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F O C U S D O W N T O W N

News, Issues & Events from City of San Antonio Downtown Operations
April 2011

In This Issue

[Message from the Director](#)

[Don't Trash Fiesta](#)

[River Walk Tour](#)

[Open the Gate!](#)

[Mark Your Calendar](#)

[Code Changes](#)

[Preservation Month](#)

[Downtown STAR](#)

[Contact Us](#)

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Mark Your Calendar

April 7 - 17
Fiesta San Antonio
www.fiesta-sa.org

April 22
International Youth Guitar Orchestra
Festival
La Villita-Arneson River Theatre

Out & About Downtown

by Paula X. Stallcup, Director, Downtown Operations



Viva Fiesta - and viva San Antonio! San Antonians take pride in our downtown, and as you enjoy Fiesta this year, remember "Don't Trash Fiesta...no one likes a messy party!" Recycling options are available at many major Fiesta events. And for the first time, the parades will also feature easy ways to dispose of your trash and recyclables as you help to keep our downtown safe and clean.

After Fiesta, get ready for [Historic Preservation Month](#) in May. Downtown will be busy with many activities recognizing historic preservation, including the State of Historic Preservation event at the Spanish Governor's Palace on May 5th. The City has also enhanced efforts to preserve our resources...read about the passage of city code amendments for historic preservation. We are also eager to announce that a Historic Hugman River Walk Tour is coming soon, and with the help of your smart phone you can experience the River Walk like never before.

There is always something happening downtown, and every month we are making sure you know about it. As always, we look forward to seeing you out and about downtown!

We're located at 400 N. St. Mary's, #100. Contact us at (210) 207-3677 or via email at downtown@sanantonio.gov for questions or assistance related to downtown San Antonio.

Don't Trash Fiesta

For info call 207-8614

April 23

Jazzin' on the River
La Villita - Arneson River Theatre
For info call 225-1719

April 26

HemisFair Park Public Meeting
Sunset Station Depot 1
[More Info](#)

April 29 - 30

Music & Folkloric Dance
La Villita - Arneson River Theatre
For info call 207-3000

May 1

Jalapeno Explosion 2011
Market Square
For info call 207-2769

May 4

Remembering Our Culture
Dance Performances
La Villita - Arneson River Theatre
www.roctheplanet.org

May 5

Cinco de Mayo
Dance Performances
La Villita - Arneson River Theatre
For info call 207-3132

May 6 - 7

Annual Cloggers Showcase
Arneson River Theatre
www.clogshowcase.org

May 7 - 8

Cinco de Mayo Celebration
Market Square
www.marketsquaresa.com

May 8 - 9

Ballet Folklorico Dance Festival
Arneson River Theatre
For info call 932-0132

May 9

Chi Rho "In Reach Tour"
Arneson River Theatre
For info call 207-8614

May 13 - 28

Fiesta Noche del Rio
(Fridays & Saturdays only)
Arneson River Theatre
[More Info](#)

May 14

Living History - Visits to the Past
Alamo Plaza
For details call 273-1730

May 14 - 15

San Antonio Ragtime Festival
Market Square
For info call 541-0760

by Tiffany Edmonds, Communications and Public Affairs



In an effort to promote a safer, cleaner Fiesta, the City of San Antonio is partnering with the Fiesta San Antonio Commission to promote an educational campaign entitled "Don't Trash Fiesta...No One Likes a Messy Party!"

"Don't Trash Fiesta" encourages Fiesta goers to make a conscious effort to throw trash in the trash bin instead of throwing it on the ground. The initiative also encourages individuals to think "green" while at Fiesta events and place items such as plastic bottles, plastic cups and aluminum cans in the recycling bin.

Volunteers will also tote the message on shirts during the Battle of Flowers Parade as they hand out mesh recycling bags and garbage bags to parade goers. At the end of the parade, volunteers will pick up the bags and place the items in the appropriate containers. The Solid Waste Management Department will also have recycling and garbage trucks stationed throughout the parade route for people to conveniently dispose of their items.

So remember San Antonio, don't trash Fiesta, because no one likes a messy party!

Interactive River Walk Tour Coming Soon

by CindyMartinez, Special Projects Manager



Lose yourself in our rich River Walk history! In connection with Historic Preservation Month in May, and in partnership with the Office of Historic Preservation, the City of San Antonio has teamed up with Beaty Palmer Architects on a new Historic Hugman River Walk Tour. Key locations and features along the River Walk, designed by Robert H.H. Hugman decades ago, will soon be marked with bronze plaques and a technological twist! The 13 large and 46 small bronze plaques replicate Hugman's architectural stamp.

A unique feature of the tour is the installation of a QR (Quick Response) code on interpretive panels which will enable visitors to access additional historic information regarding Hugman and the River Walk as well as historic photos and an interpretive map. This will be an extraordinary chance to take part in the only no cost, interactive, self-guided tour of the San Antonio River Walk.

Next month, explore the Hugman River Walk Tour by using a smart phone and discover the history that Robert H.H. Hugman brought to life in 1939. Look for more information on the unveiling of this tour coming soon!

Flood Gate Improves River Operations

by Lincoln St. George, Downtown Operations Manager

Flood gates are an important part of maintaining the San Antonio River. Careful operation of these gates ensures adequate water flow, minimal water loss, and ensures the safety of plant and wildlife. Thanks to Bexar County and the San Antonio River Authority, and in cooperation with San Antonio Water Systems and the City's Stormwater Operations Division,

For more events visit:
www.sanantonio.gov/dtops

La Villita Welcomes New Artist

by Mary Yturri, Contract Coordinator



[La Villita](#) is now home to one of San Antonio's premier fine jewelers and craftsman, Alejandro Sifuentes. The Alejandro Sifuentes Metalsmith Gallery debuted during Contemporary Art Month with the group show, "Equinox".

A native San Antonian, Alejandro is inspired by nature and mysticism, and celebrates the human spirit in his unique jewelry designs. Working in fine metals and precious stones, Alejandro crafts distinct pieces that are one-of-a-kind. His fine jewelry has been showcased in a number of different shops and galleries, including Kathleen Sommers and the Southwest School of Art & Craft. In addition to his own designs, Alejandro Sifuentes Metalsmith Gallery will feature the work of select fine jewelry makers.

We are excited to have Alejandro in the Village!

Downtown's BEST



flood gate #6 was recently upgraded!

The improved gate features slow water release, which stabilizes the water elevation between Nueva and Alamo. In addition, the gate is automated so water is released and retained automatically via computer. The gate is also better able to control the downstream flows, which minimizes erosion for the Eagleland and Mission Reach area.

This project was completed as part of the San Antonio River Improvements [Mission Reach](#) Phase 3 project, and during the City's construction project for an elevated walkway in the area.

SARA will continue to calibrate the gates over the next several months to ensure optimal operation of the new gate. Thank you to all partners who assisted with the project!

Mark Your Calendar



HemisFair Park Public Meeting

April 26, 2011

**Registration 5:30 pm
 Meeting 6:00 - 8:00 pm**

Sunset Station Depot 1
 1174 E. Commerce

HemisFair Park, the landmark that initiated San Antonio as a tourist destination, is getting a makeover all its own. The purpose of this public meeting is to present the Framework Plan which was derived from the first and second public workshops in which participants worked to identify and determine the appropriate balance of various uses including where streets and VIA streetcar routes should be located and what other types of uses should be considered for the site. Hear how the planning team incorporated your ideas and provide your feedback on the Framework Plan.

If you are interested in utilizing VIA Metropolitan Transit for the HemisFair Public Meeting, please use the following buses: #24, #25, or the Yellow Trolley. For more information on alternate or connecting routes, please call VIA at (210) 362-2020.

For more information visit www.sanantonio.gov/HemisFairPark/ or call 210-785-0888

Code Changes Enhance Historic Preservation

by Shanon Wasielewski, Historic Preservation Officer

On June 24, 2010, City Council unanimously approved amendments to Chapter 35 of the Unified Development Code (the City's Municipal Code) in order to implement the City's Strategic Historic Preservation Plan (SHPP). The SHPP includes a variety of recommendations to enhance the City's historic preservation program. Additional UDC amendments to signage were approved by City Council on November 18, 2010, and became effective January 1, 2011, regarding signage for historic properties and in the River Improvement Overlay (RIO).

The Downtown Operations Department was honored with Downtown BEST Awards including:

BEST Downtown Enhancement
[Solar Powered Parking Pay Stations](#)



BEST Event/Marketing/Promotion
[Houston Street Two Step](#)



Congratulations to our Downtowner of the Year Paula X. Stallcup



Market Square is Open



The amendments adopted by City Council include but are not limited to:

- o enhancements to the existing historic preservation tax incentive in order to encourage additional reinvestment in historic properties
- o increasing the types and number of Certificate of Appropriateness applications that can be approved administratively by staff
- o changes to the River Improvement Overlay District

made necessary by the opening of the Museum Reach of the River Extension last year and the recent opening of the Mission Reach

- o the creation of a demolition permit fee for historic landmarks
- o changes to the process for the creation of a local historic district
- o consolidation of the two current landmark designations (HE and HS) into one Historic Landmark (HL) designation.

The full UDC and signage amendments are available for review on the OHP website at: www.sanantonio.gov/historic.

If your property is a designated local historic landmark, within one of the City's 27 designated local historic districts, or within one of the six RIO (River Improvement Overlay) Districts, exterior alterations in material or design and all signage (permanent or temporary) require review by the Office of Historic Preservation. Minor projects can be administratively approved by OHP staff, while more complex projects require review by the Historic and Design Review Commission (HDRC).

If you are unsure whether your project requires review, it is always best to ask in advance of beginning work.

For information please contact OHP at 215-9274 or OHP@sanantonio.gov.

May Celebrates Historic Preservation Month

by Anna Glover, Office of Historic Preservation



In honor of National Preservation Month the City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) is hosting several events throughout May. National Preservation Month was started by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1971. The Office of Historic Preservation, along with many partner organizations, is providing many opportunities for people to celebrate the unique heritage

that our city has to offer.

The month will kick off with the "State of Historic Preservation" Address and reception at the Spanish Governor's Palace on Thursday, May 5th at 4:45 pm. The Mayor and several City Council members will highlight the importance of historic preservation and central city reinvestment to San Antonio. This is event is free and open to the public. Additional activities include guided walking/ running tours, the Amazing Preservation Race for adults and a Kids Amazing Preservation race, a High School student design competition and more.

The Office of Historic Preservation is also encouraging local participation in the This Place Matters campaign of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP): <http://www.preservationnation.org/take-action/this-place-matters/>.

People from across the country honor their favorite places with this call to protect, enhance, and enjoy the places that mater. What matters to you, San Antonio? In addition to submitting your entry to the NTHP, enter your photo in our local contest at ohp@sanantonio.gov. Entries in the Why This Place Matters video contest can also be submitted to the [SAPreservationchannel](http://SAPreservationchannel.com) on Youtube.com

Construction is nearly done!

Visitors to Market Square will enjoy a more spacious Produce Row plaza area complete with an awning along the El Mercado building to provide additional shade. The windows along the Produce Row plaza have had the grilles removed, giving visitors a great view of the shops inside. The result is "window shopping" in El Mercado once again. We invite you to come see the excitement first hand.

Market Square features over 100 shops as well as celebrated restaurants and all will maintain regular hours of operation throughout the construction.

Visit our website at www.marketsquaresa.com for information on upcoming events.

Monthly Parking Passes

Looking for downtown parking? Monthly parking passes are available at many City-owned parking lots and garages.

Contact 207-8266 for more information, or visit <http://www.sanantonio.gov/dtops> and click on Parking to view a map of our facilities, current rates, and more!

Visit the OHP website at www.sanantonio.gov/historic for a complete calendar of events for National Preservation Month and to download your This Place Matters sign. We look forward to seeing you at our many events!

Downtown STAR - Roberto Prieto

by Veronica Garcia, Executive Assistant



The Downtown STAR award recognizes Downtown Operations Department employees that go above and beyond the call of duty, demonstrating exceptional **S**ervice, **T**eamwork, **A**ttitude and **R**esourcefulness. Each Downtown STAR receives an award, recognition in the department newsletter, lunch with the Director, and a special prize. A copy of the nomination also goes in their personnel file.

Awardees are selected once a quarter by a committee of Downtown Operations Department employees.

This month we highlight another Downtown STAR:

Roberto Prieto - Gardener (River Operations)

Roberto is a courteous employee who goes beyond his regular duties to provide excellent customer service. He often serves as an ambassador for downtown as he shows tourists how to get to popular attractions. Roberto frequently demonstrates a positive attitude and a willingness to help others. Roberto is a very resourceful employee who is not defined by his job title. He has helped with irrigation repairs, leveled ground around HemisFair houses and improved the drainage system in our parks. Roberto does all these tasks without hesitation!

Congratulations Roberto and thanks for all your hard work!

If you know a Downtown Operations Department employee who demonstrates exceptional customer service and has left a positive impression on you, nominate him/her for the Downtown STAR award at <http://www.sanantonio.gov/dtops/DowntownStars.asp>.

For more information, you may also contact Veronica at 207-8477.

Keeping It Wild on the River Walk!

OK. We know you checked out this ad because you thought there might be a good party somewhere. Actually, we're talking about keeping the ducks, birds and squirrels wild. Human food lacks nutrients that the wildlife need, so they eat more of it to stay full. That means more poop in the river.

During Fiesta and throughout the year, help us keep our River Walk wild and the river clean: Please allow the wildlife to feed themselves.

Party on!

www.riverlifeloveit.org

River. Life. Love it.
Sustaining a healthy river - together.

RWWA
RIVER WALK WATERSHED ALLIANCE

SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY
Leaders in Watershed Solutions

Photo courtesy of the San Antonio CVB.

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.

400 N. St. Mary's, #100 San Antonio, Texas 78205
Hours: Monday-Friday 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

www.sanantonio.gov/dtops
Phone: 210-207-3677

Director: Paula X. Stallcup

Assistant Directors: Colleen Swain & Kelly Rafferty

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