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City Wins Arts and Humanities Award

New Braunfels, TX – The City of New Braunfels was presented the Texas Recreation and Park Society's (TRAPS) Arts and Humanities Programming Achievement Award during a ceremony at the organization's Annual Conference and Institute in Lubbock, Texas on March 7th.

The City received the award for their Soul *Searching… Night Ramblings in the Comal Cemetery* event, conducted by the Parks and Recreation Department. The award honors communities in Texas for outstanding programming promoting cultural art and heritage. *Soul Searching* was selected as the best program among Texas cities with populations between 25,001-75,000.

Parks and Recreation Director, Stacey Dicke said, "We are honored to receive this award and we are grateful to the New Braunfels Cemetery Committee for their efforts in making *Soul Searching* a one-of-a-kind event."

The second annual event, which is a specialized cemetery tour, was held in October 2012. Participants visited seven selected graves to hear narratives of those at rest. Glimpses of early customs, attitudes, and culture provided insights into the beauty of the hallowed ground. Every script was researched by the New Braunfels Cemetery Committee using distinctive archives, newspaper accounts, and primary sources. Graveside presentations were dramatized by volunteer actors in authentic period costumes. These stories transcend simple narratives to become compelling "living history."

TRAPS is a nonprofit 501(c)3 professional organization founded 75 years ago. TRAPS is committed to advancing the field of parks, recreation and leisure services in Texas, while advocating for enhanced recreation opportunities and the increase of public green space for Texans.

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