



LAVACA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Proudly Representing San Antonio's Oldest Residential Neighborhood

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July 8, 2008

Dear Mayor Hardberger, Councilwoman Cisneros, and City Manager Sculley:

As San Antonio considers the direction of HemisFair Park, the Lavaca Neighborhood Association urges the City Council to join us in our community-focused vision for the area. Specifically, we envision the future development of HemisFair Park to contain the following actions:

1. Remove the federal buildings that inhibit southerly access to the Park from Durango Boulevard, and use that space for mixed-use development, including art galleries and curio shops, bed and breakfasts, and eateries that make Southtown so desirable and thriving;
2. Continue the above mixed-used model around the Convention Center expansion and provide a seamless integration into the new area;
3. Capitalize on the increased foot traffic and create another "Zocalo"-style public plaza between the Institute of Texan Cultures and the Tower, following the great success of Main Plaza as an area for the community to gather and "conocerse"; and
4. Make the area a living, breathing neighborhood by drawing up a grid of streets that gives locals and visitors access to the galleries, shops, and eateries that we believe will make HemisFair Park thrive like the neighborhoods to the south.

As you may know, Lavaca spent more than four months considering options for HemisFair Park, held debates, and even took walking tours of the area on hot summer San Antonio days to study this issue. Our Association is in a unique position to analyze and comment on the direction of HemisFair Park. In addition to our study of the issue, our relationship to the Park is rooted in history going back over 150 years. In fact, the Park was once part of Lavaca. Likewise, the neighborhood will continue to share many bonds with HemisFair Park: As downtown and Southtown develop and re-develop, our proximity to HemisFair Park and our blend of history, character, architecture, and the arts will mean that the Park area and Lavaca will rely on each other more than ever.

The Lavaca Neighborhood Association believes that bringing the elements outlined above to HemisFair Park are consistent with the HemisFair Master Plan, as well as Lavaca's Neighborhood Plan, while at the same time allowing the City to maintain and protect green spaces, which are so important to the beauty and success of downtown San Antonio.

The Lavaca Neighborhood Association hopes that the Council will give great weight to our unique perspective and requests that the Council continues to include and engage us in the discussion of HemisFair Park's future.

Cordially,

Seahn A. Lobb
President
Lavaca Neighborhood Association