

AIA San Antonio

A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

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The Honorable Ron Nirenberg
Mayor, City of San Antonio
City of San Antonio
P.O. Box 839966
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Dear Mayor Nirenberg and Councilmembers,

AIA San Antonio, like many organizations and citizens, has concerns about the proposed Alamo Plaza Master Plan.

To fully understand our members position on this issue, AIA San Antonio, in partnership with the City of San Antonio, held a Member Forum with members of the design team on Tuesday, July 17, 2018. At that meeting we heard strong consensus for this position developed by AIA San Antonio's Board of Directors.

AIA San Antonio urges the Alamo Master Plan Executive Committee, Design Team, Citizens Advisory Committee and City Council to use *The American Institute of Architects' Ten Principles of Livable Communities* as a resource to help resolve the issues of access, preservation, and connectivity now being debated. Five principles of this document clearly address the challenges being encountered in the public forums:

Build Vibrant Public Spaces – Citizens need welcoming, well-defined public places that encourage civic participation and day-to-day interaction. *The plaza should be open to everyone at all times, not via controlled access.*

Preserve Urban Centers – AIA advocates for restoring, revitalizing and infilling urban centers to take advantage of existing streets and infrastructure. As such, *preservation of the Crockett, Woolworth and Palace buildings is imperative.*

Vary Transportation Options – Citizens and visitors should have the opportunity to walk, bike, drive and use public transit in downtown. *It is a priority that Alamo Plaza, like the center city, should be connected to the north, south, east and western parts of our city.*

Design on a Human Scale – Compact, pedestrian-friendly communities allow residents and visitors to walk to shops, services and cultural resources while reducing congestion and benefiting public health. *An open and inviting plaza with the shelter of a native tree canopy will enhance the pedestrian experience in Alamo Plaza.*

Design Matters – At its core, AIA believes that design excellence is the foundation of successful and healthy communities. The Master Plan is challenged to do many things - to preserve, interpret, balance, embrace and enhance all we have come to love about Alamo Plaza. *We advocate that this collaborative process yields a plan that respects The Alamo as well as the past, present and future of our city.*

Architects are leading and listening intently to citizen feedback. We encourage an honest and open dialogue and collaborative process. If we can do that, AIA San Antonio believes that we will arrive at a consensus that enables the Master Plan for Alamo Plaza to reach its full potential.

Sincerely,

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2018 Chapter President

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