

**SCHEDULE 11: SPECIAL ITEM INFORMATION**  
80TH REGULAR SESSION  
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

Date: 7/18/2006  
Time: 8:35:28AM  
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Agency Code: 753      Agency: Sam Houston State University

**Special Item:**    2            **Sam Houston Museum**

**(1) Year Special Item:**            1911

**(2) Mission of Special Item:**

The Sam Houston Memorial Museum is an organized and permanent department of Sam Houston State University. It is educational in purpose, dedicated to and responsible for collection, preservation, conservation, exhibition, interpretation, and research. These efforts will extend to the historic buildings and structures, landscape, artifacts, material culture objects, books, manuscripts, and archives entrusted to its care. The Museum has two major emphases. (1) The life and times of Sam and Margaret Houston, members of the Houston family, dependents and descendants. (2) The history, culture, and development of Texas and the Southwest, especially the period 1832-1865. The entire 19-acre Museum grounds are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Sam Houston's "Woodland Home" is a registered National Historic Landmark, a Texas Historic Landmark, and a State Archaeological Landmark. This item supports the missions of Sam Houston State University. Over 120,000 out-of-school adults, college students, and school children annually are taught Texas history and material culture. The item fosters scholarly research through maintaining an archive and library and sponsoring regular conferences and seminars. Service is provided to Huntsville and Texas by supporting the growth of travel and tourism.

**(3) (a) Major Accomplishments to Date:**

The Museum preserved three original Sam Houston buildings from imminent destruction, constructed the Walker Education Center, replica Houston kitchen, and maintenance barn, and remodeled the Memorial Museum and Rotunda. Living history interpretive stations were installed on the grounds. Houston and early Texas artifacts and objects were collected, preserved, and exhibited. The Museum completed a program to redesign and reinstall the long-term exhibits in the Memorial Museum building. \$250,000 was received from Congressional appropriation to support this program. A support program for the Museum was founded with the General Sam Houston Folk Festival, the New Army of the Republic of Texas, and the Friends of the Sam Houston Museum. The Museum achieved full accreditation by the American Association of Museums, the highest honor awarded to an American museum. The 40 acre "Fernland" property was received as a gift from B.C. and Mae Tharp. This site, located in Montgomery County houses three original Texas log cabins, an 1850-era plantation house, and a blacksmith shop. The Guerrant Cabin from rural Walker County was restored and moved onto the Museum grounds. The Museum has become active sponsors of the Texas Forest Trail region. Three Mitchell A. Wilder Publication Design Awards were received from the Texas Association of Museums.

**(3) (b) Major Accomplishments Expected During the Next 2 Years:**

The Museum will continue to work with University Advancement and the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs to secure government, foundation, business, and private funding to finance various Museum projects. Three major traveling exhibits are scheduled each year for the Walker Education Center. Ongoing interpretive plans will be enhanced and improved. The Museum will work with the National Park Service to secure National Historic Landmark status for Steamboat House and Houston's Law Office. The Museum will also develop interpretive and curatorial plans for the "Fernland" historic site in Montgomery County. Needed repairs will be made to the Exhibit Hall. The Museum anticipates receiving Publication Design Awards from the Mountain-Plains Museum Association. Planning process for re-accreditation from the American Association of Museums will be initiated.

**(4) Funding Source Prior to Receiving Special Item Funding:**

Private funding donations.

**(5) Non-general Revenue Sources of Funding:**

2005 Museum Store Revenue 7,000  
Donations & Memberships 9,500  
Tours, Workshops 11,000