Executive Summary
Handbook of Tejano History Project

Co-Directors:

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Mission:

To advance the knowledge of Mexican American history in Texas.

Goal:

To collaborate with the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) between January 2014 and December 2015 in generating research-based entries in the Handbook of Texas Online, the official electronic site on Texas history created and maintained by TSHA.

Background:

The TSHA initiated the Handbook of Texas as a two-volume encyclopedia in 1952. By 1999, the TSHA had registered a major advance in the field of Texas history by digitizing its contents and making them available to a wider readership. Part of this growth involved a concerted effort in the 1980s by the TSHA to produce additional entries on Mexican Americans. More than twenty-five years have passed since Dr. Arnoldo de Leon, Dr. Cynthia Orozco, Dr. María Cristina García, Alicia Garza, and Teresa Palomo Acosta led this project. Since then, researchers have made significant progress in Mexican American history and contributed to the expanded public and professional interest in the field. The Handbook of Tejano History Project intends to capitalize on this growth and interest by identifying researchers interested in writing new essays and subjecting their work to a rigorous review for inclusion in the Handbook.

Objectives:

- Identify at least 200 significant historically significant men and women, events, places and organizations that do not appear in the Handbook;
- Identify at least 100 researchers to prepare new articles for the Handbook;
- Generate at least 100 new research-based articles on Tejano history;
- Subject submitted articles to a rigorous review before they are approved as new entries in the Handbook;
- Conduct the necessary outreach (e.g., conference presentations, electronic postings, email messages, personal contacts) to guarantee the previously noted objectives; and
- Prepare a report on the project for funding sources: the Tejano Monument, TSHA, and the Department of History at the University of Texas at Austin.