
WEBB COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

TO: WEBB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
FROM: RENEE LaPERRIERE, WEBB COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION CHAIR
SUBJECT: 2017 ANNUAL REPORT
DATE: DECEMBER 12, 2018

The Webb County Historical Commission (WCHC) is composed of the following volunteers: Alfredo Gutierrez, Frank Gonzalez, Jeanette Hatcher, Lily Perez, Jorge Santana, Mary F. Treviño and Renée LaPerrière. The WCHC met officially seven times and held ten committee meetings during 2017.

WCHC activities for 2017 included the following:

- The WCHC received a Distinguished Service Award for 2017 by the Texas Historical Commission (THC). According to the THC, the WCHC demonstrated concerted efforts to preserve the history and character of Texas and this award acknowledges the WCHC's stewardship of our state's cultural and historic heritage.
- *Expedition Texas* (television show out of Dallas) partnered with the WCHC to film an episode showcasing Barrio Azteca and other historic sites in Laredo, TX. The episode, "Lost Laredo," explores Laredo history with an emphasis on the importance of historic preservation and the prominent role of storytelling/oral history in this process.
- The WCHC worked with the City of Laredo for installation of two historic markers in St. Peter's Plaza, both of which were developed under the Texas Historical Commission Undertold History program. One honors the life of Laredoan Jovita Idar (1885-1946) - teacher, journalist & political activist and is the first historical marker in Laredo dedicated to a woman. The other commemorates El Primer Congreso Mexicanista, the historic multi-day Civil Rights conference that took place in Laredo in 1911.

An additional marker in the Undertold History program is in development honoring Pvt. David B. Barkley Cantu, the first Hispanic recipient of the Medal of Honor. The WCHC received approval from the Laredo Community College Board of Directors for location of the marker near the Barkley Chapel.

- The WCHC continues to periodically assess the condition of historical markers throughout the county.



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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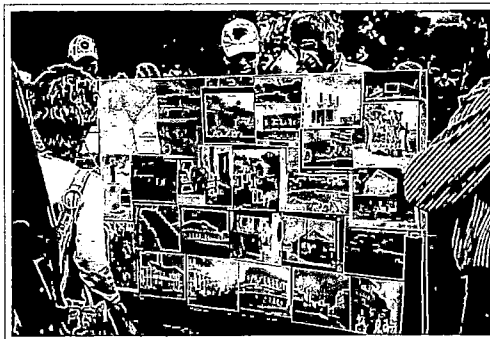
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Fun Facts for County Historical Commissions

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The following Fun Facts were taken from 2016 CHC Annual Reporting results.

- **CHCs participate in a wide range of activities** but favor maintaining inventories of subject markers and cemeteries, along with providing educational presentations to the public.
- More than 110 CHCs **promote historic and cultural sites** to develop and sustain heritage tourism initiatives in their county and region.
- CHCs reported more than **470,000 volunteer hours** for the 2016 year of service. Statewide reporting average is 2,800 hours per CHC per year.
- CHCs report **volunteer hours that are equivalent to more than 266 full time positions** dedicated to saving and promoting Texas history.
- At least 8 counties have hired a **full-time CHC-county liaison** whose job description involves providing services to their CHC. Several counties have hired an individual to address duties associated with history--archivist, curator, museum director, etc.
- Texas CHCs **supplemented county allocations** with more than \$1,325,000 from grants, donations, and fundraisers to be used for history- and preservation-related activities.
- At least 132 CHCs in Texas periodically assess the condition of **subject markers** in their county.
- More than 76 CHCs identify and research **historic highways**, roads, and trails in their county.
- More than 77 CHCs participate in a regional preservation or tourism **events**.
- More than 85 CHCs provide **tours** of historic buildings and sites within the county.



Photos courtesy of Brazos CHC (top) and Atascosa CHC (bottom).

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