



## Hidalgo County Historical Commission Statement of Preservation Goals and Objectives

*The purpose of the Hidalgo County Historical Commission shall be to advise the Commissioners Court of Hidalgo County, assist the Texas Historical Commission, and to initiate and conduct programs in the promotion of preserving the county's historic and cultural resources.*

— Bylaws, Article 2, Section 1

- I. RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION.
  - Conduct and promote historic resource surveys across Hidalgo County to identify endangered sites
  - Create a historic resource inventory to keep track of priority sites
  - Create a countywide preservation plan
- II. PROMOTE LANDMARK DESIGNATIONS
  - Encourage owners of historic properties to apply for RTHLs and National Register designations through incentives and positive publicity
- III. RESOURCE INTERPRETATION
  - Create educational and interpretive resources to highlight Hidalgo County's historic landmarks and sites
  - Promote heritage tourism through partnerships, media and publicity
- IV. PRESERVATION ADVOCACY
  - Work with local municipalities to adopt and improve local preservation programs, ordinances, and CLGs
  - Advocate for the preservation of endangered landmarks and potential landmarks and provide alternatives to demolition
- V. EDUCATION
  - Work with educational institutions to promote preservation efforts in the community and train new leaders



**HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER AND  
CLG REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENT FORM**  
Certified Local Government Program

Federal and State rules for the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program require that each CLG appoint a staff member or volunteer to serve as the Historic Preservation Officer (HPO) and CLG representative. This position is tasked with carrying out the responsibilities in the CLG’s Certification Agreement. Any change of the appointed HPO and CLG representative must be authorized by the local government’s Chief Elected Official or their designee. The appointee is required to satisfy the [Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualifications Standards](#); if no person meeting the Professional Qualifications Standards is available, appropriate preservation training must be provided by the local government.

**NEW APPOINTMENT:**

The County of Hidalgo appoints Gabriel Ozuna to serve as the Historic Preservation Officer and CLG representative. Their contact information is listed below.

Gabriel Ozuna  
Historic Preservation Officer  
807 Meadow Wood Drive,  
Donna, TX 78537  
(956) 373-8743  
gabriel.ozuna@aya.yale.edu

The Historic Preservation Officer and CLG representative *meets* the following criteria as identified in the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualifications Standards (select one or more):

- History    Architectural History    Architecture    Historic Architecture    Archeology

The Historic Preservation Officer and CLG representative *does not currently meet* the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualifications Standards. Documentation is enclosed summarizing the CLG’s efforts to hire a qualified preservation officer and explaining how the appointee will successfully perform the position’s duties.

A copy of the appointee’s resume has been included for your records. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Richard F. Cortez

County Judge

Date 03/15/2025

Enclosure(s): Resume of Historic Preservation Officer/CLG representative (required)  
[Documentation of how appointee will fulfill the position’s duties (if necessary)]

APPROVED BY  
COMMISSIONERS COURT  
ON: 12/10/24   
AI97636



## REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION

Certified Local Government Program

TO: Certified Local Government Program  
Texas Historical Commission  
PO Box 12276  
Austin, TX 78711-2276

FROM: Hon. Richard F. Cortez  
Hidalgo County Judge  
100 E. Cano Street,  
Edinburg, TX 78539  
(956) 318-2600  
countyjudge@co.hidalgo.tx.us

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and the amendments to the Act approved in 1980, as well Rule 15.6(f) of the Texas Administrative Code, I hereby request Certified Local Government status for

Hidalgo County

Enclosed are (check off as applicable):

- (1) a copy of the local historic preservation or landmarks ordinance, including any and all amendments **(required for cities only)**;
- (2) a copy of by-laws adopted by an appointed county historical commission **(required for counties only)**;
- (3) a listing of buildings, sites, structures, and districts designated under the local preservation ordinance. **(required for cities only)**;
- (4) a list of the historic preservation commission, board, or committee members, as well as resumes or statements of interest indicating their qualifications, credentials, or expertise related to preservation;
- (5) a completed Historic Preservation Officer and CLG Representative Appointment Form and resume for the designated historic preservation officer;
- (6) a copy of the local preservation plan *or* a statement of goals and objectives for the preservation program.

The requirements for certification of local governments, as described in the Texas Administrative Code, Rule 15.6(e)(1-5) Rules and Procedures for Certified Local Governments, are presently fulfilled by

Hidalgo County

[check one]

without exception

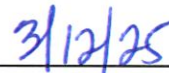
with exception(s), as follows:

[Indicate the item(s) above for which exceptions exist and explain each]

I understand that if my county is certified, a written certification agreement specifying the responsibilities of the local government will be required and that Hidalgo County will be eligible to apply for special Certified Local Government matching grants to be used for eligible local historic preservation projects.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Chief Local Elected Official




\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Enclosures (as applicable):

- (1) Local historic preservation ordinance
- (2) By-laws of the county historical commission
- (3) List of locally designated buildings, sites, structures, and districts
- (4) Historic preservation commission/board/committee members and resumes
- (5) Historic Preservation Officer and CLG Representative Appointment Form;
- (6) Local preservation plan or statement of goals and objectives

Revised 7/8/2024

APPROVED BY  
COMMISSIONERS COURT  
ON: 12/10/24   
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Hidalgo County Historical Commission  
Preservation/CLG Committee Members  
2025-2026

Member	SOI Qualification
Chair: Jodie Martinez	
Orlando Gutierrez	Architecture
Logan Dovalina	History
Luis Dovalina	
Dr. Sarah Rowe	Archeology
René Ballesteros	History/Archeology
HPO: Gabriel Ozuna	History