



December 19, 2024

STATEMENT of Lewis Vetter, President

RE: Demolition Permit Issued for the Institute of Texan Cultures Building

The Conservation Society of San Antonio laments the lack of public input into the decision to allow the demolition of one of the few permanent structures of Hemisfair '68, a pivotal event in our history. This rushed decision by the Texas Historical Commission fails to consider any re-use possibilities for the building. This building could be easily adapted for Project Marvel or other uses, saving the public millions of dollars in demolition and remediation costs.

Why are we rushing to demolish a building and have a vacant lot for the next five years while we await Project Marvel? There is no set plan for the site, only the quaint 20<sup>th</sup> century notion that sites must be cleared before new construction can even be designed. We are better than that.

UTSA issued a brief adaptive re-use summary for the building recently. Due to the mathematical and other errors in the document, we contacted the Texas Historical Commission to set the record straight.

In addition, UTSA seems blithely unaware of upcoming changes to the review process for the National Register of Historic Places and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards which could make innovative re-use of the building lucrative for a private owner like the San Antonio Spurs. The Conservation Society of San Antonio has been directly involved with this process for many years.

No public input. No testing of the market. No knowledge of the context. Bad math. We are better than that. Let's be allies, UTSA, and work together on what is best for taxpayers and our heritage!