

AUSTIN REMEMBERS.

“THE COLLECTIVE MEMORY OF AUSTIN & TRAVIS COUNTY”

FALL 2018

FATE OF AHC EXPANSION TIED TO PROPOSITION B BOND PROPOSAL



“We’ll need all hands on deck to work on passage of Proposition B in the bond package. Although our portion of the total is relatively small, that \$14.5 million will finally allow the Austin History Center to expand its operations and storage capacity. This is our one bite at the apple.”

City of Austin bond Proposition B on the Nov. 6 ballot includes \$14.5 million in general obligation bonds for repair of the John Henry Faulk Library building and expansion of Austin History Center operations into at least two floors of the building.

Charlie Betts, Austin History Center Association President

After years of planning, the fate of the Austin History Center’s expansion into the Faulk Central Library building is in the hands of Austin voters. Tucked into the City of Austin bond proposal on the Nov. 6 ballot is \$14.5 million that would be dedicated to general repair of the John Henry Faulk Library building and preparing up to two floors of that building for AHC expansion.

The \$14.5 million is part of Proposition B, which proposes \$128 million in bond funding for improvements for Austin’s libraries, museums, and cultural arts centers. Proposition B is one of 7 bond

propositions – labeled A through G on the Nov. 6 ballot - but each proposition is independent of the others, meaning only those that get voter approval Nov. 6 will receive funding through the sale of general obligation bonds. Austin voters must approve the entire \$128 million in Proposition B in order for the \$14.5 million Faulk repair/AHC expansion to get funded.

“We’ll need all hands on deck to work on passage of Proposition B in the bond package,” said Austin History Center Association President Charlie Betts. “Although **EXPANSION... PAGE 4 ➔**

History of Performance Arts Takes Center Stage at 2019 Eberly



Angelina Eberly Luncheon

Friday, Feb. 1, 2019
Millett Opera House

The 140-year-old Millett Opera House, currently occupied by the Austin Club, will be host for the next Angelina Eberly Luncheon Friday, Feb. 1, 2019. The annual Eberly Luncheon is AHCA’s biggest fundraiser of the year, supported by a who’s who of sponsors and guests. The theme for the 2019 Eberly Luncheon is the history of theatre in Austin – a look back at 150 years of theatrical

performance in the Capital City. A panel of distinguished historians, academicians, and performers will bring history to life in one of Austin’s earliest performing arts venues.

While live theatre began in Austin as early as the 1850s, it was only with the arrival of the railroad in 1871, and construction of the Millett Opera House in 1878 and the Hancock Opera **EBERLY...PAGE 6 ➔**



Austin History Center ASSOCIATION

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The mission of the Austin History Center Association is to help the community value our past and build a better future - by supporting the Austin History Center to achieve excellence in its efforts to serve as the collective memory of Austin and Travis County.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Charles Betts - *President*
- Geoff Wool - *First Vice President*
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- Bob Ward · Anne Wheat

AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER ASSOCIATION STAFF

- Jeff Cohen - *Executive Director*
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AUSTIN REMEMBERS.

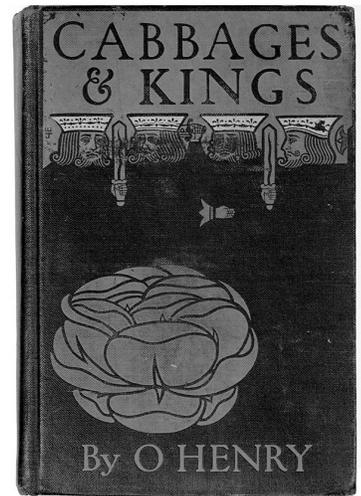
- Geoff Wool - *Editor*
- Beth Fowler - *Creative Director*
- Eve Molnar - *Layout & Design*
- Anne Wheat - *Photographer*



RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Since the publication of the last edition of *Austin Remembers*, the Austin History Center has added approximately 17 linear feet of new donations to the collection. Here are a few highlights of these recent acquisitions:

- The AHC recently acquired new additions to the O. Henry collection, including a rare inscribed 1st edition of O. Henry's first book, *Cabbages and Kings*. O. Henry signed very few copies of his books. The AHC also received a bas-relief sculpture of O. Henry from the son of Judge Trueman O'Quinn. Judge O'Quinn's O. Henry collection comprises the bulk of the O. Henry materials at the AHC.
- The AHC recently acquired a collection of glass plate negatives that were found in an old photo studio on Congress Avenue. The collection dates from the late 1800s to the early 1900s. The person who donated the collection also made a monetary donation that will allow us to have the images scanned and added to our holdings that can be seen online on the **Portal to Texas History** website.
- The AHC also received many donations related to the Asian American Community. These include programs, organizational records, posters, and other documents from the Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce. AHC also received records from the South Asians' International Volunteer Association, Austin Marathi Mandal, Akella, South Asian Austin Moms, and Hindu Charities for America.



▲ Cover of *Cabbages and Kings* by O. Henry. Inscribed copy from AR.L.015, O. Henry (William Sydney Porter) Resources Collection, Austin History Center.

NEWLY PROCESSED COLLECTIONS

AHC staff and student volunteers continue to work hard to make the collections more accessible to the public, processing 10 unique manuscript and photograph collections and over 5,000 items since the last *Austin Remembers* newsletter. You can view inventories of all of the AHC's processed collections online at: legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse_ahc1.html. Here are a few collections recently completed:

AR.1995.002. Von Rosenberg Family Papers

The von Rosenberg family has a long history in Austin. The family left Prussia for Texas in the mid-1800s to avoid political unrest, and eventually Carl Wilhelm "William" von Rosenberg settled in Austin in 1856 and became a draftsman in the Texas General Land Office. Through the years, members of the von Rosenberg family have worked and volunteered in local and state government, including service with the Austin Board of Alderman (Council), Austin Volunteer Fire Department, Texas General Land Office

and Texas Department of Transportation. The Papers primarily document the professional and personal lives of three generations of von Rosenberg sons and their spouses: Carl Wilhelm, his son Ernst Johann, and Ernst's son, Ernest Jacob. There are also materials related to Carl Wilhelm's other son, Frederick Charles, as well as various members of the von Rosenberg family. The bulk of the materials date from the 1870s to the 1940s and include correspondence, account books, diaries, certificates, legal documents, drawings, and creative works. A full inventory of the collection is available at: legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00645/ahc-00645.html.

AR.V.003. Austin Alliance for Smooth Transition

For most of the 1970s, desegregation of Austin public schools was a prominent issue of discussion in the community. In 1976, a group of concerned Austin citizens and organizations formed the Austin Alliance for Smooth Transition to discuss how Austin could prevent the impending desegregation order from being the divisive and disruptive issue that it had been in other cities. This collection consists of AAST documents and records. The group's original principal activities were listed as: make accurate information available; generate resources from community groups to assist desegregation; encourage voluntary participation of interested citizens, parents, and students; provide a speakers bureau for groups who request information; coordinate activities of groups in the desegregation field; involve students in get-acquainted programs for new students; research and develop fact sheets on desegregation topics; and provide training workshops for facilitators. The majority of the collection, which is dated 1969 to 1981, consists of materials



▲ Students waiting to get on school bus, ca. 1974. Bussing was one of the more controversial aspects of school desegregation. AAST attempted to alleviate tensions associated with achieving desegregation. PICA 10496, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.



▲ Carl Wilhelm "William" von Rosenberg working in his office, March 1895. PICB 09462, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.

gathered by AAST for their resource bank. Also included are a small amount of organizational records and information about other local organizations concerned with the desegregation process. A full inventory of the collection is available at: legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00644/ahc-00644.html.

AR.2016.030. Cater Joseph Family Papers

In 1881, Cater Joseph Cater immigrated to the United States from Roumieh, Lebanon at the age of 14. His father sent him, and later his four brothers, to the United States to avoid being drafted into the Turkish Army. Cater's name was shortened to Cater Joseph upon passing through Ellis Island. Joseph's first business was as a peddler traveling to surrounding towns selling goods to farmers. In 1890, Joseph opened his general mercantile store on Congress Avenue. At one time, Joseph had three retail stores downtown: Joseph's Man Shop, Majestic Man's Shop, and Joseph's Department Store. Joseph retired in 1920, and his business passed on to his sons Ernest and Harry who famously outfitted President Lyndon Johnson with his signature Stetson hats. Cater Joseph passed away on August 15, 1947 at the age of 80. The papers in the collection document the business of the Joseph family in Austin, primarily Joseph's Man's Shop, under Ernest Joseph's management. Since Ernest Joseph was the main hat outfitter for President Johnson, the collection includes information about the Johnson family relationship with the Joseph's store, including photographs. The collection consists of photographs, news clippings, correspondence, and Cater Joseph's Naturalization Certificate. A full inventory of the collection is available at: legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00651/ahc-00651.html.

The AHC acquired this small but significant collection largely as a result of the recent exhibit "Finding Refuge in Austin."

►... **EXPANSION** our portion of the total is relatively small, that \$14.5 million will finally allow the Austin History Center to expand its operations and storage capacity. This is our one bite at the apple.”

Because the \$14.5 million is embedded in Proposition B along with funding for other improvements to libraries, museums, and cultural centers, it’s important Proposition B gets full AHCA support.

AHC Campus Expansion Committee Chair Candace Volz has been working on an expansion solution for more than 10 years and knows that access to a fully functioning Faulk building is central to those plans.

“Moving into the Faulk building makes the most sense, but the Faulk was built in the 1970s and needs code compliance repairs, which is what most of this money would go toward. Thankfully, the City Council understands the value in getting more use out of that building, and they understand the specific need to expand the Austin History Center.”

– Candace Volz, AHC Campus Expansion Committee Chair

The AHCA’s advocacy efforts were instrumental in getting the \$14.5 million included in the bond proposal. The Citizen Bond Task Force had recommended \$11.5 million for the Faulk repair/AHC expansion but Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo and Mayor Steve Adler led an effort to add an additional \$3 million for the bond request, specifically to make two floors of the Faulk building suitable for archival use.

The lack of space in the current AHC has long been a concern and expanding into the Faulk would open new space to store archives, create new and expanded exhibit spaces, and promote community engagement with the materials that hold Austin’s history. But that can only happen if voters approve bond Proposition B on the Nov. 6 ballot.

Austin History Center Receives 2018 Diversity Award from the Society of American Archivists

The Community Archives Program, established in 2000 by the City of Austin through the Austin History Center, is a 2018 recipient of the Diversity Award given by the Society of American Archivists. The award recognizes outstanding contributions in advancing diversity within the archives profession, SAA, or the archival record. The award was presented in August at a ceremony during the Joint Annual Meeting of the Council of State Archivists, National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators, and SAA in Washington, D.C. Latinx Community Archivist Amanda Jasso accepted the award on behalf of the AHC.

The Community Archives Program engages communities in documenting the rich and diverse histories of African American,

PROPOSITION B BALLOT LANGUAGE

The issuance of \$128,000,000 in tax supported general obligation bonds and notes for planning, acquiring, constructing, renovating, improving, and equipping community and cultural facilities, libraries, museums, and cultural and creative arts facilities, and acquiring land and interests in land and property necessary to do so; and the levy of a tax sufficient to pay for the bonds and notes.

👉 IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES 👈

OCTOBER 22 – First day of in-person early voting

OCTOBER 26 – Last day to apply for a ballot by mail

NOVEMBER 2 – Last day of in-person early voting

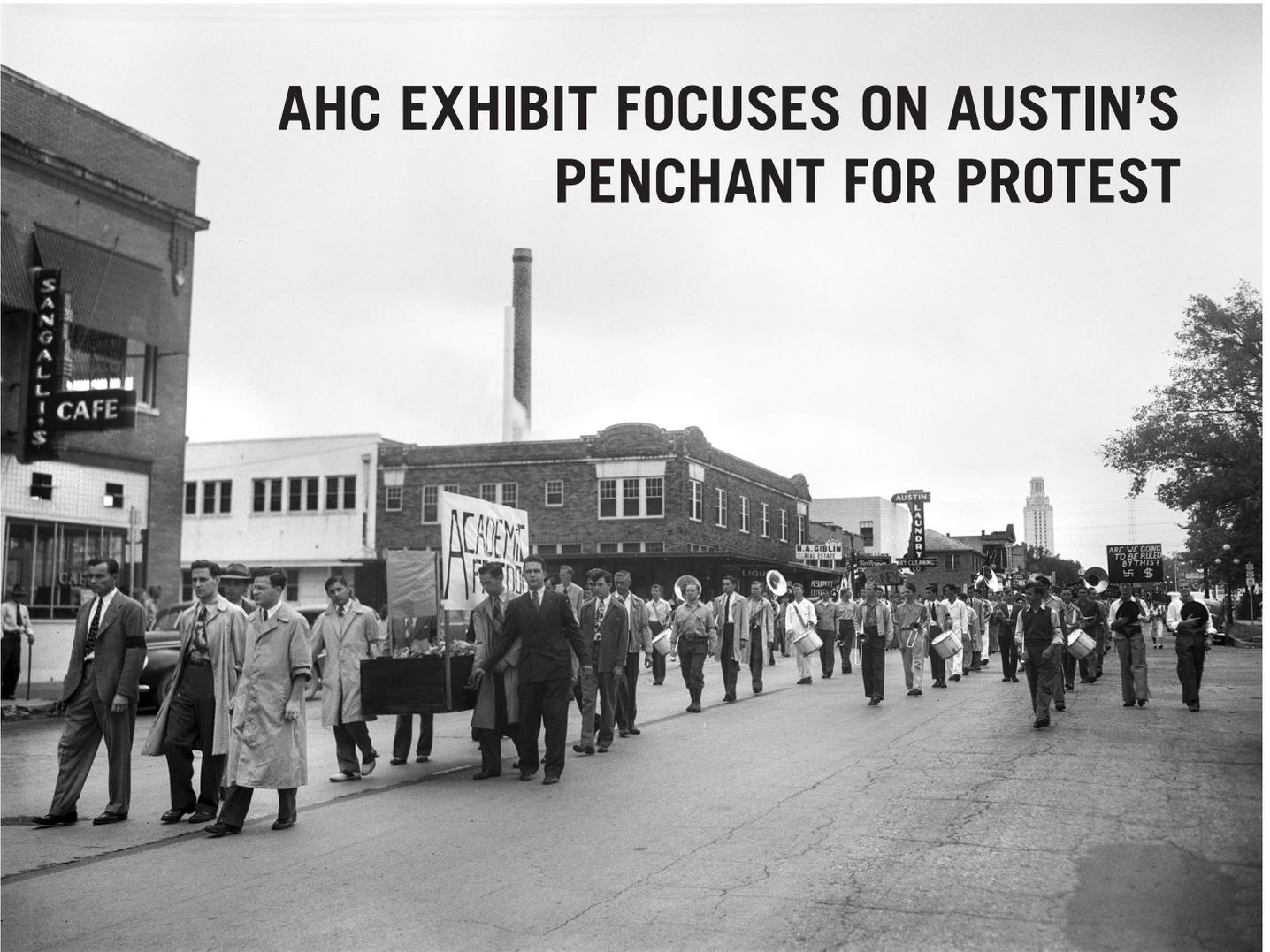
NOVEMBER 6 – Election Day

Latinx, and Asian American residents and their contributions to the city. Over the course of eighteen years, community archivists have developed best practices for establishing ongoing, mutually beneficial relationships with community groups based on trust and commitment to shared priorities.

The success of their efforts is most evident in the variety of educational and outreach programs it supports as well as innovative and timely exhibits such as Mexican American Trailblazers, Finding Refuge in Austin, Travis County Negro Extension Service, and Women in Action. A growing recognition of the program’s influence has prompted the Austin City Council to incorporate the program’s invaluable historical perspective and leadership into its new strategic plan, which will continue to shape the future of the city and its communities.

One supporter who has worked closely with the program noted, “Diversity and inclusion is often talked about within the archival profession, but the Community Archivists Program is one archives taking action.”

AHC EXHIBIT FOCUSES ON AUSTIN'S PENCHANT FOR PROTEST



▲ Students, faculty, and supporters march in support of academic freedom in 1944. ND-44-123(A)-05, Neal Douglass Photography Collection, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.

Throughout history, social movements — groups that are united by a shared purpose— have created transformational change. Women’s liberation and civil rights in the U.S. are just two examples. In these movements, protest has played an important role, highlighting the ability of ordinary citizens to make their voices heard.

On July 31, the Austin History Center opened its newest exhibit, “Taking it to the Streets: A Visual History of Protest and Demonstration in Austin”, in the David Earl Holt Photo Gallery. The exhibit runs through October 28. It’s free and open to the public.

The exhibit presents a snapshot look at how members of the Austin community confronted the political and social issues of their time. Diverse images from a variety of the AHC’s collections highlight Austin residents in their earnest efforts to create social change in their communities.

As reflected in the exhibit, Austin has a long history of mobilization and direct action. From mass marches in support of academic freedom during the Rainey controversy in the 1940s to student walkouts opposing gun violence in 2018, protests intersect race, class, and gender identity and are a mark of democracy. They are timeless in that they are an inherent part of the human experience.

The exhibit highlights historical images focused on particular themes and movements that remain relevant today, such as human rights, environmental justice, inequality, impact of war, labor justice, and academic freedom.

With more mass movements taking place around the world in this current decade than any decade since 1900, the new exhibit grounds our communities in our shared history and reflects a legacy of social movement organizing in Austin. The variety of decades and movements depicted are meant to inspire conversation about the city’s collective memory; times past; current events; and the future of Austin, the United States, and the world.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE EXHIBIT

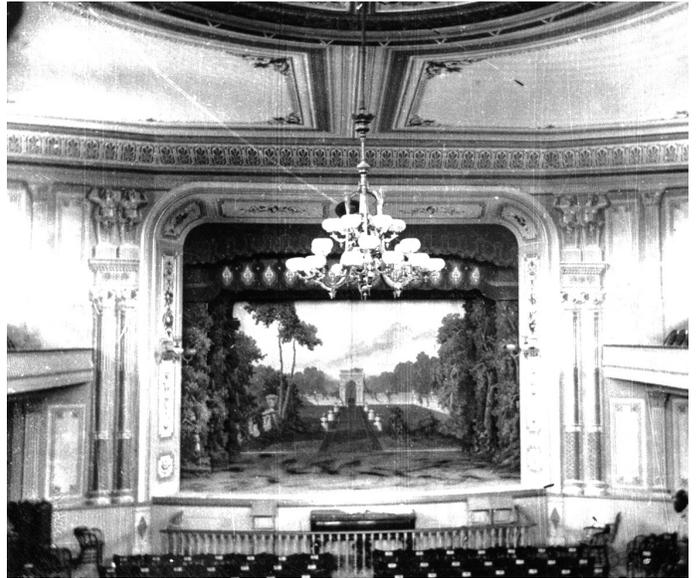
For its current exhibit, AHC has introduced an interactive component. If you have a photo of protest or demonstration in Austin, submit through the AHC website at library.austintexas.gov/ahc/taking-it-to-the-streets.

►... **EBERLY** House in 1898, that Austin became part of the regular circuit for acting troupes and home to several thriving amateur theatre organizations.

For information about Eberly Luncheon tickets or sponsorships, visit www.AustinHistory.net and click on the Eberly Luncheon tab at the top of the page.



◀ Over the years, the Millet Opera House building has served several different purposes. In 1930, it was the home of Von Boeckmann-Jones Co. C05850, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.



▲ For years, the Millet Opera House was part of the regular circuit for acting troupes and home to several thriving amateur theatre organizations. PICA 01704, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.

Austin Notables Take Center Stage at AHCA Annual Meeting

Of all the ways the Austin History Center Association supports the Austin History Center, none captures the imagination like AHCA's oral history work.

The May 6 AHCA Annual Meeting once again served as a showcase for the oral histories collected by AHCA volunteers in the past year. The Oral History Committee captured interviews for 18 subjects during the year, everything from co-founder of the popular Esther's Follies (Shannon Sedwick) to a decorated fast-pitch softball team (The Jokers) as well as other long-time Austin residents who have left an indelible mark on the city.

Each person who is nominated and goes through the oral history process spends an hour or more being interviewed by a member of AHCA's Oral History Committee. The recording of that interview gets

transcribed. What emerges are stories revealing how that person's life somehow affected the evolution of the city we know today. The interviews are recorded and later transcribed, and both formats are then donated to the Austin History Center. Each person interviewed receives a bound copy of the transcription.

To nominate someone for an oral history interview, go to www.AustinHistory.net and click the Community tab at the top of the screen. In the drop-down list pick Oral History Submission Nomination.

2018-2019 AHCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEMBERS (approved at AHCA Annual Meeting)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- President, Charles Betts
- First Vice President, Geoff Wool
- Second Vice President, Arnold Garcia
- Secretary, Monte Akers
- Treasurer, Adam Friedman
- At-Large Representative, Kathleen Davis Niendorff
- Past President, Beth Fowler

AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

- Terrell Blodgett, Kent Collins, Lee Cooke, Lynn Cooksey, Lori Doran, Becky Heiser, Sandra Kirk, Rita Kreisle, Pastor Steve Manning, Charles Page, Judge Bob Perkins, Charles Peveto, Ruthann Rushing, Evan Taniguchi, Candace Volz, Bob Ward, Anne Wheat



▲ AHCA President Charlie Betts hands Nancy McMeans Richey a bound copy of her oral history interview at the AHCA Annual Meeting.

AHCA Expands Membership Efforts

These are exciting times for the Austin History Center Association, including expansion of the AHCA Membership Committee and launch of a membership campaign designed to channel energy toward AHCA interests and activities.

Former Austin Mayor Lee Cooke has taken the reins of the AHCA Membership Committee and AHCA has hired Dane Anderson part time to help support the expanded membership effort.

AHCA members are people who have an appreciation for the history of our great city and the work being done to preserve that history at the Austin History Center. AHCA serves as a support association for the AHC. Its members are involved in a host of projects, including Waterloo Press, collection of oral histories, production of the annual Angelina Eberly Luncheon, planning for the expansion of the AHC, and fundraising for AHC special projects like archival acquisitions. AHCA members strive to enhance our

community's collective memory by helping preserve stories and materials that keep Austin's history alive.

History continues to be made in Austin and as a member of AHCA, you can join a community helping to make sure that history is captured and shared.

To join the AHCA Membership Committee, contact Lee Cooke at leecooke@att.net or call him at 512-347-8800.

For information on becoming a member of AHCA, contact Dane Anderson at dane.anderson@austinhistory.net or visit www.AustinHistory.net and click the Become a Member tab at the top of the page.

NEW OR RENEWING AHCA MEMBERS (June 1 – September 24, 2018)

ABC Bank	Jeffrey Dochen	Mary Kahle	Judge Bob Perkins
Gerald Adams	Ann and Leonard Dolce	Sandra Kirk	Prominent Title
Phoebe Allen & Dick Kallerman	Downtown Austin Alliance	Ken Koock	MariBen Ramsey and Karen Kahan
Josh Alsup	Lori Duran	Rita and Matthew Kreisle	Gay Ratliff
Kay Arnold	Ted Lee Eubanks	Karrie and Tim League	Heath Riddles
Austin Community College	Royce and Donna Faulkner	Lee Leffingwell	Chris Riley
Austin Energy	First State Bank Central Texas	Emma Lou Linn	Schlosser Development Corporation
Benchmark Bank	Andy Fish	Mark Littlefield	Seton Healthcare Family
Charles and Sylvia Betts	The Foundation for the Preservation of the Historic Millett Opera House	Perry Lorenz	Judge Bob Shannon
Erin Blake	Beth Fowler and Mike Buls	Judy Maggio	Lindsay Sharpe
Terrell Blodgett	Fowler Law Firm	Greg and Mari Marchbanks	Jare Smith
David Bodenman and Sue Edwards	Frost	David and Ali Martineau	Terral Smith
Sally Bowman	Richard Gilbane	McBee Family Foundation	Suzy Lindeman Snyder and Anne Wheat
Cliff Bowman	Jeff Cohen and Francine Gertz	Maline McCalla	St. David's Foundation
Anne Bruno	Robert Godwin	Bill McLellan	Evan Taniguchi
Mose Buchele	Glenda Goehrs	Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza	Chuck Taylor
Carole Buckman	Beth and Tom Granger	Ferne and Walt Mizell	Texas Gas Service
Linda Bush	H-E-B	Ron and Carole Mullen	Bruce Todd and Elizabeth Christian
Mollie Butler	Becky and Robert Heiser	John and Sue Murphy	Chris Treadaway
The Michael Butler Family	Henna Chevrolet	Carole and George Nalle	Candace and John Volz
Butler Nonprofit Consulting	Highland Resources	Christie and Bill Nalle	Bob Ward
Capitol Chevrolet	Bob Honts	Nancy Nash Harper	Kirk Watson
Carol Castlebury	John C. Horton III	Frank and Kathleen Davis Niendorff	Westminster
George Cofer	John and Ann Howard	John Nyfeler	Geoff Wool
Kent Collins	IBC Bank Austin	Mel and Pat Oakes	Will Wynn
Lee Cooke	Gordon and Robert Johnson	Mary Paver	Peck Young
Colin Corgan		Larry Peel	

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Austin History Center Winner of 2018 Experts' Choice Award

The Austin History Center is among the recipients of the 2018 Experts' Choice Award from TripExpert.com, a travel website that scores hotels, restaurants, and attractions based on reviews from more than 85 publications, including travel guides, magazines, and newspapers. Fewer than 2% of attractions worldwide receive the website's Experts' Choice Award. The AHC is one of only 54 attractions in Austin to get this recognition.

TripExpert also honored the Austin History Center with a Best of Austin award.



TripExpert

2018 Experts' Choice Award

2018 Best of Austin Award

SAVE THESE DATES

AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER (AHC) - 810 Guadalupe (at 9th)
Open Tue.–Sat. 10am – 6pm & Sun. 12pm – 6pm Call 512-974-7480

OCTOBER 27 – 28

23rd Annual Texas Book Festival
State Capitol
Visit Waterloo Press
at Booth #412

OCTOBER 28

Austin Archives Bazaar
Sangaerrunde Hall
2 - 6 pm

NOVEMBER 6

Election Day
Including Proposition B/
AHC Expansion

DECEMBER 11

**Opening reception for new
exhibit: "Off the Rails: The Rise
and Fall of Austin's Streetcars"**
AHC

FEBRUARY 1, 2019

Angelina Eberly Luncheon
The Austin Club/
Millet Opera House

Visit AustinHistory.net for more specific information about these and other upcoming events.