Texian Market Days
Costume Style Guide

Compiled by Allison Harrell & Caitlen Hill
Time Period: 1820s

- **Women’s Dresses: The Basics**
  - The waistlines were raised – so anywhere between right under the bust and natural waist is acceptable
  - These were very low key, straight-type dresses
  - It was said there were as many necklines as there were women

- **Bonus – Spencer Jackets**
  - Make your boring dress look cool!
Time Period: 1830s

- Puffed sleeves were highly popular, and could puff at any place on the arm
- Waistline was natural or a bit raised. Belts were also used.
- Bonus – Very intricate hairstyles!
Time Period: 1860s

- Plaid was a favorite
- The idea at the time was to make the waist look as small as possible – so if you make your skirts HUGE, your waist will look small!
- Separates were quite popular, though they were often made of the same fabric as the skirt. No elastic-based shirts or knit tops!
Time Period: 1870s

- Slimmer silhouette
- Bodices remained at the natural waistline, but grew longer
- Necklines varied according to taste
- An overskirt and bodice combo is used with a device to expand the skirt below the waist to create an exaggerated rear end
Time Period: 1880s

- 2 options for fabrics:
  - Contrasting colors and textures
  - Very tailored and severe colors
- Bustle used to accent rear end
- Shorter bodice
- Higher necklines
- Sleeves begin to poof at the shoulders
Time Period: 1890s

- No more bustle; skirts fall naturally from waist
- High necklines
- Sleeves SUPER puffed at shoulder peak (use cushions!)
1890s - Bonus

• Halloween outfits/Fancy dress costumes!
Time Period: 1900s

- Gibson Girl Look
- Two-piece dresses were popular
- Skirts were often snug at the hips and loose at the hem
- Necklines were very high
- Long sleeves long for day wear, short sleeves for evening
- Hems were decorated with ruffles of fabric and lace
- Tailored jackets and suits were also very popular
**Time Period:**

**1910s**

- Soft, fluid silhouettes
- Big hats (seriously BIG)
- Short hair
- Hemlines at ankles
Time Period: 1920s

- The Flapper look
- Dresses were shorter, brighter, and flashier
- Clothing is loose to make movement easy
- The waistline dropped to the hip
- Jewelry became increasingly popular
Time Period: 1930s

- The "Feedsack Dress" became popular (animal feed sacks upcycled into dresses)
- Knit, two piece suits were common casual wear
- Floral prints were HUGE
- Formal wear: classy “Hollywood glamour” look popularized
Time Period: 1940s

- Squared shoulders
- Narrow hips
- Skirts ended just below the knee
- Tailored suits
- Pants become much more popular
- Teen girls: sport sweaters, knee-length skirts, bobby socks