

#157

COMPLETE

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Page 2: Organizational Basics

Q1 El Paso

Name of your county

Q2
Enter the contact information for the chair who managed CHC work in 2024.

Name	Barbara Welch
Mailing address	708 Camino Real Ave, El Paso, Texas 79922
Primary phone number	9158675664
Email address	obscuredjinn@gmail.com

Q3 Respondent skipped this question
Enter the contact information for the individual filling out the report, if other than chair.

Page 3

Q4
Provide the number of CHC appointees in 2024.

	(no label)
Number of CHC appointees	10

Q5Number of volunteer hours **2113**

Provide the number of volunteer hours for 2024. Volunteer hours should reflect time contributed by appointees and volunteers toward CHC projects. Include time spent at meetings, events, and travel to/from. If you do not track hours, enter an approximate number. Enter the number "0" if the CHC was inactive.

Q6

Provide the number of CHC meetings in 2024. Enter the number "0" if the CHC was inactive.

(no label)

CHC meetings that made quorum

10

CHC meetings that did not make quorum

0**Q7**

Open Meetings Act training is offered by the Texas Attorney General's office on their website. CHC appointees are required by state law to receive training in Texas open government laws.

(no label)

Number of appointees that have completed Open Meetings Act training

10

Page 4

Q8

Check each way your CHC officially reported activities to your county officials in 2024.

Presented to county commissioners court about a particular project/s

,

Met with the county judge,

Met with county commissioners,

Submitted CHC meeting minutes,

Submitted a CHC budget,

Submitted CHC bylaws,

Plan to present a summary of 2024 accomplishments to commissioners court

,

Invited county judge and county commissioners to CHC events in 2024

Page 5: Financial Resources

Q9

Enter the amount of money provided directly to your CHC in 2024 next to each line item. Use numbers for the dollar amount, rounding the amount up to the nearest dollar. Enter "0" if no monies are associated with the line item.

Balance carried over from 2023:	0
Annual county allocation (not including money for museums):	35850
County money allotted for museums (passing through CHC):	0
Any other money issued by county (one-time amount for special projects):	0
CHC fundraising proceeds:	0
Grant money provided to CHC:	0
Donations provided to CHC:	0
"Membership" dues (though not recommended, some CHCs request dues):	0
Hotel Occupancy Tax	17549
Revenue provided to CHC:	
Any other money not included above:	0

Q10**County treasury**

Which serves as the repository for CHC money? Check each answer that applies.

Q11

In-kind donations are goods and/or services provided to the CHC at no charge. Check any in-kind donations provided by your county in 2024.

Space for archive or records storage,
Utilities associated with spaces mentioned above,
Project/event supplies and/or equipment,
Web hosting on county website,
County staff liaison whose job description includes aiding CHC
,
Assistance from county staff including posting meetings, financial reports, legal consultations, etc.
,
Professional expertise of county staff ,
Administrative supplies or services such as postage, paper, ink, copier, etc.
,
Meeting and/or office space for CHC

Page 7: Organizational Planning

Q12

Check the boxes that best reflects your CHC's planning efforts.

CHC has a work plan that defines tasks, responsible participants, and deadlines

Q13

Check the boxes that identify areas where concerted efforts were made to improve work in 2023.

Bylaws,

Meeting attendance,

Partnerships,

Community outreach to adults,

Community outreach to youth,

Online presence of CHC,

Initiated a new CHC project/event,

Improved an ongoing CHC project/event,

CHC planning,

If needed, provide brief comments regarding efforts to improve work.:

We continued to develop strong partnerships with other civic groups in the area, including continued presentations for our "Like Minded" program where other historically-based groups present information about their programming at the beginning of every Commission meeting, working with other entities on our ongoing historical brochures initiative, and solidifying our "Adoberos" initiative, where we presented our first sold-out Adobe Workshop with hands-on experience for participants.

Q14

Enter the number of CHC appointees who attended each training.

CHC orientation webinar (THC website)	0
THC 2024 Real Places Conference	0
THC marker workshop or webinar	3
THC cemetery workshop or webinar	2
THC museum workshop or webinar	3
THC courthouse stewardship workshop	0
Friends of the THC grant writing workshop	0
Texas Heritage Trails regional nonprofits	0
Preservation Texas regional workshop	0
Texas State Historical Association annual meeting	0
Texas Association of Museums annual meeting	0
Texas Archeological Society	2
Other training opportunity (provide details in comment box below)	7

Q15

Check the training and development your CHC provided in 2024.

Provided historic preservation training for CHC appointees

,

Used the THC website information to educate appointees

Q16

Check the work items in which your CHC was actively involved during 2024.

Maintain an inventory of subject markers in your county

,

Visit sites to monitor the physical condition of subject markers in your county

,

Cleaned or repaired subject markers,

Visit sites to monitor the physical condition of properties designated by Texas or the Secretary of the Interior as historic

,

Visit sites to monitor physical condition of cemeteries in your county for threats or endangerments

,

CHC uses the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties to determine appropriate repair and new construction when making recommendations to the public

,

Provide brief comments about work related to monitoring the physical condition of historic resources.:

We continue our survey of markers in the County, including the class with Texas Tech University's Architecture Department where they not only monitor area markers, but also learn about - and implement - cleaning and updating them. We have also had new volunteers from the Daughters of the Texas Republic for the cleaning of markers.

Q17

A historic resources survey identifies historically and architecturally significant properties in neighborhoods, communities, and counties. Surveys document the physical condition of properties using photographs, fieldwork, and archival research. Published surveys are formal documents used in planning efforts to raise awareness of a community's cultural heritage. Provide brief comments about formal historic resource survey work completed in 2024, including initiating and updating existing surveys.

We have not initiated any new historic resource surveys since the two we completed last year, although we participated in TxDOT's historic survey of properties flanking the Downtown I-10 Corridor.

Q18

Check the box for each work item in which your CHC was actively involved in 2024.

Consulted with citizens about potential subject marker topics

,

Appointees volunteered at a historic site that is open to the public

,

Managed a historic site that is open to the public,

Promoted historic and cultural sites to develop and sustain heritage tourism

,

Provided a guide/directory of properties with historic designations for public use (print, digital, etc.)

,

Coordinated an effort to educate youth about preservation or county history

,

Coordinated an effort to educate adults about preservation or county history

,

Provided tours of historic buildings or sites within the county (other than historic courthouse)

,

Consulted with citizens about potential Recorded Texas Historic Landmark designations

,

Consulted with citizens about potential Texas Treasure Business Awards applications

,

Provide brief comments about work related to events or programs.:

EPCHC continues to promote El Paso History to Middle and High School students for the annual History Day at the University of Texas-El Paso, encouraging them to gear their presentations to El Paso historical events. We still fund the Museum of Archaeology's lecture series, as well as several presenters at the annual San Elizario Genealogy Conference. We continued our ongoing focus on historical brochures this year, and we managed to reprint three with minor corrections, as well as completely overhaul and restructure one (the Magoffin Historic District Walking Tour, where we pretty much started from scratch), and provide one other in a Spanish translation. We also worked with the Chamizal Neighborhood Association on a local marker for Elvira Escajeda, and - after several meetings - we are in final agreement on the wording and will be moving forward on the casting.

Page 11: Community Awareness and Revitalization

Q19

Check the box for each work item in which your CHC was actively involved during 2024.

Identified and/or researched historic waterways, dams, and irrigation districts in your county

,

Identified and/or researched historic highways, roads, and trails in your county

,

Involved in local economic development and planning efforts

,

Identified and/or researched historic schools, colleges, and universities in your county

,

Participated in community planning activities to ensure historic and cultural resources were considered when development or zoning is discussed by city officials

,

Participated as a consulting party in a federal Section 106 review

Q20

Are you aware of ongoing work in your county related to these preservation-related matters?

Areas of development within the county that could impact historic/cultural resources

,

Aware of municipal historic tax exemptions and/or incentives for qualified properties

,

Provide brief comments about work related to community awareness and revitalization efforts,:

I have been involved in the TxDOT Section 106 review of the Downtown I-10 Expansion Project, which could have serious deleterious impact on historic/cultural resources flanking the freeway in El Paso. We also have been working with owners of historic properties to explain potential historic tax exemptions/incentives.

Page 12: Partnerships

Q21

Partnering is more than attending meetings of other organizations. Effective partnerships strengthen the preservation community. Check each of the individuals/organizations your CHC partnered with during 2024.

Museums,

Cemetery organizations,

Tourism organizations or visitors bureaus,

Texas Archeological Stewards or archeology organizations

,

Local landmark commissions or local historic design review boards

,

Educational institutions (school districts, community colleges, universities)

,

Note any additional partner organizations.:

The El Paso Community Foundation, the Magoffin Home (a THC State Historic Site), and the Abara Group (a local non-profit that has been restoring the Hart's Mill/Onate Crossing site.

Page 13: Museums

Q22

Check the boxes that reflect your CHC's role with museums.

CHC appointees volunteer with museum/s

Q23

What amount of CHC time is spent on museum work?

1-25% of CHC time spent on museum work

Page 14: Project Descriptions

Q24

Project Description #1 – Describe ONE project, effort, or service provided by the CHC.

Although the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street (MoMS) exhibit titled "Crossroads: Change in Rural America" will not transpire until May 3rd through June 15th, 2025 at the Los Portales Museum in San Elizario, much of the groundwork was laid in 2024. The CHC first worked with the County Economic Development Department on the application for the exhibit several years ago, and after the proposal was one of seven selected for the State of Texas, has worked together with numerous area non-profits to develop supplemental exhibits and related community events to showcase the history, arts, and culture of the region in conjunction with the exhibit itself. From the initial meeting with the THC for their Visitors Experience Workshop on May 29th, 2024, where over twenty organizations were in attendance, the EPCHC Mission Trail Development Committee has conducted monthly meetings with stakeholders to ensure that this is a visitor experience unlike any other, including input from individual community members as well as artistic endeavors (music, dance, foodways) specifically created to enhance the event and tell our story. Some of the community partners involved include the San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society, the City of San Elizario, the Mission Trail Association, CARTA, the City of Socorro, Texas, the Socorro Independent School District, and of course our County Economic Development Department, which has held the entire project together as it will showcase our County Museum, Los Portales, as well as the overall beauty of our Mission Valley. As the Smithsonian name carries such considerable cultural cachet, we are all using this extensive planning to ensure that this is a distinctive and memorable visitor experience that showcases many of our unique area cultural and historic treasures, both for visitors from outside our region as well as our numerous area residents who we are hoping will be tempted to visit the exhibit and the Mission Valley, perhaps for the very first time. Bringing the exhibit to San Elizario offered a once in a lifetime opportunity to work with neighboring communities along the historic El Paso Mission Trail in this singular event.

Q25

Project Description #2 – Describe ONE project, effort, or service provided by the CHC.

One ongoing but important - and extremely time consuming - focus for the EPCHC and our Outreach Committee in particular is the continuation of our updating and printing of several tourism brochures that were either outdated or out-of-print, as well as working on new brochures to focus on aspects of El Paso history that have not been addressed previously. Our "Publications Committee" has expanded to include members from the El Paso Community Foundation, the Mission Trail Association, the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association, Visit El Paso, the Magoffin Home, the San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society, the Southwest Chapter of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society, the Abara House, the El Paso Museum of History, the Archaeology Museum and Friends Group, and the Eastside-Central Coalition (ECC) and Black Businesses Living Museum. Our partner organizations work on the brochures geared toward their specific areas of interest, and the El Paso Community Foundation continues to coordinate meeting space and partially fund some of the design work, while the EPCHC funds all printing costs. El Paso County provides the budget for our endeavors, as well as providing staff from the Economic Development Department to support these efforts. Several members of our EPCHC research and offer input both on factual content as well layout, grammar, and virtually every aspect of the final brochures, including one of our Commissioners who is a photographer taking updated photographs for many of them. The El Paso Community Foundation and Visit El Paso provided translation services for our Spanish brochures, which has been a new focus for the EPCHC as most of our brochures were only available in English. Visit El Paso continues to store, distribute, and keep a running inventory of brochures. The list of brochures printed this year include the El Paso Historic Railroad and Streetcar Guide, the Magoffin Historic District Walking Tour, the Socorro Mission Walking Tour (Spanish), El Paso Mission Trail Historic Guide, and the San Elizario Walking Tour Guide. One new brochure that we are in the process of developing is the Historical Black Businesses Walking Tour, which should be completed in 2025. All brochures are also made available in digital format, and we hope this will continue to support Heritage Tourism, as well as spurring further interest from our El Paso community in the incredible history of our area.

Q26

Project Description #3 – Describe ONE project, effort, or service provided by the CHC.

On March 23, 2024, after several meetings with stakeholders to ensure a memorable event, we held the Texas Historic Marker Dedication for 2nd Baptist Church, one of the historic Black Churches in El Paso. The dedication was powerful, and many members of the African-American community were in attendance, as well as several of our Commissioners, who also spoke. Although the dedication itself was notable, working on this project has blossomed into a new focus on Black History in El Paso, which has often been overlooked. In addition to sponsoring the upcoming Historical Black Businesses Walking Tour brochure, the EPCHC is now one of the charter members of the Eastside-Central Coalition (ECC) and Black Businesses Living Museum, which has already sponsored the first Black History bus tour in El Paso, and is working on opening a Living Museum at the former site of Estine's Barber Shop. We worked together on the approved "Still We Rise-El Paso Black Business Renaissance" 2024 THC Subject Marker, and also joined together on the Section 106 Review for TxDOT's "Reimagine I-10" project, which could have a detrimental impact on some of the remaining sites of African-American history in the city. The Eastside-Central Coalition (ECC) now has over thirty members, including African-American business owners, City Representatives, two neighborhood associations, and several historically black churches, including Second Baptist, Shiloh Baptist, Mount Zion Baptist, and Visitors Chapel A.M.E. The group meets weekly on Zoom to keep the momentum going on current projects, as well as to map out future plans to celebrate this all important component of El Paso's history. One of these future projects which the EPCHC brought to the group is working on a grant application for the Preserving Black Churches program cohort of the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and information is being gathered, although the application itself is due in late 2025. We have also been assisting in the review of other grant applications for the group, and are excited to be part of this initiative to recognize the Black History of our area.

Page 15: Comments for the THC

Q27

Share your thoughts on the Texas Historical Commission and/or CHC Outreach services that have helped your CHC.

We continued to use many of the THC Archaeological resources - including contacting Drew Sitters several times - for the ongoing renovations of several sites in San Elizario, including Casa Ronquillo, Los Portales Museum, and the historic San Eli Jail, which still are not completed. This year more than any other time in the past that I can remember, we have consulted the THC - both via email or from searching the website - for information about Markers, Section 106 review, and Cemeteries. Some of our Commissioners attended the Cemetery Outreach webinars, which have been very helpful as so many Counties throughout Texas have similar obstacles and concerns about Cemetery stewardship. And this year we jumpstarted our Markers maintenance program, which had pretty much fallen dormant since Covid, and of course used the info on cleaning markers to teach Commissioners and volunteers about proper maintenance. As I know that I have stated in the past, the THC website provides excellent guidance as there is such a plethora of information, and we have used it and pointed the public to it when they have questions about historic preservation in Texas..

Q28

If you'd like, share information not already submitted in this report. Feel free to comment on specific preservation issues in your county--successes and challenges. This year, we would like you to comment on what training resources and topics would be most helpful to your CHC.

One topic that could really help us in El Paso is some guidance on the role of County Historical Commissions vis-à-vis their relationship with County Commissioners Courts. In our role as preservationists, we have been somewhat stymied as currently we have been informed that we can only make recommendations to the Court for them to take up matters of preservation, including writing letters of support that the Commission has approved, which are often on a tight timeline. However, this can move preservation issues out of the oversight of history and into that of politics - e.g., if a Commissioner has a vested interest in a project that has serious Section 106 ramifications - and this is just theoretical of course - the Court can just ignore the CHC and go on to bulldoze the property. Happily we currently have a Court that is supportive of historical issues, but that may not always be the case in the future. This issue has come up for the first time this year, and it would be helpful to us to learn if there are any specific guidelines on this, as well as how other Counties in Texas handle this relationship. Other than this, our biggest issue is only having ten Commissioners - down from twenty-six - which impacts our ability cover all of the projects that we would like to implement.
