



City of Lago Vista
Charitable Contribution and Non-Profit
Funding Application

Name of Agency/Organization: Cox Springs School Restoration Society

Address: 17603 Breakwater Drive

City, State & Zip: Jonestown Tx., 78645

Contact Person: Sheila Nichols Title: Secretary

E-Mail Address: sdnicholstx@gmail.com

Phone: 512-267-0883

Cell: _____

Project Title: Historic renovation

Amount of Funds Requested: \$3,000

Project Status: (check one) ☒ Existing ☐ Expansion ☐ New

Briefly describe the program:

We are in Phase 4 of the renovation process of the one-room schoolhouse built in Lago in 1918. Donations from organizations such as yours has enabled us to install electricity; add ac/heating; paint interior; with much more work to be done so we can open it to small meetings for community use.

Describe the services the program provides:

It will be used for elementary/middle school classes (i.e. a day in school as it was 100+ years ago plus educational speakers). The scouts can have their meetings their as will any other local organization; small wedding; photo ops; visitors can come tour the school and have a school member give them a history of the building.

If organization received support from the City of Lago Vista previously, provide the following information:

Year Received: 2023 Dollar Amount \$2,000
Project Supported _____

Charitable Contributions and Nonprofit Funding Request Application Questionnaire

The City strongly requests that all answers be typed.
Submission of a completed questionnaire is required for application consideration.

1. What is the agency's mission?

To maintain the Cox Springs School historic legacy which began in Lago in 1885 on the North Shore of the Colorado River. We want to preserve local history and to promote educational programs for Lago, Jonestown and Pt. Venture and instill pride in our Texas history.

2. What are the goals of the program for which you are requesting funding?
To eventually become a local historical site with the purchase of a historical marker from the Texas Historical Commission after much paper work. We have received tentative approval for the National Register of Historic Places. Our goal is to always keep the school as an asset to the communities it services.

3. How will you know you met these goals by the end of the funding year?

After 2025, with the help of donations such as yours, we hope to have handicap access, replica metal skirting and 11 new windows, student/teacher desks (all maintaining the age of the building for historic purposes).

4. Describe the impact of services on the community

Round Mountain and Nameless have combined with us to provide day trips for schools and anyone who would like to tour all 3 schools. Educational classes will be held at our school and the community is welcome to attend. We will be doing slide shows at local libraries to make residents aware of the historical gem in their community.

Questionnaire Page 2

5. If the request for funding for the proposed fiscal year is an increase from the previous fiscal year, please justify such increase:

All the additions to the school come at a high cost: Skirting - \$5,000; 11 windows @ \$1500 each; furniture - approx. \$6,000; handicap access - \$1,000; plus the bills that include ac, electricity, insurance and bricks for our donor wall.

You have been included already on our donor wall (see attached photos) because of your past donations.

6. Provide information on the overall financial position of the organization.
Include: annual budget, sources of funding (e.g., fund raisers, charitable donations)

We have received funding from the Lago Vista Womens Club; Jonestown City Council; the Lions Club; Summerlee Foundation; Hutson Gallagher; LCRA; and numerous individual donors. A fundraiser/silent auction was held at Lucky Rabbit last year and we held a garage sale also.

Our projected 2025 expenditure is approx. \$45,000 As of today we have \$27,000 in the bank.



City of Lago Vista
Charitable Contribution and Non-Profit
Funding Application

Submitted By: _____

Sheila Nichols
Signature of Executive Director (if applicable)

6/2/25
Date

Sheila Nichols
Printed Name of Executive Director (if applicable)

Approval: _____

Signature of Organization Representative

Date

Printed Name Organization Representative

For Office Use Only

Date Received: _____ By: _____

Date Reviewed: _____ Reviewed By: _____

Submit for Board Review: Yes _____ Council Meeting Date: _____

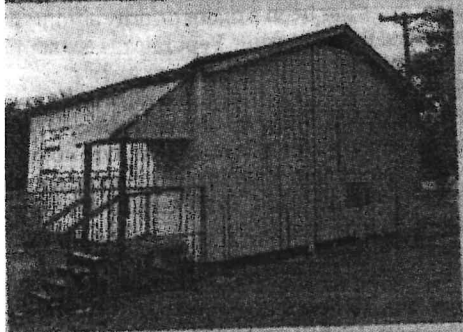
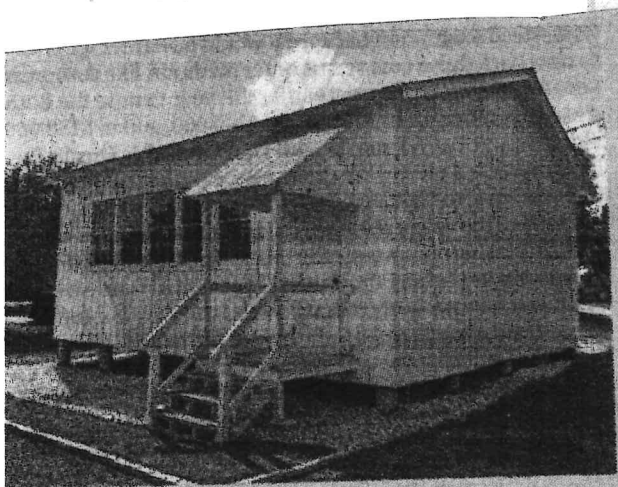
Ineligible? Yes _____ Reason: _____

Council Decision: Approve \$ _____ Date: _____

Council Comments: _____

Finance Officer Reviewer: _____ Fund Distribution Date: _____

ME HERE! ATE AT SSCHOOL.COM	BARBARA BONVILLE STANFIELD & HARRIS WOOD MIERS Jr II	BEING A TEXAN VANESSA HSIEH SHELTON HSIEH CAMILLE HSIEH	STEVE & SHAREN COMSTOCK	IN MEMORY OF WILMA A. RALSTON	IN CHRIST A
	JOHN E. JACKSON & MATTHEW W. MUNGLE	MARK & PAM STEPHENS	CITY OF LAGO VISTA	THE GLENN FAMILY	THE BEST GRANDCHILD PEYTON & BRY WHEELER
IG MEMORY OF ILLA COMSTOCK ALEEN THOMPSON	TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL CHASE & CLAIRE COMSTOCK	KEEP LEARNING! PEGASUS & PAPA JOE		TRENT FAMILY	SHEILA AND MICHA ANDERSON
THE GRIFFITHS WYLL & HAZEL HER HANNAH, NICK MATT & JILL	SPENCER MARGARET MADELINE ANDERSON	THE HOLLOWS ON LAKE TRAVIS	FROM THE GRIFFITHS GRANDCHILDREN TYLER, EMILY, CELIA, DYLAN AND VIVIAN	HUTSON-GALLAGHER	JOHN E. JACKSON & MATTHEW W. MUNGLE
RACHEL WRIGHT SSOC PROFESSOR TEXAS A&M	LOVE, LAUGHTER AND MEMORIES AT THE LAKE WITH CHLOE MOORE LOVE THE SAXONS		MARK & PAM STEPHENS		CLIFFORD H THOMPSON TEACHER SUNSET TEXAS
CARLOS & NCEMI DENGO	LAGO VISTA MEMBERS CLUB	JOHN & NO	COMSTOCK GRANDCHILDREN CHASE & CLAIRE COMSTOCK	IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH MIRKA AND MARY LOU ZEILMAN MIRKA	JONES TOWN WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION



Before and after photos illustrate the work completed on the Cox Springs School restoration.

COURTESY ASHLEY SAVA

City of Lago Vista has had a brick placed on our donor wall for your previous donations. This wall is right in front of the school on Rd Burwell



Before and after photos illustrate the work completed on the Cox Springs School restoration.

or read placards about rural education, Simons was the living archive. Her presence connected past to present in a way no textbook ever could.

A SCHOOL THAT REFUSES TO QUIT

What's remarkable about Cox Springs School isn't just that it still exists. It's that people still care. A lot.

In an era when old buildings

are more often bulldozed than restored, this project stands out. It's local, volunteer-run, unpretentious and quietly heroic.

No flashy investors. No reality show funding. Just a lot of hard work, community pride and an unwavering belief that history is worth preserving—not in a museum, but where it happened.

The Restoration Society isn't done yet. They're still fundrais-

ing. Still restoring. Still looking for more volunteers, more stories, more descendant students like Simons.

But Saturday — just a couple of hours — everyone to step inside a story that in 1885 and somehow, against odds, is still being written.

For more information on the project, visit www.coxspringsschool.com

In 1941, the schoolhouse was nearly lost again—this time to water. When the newly constructed Mansfield Dam created Lake Travis, the school's original location was threatened by flooding. In a feat of grit and rural engineering, two local ranchers paid \$100 to have the building cut in half and trucked uphill to its current location.

It wasn't glamorous, but it worked. The schoolhouse reopened later that year, supported by community tax dollars and a rotating roster of young, often underpaid teachers. Teachers boarded with local families. Lunch was cooked by students on a wood-burning stove. The Carlton family—of whom Simons is a member—provided milk from their cows for the children.

The school operated until 1959, when its last class graduated.

A RURAL RELIC REBORN

The Cox Springs School's rebirth didn't happen overnight. For decades, the building sat quietly on Old Burnet Road—sun-bleached, leaning and largely forgotten by the rush of modern development around it.

After the school closed, the building hosted church services until 1968. Then, the decline began. The windows were broken. The porch rotted. The building tilted further with each storm.

It became a historical ghost.

By 2020, the schoolhouse was dangerously close to collapse. Still perched on the same cedar stumps it had rested on since being moved in 1941, the structure leaned precariously. One strong storm could have taken it down for good.

But instead, a handful of determined residents stepped in.

THE RESURRECTION BEGINS

The Cox Springs School Restoration Society—a grassroots team of volunteers from Jonestown, Lago Vista and The Hollows neighborhood—formed with one goal: save the school. And not just cosmetically. The plan was comprehensive: stabilize the building, restore the interior and exterior and reopen it as a local landmark for educational and community use.

"I noticed the very deteriorated building and saw that a group had been formed to restore it," Terri Hoover Mirka, VP & Historian of the Cox Springs School Restoration Society, said. "My ancestors first came to Texas in 1833, so I'm drawn to helping preserve Texas history."

The group secured 501(c)(3) status, developed architectural plans

a foundation firm lifted the school off its century-old stumps and set it on a modern, reinforced base.

That moment—quiet, dusty and deeply emotional—marked the beginning of the schoolhouse's second life.

HISTORY RESURRECTED — ONE WINDOW AT A TIME

Saturday's open house was a testament to the painstaking care poured into the school's restoration. Every element has been revived with authenticity in mind. New windows—recreated after the originals were destroyed by vandals—are installed. A vintage heating stove, salvaged from the site, has been restored to working order. HVAC and electrical systems were added, and even the gravel underneath the building was graded to improve drainage.

The restoration was not without its hiccups.

"One of the first steps to the restoration was to put the building on more stable supports, so the original cedar posts were removed and replaced with concrete pillars," Mirka said. "The yard maintenance crew sadly threw away all the cedar pillars during routine clean-up. We were planning to use those to have pens made or for other projects at the school."

Volunteers have cleared brush, rebuilt porches and painted every inch of siding. Inside, the walls are being carefully repaired, with original woodwork preserved wherever possible. Period-accurate desks, books and photos have recreated the feel of a Depression-era classroom.


"This restoration project demonstrated the power of teamwork of volunteers of all different backgrounds and experiences to make a difference in our local neighborhood, along with the financial support of over 90 donors," she said.

MARGIE'S HOMECOMING

When Margie Carlton Simons entered the schoolhouse Saturday, the room stilled. She walked slowly—deliberately—through the front door, pausing at the threshold like someone stepping into a memory. And in a way, she was.

She attended school in this very room from 1943-1949—when it still smelled of chalk and woodsmoke, when rural students carried lunch in metal buckets and when a single teacher was in charge of eight grades at once.

Today, those memories echoed back as she moved through the space.



Back from the brink: A one-room schoolhouse in Texas lives again

BY ASHLEY SAVA

SPECIAL TO THE HILL COUNTRY NEWS

On Saturday, April 12, a 95-year-old woman walked back into her childhood schoolhouse—now fully restored after decades of neglect. Her name is Margie Carlton Simons, and in 1943, she studied inside the same white wooden walls that stood proudly today in Jonestown, Texas. Walls that, until recently, were on the verge of collapse.

The Cox Springs School—established in 1885 and rebuilt in 1928—was the last operating one-room school in Travis County when its students were transferred from its Jonestown location to a modern building in 1959 in Lago Vista. Nestled in the hill country just above Lake Travis, this story is of a stubborn community and a second chance 100 years in the making.

Saturday, with the scent of fresh paint still clinging to the walls, the building opened its doors to the public. Curious visitors peered at antique desks and vintage textbooks. And Simons, who attended school here during World War II, sat once more inside the room where she first learned to read and write.

No ribbon cutting. No mayoral fanfare. And for the first time since the building's stabilization in 2021, the public stepped inside a space that had teetered on the edge of historical extinction.

TEXAS HISTORY WITH TEETH

This isn't your standard sepia-toned nostalgia story. Cox Springs School has been through it.

Its origins date back to the 1880s, when settlers in the Anderson Bend area needed a place to educate their kids. The first schoolhouse was rough—so rough, in fact, that a 1906 report from Travis County School Annual described it as "about as bad as can be." The school grounds were privately owned, which caused conflict. By 1908, a proper five-acre plot was purchased and a sturdier building erected.

That building burned down in 1918 due to a faulty stove flue. During the rebuild, students were temporarily taught in a log house on a nearby ranch. The final iteration—built in 1928—was made from local cedar and salvaged lumber. This is the structure that stands today.

See **SCHOOLHOUSE**, page A