*Duval County 2020 – CHC Annual State Report – SUMMARY*

Volunteers

* Volunteer Hours: 325 hours
* CHC Appointees in 2020: 20
* Volunteer hours were logged by DCHC appointees, community members and student-volunteers

County Historical Commission Meetings and Training

* Number of full commission meetings in 2020: 6 ( three in-person and three via ZOOM)
* Number of committee meetings in 2019: 6
* 100% of commission meetings made quorum
* 57% of appointees have had Open Meetings Training
* Majority of appointees have completed CHC Appointee Training Course
* Seven appointees attended monthly Texas Tropical Trails events
* Ten appointees attended regular THC / Museum Services educational webinars

Financial Basics: CHC Money held in Designated Bank Account

* Balance carried over from 2018: $ 40,868.86
* Annual County allocation for 2020: $ 2000.00
* CHC Fundraising proceeds in 2020: $ 644.00 (Cookbook sales)
* Partner donations in 2020: $ 0
* Other: Patron Donations: $10.51; Account Interest Credit: $30.96

In-Kind Donations (provided by County)

* Part-time museum director position
* Meeting and office space
* Space for CHC-operated museum
* Space for archives and records storage
* Exterior maintenance
* Administrative supplies
* Assistance from county staff
* Internet access, phone, fax lines, utilities

CHC Stewardship and Survey

* Maintained an inventory of subject MARKERS in county
* Provided a brochure and online web posting of subject MARKERS for public use
* Consulted with citizens about potential/ongoing historical MARKER topics: Freer site; St. Francis Church- SD
* Visited sites to monitor physical condition of CEMETERIES in county for threats or endangerments

CHC Organizational Planning

* CHC has an Action Plan that defines tasks, responsible appointees, and timeline
* CHC encourages preservation education for appointees via webinars and online training

Community Awareness, Participation, and Revitalization

* Online presence of CHC and / county history: Facebook and website
* Our CHC continues to work on identifying Casas de Sillar located throughout county. Some photos of the oldest structures in the county and their history have been displayed at museum.
* Awareness and participation ongoing work in county related to these preservation efforts: See Project #1

CHC Role with Historical Museum

* CHC operates a museum and appointees volunteer with museum
* CHC is considered the board of the county museum
* 51-75% of CHC time spent on museum work

PROJECTS – 2020:

**Project Description #1** –– **Share ONE project, effort, or service that resulted in a preservation and/or protection outcome:** In 2020, DCHC partnered with Duval County officials, restoration architects, THC staff, and local historians to complete requirements for an Emergency Courthouse Restoration Grant from Texas Historical Courthouse Preservation Program - 2020-2021 biennium.

We presented information to community groups such as the Rotary Club of San Diego and collected letters of support from local and area entities to submit as part of grant process. Utilizing social media platforms and the skills of videographers, we produced a video and educated the public in regard to the current condition of our Courthouse, listed as one of Texas Most Endangered Places by Preservation Texas in 2011, and its need for repairs. Our videographers interviewed different people including the County Judge who gave an overview of the project, grant funding obtained, and future restoration plans. The DCHC chairman was also interviewed and gave an overview of the history of the courthouse, the DCHC’s involvement and support of restoration. A videographer shared drone footage of the courthouse which was incorporated into the video. Other talented DCHC members interviewed and did the video editing and production. This video was shared as part of December Virtual Texas Tropical Trails event on Dec. 15, 2020. In addition, we participated in the webinars hosted by THC to gather input and information on the grant process and implementation. Through sharing our courthouse video and our story, we hope to educate county residents and garner continuing support for restoration efforts.

**Project Description #2**–– **Share ONE project, effort, or service that was developed to educate the citizens of your county and/or celebrate history with the citizens of your county:** In light of the restrictions placed by the pandemic this year, Duval County Historical Commission (DCHC) decided to skip our in-person Dia de Los Muertos event in November and instead produce a video illustrating the building of an altar, or *Ofrenda,* and post video to share on social media.

Six DCHC members participated in researching the items used in an *Ofrenda* and their symbolism. We collected items and set up a display in our museum. This setting-up process, history of the annual observation in our culture, and explanation of symbolism of each item, was video-taped and edited for production. After our video, How to Set Up an *Ofrenda*, was posted on Facebook, many positive comments were received, including people who told us the video inspired them to set up their own *ofrendas* at home and to share the history of our culture with their families. This video also resulted in an invitation to produce a video on our courthouse restoration efforts. That courthouse video was shared in the December Virtual Texas Tropical Trails event on Dec. 15, 2020.

.**Project Description #3 (of 3)** –– **Share ONE project, effort, or service that was developed to educate audiences OUTSIDE of your county or celebrate history with audiences** ***OUTSIDE of your county***: The rich history of Duval County sometimes includes sharing stories that are difficult to share, but must be told nevertheless. One such undertold story involves the murder of three men of Mexican descent (two from Duval County) by Texas Rangers 100 years ago.

Our historical commission was planning an in-person Centennial Event at the Duval County Courthouse to observe the centennial of that incident that occurred on April 1, 1920 in Bruni, Texas, and honor the memory of those deceased men. DCHC members collected photographs of the victims, stories from family members, and corridos of the incident. We developed a brochure to share at presentation. Plans were made to have one of our members sing The Corrido de Oliveira at the event, accompanied by live musicians. Presenters from the Valley and even family members of descendants from here and from Mexico were invited to participate.

But the pandemic and stay-at-home orders put a stop to our in-person plans. We decided instead to issue a proclamation sponsored by Duval County of the commemoration of the incident. Our commission developed the Proclamation with the assistance of one of the presenters, a descendant of one of the deceased men. The Proclamation was shared on social media on April 1, 2020, and copies of it were also sent to officials in Parás, Nuevo León, Mexico, where the three men were headed to a wedding when the incident occurred, and where some of the victims’ descendants still live. By sharing this proclamation on social media, the public both within and outside the county had an opportunity to contemplate the lessons learned from this incident.

GOALS FOR 2021

* Address structural upgrades for museum including ADA access
* Produce and share virtual video tours of museum exhibits
* Complete process for Antonio Lopez Historic Cemetery and Plan de San Diego Markers