

Why is Historical Heritage important?

The preservation of our community's heritage is more than just saving a part of the past. Historic preservation can also serve as a tool for economic and community development. It creates new jobs, provide affordable quality housing, and revitalize downtown business districts.



Historic Jackson District boasts with people during the Jackson Jubilee Celebration in October.

Harlingen Steering Committee

Luis Nieves-Ruiz, City of Harlingen

Michelle Leftwich, City Harlingen

Mike Dailey, Harlingen Citizen

Bill DeBrooke, Downtown Development District

Wanda Greenhill, Rio Grande Valley Museum

T.R. Jones, Harlingen Citizen

Cheryl Laberge, Harlingen Chamber of Commerce

Tim Reynolds, Harlingen Public Library/Archives

Norman Rozzoff, Harlingen Historical Society

Mary Lou Rumbo, Harlingen Historical Society

Anissa Samilpa, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Mary Torres, Harlingen Historical Society

VISIONARIES
IN PRESERVATION

For more information about the Visionaries in Preservation Program see the Texas Historical Commission's website: www.thc.state.tx.us or contact the Neighborhood Planner at 430-6691

**VISIONARIES
IN
PRESERVATION**



*Help to Preserve
Harlingen's
Historical Heritage*

What is the Visionaries in Preservation Program

This upcoming year the City of Harlingen will be applying for the Visionaries in Preservation Program. This program was created



Built in 1917, the Planter's Bank Building now serves as the Downtown Development District's Office

by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to address the preservation needs of communities across the state. Its main objective is to empower the different sectors

of the community to create a broad-based, locally supported, and directed preservation program.

The Visionaries in Preservation Program is modeled after an innovative planning process known as visioning. Visioning is a tool that brings a community together to develop a shared image of the future and form an action plan for

achieving that vision.

The process is based on four simple questions:

Where are we now?

Where are we going?

Where do we want to be?

How do we get there?

Benefits of the program

Through the Visionaries in Preservation program, communities can:

- Build partnerships among diverse groups and interests
- Foster preservation leadership
- Develop unified preservation goals and action plans
- Receive priority status for local training and assistance from the THC
- Enhance their capability to secure grants and funds for preservation projects. More important it will help city officials launch the first set of historic preservation ordinances.

How to become a Visionary

The program requires the involvement and

strong support from members of the community. Community leaders, government representatives, preservation related groups and other civic organizations are encouraged to participate.



The snakes sculpted by Luis Lopez (1928) gave Bowie School its nickname, La Escuela de las Viboras (the school of snakes). The unique façade features blending Mexican motifs such as Toltec feathered headdresses, Aztec heads, and Quetzlcoatl, Mexico's fabled feathered serpent.

Participate in any of our visioning meetings or volunteer to become part of this program.

The THC is very selective of the communities that are allowed to participate in the program. Your help can make a difference for the future of Harlingen.