

#150

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Page 2: Contact Information

Q1

Name of your county

El Paso

Q2

Enter name of CHC chair who managed 2021 work. If you have "co-chairs," provide the name of the one chair who can be the one point of contact for our agency.

Name of CHC chair who managed 2021 work

Barbara Welch

Chair's physical address

708 Camino Real Avenue, El Paso, Texas 79922

Chair's cell phone number

915-867-5664

Other phone number for chair

N/A

Email address for chair

obscuredjinn@gmail.com**Q3****Respondent skipped this question**

Info for individual filling out this report IF OTHER THAN CHAIR, so we can make further inquiries about report.

Page 3: Organizational Basics

Q4Number of CHC appointees **14**

Provide the total number of CHC appointees serving in 2021. Please enter numbers only for your answer; webpage will not advance if you enter punctuation, symbols, or text.

Q5 Number of volunteer hours **2700**

Volunteer hours should reflect time contributed by appointees and other volunteers who may contribute to CHC projects/programs. Include time spent at meetings, events, and travel to/from meetings and events, etc. Enter volunteer hours that were contributed in 2021. If you do not track hours, enter an approximate number. Enter the number "0" if your CHC is inactive.

Q6 CHC full commission meetings in 2021 **9**
 CHC committee meetings in 2021 **58**

Provide the number of CHC meetings. Enter the number "0" in both boxes, if your CHC did not meet. Both items below must be answered using numbers only; do not use punctuation, symbols or text.

Q7

If needed, provide comments / clarifications about hours, appointee count, or meetings. Skip if no comment.

After the rules changed to requiring in-person Quorum, three of our last four meetings in 2021 were cancelled for lack of Quorum.

Page 4: Organizational Basics (continued)

Q8 **51-75% of full commission meetings made quorum**

Quorum is met when a majority of all appointees are present at a CHC meeting. Check the box next to the percentage that best reflects how often a QUORUM was present for your full commission meetings in 2021. Clicking a circle selects the circle; clicking again will deselect the circle.

Q9 **100% of our CHC appointees have taken Open Meetings training**

Open Meetings Act training is offered by the Texas Attorney General's office on their website. All appointees should take this training so that your CHC adheres to applicable laws and policies concerning appointed roles. Check the percentage that best reflects the number of CHC appointees who have completed Open Meetings training.

Page 5: Organizational Basics (continued)

Q10

Check each way your CHC officially reported 2021 activities to your county officials.

Presented summary of 2021 accomplishments to commissioners court in late 2021

,

Presented to county commissioners court about a particular project/s

,

Submitted CHC meeting minutes,

Submitted a CHC budget,

Submitted CHC treasury reports,

Plan to present summary of 2021 accomplishments to commissioners court in early 2022

Q11

Check the elected officials that your CHC regularly invited to events and activities in 2021.

County judge,

County commissioners

Page 6: Financial Resources

Q12

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

County treasury

Q13

Enter the amount of money provided directly to your CHC next to each line item. Use numbers for the dollar amount, rounding amount up to the nearest dollar. Please 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 2020: **0**
 Annual county allocation for 2021 (not including money for museums): **25600**
 County money allotted for museums in 2021 (passing through CHC): **0**
 Any other money issued by county during 2021 (one-time amount for a special project, etc.): **0**
 CHC fundraising proceeds (events, book sales, etc.) during 2021: **0**
 Grant money provided to CHC in 2021: **0**
 Donations made to CHC from partners / nonprofits in 2021: **0**
 "Membership" dues (though not recommended, some CHCs do request dues): **0**
 Any other money amounts for 2021 not already included above; DO NOT include CHC appointee out-of-pocket expenses.

Q14

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

Respondent skipped this question

Page 7: Financial Resources (continued)

Q15

Check the alternative funding methods that apply to your CHC in 2021.

Used hotel / motel tax revenue to fund preservation projects

,

Provide additional information for the above checked boxes.:

Used HOT funds to pay for State Historical Markers.

Q16

In-kind donations are goods and/or services provided to your organization at no charge. Check any in-kind donations provided by your COUNTY in 2021.

- 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 providing services to CHC
- ,
- Assistance from county staff--posting meetings, financial reports, legal consultations, etc.
- ,
- Professional expertise of county staff (for any subject / need)
- ,
- Administrative supplies or services--postage, paper, ink, copier, etc.
- ,
- Meeting and/or office space for CHC

Page 8: Organizational Planning

Q17

Work plans define project tasks, responsible participants, and deadlines. Check the box by the statement that best reflects the state of CHC planning documents.

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

Q18

Check the boxes below that identify areas where concerted efforts were made to improve work in 2021 relative to previous years of service. Skip if none apply to your CHC.

- Preservation education for appointees,
- Partnerships,
- Community outreach to adults,
- Community outreach to young people,
- Online presence of CHC and/or county history,
- Initiated a new CHC project / event,
- Improved an ongoing CHC project / event,
- CHC planning

Page 9: CHC Appointee Education

2021 CHC Annual Report

Q19

Enter the number of CHC appointees who attended each training type or training from the listed organization. Please use numbers only; do not use text or symbols.

CHC Orientation video (THC website)	0
THC's 2021 Real Places Conference	0
THC marker workshop or webinar	5
THC cemetery workshop or webinar	3
THC museum workshop or webinar	0
THC Archeology Steward training	0
Friends of the THC grant writing workshop	0
Texas Heritage Trails regional nonprofit	0
Preservation Texas	3
Texas State Historical Association annual meeting	0
Texas Association of Museums annual meeting	0
Texas Archeological Society	5
Any other history-related opportunity (not hosted by your CHC)	9

Q20

Check the box if your CHC provided or accessed the listed educational opportunity for appointees in 2021.

Provided educational presentations for your CHC appointees

,

Used the THC website information to educate appointees

,

Provide additional information about educational topics covered in events associated with the boxes you checked above. Note if other CHCs attended your educational events.:

As the Markers Committee changed both the Chairperson and many Committee members in 2021, we made frequent use of the THC website for training purposes on Markers. Also, in July, we put together a webinar with Place Economics entitled "24 Reasons Historic Preservation is Good for Our Community." This served as a training opportunity for our Commissioners, as well as outreach to the greater El Paso community.

Q21

Please acknowledge accuracy of reporting answers.

I certify that, when specified by questions and information requests below, my answers will reflect CHC work performed in the 2021 year of service.

Page 11: CHC Stewardship and Survey

Q22

Check the work items in which your CHC was actively involved during 2021.

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 MARKERS,

Visit sites to monitor the 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

,

Please provide brief comments about work related to monitoring the physical condition of historic resources. Also comment on work that altered the courthouse, square, schools, or plazas if you checked those boxes above.:

Our ongoing project to monitor the condition of markers in the County continued this year - we have broken it into a three year cycle. Also, with the help of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, several markers were cleaned this year. Repairs were continued in the Clint Cemetery, and Concordia Cemetery required new repairs from weather-related issues. The Commission is also was involved in the current project to restore the Casa Ronquillo hacienda in San Elizario, and we all learned about and saw to the implementation of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties in the framework of this project, which is still ongoing.

Q23

Are you aware of ongoing work that is managed by individuals / organizations other than the CHC?

Please share what you know about work related to courthouse, square, schools, or plazas that are marked above as having been altered by individuals / organizations other than the CHC.:

No new projects in these three areas were planned or initiated in El Paso County in 2021.

Page 12

Q24

Please read the survey description above. If your CHC has performed work associated with formal cultural and historic resource survey, use the comment box below to describe survey work completed in 2021. Include work to initiate or maintain existing surveys. Skip question if CHC has not performed this type of survey work.

EPCHC Commissioners provided continued input for Phase 2 of our "Onate Crossing - Hart's Mill - Old Fort Bliss Historic Structure and Cultural Landscape Report" to the archaeologists of PaleoWest, which has had delays due to Covid as well as to hazardous conditions in the Old Fort Bliss Officers' Quarters buildings. This project should finally be completed by mid-year 2022. Additionally, the EPCHC provided continued input on the two areas of El Paso nominated for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. The Segundo Barrio Historic District was successfully designated, but unfortunately the Downtown El Paso Historic District was determined to be historically eligible, but enough property owners within the area objected to the designation as to remove it from consideration.

Page 13: CHC Programs and Events

Q25

Check the box for each work item in which your CHC was actively involved in 2021.

Consulted with citizens about potential / ongoing historical MARKER topics

,

Provided tours of historic buildings (other than courthouses) and/or sites within the county

,

CHC appointees volunteered at a historic site that is open to the public at large

,

CHC managed a historic site that is open to the public at large

,

Provided educational events / presentations / info on preservation / history to audiences outside your CHC

,

Provided educational events / presentations / info on preservation / history geared toward youth / schools

,

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

,

If you'd like, provide brief comments about work related to boxes checked above. Consider providing details for these events in the Project Description section at the end of this report.:

As we do every year, EPCHC worked with History Day at the University of Texas - El Paso to encourage Middle and High School students to gear their presentations toward aspects of El Paso history, although it was very different this year as the entire event was virtual. The Outreach Committee contracted Place Economics to develop and present a webinar entitled "24 Reasons Historic Preservation is Good for Our Community," which had excellent online attendance from both those involved in preservation as well as the general community. The Commission worked with the County Economic Development Department in conjunction with Augment El Paso to develop virtual tours of several historic county buildings since in-person tours were curtailed by the pandemic. EPCHC Commissioners still manage Concordia Cemetery, and continued a successful schedule of events on the property throughout the year. Finally, Commissioners were involved in the development of another beautiful brochure geared toward heritage tourism, this one on Trains and Train Stations.

Page 14: Community Awareness, Participation, and Revitalization

Q26

Check the box for each work item in which your CHC was actively involved during 2021.

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

,

Identified and/or researched historic farms and ranches 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 undertaking review

,

If you'd like, provide brief comments about work related to boxes checked above.:

The Commission began a major new project to research and develop signage for the Bankhead Highway, a historic Texas highway. The EPCHC Markers Committee has continued research on Mandell Dairy Farm in preparation for presenting it for a marker. The EPCHC also continues to be a consulting party with TXDOT on the "ReImagine I-10" project - which ramped up quite a bit this year - as several of the potential options will have a significant detrimental impact on parts of the Sunset Heights and Downtown historical neighborhoods. The EPCHC was a consulting party on the most Section 106 filings ever in a calendar year in 2021, as well continuing as a consulting party on potential options for the site of the U.S. Army's first Beaumont Hospital location, which houses Baron Carl Rudolph von Ripper's irreplaceable mural, "One Nation Indivisible with Liberty and Justice for All." The EPCHC continued work with the El Paso County Economic Development Department on the presentation of the Downtown and Segundo Barrio Historic Districts for placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

Q27

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

Local organizations (other than CHC) that use hotel / motel tax to fund preservation projects/organizations

,

County or municipal historic tax exemptions and/or incentives for qualified properties

,

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

,

Please share what you know about work related to the boxes you checked above.:

Another new project spearheaded in 2021 involves the site of Firecracker Pueblo, a Jornada Mogollon pueblo that was abandoned in the late 15th century. The site is located within the proposed right of way for the Northeast Parkway, a new-location highway northeast of El Paso planned to ease heavy traffic along Interstate 10, and the Commission started work on a project to memorialize it with TXDOT resources if it cannot be saved, which would of course be our first choice. The Commission continued our extensive input into the preservation and restoration of Casa Ronquillo, in San Elizario. With our two new nominations for the National Register of Historic Places, the Commission and our Economic Development Department provided extensive online outreach and workshops about the benefits of federal and state tax credits for historic preservation, including the Place Economics webinar that we presented.

Page 15: CHC Partnerships

Q28

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 2021.

Local businesses,

Cemetery organizations,

Archeology organizations,

Texas Heritage Trails regional nonprofits,

Tourism organizations / visitors bureaus,

Educational institutions (school districts, community colleges, universities)

,

County officials

Page 16: CHC Partnerships (continued)

Q29

Our CHC has no role with museums

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

Q30

0% of CHC time spent on museum work

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

Q31

Provide the name, address, phone number, and operating hours for each of the museums the CHC operates.

N/A. Please note that CHC appointees have volunteered at museums in past years, but Covid led to closures of these entities, which is why we worked on the development of virtual tours.

Page 17: 2021 Project Descriptions

Q32

Project Description #1 — Describe ONE project, effort, or service provided by the CHC. Project descriptions should highlight CHC work that falls under one or more of the following: a project, effort, or service that resulted in a preservation and/or protection outcome. a project, effort, or service that was developed to educate the citizens of your county and/or celebrate history with the citizens of your county. a project, effort, or service that was developed to educate audiences outside of your county or celebrate history with audiences outside of your county. Description must include the following information to illustrate the nature of efforts involved: your county name CHC's role in the project, effort, or service note partners in planning and/or implementation; note how each contributed impact of the project / effort / service— attendance, improvements made, public benefit, etc.

The webinar "24 Reasons Historic Preservation Is Good For Our Community," which we developed in conjunction with Place Economics, entailed months of work by several of the Committees of the El Paso County Historical Commission. The Architectural Preservation Committee worked directly with Place Economics researching information about El Paso and tailoring the webinar to the concerns of our region. Our Outreach Committee, which also funded the webinar, worked with the El Paso County Economic Development Department to strategize the demographics we wanted to reach and a plan for mechanisms to reach them. The Marketing Committee then implemented the plan along with the Economic Development Department, and ensured the broadest reach for attendance. The webinar was originally initiated as a mechanism to explain the economic benefits of historic preservation after a majority of business owners in the area rejected our plan for a Downtown National Historic Register District, and we invited those business owners as well as owners within - at that time - the proposed Segundo Barrio National Historic Register District, as well as other preservation-focused partners, educators, students, and the general public. The live webinar presentation was very well-attended, and we continue to use the webinar as an educational device to explain some of the monetary benefits of historic preservation. The Segundo Barrio National Historic Register District had negligible property owner objections, and has been approved. We hope to use the webinar as an educational tool for property owners in any future NHRD projects.

Page 18: 2019 Project Descriptions

Q33

Project Description #2 — Describe ONE project, effort, or service provided by the CHC. Project descriptions should highlight CHC work that falls under one or more of the following: a project, effort, or service that resulted in a preservation and/or protection outcome. a project, effort, or service that was developed to educate the citizens of your county and/or celebrate history with the citizens of your county. a project, effort, or service that was developed to educate audiences outside of your county or celebrate history with audiences outside of your county. Description must include the following information to illustrate the nature of efforts involved: your county name CHC's role in the project, effort, or service note partners in planning and/or implementation; note how each contributed impact of the project / effort / service— attendance, improvements made, public benefit, etc.

Due to the closures - because of Covid regulations - of all of El Paso County's tourism sites, the El Paso County Economic Development Department worked with members of the CHC to develop virtual tours for both our own community as well as interested tourists from outside our area. Commissioners - especially those on the Mission Trail Development Special Committee - provided research as well as personal historic documents and artifacts to Augment El Paso, who actually programmed the virtual tours. The entire Commission has checked and evaluated their progress throughout the process, from checking grammar and spelling to corrections of historic accuracy and suggestions to enhance the information. Phase 1 - which includes the Presidio Chapel, Los Portales and Old County Jail Museums, Veterans Placita, and most of the San Elizario Historic District - has been completed: elpasocountyvirtualtours.com. Phase 2 will include the Ysleta and Socorro Missions and the Tigua Cultural Center. This has been an essential project for heritage tourism as it has both acted as a bridge to promote these venues during closures, as well as providing an ongoing opportunity to promote these sites to potential visitors to the area when things have opened up again. The site also will be utilized to educate people in our area, many of whom are entirely unaware of the many historic treasures in their own backyards!

Page 19: 2019 Project Descriptions

Q34

Project Description #3 — Describe ONE project, effort, or service provided by the CHC. Project descriptions should highlight CHC work that falls under one or more of the following: a project, effort, or service that resulted in a preservation and/or protection outcome. a project, effort, or service that was developed to educate the citizens of your county and/or celebrate history with the citizens of your county. a project, effort, or service that was developed to educate audiences outside of your county or celebrate history with audiences outside of your county. Description must include the following information to illustrate the nature of efforts involved: your county name CHC's role in the project, effort, or service note partners in planning and/or implementation; note how each contributed impact of the project / effort / service— attendance, improvements made, public benefit, etc.

The restoration of Casa Ronquillo in San Elizario has been a major ongoing project for El Paso County, both the Economic Development Department and the El Paso County Historical Commission. This historic treasure located in the heart of San Elizario was built in the early part of the nineteenth century, during the Mexican Era. Though much of the original mansion has long since disappeared, the remaining structure represents “an outstanding example of Spanish colonial architecture with Territorial style elements.” In 2021, the EPCHC Architectural Preservation Committee discovered that the first phase of renovation was not implemented in accordance with the correct National Park Service Standards and Guidelines. Although input has been solicited from the EPCHC throughout the project, this oversight led to the Architectural Preservation and Archaeological Committees being more directly involved in the project from this point on, and they are both reviewing all further plans from the contractor prior to implementation, as well as working to guide the overall footprint and scope of the final plan. This has included a proposal from the Archaeology Committee - with the assistance of the THC's Drew Sitters - to do a GPR survey of the surrounding area. The overall project is now geared toward an restoration of the complete footprint of the property, with the final goal of becoming a living history/teaching museum to both educate area residents about the history and lifestyle of early settlers, as well as to act as a draw for heritage tourism. To this end, the entire EPCHC has been researching other sites of this type, including the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces. N.M. and El Rancho de las Golondrinas in Santa Fe, N.M. When completed, this project will be the focal point for heritage tourism efforts by El Paso County.

Page 20: CHC Comments for the THC

Q35

Share your thoughts on THC and/or CHC Outreach services that have helped your CHC.

As stated previously, THC resources were essential to educating the new Chair and members of the Markers Committee, and we of course utilized many of the Archaeological resources in the ongoing planning for the Casa Ronquillo project. We continued to forward THC newsletters to our members and email subscribers, and always receive great response from attendees to the numerous webinars provided. THC webinars have also guided many of our upcoming projects for El Paso, including work on designating highways and trails, as well as a focus on foodways and other cultural aspects of heritage tourism.

Q36

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/or challenges. This year, we'd like you to comment on how CHC activities have been impacted by the current pandemic or reopening of facilities and services.

Until Governor Abbott mandated that Quorum had to be attained in person at Commission meetings, we had achieved Quorum at 100% of our meetings. Since that time, we did not achieve Quorum at three of the last four of our meetings in 2021, and both meetings in 2022. This has stymied projects that require a Commission vote, including budget and new project requests. We have had ongoing success at the Committee level on projects, but there has been a noted overall dissatisfaction among our Commission appointees as their upcoming projects are tabled until the following month over and over again. We have worked with the County Economic Development Department to locate a new venue for our meetings - in the past they have been in a somewhat small windowless basement room - and the March meeting will be in a new room where we will hopefully get back to Quorum and be able to go forward on new projects, which should motivate our appointees in the development of upcoming projects.
