

September 23, 2020

CONSERVATION SOCIETY STATEMENT ON ALAMO PLAN

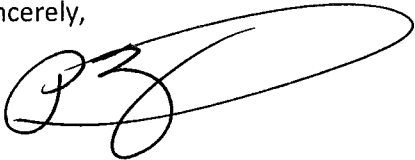
This week, the Texas Historical Commission denied the permit to relocate and restore the Cenotaph in Alamo Plaza, citing the standard that historic structures should only be relocated if such action is necessary for their survival. The Conservation Society of San Antonio understands this conservation principle and has always believed that the focus should be on the conservation and preservation of the historic structures on Alamo Plaza, especially the Alamo chapel and Long Barracks, which have been a symbol of freedom and bravery for almost two centuries.

Since 2015 The Conservation Society of San Antonio has urged the State of Texas to locate the proposed new Alamo Museum in the Crockett and Woolworth Buildings. This has been and remains our top priority in regard to Alamo Plaza.

Contrary to popular perception, in 2017 we largely supported the Alamo Master Plan since it promised to enhance connectivity and repurpose the historic buildings facing the chapel. We led a petition drive against the Alamo Interpretive Plan in 2018 because it did not enhance connectivity and depicted removal of the historic buildings. In 2019 we provided architectural drawings showing how the Crockett and Woolworth Buildings could be incorporated into a new, 130,000 square foot museum. That year the Texas Historical Commission voted to designate the Woolworth Building a State Antiquities Landmark at the urging of the Coalition for the Woolworth Building, which we helped found.

In 1883 the Alamo was the first historic landmark purchased by a public body west of the Mississippi River. Today it is part of a World Heritage Site and carries national, state and local landmark designation. The future of the Alamo and its historic structures should be held to the highest standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PZ', enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.

Patti Zaiontz, President