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

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### Mark Your Calendar

**June 4 - July 30 (Thurs. only)**  
Movies by Moonlight  
HemisFair Park

### Out & About Downtown

by Paula X. Stallcup, Director, Downtown Operations



Summer is heating up, and so is downtown! We have several free and low cost events this month that are fun for the entire family. Put on your cowboy hat and boots and come downtown for [Houston Street Fair and Market](#)'s bull riding in front of the Alamo. This event drew over 20,000 people last year and it is the only time you can see professional riders bucking live bulls in front of San Antonio's famous mission. This month will also include a line up with live music from 6 - 11 pm.

We have plenty of entertainment for all the music lovers, too. Don't miss the dance performances at the Arneson River Theater, including [Fiesta Noche del Rio](#). For more music culture, the Museo Alameda is hosting [American Sabor Music Fest](#), a summer concert series at Market Square in honor of their new exhibit.

If your interests gravitate towards the River Walk, try a horticultural tour with your gardening club. You can also view the new public art installations or visit the [Pearl Farmers Market](#) in the Museum Reach River extension.

Each quarter, we will honor employees who have excelled in customer service. Winners will be featured monthly in this newsletter - read about these [Downtown STARs](#) and their contributions to our community. 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 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.

### Bull Ridin' at the Alamo

For info call 207-3677

**June 5 - July 31 (Fridays only)**

Party on the Plaza  
HemisFair Park  
Near base of Tower of the Americas  
For info call 378-2738

**June 6 - August 29 (Sat. only)**

Pearl Farmers Market  
Museum Reach Extension  
[www.pearlfarmersmarket.com](http://www.pearlfarmersmarket.com)

**June 20**

American Sabor Concert Series  
Market Square  
[www.thealameda.org](http://www.thealameda.org)

**June 21**

JUNETEENTH Celebration  
La Villita  
For info call 207-8612

**June 27**

Houston Street Fair & Market  
Bull Riding at the Alamo  
Alamo Plaza  
[www.houstonstreetfair.com](http://www.houstonstreetfair.com)

**July 1 - 30 (Wed/Thurs only)**

BRAVO Dance Performances  
La Villita Arneson River Theater  
<http://www.sanantonio.gov/sapar>

**July 3 - 6**

River Walk Arts & Crafts Show  
River Walk Extension  
For info call 227-4262

**July 3 - 25 (Fri/Sat only)**

Fiesta Noche del Rio Dance  
Performances  
La Villita Arneson River Theater  
[www.alamo-kiwanis.org/FiestaNoche](http://www.alamo-kiwanis.org/FiestaNoche)

**July 4 - 5**

Freedom Fest  
Fourth of July Celebration  
Market Square  
For info call 207-8612

**July 18**

KTFM Rewind Block Party  
HemisFair Park  
For info call 698-2856

**July 18 - 19**

San Antonio Conjunto Shootout  
Market Square  
For info call 698-2856

**Do You Hear What I Hear**

by Tamara Langwell,  
Public Art San Antonio,

by Tonya Drake, Special Projects Manager

Missed the rodeo in February? The June [Houston Street Fair & Market](http://www.houstonstreetfair.com) will feature professional cowboys bucking 44 different bulls in front of the Alamo on Saturday, June 27 beginning at noon. This is the second year Alamo Plaza will be transformed into a bull riding arena. The Ultimate Bull Blowout features bulls from C4 Bulls and Cibolo Creek Productions.



Children can enjoy pony rides, along with rides and pictures on a live Texas Longhorn. Activities will continue throughout the day with Legends Gunfighters and bucking on mechanical bulls. Be sure to also visit the arts and crafts vendors and food booths. Or, adopt a new family "member" at the [Pets in the Park](http://www.petsinthe.org) booth. Adults can also sample some vino with Poteet Country Winery.

After the bulls are done, stay for an extended Houston Street Fair this month with live music by 800 Miles, Brad Clark & the Rough Stock, Kaley James Band, and Mario Flores & the Soda Creek Band. The music begins at 6 pm and ends at 10:45 pm.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 207-7258 or visit [www.houstonstreetfair.com](http://www.houstonstreetfair.com).

**River Walk Horticultural Tours**

by Joseph Cruz, River Operations Superintendent

In April, River Operations kicked off its first ever audited tour of the River Walk. Throughout the years, the City has conducted hundreds of horticultural tours for any interested groups that requested the service, but have only recently been asking the tour guests for their thoughts and input. The feedback is being gathered to gauge our performance and tabulate our division's performance measures.



At the beginning of each tour, a survey card is distributed to the tour guests, and they are asked to rate factors such as:

- Courtesy and professionalism of the tour host
- Horticultural knowledge
- Suitability of plant material on the River
- Proper maintenance of the landscaping
- Healthy appearance to the foliage
- Overall rating of the landscaping

On May 14, we had our second tour, and received excellent feedback from the tour group.

The time of year was perfect for viewing the diverse blooming plants along the River Walk. The area had enjoyed some much needed rainfall, and it did not take long for the tropical plants to utilize the "liquid sunshine" to put on some outstanding color. From the blushing pink Angel's Trumpet to the white Orchid tree, the entire River Walk was covered in Spring bloom.

Another interesting bloomer that was evident was the Mexican Oleander (*Thevetia peruviana*), which was blooming a pale orange color across from the Greater Chamber of Commerce. It is closely related to the common Oleander and has a large seed that bears some resemblance to a Chinese "lucky nut". It contains a milky sap that holds a compound called thevitin, which is used as a heart stimulant.

## City of San Antonio



Visitors to the newly-completed Museum Reach of the River Walk are able to see an exciting array of public art. Many people are already familiar with the illuminated fish along the new extension. Underneath the Jones Street Bridge, however, you'll have to use your ears to experience the public art installation.

San Francisco artist Bill Fontana has created "Sonic Passage," comprised of a series of speakers that play recorded river sounds at programmed intervals. Each of three areas around the bridge features a different series of sounds recorded from various locations along the River: for example, bird calls at Mitchell Lake, families relaxing at Brackenridge Park, or water flowing through the San Antonio River Tunnel.

Some of these recordings will be activated by live sensors, allowing visitors to interact with these "sound sculptures." The overall effect becomes a multilayered composition designed to leave passersby awash in the myriad sounds of the River.

## Museo Alameda Presents

by Mia Lopez, Museo Alameda



The Museo Alameda is presenting an exciting three-part live music series, The American Sabor Music Fest. The concert series will feature over a dozens different acts over three days, including Brownout, Piñata Protest, Ernie Garibay and Cats Don't Sleep, Bombasta, Mexican Stepgrandfather and many more. This event is free to the public and will take place in Market Square on Saturday, June 20, July 25 and September 19.

This concert series celebrates the

River Operations will be scheduling regular horticultural tours on the River Walk, and we hope to expand the program to include walking tours of the various Downtown parks in the future. If you have a group that is interested in taking a River Walk tour, please contact Joe Cruz at 207-4353 or [joseph.cruz@sanantonio.gov](mailto:joseph.cruz@sanantonio.gov)

## Pearl Farmers Market

by Tatum Evans, Pearl Farmers Market Manager



The opening of the [Museum Reach - Urban Segment](#) has created an interest in exploring the extended River Walk in new ways and the former Pearl Brewery site has already become a local favorite. The Pearl Brewery has transformed from a local beer manufacturing warehouse into an emerging culinary and cultural destination in San Antonio. Today, this historic gathering place is where both locals and visitors are welcome to eat, play, and learn along the banks of the San Antonio River.

With a strong commitment to food excellence, Pearl is host to a producers only farmers market. All Pearl Farmers Market vendors are located within a 150 mile radius of San Antonio, providing fresh, local, and seasonal products that they themselves planted, raised, and harvested.

The Farmers Market is held every Saturday, rain or shine, from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm at Pearl (200 East Grayson), just west of the Full Goods Building along the banks of the San Antonio River. Weekly products include fresh fruits and vegetables, seafood, grass-fed bison, goat, lamb and beef, a selection of herbs and baked goods, plus other natural products.

The market also includes a Chef's Table where Chef Johnny Hernandez prepares meals featuring Pearl Farmers Market products. To reserve your seat at the table, visit [www.mesalegre.com](http://www.mesalegre.com).

The Pearl Farmers Market provides a fun outdoor experience for the entire family. For more information, visit <http://www.pearlfarmersmarket.com/>.

## Community Development Summit

by Richard Milk, Planning & Development Services Dept.



The vision for San Antonio's future will be the focus of the 2009 Community Development Summit. This year's theme, "Creating Great Places: From House to Market," sets the stage for two days of conversations regarding the interconnected nature of infrastructure, jobs, and housing conditions.

This year's Summit is an innovative joint venture of the City of San Antonio and the [Urban Land Institute](#) (ULI). This is the first time that ULI, the respected international organization, has partnered with a municipality for an event of this caliber. ULI's involvement will bring to the discussion table the perspectives of the real estate and development professionals who engage the market on a daily basis.

The Summit takes place September 16 and 17, and will include workshops, tours, and special events. Some of the highlight events this year include the presentation of a regional visioning exercise that explores San Antonio's growth patterns, the [Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization](#) Awards Ceremony, and a one-of-a-kind networking event on the evening of the

grand opening of the new exhibit, American Sabor: Latinos in U.S. Popular Music. This is the first interpretive museum exhibition to tell the story of the profound influence and impact of Latinos in American popular music. Beyond Latin music, Latinos have contributed to rock 'n roll, rhythm and blues, jazz, country and western, punk and hip hop.

The exhibit runs through September 25 - come experience the sabor! For more information please visit <http://www.thealameda.org>

## Talkin' Trash - Changes are Coming

by Veronica Garcia,  
Executive Assistant



The Downtown Operations Department and [Solid Waste Management Department](#) are working together to address several downtown trash issues. 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 to these issues, the City of San Antonio is proposing amendments to the Solid Waste section of the City's Municipal Code. These changes include limited trash place out and collection times, mandatory receptacle identification, and the elimination of the City's commercial bag program. All businesses that place trash in the public right of way will be affected by these changes.

We held two community meetings to solicit feedback on the proposed amendments on March 25 and May 13 and many agreed these changes will greatly benefit the community. For additional information on the proposed amendments and how they may affect your business, please contact Veronica Garcia at (210) 207-8477 or [veronica.garcia@sanantonio.gov](mailto:veronica.garcia@sanantonio.gov).

16th.

The Strategic Plan for Community Development will also be updated with stakeholder feedback during the Summit. This process includes the selection of next year's Reinvestment Plan Areas, making the 2009 Summit a critical event that every community development stakeholder will want to attend.

For session information and FAQs, please visit the Summit webpage at [www.sanantonio.gov/summit](http://www.sanantonio.gov/summit).

## Downtown STAR - Adriana Kuhr

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. We received over 50 nominations for the Downtown STAR awards for this quarter.

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. Three Downtown STARs were selected this quarter, and we will highlight each STAR in upcoming editions of the newsletter, starting with...

### Adriana Kuhr, Contract Coordinator - Contracts Division

Through careful research and evaluation of City contracts, Adriana identified over \$100,000 owed to the City. She stays after-hours to help new employees and cross-trained other staff members on her job responsibilities. Adriana has a positive attitude and works with customers to listen, identify problems and recommend realistic solutions. She even taught herself how to access the City's old accounting systems and quickly collected payment on past-due balances owed to the City.

Congratulations to Adriana!

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.

## Fiesta Noche del Rio

by Jesse Moreno, Special Events Coordinator



Every summer, the San Antonio River Walk reverberates with the sights and sounds of [Fiesta Noche del Rio](#), a music extravaganza featuring the songs and dances of Mexico, Spain, Argentina and Texas. The oldest outdoor performance of its kind in the United States, this spectacle in the historic Arneson River Theatre in La Villita has entertained more than a million San Antonians and visitors.

The Alamo Kiwanis Club established Fiesta Noche del Rio 53 years ago to provide funding for children's charities in the San Antonio community. Since its inception, the event has raised over \$3 million to benefit local children's charities. This

year's primary beneficiaries are Respite Care of San Antonio and Any Baby Can.

## Beautify La Villita

by Beverly Budd,  
Facilities Operations Coordinator



Thanks to over 30 members of the San Antonio Apartment Association who teamed up with horticulture staff from the Downtown Operations Department to beautify [La Villita](#) as part of the Make Downtown Shine program on June 12. Volunteers cleaned flower beds and planted drought tolerant perennials that stood out against the neutral background of the buildings and created a blaze of color. Our horticulturists selected plants that would provide ample blooms while withstanding high summer temperatures and water adversities.

The owner from the La Villita shop, Village Weavers, donated rose bushes to the project and volunteers assisted with planting them in public areas. Other projects that day included cleaning gutters, painting trash cans, pruning trees and shrubs, raking leaves and adding mulch to the newly planted areas.

Our landscape selections conserve water, thrive in the summer heat and add beauty to the public areas in the historic entertainment center. The end result is a project we are happy to share with the community.

Future Make Downtown Shine events are scheduled for Milam Park, Travis Park, Alamo Plaza and HemisFair Park. For a list of dates and projects or to volunteer to help, contact [downtown@sanantonio.gov](mailto:downtown@sanantonio.gov).



Performances are every Friday and Saturday thru August 15. Showtime is 8:30 p.m. and prices are \$15 for adults. Children ages 6 o 14 are \$5 and seniors (60+) are \$12. Group discounts for 10 or more adults are available. This summer, La Villita is your place for an affordable, visual tour of the world through song and dance.

For ticket reservations and information call (210) 226-4651. You may also visit <http://www.rudedogsigns.com/Photos/FiestaNoche.html> for photos from last year's event.

## 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).

202 E. Nueva San Antonio, Texas 78205

[www.sanantonio.gov/dtops](http://www.sanantonio.gov/dtops)

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