**DAUGHTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS**

Republic of Texas History Center: Newsletter No. 4
San Marcos St. at East 9th St. – Austin
August 2018

**RTHC Updates Since Convention**

**Changes at Headquarters and Museum Building**

Construction work is underway on East Anderson Lane in front of our DRT Headquarters. The old liveoak tree at the corner of the building (below) will be trimmed to accommodate a flyover tower connecting IH-35 to SH 183. DRT continues to go forward to raise funds to build its future home in Historic East Austin.

Julia Lopez, Chair of the Republic of Texas Museum Committee, reports that on July 27, 2018 the Republic of Texas Museum closed its doors forever at the Anderson Lane Building. Museum artifacts are packed and stored until relocated to their new home (RTHC) on historic Robertson Hill. This action is taking place in order to take advantage of TxDOT relocation benefits. This time will be used to evaluate the collection and determine how it will be best displayed in our new facility.

John Ellen Becker, Custodian General, reports that the DRT business office and membership services will continue in the current Headquarters Building. The building is for sale. The DRT is hoping to secure a “lease back” arrangement with a future buyer. Measures are planned to mitigate disruptions by TxDOT construction.

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**RTHC Construction Planning:** The RTHC Site Plan was submitted to the City of Austin’s Development Services in May 2018. With the formal Site Plan review requiring 4–10 months, we anticipate submitting the Building Plan in early 2019. DRT’s architectural firm informs DRT to allow at least 1-year to complete construction. We expect to open the facility in late 2020.

**Ellen Busch, Director of Historic Sites Operations of the Texas Historical Commission** writes on May 19, 2018... “With DRT’s long legacy at the Legation and with the Republic of Texas Museum located next door, the organization is a natural to pursue partnership projects as the two museums evolve. Through this continuing conversation, we can take advantage of opportunities to work together.” We, on the RTHC team, heartily agree and look forward to renewing our relationship with the French Legation Museum and Texas Historical Commission.

**Ora Houston, City Councilwoman welcomes DRT**

On May 14, 2018 Austin City Councilwoman Houston writes to welcome DRT to East Austin. She sites nearby amenities and indicates...“the neighborhood to the east of our property will love to welcome DRT to the neighborhood. The East Austin Black Cultural Center that provides tours throughout the area will include stops at DRT’s Museum and the French Legation Museum...” This will provide DRT opportunities for additional community partnerships.

**Media Event on Property in September**

The DRT will host a Media Event on Austin’s Museum Day, Sunday, September 23, 2018 at the 810 San Marcos Street property – future home of the RTHC. Past donors, neighbors, state and city officials are being invited along with DRT members to learn about the plans for the building. An outline of the building’s footprint will be discussed along with future parking and other amenities. President General Barbara Stevens and Councilwoman Ora Houston will make presentations at 2 o’clock. Invitations were sent to Daughters via Constant Contact on July 25, 2018.

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**Financial Updates:** As of August 1, 2018 we have 73% of funds needed for the RTHC project. The sale of Headquarters should bring us to between 85-92% of our construction goal. The balance needed is now a very doable amount. Fill that gap and we can start construction. Let’s complete the 50/50 Campaign, and it’s time to collect all outstanding pledges. Remember, donations made before January 1, 2019 are tax deductible. Also, if you are working or retired, your company may have a matching program that may double your donation to the RTHC. Please check with your company representative to see if your company matches.

*Let’s set Goals*

“Collect Donations of $500,000 by December 31, 2018”
“Break Ground by Austin Convention 2019” and
“Celebrate our new DRT Home in Austin 2020.”