



SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION SOCIETY

October 18, 2018

STATEMENT:

TO: The Honorable Ron Nirenberg, Mayor, and Members
San Antonio City Council

RE: Item No. 6 – Alamo Plaza

The vote today is about freedom! This ongoing quest permeates the history of Alamo Plaza. It reaches both backwards and forwards in time from the pivotal 1836 battle.

Starting with the indigenous people, a confluence of cultures has shaped over 300 years of active civic life in this central space. We join with Mayor Nirenberg, Councilman Treviño, and others in our support for telling the site's complete story. However, we *cannot* agree with the proposals being voted on today. They do NOT provide our city with the best means of telling this narrative from mission era to mid-20th century.

The Alamo is recognized as a symbol of freedom all over the world, but the proposed limitations on access convey the opposite message. Like Councilman Perry, we oppose turning a multifaceted historic site into one whose experience is tightly controlled and managed by the State. Together with the American Institute of Architects San Antonio, we oppose transforming an open civic space into a place with limited connectivity and reduced entry points.

We understand that the City has no control over the use of the State-owned Crockett Block, Palace Theatre, and Woolworth Building for the Alamo museum. Therefore, we urge City leaders to leverage the lease agreement to secure the right to participate in the actual decision-making process.

The State is asking the City to cede considerable control over key areas of public property. The City should get something in return. City Council must be allowed to keep the commitment it made to the public in the 2017 master plan: to pursue reuse of those historic buildings.

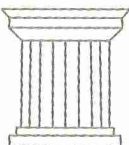
These concerns inspired the Society's summer petition drive. We collected 7,600 signatures, giving voice to many who share our views on the interpretive plan's shortcomings. **I would like to submit these petitions to the city clerk.** These binders contain documentation for both the written and the online petitions.

The City of San Antonio should not give away one of its great civic spaces without knowing more precisely what that space will look like in the future. We *do* believe that a mutually beneficial partnership with the State is possible, but this is not the framework for it. Do not agree to the current proposal – do not let the State dictate that this is how we will access and experience Alamo Plaza for the next 50 to 100 years!

SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Susan Beavin, 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.

