

You're receiving this email because you or your firm are residents or stakeholders in San Antonio's downtown district and provided your information to the City of San Antonio Department of Downtown Operations. Please [confirm](#) your continued interest in receiving email from us.

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



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

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

In This Issue

[Message from the Director](#)

[Houston Street Two-Step](#)

[Information, Please](#)

[Theatre Rededication](#)

[Trees Downtown](#)

[Mexico and the Museo](#)

[Texas Star Trail](#)

[Downtown STAR](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Was this email forwarded to you?
Stay updated on news and issues
impacting downtown San Antonio.
No spam ever.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Mark Your Calendar

January 29
Houston Street Two-Step
Houston Street (from Santa Rosa to
the Alamo)

Out & About Downtown

by Paula X. Stallcup, Director, Downtown Operations



As San Antonio gets ready to Rodeo, downtown gets ready for the longhorns on Houston Street! Join us on Saturday, January 29 for a rodeo-themed event that begins with a Texas longhorn drive and is followed by a stroll down Houston Street with free activities for the family.

Looking for a map, brochure or downtown destination ideas? Stop by the temporary Visitor Information Center at Market Square for assistance. You can also look for the Centro Mobile Information Kiosk to ask an Amigo for help (the kiosk can even help charge up your electronic device!).

When you see the Amigo, ask him or her for directions to the newly renovated Lila Cockrell Theater. The facility can host a variety of events in addition to dramatic performances, plus it features new 3-D art installations (see a preview of the art [here](#)).

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.

www.downtownsa.org/rodeo

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

February 5

Primer Sabado
Market Square

www.marketsquaresa.com

Asian Festival
HemisFair Park

www.texancultures.com

February 12

Sons of Confederate Veterans -
Historical Renactment
Alamo Plaza
For info call 289-0318

Opening Reception
Alameda Theatre Gallery
www.thealameda.org

February 26

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

Tower Climb
Tower of the Americas
www.cff.org

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

Amendment to City Council Meetings



The "Ceremonial Recognitions" and "Citizens to be Heard" portions of the regular City Council Meeting A Session will move to the Wednesday council work session effective February 2 starting at 5:15 p.m. These new changes will not affect citizens' opportunity to address City Council on specific agenda items during the regular council meeting on Thursdays.

The Longhorns are Coming

by Tonya Drake, Special Events Manager



Grab your boots, jeans and cowboy hats and come enjoy the "Houston Street Two-Step" on **Saturday, January 29, 2011**. What a great time!

Step 1 is the Longhorn Cattle Drive, featuring longhorns parading down Houston Street beginning at 11:00 am. Step 2 is the Houston Street Stroll with an exciting passport adventure with special offers from the restaurants, shops, and businesses on Houston Street

(click [here](#) for a sneak peak of the discounts). The experience will include musical entertainment, an authentic chuckwagon with cowboys cooking over a campfire, and activities for all ages in the Jefferson Street parking lot.

Thanks to all our great sponsors including the Downtown Alliance, and the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo. Thank you also to the many Houston Street businesses that are participating in the event! For more information, visit www.downtownsa.org/rodeo.

Mobile Information Kiosk

by Alyse Garber, Downtown Alliance



The San Centro San Antonio is the non-profit organization that oversees the Public Improvement District. Centro Amigos provide core services that supplement existing City services throughout the downtown area.

The Centro San Antonio Amigos help over 750,000 people a year in downtown San Antonio, and with the introduction of their new mobile information kiosk, they plan to help even more. The new Centro Mobile Information Kiosk trailer will be taken out daily between 9:30am and 8:30pm to various high traffic areas within the Public Improvement District including the Street Car

Station on Alamo, Market Square, and La Villita. Additionally, the Centro Mobile Information Kiosk will provide support for the City of San Antonio Convention and Visitor Bureau during the construction and renovation of the Visitor Center on Alamo between January 17 and early March.

The state-of-the art trailer will provide information, maps, assistance, electronic charging stations, videos, and shade. It features two 22 inch LCD TV screens along with four exterior marine-grade mounted speakers. It will also have charging stations for the top five phone models, including iphones and blackberries. The trailer can operate on its own for up to 24 hours through a combination of solar power and an internal battery source.

The design of the trailer features Centro San Antonio's gold and dark purple colors, as well as the universal symbol for information. The trailer was fabricated here in San Antonio by Shook Mobile Technology.

Mark Your Calendar



**Luminaria
Arts Come to Light**

The rescheduling of these agenda items will allow for more timely recognition of ceremonial guests and give citizens a better opportunity to address Council prior to its consideration of business items on the Thursday agenda.

Visitor Information Center at Market Square



The Visitor Information Center, operated by the San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau, is currently undergoing renovations at the Alamo Street location. Temporary Visitor Information Centers are located at Market Square (on West Commerce and Santa Rosa) and on Commerce and Presa and offer maps, guides, and expert advice on San Antonio's history and top attractions.

Maps, brochures, coupons and trip ideas can also be found on the CVB website at:

<http://www.visitsanantonio.com>

Look for the new Information Center to re-open on March 1, 2011 across from the Alamo!

Market Square is Open



Don't let the construction deter you - Market Square shops and

March 12, 2011
6:00 pm - 12 midnight
HemisFair Park

Luminaria is San Antonio's annual celebration of the arts. Be a part of this free event - produced by the artists of San Antonio!

For details visit: www.luminarias.org

Lila Cockrell Theatre Rededication

by Karina Alderete, Convention and Visitors Bureau



The City of San Antonio rededicated the Lila Cockrell Theatre on January 19, 2011 in honor of its namesake, Mayor Emeritus Lila Cockrell, following extensive structural and interior improvements to the theater. The theater was renamed in 1984, in honor of Mayor Emeritus Cockrell's lifelong work to making San Antonio a better place to live, work, and visit.

After the comprehensive \$26.5 million renovation, the Lila Cockrell Theatre has received all new finishes and state of the art amenities, enhancing its ability to host a variety of artistic, cultural and meeting events. Following the recent 15-month renovation, the venue can host traditional performing arts events, plus multi-media presentations, concerts, lectures, and general meetings for large attendance convention events.

Public Art San Antonio commissioned local photographer Ansen Seale to create works of art for the newly renovated theatre. Seale's illuminated photographs entitled "Confluence: Flowing Together" celebrate the confluence of water and cultures in and around San Antonio. For photos of the installations visit <http://ansenseale.com/lilacockrelltheater>.

Convenient parking for the Lila Cockrell Theatre is available in the Marina Parking Garage, located at the corner of Commerce and Bowie. For more parking information and rates, visit http://www.sanantonio.gov/dtops/parking/parking_map.aspx.

Downtown Tree Initiative

by Veronica Garcia, Executive Assistant



The City is working to plant nearly 1,000 trees downtown! The project is a complement to the city-wide effort to increase the overall tree canopy by adding more trees in San Antonio, known as the *Plant Trees San Antonio* campaign. This initiative is being undertaken in partnership with Downtown Operations, Public Works and the Parks & Recreation Departments, and in consultation with the Downtown

Alliance and other downtown stakeholders. Trees offer many benefits, as they improve air and water quality, provide shade, and improve the physical appearance of downtown.

As part of the Downtown Tree Planting Initiative, the City will plant trees in the public right-of-way, plus partner with private property owners for

restaurants are open for your shopping and dining pleasure! Construction is on schedule, with a target completion in late March 2011...just in time for Fiesta!

Visitors to Market Square will enjoy a larger 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.

To ensure the safety of visitors, San Saba Street is temporarily closed to vehicular traffic from Dolorosa to Commerce. The street will reopen in late March 2011.

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!

Doing Business with the City

additional planting locations adjacent to the right of way. Tree planting will begin in March and continue through May 2011.

A press conference was held on January 20, 2011 in HemisFair Park to kick off the project with the first tree planted near the Magik Children's Theatre. "By planting 1,000 trees downtown, it's going to make more vibrant, more charming and more beautiful our downtown area," said Mayor Julian Castro.

See footage of the tree planting on Mayor Castro's video blog at: <http://blog.mysanantonio.com/julian-castro/>

For more information on the project, contact [Veronica Garcia](#) at 207-8477.

Mexico and the Museo

by Anita Fernandez, Museo Alameda



The Museo Alameda is currently showcasing a new, two part exhibit, *Revolution & Renaissance: Mexico & San Antonio 1910 - 2010*. Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Mexican Revolution, the exhibition explores the evolution of art and culture in

Mexico from 1910 through 1968, with particular attention to the impact of the cultural renaissance in San Antonio following the Revolution. The exhibition highlights artistic and cultural exchanges between San Antonio and Mexico and includes more than 200 rarely seen paintings, sculptures, and folk art objects.

The second phase of the exhibition, *RENACIMIENTO: Continuity & Change* opened last month and provides a special focus on the impact and interaction of the Mexican Revolutionary Era with the artistic, cultural, and community life of San Antonio from 1910 to the 1970s. The exhibit focuses on the cultural ideals and icons which the exiles of the Mexican Revolution brought, and how altares, pastorelas, folk images, murals, and food items began their mestizaje with the mexicotejano community of South Texas.

The result of many years of organizational planning and research, the exhibition energizes the galleries of the museum and sets new standards for the presentation of Mexican art and culture in the United States.

The Museo Alameda is open Tuesday - Sunday from 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm and is free on Tuesday. Alongside exhibitions and installations, the Museo Alameda will be hosting an array of various educational and social experiences to enhance your visit. For more information, call 210.299.4300 or visit www.thealameda.org.

Mark Your Calendar! February 12, 2011 from 5 - 8 pm. Join us for an Opening Reception of a new installation at the Alameda Theatre Gallery, *Grabado Casero: Comida Visual*. (318 W. Houston Street)

Texas Star Trail

by Colleen Swain, Assistant Director



The Texas Star Trail was established in 1986 by the San Antonio Conservation Society (SACS). The 2.6 mile walking tour begins in Alamo Plaza and returns to the nearby Menger Hotel. Large Texas Star plaques are embedded in downtown sidewalks and designate some of San Antonio's most significant commercial and public buildings of the late 19th and early 20th



The City of San Antonio is pleased to announce implementation of the San Antonio eProcurement System (SAePS). This system will change the way the City conducts business and will Go-Live in March 2011.

The new system will improve efficiencies, enhance transparency and ensure consistency and compliance. Vendors and suppliers will also benefit from this system.

The system will allow for the collaboration of vendors, buyers and City employees on a single, web-based, user-friendly dashboard.

Other vendor/supplier benefits include:

- Self-administration to manage user access and business information;
- Email notification of solicitations relevant to NIGP Commodity Codes your business registers for.
- Electronic vendor response including bid submission, versioning of bids and confirmation of bidder's participation;
- Electronic catalogs - punch out catalogs and uploading of internal catalogs
- Improved requisition-to-order cycle time

Beginning in March, all vendors and suppliers wishing to do business with the City must register through the Central Vendor Registration (CVR). The City will be providing future trainings and workshops to vendors and suppliers interested in learning more about system benefits and how to use the system to enhance their business opportunities with the City. Please check our [website](#) for training dates and times.

centuries. Smaller markers act as a bread crumbs and connect to the large markers.

The City of San Antonio is partnering with the San Antonio Conservation Society to update the tour and replace any missing markers. The Downtown Operations Department, Public Works, Office of Historic Preservation, and the Convention and Visitors Bureau are all partnering with SACS on the project.

The current map and brochure are available at the SACS Wulff House and online at

<http://www.saconservation.org/pdf/texasstartrail.pdf>

Look for the updated tour to be unveiled in May as part of Historic Preservation Month!

Downtown STAR - Andrew Garcia

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:

Andrew Garcia - Maintenance Worker (River Walk)

Andrew is always willing to accept new responsibilities. His positive input influences others around him to excel and leaves downtown stakeholders with a positive impression after interacting with him. Anyone will tell you Andrew's optimistic attitude is contagious! Andrew assisted his supervisor with conveying important scheduling information and job duties to new employees. His coworkers can always count on him to work hard, be helpful, and get the job done.

Congratulations Andrew and keep up the great 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.

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

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to ann.benda@sanantonio.gov by downtown@sanantonio.gov | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

City of San Antonio Downtown Operations | 400 N. St. Mary's, #100 | San Antonio | TX | 78205