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Erica Pauda, Communications Specialist  
512-229-3230

## **“Linking Up” Culture & Community during Elgin’s Sesquicentennial Celebration...**

**ELGIN, Texas**—The central Texas town of Elgin was founded in 1872 and is celebrating its Sesquicentennial throughout 2022 with a lineup of events and activities designed to *link up culture and community* by celebrating, commemorating and educating all year long. The Sesquicentennial festivities are shaping up in a variety of ways through events, youth projects, and community celebrations connected to the central Texas railroad town’s diverse past and bright future.

“We are excited for everything we have planned for the Sesquicentennial,” said Debbie Cartwright, community member and co-chair for the 150<sup>th</sup> committee. “We have events planned every month until the end of the year, and our committee has worked so hard to make it all come to fruition.” On May 21, the City of Elgin Sesquicentennial Committee will sponsor the ***Explore Elgin Arts and Culture*** event, a day long celebration of art and culture with activities that include gallery and studio art tours, church tours, “Not Your Ordinary Yard Sale,” live music, artist demonstrations, foodie featured pop up’s and so much more.

Sesquicentennial-themed tie-ins to existing events like the community’s annual **Juneteenth** celebration, June 10 and 11<sup>th</sup> and Elgin’s homestyle **Western Days** festival, June 23 through the 25<sup>th</sup> are taking shape and promise to be worthy of a Sesquicentennial themed summer road trip. New event concepts dedicated to the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of the central Texas community heat up the summer with a ***Founders Day Birthday Bash*** to be held Saturday August 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Booker T. Washington Elementary School, the segregated Black school built in 1960, and fully integrated in 1967. Followed by a “Full Steam Ahead” fundraising gala that evening to ignite fundraising efforts for the Sesquicentennial Legacy Project, the long-anticipated Veteran’s Memorial Park expansion. The park concepts feature playscapes for all ability types, an outdoor classroom, splash pad, dog park, community connectivity and much more.

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“The City of Elgin continues to thrive and grow, and the committee is thrilled to see how engaged our business and education community is and how they are embracing the celebration. A variety of Sesquicentennial themed products are hitting shelves across town and the Sesquicentennial graduating class is being honored at their graduation ceremony. None of this would have been possible without the help of our community members, who love their city enough to help make the Sesquicentennial a historic commemoration of the past, present and future,” said Dennis Forest, Elgin Councilmember Ward 4 and 150<sup>th</sup> co-chair.

This fall celebrations continue with the annual homage to all things Sausage, **Hogeye Festival**, Saturday October 22 followed by **Dia De Los Muertos, Arbor Day, Veteran’s Day** and the Sesquicentennial themed **Time to Shine** event where a time capsule will be dedicated at 1:50 p.m. and later serves as the annual Lighted Christmas Parade’s grand marshal. The capsule and communities *time to shine* takes place on December 3<sup>rd</sup> in conjunction with the annual **Hot Cocoa** Stroll. The year culminates on December 31<sup>st</sup> with a community wide fireworks celebration. “All of our event materials are being produced in both Spanish and English and we are working hard with various local organizations to make sure the entire community takes part in our Sesquicentennial year,” said Amy Miller, Community Services Director for the City of Elgin. "From youth art contests, high school essay contests, to elementary school newspaper editors conducting interviews at our Birthday Bash, the future is as much a part of our Sesquicentennial story as the past one hundred and fifty years.”

About 30 minutes east of Austin at the gateway to Central Texas, Elgin is an affordable, business friendly community with historic roots and progressive leadership. Long known for its famous hot sausage, Elgin has a budding farm-to-table industry where food is grown and processed locally. Elgin also offers great opportunities for businesses seeking a talented workforce, a revitalized downtown district, and locations near highways and rail for accessibility and distribution throughout Central Texas and beyond. For more information on the Sesquicentennial celebration, dubbed as #ETX150, visit us online at [www.etx150.com](http://www.etx150.com) or follow along on facebook @*etx150* for the latest event updates and community wide activities. For more information, on Elgin, Texas visit [www.elginedc.com](http://www.elginedc.com) or [www.elgintx.com](http://www.elgintx.com).

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