



HumanitiesTexas

Recently Awarded Grants

Libraries

CANYON LAKE

Canyon Lake Community Library District

2025 Humanities Texas grant of \$1,450

Before Texas

In March 2025, Tye Preston Memorial Library displayed the Humanities Texas traveling exhibition *A Time Before Texas*. The library also hosted a lecture by Mario Garza, cultural preservation officer of the Miakan-Garza Band, and showcased books on Indigenous groups in Texas from its collection.

LAREDO

Texas A&M International University

2023 Humanities Texas grant of \$2,000

Reading the Globe: Japan

In October 2023, Texas A&M International University (TAMIU), in partnership with Laredo Public Library, hosted Marie Mutsuki Mockett to discuss her book *Where the Dead Pause, and the Japanese Say Goodbye: A Journey*. TAMIU freshmen read the book during the fall semester, and Japanese cultural events were hosted on campus. Laredo Public Library hosted programs for local public school students, including a reading and Q&A session.

POTTSBORO

Friends of the Pottsboro Library

2025 Humanities Texas grant of \$950

Keys to the City: Unlocking Local Government

Beginning in March 2025, Pottsboro Library held a three-session educational series on civics and local government. The sessions covered governmental structures, the roles of elected officials, town hall meetings, and voting.

SAN ANGELO

Tom Green County Friends of the Library

2023 Humanities Texas grant of \$1,912

Celebrating Dia de los Muertos in the Concho Valley

In November 2023, Tom Green County Library hosted a daytime event featuring a storytime for Spanish-speaking families, a meet-and-greet luncheon with *My Two Border Towns* author David Bowles, and a bilingual arts-and-crafts project. The evening program featured a presentation on the history of Dia de los Muertos, a performance by Ballet Azteca, and a book reading and Q&A session with Bowles.

SUNDOWN

City of Sundown

2025 Humanities Texas grant of \$2,375

Names of the Neighborhood: A Journey through Our Town's History

In August 2025, the City of Sundown Library debuted *Names of the Neighborhood: A Journey through Our Town's History*, a series of educational audio recordings available via QR codes on local landmarks that explore the stories behind Sundown's street names. A pop-up exhibition titled *Black Gold* further examined the history of the oil boom supplemented the recordings.



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Recently Awarded Grants

Local Government

FULTON

Friends of the History Center for Aransas County

2024 Humanities Texas grant of \$2,000

Ghost Towns of Copano Bay, 1840–1880

Beginning in August 2024, the History Center for Aransas County displayed the exhibition *Ghost Towns of Copano Bay, 1840–1880*. The exhibition and related programming explored the largely forgotten history of settlements and trade networks that thrived along the shores of Copano Bay during the Texas Republic era.

IRVING

City of Irving

2025 Humanities Texas grant of \$1,000

Riders on the Orphan Train: The Texas Story

In March 2025, Irving Public Library presented *Riders on the Orphan Train: The Texas Story*, a humanities-based multimedia performance about the history of the orphan trains in Texas. The program, presented by scholars Alison Moore and Phil Lancaster, combined storytelling, literature, video interviews, and original music.

JACKSONVILLE

City of Jacksonville

2024 Humanities Texas grant of \$1,616

Sam Houston: Texas Icon

In September 2024, Vanishing Texana Museum displayed the Humanities Texas traveling exhibition *Sam Houston: Texas Icon*. Museum Curator Lawrence Lydick led guests on guided tours of the exhibition.

NACOGDOCHES

City of Nacogdoches

2024 Humanities Texas grant of \$4,600

Big Read Nacogdoches

In spring 2024, the City of Nacogdoches hosted Big Read Nacogdoches, a community reading initiative designed to foster a love of literature, promote community engagement, celebrate cultural diversity, and enhance critical thinking skills. The program offered a variety of events featuring the book *Interior Chinatown* by Charles Yu, including community and panel discussions, workshops, and film screenings.

ABILENE

Swenson House Historical Society

2024 Humanities Texas grant of \$2,000

Swenson Kaffe Fest

In March 2024, the Swenson House Historical Society hosted Swenson Kaffe Fest, a one-day festival celebrating the role of coffee in the daily lives of Swedish American families. The event featured public tours of the Swenson House, coffee tastings from local shops, crafts, and musical performances.

AUSTIN

National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Texas

2025 Humanities Texas grant of \$1,250

Threads of Her Story: A Moderated Conversation Connecting American Women's History to the Present

In March 2025, the Neill-Cochran House Museum hosted a moderated discussion on material culture in contemporary American life. The program coincided with the opening of a new exhibition, *Threads of Her Story*, which explored material culture within the museum's collection.

BEAUMONT

McFaddin-Ward House

2025 Humanities Texas grant of \$9,550

McFaddin-Ward House Lecture Series

In 2025, the McFaddin-Ward House hosted a lecture series featuring speakers on a range of topics in history, art, architecture, and culture. Presentations included "First Ladies: Impact and Legacies," "History with a Bang: Firearms of America," "Rembrandt to Rem-Burned: The 3 F's of Art Crime," and "Wheels of Progress: How Detroit and Ford Motor Co. Put the World on Wheels." Lectures were held in person, streamed online, and later archived on the museum's website.



HumanitiesTexas

Recently Awarded Grants

Museums

ABILENE

The Grace Museum

2024 Humanities Texas grant of \$7,000

Full Steam Ahead: The Texas and Pacific Railway

In July 2024, The Grace Museum presented *Full Steam Ahead: The Texas and Pacific Railway*, an exhibition exploring the history of the railway in Abilene. *Full Steam Ahead* featured artifacts from the museum's Texas and Pacific Railway Company collection. The museum also participated in a citywide train festival and hosted *Flying Scotsman*, an exhibition curated by the Slaton Harvey House.

BRENHAM

Brenham Heritage Museum

2024 Humanities Texas grant of \$8,000

European Immigration Exhibition Kiosk

In spring 2024, Brenham Heritage Museum designed, fabricated, and installed a new exhibition kiosk dedicated to the history of European immigration to Washington County. In addition to maps, photographs, and narrative text, the kiosk featured interactive, touchscreen LED monitors that provided visitors with a more in-depth exploration of the history.

CUERO

Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum

2024 Humanities Texas grant of \$9,000

Once Upon a Time on the Trail

In March 2024, Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum debuted the interactive booklet *Once Upon a Time on the Trail*. The resource was developed to introduce students to the museum and highlight early Texas ranching and western history within the collection.

HOUSTON

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

2025 Humanities Texas grant of \$10,000

Navigating the Waves: Contemporary Cuban Photography Symposium

In February 2025, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston hosted a symposium accompanying its exhibition *Navigating the Waves: Contemporary Cuban Photography*, which traced the evolution of Cuban photography and its portrayal of identity, heritage, and society from the Revolution to the present day. FotoFest co-founder Wendy Watriss and nine of the featured photographers joined exhibition co-curators Malcolm Daniel and Raquel Carrera to share first-hand perspectives in three panel discussions.

LA PORTE

San Jacinto Museum and Battlefield Association

2025 Humanities Texas grant of \$2,000

History Under the Star Lecture Series Videographer

Throughout 2025, the San Jacinto Museum and Battlefield hosted its quarterly lecture series History Under the Star. The series is designed to feature outside experts discussing Texas history, with a focus on the Texas Revolution and its surrounding periods. Live presentations were recorded and made available online.

SAN ANTONIO

Briscoe Western Art Museum

2024 Humanities Texas grant of \$10,588

Tejano Legacy: Another American Origin Story

In July 2024, the Briscoe Western Art Museum began developing the upcoming exhibition *Tejano Legacy: Another American Origin Story*, which will open in July 2026. The exhibition traces the complex multiethnic and multinational roots of Tejano identity through the unique history of a single family.

WACO

Dr Pepper Museum

2024 Humanities Texas grant of \$20,000

Wilton's Landing Exhibition Reinterpretation Project

Beginning in August 2024, the Dr Pepper Museum reinterpreted its permanent exhibition *Wilton's Landing* to encompass the history of convenience stores from the early 1920s to the present day. The updated exhibition allows visitors to explore the evolution of travel and convenience stores and to view products that once filled store shelves.



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Recently Awarded Grants

Higher Education

ALPINE

Sul Ross State University

2025 Humanities Texas grant of \$5,500

Read Aloud Celebration 2025

In February 2025, Sul Ross State University partnered with Alpine Public Library, local elementary schools, Front Street Books, and West Texas National Bank to present *Read Aloud Celebration 2025*, a free program for students and families. Author Antonio Sacre led a morning program at the elementary school, an afternoon workshop for university students, and an evening program for families. During these events, audiences were introduced to a rich selection of literature, and all families received a complimentary copy of one of Sacre's books.

FORT WORTH

Texas Christian University

2025 Humanities Texas grant of \$2,000

Beyond the Seams: Texas Heritage and Culture as told by Fashion

In 2025, the Texas Christian University Department of Fashion Merchandising produced *Beyond the Seams*, a podcast exploring Texas culture and history through clothing and stories from TCU's Historic Costume Collection. The podcast is available on major streaming platforms.

HOUSTON

Texas Southern University

2025 Humanities Texas grant of \$5,000

HBCU Art Legacy: Continuing the Digitization of the Hannah Hall Murals

In 2025, Texas Southern University resumed work on the HBCU Art Legacy: Digitizing Texas Southern's Hannah Hall Murals project. During this phase, forty-four additional murals were digitized and twenty supplementary essays were produced. The program culminated in a project website that is fully accessible to the public.

JACKSONVILLE

Jacksonville College

2025 Humanities Texas grant of \$2,000

Manley Distinguished Lecture

In April 2025, Jacksonville College hosted the forty-seventh annual Manley Distinguished Lecture, featuring playwright Shellie O'Neal in "God Bless America: A WWII Radio Hour." O'Neal portrayed a WWII radio personality and performed six patriotic songs, including "The Star-Spangled Banner," while providing historical context for each selection.

KERRVILLE

Schriener University

2024 Humanities Texas grant of \$8,800

We Are What We Eat: Texas Food as History, Art, Culture, and Identity

In spring 2025, The Texas Center at Schreiner University partnered with Flavors TX to host We Are What We Eat: An Immersive History of Texas Sausage. The program included a photography exhibition, a presentation on the story of sausage in Texas by local historian Michael Barr, and a tasting of featured sausages guided by chef Philippe Verain.

RANGER

Ranger College

2024 Humanities Texas grant of \$6,922

Black Gold: A History of Texas Oil

In June 2024, Ranger College Library began development of *Black Gold: A History of Texas Oil*. Debuting in January 2025, the exhibition explores the history of Texas oil boomtowns, including the 1917 Ranger oil boom, its regional impact, and the broader history of the Texas oil industry. The exhibition is now available to travel to schools, museums, and other cultural institutions.

TEXARKANA

Texas A&M University-Texarkana

2024 Humanities Texas grant of \$2,000

Changing the Face of Power: Women in the U.S. Senate

In March 2024, the John F. Moss Library at Texas A&M University–Texarkana hosted the traveling exhibition *Changing the Face of Power: Women in the U.S. Senate*. The Department of History and the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program collaborated to develop accompanying programming, which included a presentation by former U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison.



HumanitiesTexas

Recently Awarded Grants

Arts Organizations

AMARILLO

Amarillo Symphony

2024 Humanities Texas grant of \$2,000

Lunch and Listening Lectures

In October and November 2024, the Amarillo Symphony hosted two lunchtime lectures facilitated by music professor Kimberley Hieb. The presentations featured interviews with conductors and guest artists from the concerts and were streamed on the symphony's Facebook page.

BEAUMONT

Art Museum of Southeast Texas

2024 Humanities Texas grant of \$2,000

Light as Art: Alicia Eggert in Conversation with Marin R. Sullivan

In April 2024, the Art Museum of Southeast Texas hosted an artist and curator talk titled *Light as Art: Alicia Eggert*. Moderated by Marin R. Sullivan, the discussion—held on the evening of the opening reception for Eggert's solo exhibition *All the Light You See*—offered community members an opportunity to learn more about how the artist uses text and neon to create interactive sculptures and lenticular prints.

DEL RIO

Del Rio Council for the Arts

2024 Humanities Texas grant of \$375

August Gallery Exhibit: State Fair

In August 2025, the Del Rio Council for the Arts displayed the Humanities Texas traveling exhibition *State Fair*. Related public programming included an opening reception and an art walk.

GONZALES

Gonzales Youth Ballet

2025 Humanities Texas grant of \$2,500

Down by the Guadalupe

In June 2025, Gonzales Youth Ballet presented *Down by the Guadalupe*, a full-length ballet commemorating two hundred years of Gonzales history. Produced by a local preservationist, the performance blended classical ballet, folklórico, and theatrical storytelling and was preceded by a historical lecture.

HOUSTON

Houston Grand Opera Association

2025 Humanities Texas grant of \$2,000

Giving Voice Educational Enrichment Workshop

In February 2025, Houston Grand Opera presented a *Giving Voice* program as part of its winter educational enrichment workshop. The program engaged educators through history, culture, literature, and musicology to celebrate Black vocal traditions.

Asia Society Texas Center

2024 Humanities Texas grant of \$2,000

Xu Bing: A Symposium

In April 2024, Asia Society Texas Center hosted a symposium with artist Xu Bing in conjunction with the exhibition *Xu Bing: Word Alchemy*, which assembled more than fifty of the artist's woodcut prints, videos, drawings, installations, and other materials representing nearly fifty years of his career. The symposium opened with a guided tour led by guest curator Susan L. Beningson and was followed by conversations and presentations with Xu Bing and leading curators.

RICHARDSON

Richardson Symphony Inc.

2024 Humanities Texas grant of \$2,000

RSO "Portraits in Music" Podcast

Beginning in June 2024, the Richardson Symphony produced episodes of its podcast "Portraits in Music," featuring conversations with Maestro Clay Couturiaux, who shares insights into each piece performed in concert. Episodes include a discussion with the concert's guest artists about their experiences as a professional musician. The podcast invites listeners to learn more about classical music and the history and impact of live orchestral performance.

ROCKPORT

Rockport Cultural Arts District

2025 Humanities Texas grant of \$950

The Railroad Comes to Rockport: The Historical Significance on Cultural and Economic Development

In February 2025, Rockport Cultural Arts District held an author book discussion on the Rockport-Fulton Art Colony and a documentary film screening as part of its Smithsonian Museum on Main Street programming.



Recently Awarded Grants

Festivals

AUSTIN

Indie Meme

2024 Humanities Texas grant of \$2,000

Indie Meme Film Festival

In April 2024, Indie Meme's ninth annual film festival took place in Austin. IMFF 2024 featured more than thirty films from thirteen countries in seventeen languages. The festival opened with a Texas Shorts Showcase attended by cast and crew, as well as seven national and international artists. Each screening was followed by an in-person or live virtual Q&A and audience discussion with the filmmakers.

LA GRANGE

Friends of Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery State Historical Sites

2025 Humanities Texas grant of \$2,500

Bluff Schuetzenfest

In May 2025, Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery State Historic Sites hosted a festival exploring the history of the Bluff Schuetzenverein, a German marksmanship and social organization that originated in La Grange. The festival featured guided tours of the brewery and Monument Hill State Historic Site, living history demonstrations, and children's activities.

SAN ANTONIO

San Antonio Book Festival

2024 Humanities Texas grant of \$15,000

Texas Monthly Tent at the Twelfth Annual San Antonio Book Festival

In April 2024, the twelfth annual San Antonio Book Festival hosted more than one hundred authors and their newly published works. Writers brought their work to life through presentations, panel discussions, and book signings. The *Texas Monthly* Tent highlighted books and authors with a Texas-themed focus. Throughout the day, six sessions were held, featuring ten authors.

Festival of Texas Fiddling

2024 Humanities Texas grant of \$10,000

Texas Fiddle and Historic Dance Hall Symposium

In December 2024, the Festival of Texas Fiddling presented its annual Texas Fiddle and Dance Symposium in Blanco. The event explored the distinctive styles and traditions of fiddling across Texas's diverse regions and cultures, featuring presentations by music and dance scholars as well as concerts by musicians and dancers.



Recently Awarded Grants

Programs for Children

AUSTIN

Russell Lee Elementary PTA

2024 Humanities Texas grant of \$2,000

Russell Lee Photography

In summer 2024, the Russell Lee Elementary PTA developed a permanent exhibition of photographer Russell Lee's work, following the successful display of the Humanities Texas traveling exhibition *Russell Lee Photographs*. The new exhibition has been incorporated into the school's educational curriculum.

FORT WORTH

Log Cabin Heritage Foundation

2025 Humanities Texas grant of \$750

Hands-On Adobe Workshop

In June 2025, Log Cabin Village offered two hands-on adobe workshops for children exploring the history and construction of adobe. The first workshop was part of a field trip for local American Indian students through Fort Worth ISD's American Indian Education Program summer camp, and the second was open to the public. Public historian Shine Trabucco led both workshops, drawing on her research into the history of adobe architecture in Texas.

KILGORE

Kilgore Junior College

2024 Humanities Texas grant of \$1,285

Boomtown Bash: Kids Edition

In October 2024, Kilgore Junior College hosted Boomtown Bash: Kids Edition. This one-day event included the Dino Dash fun run, free admission to the East Texas Oil Museum, and a variety of activities designed for children of all ages.

LA PORTE

San Jacinto Museum and Battlefield Association

2023 Humanities Texas grant of \$2,000

San Jacinto School Day

In April 2023, San Jacinto Museum and Battlefield Association held a school day for students from participating schools in La Porte and Deer Park. San Jacinto School Day featured immersive, TEKS-aligned living history demonstrations focused on the Texas Revolution.

PAMPA

Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center

2025 Humanities Texas grant of \$2,500

Walking Woody's Road

In April 2025, the Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center offered programs for elementary-aged children, introducing them to Woody Guthrie and the American folk music tradition. Musicians demonstrated instruments and explained the music, followed by a Q&A session.