

Preservation Scholars Projects – Summer 2024 Internships

Project 1: Magoffin Home Archives Internship

Division(s): Historic Sites Division

Department(s)/Site/Program(s): Magoffin Home State Historic Site

Academic level best suited for this project:

Undergraduate Graduate Either

Project Description:

Students will join the staff and volunteers of the Magoffin Home State Historic Site, in El Paso, Texas, to execute a multi-stage archival processing project. The Magoffin Home Archive contains a substantial number of manuscripts in English and Spanish, as well as photographs, which document the history of the Magoffin and Glasgow families, the history of the home, and the cultural life and civic development of El Paso, Juarez, and the border region. There are also a substantial number of military papers and paper related to the life and artwork of Octavia Magoffin Glasgow, the last living descendant to live in the home. Students will learn how to process archival donations, including rehousing archival materials, processing and preparing items for digitization, arranging the collection, creating finding aids, cataloging, and digitizing the archive.

Preferred major(s):

History Anthropology Archeology Business Communication Education
 Graphic Design Sociology Architecture Any Degree Field Other: Museum Studies
or Library Sciences

Special skills desired: Candidates who can read and write Spanish will have more to offer the archive, but it isn't essential to the work. The candidates must be able to execute written procedures and work from a desk for 8 hours a day looking at historic documents and photographs. Knowledge of archival processes and procedures is a plus.

Project 2: CHCs Efforts to Document Historic Structures

Division(s): History Programs Division

Department(s)/Site/Program(s): County Historical Commission Outreach

Academic level best suited for this project:

Undergraduate Graduate Either

Project Description:

The Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation is a critical tool used to preserve and promote Texas' historic structures. Some counties contain over 100 RTHLs. In 2022, County Historical Commissions (CHC) were asked to conduct photo surveys of their RTHLs and submit the results to the Texas Historical Commission. You will work with CHCs to learn about their efforts to photograph, review and assess historically designated properties. You will develop training materials, and supplemental content for the CHC listserv, THC website, and social media to increase awareness of this preservation effort.

Preferred major(s):

History Anthropology Archeology Business Communication Education
 Graphic Design Sociology Architecture Any Degree Field Other: _____

Special skills desired: Strong written and verbal communication.

Project 3: Beyond the Markers Project

Division(s): History Programs

Department(s)/Site/Program(s): Historical Markers

Academic level best suited for this project:

Undergraduate Graduate Either

Project Description:

Our State Historical Markers are tremendous tools, but they merely highlight the deep and engaging stories of Texas. That's where you come in. You will deepen public understanding of extraordinary marker stories through supplemental webpage development, educational material, social media content creation and other outlets of your choosing. You'll also work with other departments to learn



how a kaleidoscope of skills come together to tell public history. (And, who knows? One day you might even see your words in aluminum!)

Preferred major(s):

- History Anthropology Archeology Business Communication Education
 Graphic Design Sociology Architecture Any Degree Field Other: English

Special skills desired: Strong Writing Skills

Project 4: Mapping Texas Military History

Division(s): History Programs

Department(s)/Site/Program(s): Military Sites Program

Academic level best suited for this project:

- Undergraduate Graduate Either

Project Description:

Over the course of this internship, scholars will use existing data and original research to create a dataset of Texas military sites from the Spanish through Modern Eras. The dataset will then be used to create thematic maps for online distribution creating opportunities for heritage tourism and the sharing of photos, period maps and other primary source materials that help to illustrate the breadth and diversity of Texas military history.

Preferred major(s):

- History Anthropology Archeology Business Communication Education
 Graphic Design Sociology Architecture Any Degree Field Other: _____

Special skills desired: Basic map reading and MS Excel skills are a plus.

Project 5: Educational Programming Expansion

Division(s): Historic Sites Division

Department(s)/Site/Program(s): San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site

Academic level best suited for this project:

- Undergraduate Graduate Either

Project Description:

San Felipe de Austin has been operating at the current location since 2018. We have been open and operating school tours since that time and have a number of educational offerings that we facilitate with schools and groups of all sizes. The education staff has been working to expand the educational offerings to teachers with the expansion of the site to include the historic recreation villa (that was added in 2021). While there are many programs already done and being used, there is a need for new programs. Examples of programs that we are seeking out are self-guided programs that can be run in specific areas of the property and programs based on occurrences in San Felipe de Austin that are not tied to specific buildings (such as games, or militia). The intern project will include researching, writing, and potentially implementing/test running programming based on San Felipe de Austin.

Preferred major(s):

History Anthropology Archeology Business Communication Education
 Graphic Design Sociology Architecture Any Degree Field Other: _____

Special skills desired: None

Project 6: Onboarding and Offboarding Workflow Project

Division(s): Administration (HR, IT, Finance and Accounting and Communications

Department(s)/Site/Program(s): HR, IT, FAD, COMMs

Academic level best suited for this project:

Undergraduate Graduate Either

Project Description:

Work with Directors in HR, IT, FAD and Communications Division to complete a comprehensive workflow analysis of all processes and procedures associated with Onboarding and Offboarding. A survey and meetings between the preservation scholar and directors to discuss the current process with recommended improvements should be assessed prior to completing the workflow analysis. The final product will be a comprehensive manual of process workflows through 90 days, desk aids, communication products and training to implement the new process.



Preferred major(s):

- History Anthropology Archeology Business Communication Education
 Graphic Design Sociology Architecture Any Degree Field Other: __HR and
IT_____

Special skills desired: collaboration skills, organizational skills, orientation, knowledge of HR best practices, and project management/workflow.

Project 7: Digital Storytelling: Undertold History for Travelers

Division(s): Community Heritage Development

Department(s)/Site/Program(s): Heritage Tourism

Academic level best suited for this project:

- Undergraduate Graduate Either

Project Description:

As part of our strategic effort to add more original content and hard-to-find destinations to Texas Time Travel, the Heritage Tourism Program has partnered with the History Programs Division to promote experiences related to the stories behind Undertold Markers. The aim of this project is to survey over 230 THC Undertold Markers and add extant sites to our heritage tourism website as potential heritage travel destinations. In addition, scholars will have the opportunity to integrate these sites into fuller travel experiences by creating online itineraries that combine digital mapping, suggested side-trips, and long-form narratives that expand on the history of a location. These editorial features will be published on the Texas Time Travel blog under the scholar's name as part of their publication portfolio. Completing this project will involve surveying digital Undertold Marker files; conducting additional research as needed; time spent with the CMS platform to build webpages on TexasTimeTravel.com; close collaboration with both heritage tourism and communications staff; and of course, lots of writing and storytelling.

Preferred major(s):

- History Anthropology Archeology Business Communication Education
 Graphic Design Sociology Architecture Any Degree Field Other: __Journalism;
Tourism/Hospitality_____

Special skills desired: Strong writing skills, ideally with some creative writing and/or journalism experience; comfort navigating new or unfamiliar digital platforms; and the ability to synthesize historical information into compelling stories.

Project 8: "First Friday News for Friends," Newsletter for Nonprofits

Division(s): Historic Sites

Department(s)/Site/Program(s): Community Engagement Program

Preservation Scholars Program Division Liaison: Angela Reed

Name of Direct Supervisor(s) of intern: Angela Reed

Academic level best suited for this project:

Undergraduate Graduate Either

Project Description:

The First Friday News for Friends is a bi-monthly e-newsletter for historic sites partner nonprofits (typically known as "friends groups.") The newsletter provides opportunities for nonprofit training and resources, and features activities at historic sites. As part of this internship, however, the intern would not only research, collect and develop content for the newsletter, but also provide a special feature during their tenure: researching and writing about the history of nonprofits and the role of nonprofits in society versus corporate and government structures. This may include topics such as the role of nonprofits in consensus decision making; garnering public support and advocacy; demonstrating public will; the role and importance of public-private/government partnerships; and stories of nonprofits that achieved major historical successes. The intern will further learn about nonprofit governance, partnership agreements, and will support staff in building and maintaining partnership agreements between historic sites and nonprofits. Optional travel to sites may be included, if desired by the intern.

Preferred major(s):

History Anthropology Archeology Business Communication Education
 Graphic Design Sociology Architecture Any Degree Field Other: Public Policy;
Nonprofit Administration; Public History_____

Special skills desired: Research, writing, diplomacy

Project 9: African American Travel Guide Survey Project

Division(s): History Programs

Department(s)/Site/Program(s): Historic Resources Survey

Academic level best suited for this project:

Undergraduate Graduate Either

Project Description:

Student would do in-depth research on African American businesses and people that were listed in various travel guides dating to the early 1930s to late 1960s, looking for any articles, city directories, postcards, photographs, advertisements, etc., and then write historical narratives in order to create backgrounds for each site. Two options for end products would be researching and creating a poster for a community with map and 7-10 sites (poster done in PhotoShop, InDesign or similar program) or researching and writing a thematic topic with accompanying webpage(s) (thematic topics could be medicine, music, insurance, Civil Rights, YMCA/YWCA, etc.)

Preferred major(s):

- History Anthropology Archeology Business Communication
 Education
 Graphic Design Sociology Architecture Any Degree Field Other: _____

Special skills desired: Excel, Word, graphic design (PhotoShop, InDesign), GIS mapping, online historical research skills, writing skills

Project 10: Telling our Stories - Nonprofit Communications

Division(s): Administration

Department(s)/Site/Program(s): Friends of the Texas Historical Commission

Academic level best suited for this project:

- Undergraduate Graduate Either

Project Description:

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to work at a nonprofit? Here's your chance! Join the Friends of the THC for the summer and learn how to craft compelling communications that help us engage and connect with donors and supporters across the state. From social media to newsletter articles and more, you'll have the opportunity to draft various types of communications and assist with fundraising/development activities. Additionally, this internship will introduce you to how nonprofits function, providing you with an opportunity to observe board meetings, conduct research, and be a part of the day-to-day life of working in a nonprofit.



Preferred major(s):

- History Anthropology Archeology Business Communication Education
 Graphic Design Sociology Architecture Any Degree Field Other: _____

Special skills desired: Strong writing skills, familiarity with social media communications.

Project 11: A River Runs Through It: The Texas Historical Commission (THC) State Waterway Archeology Mapping Project (SWAMP)

Division(s): Archeology Division

Department(s)/Site/Program(s): Office of the State Archeologist, Marine Archeology Program, Texas Archeological Stewardship Network

Academic level best suited for this project:

- Undergraduate Graduate Either

Project Description:

The state of Texas has more than 190,000 miles of rivers and other vital waterways, many of which historically served as important conduits for moving goods and people throughout the region. As settlement and immigration was increasing during the 1700s and 1800s, hundreds of river crossings, ferry landings, and river ports were created to help ford these important inland arteries and capitalize on their use as strategic supply distribution routes. Modernization of transportation infrastructure and the decline of steam river trade resulted in the abandonment of these early sites, most of which are now known through historical accounts and maps. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) State Waterway Archeology Mapping Project seeks to “rediscover” the states’ river crossings, tribal crossings, ferry launches, and forgotten river ports as the basis of a geospatial mapping project. The collated data can help archeologists identify areas that have a high potential to yield such archeological sites, and any associated shipwrecks, so they can be better protected in advance of construction and development projects. The intern project will include research, geospatial mapping using ESRI ArcMAP, and coordination with volunteers from the THC’s Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN) and other groups in the submission and compilation of information for the geospatial database. The project may include the development of content for a future virtual exhibit or agency web page and on-site assessments.

Preferred major(s):

- History Anthropology Archeology Business Communication Education
 Graphic Design Sociology Architecture Any Degree Field Other: ___GIS
Mapping_____

Special skills desired: Applicants need to be adept at both ArcGIS mapping and historic research.

Project 12: State Archeology Programs Intern

Division(s): Archeology

Department(s)/Site/Program(s): Office of the State Archeologist

Academic level best suited for this project:

Undergraduate Graduate Either

Project Description:

The State Archeology Program Intern will assist the State Archeologist and staff archeologists with ongoing division projects. These projects include public outreach, archeological site research, GIS mapping, and data review and analysis for programs such as Texas Archeology Month, the Texas Archeological Stewards Network, the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas, State Antiquities Landmarks and various projects being undertaken by staff across the state including field projects in both terrestrial and marine environments. While most projects will be based in Austin, there may be some opportunities for students to participate in fieldwork. Students may work on multiple projects or a single project, depending on staff projects and the student's interests.

Preferred major(s):

History Anthropology Archeology Business Communication Education
 Graphic Design Sociology Architecture Any Degree Field Other: Museum
Studies/Curation/Collections Management_____

Special skills desired for this internship: None, though familiarity with Archeology and GIS skills are preferred.

Project 13: Festivals and Events Held on Historic Courthouse Squares

Division(s): Architecture

Department(s)/Site/Program(s): Courthouse Preservation Program

Academic level best suited for this project:

Undergraduate Graduate Either



Project Description:

The restoration of historic county courthouses and their squares support heritage tourism. Local festivals held on courthouse squares draw tourists to historic downtown areas. The Courthouse Preservation Program would like data on recurring festivals and community events held on historic courthouse squares around the state and the compilation of these festivals into a single or multiple documents organized by region of the state. The document/s should be visually appealing and may be of interest to local Visitor Centers.

Preferred major(s):

- History Anthropology Archeology Business Communication Education
 Graphic Design Sociology Architecture Any Degree Field Other:

Special skills desired: Graphic Design