



Travis County Commissioners Court

Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** *the Palm School is a County-owned property that holds significant historic and cultural importance, especially to Austin's Mexican American community. The property was a public school from 1892 to 1976, and most recently, it served as the Travis County Community Center at Palm Square from 1985 to 2020; and*
- WHEREAS,** *guided by community input, Travis County is working to reimagine the Palm School property in a way that maintains and balances the school's cultural, historic, and market value; and*
- WHEREAS,** *this historical building and the surrounding area have been instrumental in the formation and support of community and state leaders and members of civil rights and advocacy organizations, all of whom have played a significant role in Austin's history; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Travis County is committed to honoring those who helped build this city; and*
- WHEREAS,** *as Austin continues to grow, parts of its history are being erased or forgotten, and rising costs and neighborhood changes have forced many residents out of their communities; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Travis County Commissioners Court understands the importance of preserving history and making sure that future generations understand the sacrifice and the commitment of the entire community to help make Austin what it is today; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Travis County staff have been involved in meetings with key community stakeholders who have been active in efforts to preserve Palm School. These meetings helped highlight the importance to the community of the need to preserve, in an official capacity, the stories of alumni, families, and community members directly impacted by the history of Palm School, and the urgency to gather this information; and*
- WHEREAS,** *on September 12, 2023, Travis County Commissioners Court approved an investment in a partnership with the Voces Oral History Center at the University of Texas at Austin to expand on the oral history of Palm School and create a more complete collection; and*
- WHEREAS,** *the mission statement of Voces Oral History Center is as follows "Voces Oral History Center is dedicated to recording, preserving and disseminating the stories of U.S. Latinas and Latinos and weaving the many perspectives into our historical narrative at the national, state, and local levels."*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that we, the Travis County Commissioners Court, do hereby proclaim that the completed Palm School Oral History Project, made in partnership with the Voces Oral History Project at the University of Texas at Austin, to expand on the oral history of Palm School and create a more complete historical collection, is accessible to alumni, researchers or any members of the public interested in the history of Palm School, the experiences of Mexican-Americans, and the growth and development of Austin. The 15 interviews from Palm School alumni are now available on the Travis County website and will be held in the Travis County Archives.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the seal of Travis County to be affixed this 28th day of October in the Year Two Thousand Twenty-Five



RECEIVED

By Alicia Tovar at 3:53 pm, Nov 10, 2025

Andy Brown
County Judge

Jeffrey W. Travillion, Sr
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Brigid Shea
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Ann Howard
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Margaret Gomez
Commissioner, Precinct 4