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News, Issues & Events from City of San Antonio Downtown Operations  
April 2009

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### Mark Your Calendar

**April 16 - 25**  
**Fiesta San Antonio**  
For a complete listing of Fiesta

### Out & About Downtown

by Paula X. Stallcup, Director, Downtown Operations



Three words every downtowner loves to hear? Fiesta San Antonio! This month we celebrate Fiesta and the parades, food and revelry that go along with this 10-day celebration. We are also celebrating the one year anniversary of Main Plaza and giving you the latest information on what's new with the "heart of the city".

Downtown's crown jewel, the River Walk, is getting a lot of attention. Read about the latest information on capital improvements, and a sneak preview of the grand opening of the Museum Reach extension.

The Downtown Operations Department is always working hard to constantly improve our beautiful downtown, but we can't do it alone. We are partnering with Centro San Antonio, who is requesting to extend the downtown PID for an additional five years. We are also working with the Solid Waste Management Department to clean up trash on our downtown sidewalks.

Finally, the City-Bexar County MPO is promoting green transportation with the Walk&Roll Rally and we've got all the details you need to join the effort. There is always something happening downtown, and every month we are making sure you know about it. Have a safe and enjoyable Fiesta. We look forward to seeing you out and about downtown!

We're located at 202 E. Nueva. Contact us at (210) 207-3677 or via email at [downtown@sanantonio.gov](mailto:downtown@sanantonio.gov) for questions or assistance related to downtown San Antonio.

### Viva Fiesta San Antonio!

by Anne Keever Cannon, Fiesta Commission and  
Tonya Drake, Special Projects Manager

events, visit

[www.fiesta-sa.org](http://www.fiesta-sa.org)

#### April 19

Main Plaza One Year Anniversary  
Main Plaza

[www.mainplazaconservancy.org](http://www.mainplazaconservancy.org)

#### April 30

Downtown PID Public Hearing  
City Council Chambers  
For info call 207-3372

#### May 1

First Friday Concert  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
For info call 223-2611

#### May 1

Walk&Roll to Work Rally  
Various downtown meeting spots  
[www.walkandrollSA.com](http://www.walkandrollSA.com)

#### May 13

Downtown Trash Issues  
Community Meeting  
Central Library  
For info call 207-8477

#### May 30 - 31

Museum Reach  
Grand Opening Weekend  
Lexington to Josephine Street  
[www.sanantonioriver.org](http://www.sanantonioriver.org)

#### May 31

Walk&Roll on the River Fest  
Museum Reach Extension  
[www.walkandrollSA.com](http://www.walkandrollSA.com)

## Main Plaza One Year Anniversary

by Veronica Garcia,  
Executive Assistant



Just one year ago, Main Plaza celebrated its grand opening with live music, entertainment, food and family fun. Since then, the plaza has served as a public gathering place and welcomed over 150 performances by some of the region's most talented artists. In addition, Main Plaza has

It's Fiesta time, San Antonio and the City of San Antonio and the Fiesta Commission are proud to present Fiesta 2009. The 11-day celebration attracts 3.5 million attendees and generates \$284 million in economic impact for the city. Fans of all ages will be able to experience three new events this year out of the 107 official activities from April 16th through April 26th. All events are sponsored by non-profit organizations and proceeds fund charitable activities.

Our Fiesta event that opened on April 16th was a huge success with 15,000 in attendance. This event marked the 50th birthday of the Fiesta Commission, the non-profit organization that coordinates Fiesta activities. The opening ceremonies took place in front of the Alamo with 3 stages of entertainment, food & beverage booths, Fiesta merchandise and a spectacular fireworks finale.

Other events this first week are the Fiesta Pops on April 17-19 at the Majestic Theatre, with the San Antonio Symphony sponsoring the event. Also, the Tee Off to Fiesta Golf with Royalty was held April 13th at the Silver Horn Golf Course. This tournament placed Fiesta kings and queens against all comers, and benefited scholarship programs.

The Chips 'n' Salsa event on April 18th at the El Tropicano Hotel in the downtown area is sponsored by the San Antonio Youth Centers. Please come and enjoy a casino night and Salsa dance event that includes live Salsa music and Salsa dance lessons.

A new event by the San Antonio Municipal Band will host a concert on April 26th at the San Antonio College's McAllister Auditorium. Don't forget the Hallowed Ground event at the Alamo on April 18th. This event is sponsored by the Alamo Chapter of the Sons of the Republic of Texas. Join the group as they guide you through a walking tour of the original perimeter of the Alamo.

These are just a few of the fun family Fiesta events you can enjoy. Please go to [www.fiesta-sa.org](http://www.fiesta-sa.org) to view all the activities and Viva Fiesta, San Antonio!

## Walk&Roll San Antonio

by Scott Ericksen, San Antonio-Bexar County MPO

It's Spring and time again to celebrate active transportation by walking and rolling, including biking, carpooling and riding the bus. These healthy, economical, and environmentally-friendly forms of transportation can be enjoyed by everyone and the San Antonio-Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will host the 13th annual Walk & Roll San Antonio with two exciting events in May.



### Walk&Roll to Work Rally

Friday, May 1st from 8 am - 9 am

The Rally highlights healthy and economical alternatives to driving to work alone and features free refreshments, prizes and informational exhibits. Join other downtown workers as we celebrate active transportation choices with a short morning walk or bicycle ride. VIA Metropolitan Transit will provide free bus transportation for cyclists. Walking and cycling starting point maps for the Rally are at [www.walkandrollSA.com](http://www.walkandrollSA.com).

### Walk&Roll on the River Fest

Sunday, May 31st from 8 am - 1 pm

This year's Fest partners with the San Antonio River Authority to celebrate the grand opening of the San Antonio River Walk's northern extension. Enjoy complimentary refreshments, music, health screening opportunities,

featured monthly rotating art exhibits, a spring/summer farmers market, children's performances and its first annual Latino Music Festival (look for the second annual event in Fall 2009).

In true Main Plaza style, the "heart of the city" will celebrate its one year anniversary with an Anniversary Fiesta weekend filled with cultural music. Strunz & Farrah, ethno-jazz acoustic guitar artists, bring their unique sound on Saturday, April 18 with music starting at 3 p.m. Come back on Sunday, April 19 for an Accordion Masters Tribute Concert from 6:30 - 10:00 p.m. Join accordion masters Flaco Jimenez and Steve Jordan for an evening of great music and San Antonio culture at its best.

After a successful year, Main Plaza will continue to offer unique programming and a welcoming atmosphere for guests. Coming soon are bright new shade structures and additional landscaping features, plus more live entertainment by an array of talented local artists.

The Main Plaza Conservancy is the non-profit organization dedicated to managing Main Plaza and filling the public space with local art and performances. All events are free and open to the public. For additional information or to see a complete calendar of events, visit [www.mainplazaconservancy.org](http://www.mainplazaconservancy.org).

## Downtown PID Public Hearing



The Downtown Public Improvement District (PID) will hold a public hearing on April 30, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in City Council Chambers. The five-year term of the Downtown PID is set to expire on September 30, 2009. The purpose

bike check-ups, educational exhibits and prizes at the Pearl Brewery (312 Pearl Parkway). Walking and biking events are available.

For more on Walk&Roll 2009, please visit [www.walkandrollSA.com](http://www.walkandrollSA.com).

## Main Plaza Napkin Art

by Tamara Langwell, Public Art Program, City of San Antonio



[Main Plaza](#) is a place in which people of all ethnicities, gender and age come together. The Main Plaza Conservancy (MPC), in coordination with the City of San Antonio, has established a rotating art program which will present a wide variety of temporary art presentations reflecting the historical and cultural significance of the plaza as the heart of the city.

The new art program strives to:

- Create a dialogue with the community
- Present works that are uplifting,

energetic, and colorful,

reflecting San Antonio's spirit, culture and diversity

- Provide an opportunity to share our community's stories and history
- Highlight support of the local art community

Periodically, Main Plaza's kiosks will be embellished with removable panels in order to enhance their appeal and infuse the area with colorful temporary artworks. Room for ivy remains underneath the panels, and ivy plants will form borders around each perimeter of the artworks.

Have you ever seen cocktail napkins featured as public art? The inaugural exhibit of the art program features vinyl-printed replicas of cocktail napkin paintings by local artist Louis Trevino. These one-of-a-kind, hand-printed designs are fastened onto metal grids of each Plaza kiosk, and can be exchanged for others of his designs (they represent a small part of his collection of over 12,000!).

Don't miss this great addition to the plaza, and be sure to visit often to see new installations of unique public art pieces!

## River Walk Extended with Museum Reach Grand Opening

by Steve Schauer, San Antonio River Authority



The San Antonio River Improvements Project - Museum Reach Urban Segment, from Lexington Avenue to Josephine Street, is a \$72.1 million community investment in flood control, amenities, ecosystem restoration and recreational improvements. The Grand Opening Weekend Celebration for the Museum Reach Urban Segment will take

place on May 30th and 31st.

The festivities will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 30th with an event featuring San Antonio Mayor Phil Hardberger, Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff, San Antonio River Authority Board Member Sally Buchanan, San Antonio River Foundation Chairman Sonny Collins and San Antonio River Oversight Committee Co-Chairs Lila Cockrell and Irby Hightower.

Immediately following the opening ceremony there will be an afternoon filled with music, food and fun for the whole family as local San Antonians and visitors alike will be welcome to enjoy the new 1.5 mile expansion along the San Antonio River. River barge rides and walking tours will be

of the hearing is to solicit public feedback for the re-establishment of the PID.

The PID provides services that enhance the downtown environment, including supplemental street/sidewalk cleaning, landscaping and provision of visitor information. City Council will be asked to consider the re-establishment of the PID on May 7. Centro San Antonio (Centro) is the non-profit organization that manages the Downtown PID. For more information on the PID or Centro, visit [www.downtownsanantonio.org](http://www.downtownsanantonio.org).

available. In addition to the public festival along the river there will be activities taking place at adjoining properties (e.g. San Antonio Museum of Art, The Pearl, Turner Bowling Alley, El Tropicano Hotel, VFW Post 76 and others) providing family fun throughout the Museum Reach Urban Segment all day long.

On Sunday, May 31st there will be additional celebrations taking place along the Museum Reach Urban Segment such as the Metropolitan Planning Organization's Walk & Roll on the River event taking place at The Pearl and a special brunch honoring Mayor Phil Hardberger taking place at the San Antonio Museum of Art.

For more details about the San Antonio River Improvements Project - Museum Reach Urban Segment Grand Opening Weekend Celebration, including the full weekend agenda, please visit [www.sanantonioriver.org](http://www.sanantonioriver.org).

## Talkin' Trash

by Veronica Garcia, Executive Assistant



Trash left in the public right-of-way is an unsightly view for downtown visitors, workers and residents. Leaking trash receptacles contribute to sidewalk pollution and bags and receptacles often crowd pedestrian walk ways and hinder accessibility.

In response, the Downtown Operations Department and Solid Waste Management Department have developed proposed amendments to the Solid Waste section of the City of San Antonio Municipal Code. These changes include limited trash place out and collection times, impoundment of receptacles that are not in compliance, and mandatory receptacle identification.

The City of San Antonio held a community meeting to solicit feedback on the proposed amendments on March 25. A follow-up meeting for stakeholders is scheduled for May 13 at 10:00 a.m. in the Central Library. All businesses that place trash in the public right of way are encouraged to attend the meeting and provide input for the proposed amendments. For additional information or to RSVP, please contact Veronica Garcia at 207-8477.

## River Walk Construction Update

by Cynthia Martinez, Special Projects Manager



With Area 1 of the River Walk Capital Improvements project complete, the next time you stroll by the Marriott River Walk you will find a safer, lushly landscaped patio and surrounding area. Newly installed pavers, a new ramp with handrails leading toward the River Center area, an improved staircase ascending to Commerce Street from the river and ample beautiful landscaping were all components of the improvements. Area 1 is the first of three

more projects along the River Walk to come this year.

The next two areas scheduled to receive improvements are the north flood gate (adjacent to the Drury Inn and Suites Hotel) and the area behind the former Hertzberg Museum (now the future home of the Briscoe Museum). Improvements for the flood gate include a new stone curb, sidewalk, stair and flagstone repairs, floodgate repairs, ADA accessibility improvements, lighting and power upgrades, and landscape & irrigation upgrades.

Improvements for the Briscoe Museum include sidewalk, stair and retaining wall repairs /replacements, ADA accessibility improvements, landscape & irrigation upgrades, fountain repairs, and lighting and power upgrades.

These projects will give the River Walk a mini-facelift while keeping its beauty and charm intact. Funding for the improvements was included in the 2007-2012 bond program. If you have any questions on these projects, please contact Cynthia Martinez, Special Projects Manager, at 207-3372.

## City of San Antonio - Downtown Operations

The mission of the Downtown Operations Department is to provide centralized services for activities related to maintaining the core of San Antonio in an exemplary condition and support downtown facilities, programs and events that highlight the city's unique qualities as a business center and tourist destination.

Need assistance? Have a suggestion for the newsletter? Contact us with comments or questions at [downtown@sanantonio.gov](mailto:downtown@sanantonio.gov).

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