

# City receives First Lady's Texas Treasures Award



David Minton/DRC

Texas Historical Commission executive director Mark Wolfe speaks at a presentation awarding the city of Denton the First Lady's Texas Treasure Award on Wednesday.

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Published: 28 May 2014 09:30 PM

It's now official: Denton is a Texas Treasure.

The special award, an initiative from the office of Texas first lady Anita Perry and the Texas Historical Commission, was handed out Wednesday at the historic Courthouse on the Square, making Denton the 10th Texas city to garner such distinction.

Mark Wolfe, executive director of the Texas Historical Commission, said it was about time he showed up with the award for Denton.

"It's nice to be able to share a celebration with people who worked so hard for an award," Wolfe told the city, county and historical officials and residents packed inside the Commissioners Courtroom.

The award is given in recognition of communities that showcase their dedication to preservation efforts through participation in state and local programs.

During the ceremony, newly minted Denton Mayor Chris Watts and County Judge Mary Horn made remarks about the collaboration between the city and county on the preservation of the city's history even as it continues to grow.

A short video, one that helped make Denton's case for the award, was shown for the first time and also highlighted the history of the city and efforts to preserve the look of its downtown buildings.

Following the ceremony, Watts said the award was a testament that what is being done regarding preservation is working.

The First Lady's Texas Treasures Award gives Denton recognition statewide and nationwide, and opens doors economically to historical tourism, which can spur preservation efforts for years to come, Watts said.

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