



1-5-2026

The Honorable Greg Abbott

Governor of Texas
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Governor Abbott:

On behalf of the 1836 Project Advisory Committee, I am pleased to submit the biannual report covering activities and accomplishments from 2024 through 2025. This report reflects the Committee's continued commitment to promoting a fuller understanding of Texas history, civics, and heritage for all Texans and visitors to our state.

Over the past two years, the Committee strengthened its organizational capacity, expanded statewide outreach, and advanced several major initiatives, including the redesign and distribution of the *Telling the Texas Story* pamphlet, the development of guidelines for the 1836 Project Gubernatorial Award, and the enhancement of our digital and public-facing platforms. Through quarterly public meetings held across the state—from Dallas and Canyon to Huntsville, Laredo, and Abilene—the Committee brought together leading historians, museum professionals, educators, and civic leaders to ensure that diverse Texas stories are shared widely and responsibly.

The Committee also deepened its engagement with school districts, Education Service Centers, historic sites, and cultural institutions to support Texas educators and increase public access to high-quality historical resources. Our partnership with Texas Country Reporter to conceptualize a documentary film, and our inquiry to the Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program, represent important steps toward expanding the reach of the 1836 Project through modern media.

While funding constraints continue to affect travel, printing, and award administration, the Committee remains focused on mission-critical work and continues to build strong relationships with legislators, agency partners, universities, and historical organizations across Texas. With

your continued leadership, we look forward to further expanding the visibility and impact of the 1836 Project in the coming year.

We appreciate your support and the confidence placed in the Committee to steward this important work. We remain dedicated to ensuring that every Texan—native, new arrival, or visitor—has access to clear, engaging, and accurate resources that tell the story of Texas with pride, honesty, and integrity.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Donald S. Frazier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "D".

Donald S. Frazier, Ph.D.
Chair, 1836 Project Advisory Committee

Biannual Narrative Report

to the

Governor of Texas

The 1836 Project Advisory Committee

2024–2025 Reporting Period

The 1836 Project Advisory Committee continues to advance its legislative charge with diligence, transparency, and statewide engagement. Through expanded partnerships, increased educational alignment, and significant enhancements to public outreach, the committee has strengthened Texas civic literacy and broadened public access to trustworthy historical resources.

The committee respectfully submits this report to the Governor of Texas and remains committed to preserving, promoting, and communicating the unique and enduring story of Texas.

Donald S. Frazier, Ph.D, Chair

Carolina Castillo Crim, Ph.D.

Greg Sindelar

Sherry Sylvester

Brandon Creighton

Jerry Patterson

Mac Woodward (Outgoing)

The Honorable Katrina Pierson (Incoming)

The Honorable Hillary Hickland (Incoming)

The Honorable Caroline Fairly (Incoming)

Over the past two years, the 1836 Project Advisory Committee strengthened its operational capacity, expanded its statewide presence, and deepened its commitment to telling the Texas story with accuracy, pride, and transparency. This reporting period marked a pivotal step forward for the initiative as the committee hired a full-time director, accelerated the distribution of educational materials, expanded media partnerships, and brought greater visibility to Texas's rich history through outreach in every region of the state.

The most important structural achievement was the hiring of a dedicated director for the 1836 Project. This role immediately improved coordination, strengthened compliance, and ensured continuity across programs, meetings, and statewide engagements. With stable leadership in place, the committee moved quickly to reinforce its transparency obligations. Open-meeting materials—including agendas, minutes, and recordings—were promptly posted for every quarterly meeting from February 2024 through November 2025. Each meeting was strategically hosted in a different region of the state to ensure broad access and to highlight Texas's remarkable network of museums, historic sites, and universities. These gatherings featured curated speaker panels from institutions such as the African American Museum of Dallas, Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Sam Houston Memorial Museum, University of Austin, and others. The result was a series of well-attended, content-rich meetings that showcased the diversity and depth of Texas history.

During this period, the committee also made substantial progress on the 1836 Project Gubernatorial Award. The committee developed and refined the award guidelines, gained public visibility through an official press release, and prepared for the inaugural nomination cycle, which closes on January 31, 2026. A subcommittee led by Mac Woodward and Jerry Patterson provided additional revisions to ensure clarity and fairness. The award is poised to become a signature vehicle for recognizing excellence in Texas history education and storytelling.

One of the committee's most visible accomplishments was the complete redesign of the *Telling the Texas Story* pamphlet. Reimagined in a modern 6×9 format, the pamphlet became the centerpiece of the committee's public outreach strategy. More than 225,000 copies were distributed across Texas to DMVs, TXDOT travel centers, school districts, and an extensive list of historic sites including the Alamo, Washington-on-the-Brazos, San Felipe de Austin, Sam Houston Memorial Museum, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame, and many more. Education Service Center social studies coordinators helped push the pamphlet into fourth- and seventh-grade classrooms statewide, significantly expanding reach. Due to strong demand, an additional 40,000 copies were requested by regional offices in DFW and San Antonio. Although distribution at some DMVs remained inconsistent, the overall effort represented one of the most successful statewide public-history dissemination campaigns in recent years.

The committee also invested in strengthening the 1836 Project's public identity. New branding and design templates brought cohesion to publications and digital content. New Facebook and Instagram pages increased visibility and allowed for direct communication with the public. Training on the state's Drupal platform enabled improved website management, ensuring that links, documents, and meeting materials remain accurate and accessible.

Education remained a core priority. During this reporting period, the committee played an important role in the State Board of Education's approval of the new K–5 Reading/Language Arts curriculum. Serving as a subject matter expert for Texas history ensured that Texas-centric stories, themes, and perspectives were appropriately integrated. The committee also began assembling resources for Texas educators preparing for America 250 commemorations and continued distributing pamphlets—both physical and digital—to schools statewide. Through ESCs alone, every school district in Texas received access to the pamphlet PDF for classroom use.

We have also had plenty of opportunity to witness the workings of the State Board of Education, its interface with the Texas Education Agency, and the processes that make the curriculum served up to our Texas students. Currently, I am working as a content advisor to the SBOE, and find the lack of historical literacy among our elected officials of some concern. The nine content advisors chosen to help guide the process by providing excellent fact-based materials around which working groups can fashion the Texas Essential Knowledge and skills are a good team with a wealth of knowledge and wide range of experience. The greatest challenge facing the content advisors is the lack of respect being given to their expertise. In the end, the SBOE can choose to ignore the content advisors. However, in many ways they hold the future of Texas in their hands. What gets taught in K-12 engrains the story of Texas to our future citizens, so it falls to organizations like the Texas 1836 Project to urge these elected officials to serve this higher calling rather than using their positions for expedient and short term purposes.

Overall, media and public outreach efforts for the Texas 1836 Committee expanded significantly. Our director, Charles Wright, discussed with Bob Phillips of *Texas Country Reporter* the idea of a film treatment for *Telling the Story of Texas*, positioning the project for production funding. An inquiry was submitted to the Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program to support this effort. Members of the committee and staff visited dozens of historical sites, museums, and cultural institutions across the state, connecting with local leaders and seeking opportunities for partnership. These visits included events such as the History Heroes campaign kickoff, Sons of the Republic of Texas meetings, restoration work at Old Fort Parker, and tours of significant historical landscapes from Laredo to San Felipe de Austin. The Gatesville Messenger featured coverage of the committee's work on June 14, 2025, helping raise local awareness.

Throughout the period, committee members maintained ongoing dialogue with legislative leadership—including Speaker Burrows and Senator Tan Parker—to address committee appointments, secure operational support, and advocate for sustainable funding. These relationships remain essential as the committee works to meet increasing public demand for educational materials, travel, and award-program costs. Recently, Speaker Burrows appointed three legislators to the committee—Katrina Pierson, Hillary Hickland, and Caroline Fairly to serve on this committee starting with our February meeting, and retired Mac Woodard. Meanwhile, we are awaiting word from Brandon Creighton as to his future with The Texas 1836 Project given his recent appointment as Chancellor of the Texas Tech system. In addition, there might be merit in adding the Texas State Historian and the Texas Poet Laureate as non-voting, ex-officio members of this group as they are appointed by the governor specifically because they tell the Texas story in their role.

Looking ahead, the committee is preparing a new print run of the pamphlet to restock DMVs and maintain statewide access. It plans to pursue a Summerlee Foundation grant to support collaborative research projects, expand outreach to school districts and ESCs, and continue developing the video project in partnership with Texas media leaders. While funding shortages for travel, printing, and award administration remain a challenge, the committee continues to maximize efficiency, leverage partnerships, and prioritize mission-critical activities.

The 1836 Project Advisory Committee submits this narrative report with appreciation for the continued support of the Governor's Office and with renewed commitment to ensuring that every Texan—whether a lifelong resident or a new arrival—understands the history, principles, and stories that define the Lone Star State.

The 1836 Project Advisory Committee

Summary Biannual Report

Reporting Period: 2024 – 2025

I. Comprehensive Master Summary (2024–2025)

During the 2024–2025 reporting period, the 1836 Project Advisory Committee continued to advance its statutory mission to promote understanding of Texas history, civics, and heritage through public outreach, educational support, and statewide partnerships. The committee expanded its organizational capacity, strengthened public transparency, and significantly broadened the reach of its educational materials—most notably the redesigned *Telling the Texas Story* pamphlet, now distributed statewide in record numbers.

The committee also laid the foundation for expanded media engagement, improved branding, and development of a major film initiative. Strategic collaboration with state agencies, legislators, universities, and historical institutions ensured that the 1836 Project remained visible, relevant, and mission-focused.

II. Leadership

- Hired a Director for the 1836 Project, Charles Wright, enhancing continuity, accelerating program execution, and improving statewide coordination of committee initiatives.

III. Key Accomplishments

A. Meetings & Transparency

To strengthen public trust and comply fully with statutory requirements:

- Open meeting materials—agendas, minutes, recordings—were posted for meetings held on:
 - February 21, 2024 – Dallas
 - July 1, 2024 – Canyon
 - October 3, 2024 – Huntsville
 - January 29, 2025 – Austin
 - May 2, 2025 – Laredo
 - August 12, 2025 – Kerrville
 - November 4, 2025 – Abilene
- Quarterly meetings were conducted across the state, each with curated speaker panels drawn from leading Texas historical sites, museums, and academic institutions.

B. Gubernatorial Award

- Drafted, circulated, and revised guidelines for the 1836 Project Gubernatorial Award.
- Public posting of guidelines and official press release issued by the Governor’s Office.
- Subcommittee (Carolina Crimm, Mac Woodward & Jerry Patterson) completed revisions for committee review.
- Annual nomination deadline: January 31, 2026.

C. Pamphlet Redesign & Statewide Distribution

- Fully redesigned the “Telling the Texas Story” pamphlet (6x9 format).
- Distributed more than 225,000 copies statewide, including to:
 - Department of Motor Vehicles offices
 - TXDOT travel centers (12 border locations)
 - School districts
 - Major historic sites: Alamo, Washington-on-the-Brazos, San Felipe de Austin, Presidio La Bahía, Sam Houston Memorial Museum, San Jacinto Battleground, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame, Old Stone Fort, George Ranch, National Ranching Heritage Center, and numerous regional museums.
- ESC social studies coordinators promoted the pamphlet system-wide in 4th and 7th grade classrooms.
- Additional 40,000 copies requested by DFW and San Antonio regional offices.

D. Branding & Digital Presence

- Developed new branding and logo designs for the 1836 Project.
- Launched new Facebook and Instagram channels, with dedicated email contact for public inquiries.
- Received training in Drupal and updated website links and content for compliance and ease of navigation.

E. Educational Integration

- Served as Subject Matter Expert for Texas history within the K–5 Reading/Language Arts (RLA) Blue Bonnet curriculum review; SBOE approved the new curriculum in November.
- Initiated research and resource development for America 250 activities for Texas educators.
- Distributed pamphlets to 20+ school districts and provided a PDF to all ESCs for statewide distribution.

F. Media & Public Outreach

- Discussions with Bob Phillips (Texas Country Reporter) to develop the *Telling the Story of Texas* film project; completed a formal program treatment.
- Submitted an inquiry to the Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program (TMIIP) to support film production.

- Conducted extensive travel to historic sites, museums, and statewide cultural institutions, including:
 - History Heroes campaign kickoff
 - Sons of the Republic of Texas
 - Old Fort Parker restoration
 - Sam Houston Memorial Museum & Library
 - Oakwood Cemetery Republic-era tour
 - Laredo downtown historic district
 - San Felipe de Austin bicentennial events
 - Additional numerous engagements across the state
- Featured in the Gatesville Messenger (June 14, 2025).
- Ongoing networking with legislators, museum directors, ESC personnel, historical societies, and local leaders.

G. Legislative & Policy Engagement

- Engaged with Speaker Dustin Burrows, Senator Tan Parker, and other legislators regarding committee appointments, operational support, and future funding.

IV. Quarterly Meeting Presenter List (Full)

2023

November 28, 2023 – Texas State Capitol, Austin

- Senator Tan Parker – Senate District 12; Author of HB 2497 (87R)

2024

February 21, 2024 – African American Museum of Dallas

Presenters included leaders from TPPF, Austin Studios, Dallas Historical Society, Rockwall County Historical Commission, the Alamo Letter Society, and museum executives including W. Marvin Dulaney, Ph.D.

Senator Tan Parker provided remarks.

July 1, 2024 – Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon

Speakers included university presidents, TEA leadership, and statewide museum executives.

October 3, 2024 – Sam Houston Memorial Museum, Huntsville

Presenters represented:

- Sam Houston Memorial Library
- Old Stone Fort
- San Jacinto Museum
- San Felipe de Austin
- George Ranch

- Presidio La Bahía
- Washington-on-the-Brazos and Star of the Republic Museum
Invited public testimony provided by Blake Pfefer.

2025

January 29, 2025 – University of Austin, Austin

Speakers included:

- Dr. Michael Shires
- Dr. Charlie McCormick (Schreiner University)
- Charles Wright (1836 Project Advisory Committee)

May 2, 2025 – Texas A&M International University (Laredo)

Presenters:

- Dr. Jerry Thompson
- Dr. Emilio Zamora
- Dr. Cynthia Orozco
- Roseann Bacha-Garza
Public testimony from Dr. Adam Kozaczka & Dr. Angela Valenzuela.

November 4, 2025 – Abilene

Speakers:

- Dr. Rusty Towell (ACU NEXT Lab)
- Madison Galle (Region 14 ESC)
- Ernesto Rodriguez (The Alamo)
- Blaise Regan (Abilene City Councilman; Stargate AI Data Center)

V. Plans Moving Forward (2025–2026)

- Reprint pamphlets for DMV restocking statewide.
- Apply to the Summerlee Foundation for collaborative research support.
- Continue expanding partnerships with ESCs, school districts, universities, and museums.
- Advance planning, fundraising, and production for the Telling the Story of Texas film project.
- Maintain robust statewide outreach to ensure the mission of the 1836 Project is visible in all regions of Texas.

VI. Challenges

- Limited funding for travel, pamphlet printing, and the gubernatorial award program.
- Inconsistent pamphlet distribution at some DMV locations, requiring enhanced coordination with state partners.

VII. Conclusion

The 1836 Project Advisory Committee continues to advance its legislative charge with diligence, transparency, and statewide engagement. Through expanded partnerships, increased educational alignment, and significant enhancements to public outreach, the committee has strengthened Texas civic literacy and broadened public access to trustworthy historical resources.

The committee respectfully submits this report to the Governor of Texas and remains committed to preserving, promoting, and communicating the unique and enduring story of Texas.