



NAME THIS NEWSLETTER

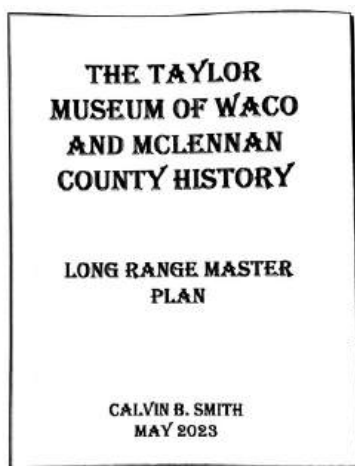
we are looking for a captivating, interesting, and symbolic name for our news letter. the winning entry will receive a year's family membership

JULY 2025

ISSUES #1

STRATEGIC INNOVATIONS IN ACTION

The Long Range Master Plan for the reimagined Taylor Museum of Waco and McLennan County History was completed last year and will be a guide for the mission, physical facilities, operations, collections, marketing, personnel, exhibits, development, memberships, volunteers, educational opportunities, life long programming, cooperative ventures with sister institutions and professional affiliations.



Unveiling *the vision*



During the past year we have worked with South West Museum Services to accomplish the conceptual exhibits design for the new presentations, interpretations, experience modules and spaces that can be expanded and utilized for more inviting chronological sequence of the history of the region and the inclusion of a very diverse population that will be equally represented in the new Taylor Museum of Waco and McLennan County History.



A LASTING LEGACY

Mrs. Taylor purchased the Barron Springs Elementary School which was a segregated entity in 1986 and opened it at

the Helen Marie Taylor Museum of the Life and History of Waco in 1993. However, due to many unforeseen challenges it was closed to the public in 1998 except by appointment only. Mrs. Taylor passed away at the age of 98 in 2022 leaving a Charitable Trust that now provides operational funding.



COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Kevin Collins generously donated the Cotton Palace eagle on August 28, 2023 to

the Taylor Museum of Waco and McLennan County History. The eagle is a tin casting painted gold of an eagle with outstretched wings perched atop a sphere encircled with a band with a oral motif in relief; on four-legged stand; displayed on top of one of the buildings at the Cotton Palace Complex.



TAYLOR MUSEUM OF
WACO AND MCLENNAN
COUNTY HISTORY

OUR *Mission*

The Taylor Museum of Waco and McLennan County History is a multi-functional resource center where teaching and learning activities occur, bringing people together for multicultural educational experiences

STAFF

HELEN HOWELL-GRAVES

Helen is a museum professional with a wide range of experience over 35 years with several museums in Texas including the McFaddin-Ward House Museum, the Art Museum of Southeast Texas, the Texas Historical Commission, and the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library and Museum, to name a few.

PAIGE DAVIS

Paige Davis has worked in the museum field in the capacity of collections manager, registrar or curator for 18 years. She has been the Collections Manager at the Taylor Museum of Waco and McLennan County History since May 2024.

DESTINY HALLMAN

has worked in the museum field with six years of experience, giving guided tours in the spirit of how Mrs. Taylor would have told the stories, and a dedicated administrative assistant committed to supporting the museum's mission.

CALVIN B. SMITH

has 60 years of working with cultural institutions having helped a dozen museums come to fruition. He has retired for the fourth time to bring the Taylor Museum of Waco and McLennan County back to life.

PART TIME

LOUIS PARSONS

Louis Parsons has volunteered with the museum since September of 2024. Louis helps with absolutely everything including cataloguing, digitizing and can do it all.

INTERN

RYLAN PERKINS

Rylan Perkins
Rylan started her internship in January 2025. She is working on her Master's in Museum Studies from University of Oklahoma.

VOLUNTEERS

ELIIZABETH YEOMANS

Elizabeth Yeomans
Elizabeth is a recent Baylor graduate who is organizing an archaeological collection of items found on the museum site.

VOLUNTEERS

DOUG & LINDA STOCKTON

Doug and Linda have volunteered since the summer of 2024. Doug holds a Master's degree in Museum Studies and is a career military veteran who is assisting with planning the WWI and WWII exhibits for the museum. Linda is a retired English teacher and amazing copy editor.

VOLUNTEERS

WARREN PEARSON

Warren began volunteering in 2024 and has been a huge help in digitizing important documents and the physical organization of the museum

A New Board & Advisory Council

New Board Members

Lisa Lacy

Bettie Beard

Randall Scott

Bobby Horner

Three Vacancies Remaining

Advisory Council

Currently Consist of over a dozen committed individuals. We are always looking for others to give their time energy and expertise to help with numerous projects to achieve our mission

NEW HEADLINES & HIGHLIGHTS

Bobby Horner, Calvin Smith and Jeff Aresty appeared on "The Ann Harder Show" on June 9 2025 which is now available on YouTube talking about the new cooperative ventures including the time capsule that will become part of the museum's renovation process also discussed is the on-going coordination with the Jacob de Cordova Society and the Youth Innovation Studio as well as the Triple Win group with high school students in a summer institute that will be filming various historical places in Waco this will enhance future interpretations in the museum



TAYLOR MUSEUM OF
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NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

Fundraising

The Taylor Museum of Waco and McLennan County History is partnering with Historic Waco to bring a troop of performers to Waco for a performance of the "Crash at Crush" musical comedy as a fundraiser for both organizations. It's a musical comedy about an actual event in Waco/McLennan County history. We are having two performances of the musical comedy on September 19 and 20 at the Lee Lockwood Museum.

Past Events Western singer Michael Martin Murphey performed to support the Taylor Museum of Waco and McLennan County History on September 27, 2024, at the historic Waco Hippodrome in a fundraiser for the museum. Murphey also donated a signed "Wildfire" guitar that was auctioned at the event.

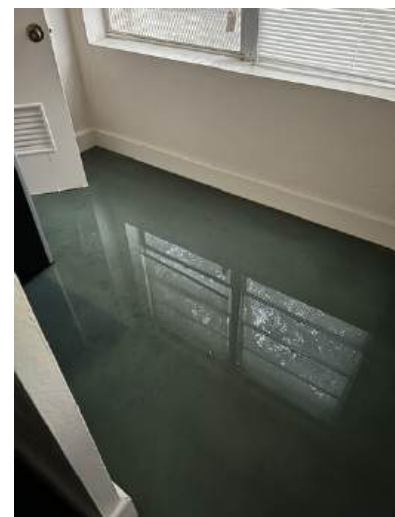
Grants Received:

Summerlee Foundation September 27, 2024 \$5000

Texas Historical Foundation May 5, 2025 \$5000

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

During the month of May we had two major rain events which created flooding in the lower portion of the main building where the museum offices were housed. By the time the staff, Mike Staas Plumbing and Enviro Services cleaned and drained another storm hit on June 11 and 12 which caused more standing water. We were able to clean the drain again and locate the main outlet so while we have to get it cleared on out to the city main we should not have any more back up problems





TAYLOR MUSEUM OF
WACO AND MCLENNAN
COUNTY HISTORY

Just Musin'
by
Calvin B. Smith
Legacy Museum Consulting
The Future of the Taylor Museum of Waco and McLennan County History
How do we accomplish the objectives?

The long term goal is to open to the public on a permanent basis, with a professional staff, active Board, an Advisory Council, with many volunteers, members and associates that will represent a multicultural community in perpetuity.

The objectives however, are numerous, beginning with getting input and related cultural material from the diverse ethnicities that made the history of Waco and McLennan County. Our effort to include everyone through time that created their family heritages and left their footprints on the land and traditions for future generations is sometimes illusive and difficult to unravel.

Museums are one of the most trusted entities in our society and as such we must maintain the truth as we know it through research and personal contact. The information in all of our presentations, exhibits and publications, either virtual or real, we must rely on our staffs, boards, advisors and patrons to seek the lost and sometimes missing portions of our past and verify what has been accepted thus far. We tend to, albeit not purposefully, equate current knowledge with fact, which necessitates verification from those we are interpreting. All too often our understanding is not equal, having come from a dominant portion of the existing population. So, we must search for and ask from those who have rarely sought recognition and bring them into an unbiased interpretation of their values and livelihoods.

The most physical priority is to complete the vision Mrs. Taylor had for the building which included enclosing the framework into a purposeful, meaningful facility that will be inviting, enjoyable and educational to all ages for a lifetime of learning opportunities. But, therein also lies the greatest challenge, while we do have ongoing operations support from her Trust we need to match the monetary requirements for the renovations, new construction and exhibits. Therefore, we need a lot of community involvement with a substantial contribution to achieve the ultimate goal.

From my experience living, working and teaching in Waco for over 20 years, I know that when there was a need to preserve, protect and present the cultural and natural history of the Crossroads of Texas there was always a positive response. In this case those who have always lived here and those who just made their homes here recognize its extraordinary past of the place and its people, from the Indigenous tribes to the frontiersmen, from the entrepreneurs to the farmers, from the soldiers to the entertainers, from the survivors to the inventors and from the zealots to the educators, each played a role in the values and culture that have become...well, legendary.

So, for all the friends, colleagues, former contributors and maybe a few relatives, there is a new challenge, to finally secure a "local" museum that features a location of significant importance that will illuminate the numerous personages, events and endeavors that made Waco and McLennan County what we are proud of...special and exceptional. See the back of this newsletter for ways to participate as members, sponsors, in-kind services, or as contributors of artifacts, documents and/or items of historical significance, perhaps even becoming a major donor for a naming opportunity. All levels will be greatly appreciated now and far into the future.

Looking for a Meaningful Way to Give Back?



TAYLOR MUSEUM OF
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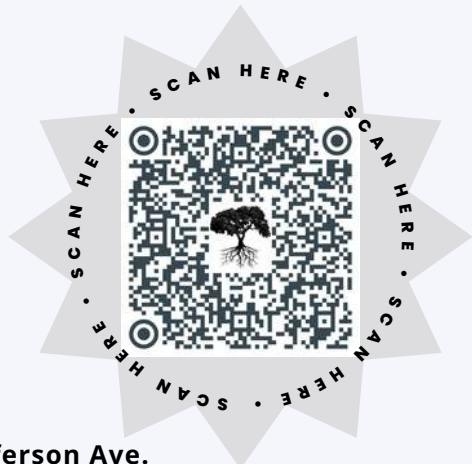
Sponsor Opportunities:

Temporary-Travelling Exhibitions Gallery.....	\$500,000
Exhibit Halls.....	\$250,000 each
Collections Management Annex.....	\$250,000
Entry-Reception-Gift Shop.....	\$150,000
Helen Marie Taylor Tribute.....	\$100,000
Theater-Multipurpose Auditorium.....	\$100,000
Animatrons and Holograms (5).....	\$75,000 each
Library/Research/Resource Center.....	\$75,000
Exhibit Galleries (8).....	\$50,000 each
Offices (8).....	\$25,000
Conference Room.....	\$25,000
Children's education spaces (6).....	\$10,000 each
Individual Paving Bricks.....	\$50 each

All monetary contributions, endowments, trusts and other donor financial plans as well as in-kind services, appraised collection values will receive the following recognitions:

- PARTNER\$1,500
- ENDORSER.....\$2,500
- ADVOCATOR.....\$5,000
- COLLEAGUE.....\$10,000
- CONTRIBUTOR.....\$25,000
- AFFILIATE.....\$50,000
- FELLOW.....\$100,000
- PATRON.....\$200,000
- BENEFactor.....\$250,000
- GUARANTOR.....\$500,000
- ILLUMINATOR.....\$1,000,000

All recognitions are accumulative and honored at each level



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MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP

STUDENT.....	\$5.00
INDIVIDIAL.....	\$25.00
FAMILY.....	\$50.00
SUPPORTING.....	\$100.00
CIVIC ORGANIZATION.....	\$100.00
SUSTAINING.....	\$500.00
CORPORATE ENTITES.....	\$1,000.00
CHARTER LIFETIME.....	\$1,500.00

Now Available

Claim a Piece of the Past

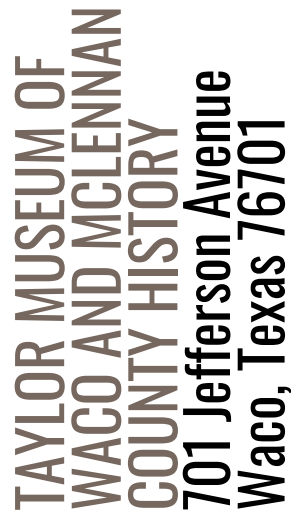
Name an Exhibit and Inspire
Generations

Leave a Legacy That Moves

This unique opportunity allows your name or the name of someone you wish to honor to journey across communities, sharing stories, sparking curiosity, and supporting the museum with every stop.

History Begins with You

The museum is more than a building—it's a reflection of who we are. Every donation, big or small, makes a difference in protecting our heritage and inspiring future generations



USPS