



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Historic Preservation Office, Housing & Planning Department
DATE: March 10, 2021
SUBJECT: Certified Local Government grant for Historic Preservation Plan

The Housing & Planning Department is pleased to request Council's acceptance of a Certified Local Government grant from the Texas Historical Commission. This grant will enable the initial phase of developing a new historic preservation plan with an equity focus. This is a top priority of the Historic Landmark Commission and long overdue: Austin's current preservation plan was approved in 1981.

The new historic preservation plan will have an inclusive, equity-focused, and community-based planning process and outcome. A group composed of historic preservation professionals, stakeholders from allied fields, and community representatives will tackle pressing questions to create the plan: Whose heritage is represented in designated historic properties, and what stories are missing? Who benefits from preservation policies, programs, and incentives? How can historic preservation tools be expanded to address essential issues such as sustainability, affordability, and displacement? A professional facilitator will support the group, and City staff will complete research and analysis.

Much has changed in Austin since 1981. Since that time, the population has nearly tripled, a historic district ordinance was passed, and affordable housing and density have become hot-button quandaries. Buildings that were relatively young in the 1980s are nearing historic age. The preservation field has also transformed in the last 40 years. Equity, sustainability, and cultural heritage are leading factors guiding planning and conversations around historic preservation. The safeguarding of vernacular buildings and neighborhoods is valued as critical to telling the full American story of racially and culturally diverse communities. A new historic preservation plan is essential to help the Historic Preservation Office and Historic Landmark Commission respond to 21st-century challenges with improved and new policies, programs, and tools. These include transparent and accessible historic review processes, inclusive community outreach, strategic historic resource surveys, and incentives that meet both historic preservation and equity goals.

This initial grant-funded phase (through fall 2022) will result in a draft historic preservation plan, including recommended policies, tools, and programmatic changes. A subsequent phase in FY 2022–23 will include extensive community outreach, additional capacity-building, and finalization of the plan. The ultimate goal of this process will be Council adoption of the new historic preservation plan as a progressive, innovative guiding framework for the City's historic preservation program.

The Certified Local Government program is a partnership among the National Park Service, state historic preservation offices, and local governments. The program's purpose is to empower local communities to better protect historic resources by identifying local priorities, meeting recognized historic preservation standards, and providing access to financial and technical services to further preservation goals. Annually, the Texas Historical Commission makes subgrants of National Park Service funds to help participating communities develop and sustain effective local preservation programs.

March 4, 2021

Cara Bertron
City of Austin
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767

Re: *FY2021 Certified Local Government Grant Award for the City of Austin, Texas.*

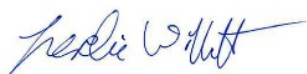
Dear Ms. Bertron:

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) appreciates your interest and application to the Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant Program. We are pleased to inform you that the grant request from the City of Austin of \$30,000 for the Historic Preservation Plan with Equity Focus Project was selected for funding by the Commission at their February meeting.

We do not anticipate any issues in funding your grant; however, we are still awaiting the exact amount of the THC's federal allocation. Grant funding is contingent upon this federal allocation, and until the final amount is known we are unable to execute a contract with the City for its project. We anticipate being able to finalize the grant agreement with you in March. Funded projects will have until September 30, 2022 to complete their work. Please remember that work performed before the execution of a contract between the City and the THC will not be eligible for reimbursement.

Over the next several weeks, CLG Program staff will host a grant orientation and work with project managers to hone the project's scope of work. Thank you for your efforts to preserve and promote our state's heritage and we look forward to working with you on this important project. **Should you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance, please contact me at 512.463.7812.**

Sincerely,



Lorelei Willett
Certified Local Government Coordinator

CC: Elizabeth Brummett, Development Services Manager

[Home](#) > [Preserve](#) > [Projects and Programs](#) > Certified Local Government

Certified Local Government

The Certified Local Government (CLG) Program is a local, state, and federal government partnership to empower local communities to better protect historic resources by identifying local priorities, meeting recognized historic preservation standards and providing access to financial and technical services to further the identification, evaluation, designation and protection of buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects.

Local governments that participate in the [CLG Program](#) act independently to develop and maintain a successful preservation program. The Texas Historical Commission administers the program at the state level and the National Park Service is the responsible federal agency.

The benefits of becoming a CLG are access to technical assistance from CLG Program Staff, a network of local preservation commissioners and historic preservation officers from around the state, workshops and other trainings specific to local preservation challenges, and the annual CLG Grant Program.



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- [Participating CLG Communities](#)
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- [Requirements for CLGs](#)
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Lorelei Willett

512.463.7812

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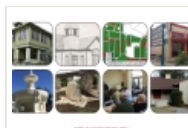
What's New

Congratulations Brown County!



Congratulations to Brown County, the latest community to join the Certified Local Government program!

FY21 Grant Cycle Now Closed



The FY21 Grant Cycle has now closed and the selected projects will be announced after the new year. To learn more about

CLG Grants, please click [HERE](#).

[Home](#) > [Preserve](#) > [Projects and Programs](#) > [Certified Local Government](#) > Grant Information

Grant Information

Certified Local Government (CLG) Grants

CLG grants provide funding to participating city and county governments to develop and sustain an effective local preservation program critical to preserving local historic resources. Activities eligible for CLG grant funding must be tied to the statewide comprehensive preservation planning process. A copy of the Texas Historical Commission Statewide Preservation Plan can be found [here](#).

Priority for funding shall be given to those projects that directly relate to the following work categories

- Architectural, historical, archeological surveys/inventories
- Preparation of nominations to the National Register of Historic Places
- Preparation of a local preservation plan
- Writing or amending preservation ordinance
- Development of local design guidelines
- Research and development of local preservation incentive program
- Travel/training expenses for hosting a regional preservation-related workshop



In 2013, repairs were made to the Paris City Hall using a CLG grant.



The City of Tyler hosted a regional historic preservation education event using a 2014 CLG grant.

Matching Requirement

All CLG grants require a local match budgeted on a one-to-one (dollar for dollar) match equal to a 50-50 ratio for the total cost of the project. Proposed projects utilizing all or partial matches of verifiable in-kind services or goods may also qualify as long as the local match equals a 50-50 ratio for the total cost of the project. Only non-federal monies may be used as a match, with the exception of Community Development Block Grants.

Who Can Apply?

Cities and county governments that have been individually "certified" by the National Park Service as CLGs and are in good standing with the CLG P are eligible to apply for CLG grants. County CLGs may apply to assist non-CLG cities within their jurisdiction. CLGs may also partner together to facilitate larger projects such as public workshops or hiring a consultant to perform services for multiple CLGs. The grants may also be sponsored by CLGs by delegating a third-party organization such as another unit of local government, a commercial firm, a non-profit entity, or educational institution to administer the grant project.

Review Process

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- [Participating CLG Communities](#)
- [How to Become a CLG](#)
- [Requirements for CLGs](#)
- CLG Grants
 - [FY20 Grant Round](#)
 - [Preparing the CLG Grant Application](#)
 - [Apply for a CLG Grant](#)
 - [Past CLG Funded Grant Projects](#)
- [Training](#)
- [FAQs](#)
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HISTORIC SITES ATLAS

The Atlas features nearly 300,000 site records, including markers, historic places, courthouses, cemeteries, museums, and sawmills across the state.

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Applications are reviewed by an interdisciplinary panel of agency staff based on specific criteria outlined in the application manual and approved by the THC.

Source of Funding

CLG grants are provided by the Texas Historical Commission (THC), the state agency for historic preservation, annually to assist CLGs through grants from the Historic Preservation Fund of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. At least ten percent of this annual allocation is set aside by THC for distribution solely to CLGs.

Funding Amount

Typically, grants range from \$2,000 to \$30,000.

How to Apply

The FY21 CLG Grant application period is now closed.

For more information, email the [CLG Coordinator](#) (512-463-7812) or the [CLG Specialist](#) (512-463-9063).

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