



Texas Dance Hall Preservation Fund Grant Information & Instructions 2026

Texas Dance Hall Preservation (TDHP) is pleased to offer a matching -grant program for the restoration, repair or rehabillitee of historic Texas dance halls.

Who Can Apply?

Grants can be awarded to any public entity, non-profit organization, or private owner or lessee of an eligible dance hall and who is an organizational member of TDHP. To be considered a “dance hall”:

- The building must have been used for community dances at some point in its history; it is not required to currently be in use for dancing. Halls that are available for community use and dancing, rather than used for storage or other non-public functions, will receive priority.
- A dance hall may be a freestanding building or part of a larger building (e.g., on one floor of a multi-story commercial building).
- The hall must still include a dedicated dance floor and a stage or other designated area for bands.
- The hall may include a bar, kitchen, and eating area, but the hall’s primary use must have been as a dance hall or community hall; not a restaurant or bar.
- The hall must be largely intact; it cannot be a ruin or beyond repair.
- The dance hall must be considered “historic” – 50 years old or more.

This is a \$1-to-\$1 matching grant. Applicants that have the matching funds in hand prior to submitting this application receive an extra point in the scoring process.

Eligible Projects

This grant program is limited to building condition assessments by qualified building professionals such as architects or structural engineers, which result in written reports, and “bricks & mortar” projects involving building repairs and rehabilitation. Grants for this round may be awarded up to \$10,000, depending on the number of applications received.

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All projects must meet the [Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties](#). Staff and Board Members are available to discuss plans with applicants in advance to help ensure the Standards will be met. TDHP may consult with the Texas Historical Commission for additional guidance, if needed.

Work that has been completed prior to submitting an application or executing the grant award agreement is not eligible for funding.

If you receive a grant, the project must begin within three months after receiving the grant funding and must be completed within 12 months.

Once the project is complete, grantees must submit a Final Report showing the finished work and proof of how the funds were spent. Please plan to take in-progress photos during the project. See Final Report Instruction for further details.

Grantees may not apply for an additional grant until the previous grant-funded project(s) are completed and the Final Report has been submitted.

Submitting the Application

TDHP will open this grant cycle on April 15, 2026. A complete application must be received by June 15, 2026 for consideration during this grant cycle.

Applications may be submitted on paper or electronically. Your application must be postmarked or emailed by the deadline in order to be considered for this grant cycle.

To submit an application via email, send all materials to director@texasdancehall.org.

To submit an application via mail, send all application materials to:

Texas Dance Hall Preservation, Inc.
P.O. Box 150068
Austin, TX 78715

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Application Selection and Notification

Once received, TDHP will review applications and inform applicants if additional information is needed. Incomplete applications may not be forwarded to the Grant Committee for review.

A committee made up of members of the TDHP Board of Directors and volunteer experts, with assistance from the Executive Director, will consider all complete applications that are submitted by the deadline. Please be aware TDHP is likely to receive more applications than we can fund.

TDHP will use a pre-established scoring system to rank grant applications. Some applicants may receive only partial funding. If that occurs, TDHP may specify what specific scope of work grant funds may be used for.

Unsuccessful applicants are welcome to re-apply. Feedback will be provided to strengthen future applications. If your proposal is not selected, you may re-apply during the next grant cycle.

All organizations that applied for a grant will be notified by either email, phone or letter.

Grant recipients are expected to participate in activities to promote the grant award and project work. This may include assistance contacting local media outlets and allowing photographs and other grant materials to be used by TDHP.

Questions? Contact director@texasdancehall.org

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Complete applications must contain all of the following:

- 1. Preservation Fund Grant Application Cover Sheet & Checklist signed by the president,** executive director, or other elected or appointed individual with authority to submit the application on behalf of the organization.

- 2. Information about your organization:**
 - Most recent copy of the IRS determination letter which grants the organization federal tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) organization, if applicable.
 - Statement of ownership for a for-profit entity (e.g. deed)
 - Bank or other financial statement showing proof of matching funds.
 - Brief history of the organization seeking support
 - Statement of organization's goals and purpose, mission and vision.
 - List of board or directors and officers of the organization
 - How many times per year the hall is currently being used for public events. Describe the public events.
 - Whether the hall is used for passive activities such as storage.

- 3. Information about the proposed project:**
 - A detailed written description of the proposed work and why it is needed including:
 - Photographs. Each photograph should be dated and labeled to understand what is being shown. If possible, photos should be compiled in one document.
 - Architectural drawings (if applicable)
 - Any professional reports (historic assessments, structural reports, termite inspection, etc.)
 - Construction/repair bids (if applicable)
 - Any other information needed to help TDHP understand the project and how it will benefit the organization and the hall.

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- Project budget including grant funds and cash match . (See sample budget below for format).
- Project schedule and time needed to complete the project.
- If the funding request is less than the entire amount needed for the project, please describe how the project will be completed and where the additional funding (beyond the grant amount and your match) is coming from.

Sample Budget Format

| Work Item | Grant Amount | Cash Match | Total |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Remove and haul off old roofing materials | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | \$2,000 |
| Roofing materials (shingles, underlayment, drip edge, flashing, etc.) | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | \$10,000 |
| Installation of new roofing materials | \$1,500 | \$1,500 | \$3,000 |
| Totals | \$7,500 | \$7,500 | \$15,000 |

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