



June 15, 2020

San Pedro Creek Culture Park

100 East Guenther Street

San Antonio, TX 78204

Dear Culture Park Partners:

The Conservation Society of San Antonio was pleased to participate in the recent Focus Group through our Executive Director Dr. Vincent Michael. The Focus Group appraised the discovery of the foundations and cornerstone of the 1875 St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church as part of the San Pedro Creek Culture Park project. It was exciting to learn that the full footprint of the church exists along San Pedro Creek.

The Conservation Society of San Antonio urges the San Antonio River Authority, Bexar County, and City of San Antonio to conserve the full foundation footprint of the historic church as part of the San Pedro Creek Culture Park. It is very rare to find a complete foundation such as this. This is a remarkable opportunity to conserve and commemorate an important site in African-American history.

African-American history is woefully underrepresented in San Antonio's public spaces. This foundation and cornerstone can provide a visceral connection to an important chapter in our past while enhancing the experience of the Culture Park. While this will require changes to the design, the Conservation Society feels that this opportunity to present such an exciting find to the public in perpetuity and in the context of the San Pedro Creek Culture Park cannot be missed.

Sincerely,

Patti Zaiontz, President

pc: Kerry Averyt, Leslie Crippen, Jerry Geyer, Rev, Alvin Smith, Shanon Miller, Betty Bueche, Steve Tomka, Steve Tillotson, Clint McKenzie, Dr. Carey Latimore, Everett Fly, Gary Houston, Lon Taylor