



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, OFFICE OF THE CITY  
CLERK, MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES

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**TITLE:**

Office of the Mayor, Henry Cisneros Records, 1970-1989 (bulk, 1981-1989)

**DATES:**

1970-1989 (b. 1981-1989)

**QUANTITY:**

47 ft.

**LANGUAGES:**

English; Spanish; French

This collection was processed with the assistance of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:**

Henry Cisneros was born in San Antonio, Texas in 1947, raised in a middle class family on the city's west side. Cisneros attended Marianist High School then went on to earn a B.A. in English from Texas A & M University, a master's degree in Urban Planning and Administration from Harvard University, and a Ph.D in Public Administration from George Washington University. Shortly thereafter, Cisneros began his political career in 1975, when he was elected to the San Antonio city council at the age of 27, at the time, the youngest city councilman in the history of the city. Cisneros served as a councilman six years before running for mayor of San Antonio. In the 1981 election, Cisneros defeated his opponent garnering 63 percent of the vote, appealing largely to Hispanic and business voting constituencies. Cisneros' successful campaign made him San Antonio's first Hispanic mayor, since Juan Seguin resigned from the post in 1842, and also made him the first Hispanic mayor of a major metropolitan area in the United States. Cisneros served a total of four terms as mayor of San Antonio between 1981 and 1989, arguably becoming San Antonio's most popular mayor respectively winning 94 and 73 percent of the vote in his two next reelection bids.

His popularity in San Antonio and Texas earned him broader national appeal, and by the mid-1980s, Cisneros was one of the most recognizable Hispanic politicians in the United States. This led to Walter Mondale briefly considering him as a running mate during his 1984 presidential campaign. Cisneros served four more years as mayor of San Antonio, focusing on economic development projects, such as attracting technology and medical firms to the San Antonio area, implementing the Target 90' Project, and his efforts to build San Antonio's Alamodome. Cisneros decided not to seek reelection in 1989, due in large part to mounting medical bills to care for his newborn son, John Paul Cisneros, born with several life-threatening birth defects. After leaving office, Cisneros formed the financial management company, Cisneros Asset Management Co., and was appointed as the Deputy Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas (1989-1993). In 1993, Cisneros was nominated by the Clinton administration for the position of Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and was unanimously confirmed by the Senate. As HUD secretary, Cisneros helped to initiate housing vouchers for low-income families, and he fought consistent attempts by the Congress to reduce or eliminate the department. But from 1995 onwards, Cisneros was hampered by the U.S. Attorney General office's investigation into statements he made to the FBI prior to his Senate confirmation hearing. The investigation ultimately led to Cisneros accepting a plea agreement in the case, which led eventually to a pardon by President Clinton in January, 2001. After leaving the Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1997, Cisneros went on to become the president of Univision Communications Inc., the spanish-language television broadcast network. Cisneros left Univision in 2000 to form his present business venture, American City Vista (now named CityView), a real estate development company aimed at providing affordable housing for low and middle income families.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

Collection includes correspondence, financial records, memoranda, speeches, press releases, reports, subject files, slides, and photographs that document the administration of Mayor Henry Cisneros between 1981 and 1989. A majority of the records are correspondence (29 ft.), organized into subseries by date and subject. Chronological correspondence documents primarily the daily affairs of the Cisneros administration and letters from the general public on assorted topics, while the subject correspondence deals mostly with economic development projects and communication with various city departments and government committees. The collection also includes subject files (8 ft.) kept by Cisneros, mostly containing assorted reports, clippings, and correspondence related to various projects, including the National League of Cities' conference,

Fiesta Liberty, and the San Antonio Symphony's Music of the Americas Series. The records also include some administrative files and writings by Cisneros (2 ½ ft.), including financial records, press releases, city planning documents, and articles, memoranda, and policy papers written by Cisneros.

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**ARRANGEMENT:**

- I. Correspondence
  - A. General [chronological]
  - B. Subject [A-Z]
  - C. Letters of endorsement/support
  - D. Greetings
- II. Administrative files
  - A. Press releases
  - B. Memoranda
  - C. Radio spots
  - D. Biographical information
  - E. City agendas/reports
  - F. Financial statements
  - G. Travel authorizations
- III. Writings
  - A. Policy papers
  - B. Articles
  - C. Speeches
- IV. Subject files [A-Z]
- V. Printed materials
  - A. Articles
  - B. Reports
  - C. Newsletters
  - D. Conference proceedings
  - E. Creative works
  - F. Brochures

**RESTRICTIONS:**

Unrestricted access.

**PREFERRED CITATION:**

[Box #, Folder title], Office of the Mayor, Henry Cisneros Records, 1970-1989, San Antonio Municipal Archives.

## INDEX TERMS

### Persons:

Cisneros, Henry — Archives.

Fox, Lou.

### Organizations:

Mayor — Texas — San Antonio (Tex.).

Target '90/Goals for San Antonio.

National League of Cities — United States Conference of Mayors.

Greater Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council.

San Antonio Dept. of Economic and Employment Development.

San Antonio Coordinating Council on Economic Development.

### Subjects:

Alamodome (San Antonio, Tex.) — Planning.

Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Series — Fiesta Liberty.

Rock concerts — Ordinances — San Antonio (Tex.).

Economic development — San Antonio (Tex.).

Earthquake relief — Mexico — Mexico City.

San Antonio Symphony — Music of the Americas series.

Texas — Centennial celebrations, etc.

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**INVENTORY:**

| <b>Location</b> | <b>Contents</b>  |
|-----------------|--|
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| <b>BOX 2</b>    | February, 1984<br>March, 1984<br>April, 1984<br>May, 1984  |
| <b>BOX 3</b>    | May, 1984<br>June, 1984<br>July, 1984  |
| <b>BOX 4</b>    | July, 1984<br>August, 1984<br>September, 1984<br>October, 1984   |
| <b>BOX 5</b>    | October, 1984<br>November, 1984<br>December, 1984<br>January, 1985<br>February, 1985<br>March, 1985<br>April, 1985 |
| <b>BOX 6</b>    | April, 1985<br>May, 1985<br>June, 1985<br>July, 1985   |

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"Parking facilities report: feasibility study, banking corridor parking garage," ca. 1981

"Establishment of a foreign-trade zone in San Antonio: A plan of action, 1981

"Economic development through exports," 1982

"Del Rio: data file," ca. 1982

"San Antonio: A human resource and economic development perspective," 1982

"San Antonio's place in the technology economy: A review of opportunities and a blueprint for action," 1982

"Feasibility study: Biotechnology research park," 1983

"San Antonio: A look at our economy," 1983-1986

"San Antonio: Target '90," 1983

"Report of the bipartisan commission on Central America," 1984-1985

"Water for Texas: A comprehensive plan for the future," 1984

"A conceptual study of the South Texas project on coal conversion," 1984

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"Competitive advantage: Framing a strategy to support high-  
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"Education for the biosciences in San Antonio," 1984

"S.E.R. jobs for Progress, Inc. supervisor manual," 1985

"Options for community service programming," 1985

"Mayor and council members council subcommittees," 1985

"*Proyecto corazon: Un guia para conferencias y cursos in R.C.P.*,"  
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"San Antonio's development incentives," 1986

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"Comprehensive economic analysis of San Antonio," 1986

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"Surface transportation and uniform relocation assistance act of  
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"City manager's Housing Task Force report related to Housing  
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"Discussions on libraries, literacy, and daycare," 1987

"Parking management proposal for the City of San Antonio,"  
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