



TSC Newsletter

Summer 2026

Letter From Our Executive Director



TSC Supporters,

The Texas Space Commission (TSC) has reached an important milestone - all \$150 million in legislative appropriations approved in 2023 for the Space Exploration & Aeronautics Research Fund (SEARF) has been fully committed. All 24 SEARF awards are [listed on the TSC website](#), along with notification letters to the Texas Legislative Budget Board (LBB) and related press releases. This funding is already advancing innovation and positioning Texas as a global leader in the burgeoning space economy.

Yesterday, at an Open Meeting of our Board of Directors, the Board built upon the progress they have been making since November 2025 and actioned seven new resolutions aimed at bolstering the Texas space economy. These resolutions authorize solicitations and information-gathering instruments aligned with priority areas identified by joint TSC-TARSEC working groups. Two board subcommittees were announced - Board Governance and Strategic Planning - to further advance the Commission's work. I encourage you to [watch the meeting recording](#) from February and to read [yesterday's press release](#), as these discussions will inform how TSC prioritizes \$300 million in new SEARF appropriations approved in 2025.

Separately, TSC and TARSEC appointees have remained active across the Lone Star State and nationally, meeting with commercial space companies, legislative offices, and community stakeholders. If you would like TSC or TARSEC to participate in your event or initiative, please [submit a request](#) and a member of our team will get back to you.

This week's Board actions send a clear signal that Texas is not just participating in the future of space exploration - it is helping to define it.

Sincerely,
Norman Garza, Jr.
Executive Director

Updates From TSC

The latest news and activities from TSC



Texas Space Commission Board Outlines Next Steps to Grow the Space Economy in Texas

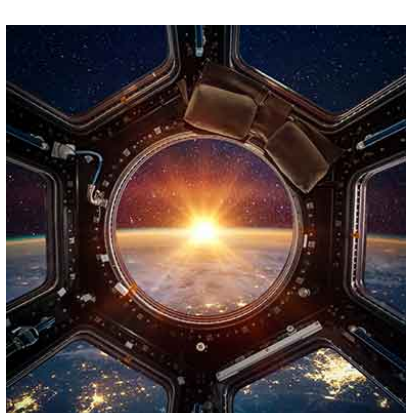
Yesterday, during an Open Meeting, the TSC Board met to receive updates, create new subcommittees, and advance a slate of open-session actions intended to strengthen the Texas space economy.

[Learn more](#)

Texas Space Commission is Hiring

Interested in joining the Texas Space Commission?
Learn more about the open positions on our website and apply today.

[Learn more](#)

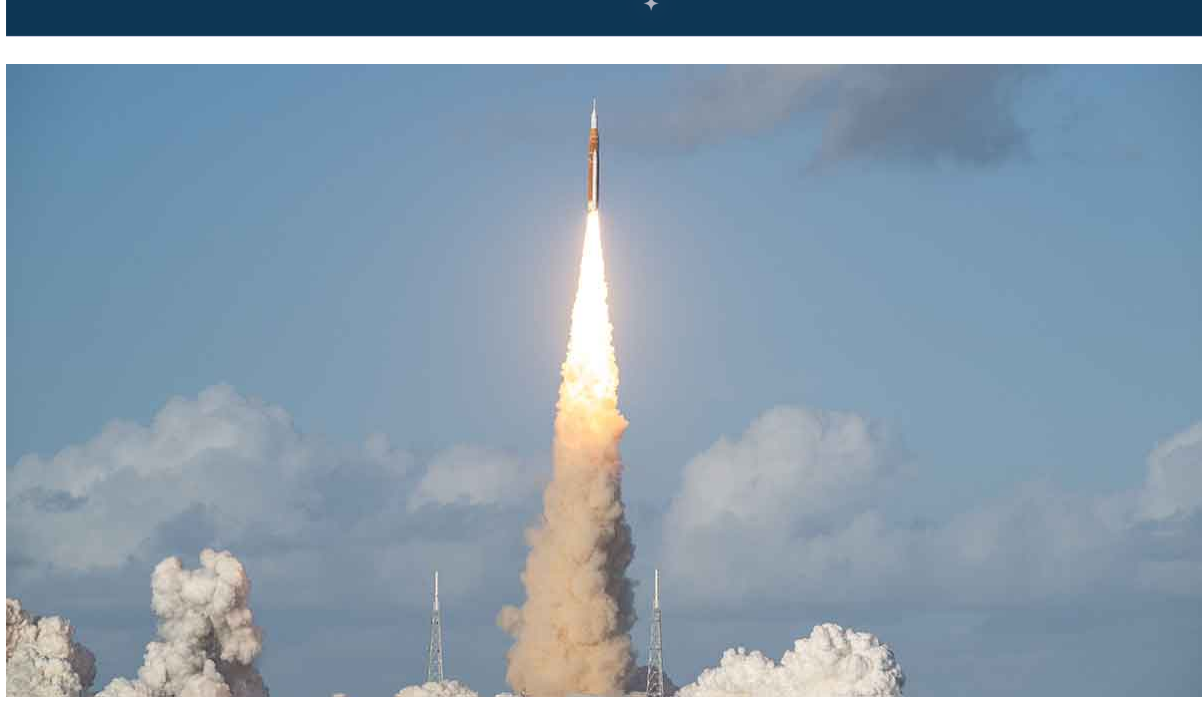


All Funds From the 2023 SEARF Appropriation Now Committed

February 2026 TSC Board of Directors meeting: The \$150 million appropriation from the Texas Legislature in 2023 is now fully committed. Information on all of the grant recipients is available on the TSC website.

[Learn more](#)

In The Spotlight



Artemis II Launches, Marking Humanity's Return to Lunar Space

On April 1, 2026, the Artemis II mission launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida carrying the Orion spacecraft with NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, commander; Victor Glover, pilot; Christina Koch, mission specialist; and CSA (Canadian Space Agency) astronaut Jeremy Hansen. The 10 day mission sent the astronauts around the far side of the moon, set a new record for human spaceflight's farthest distance, and is the first time a crewed mission has returned to deep space in over 50 years. From [mission control at NASA JSC](#) to [critical components for the Orion spacecraft systems](#) to the [talent making the mission possible](#), Texas is [directly supporting](#) the future of human spaceflight.

Engagements

- **Arlington, TX**
 - Executive Director Garza spoke at the inaugural gathering of the Texas Aerospace Partnership, established by the former state senator Kip Averitt
 - Executive Director Garza attended the U.S. - Japan Council meeting to engage with First Secretary Yosuke Kaneko, Japan Attaché for the Embassy of Japan
- **Austin, TX**
 - Executive Director Garza moderated a panel with TARSEC executive committee members Mr. Shey Sabripour and Dr. Lori Magruder at the Austin Area Research Organization monthly luncheon
 - Chair Gwen Griffin and Mr. Shey Sabripour were featured on panels at Cesium Astro's inaugural SXSW activation Space House
 - Executive Director Garza attended a briefing by the Texas Public Finance Authority (TPFA) about their statutory authority for enabling infrastructure projects
 - TSC and TARSEC appointees Dr. Nancy Currie-Gregg, Dr. Dr. Lori Magruder, and Dr. Ambrose participated on panels at the Texas Aerospace Symposium hosted by the University of Texas at Austin
- **Clear Lake, TX**
 - Executive Director Garza attended a campus tour at the University of Houston at Clear Lake (UHCL) for a campus tour and engagement with President Richard Walker
- **College Station, TX**
 - Executive Director Garza spoke during a NASA "Hot Structures" TIM at the Texas A&M University System's RELLIS Campus
- **Corpus Christi, TX**
 - Executive Director Garza addressed the TEX-21 statewide meeting hosted by the Regional Mobility Authority
- **Denton, TX**
 - Executive Director Garza went to the University of North Texas (UNT) for a campus tour and engagement with President Harrison Keller
- **Fort Worth, TX**
 - Mr. Brad Morrison, Mr. Jason Kim, and Col. (Ret., USAF) Jack "2Fish" Fischer spoke at the UNT national security and economic strategy symposium which also featured USAF General Dan "Razin" Caine, 22nd chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- **League City, TX**
 - TSC Director Kirk Shireman delivered remarks at the USSF University Consortium Symposium hosted by NASA JSC.
 - Chair Gwen Griffin and Ms. Stephanie Murphy (chair, TARSEC executive committee) participated in a panel discussion moderated by Mr. Brain Freedman (vice chair, TARSEC executive committee at the ASCENDxTEXAS conference
- **Lubbock, TX**
 - Executive Director Garza spoke to the South Plains Council of Government's regional Texas Municipal League dinner
- **Midland, TX**
 - Executive Director Garza presented at the Space Economy Workshop hosted by Midland Development Corporation at the University of Texas Permian Basin
- **San Marcos, TX**
 - Executive Director Garza attended the kick-off event for Innovation Corridor Defense Accelerator (ICDA) hosted by Texas State University
- **Waco, TX**
 - Several TSC and TARSEC appointees attended the Space Demand Signal Forum hosted by Endless Frontiers Institute at Baylor University to engage with USSF Major General Stephen Purdy and PAE/PEOs
- **Cape Canaveral, FL**
 - Several TSC and TARSEC appointees watched NASA's Artemis II Mission launch from Banana Creek at Kennedy Space Center
- **Colorado Springs, CO**
 - Several TSC and TARSEC appointees attended the Space Foundation's annual symposium to engage with NASA and USSF leadership
- **El Segundo, CA**
 - Chair Gwen Griffin joined the Borderplex Alliance for a site visit to USSF Space Systems Command's SpaceDEN and to attend briefings from SpaceWERX program managers
- **Washington, D.C.**
 - Chair Gwen Griffin and Executive Director Garza had several meetings on the Hill as well as at NASA headquarters and at the Pentagon
 - Executive Director Garza attended the International Space Development Conference (ISDC) 2026, hosted by the National Space Society (NSS), where he met with Aarti Holla-Maini, Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UN-OOSA)
 - Several TSC and TARSEC appointees attended ASCENDxDC, addressing how regional strategies are fueling commercial space investment
- **NASA JSC**
 - Chair Gwen Griffin attended the Artemis III crew announcement and mission update

Recent Media Highlights

Recent media coverage and insights from TSC Board, grant awardees, and staff



Governor Abbott Announces Axiom Space Redomiciles in Texas

Office of the Governor



The Next Phase of Space Ambitions in Texas

The Space Review



Texas Leads the Nation in Space Exploration and Operations

News USA



TSC Board Director Kirk Shireman featured as one of "The Faces Behind Artemis"

NSS



Firefly Aerospace and Intuitive Machines featured in Article on Lunar Lander Readiness

Space News



Lunar Terrain Vehicle Prototype to Carry the World's First Extraterrestrial Excavator

AutoEvolution



Texas Grant Advances ILC Dover Spacesuit Development

Aviation Week



UT Austin Becomes First Institution to Help Space Force Track Threats

KXAN



Texas A&M Space Institute "On Schedule" to Open Fall 2026

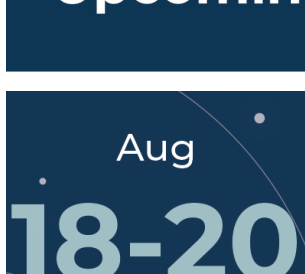
Community Impact



AIAA Makes Bid to host IAC 2029 in Houston

AIAA

Upcoming Events



Fed Supernova 2026

STATION Austin | Austin, TX

A three day event connecting entrepreneurs, government, and industry together to collaborate on dual-use solutions.

[Learn More and Register](#)



Texas Space Summit

Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center | San Antonio, TX

The inaugural Texas Space Summit will connect stakeholders across civil, commercial, and national security space to shape the business of space.

[Learn More and Register](#)



Texas Space Commission, open meeting: Board of Directors

San Antonio, TX

The TSC Board will hold a public meeting, available to the public both in person and live streamed.

[Learn More](#)



Texas Space Commission, open meeting: Board of Directors

TBD

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[Learn More](#)

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