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FOCUS DOWNTOWN

News, Issues & Events from City of San Antonio Downtown Operations
August 2010

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Mark Your Calendar

Now through August 14
Every Friday & Saturday
Fiesta Noche del Rio
Arneson River Theatre
www.fiestanochedelrio.com

Out & About Downtown

by Paula X. Stallcup, Director, Downtown Operations



Summer fun is not over yet - especially if you visit downtown! The popular [Movies by Moonlight](#) series continues in HemisFair Park with Summer Romance in August. [Public Art San Antonio](#) is hosting summer bike rides featuring public art installations throughout the city. The whole family will also enjoy special events such as [Primer Sabado](#) in Market Square and the new Let's Read Fest in [Main Plaza](#).

The Downtown Operations Department recently completed the installation of new informational signage on Houston Street and in Alamo Plaza. Read all about this creative reuse project and join us for the Unveiling Ceremony on August 11. We are also finalizing a [Parking Wayfinding Master Plan](#) to guide downtown visitors to public parking facilities. The City of San Antonio also announced a new downtown starting line for the annual Rock 'N' Roll Marathon.

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.

Movies by Moonlight

by Tonya Drake, Special Projects Manager



Audiences love the weekly **Movies By Moonlight** outdoor cinema series in HemisFair Park sponsored by River Center Mall. The event features free movies every Thursday in the grassy

June - September (Thursdays)

Movies by Moonlight
HemisFair Park

www.sanantonio.gov/dtops

Now through October 1 (Fridays)

Raza en la Plaza
Main Plaza

www.mainplaza.org

Now through August 27 (Fridays)

Party in the Tower Plaza
Tower of the Americas
For info call 223-3101

August 11

Unveiling Ceremony - Houston
Street Kiosks & Alamo Plaza
Corner of Houston & Alamo

August 14

Let's Read Fest
Main Plaza

www.mainplaza.org

August 14

FORD Canoe Challenge
River Walk Extension
For info call 227-4262

August 17

Museum Reach Bike Ride
PASA Studio (400 N. St. Mary's)

www.publicartsa.com

August 21

Lucky Duck Race & Festival
Museum Reach

www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com

September 2

PID Public Hearing
City Council Chambers

September 12

Westside/Woodlawn Lake
Bike Ride
PASA Studio (400 N. St. Mary's)

www.publicartsa.com

Finding Downtown Parking Gets Easier

by Cynthia Martinez,
Special Projects Manager

area under the HemisFair Park archway at S. Alamo and Nueva Streets. Come early for the preshow at 7:30 pm. The feature film premieres at 8:30 pm.

Feel the love during August's "Summer Romance" theme featuring:

August 5th	Sleepless in Seattle
August 12th	Urban Cowboy
August 19th	Enchanted (Disney)
August 26th	Pride & Prejudice

Movies By Moonlight is a family-friendly event that is free to the public. Do not forget to bring your blankets and lawn chairs. Concessions are available and movie-goers can park for free at the Alamo Lot near the Magik Theater and playground or at the Durango Street lots across from the Federal Courthouse on a first-come basis.

Movies by Moonlight is presented by the City's Downtown Operations Department with sponsorship by River Center Mall and is presented in part by Time Warner Cable.

Been to a movie screening lately? Take our online survey and give us your feedback at:

<http://www.sanantonio.gov/dtops/Events/moviesbymoonlight.aspx>

You can also follow us on Facebook or Twitter for current updates and information. See you soon under the moonlight!

Historic Houston Street Kiosks

by Veronica Garcia, Executive Assistant



Charged with improving the aesthetics of downtown, the City developed a self-guided walking tour of historic Houston Street.

The project re-used eight former telephone kiosks along Houston Street between N. Alamo and N. Santa Rosa Streets. The signage highlights historical buildings along this 0.74 mile stretch of Houston Street. The informational panels with historic photos describe Houston Street's development as a bustling commercial corridor and its importance in San Antonio history. The project was made possible through a grant received from the U.S. General Services Administration Good Neighbor Program.

Signage for Alamo Plaza was also produced in partnership with The Alamo. These two new signs provide information regarding the mission as it existed in 1836. A marker at the main entrance provides a historical view of the North Wall framed by the outline of the original arched entrance to the compound.

A second sign located on the southwest corner of the historic Alamo compound (across Alamo Street) offers a historical view of the interior of the compound looking toward the old church from the perspective of the artillery platform.

Thanks to the Office of Historic Preservation, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, The Alamo and the Institute of Texan Cultures for their assistance with this project. **Join us on August 11, 2010 at 10:00 am for the project's Unveiling Ceremony at the first Houston Street Kiosk, located at the corner of Houston and Alamo,** across from the Hipolito F. Garcia Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse. For more information, call 207-3677.

Que PASA?



The Downtown Operations Department is making it easier for visitors to find downtown public parking. With the assistance of Jacobs Engineering, the department is finalizing a Parking Wayfinding Master Plan to be implemented this fall. The purpose of the Wayfinding Master Plan is to design and develop a visually aesthetic and effective trailblazing signage system that guides visitors to public parking facilities in downtown San Antonio. The goals of the master plan include

- Assist visitors with easily locating public parking.
- Optimize and increase visibility of public parking.
- Create parking brand recognition.
- Encourage and increase City parking facility utilization and create public parking partnerships.

The Downtown Operations Department presented the plan at a downtown stakeholder meeting on June 30, 2010. The Historic Design and Review Commission approved the plan and components on July 21, 2010. The consultant is currently finalizing the bid documents. The installation of the signs is currently scheduled for fall of 2010.

For more information please contact 207-3372 or visit www.sanantonio.gov/dtops.

Downtown PID Planning Efforts

by, Lauren Faske, Public Art San Antonio



Now Looking for a fun way to get out, get fit, and see the city this summer? Join a free bike ride as part of the *Que PASA? Experience and Explore Public Art* summer exhibit produced by the City's Public Art San Antonio (PASA).

Visit the PASA Studio (400 North Saint Mary's St., suite 101) to explore exhibits and activities that reveal recreational and educational ways to experience local public art while staying healthy, and promoting an eco-friendly lifestyle. The "Que Pasa" summer exhibit focuses on six themes, each with a corresponding project or work of art: Roll, Reflect, Ride, Read, Recycle, and Renew. For the "Ride" theme, PASA is hosting art-inspired bike tours that take riders on a unique expedition through different areas in and around downtown San Antonio. Join local artists who lend their expertise and knowledge of public art hot spots for a unique experience that highlights diverse areas of the city.

Participating tour leaders include Thomas Cummins, Elizabeth Gutierrez, Justin Parr, Jessica Ramirez, Ed Saavedra, Gabby Santiago, and Patrick Zeller. The tours highlight public art destinations and feature special stops at professional artists' studios. The one- to two-hour rides begin at the PASA Studio and are "BYOB" (Bring Your Own Bike)!

For more information on schedule dates and times, contact PASA staff at (210) 207-1436 or pasa@sanantonio.gov, or visit www.publicArtSA.com. Visit the Studio during exhibit hours, Wednesday - Friday from noon to 5 pm, with extended hours until 7 pm on Thursdays.

Are you a fan? Find PASA on Facebook by searching for Public Art San Antonio. Become a fan today and start contributing to the public art happenings downtown!

Downtown STAR - Pat Rosas

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 **Service, Teamwork, Attitude and Resourcefulness**. 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:

Patricia Rosas - Facilities Operations Coordinator (Parking)

Patricia exemplifies customer service. She developed and taught specialized customer service classes for our department, and even came in early and on weekends to accommodate various schedules. She tackles new tasks with enthusiasm. She successfully applied for a federal grant that will allow the department to begin recycling at La Villita and Market Square. Her enthusiasm at learning new things is contagious as she takes on new duties without fear and with a smile. Her efforts have saved money



The Central Business District is the only area in San Antonio that constitutes a Public Improvement District (PID). In a PID, property owners voluntarily elect additional taxation to fund public improvements aimed at revitalizing the area. The Downtown Alliance (DTA) is the non-profit organization that manages the PID known as Centro San Antonio.

Centro San Antonio supplements City services downtown with Amigos who keep streets clean, distribute information to visitors and beautify downtown with their landscaping and maintenance efforts. The organization just celebrated its 10th anniversary of service improving downtown.

Each year, the Downtown PID shares an annual Service & Assessment Plan with the community. The presentation of the plan, and request for City Council approval, will be September 2, 2010. To provide input on the Downtown PID or funding plans for next year, contact Centro San Antonio at 225-1831 or info@downtownsa.org.

Community Survey Results



The City of San Antonio recently conducted a 2010 Community Survey to assess resident satisfaction with the delivery of major City services. Major findings of the survey include:

- Residents generally have a

for the department and will have an impact on the entire community.

Thank you Patricia for all you do!

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.

New Start for the Marathon

by Tonya Drake, Special Projects Manager



Mark your calendar for the 3rd annual Rock 'n' Roll San Antonio Marathon on Sunday, November 14, 2010! This year's event features a new downtown start line in front of the Convention Center at the corner of Alamo and Market Street. The new race route will travel east down Market Street, through Sunset Station, north on Cherry Street, before circling back to the historic Alamo. The course then heads up N. St. Mary's Street to McCullough Avenue then passing through the King William Historic District. All races finish in the same location as previous years, at the Alamodome.

Another change this year is the addition of the half-marathon relay, where the first participant completes the first 7.5 miles of the race. At this exchange point, the second runner completes the final 5 miles to the finish line.

"The third running of the Rock 'n' Roll San Antonio Marathon & 1/2 Marathon represents a commitment to helping citizens and visitors focus on the importance of fitness and a healthy, active lifestyle," said Sheryl Sculley, City Manager of San Antonio and three-time Rock 'n' Roll participant. "The addition of a two-member relay provides a good introduction for those runners and walkers who have been more focused on 5ks and 10ks and makes the race more accessible for those who want to experience the excitement of the Rock 'n' Roll race."

Also new for the 2010 event is a partnership with Susan G. Komen for the Cure® as the official benefiting charity. For more information or to register for the race, visit www.san-antonio.competitor.com or call 800-311-1255. You can also [click here](#) for a course map.

Let's Read Fest at Main Plaza

by Marisela Barrera, Main Plaza Conservancy



Get ready for back to school fun with the Let's Read Fest on August 14, 2010 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The kid's festival will feature interactive arts workshops, backpack & school supply giveaways, music and more at Main Plaza (115 Main Avenue).

Main Plaza's LET'S READ FEST, designed for kids, also features storytellers, face-painters and Perpetual Puppets. San Antonio Public Library staff will be on-site for library card

sign-ups. Youth rock groups The Weetles and Faith Like Failure perform from 1 - 3 p.m.

The Let's Read Fest is presented by Main Plaza Conservancy, a nonprofit

positive perception of the City

- All areas of the city show similar levels of satisfaction
- Nationwide satisfaction with city services decreased, while satisfaction with City of San Antonio services has increased
- Satisfaction levels in the City of San Antonio are much higher than the national average

To see complete results of the 2010 Community Survey findings, visit www.sanantonio.gov.

Appreciating Our Staff

The Downtown Operations Department recently held an Employee Appreciation Picnic and staff meeting on June 11, 2010. The event provides a good opportunity to recognize our staff of 200+ employees for the excellent customer service they provide you with every day. It also provides employees with updates on the department and information on our initiatives to improve downtown.

A survey of employees in attendance revealed:

- 46% have been with the City for more than 10 years
- 86% agreed the picnic was a good way to interact with other employees
- 78% learned something new at the meeting
- 81% value the Downtown STAR award...so keep those nominations coming!

dedicated to providing San Antonio with the historical and cultural Heart of the City. The free event is open to the public. Concessions by Blue Star and El Oasis Café #2 will be available for purchase onsite. For more information, calendar updates, and directions to Main Plaza and nearby free weekend parking, visit www.mainplaza.org.

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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