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INTRODUCTION

# Welcome to the Texas State University System brand guidelines.

This document is intended for those who are creating marketing materials for the Texas State University System. These guidelines will maintain consistency, but they are not intended to restrict expression. They are meant to inspire and clarify, to unify and define, as we bring this brand to life. This is a living document, meaning the elements outlined here are subject to change.

Please use good judgment in all creative executions and strive to use the brand effectively, using this guide as a tool.

# BRAND PURPOSE

# BRAND PURPOSE BRAND PURPOSE

"Together, we open doors" is our brand purpose. This is not for outward-facing messaging. Rather, it is the DNA of our brand, an internal blueprint that we can refer back to when reexamining our core values and what powers us forward.

The brand purpose articulates our aspirations for the Texas State University System.

We are committed to a new standard of excellence—one that values collaboration, equality and accessibility.

At the core of TSUS, lies a rich legacy built upon steadfast commitment to service for Texas.

# TOGETHER, WE OPEN DOORS.

The Texas State University System was born to serve and enrich Texas and Texans through the power of partnership and collaboration. Through immense transformation and growth, the system is, and has always been, a proud hub of opportunity and a catalyst for transformation in Texas communities. Our institutions and our people change lives, break down barriers, empower futures and contribute to a better Texas and a better world.

We believe that a better and brighter future is achieved one open door at a time. And we're here to unlock them together.

# BRAND PURPOSE BRAND PILLARS

Brand Pillars are our core beliefs and traits that define the who, what, where, how and why of our story. They're a distillation of values, a shedding of buzzwords and business jargon to identify what truly drives us and makes us unique. At the end of the day, all of our messaging should reflect these values, and we encourage all new messaging to be reviewed against these pillars as a litmus test for brand consistency.

Brand Pillars are generally not referenced outside the organization, but they may be used as a framework for message development, and serve to influence all creative work.

#### OUR PEOPLE

# **Passionate Trailblazers**

From students to system leaders—we are made up of tenacious trailblazers. We fearlessly take on what lies ahead, and achieve greatness—no matter what. Together, we advance and elevate our communities, passing along the knowledge, the learnings and the passions to those who come next.

#### **OUR IMPACT**

# For Texas, Felt by All

We put Texas first in everything we do training and building up Texans from all corners of the state, at all walks of life, to take what they learn to better their own Texas communities. But we don't limit these opportunities to Texas. Our research and our teachings have far-reaching implications.

# OUR PLACES Beacons of Opportunity

Renowned for our wide range of academic offerings at approachable prices, our campuses are strategically dispersed across Texas's diverse landscapes and communities to cater to their unique needs. They offer much more than a glimmer of hope—they are economically and socially transformative institutions.

#### **OUR CULTURE**

# **Stronger Together**

We can achieve more when we do it together. Our institutions carry equal weight and operate as a collective force for good—bringing together our unique learnings, expertise and resources—boosting our ability to make profound impact across ALL of the unique Texas communities we serve. United, we are stronger than ever in our pursuit of a better Texas.

#### **BRAND PURPOSE**

# BRAND PERSONALITY

Tone words reflect the personality of our organization and how the brand feels, looks and sounds.

The tone will shift depending on the audience, but all communications should use the following words as a guide.

The Texas State University System has an inspiring, powerful and forward-looking tone. The sentiment is built on hardworking, united values, while the stories are real and impactful, and show what Texas is capable of. This brand allows us to speak about the system as a whole and the amazing institutions within.

We've got a true Texas spirit—we're approachable, welcoming and genuine. We serve all of Texas—we always have.

Collaborative Our system was designed to bring people and institutions together. Working together is what makes us thrive.

**Tenacious** Our drive to achieve greatness is relentless. We get things done and we make it happen—no matter what.

Transformative The work we do has a profound impact—it changes lives, empowers futures and propels communities.

Passionate We are empathy- and passion-driven. We put our heart and soul into everything we do.

# BRAND PURPOSE CREATIVE PLATFORM

This is the foundation on which we build all of our communications and creative activations. It's the central thought that all brand expressions should ladder up to.

This is not a tagline, and should not be locked up with our logo.

It may be used as a headline and as inspiration for all other messaging.

# FORTEXAS. FORALL.

The Texas State University System was created with a purpose: to serve and enrich Texas, its students and its surroundings. From the beginning, the Texas State University System has provided a steadfast foundation for creating opportunities and fostering a passion that drives impact throughout our state and beyond. Fueled by collaboration and partnership, our institutions and the remarkable individuals within them inspire and embolden collective futures. Together, we believe in unlocking a brighter tomorrow—For Texas, For All.

# BRAND VOICE

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AMARUNIU **9 / BRAND GUIDELINES** 

# BRAND VOICE TRANSLATING OUR CREATIVE PLATFORM INTO MESSAGING

Our brand voice is what defines us when we speak. It's the way we talk, the perspectives we take and the messages we set forth. Having a unified voice is what allows us to remain distinct and authentic as we communicate to any number of audiences.

All messaging should infuse the idea and spirit of "For Texas, For All" and remain consistent in voice. Our tone should be Texan, collaborative, tenacious, transformative and passionate. Remember to use the brand purpose, brand pillars and brand personality as your guide as you craft messaging. Avoid cliché and jargony words or phrases and overly embellished, complicated or stereotypical southern language.

# BRAND VOICE HEADLINES

Headlines should feel like quick, inspirational thoughts that expand on the idea of "For Texas, For All" and invite the reader to engage more with the Texas State University System. These lines should be smart and to the point. They should be stimulating and quickly articulate a message. It's crucial that you don't jam too much information into your headline—if the line is confusing or takes too long to understand, you've lost your audience.

# UNLOCKING POTENTIAL AND SHAPING TOMORROW. TRAILBLAZING ACROSS TEXAS.

**1 STATE. 7 INSTITUTIONS. IMPACT FELT BY ALL.** 

**TOGETHER, WE'RE UNDENIABLE.** 

WE WORK FOR TEXAS.

**CREATING BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR ALL.** 

**OUR STATE. OUR FUTURE.** 

**OPENING DOORS ACROSS TEXAS.** 

# **BRAND VOICE BODY COPY**

Body copy is any longer-form messaging that exists to communicate a story or an idea outside of a headline or simple sentence. While our messaging may vary on subject or audience, the way we communicate should remain consistent.

When crafting body copy, make sure to start with an introduction that draws the reader in. It may play off a headline or just introduce a thought or question. As you expand on the message, ensure that your writing remains on tone and to the point, and flows smoothly.

## **TRAILBLAZING ACROSS TEXAS**

EXAMPLES With a purpose rooted in service and enrichment, the Texas State University System has journeyed far, becoming a pillar of opportunity for Texas and its communities.

#### **TOGETHER, WE'RE UNDENIABLE**

Through the power of collaboration and the dedication of its members, the Texas State University System continues to inspire and uplift, fostering a future filled with promise and potential for Texas and beyond.

#### **WE WORK FOR TEXAS**

What happens here is fueled by the spirit of Texas and Texans. Across seven institutions, we're creating opportunities to inspire a brighter tomorrow for all.

#### **OPENING DOORS ACROSS TEXAS. CREATING BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR ALL.**

Our institutions and the extraordinary individuals within them inspire and embolden collective futures, believing in the promise of a brighter tomorrow for all.

# BRAND VOICE AUDIENCES

Each of our audiences has distinct goals and motivations.

Our messaging approach should adjust to each and strategically tailor copy to meet their needs.

#### POLICYMAKERS

Advocate for increased funding and resources for the Texas State University System by recognizing its critical role in driving statewide economic growth, educational excellence and community transformation.

#### DONORS

Increase contributions or renew long-term commitments by recognizing the direct impact of their support in expanding opportunities and driving the future success of the state.

#### **CORPORATE PARTNERS & BUSINESS LEADERS**

Seek collaboration and partnership opportunities with the system, viewing it as a critical partner in workforce development and innovation.

## **EMPLOYERS**

See TSUS as a premier talent pipeline, recognizing TSUS graduates as highly skilled, career-ready professionals.

## ALUMNI

Feel a strong sense of pride and responsibility in advocating for the system, using their voices and networks to support its continued success.

#### **STUDENTS**

Build pride and participation among current students, encouraging them to become active ambassadors of the system's mission and values.

#### FACULTY & STAFF

Foster a sense of unity and purpose, and feel united and motivated to support the system's strategic goals, seeing themselves as key contributors to its collective success.

#### **INSTITUTION & SYSTEM LEADERS**

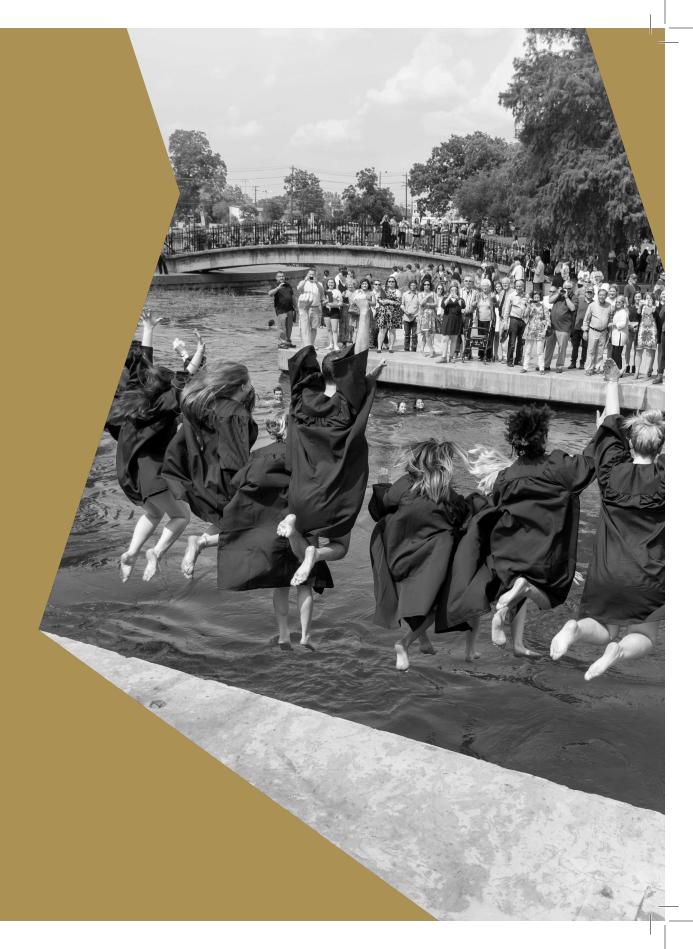
Become champions of the system, promoting the system's collective impact both within their institutions and in broader public engagements.

## **TEXAS COMMUNITY**

See TSUS institutions as high-quality institutions and key players in the upward mobility of Texas, both socially and economically.

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# BRAND IDENTITY PRIMARY LOGO

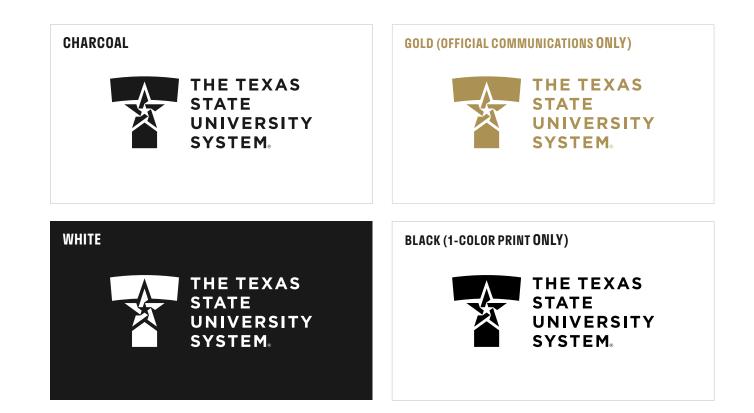
Our primary logo consists of an icon and a word mark, which should always be locked up as a unit.

The star in the icon represents the coming together of multiple entities to create a stronger whole. It's a symbol of hope, dreams, enlightenment and excellence, a representation of unity and the state that we serve.

The logo comes in 4 colors: charcoal, white, gold, and black.

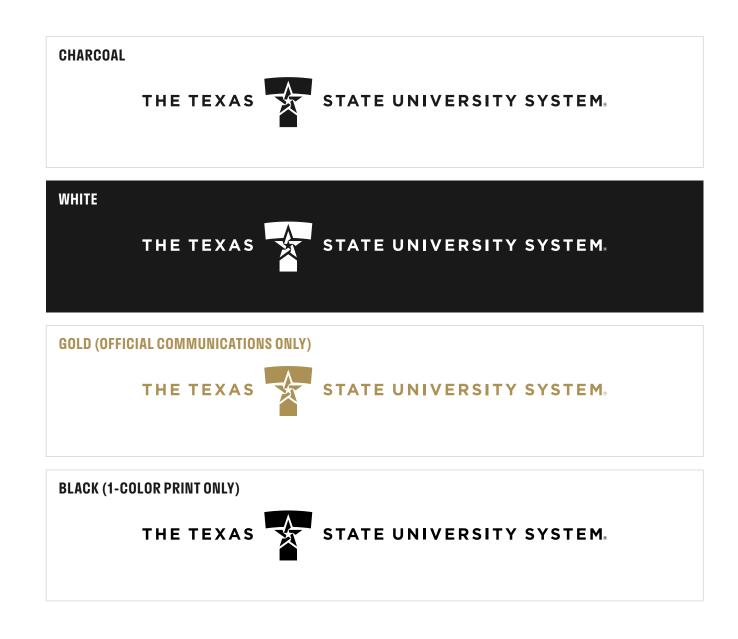
The gold logo should be reserved for official leadership communications.

The charcoal logo is preferred over the black, which should only be used when printing limitations dictate for example, producing single ink color merchandise or black and white only prints.



# BRAND IDENTITY SECONDARY LOGO

The secondary logo may be used when space constraints call for a more horizontal layout.



# LOGO BACKGROUNDS

Always be conscious of legibility and contrast when selecting a logo background. The logo may be used on top of a photo only if there is ample contrast or clear space.

#### MEMBER INSTITUTION ACCENTS AS BACKGROUND COLORS

To ensure accessibility, only the following logo combinations are approved.



Only use the black version of the logo when printing limitations dictate.

# MINIMUM SIZES & CLEAR SPACE

These specifications ensure that all elements of the logo remain legible and discernible across applications.

Do not go below the recommended minimum sizes. Do not let other logos or design elements encroach upon the minimum clear space requirements.

The minimum clear space for the primary logo is defined by one half of the height of the Ticon. For the secondary logo, the full height of the Ticon should be used as a guide.







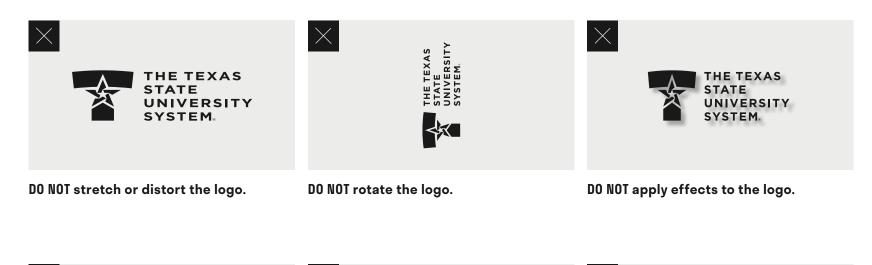


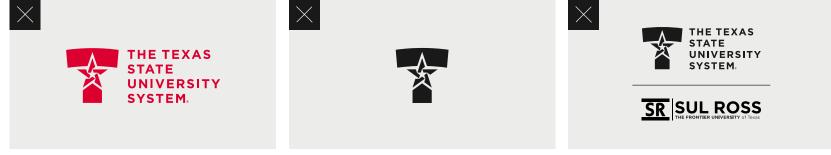
DIGITAL: 300 PX Print: 2.5 in



# **BRAND IDENTITY** LOGO MISUSE

Our logo is a representation of who we are and what we stand for. It should be used with care and consistency to uphold its integrity and value.





the logo.

D0 N0T set the logo in member institution accent colors.

D0 N0T change the color of any portion of D0 N0T separate the icon and word mark. The T star should never be used on its own.



# OFFICIAL SEAL

The TSUS Seal is limited to Board of Regents communications, signage, and ceremonial uses, such as resolutions and certificates.



# MEMBER STATEMENT

A Member Statement is to be used by component institutions to identify them as members of the Texas State University System.

The member institution logo has a primary configuration (without the T-star) and a secondary configuration (with the T-star).

The Member Statement customarily appears in the footer of each member institution's website and on the cover of all institution publications.

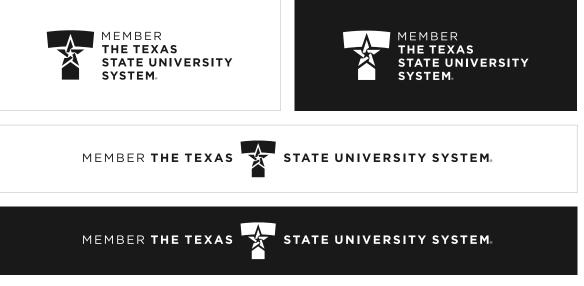
#### **PRIMARY CONFIGURATION (TEXT-ONLY)**

MEMBER **THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**  MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.

#### MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.

#### **SECONDARY CONFIGURATION (TEXT + T-STAR)**

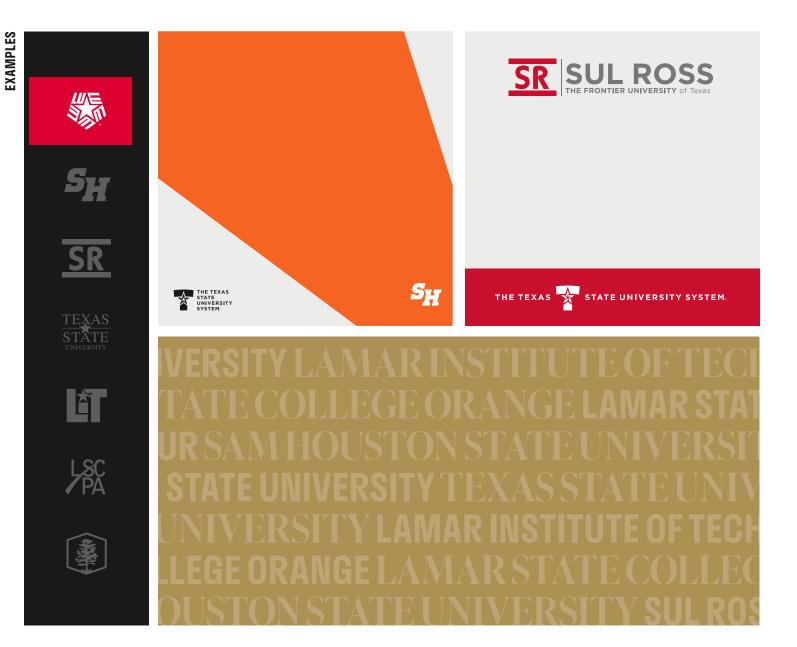


# MEMBER INSTITUTION LOGOS

Each of our member institutions has a unique identity that sits underneath the Texas State University System in TSUS-created marketing materials (these rules are not applicable to member institution-owned marketing).

In order to maintain a clear hierarchy between the system and its members, please follow these rules:

- Fill the member institution logos with white or shades of charcoal when using them as a set. This helps to simplify and unify the disparate marks.
- The member institution logos may be used in full color only when they are appearing on their own.
- Do not lock up member institution logos with the system logo. They may be used separately within a composition, using space for clear delineation.
- Follow rules set by the member institutions' respective brand guidelines, and ensure you are always using the latest official logos.
- Consider type-setting the member institution names rather than using logos, as a way to showcase the unity of the system.



# DESIGN ELEMENTS

# DESIGN ELEMENTS SYSTEM PRIMARY COLORS

The system primary colors consist of rich neutrals that allow the disparate color palettes of member institutions to shine through. These colors help to unify and provide a sophisticated backdrop for branded materials.

CHARCOAL	HEX: #191919 RGB: 25, 25, 25 CMYK: 35, 35, 35, 90 PMS: NEUTRAL BLACK C	LIMESTONE	HEX: #ECEDEA RGB: 236, 237, 234 CMYK: 4, 2, 4, 8 PMS: COOL GRAY 1 C
95% TINT		GOLD	HEX: #AC9155 RGB: 172, 145, 85 CMYK: 20, 30, 70, 20 PMS: 872 M
90% TINT			
80% TINT			
70% TINT			

# DESIGN ELEMENTS MEMBER INSTITUTION ACCENT COLORS

Accent colors allow each member institution's unique brand to come to the forefront, and they showcase the diversity of the system.

These colors should be consistently updated to reflect the latest brand guidelines of each member institution.

LAMAR UNIVERSITY	HEX: #DC RGB: 220 CMYK: 7, PMS: 199	, 0, 49 100, 85, 1	HEX: #000000 RGB: 0, 0, 0 CMYK: 0, 0, 0, 100
SAM HOUSTON State University	HEX: #F50 RGB: 245 CMYK: 0, PMS: 021	, 100, 35 72, 90, 0	HEX: #FFFFFF RGB: 255, 255, 255 CMYK: 0, 0, 0, 0
SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY	HEX: #C8 RGB: 200 CMYK: 2, PMS: 186	, 16, 46 100, 85, 6	HEX: #75787B RGB: 117, 120, 123 CMYK: 30, 22, 17, 57 PMS: COOL GRAY 9
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY	HEX: #50 RGB: 80, CMYK: 65 PMS: 504	18, 20 5, 100, 100, 35	HEX: #AC9155 RGB: 172, 145, 85 CMYK: 20, 30, 70, 20 PMS: 872 M
LAMAR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	HEX: #1E4 RGB: 30, CMYK: 10 PMS: 072	68, 141 )0, 85, 13, 2	HEX: #EC2027 RGB: 236, 32, 39 CMYK: 1, 99, 95, 0 PMS: 485
LAMAR STATE College orange	HEX: #00 RGB: 1, 88 CMYK: 90 PMS: 748	8, 61 ), 39, 82, 37	HEX: #E57200 RGB: 229, 114, 0 CMYK: 6, 67, 100, 1 PMS: 152 C
LAMAR STATE COLLEGE PORT ARTHUR	HEX: #00 RGB: 0, 3 CMYK: 91 PMS: 296	5, 67 I, 36, 0, 83	HEX: #5FB4E6 RGB: 95, 180, 230 CMYK: 59, 22, 0, 10 PMS: 2915

# DESIGN ELEMENTS COLOR BALANCE

Within the brand, there are times when we want to focus in and highlight a single institution, and times when we want to showcase the breadth of our members. The use of color can help to reinforce the relationship between the system and our members.

When highlighting multiple institutions, the color balance should use approximately 2/3 primary system colors and 1/3 member institution accent colors.

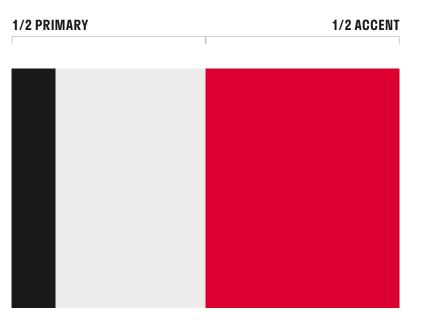
When highlighting a single institution, a 50/50 balance is more appropriate.

#### **HIGHLIGHTING MULTIPLE INSTITUTIONS**

# 2/3 PRIMARY 1/3 ACCENTS



#### HIGHLIGHTING ONE INSTITUTION





#### **DESIGN ELEMENTS**

# TYPE AND BACKGROUND COLOR PAIRINGS

Color accessibility is key to creating a brand that is welcoming to all, regardless of abilities. Always ensure that your background colors and type colors pass accessibility standards by using the approved combinations shown here.

#### UNDERSTANDING THE LABELS:

If a pairing is labeled with AA18, it should be used at large type sizes only (we recommend 18pt regular or 14pt bold, but no smaller). AAA and AA pairings can be used at any type size.

White (AAA)

NHITE	CHARCO	AL	LIMESTONE	GOLD	
Black (AAA) Charcoal (AAA) Gold (AA18) LU Red (AA) LSCO Green (AAA) LSCO Orange (AA18) LIT Blue (AAA) LIT Red (AA18) LSCPA Dark Blue (AA SH Orange (AA18) SR Red (AA) SR Gray (AA18) TSU Maroon (AAA)	Gold (AA LU Red ( LSCO Ora LIT Red ( LSCPA Li SH Orang	ne (AAA) )) AA18) ange (AA) (AA18) ght Blue (AAA) ge (AA)	Black (AAA) Charcoal (AAA) LU Red (AA18) LSCO Green (AAA) LIT Blue (AAA) LIT Red (AA18) LSCPA Dark Blue (AAA) SR Red (AA) SR Gray (AA18) TSU Maroon (AAA)		al (AA) AA18)
AMAR UNIVERSITY		LAMAR INSTITUTE	OF TECHNOLOGY	LAMAR STATE CO	LLEGE ORANGE
Charcoal (AA18) Limestone (AA18) White (AA)	Gold (AA) Limestone (AAA) White (AAA)	<b>Gold (AA18)</b> Limestone (AAA) White (AAA)	Charcoal (AA18) Limestone (AA18) White (AA18)	Limestone (AAA) White (AAA)	Charcoal (AA) White (AA18)
AMAR STATE COLLE	GE PORT ARTHUR	SAM HOUSTON STA	ATE UNIVERSITY	SUL ROSS STATE	UNIVERSITY
<mark>Gold (AA)</mark> Limestone (AAA) White (AAA)	Charcoal (AAA)	Charcoal (AA) White (AA18)	Charcoal (AAA) Gold (AA18)	Limestone (AA) White (AA)	Charcoal (AA18) Limestone (AA18) White (AA18)
EXAS STATE UNIVER	RSITY				
Gold (AA) Limestone (AAA)	Charcoal (AA) White (AA18)				

#### **DESIGN ELEMENTS**

# GRADIENT

A gold gradient adds warmth and movement to the visual system.

It may be used as a background color, text fill, stroke color and photo overlay to add a golden glow to black-and-white photography.

It should always be set at an angle of 0° or 180°.

LOCATION: 0% GOLD		LOCATION: 100% White
HEX: #AC9155 RGB: 172, 145, 85 CMYK: 20, 30, 70, 20 PMS: 872 M		HEX: #FFFFF RGB: 255, 255, 255 CMYK: 0, 0, 0, 0
TEXT FILL	PHOTO OVERLAY	STROKE
FORTEXAS. FORALL.		BUTTON STYLE

Apply the gradient as a text fill to accent an important phrase or word. This effect should only be applied on a charcoal background. Place the gradient on top of a black-andwhite image. Set the **transparency mode** to "**Color**." Apply the gradient as a stroke color to enhance interactive elements, such as buttons. This effect should only be applied on a charcoal background.

# DESIGN ELEMENTS TYPEFACES

The system brand utilizes two typefaces: lvyPresto and Stratos.

lvyPresto is classic, fluid and elegant. Stratos is a geometric grotesque with quirky proportions to bring a modern touch.

Both brand typefaces may be activated on Adobe Fonts.

# **IVYPRESTO**

**Display SemiBold**, *Italic* Headline Regular, *Italic* 

## **STRATOS**

**SemiBold**, *Italic* SemiLight, *Italic* 

#### **29 / BRAND GUIDELINES**

# **DESIGN ELEMENTS SYSTEM** ARIAL **TIMES NEW ROMAN FONTS** NARROW BOLD, NARROW BOLD ITALIC Bold, Bold Italic Regular, Italic Regular, *Italic* The official brand typefaces are always preferred to lend a consistent and elevated look to brand communications. However, in cases where the brand typefaces are unavailable for certain users, these system fonts may be utilized instead.

# design elements TYPE

# **HIERARCHY**

This is a basic-type hierarchy that can be used as the baseline for a composition.

Not only does it incorporate a mix of our brand fonts, but it also ensures a system of informational hierarchy that is necessary for our diverse audiences to visually differentiate messaging.

The specifications, like proportions, leading and tracking, should be seen as a starting point for typesetting, but can be adjusted based on compositional needs.

# BASIC BASIC HEADLINE STYLE

STRATOS Semibold All Caps 20/10 Tracking +20

STRATOS Semibold All Caps 130/115 Tracking -20

Subheads are set in IvyPresto	
Display SemiBold	

IVYPRESTO DISPLAY Semibold Sentence case 40/40 Tracking 0

Body copy is set like so. Sant omnime del inciduciis maximpore modignihil ipictiamus sequis modit ipsum dolor. Qui restio vel inctorrunt aut aut que experumet aut doluptatur. Ga. Oluptam ape laturecabor. STRATOS SEMILIGHT SENTENCE CASE 20/25 TRACKING +20

"Style a callout or quote in IvyPresto Headline Regular to make it stand out."

Qui restio vel inctorrunt aut aut que experumet aut doluptatur. Ga. Oluptam ape laturecabor.

IVYPRESTO HEADLINE REGULAR Sentence case 30/35 Tracking o

# DESIGN ELEMENTS EXPRESSIVE HEADLINES

Expressive headlines can help direct the eye, enhance the meaning of the words, and bring movement and visual interest to a layout.

A shift in color, alignment, typeface or scale can be used to create contrast within a headline.

Stick to two clear styles within a single headline, using size or color to emphasize important words.

Headlines should use **all-caps** Stratos SemiBold and/or **all-caps** IvyPresto Display SemiBold.

# MIX COLOR, ALIGNMENT, tight enough for the letters and words to read as a unit, but not so tight that they appear cramped.

Left-align words purposefully when adjusting alignment.

Be conscious of the amount of space between words. Tighten this space up to help a headline hold together.

Leading and kerning should be set









# DESIGN ELEMENTS

# PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography is a powerful tool for telling a story.

Our photography should showcase the breadth and depth of the system, and highlight what makes our member institutions unique.

#### Photos should:

- Be representative of ALL Texans
- Be authentic; not overly posed
- Feel warm and inviting
- Use natural light when possible
- Depict active learning, discovering and movement
- Capture opportunities and impact



# DESIGN ELEMENTS PHOTOGRAPHY TREATMENT

Photography treaments can create textural layers that add depth to a composition.

They can help to unify photography from disparate member institutions, providing a consistent look across assets.





 Add a Gradient Map adjustment layer over top of the image, using the color values to the right
Adjust contrast as needed

#### DARK





Create a charcoal background fill
Place photo on top
Set transparency mode to "Luminosity"

HEX: #191919 RGB: 25, 25, 25 CMYK: 35, 35, 35, 90 PMS: NEUTRAL BLACK C

RGB: 200, 200, 200 CMYK: 4, 2, 4, 8 WHITE

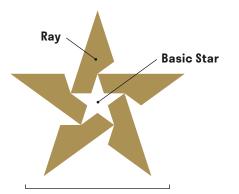
# DESIGN ELEMENTS RADIATING STAR

The radiating star and its component shapes may be used to build a variety of layouts and holding shapes, creating a visual connection to the TSUS logo.

D0 N0T use the TSUS logo to build these layouts. Use the shapes provided in the toolkit.

Changing scale, cropping the star differently, and flipping between positive and negative space can result in endless layout possibilities.

When incorporating photos, make sure that subjects are clear and not obscured.









Place several images into separate rays.



Layer the radiating star on top of a photo.



Use the radiating star as a large graphic element on a color background. Set opacity to 30% and transparency mode to "Multiply" for a subtle color shift.





Use a basic star as a holding shape.

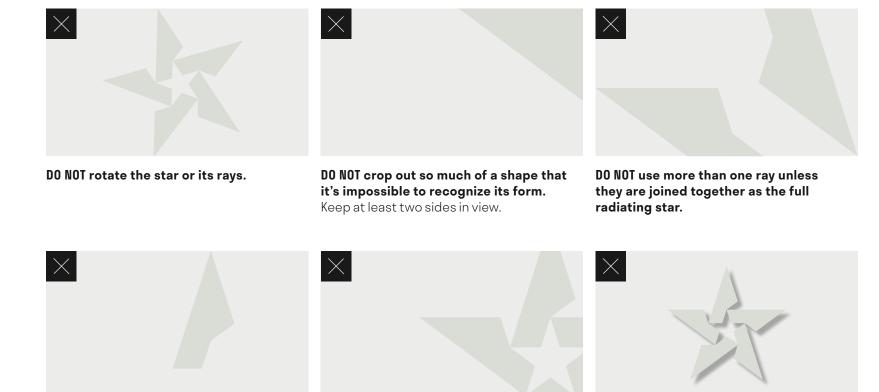
Use a single ray as a holding shape.

**Radiating Star** 

#### **DESIGN ELEMENTS**

# RADIATING **STAR MISUSE**

In order to maintain the integrity of our iconic star, avoid the following.



#### DO NOT create excessive negative space.

Activate multiple sides of the canvas to create a dynamic layout (scale and crop so that a shape touches at least two sides.)

#### DO NOT create awkward, small spaces when cropping. Line up vertices of the star with the sides of the canvas to make the placement feel intentional.



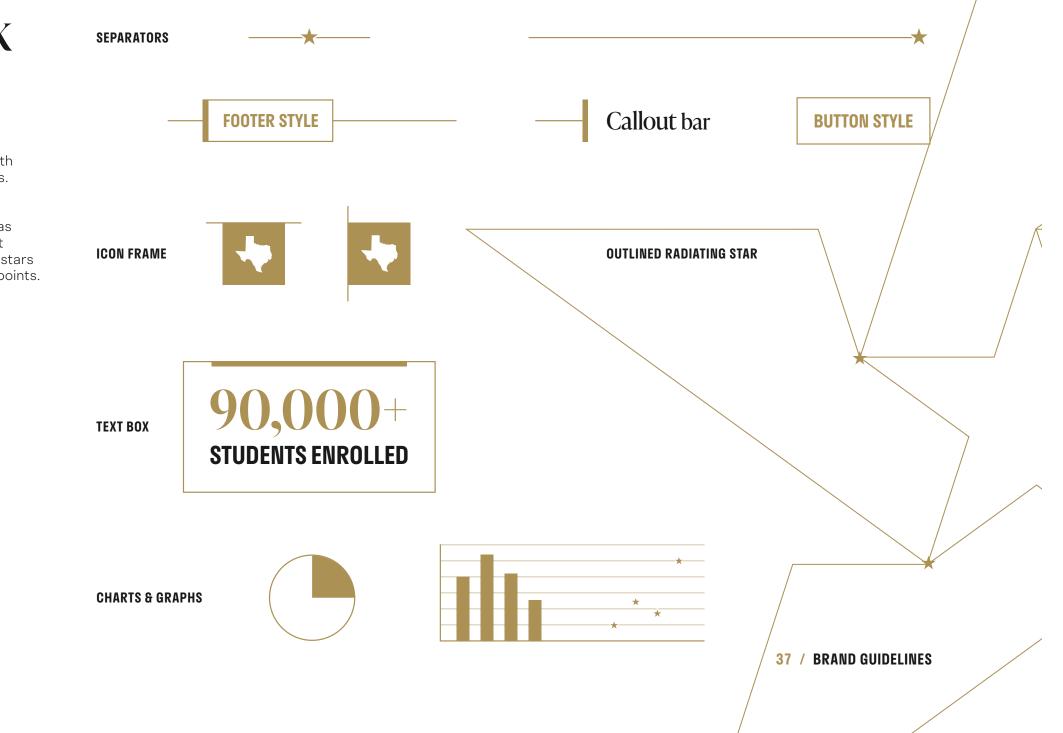
any way.

# DESIGN ELEMENTS LINEWORK

Linework can be used to add structure and detail to information graphics.

Our brand uses a thin, monoweight style of line with thicker details for emphasis.

The outlined version of the radiating star can be used as a graphic element to depict connectivity, using smaller stars to emphasize intersecting points.

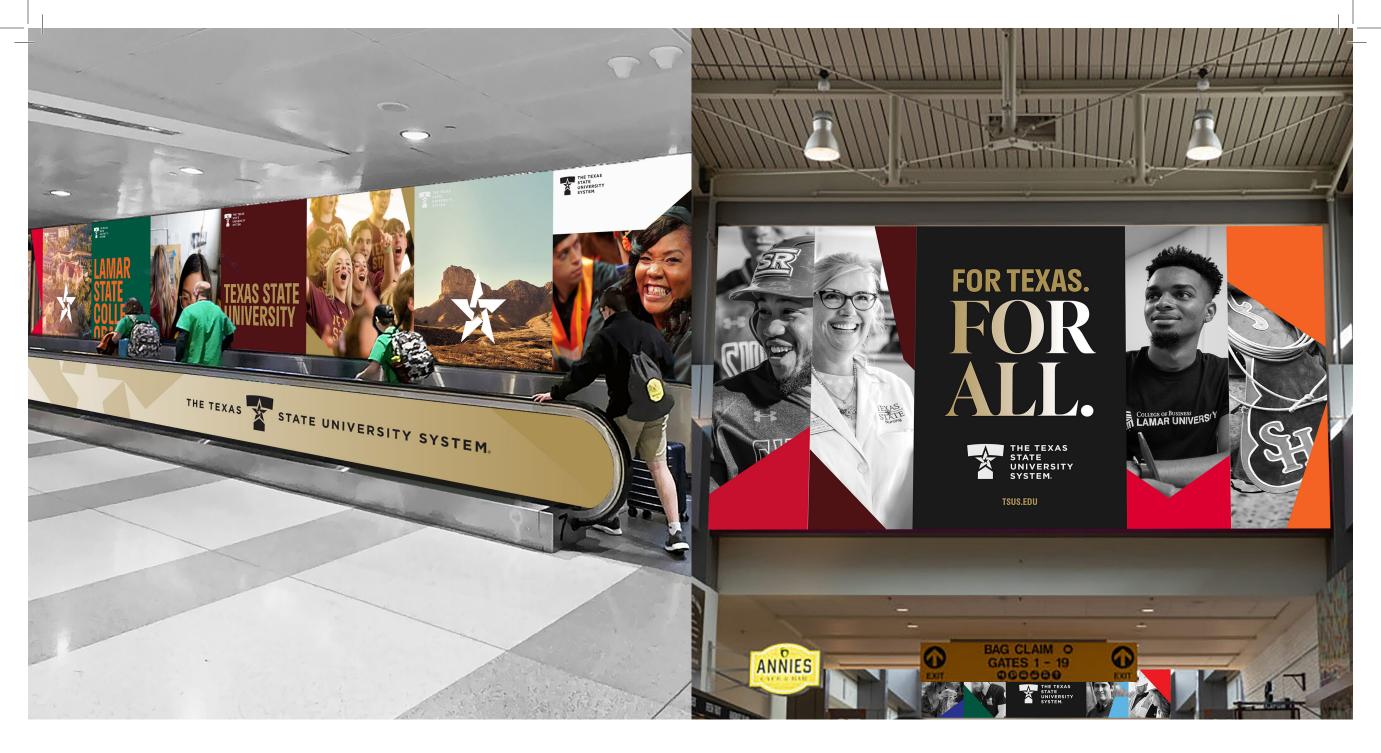


# APPLYING THE BRAND



**38 / BRAND GUIDELINES** 

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**Please note:** These examples are not yet in market. They are concepts meant to guide and inspire future creative.













