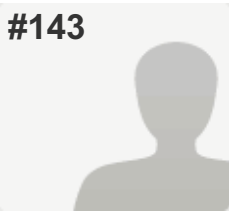


#143

**COMPLETE****Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)**Started:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 6:01:28 AM**Last Modified:** Monday, February 29, 2016 9:26:11 AM**Time Spent:** Over a day**IP Address:** 68.240.198.220

PAGE 2: General Information

Q1: Please enter the name of your county.

Fort Bend

Q2: Enter your primary CHC contact below as requested. List a co-chair if one exists; please do not list vice-presidents as co-chairs.

Name of 2015 CHC chair

Charles Kelly

Name of 2016 CHC chair--comment if new chair not selected to date

Charles Kelly

Q3: Enter information if you have an official space, room, or building; please DO NOT ENTER a personal address or phone number.

Address of CHC office

301 Jackson St., Richmond, Texas 77469 (This is our mailing address. Our actual address is at 401 Jackson St. in Richmond.)

Telephone number of CHC office

832-471-2525

Q4: We will direct inquiries about reporting answers to the person who fills out this report unless you direct us otherwise. Enter contact information as requested--name, email address, and phone number.

Contact info for person filling out report

Charles Kelly,
charles.kelly@fortbendcountytexas.gov, 281-494-2691

PAGE 3: CHC Volunteer Hours

Q5: How many volunteer hours were contributed to CHC meetings, projects, and programs in 2015? Please enter numbers only for your answer; do not use punctuation, symbols or text. If you do not keep track of hours, enter an approximate number of hours. Enter the number "0" if your CHC is inactive.

Volunteer hours

8100

Q6: Provide the number of individuals who served as CHC appointees in 2015. Please enter numbers only for your answer; do not use punctuation, symbols or text; a comma is considered a symbol.

of CHC appointees

60

Q7: Provide any comments/clarifications about the volunteer hours you entered above. Please skip this question if you have no comments/clarifications.

This year's figure is 200 hours lower than last year's. We began a more formal method of tracking time in 2015. This change in procedure plus the fact that I was a new chairman (replacing Bert Bleil after his sudden death) are the causes of this downward trend. I don't think this lower figure reflects a decline in commitment in any way.

PAGE 4: CHC Meetings and Appointee Participation

Q8: Indicate the number of full commission meetings your CHC held in 2015. Indicate the number of CHC committee meetings held separate and apart from full commission meetings. Both questions must be answered using numbers only; do not use symbols or text. Enter the number "0" in both boxes, if your CHC was inactive in 2015 (i.e., did not provide services to the county).

CHC full commission meetings in 2015	4
CHC committee meetings in 2015	42

Q9: A majority of appointees must be present at a meeting to constitute a QUORUM. Check the circle next to the percentage that best reflects how often a QUORUM was present for your full commission meetings in 2015. Clicking a circle places a check the circle; clicking again will uncheck the circle.

100% of full commission meetings made quorum

PAGE 5: CHC Meetings and Appointee Participation (continued)

Q10: Check the percentage that best reflects the number of CHC appointees who have completed Open Meetings training.

51-75% of our CHC appointees have taken Open Meetings training

PAGE 6: CHC Financial Information

Q11: Which serves as the repository for CHC money? Check each answer that applies to your CHC.

Private bank account

Q12: Enter the amount of money provided to your CHC next to each line item. Use numbers for the DOLLAR amount; please round down/up to the nearest dollar when necessary. Do not use symbols or text; commas and decimals are considered to be symbols. Each box requires an amount; enter the number "0" if no monies are associated with the line item.

Balance carried over from 2014:	2636
Annual county allocation for 2015 (not including money for museums):	5000
County money allotted for museums in 2015:	155000
Any other money issued by county during 2015 (one-time amount for a special project, etc.):	0
CHC fundraising proceeds (events, book sales, etc.) during 2015:	0
Grant money provided to CHC in 2015:	0
Partner/nonprofit money donations made in 2015:	12000
"Membership" dues (though not recommended, some CHCs do request dues):	0
Any other money amounts for 2015 not already included above; do not include CHC appointee out-of-pocket expenses, which will be requested later in the report:	0

Q13: Provide any clarifications about above amounts; skip question if you have no comments.

County funds allocated to museums & local historical organizations do not pass through the Historical Commission. The county donates these funds directly to the recipients. The Historical Commission has a Friends organization (non-profit), which raises funds to support commission projects. Their donations totaled \$12,000 in 2015.

Q14: If your county employs an individual as a CHC liaison or as some other support position, please let us know if his/her salary comes out of the CHC county allocation or from some other budgetary line item. Also, let us know what responsibilities have been assigned to this individual. This information is frequently requested by CHCs.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 7: CHC Financial Information (continued)

Q15: Check each of the IN-KIND DONATIONS that was given to your CHC in 2015 by your COUNTY (county government). IN-KIND donations are goods and/or services provided to your organization at no charge.

Meeting and/or office space for CHC ,
 Space for archive or records storage ,
 Utilities associated with any spaces mentioned above ,
 Assistance from county staff--posting meetings, financial reports, legal consultations, etc. ,
 Professional expertise of county staff (for any subject/need) ,
 Computer hardware or software , Internet access, Web hosting on county website

Q16: Check each of the IN-KIND DONATIONS that was given to your CHC in 2015 by individuals or organizations (other than your COUNTY). Include in-kind donations made by CHC appointees.

We do not receive in-kind donations from non-county entities. NOTE: if you check this box, then no other boxes will be checked for this question.

PAGE 8: CHC Financial Information (continued)

Q17: Considering the IN-KIND answers checked in the previous questions, check the dollar range that best represents the amount of in-kind services and donations provided to your CHC.

\$0

Q18: Check the dollar range that best represents the amount of out-of-pocket expenses incurred by your CHC appointees in 2015.

\$1 - \$500

PAGE 9: Planning CHC Projects and Programs

2015 CHC Annual Report

Q19: A work plan defines project tasks, participants, time estimates, and a schedule. Check the option that best reflects how often is your CHC work plan updated.

Updated annually

Q20: Check each of the parties who participates in your CHC planning process.

CHC chair, CHC officers, CHC appointees,
Partner organizations

PAGE 10: Statewide Preservation Plan for Texas—Goal 1: Survey and Online Inventory

Q21: Check the ONE statement/s that best reflects your county's involvement with survey work. Please reread the survey description above to ensure that you are providing an accurate answer.

Have initiated survey—CHC volunteers work on survey forms

Q22: If you have a historic and cultural resources survey, check the formats that apply to your survey.

Electronic format in Excel or similar type of spreadsheet software

,
Electronic format in database software (Microsoft Access, Filemaker, etc.)

PAGE 11: Goal 1: Survey and Online Inventory (continued)

Q23: Check the box if your CHC keeps track of the specified information.

Respondent skipped this question

Q24: Enter your county name and the names and locations of the ENDANGERED resources in your county—A property is considered endangered if it is under threat of demolition, structurally unstable, in an area of encroachment, etc. Skip this question if your CHC does not keep this information.

Fort Bend is now compiling this information in a formal database.

Q25: Enter your county name and the names and locations of the cultural and historic resources DEMOLISHED in your county in 2015. Skip this question if your CHC doesn't keep this information.

Fort Bend is now compiling this information in a formal database.

PAGE 12: Goal 1: Survey and Online Inventory (continued)

2015 CHC Annual Report

Q26: Check the work items in which your CHC was actively involved during 2015.

Reviewed applications for historical MARKERS ,
Maintain an inventory of subject MARKERS in your county
,

Provided an inventory of subject MARKERS for public use (brochure, website posting, etc.)
,

Maintain an inventory of properties that are DESIGNATED by Texas or the Secretary of the Interior as historic (i.e., National Register, Historic Texas Cemetery, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, or State Archeological Landmark)
,

Provided an inventory of properties that are DESIGNATED as historic for public use (brochure, website posting, etc.)
,

Maintain an inventory of CEMETERIES in your county
,

Periodically assess the condition of CEMETERIES in your county
,

Cleaned or repaired objects in CEMETERIES ,

Provided an inventory of CEMETERIES for public use (brochure, website posting, etc.)

PAGE 13: Statewide Preservation Plan for Texas—Goal 2: Emphasize Cultural Landscapes

Q27: Check the box next to each work item in which your CHC was actively involved during 2015.

Identified and/or researched areas of development within your county that could impact cultural and historic resources
,

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

Identified and/or researched historic farms and ranches in your county
,

Identified and/or researched historic bridges and/or bridge types in your county
,

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

2015 CHC Annual Report

Q28: Check the box next to each work item in which your CHC was actively involved during 2015. *Respondent skipped this question*

Q29: Provide a list of the different landscapes that were involved in your 2015 body of work. A sample response to this request would be if Kaufman CHC noted that they pursued funding to maintain and promote interpretation of the Kaufman County Poor Farm. *Respondent skipped this question*

PAGE 14: Statewide Preservation Plan for Texas—Goal 3: Implement Policies and Incentives

Q30: How familiar is your CHC with the following topics?

The role a CHC can have in a federal Section 106 review	Minimally
The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties	Minimally
The Certified Local Government Program	Minimally
THC's review authority over publicly-owned historic property	Somewhat

Q31: Have you used the listserv and web information provided to familiarize your CHC about the following topics?

The role a CHC can have in a federal Section 106 review	Only CHC chair accessed this information
The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties	Only CHC chair accessed this information
The Certified Local Government Program	Have not used information provided by the THC
THC's review authority over publicly-owned historic property	Shared information with CHC appointees

Q32: Check the box next to each of the comments that apply to your CHC's 2015 body of work. CHC participated in community planning activities to ensure historic and cultural resources were considered when development or zoning is discussed by city officials

PAGE 15: Statewide Preservation Plan for Texas—Goal 3: Implement Policies and Incentives (continued)

Q33: Check the box if the statement applies to your CHC.	County offers historic tax exemptions/incentives for qualified properties
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PAGE 16: Statewide Preservation Plan for Texas—Goal 4: Leverage Economic Development Tools for Preservation

2015 CHC Annual Report

Q34: Check the box for each work item in which your CHC was actively involved in 2015.

Promoted historic and cultural sites to develop and sustain heritage tourism initiatives

,

Supported Main Street Program activities in a community within your county

,

Involved in local economic development plans/projects/organizations

Q35: List the public entities or private organizations that have provided grants or funding opportunities for your preservation projects. Skip this question if it does not apply to your CHC.

Our Friends group (an independent, non-profit, fund-raising organization) donated approximately \$12,000 to the Fort Bend County Historical Commission in 2015. We did not receive direct donations from private citizens in 2015.

PAGE 17: Statewide Preservation Plan for Texas—Goal 5: Learn and Experience History through Place

Q36: Check the box for each work item in which your CHC was actively involved in 2015.

Provided educational events/presentations/information on historic preservation and local history to audiences outside your CHC

,

Provided educational events/presentations/information on historic preservation and local history geared toward youth/schools

,

Initiated projects to diversify interpretation of historic and cultural resources

,

Provided tours of other historic buildings and/or sites within the county

Q37: List events in which your CHC was involved that are associated with boxes checked above. Provide details for selected activities in the Project Description section at the end of this report.

Our Oral Histories Committee collaborated with various organizations at fairs in which local citizens gave personal recollections of their past. (See Item #54 at the bottom of this report.) Our Cemetery Committee worked closely with the Fort Bend County Archeological Society on various projects and initiatives.

Many of our commissioners volunteer at local museums and historical sites.

PAGE 18: Statewide Preservation Plan for Texas—Goal 6: Connect Preservation to Related Fields

2015 CHC Annual Report

Q38: Partnering is more than just attending meetings of other organizations. Effective partnerships build a stronger and more diverse preservation community. Check each of the individuals and organizations with which your CHC partnered during 2015.

City officials,
Landmark commissions or local historic design/review boards
,
Educational institutions (school districts, community colleges, universities)
,
Libraries, Museums, Cemetery organizations,
Archeology organizations,
Texas Archeology Stewardship Network (work with the stewards)
,
Main Street managers and/or board members ,
Tourism organizations / visitors bureau / chambers of commerce / downtown business association
,
Other nonprofit organizations not already listed above (societies, associations, etc.)

PAGE 19: Goal 6: Connect Preservation to Related Fields (continued)

Q39: Check the boxes that reflect your CHC's role with museums.

CHC appointees volunteer with museum/s ,
Our CHC has no role with museums

Q40: Enter your county name and provide the name and location for each of the museums your CHC operates. Please skip this question if your CHC does not operate museums.

Our commissioners volunteer personal time at various museums and historical/cultural groups in Fort Bend County. The Historical Commission has no formal volunteering program or relationship with any local organization.

Q41: When considering your overall workload, check the range that applies to your CHC.

1-25% of CHC time spent on museum related work

PAGE 20: Statewide Preservation Plan for Texas—Goal 7: Cultivate Political Commitment

Q42: Check each way your CHC officially reported 2015 activities to your county officials.

Met with county commissioners ,
Submitted CHC meeting minutes,
Submitted a CHC budget,
Submitted CHC treasury reports,
Provided suggested CHC appointments

PAGE 21: Goal 7: Cultivate Political Commitment (continued)

Q43: Check the elected officials that your CHC regularly invited to events and activities in 2015.

County judge, County commissioners,
Mayor/s of cities in your county ,
City council members from cities within your county

Q44: Please enter your county name and the names of elected officials who attended one or more of your CHC events in 2015. Skip this question if no elected officials attended your events.

Fort Bend County Judge Robert Hebert; Fort Bend County Commissioner Richard Morrison; Mayor Evalyn Moore, Richmond, Texas; Mayor Daniel McJunkin, Simonton, Texas; Mayor Allan Owen, Stafford, Texas; Terry Vela, City Manager, Richmond, Texas

PAGE 22: Goal 7: Cultivate Political Commitment (continued)

Q45: Check the activities and communications undertaken by your CHC in 2015 in support of Texas history and preservation.

Issued information to the public at large--newsletters, email, press releases, etc.
,
Submitted articles and/or letters to media outlets,
Invited key decision-makers to celebratory preservation events
,
Worked with preservation nonprofits who advocate for preservation in general
,
Wrote letters/email to state legislators

PAGE 23: Statewide Preservation Plan for Texas—Goal 8: Build Capacity of Preservation Community

Q46: Check all of the ways in which your CHC tried to improve appointee participation in 2015.

Initiated projects to diversify CHC membership ,
Provided educational presentations for your CHC appointees
,
Used the THC website information to educate appointees
,
Used the CHC Handbook to educate appointees ,
Met regionally with other CHCs to share experiences and efforts

Q47: If you organized a CHC regional meeting in 2015, please indicate:-- the counties that participated (including your county);-- topics or themes discussed; and -- how many times you have met formally as a group over the years. Please skip if the question does not apply to your CHC.

Respondent skipped this question

Q48: List workshops that your CHC hosted in 2015, including information on the educational topic. Please skip if the question does not apply to your CHC.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 24: Goal 8: Build Capacity of Preservation Community (continued)

Q49: Reflecting 2015 activity, enter the number of CHC appointees that attended a training offered by the organization listed. Please use numbers only; do not use text or symbols.

THC marker workshop	2
THC oral history workshop	1
THC Archeology Steward training	2
Texas Heritage Trails Program	2
Texas Archeological Society (TAS)	4
Local/regional historical association educational opportunity	6

PAGE 25: Goal 8: Build Capacity of Preservation Community (continued)

Q50: Rank the degree to which select THC services have helped your CHC expand their programming.

CHC listserv weekly messages	Helped a lot
General THC website information	Helped a lot
THC website information specific to CHCs	Helped a lot
Historical marker webinars	Helped a little

Q51: Share your thoughts on THC services that have helped your CHC.

The THC atlas and similar reference information has helped us a great deal. We are using these resources in our historical preservation database project (begun in late 2015) and our mobile app project, which covers historical and cultural points of interest in our county. We are particularly interested in the regional mobile apps recently released by the THC.

Equally beneficial were online training courses on public meetings and open records requirements. We are performing a thorough review of our records management practices and found these resources very helpful. (See Item #53 at the bottom of this report.) The Fort Bend County Attorney's Office also provided helpful insight and advice.

Q52: Check the ways in which your CHC made concerted efforts in 2015 to improve work relative to previous years.

CHC planning, Membership and attendance,
 Preservation education for appointees, Partnerships,
 Community outreach to adults ,
 Community outreach to young people ,
 Presence of CHC and/or county history on Internet ,
 Initiated a new CHC project,
 Improved an ongoing effort

Q53: Project Description #1---Expand upon your answers to question 52 about improving your CHC during the 2015 year of service. Describe the efforts made to improve an aspect of your CHC. Include the following: -- your county name-- the specific area of improvement-- why the improvement effort was made-- what actions were taken to make improvements-- the results of those actionsIf you were not able to make improvements in 2015, document your challenges and what improvements you'd make if you had the time, manpower, or money required.

Three major concerns we faced in 2015 were records management, public meetings regulations, and open records requirements. We made a concerted effort to determine what we needed to do and then launched a drive to take corrective action or tighten procedures as necessary. Several of our commissioners took THC online training courses. We also conferred with our County Attorney's Office to get sound advice and answers to our questions.

We now have a firm understanding of what is required. Virtually all we needed to do was formalize procedures. We encouraged all commissioners to use official county email addresses for commission business. That step ensures effective back up & recovery, a suitable audit trail, and a desirable level of privacy. Many have switched to official email accounts. A few have not. That's a personal decision, but now they all know the risks involved.

What remains, and what will be an on-going effort for quite a while, is organizing our electronic and paper back files. We have collected most of our records in one location, the commission office in the county courthouse, but we still need to organize our oldest files into an efficient archive.

Our recent records are in reasonably good order. We want to work backward through earlier years, so our older files will also be well-organized.

Q54: Project Description #2---Share a project, effort, or service that shows the best of how your CHC interacts with the public. Please include your county name in the answer. Project, effort, or service must adhere to the following requirements:-- its primary association is with history/preservation-- it has broad CHC appointee support (rather than the participation of only 1 or 2 people)-- is an ongoing effort or one that was completed in 2015

The past year was a remarkably successful one for Fort Bend's Oral Histories Committee. We are all aware that oral histories are a very personal and engaging connection with the past, and sources are expiring every year. Our Oral Histories Committee made an unwavering commitment in 2015 to interview, transcribe, and publish (online) these treasured sources of history for future generations.

This effort involved two oral history fairs. One was a collaboration with Mayor Daniel McJunkin of Simonton, Texas to record memories of citizens living in a part of Fort Bend which faces accelerating change. Another fair was a collaboration with the Mamie George Memorial Library in Richmond, Texas to record personal histories from Hispanic residents. The committee also collected dozens of histories in one-on-one interviews through the year.

The Oral Histories Web page had 55 transcribed interviews available to the public at the end of 2015, and many more are in process and will be available in early 2016. Oral interviews will be a key resource in parallel historical projects, like the mobile app now in development and scheduled for release in mid-2016.

The Oral Histories Committee was very active in sharing its archive with the public. During 2015, Jane Goodsill, Chair of the Committee, gave presentations to the Rosenberg (Texas) Optimist Club, Fort Bend County Commissioners, Fort Bend County Historical Commission, Sugar Land Heritage Foundation, Rosenberg Rotary Club, and various youth groups.

Two of Jane's presentations deserve special recognition. The first was "WWII Warriors of Fort Bend County." It recounted the experience of 5 local men who fought in different branches of the US armed services in various theaters of war. Four of the five men are now deceased, but one, Ernest Kubosh, a survivor of Iwo Jima and now 100-years old, attended a presentation with his family, friends, and an appreciative audience.

The second presentation was a memoir of Valentine Kusy, an 89-year old native of Needville, Texas. He too is a veteran of the US armed services, but his personal recollections of growing up in rural Texas during the Great Depression fascinated local school children. They were amazed at the stark contrasts between his life as a young boy and theirs as youngsters in today's world.

Oral histories are a vivid view of the past, which the Fort Bend Historical Commission records for posterity, but they are also an effective outreach to local citizens and a way of stimulating their interest in local history.

Q55: Project Description #3---Expand upon your CHC's contribution to heritage tourism efforts in your region. Refer to question 36 for heritage tourism examples.Highlight your most effective heritage tourism effort in 2015:-- your county name-- describe event and your role in it-- partners and community involvement in planning and/or implementation-- impact of the event (attendance, participation, profit, etc.)

The Fort Bend County Historical Commission has promoted heritage tourism in the past, but it was implicit and diffused in our projects and initiatives. In 2015 we began an effort to put more focus and overt emphasis on heritage tourism. We expect this endeavor, still in its developmental stages, to be an on-going process requiring multiple years to complete. We considered forming a committee devoted solely to heritage tourism, but decided to continue a project-by-project approach until momentum warrants formal oversight.

One of our major projects is a mobile app begun in early 2015. It will offer the public an interactive, multimedia tour guide of historical and cultural hot spots in Fort Bend County. Its platform will be smart mobile devices and desktop computers. We have engaged Mansai Inc to develop this software. They produced a prototype in 2015. We expect a phase-1 release to the public in mid-2016.

We have aimed high; we do not intend to recreate a conventional paper brochure for use on mobile devices. The initial release will have 3 principal components. The first is a comprehensive list of historical and cultural organizations in Fort Bend, with easy-to-find details on locations, open-closing times, special events, and collections. The app will also provide a county-wide, up-to-date calendar, giving users a schedule of cultural and historical events that may interest them. Most important, the app will include walking and driving tours with interactive portals into the past. Clicking on a point of interest will deliver images, text, audio, and video explaining the historical significance of that specific geographical location. Future releases will incorporate augmented reality, a way of superimposing historic images over an actual location using a smart device, providing the user a 'then-and-now' view of today's Fort Bend.

We hope to use this mobile app as a pathway to the application of virtual reality in museum settings.

Another of our initiatives is fostering collaborative marketing and promotion among our local historical and cultural organizations. Up to now, our museums have 'flown solo' when promoting themselves. The commission wants to explore and support symbiotic marketing and promotion, raising the profiles of our local organizations in the public eye. For example, we would like to collect hard data on the effectiveness of campaigns, so local organizations can optimize use of precious marketing funds. Since this is a wholly new area for us, we expect it to take time and persistence to prove its worth.

The Historical Commission also began investigating 'common heritage events' in 2015. We determined that our first foray will be strong, active support for the 80th anniversary celebration in 2017 of our largest local museum. We are intrigued by common heritage programs because they may become an effective outreach to local communities and an effective way to interest them in our largely forgotten historical legacy.

PAGE 29: CHC Comments for the THC

Q56: Please let us know more about your preservation successes and/or challenges.

The Fort Bend Historical Commission has ambitious ideas and plans we want to achieve, and of course, we are a voluntary organization. We want to find exciting projects that appeal to our commissioners' interests and result in effective historical research, education, and preservation.

Fort Bend County will likely continue its pattern of explosive growth, so there are considerable challenges in preserving a changing landscape and engaging an influx of new residents, but we also face the challenge of engaging natives whose appreciation of our historical legacy is generally underdeveloped.
