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## **THE SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION SOCIETY FOUNDATION RECEIVES HUMANITIES TEXAS RELIEF GRANT**

The San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation in San Antonio, TX, is the recipient of a Humanities Texas Relief Grant.

The Conservation Society of San Antonio formed in 1924 to promote the architectural, natural and cultural heritage of San Antonio and Texas. The Society's Foundation, created in 1970, provides the outreach programs critical to the Society's mission of educating the public about these aspects of regional history. We do this primarily through tours, lectures, a research library, and the Steves Homestead and Yturri-Edmunds house museums.

The Foundation library holds a unique place in the community because of its focus on the historic built environment. It also serves as an important source of information and images used in books, exhibits and virtual resources produced by other regional libraries, museums, universities, and government agencies, such as the City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation and the Texas Historical Commission (THC). The library has contributed to exhibits at the Briscoe Western Art Museum, the Bexar County Heritage Center, and the THC's Texas Time Travel mobile tours, as well as to publications like, *300 Years of San Antonio* and *Bexar County History*.

Library patrons include architects, property owners, teachers, students, tour guides, authors, the media, and history enthusiasts. Both print and television journalists rely on the library for accurate feature and background information on San Antonio's historic events and sites. Paula Allen, who writes "The History Column" published in the San Antonio Express-News each Sunday, frequently credits the Foundation library for contributing to her article research.

This grant will help keep our library operating by supporting a significant part of the librarian's salary for 2020. This will directly support efforts to reconfigure our programming to meet the humanities needs of the San Antonio community during the COVID-19 pandemic through new delivery methods. It will also free up funds needed to maintain the Foundation's historic properties during this time.

This summer, Humanities Texas awarded over \$1.1 million to 198 Texas nonprofits that suffered losses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Recipients include museums, libraries, preservation organizations and heritage and cultural centers, among many others.

These organizations offer historical and cultural programs that have significant impact within their communities. Humanities Texas aims to help these organizations remain vital in this difficult time.

"We are fortunate to have the opportunity to provide critical support to so many organizations across the state," said Humanities Texas Executive Director Eric Lupfer. "Looking ahead, we will continue to seek ways to assist Texas cultural and educational institutions in surviving this crisis."

"This grant comes at a vital time when our main sources of funding have dried up," said Conservation Society President Patti Zaiontz. "Humanities Texas' support allows our library to keep serving patrons, and provide resources to the community."

Funding for these grants has been provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act economic stabilization plan.

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*Humanities Texas, based in Austin, Texas, is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Its mission is to advance education through programs that improve the quality of classroom teaching, support libraries and museums and create opportunities for lifelong learning for all Texans.*