESS RELEASE

Promoting your CHC's award is an easy and effective way to promote county government and the services you provide the public. Enclosed in this mailer is a DSA press release to distribute to local media. This "Swiss cheese" press release allows you to insert your county name, acknowledgement date, and CHC chair contact information; **insert this information prior to sharing it** with local and regional media outlets. An electronic copy of this press release is posted on the THC website here: <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/information-2015-dsa-winning-chcs>.

### ▪ SOCIAL MEDIA PROMOTION

Most counties have a web presence and many CHCs host a Facebook page. These outlets are a great ways to promote the DSA award and the accomplishments which helped your CHC garner this award. Your CHC's 2015 annual report should have some examples of projects to share with the public.

### ▪ APPOINTEE CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Texas Historical Commission (THC), along with several other preservation organizations, provides educational opportunities to train CHC appointees for the job for which they were appointed. Please consider funding training opportunities for your appointees as an investment in your county.

Encourage your appointees, new and seasoned, to use the THC website. If you do not already, please consider providing Internet access to your CHCs so that they can access free educational material.

### ▪ QUESTIONS ABOUT CHCS

Call Amy Hammons (512.475-2692) or Candice Thaler (512.463-9052) with questions about CHC organizational or preservation issues. State statutes regarding CHCs, the appointee process, and a document listing suggested CHC appointee criteria is located on the THC website; locate this page by using the search box on our main page ([www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us)) and entering the key phrase, "CHC appointments."