



SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION SOCIETY

STATEMENT

May 11, 2017

To: The Honorable Ivy Taylor and Members,
San Antonio City Council
Re: Agenda Item No. 4 – Alamo Master Plan

The San Antonio Conservation Society has followed the progress of the Alamo Master Plan with interest and we welcomed the opportunity to see the renderings prepared by Preservation Design Partnership as a conceptual expression of the plan.

The Society approves the plan to properly restore the Alamo chapel, which has suffered significant deterioration. While the Society traditionally opposes street closings, traffic adjacent to the Alamo chapel has contributed to this deterioration, justifying the rerouting of vehicles.

The Society strongly supports the creation of a new world-class museum in the Crockett Block buildings, a position we have advocated for two years. We request that the final design incorporate significant interior elements of the 1882 Alfred Giles-designed Crockett Building.

The Society concurs with the inclusion of design elements that interpret and highlight the subsurface archaeological features, and with the lowering of the plaza to its historic grade. The reintroduction of an acacia and new trees adjacent to the Crockett Block is a welcome addition.

The Society remains concerned about several aspects of the master plan and urges the City, State General Land Office and Alamo Endowment to address these issues in the final design.

Our greatest reservation involves the enclosure and gating of Alamo Plaza, limiting access to a single entrance at the South Gate. We believe the plan should guarantee continued enjoyment and use of Alamo Plaza as a civic space, with access from Houston Street, while providing necessary security and protection of the Alamo. We are also concerned about the tall vertical glass walls enclosing the plaza, especially along Houston Street, where they do not trace a historic mission wall.

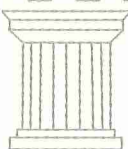
The Society opposes the removal of mature shade trees from the plaza.

Finally, the San Antonio Conservation Society does not support any change that will jeopardize the 2015 World Heritage inscription of the San Antonio Missions.

Respectfully,

Janet Dietel
President

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The Purpose of this Society is to preserve and to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, objects, places and customs, relating to the history of Texas, its natural beauty, and all that is admirably distinctive to our State; and by such physical and cultural preservation to keep the history of Texas legible and intact to educate the public, especially the youth of today and tomorrow, with knowledge of our inherited regional values.

