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San Antonio Conservation Society Unveils Compromise Plan for Alamo Plaza Saving the Woolworth Building and its Important Civil Rights History

San Antonio, Texas - May 7, 2019 - The San Antonio Conservation Society today unveiled a compromise plan for Alamo Plaza showing how the Woolworth and Crockett Buildings can become part of the new Alamo museum that will interpret the history of the 1836 battle.

The plan preserves the Woolworth Building as a visible link to San Antonio's civil rights history. During the national sit-in movement of the 1960s, the first voluntary and peaceful integration at a Woolworth's lunch counter in the South took place within these walls.

"Today, we are sharing conceptual drawings that demonstrate how the Woolworth and Crockett Buildings can contribute to the new Alamo museum, showcasing the history of the 1836 battle, the mission that founded our city, and the civil rights milestone achieved here six decades ago," said Susan Beavin, president of the Conservation Society. "It is a true compromise. This proposal combines the best of the old with the new to tell the full story of Alamo Plaza. We show how it is possible to reveal and interpret the western wall of the Alamo footprint, while preserving century-old buildings and an important site in the American civil rights movement."

The Conservation Society, which has been advocating for the preservation and re-use of the Crockett and Woolworth Buildings since their purchase by the State in 2015, funded the compromise plan prepared by Alamo Architects.

The Society belongs to the Coalition for the Woolworth Building, whose members helped unveil seven renderings illustrating the proposed plan.

The plan shows both the original footprint of the Alamo mission and fortress and how it will be delineated according to the interpretive plan. Most of the northern wall's footprint remains under the Gibbs Building and Federal Building. "Our proposal reveals the location of the mission's west wall by carving an arcade through the existing buildings, allowing pedestrians to preview exhibits in the

museum,” said Beavin. “A new central entrance, the arcade, and the four-story addition to the rear allow creative architectural expression for the museum.”

The arcade leads visitors to areas within the Woolworth Building footprint that include the approximate locations of the Treviño House that served as Travis’ headquarters, and the Castañeda house. This option also includes space to interpret the Woolworth’s lunch counter on the spot where integration occurred on March 16, 1960. Moreover, these spaces are in the shade, inviting extended viewing year-round.

“We hope that the architects for the new Alamo museum will consider the benefits of a design that reflects the complete history of the plaza,” said Beavin. “We encourage the public to reach out to the General Land Office and city leaders with their reactions to our plan.”

For a closer look at the SACS compromise plan and the renderings, visit <https://www.saconservation.org/alamo-museum-compromise-plan/>.

Information is also available on www.facebook.com/saconservation. On Twitter, please use #SavetheWoolworth.

The 2018 Alamo plan, which was approved by a series of committees composed of citizens and officials at local and state levels, places a museum where the three buildings stand on the plaza. Renderings released last year show variations of what the museum could look like, including preserving the buildings, retaining the facades or razing them to make way for new construction.

About the San Antonio Conservation Society

The San Antonio Conservation Society was founded in 1924 to promote the preservation of the buildings, landscapes, and culture of San Antonio. Through the years, we have fought to protect the unique history of our region.

Visuals for the Media

Please use this link to access the renderings illustrating the SACS Compromise Plan and the SACS logo: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/10t6b6am6vwt8ad/AABzKfAC6cjksk_7GoR9phYMa?dl=0