

City of San Marcos

630 E. Hopkins
San Marcos, Texas 78666R

NEWS

Landmark of Hope Project Main Street Needs Your Votes to Win Preservation Grant

The San Marcos Main Street program is calling on the public to begin voting today to win a \$150,000 Partners in Preservation grant to help preserve the historic First Baptist Church at 219 MLK Dr. (You can vote no matter where you live!)

The Landmark of Hope project is one of twenty finalists selected from across the country to participate in the campaign, and is the only project chosen in Texas.

How to vote:

Voting is open Sept. 24 – Oct. 26 at www.voteyourmainstreet.org/sanmarcos. The website requires you to create an account and verify your email address.

Once your email has been verified, you will be able cast your vote for the repair and restoration project of your choice.

Each user is allocated five votes per day, every day through Oct. 26. Main Street requests that everyone vote for San Marcos all five times! At the end of the voting period, the 10 projects with the greatest number of votes will receive \$150,000 in grant funding.

About the Grant:

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, Main Street America and American Express are working together to bring \$2 million in preservation funding to projects on America's Main Streets through a public participation process that will raise awareness of the work being done across the country to revitalize Main Streets and neighborhood districts in small towns, mid-sized cities, and urban centers across America. The public will be engaged in an online voting campaign to help determine the winning projects.

Selected grants will be announced Oct. 29.



HOPE: The historic First Baptist Church is in the running for a \$150,000 Partners in Preservation grant. Front row from left are Kurt Waldhauser, Ramika Adams, Kristan Alvarez, Lisa Prewitt, Josie Falletta, Willie Adams Jr, Kayli Head; back row are Kevin Burke, Linda Kelsey Jones, Alison Brake, Ashley McCafferty, Linda Coker, Samantha Armbruster. *Photo courtesy City of San Marcos*

Scope of work for our submission:

If selected for the grant, work at the historic First Baptist Church will begin no later than July 1, 2019 and be completed by June 30, 2020. The project would provide infrastructure to straighten the structure and to provide protection from weather damage. Costs and labor would cover structural shoring, framing and materials.

About First Baptist Church

Oral history provided by the Calaboose African American Museum details that in 1866, Rev. Moses Johns met with freedmen to organize the Colored Baptist Church Zion, San Marcos' first African American congregation.

In 1873, the church's first sanctuary on Guadalupe Street was destroyed by fire. In 1908, the church relocated and rebuilt on Comal (now MLK) Street under Rev. G.F. Curry's leadership.

The Victorian-style sanctuary is described by architectural conservationist James Nolan as “one of the grandest historic African-American churches in the state of Texas.”

The structure, called the historic First Baptist Church after the congregation who once worshiped there, has stood vacant since 1986, when the congregation moved to its current Mitchell Street sanctuary.

[For more information, contact the San Marcos Main Street Office at 512.393.8430 or mainstreet@sanmarcostx.gov.](mailto:mainstreet@sanmarcostx.gov)