



TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

Michael C. Duda Preservation Awards



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Four Texas Organizations Receive 2024 Duda Preservation Awards

DALLAS, Texas— Winners of the inaugural Texas Historical Foundation Michael C. Duda Preservation Awards were announced during an April 20 Awards event in Dallas.

The Texas Historical Foundation is extremely pleased to share the winners of the first-ever Michael C. Duda Preservation Awards, recognizing excellence in the preservation of historic architecture. Following a selection process that considered dozens of nominees from across the state, four groups were honored at the 2024 Texas Historical Foundation Michael C. Duda Preservation Awards. The Award, named for architect and late Foundation Board Member Michael C. Duda, provides monetary awards of \$100,000, \$30,000, \$20,000, and \$11,000 to the top projects—the largest of the kind in the state.

The winners, announced at the April 20, 2024 event at the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas, are as follows:

- **Friends of the Wheelock School House, Wheelock** – *The top 2024 Duda Preservation Award winner received \$100,000 for their work at the eponymous 1908 Wheelock School House to finish restoration of the exterior. The Friends of the Wheelock School House have consistently demonstrated the potential of grassroots organizing and the power of community engagement to preserve our cherished public spaces.*
- **Flower Hill Center, Austin** – *The Flower Hill Center was awarded \$30,000 for stabilization work at the 1877 Smoot House, from which they operate the Urban Homestead Museum. Situated in Austin's urban core, the property's distinctive main house and outbuildings offer a window into the city's past while exulting civic engagement and promoting local arts and culture.*
- **Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum, Cuero**, received \$20,000 towards the restoration of the 1894 Trautwein and 1920 Cook & Day buildings which are part of their campus expansion. Since opening in 2013, Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum has exemplified the transformative power of preservation in small town public life, both on and off the Museum campus. The expansion into the historic buildings will allow additional space for exhibitions on Texas history, art, and culture, as well as public gatherings.
- **Rutherford B.H. Yates Museum, Houston** – *For decades, the Rutherford B.H. Yates Museum has preserved what is among the most complete examples of an urban Freedmen's Town, drawing into focus a rich portrait of this critical piece of state history. The group's vision of a restored 1907 Isabella Simms Cottage serving as one of six museums interpreting Houston's Freedmen's Town Historic District will allow visitors to engage with this dynamic site in its totality. The Yates Museum was recognized with the honorable mention Texas Historical Foundation Directors' Award and a prize of \$11,000 towards their work at the Simms Cottage.*

These organizations, while diverse in geography and purpose, are aligned in their dedication to serving Texas communities by preserving spaces that connect us to our shared past. Each exemplifies the transformative qualities that architectural preservation offers – the fellowship and pride of place inherent to experiencing our collective heritage as Texans.

Since 1954, the Texas Historical Foundation has empowered communities to preserve their own pieces of Texas history through our grants program. For more information, visit texashistoricalfoundation.org.

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