



TEXAS Board of
Architectural Examiners
Architects • Landscape Architects • Registered Interior Designers

LICENSING NEWS

ARCHITECTURE • INTERIOR DESIGN • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

JULY 2017

CHAIR'S COLUMN: 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Eight decades of TBAE

In 1937 the average cost of a new car was \$760. The Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco opened the same year at a cost of \$35 million. Texas continued to celebrate its Centennial, 101 years after the state declared its independence. A five-room cottage home in downtown Port Arthur, Texas sold for \$4,100. And 200 miles north of Port Arthur, the East Texas town of New London was the scene of an unimaginable tragedy.

While children, teachers, and staff prepared for an inter-scholastic meet on March 18, 1937, a spark ignited trapped natural gas inside a closed space beneath the school, a steel-framed E-shaped building more than 250 feet long. Of the 500 or so people inside the school that day, nearly 300 died. Most of the victims were children.

As roughnecks, state troopers, and highway patrolmen searched for victims, the news spread. And the 45th Texas Legislature in Austin worked feverishly to help prevent disasters like this in the future. The Texas Board of Architectural Examiners (TBAE) is one result of that Legislature's efforts, created by House Bill 144 in May of 1937.

Section 1 of TBAE's enabling act that year reads, in part, as follows: "Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas [...] That in order to safeguard life, health, and property, and the public welfare, and in order to protect the public against the irresponsible practice of the profession of architecture by properly defining and regulating the practice of architecture..."

Eighty years later, this agency's mission remains the same. Health and safety aspects of the built environment are no less critical to proper design today than they were decades ago; I would argue, rather, that life safety concerns are more central today than ever. Buildings and residences need

to be structurally sound. Parks and public spaces need to be well-lit and properly drained. When a fire alarm sounds, everyone needs a safe and efficient way to exit the office, theater, or stadium. In the intervening decades, public policy innovations such as accessibility, sustainability, and public procurement have been added to the concerns for the design of environments in our state. And our buildings and sites have become more complicated with electronic controlled access, security, surveillance, and blast-resistant measures.

The agency has certainly evolved, too. In the first decade following TBAE's creation, there were 1,000 registered architects in Texas. Today, we have more than 9,100 registered in-state architects, and 4,600 out-of-state registrants. In 1969, the registration of Landscape Architects was enacted, and Registered Interior Designers were added in 1991. Requirements for education, experience, and examination have changed, reflecting the innovations and evolutions of our profession.

Our core mission has been constant, however. Each day, as you're engaged in the practice of your chosen profession, it is worthwhile to reflect for a few moments on the reason the State of Texas oversees the work you do for your clients and the Texans who live, work, and play in the spaces you design. Public safety in the design professions is not merely tied to a specific event in history, but is a living and ongoing commitment by the State, your profession, and you as a registered Texas design professional.



Debra Dockery, AIA
Chair

Our people are your real resources

Humans have shaped the environment to suit their purposes since civilization began. As a state regulatory board, TBAE takes special note in this issue to acknowledge and celebrate 80 years of state recognition of the public health and safety considerations of architecture and, in later years, landscape architecture and interior design.

As a registered design professional, candidate for registration, building official, or member of the public, we at the Board believe you have a right to the very best customer service we can provide. One way we frame this belief is that the less time you spend talking to your regulatory board, the more time you have to spend working to ensure that the spaces you design for your client are safe, compliant with laws and codes, and functional. To that end, as you likely know if you have called the agency, you talk to an experienced, capable human being when you call for assistance. With a staff of 19, you will be routed to the subject matter expert within seconds of explaining what you need.

When you do speak with our staff, you will be speaking with one or more talented and dedicated public servants who understand the agency's mission to ensure the safety of the people who live, work, and play in the spaces you design. Most of the board's staff has many years of experience here at TBAE or at other state agencies. Some also have local government and law enforcement experience, and bring a fresh perspective to discussions of agency operations. Even our newest employees benefit from rigorous initial training and ongoing mentorship from more experienced staff.

That same [staff has produced an agency Web site](#) that provides a useful toolkit for registrants, future registrants, and the public. One overlooked but useful function of [your online account](#) is simply to add a second or even a third "backup" email

address at which to receive important updates, including your renewal reminder. If you would like [a roster of current registrants](#), one is available 24 hours a day and updated in real time. [Helpful brochures, forms, and back-issues of this newsletter](#) are found throughout. And perhaps most important and useful, [a staff directory is available as well](#).

Data is also an important part of how the agency operates. In terms of interacting with registrants, candidates, and the public, we gauge our performance by asking directly. Every two years, as part of our strategic planning process, we ask all of our stakeholders how well we are fulfilling our mission via a customer service survey. I'm proud of earning a 94% overall satisfaction response in 2016, and I'm looking continue that high level of satisfaction. Watch for the customer service survey coming your way late this year.

Data, tools, and technology can take you far. But as you probably know, any endeavor depends on the people who make it happen every day. I am and will continue to be proud of the people who spend their days ensuring that design professionals across the state continue to protect the health and safety of those living, working, and playing in the built environment of Texas. And I commit to you, as design professionals and other stakeholders, to perform that work as professionally and efficiently as we possibly can.



Julie Hildebrand
Executive Director

For the latest news and updates, visit:
www.tbae.state.tx.us

TBAE THROUGH THE DECADES

1937

New London School Explosion; TBAE established by the 45th Texas Legislature (House Bill 144)

1946

1,000th Texas Architect becomes registered

1969

Texas Board of Landscape Architects (TBLA) established

1973

5,000th Texas Architect becomes registered

2000

Continuing education becomes a requirement of registration

1991

Registered Interior Designers added to TBAE jurisdiction

1989

Architects Practice Act

1979

TBLA moved into TBAE

2001

Landscape Architects Practice Act

2001

TBAE becomes a charter member of SDSI

2004

All three regulated professions begin to pay \$200 professional fee

2007

TBAE reduces renewal fees to 2003 rate

2013

TBAE undergoes periodic Sunset review, resulting in fingerprint-based background checks and other changes

2011

Legislature effectively ends the "overlap" dispute between some architects and engineers

2009

"Registered Interior Designer" title change; 11,000th RID becomes registered

2015

New Executive Director Julie Hildebrand joins the agency; Active renewals reduced by \$200 after repeal of professional fee

2016

26,000th Texas architect becomes registered

2017

3,300th Landscape Architect becomes registered

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Test-passing deadline for “grandfathered” RIDs extended by 10 years, and new paths to registration as a Texas RID

Before adjourning in late May, the 85th Texas Legislature amended state law regarding the test-passing requirement for some “grandfathered” Registered Interior Designers (RIDs) which became law four years ago. The deadline for passing all sections of the NCIDQ exam, for those who have not yet done so, was extended by ten years from September 1 of this year to September 1, 2027.

House Bill 1657 was enrolled and signed into law by Governor Abbott on June 15. If you are currently registered and have not yet passed all sections of the NCIDQ exam, the effect of the change in statute is simple. You will now have until September 1, 2027 to pass all sections of the NCIDQ examination and may continue to renew your registration until that date whether you sit for and pass the exam or not.

Once you do pass the examination, you may continue to renew your registration indefinitely.

Along with the ten-year extension for passing the NCIDQ examination, the Legislature also passed SB 1932, which increases the number of paths to registration as a Texas RID. For years, the only path to licensure as an RID for almost all aspirants has been to graduate from a program accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA), earn the required experience, and pass the NCIDQ exam. As of September 1, 2017, any of the routes provided by CIDQ will qualify aspiring RIDs for registration. TBAE will amend its rules soon to align with the new laws passed this spring, so look for more information on this development in short order.



REMINDER: Renewal notices by email only

If you have been a TBAE registrant for more than a few years, you may remember receiving a renewal reminder in the form of a postcard in your mailbox. In 2015, we announced twice in this newsletter and also as a message on renewal postcards that soon the agency would phase out postcard reminders and rely on renewal reminders via email. We implemented the procedural change over the course of 15 months as a cost-saving measure, and it appears to be working smoothly while keeping expenses down.

There is one potential catch, of course: For you to receive an email reminder to renew your license, TBAE needs to have your current, valid email address. Fortunately, checking to make sure we have your email address—and updating it, if need be—is a simple process. [Just log into your account](#) and verify that the email address in your

record is accurate and up to date. There's an additional new function available to registrants and candidates, which will help ensure that you are notified of important news such as renewal reminders. While you're logged in, you may also enter up to two additional email addresses where we will send renewal reminders. Some registrants find it useful to have on file a work email, a personal email, and perhaps the email address of a business or administrative coworker.

Whichever way you choose to stay informed of important updates, remember that Board rules require you to keep your address—including email addresses—up to date in agency records. It's your professional responsibility to keep your information up to date, and it's our job to make it simple for you to do.



Tony Whitt
Continuing Education Coordinator

How much do you know about continuing education?

1. What year did the number of required hours increase from eight to 12?
2. When you renew in 2018, you'll be attesting to completion of your continuing education (CE) hours during what calendar year?
3. True or false: CE violations are not required to be published in this newsletter.
4. TBAE first implemented its CE program in what year?
5. If you complete 24 hours of CE in one year, how many of those hours can you carry over to the following year?
6. Does a receipt for payment of a CE course (or registration for a convention, etc.) count as proof of attendance?
7. Registrants may not repeat a structured CE course within a 3-year period, with one exception. What is the exception?

Quiz Answers

1. 2012; 2. 2017 (you'll always attest to completion of CE hours for the previous calendar year, not the current one); 3. False; 4. TBAE's CE program began in May, 2000; 5. Twelve; 6. No. A course completion certificate, sign-in sheet, may be carried forward to satisfy the continuing education requirements for the next registration period; 7. The Texas Accessibility Academy, offered by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

Contact Tony Whitt directly about continuing education issues!

PHONE: 512-305-8528 • EMAIL: ce@tbae.state.tx.us



Things to remember about your TBAE Continuing Education

- You need a total of 12 hours per calendar year (January 1 through December 31)
- Please submit course completion certificates or your transcript in order to verify attendance at structured classes; other documentation is not acceptable to the Board
- One hour must be in sustainable or energy-efficient design, and one hour must be in accessible design
- Up to four hours of your total of 12 may be self-study
- Both your accessible design and sustainable design hours may be earned via self-study; you are welcome to earn one or both of these required hours in a classroom setting, but you also may earn them in the comfort of your own home
- CE hours are earned by calendar year; keep your course completion certificates organized by calendar year, not by your renewal period (which is still based on your birth month)

For the latest news
and updates, visit:
www.tbae.state.tx.us

Disciplinary Action

The following cases were decided during the TBAE Board meeting in February 2017. Each case is based on the applicable rule in effect at the time of the violation, and was considered by Enforcement staff and the Board in light of its unique facts. Individual rules may have changed between the time a violation occurs and the time the case is publicized.

In order to ensure compliance with continuing education responsibilities, TBAE staff audits 10 percent of its registrants each year through a random selection process. All of the continuing education enforcement cases brought to the Board at the meetings stem from the random audit program. The cases reflect the most common violations: (1) failing to complete adequate continuing education hours during a program year, (2) failing to maintain continuing education records and verification of participation in CE activities for a period of five years, (3) falsely certifying, at the time of renewal, compliance with continuing education responsibilities, and/or (4) failing to respond to a request for information within 30 days. Each continuing education infraction is subject to a standard administrative penalty.

SOAH Case (Non-Registrant)

TBAE v. Robert “Bob” A. Sanchez, Jr.

Tomball, TX

Approved Penalty: \$40,000

Unauthorized use of an architect’s seal in violation of Board Rule 1.104(c)

Registrant Cases

Estes, Lawrence C.

\$1,000

Houston, TX

Failed to mark construction documents “not for regulatory approval, permitting, or construction” in violation of Board Rule 3.101

Nguyen, Tien Thu

\$5,000 + TDLR Academy

Houston, TX

Failed to submit a document as required by the Architectural Barriers Act in violation of Board Rule 1.170(a)

Spurgin, Louis

\$2,000

McKinney, TX

Failed to submit a document as required by the Architectural Barriers Act in violation of Board Rule 1.170(a)

Continuing Education Cases

Carrasco, Carmen

\$700

Los Angeles, CA

Failure to maintain a detailed record of continuing education for five years

Evans, James W.

\$700

Saginaw, TX

Falsely reporting completion of CE responsibilities in order to renew registration

Faure, Matthew C.

\$1,200

Plano, TX

Failure to timely complete CE responsibilities

Falsely reporting completion of CE responsibilities in order to renew registration

Haver, Joseph R.

\$700

Dallas, TX

Falsely reporting completion of CE responsibilities in order to renew registration

Laitkep, Jo Ann

\$1,200

Pearland, TX

Failure to timely complete CE responsibilities

Falsely reporting completion of CE responsibilities in order to renew registration

Terrill, Allen J.

\$500

Huntingdon, PA

Failure to timely complete CE responsibilities

For the latest information about fingerprinting, visit:
www.TBAE.state.tx.us/PRINTS

Change of Address

Please make sure that we have your current mailing and email address so we may send your renewal notice to you in a timely fashion. You may update your own record by logging in to your online account on our Web site, www.tbae.state.tx.us. You can also mail or fax 512.305.8900 the address change along with your signature. We will send renewal reminders to registrants at the e-mail address on file with TBAE, so be sure to keep your valid and unique email address updated.

Upcoming Board Meetings

- August 16, 2017
- November 8, 2017

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Julie Hildebrand

BOARD MEMBERS

Debra Dockery, FAIA

Chair, Architect Member; Term ends 1/31/17

Chad Davis, RLA

Vice-Chair, Landscape Architect Member; Term ends 1/31/19

Jennifer Walker, AIA

Secretary-Treasurer, Architect Member; Term ends 1/31/21

Sonya B. Odell, FASID, AAHID, RID

Registered Interior Designer Member; Term ends 1/31/17

Paula Ann Miller – Public Member; Term ends 1/31/17

Chuck Anastos, AIA – Architect Member; Term ends 1/31/19

Corbett "Chase" Bearden – Public Member; Term ends 1/31/21

Bob Wetmore, AIA – Architect Member; Term ends 1/31/21

The mission of the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners (TBAE) is to serve the State of Texas by protecting and preserving the health, safety, and welfare of the Texans who live, work, and play in the built environment through the regulation of the practice of architecture, landscape architecture, and interior design.

www.tbae.state.tx.us



Attestation of Self-Directed Credit Hours Earned

TBAE newsletter, *Licensing News*

I certify that I read the _____ [Month, Year as found at top of page one] issue of TBAE's *Licensing News* for _____ hours (up to two) on _____ [date].

These continuing education hours will count for self-directed study for the calendar year in which they were earned.

I understand that up to four continuing education hours of the required 12 per calendar year may be earned via self-study.

Your name

Date

Please keep this Certificate for your records, and submit it if you receive an audit letter from TBAE, along with all additional certificates for the specified calendar year.



**TEXAS Board of
Architectural Examiners**
Architects • Landscape Architects • Registered Interior Designers

333 Guadalupe, Suite 2-350, Austin, TX 78701 • P.O. Box 12337, Austin, TX 78711
Telephone: (512) 305-9000 • Fax: (512) 305-8900 • www.tbae.state.tx.us