



June 30, 2017

TO: Commissioners Court
FROM: Eric Nishimoto, Public Information Officer
RE: County Historical Commission Grant Program 2017 Recommendations

Attached are the CCHC's recommendations to the Commissioners Court for their 2017 historical grants program awardees. The CCHC recommends ten grant awards totaling \$28,400.

2017-2018 Grant Recipients

There is a total of \$28,400 in the grant fund this year. Plano Heritage Farmstead Museum returned \$3,400 of their 2016 grant which was added to the \$25,000 grant program of the Collin County Historical Commission.

Eight applicants requested \$29,948.95.

The Collin County Historical Commission approved eight grant applicants for \$28,400 on June 29.

1. 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 additional remodeling to be done. The Anna Depot is 20 feet wide by 32 feet 8 inches plus a 4 feet x 8 feet and a 6 inch bay window at the south end of the depot.

The Anna Area Historic Preservation Society has been working on the building to prepare its move to a new location. Funds from the 2016 grant was used for exterior work and a new roof. The new location will be by the historic Sherley Store which was a baseball field. This year Anna I.S.D. built a baseball complex which made the land available. At last the building will be moved to a permanent location where the Anna Depot will serve as a museum and educational facility.

2. Historic Preservation and Education: Heard Craig Center for the Arts Oral History Project Requested \$1,364 Grant \$1,364

The Heard Craig Center for the Arts would like to conduct an oral history project to capture first-person accounts of history made between 1915 and 1935. The oral history project would involve conducting interviews, videotaping the interviewees, preparing the findings of the information in summary transcripts, and make the oral history records available to other Collin County entities. People who lived in Collin County will be interviewed between 1915 and 1935 with preference given to those 100 or older. The interviewer will be Cathy Apple, author of the *Heard Legacy*. The goal is to gather first person observations of county and great events. Another goal is to understand the role of social organizations in the creation of McKinney, Collin County and recounting significant advancements.

3. Historic Preservation: Elm Grove Historical Cemetery Association Marker Repair, Cleaning and Leveling of Monuments Requested \$5,000 Grant \$4,856

The Elm Grove Cemetery has been in use since 1859. It is located in Collin County about five miles east of Anna just off FM 2862 and is an active cemetery. Cemetery records show 187 burials prior to 1900. Because of age and neglect some of the markers are in need of repair or restoration. Among the early historic family names are Roland, Shields, Fields, Ballard, Griffin, and Hendricks. The oldest part of the cemetery is in the southeast corner and is approximately one acre. 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 with forty-five markers

identified in the initial bid. To start the multi-year project the Cemetery Board approved fifteen markers for repair. The main goal of the association is to care for the markers and the graves of the early settlers of Collin County and their descendants who are buried in Elm Grove Historical Cemetery.

4. Historic Education and Preservation: Military Heritage Collection of North Texas Air Conditioning and Humidity Control Requested \$3,100 Grant \$3,100

The museum is located at 20798 County Road 590, Nevada in the southeast corner of the county. The collection is housed in three large interconnected buildings organized into a number of smaller galleries. Eight acres are used as a test track to operate a collection of military vehicles. The museum houses a significant number of uniforms, firearms, edged weapons, communication equipment and other material dating from the late 18th century to current day. Also there are 2,000 pieces of art including etchings, prints and original acrylic and oil works. At the moment the museum is uncomfortably hot for visitors and we are worried that continued temperature and humidity changes will effect long term preservation of artifacts. The portable systems that we have been using are no longer capable of handling the heat load generated by the increased size of the building and increased visitor traffic. We are unable to install a duct central air system due to design of building and need to install three split air 24 k BTU air conditioners to provide consistent humidity and temperature. The three air conditioners are to be installed on the rear of the museum complex and require three mounts, three breakout boxes, and a central distribution box.

5. Historic Education: Heritage Guild of Collin County Chestnut Square Village Educational and Exhibition Project Requested \$5,800 Grant \$5,000

The proposed educational and exhibition project will meet the Collin County Historical Commission's mission of preserving the county's historical heritage by marking, interpreting, preserving and accumulating information on the history of Collin County. Examples of how the project will fulfill such goals include:

1. Period appropriate costumes will provide volunteers with clothing to wear during special events and school tours. Costumes, not only enhance the living experience for guests, but also engage guests through demonstrations such as butter churning and spinning. Furthermore costumes create a more authentic learning experience for school age children. Six period costumes are requested.
2. Mannequins will allow period appropriate clothing to be displayed throughout the year to reflect the particular season, custom, and tradition of the 19th century and early 20th century in Collin County. Twelve mannequins are requested. There are nine buildings at Chestnut Square Village.

6. Historic Preservation: Snow Hill Cemetery Association Headstone and Marker Restoration Requested \$4,600 Grant \$4,600

Snow Hill Cemetery is located on County Road 621, between Blue Ridge and Farmersville in Collin County. The 5.978 acre cemetery has approximately 325 marked graves, with an unknown number of unmarked graves. The earliest marked burial is dated 1855. The Association is seeking funding for a two-four year project of headstone/marker restoration for the Snow Hill Cemetery. Many of the markers are over

100 years old. Texas Cemetery Restoration LLC has given the cemetery a detailed bid for restoration. For the first phase of the plan the cemetery association has chosen eleven markers that are in the most need repair and will be restored by Restoration LLC. One of the main objectives of the Snow Hill Cemetery Association is preservation. Our goal is to restore and preserve historic markers, providing education and awareness of our country and county historical heritage for current and future generations.

7. Historic Preservation: John Abston Chapter National Society DAR Cleaning and Leveling Stones Requested \$3,080.95 Grant \$3,080

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 two-thirds of the work is completed. Our plan is to complete the remaining one-third of the work which are ten stones. After the work is completed the ongoing work at the cemetery will be to maintain the condition of this portion of Collin County history for future generations.

8. Historic Education: Collin County Historical Society and Museum "Beyond Museum Walls: Digital Enhancement and Telepresence" Requested \$ 2,004 Grant \$1,900

The Collin County Historical Society and Museum would like to request funding for or digital enhancement project "Beyond Museum Walls: Digital Enhancement and Telepresence." The project will create diverse levels of digital enhancement to museum exhibits, interactive classrooms, guest speakers and special events. The focal piece is a Samsung 70 inch digital display with Wi/Fi and Internet connection capabilities. The inclusion of a large digital display mounted in the museum's main gallery will broaden the museum's capabilities to display and interpret items of Collin County history as well as expand the reach of our services. The display, combined with digital conference technology including connectivity through Apple TV, will enable us to increase the availability of resources to Collin County and Texas. Currently, we have a 32 inch television which allows a small group of eight to view DVDs. A wall mounted 70 inch digital display would allow for a larger audience to view and interact with diverse digital materials.

Funding of this project will allow us to provide lectures, presentations, and virtual exhibits regardless of resource location. Speakers from all over Texas and the nation can present their research through live telepresence. The "Beyond Museum Walls" project will also allow the museum to feature objects and artifacts that may be too fragile, large or costly to display. Special exhibits such as World War I events can be displayed. In preparation for the project, the museum purchased and installed a new server for increased digital storage. We also installed new Wi Fi in the upper and lower galleries for increased connectivity.

Other Funding Sources

All applicants are required to provide no less than 10% of their requested grant amount in matching cash funds. This matching amount must be from a source (s) other than Collin County funds. This statement is in the grant application.

1. Snow Hill Cemetery Association \$510 from the budget, Donations from the members of the association and sale of new burial plots
2. Military Heritage Collection of North Texas Raised \$1,407 or 30% of the project at a museum open house on May 27.
3. Elm Grove Historical Cemetery Association Current Cemetery Association Budget and Donations
4. Heritage Guild of Collin County McKinney Development Corporation, Fundraisers: The Holiday Tour of Homes, Legends of the Ghost Walk, Then and Now Fashion Show
5. Collin County Historical Society and Museum Current Museum Budget and Donations
6. Anna Area Historic Preservation Society Donations, Budget of the Society and Fund Raisers
7. Heard Craig Center of the Arts Current Budget and Donations
8. John Abston Chapter National Society DAR Membership Dues, Donations specifically for the project