... The folk arts are not separate from everyday life, but entirely central to it. It is this very accessibility and authenticity of folk culture that Texas Folklife Resources hopes to help maintain through its programs...

Both of these artists represent the richness and diversity of Texas culture, but the recognition and appreciation that they and others deserve are often hard-won and late in coming. Texas Folklife Resources will begin addressing this very problem in its first major endeavor—a comprehensive nine-month survey of living Texas traditional artists who work primarily in visual-material media. The survey will identify artists statewide from which representative ones will be chosen for a touring exhibition of Texas folk art, which will premier at Laguna Gloria Art Museum in Austin, October, 1986, the Sesquicentennial year. TFR staff will identify and document a range of artists, and will work with local historical societies and arts councils, community organizations, and church groups in an effort to locate artists whose work is currently known only by local reputation. The touring exhibition in 1986 will focus on the lives of the artists, their works, and the distinctive place of their art in the everyday life of communities across the state.

Other projects which TFR is currently pursuing are of a more local nature. In San Antonio TFR will work with the San Antonio Museum Association toward research and production of an exhibit called “Art Among Us.” This exhibit gives precedence to Mexican American folk art in the city of San Antonio and its outlying regions. There are in San Antonio a great number of Hispanic folk artists who, because of their isolation within their ethnic community, have received relatively little exposure to the public at large. Yet, these artists, decorative...