

Las Tiendas de Lerma's Groundbreaking

San Antonio, TX (July 3, 2019) **We are pleased to announce we've hired Davila Construction and that we are going to have the official groundbreaking ceremony for Lerma's building on Monday, July 15, 2019 at 10am. This Ceremony will take place in front of Lerma's building at 1602 N. Zarzamora St., San Antonio, TX starting at 10am with the press conference at 10:30am. This event will be a great photo opportunity for community members before we start selective demolition of the building leading into construction. Hard hats, shovels and Conjunto music will be part of the celebration.**

Lerma's was the longest running live conjunto music venue and is a registered local and national landmark. Lerma's has been closed since July 2010. Since then musicians such as Perla Tapatia, Pavo, Boom Boom, Nick Villarreal, Rita Vidaurri and the previous owner of Lerma's, Gilbert Garcia, as well as other conjunto musicians who once performed at Lerma's, have passed away. **The Esperanza Peace and Justice Center** is the current owner and caretaker of Lerma's and we have been working diligently to do all our pre-construction environmental work, finish our construction documents, and to fundraise from public and private funds to get the building up and running as a vibrant cultural space.

The Lerma's building will be used as cultural arts center and community space. Near the Basilica of the Little Flower, and close to the corner of Zarzamora and Culebra, this building is located in one of the poorest areas of San Antonio and will have a significant impact on the community once open. Lerma's will have far-reaching and long-term positive effects on this community and future generations to come. We are a 32-year nonprofit expanding our cultural and social justice community programming into West End, one of the oldest neighborhoods in San Antonio. This neighborhood is one of the few places in San Antonio where the African-American and Mexican-American community have lived and coexisted together. We plan to offer future cultural programming around the jazz scene that thrived in the neighborhood, the Chicano jazz and Chicano blues fusion, along with the American folk music sounds of Conjunto music.

We thank the San Antonio City Council (\$500,000) and the Bexar County Commissioners (\$500,000) for publically and financially supporting the Esperanza's efforts to rehabilitate a unique and authentic part of San Antonio's cultural and historic fabric. This move to invest in our historic and rich cultural heritage is the first time since the Guadalupe Cultural Arts, back in the early 80's, that the City of San Antonio and Bexar County have invested in a Capital Project of a Latino Arts Organization. We must resist gentrification and create the world that we want to see by preserving our Cultura and Heritage.

It's been a long hard road and it's not over, but with the community's support Lerma's will LIVE again!

For more information, contact:

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Timeline and Review:

· August 2010	Community shows up en masse to oppose demolition and support preservation of Lerma's
· September 2, 2010	National Trust for Historic Preservation Intervention Grant awarded
· September 15, 2010	San Antonio City Council Approves Landmark Designation
· December 2010	Grant awarded by San Antonio Conservation Society
· January 2011	Texas Historical Commission determines that Lerma's Building is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
· March 2011	National Register of Historic Places designates Lerma's building to be listed for Bexar County
· January 2012	Esperanza Peace and Justice Centers purchases Lerma's from Mary and Gilbert Garcia
· May 2014	Lerma's is identified by Preservation Texas as one of Texas Most Endangered Places and worthy of preservation funds
· September 2015	San Antonio City Council Approves \$500,000 for Stabilization of Lerma's Building, spearheaded by Councilman Robert Treviño and unanimously supported by City Council
· October 2016	Esperanza seeks and hires Architect Alex Gonzalez and design team to create Architectural plans and construction documents
· Early September 2017	Las Tiendas de Lerma's Construction Documents are approved by the City of San Antonio
· September 2017	Bexar County Commissioners Court approves inclusion of matching funds of \$500,000 towards Lerma's stabilization, spearheaded by County Commissioner Paul Elizondo and unanimously supported by Bexar County Commissioners for the 2017-2018 Annual Budget
· December 2018	Texas Commission for Environmental Quality and Environmental Protection Agency gives the all clear after six long years
· February 2019	New Bexar County Commissioner Justin Rodriguez finalizes the Lerma's Funding Agreement at Bexar County Commissioners Court
· March 1, 2019	Public Bid Request for General Contractors to restore Lerma's is publicly advertised
· May 1, 2019	Sealed Bid Openings at the Esperanza Center (International Workers Day)
July 1, 2019	Selection of Davila Construction for restoration of Lerma's
July 15, 2019	Lerma's Groundbreaking Event