



Photo: Samuel Huston College Summer Convocation, 1947

Source: College History Garden via Pinterest

TRANSLATING COMMUNITY HISTORY

MARCH 22, 2021

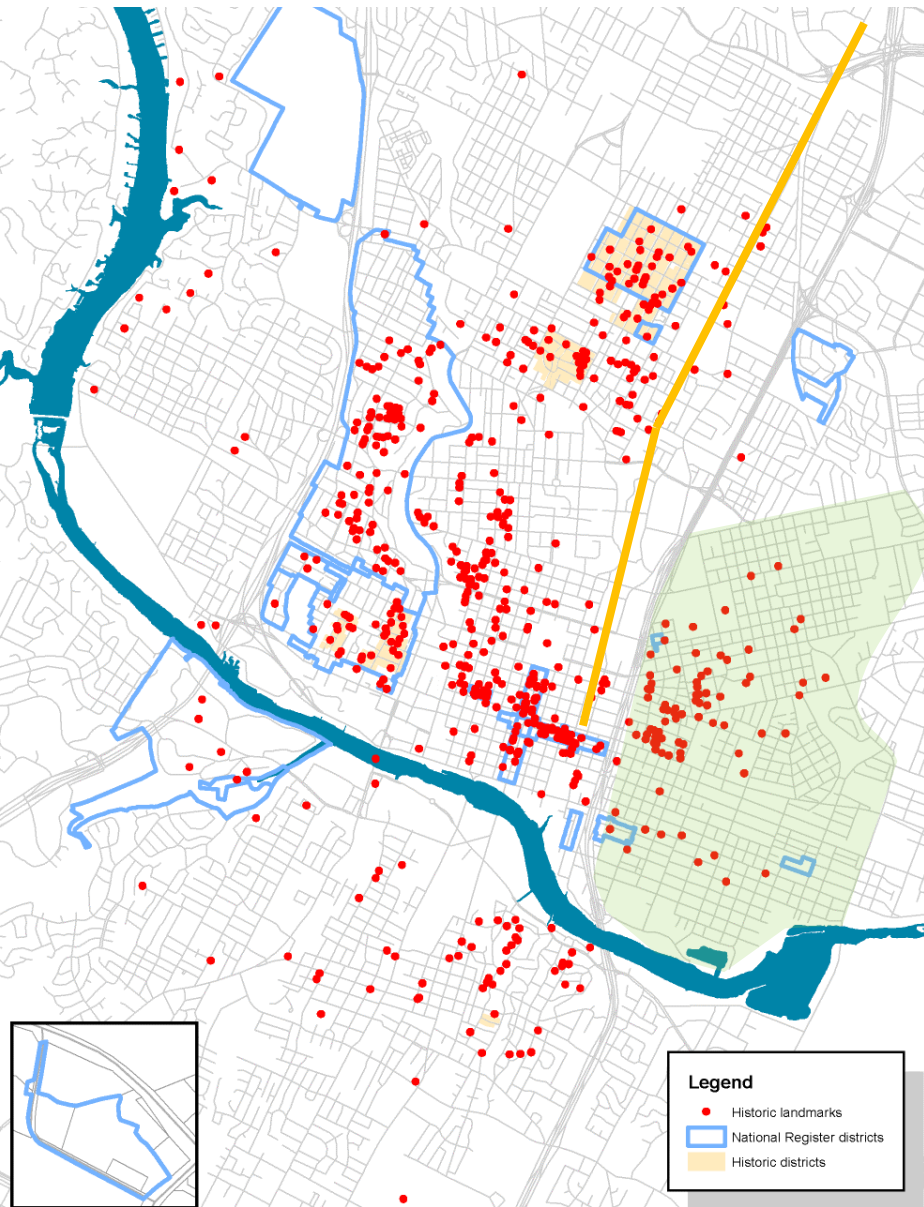


**HOUSING &
PLANNING**

NPS UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES GRANT

Increase listings associated
with communities
underrepresented in the
National Register

DESIGNATED HISTORIC RESOURCES (2017)



Legend

- Historic landmarks
- National Register districts
- Historic districts

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- Historic landmarks
- National Register districts
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PROJECT GOALS

- 1) Develop a model for proactive community engagement
- 2) Build community partnerships
- 3) Creatively link history to people's lives
- 4) Begin to address shortage of historically designated properties with racially and culturally diverse associations

PROJECT PARTS

- 1) Community engagement
- 2) Heritage projects
- 3) National Register nominations



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

African American Resource Advisory Commission

Austin History Center

Blackshear Bridge

Carver Center

Huston-Tillotson University

Preservation Austin

Six Square: Austin's Black Cultural District (initial participant)

Neighborhood residents

District 1 Council office representative

MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Austin History Center

Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Commission

Mexic-Arte Museum

Mexican American Cultural Center

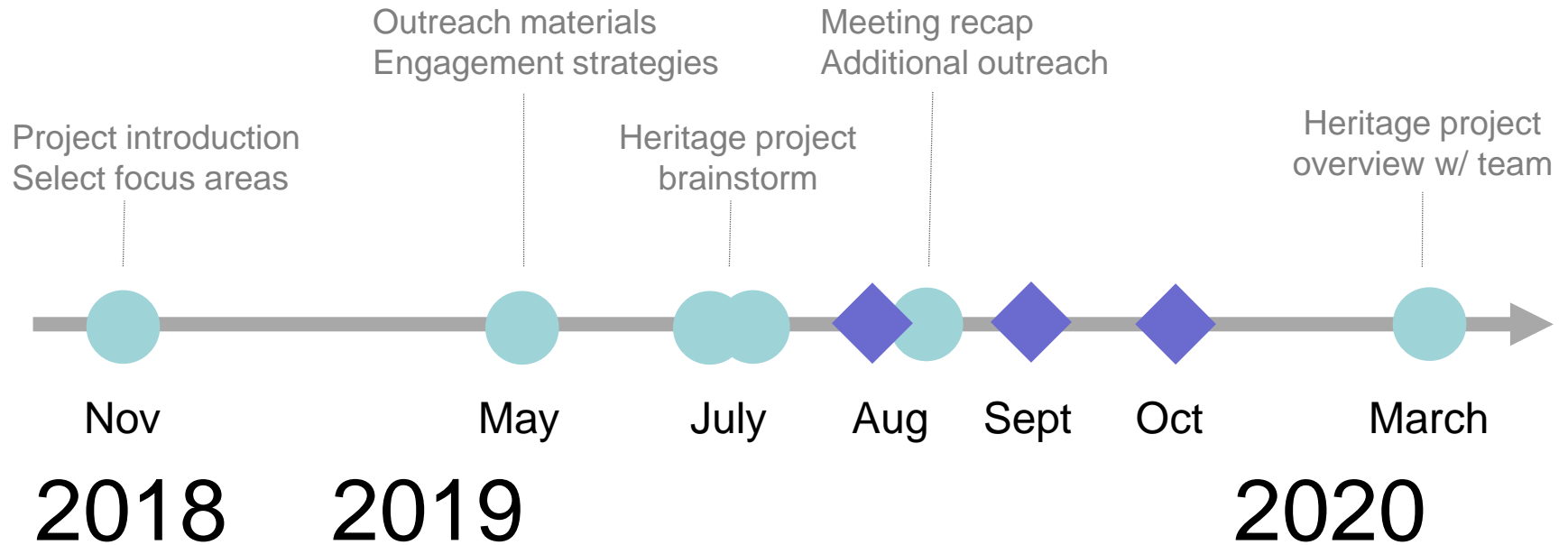
Tejano Genealogy Society of Austin

Tejano Trails/National Park Service

Neighborhood residents

1

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



● Community stakeholder group meetings (2 each)

◆ Neighborhood meetings

1

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



1

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



1

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT





HERITAGE PROJECTS

www.austintexas.gov/page/current-projects



2

HERITAGE PROJECTS

www.austintexas.gov/page/current-projects



The Translating Community History project aims to use creative archival practices to highlight the significance of East Austin neighborhoods. Open Chair and The Projecto, with support from the City of Austin Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service, collaborated to create portraits and collect stories that celebrate the cultural and built heritage of these storied Black and Brown communities. Find more information at www.austintexas.gov/page/current-projects and submit your story at theopenchair.co.

This material is based upon work assisted by a grant from the Historic Preservation Fund, National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior.



OPEN CHAIR

2

HERITAGE PROJECTS

www.austintexas.gov/page/current-projects



69

Open Chair &
Historic Preservation Office

College Heights &
African American Heritage

“ I hope that we will start taking part and take control. You have to go to the meetings, you have to know what’s going on, and you have to vote. I have a grandson who’s 19, and I told him to register to vote. I usually study the leagues of people [running for office] and make my decision according to that. I try to learn as much about them and what they’ve done and not just come to our church when it’s time for election. But I’ve been in meet-

ings so long and schedules so long that I don’t like to participate in anything that’s scheduled. I want my freedom.

But I do work and try to get young people involved. And I influence the people in the neighborhood, ‘cause when I tell them something it’s gonna be right, [it’s] not for selfish reasons. I don’t have anything to be selfish for, because if God gave me 90 years, and fun years, why should I not be free with people?

”



Doris Williams seated
outside of her home, 2020.

70

2

HERITAGE PROJECTS

www.austintexas.gov/page/current-projects

South East Austin & Mexican American Heritage



Community gathering at Zaragosa Park, undated. PICCA 20323, courtesy of Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.

Open Chair & Historic Preservation Office

Open Chair & Historic Preservation Office

South East Austin & Mexican American Heritage



Limón stands at his family home next to a street sign carrying his family's name, 2020.

“ In the Mexican American culture, some of the siblings will stay and live close to the parents. That was pretty much the way it was for our culture, and that's what happened here on our street. My dad, four of his brothers, and two of his older nephews, when they moved into the city, they all bought houses

next to each other right on East Fifth between [what is now] Robert Martinez Street and Pedernales Street. So us kids, all of us grew up together. We didn't have to go looking for other kids because there were so many of us. The original owners who built this house back in 1938 were the Fisher fami-

ly, and this area was called the Fisher Gardens. The street was called DonAnn. In 1986, the City honored our family by naming the street; we picked Calle Limón which means Limón Street. It was my brother that said, 'let's leave it Calle Limón.'

Mr. Limón passed away on August 16, 2020 in the months following this interview. His nephew, Lonnie, and other family members gathered in their neighborhood to share more memories.

”

2

HERITAGE PROJECTS

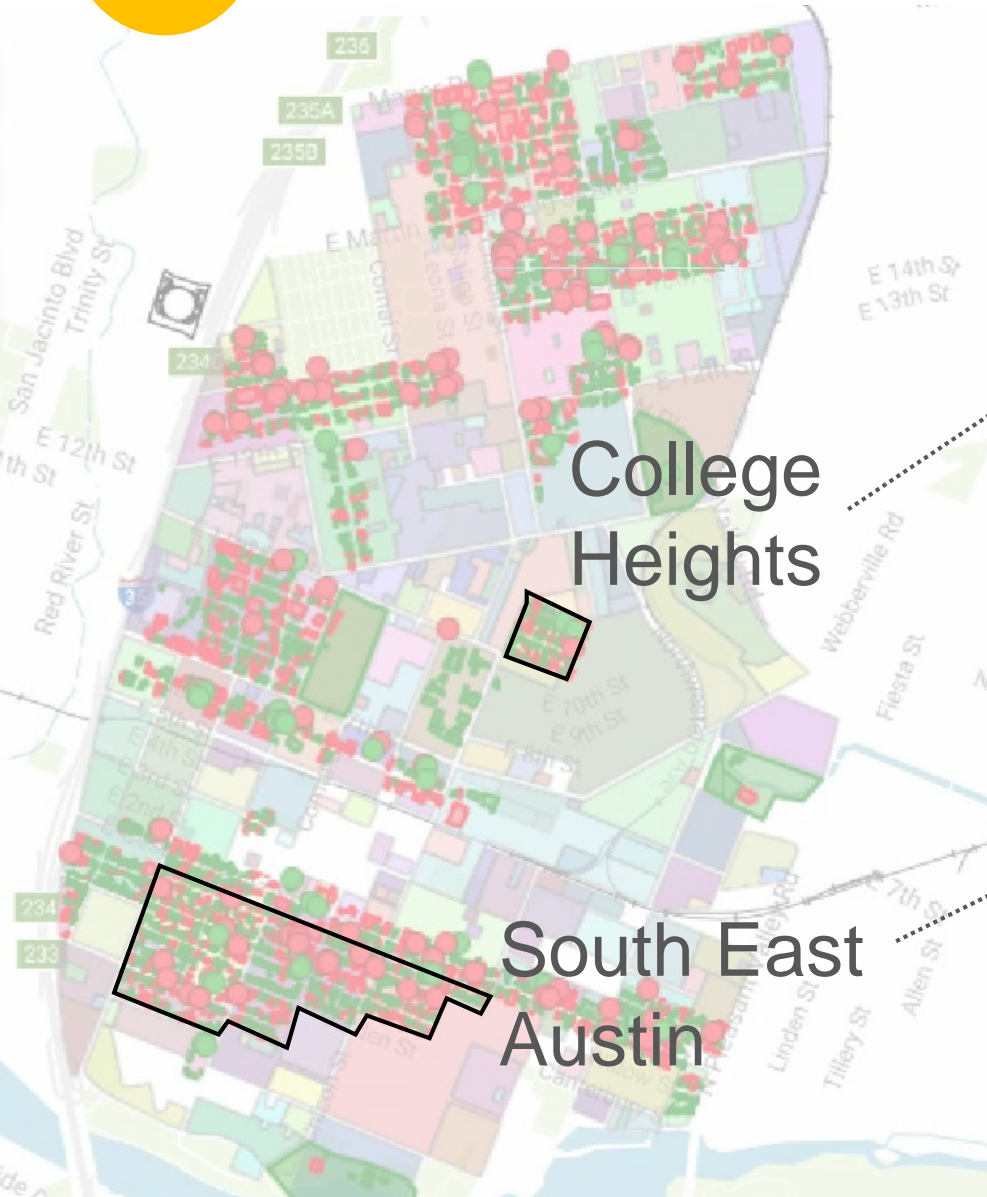
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Screenshot from South East Austin/Mexican American Heritage video

3

FOCUS AREAS



3

NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATIONS

KEY PARTNERS

Huston-Tillotson University

City of Austin Parks and
Recreation Department



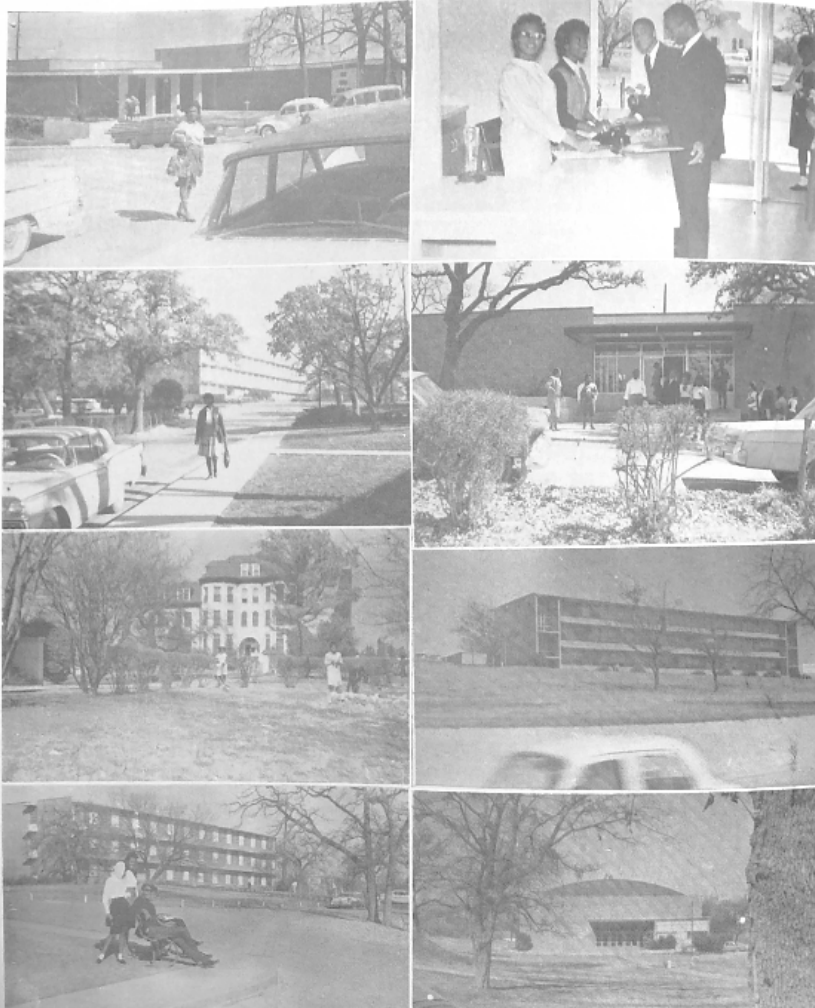
Huston-
Tillotson
University

Parque
Zaragoza

3

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY

HUSTON-TILLOTSON COLLEGE ... A MANY SPLENDOR THING



The Ramshorn Journal, Apr. 1963, courtesy Huston-Tillotson University Archives



The Ramshead Yearbook, ca. 1959, courtesy Huston-Tillotson University Archives

3

PARQUE ZARAGOZA



Austin History Center, 1950



Parks and Recreation Dept., n.d.

www.austintexas.gov/page/current-projects



Navasota and Holly, ca. 1950s, Austin History Center