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## **Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame & Museum Moving to New Location in Fort Worth Stockyards**

*Historic Exhibits Building, half a block from current facility, will house a more dynamic, interactive and educational experience for visitors*

**FORT WORTH, TX (April 11, 2018)** – The Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame & Museum announced today that it will move to a new location in the Fort Worth Stockyards - the historic Exhibits Building, just half a block from the current site.

Constructed in 1911, the Exhibits Building is located at 2515-2519 Rodeo Plaza, between Exchange Avenue and Stockyards Boulevard. The Cowtown Coliseum is right next door and Billy Bob's Texas is steps away from the new location.

As part of the move, the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame & Museum has become a 501(c)(3) public charity and is actively conducting an \$8 million capital campaign to seek funding for the move and expansion. Before, the organization was a private foundation operated by the Hickman family of Fort Worth.

“This move has been in the planning stages for more than two years, but the upcoming development efforts by the Stockyards Heritage Revitalization Project gave us the opportunity to make it happen now,” said Julia Buswold, Executive Director. “We’ve enlisted the help of expert museum designers and planners to celebrate Texas cowboys and western heritage in a whole new way.”

The Hickman family is maintaining a strong presence in the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame & Museum, with Brenda Kostohryz, vice president of the Hickman Companies, serving as board president and chair of the capital campaign.

“My parents, Holt and Jo Hickman, relocated this museum to the Historic Stockyards in 2001, as a way to preserve our precious western heritage,” said Kostohryz. “This wonderful reimagined museum will help ensure that their vision and the priceless stories of the Hall of Fame members are preserved for the benefit of future generations.”

When complete, the updated Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame & Museum will feature an entertaining, immersive and interactive experience centered around the 145+ members of the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame, the wide-ranging Sterquell Wagon Collection and other noteworthy exhibits.

“Western heritage is a huge part of the allure of Fort Worth, and the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame & Museum embodies our history and tradition,” said Betsy Price, Fort Worth Mayor. “This museum is certain to be a popular attraction for visitors and a wonderful educational resource for children for many years to come.”

The current facility, located in the Horse and Mule Barns, will close on June 1, 2018, and reopen in July in the Exhibits Building. During development of the project, the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame & Museum will occupy a smaller footprint in the building and feature selected exhibits from the collection as well as the Jersey Lilly Photo Parlor and gift shop. During this transition, the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame and Museum will also continue to offer their portion of the children’s education program known as the Fort Worth Stockyards 4 Hours of Fun educational co-op. The program, which educates close to 30,000 children each year, showcases the history of our great western heritage.

### **About the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame & Museum**

The Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame & Museum, which attracts more than 60,000 visitors each year, celebrates Texas and Texans by individually honoring and showcasing its more than 145 Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame inductees. Visitors learn about the lives and contributions of great Texans like award-winning musician, author and rancher Red Steagall; rodeo commentator and television personality Pam Minick; cattle rancher and celebrated baseball player Nolan Ryan; 23-time world champion roper Trevor Brazile; Grammy award-winning musician and champion horseman Lyle Lovett; and many more influential Texans. The Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame inductees represent the best of Texas in the fields of rodeo, business, western promotion, entertainment, ranching and agriculture.

The Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame & Museum also cultivates permanent and traveling exhibits that convey the spirit of Texas and Fort Worth’s western heritage. The museum is home to the world’s largest collection of lifestyle wagons, fully restored and on display. It also currently houses the Chisholm Trail Exhibit, the Zigrang Bit Collection, and a hands-on Exploratorium that introduces younger school children to the Cowboy Alphabet, Packing for the Trail and the Chuckwagon. Of local note is an exhibit on the life of John Justin of Justin Boots and Amon G. Carter’s original 1933 V-8 Cadillac.

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