

Duval County Historical Commission – 2021 CHC Annual State Report – SUMMARY

Volunteers

- Volunteer Hours: 250 hours
- CHC Appointees in 2021: 22
 - Volunteer hours were logged by DCHC appointees, community members

County Historical Commission Meetings and Training

- Number of full commission meetings in 2021: 5 (one in-person and four via ZOOM)
- Number of committee meetings in 2021: 6
- 75 - 99% of commission meetings made quorum
- 60% of appointees have had Open Meetings Training
- Majority of appointees have completed CHC Appointee Training Course
- Eight 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 2020: \$ 40,884
- Annual County allocation for 2021: \$ 2000.
- CHC Fundraising proceeds in 2021: \$ 309 (Cookbook sales)
- Partner donations in 2021: \$ 0
- Other: Patron Donations: \$41; Account Interest Credit: \$21

In-Kind Donations (provided by County)

- Part-time museum clerk 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 sites; Santa Cruz Cemetery

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
- Met regionally with other CHCs to share experiences and efforts

Community Awareness, Participation, and Revitalization

- Online presence of CHC and / county history: Facebook and website
- Relationship with County Commissioner's Court – Annual Report Presentation; invitation to CHC activities
- 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
- 26-50% of CHC time spent on museum work

PROJECTS – 2021:

Project Description #1 — Share ONE project, effort, or service that resulted in a preservation and/or protection outcome:

Duval CHC continues to support the efforts of our county officials in proceeding with the emergency repairs for courthouse restoration through the Texas Courthouse Preservation Program. Efforts to educate the public about this relevant preservation effort include newspaper articles and social media posts by our CHC detailing the scope of the emergency repairs, the dates of projected start, and the importance of preservation of this valuable resource.

The CHC's efforts at teaming up with county and state officials and Architexas for courthouse preservation was also one of three projects highlighted when a reception was held at Duval County Museum in July 2021 to celebrate and acknowledge our CHC's Distinguished Service Award received from THC. Our CHC was presented this Distinguished Service Award for 2020 Certificate by County Judge Saenz and the County Commissioners at their meeting in July 2021. The reception also highlighted displays of the other projects as reported in CHC Annual Report for 2020: Oliveira Event and Dia de Los Muertos video, both posted on social media.

Another preservation initiative at one of our meetings included hosting guest speaker Robert Krause of SEARCH, a historic preservation entity, who informed our CHC about preservation opportunities available.

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 December 2021, our CHC partnered with St. Francis de Paula Catholic Church's parish committees to take part in a traditional Hispanic custom, a Christmas Posada. Our role was to have our museum be one of the three stops along the journey around the church plaza where the Posada observance would be taking place. Our CHC members recited the appropriate verses for Stop #3, and the community members participating in the event responded appropriately. CHC members had previously decorated the Museum for Christmas in anticipation of this event.

.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:

Plans continue for an exhibit to open in Spring 2022 that will feature a local baseball legend, Adolfo Arguijo, and how baseball experiences in the early days of our county helped to develop and build Duval County communities.

The baseball exhibit committee has reached out to area museum staffs (Robstown, Victoria) who have set up baseball exhibits and/or published books on baseball in South Texas. These experts on baseball history are assisting the committee with the exhibit which will be shared with all our patrons when they visit our museum. In addition, a former Institute of Texan Cultures Director of Research and Education Initiatives is assisting with her valuable ideas for a viable exhibit.

When exhibit is complete, it will be announced on social media and area newspapers for all to visit.

GOALS FOR 2022

- ⦿ Address structural upgrades for museum including ADA access
- ⦿ Investigate further possible Historical Markers for the Freer area
- ⦿ Continue establishing historic preservation goals and activities