

## HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

December 18, 2024

**HDRC CASE NO:** 2024-414  
**COMMON NAME:** Silk Road Cultural Heritage District  
**ADDRESS:** Wurzbach Rd between Fredericksburg Rd and I-10 West (generally)  
**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** NCB 15688 BLK LOT P-99  
**CITY COUNCIL DIST.:** 8  
**APPLICANT:** Office of Historic Preservation  
**TYPE OF WORK:** Endorsement of Cultural Heritage Recognition

### REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting endorsement of “San Antonio’s Silk Road” as a Cultural Heritage District. The district is located roughly along Wurzbach Road between I-10 and Fredericksburg Road with additional clusters of businesses and culturally meaningful sites in the surrounding area.

### FINDINGS:

- a. The Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) recognizes noteworthy sites, structures, objects, businesses and the living heritage—the expressions, traditions, knowledge, skills, identity, and representations— that impart a distinct aspect to the city and serve as tangible and intangible reminders of the city's culture and heritage. Cultural Heritage recognition is designed for neighborhoods, corridors, individual buildings, sites, objects, and elements of social heritage that hold historic or cultural value to the community beyond architectural value. Cultural Heritage recognition is an honorific title that is bestowed by the Historic and Design Review Commission (HDRC) upon recommendation from (OHP) staff. The first Cultural Heritage district was recognized in 2005.
- b. The Silk Road Cultural Heritage District (SRCHD) is proposed to recognize the many cultures and communities whose roots stem from North and Central Africa to Eastern Asia that shop, live, and interact within a geographic cluster in northwestern San Antonio. The linear core of the SRCHD consists of the homes, businesses, organizations, and institutions with cultural significance to culturally diverse communities along Wurzbach Road. The SRCHD is roughly bounded by Fredericksburg Road to the west and I-10 to the east. Clusters of additional sites are found within a mile radius of the core.
- c. Many of the family-owned businesses are food-related, bringing communities together with different types of restaurants with regional cuisines and supermarkets specialized in catering to multinational communities such as the Ali Baba International Food Market, which endeavors in bringing meals sensitive to specific cultural groups and imported from multiple countries. Other supermarkets cater to specific demographics.
- d. The Office of Historic Preservation hosted three community listening sessions and has met with multiple stakeholders throughout 2024. A draft has been made available on SASpeakUp and can be translated into multiple languages. Staff has incorporated public and stakeholder feedback into the final report.
- e. Staff finds that the Silk Road Cultural Heritage District demonstrates cultural significance for its contribution to the cuisine, languages, cultures, immigration patterns, and economy of San Antonio.

### RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends endorsement of the Silk Road Cultural Heritage District.

### CASE MANAGER:

Gloria Colom Braña

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

# Silk Road Cultural Heritage District

A Partnership Between the Office of Historic Preservation  
and City Council District 8



December 18, 2024





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## Acknowledgements



Special acknowledgment to the following institutional partners, without which this project would not be possible:

- City Council District 8
- The Silk Road Commission
- Culturingua
- Mehr Foundation
- Bilal Deiri and the Hajivandi family, Owners of Pasha
- Ashraf Nahil, owner of Ali Baba
- The World Heritage Office
- Department of Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility
- Bob Ross Senior Center
- Center for Refugee Services

Finally, this report would not be possible without the invaluable stories provided by the community who have agreed to record their stories and provide photographs and other archival documents.



# What is Cultural Heritage?

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The City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) protects the cultural resources that make San Antonio unique. OHP recognizes and promotes the understanding that San Antonio's historic environment is a shared resource. This mutual heritage, composed of many layers of time and cultures, includes the intangible (stories, traditions, experiences) as much as the tangible (buildings, public spaces, landscapes.) OHP works to identify, designate, and celebrate resources that have been identified by the community as having cultural significance. A **cultural heritage district** represents a collection of tangible and intangible resources that contribute to a community's sense of place and cultural identity.

Cultural significance is evaluated by identifying and assessing heritage values associated with a site. Values can be organized in categories of aesthetic, historic, scientific, and social values. For this report, values have been determined through research, engagement with community, and primary information gathered through site visits.

The concept of cultural significance is encouraged in heritage management practices to ensure the recognition of all the cultural meanings a place might hold. Understanding a place and assessing its cultural significance is a valuable tool in decision-making that has the potential to impact places.

Reports produced by the OHP follow the guiding principles and philosophies of the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) as provided in various documents, including The San Antonio Declaration, the Venice Charter, the Burra Charter, the Nara Document on Authenticity, and the Washington Charter, among others.







## Summary

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The Silk Road Cultural Heritage District (SRCHD) is proposed to recognize the many cultures and communities whose roots stem from North and Central Africa to Eastern Asia that shop, live, and interact within a geographic cluster in northwestern San Antonio. The linear core of the SRCHD consists of the homes, businesses, organizations, and institutions with cultural significance to culturally diverse communities along Wurzbach Road. The SRCHD is roughly bounded by Fredericksburg Road to the west and I-10 to the east. Clusters of additional sites are found within a mile radius of the core. This report furthermore seeks to recognize places and histories throughout all of San Antonio that contribute to this theme.

The proposed name for the district is a reference to the historic Silk Road which consisted of a series of trade routes that extended over thousands of miles interconnecting the Mediterranean Basin with East Asia that allowed for the sharing of commerce, cultures, and belief systems. These routes were named in the English language after silk, one of the most iconic products that made it halfway across the world for centuries. Lasting from 130 BC to 1453 AD, the series of routes, both via land and sea, and the regions these touched represent the breadth and scope of a sizable portion of the globe. Many of the communities that live, work, and enjoy visiting the Wurzbach corridor and surrounding region originate from the lands that intersected these historic routes, spanning from North Africa to Eastern Asia, representative of up to thirty countries. The City of San Antonio's Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility has indicated the most spoken languages beyond English for the Upper Northwest region which encompasses the Silk Road Cultural Heritage District. These are Spanish followed by Arabic, Vietnamese, Telugu, Tamil, Pashto, Chinese, Dari, Hindi, and Tagalog. The Office of Historic Preservation has been translating outreach documents into Arabic, Pashto, Farsi, Gujarati, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Spanish. These lists only begin to scratch the surface of the communities that both live in and enjoy visiting the Wurzbach Road corridor and surrounding areas.

Many of the family-owned businesses are **food-related**, bringing communities together with different types of restaurants with regional cuisines and supermarkets specialized in catering to multinational communities such as the Ali Baba Supermarket, which endeavors to bring meals that are sensitive to various cultural groups and imported from multiple countries. Other supermarkets cater to specific demographics.

These lists only begin to scratch the surface of the communities that both live in and enjoy visiting the Wurzbach Road corridor and surrounding areas.

## Period of Significance



The period of significance for the SRCHD begins in the 1960s and extends into the present (2024). This period marked significant changes in the landscape, local institutions, and demographics, leading to the current corridor. It is understood that the period of significance will continue to grow over time with a steady influx of refugee populations in this area.

The core of the proposed district lines Wurzbach Road from I-10 to Frederiksberg Road. The district recognizes additional areas at the intersection of Babcock and Eckhert Roads, along both Wurzbach and Fredericksburg Roads, and scattered throughout San Antonio. Most of the sites are located near and around the Medical Center and United Services Automobile Association (USAA) San Antonio Campus.

## Early San Antonio



The San Antonio area has been inhabited for thousands of years by the First People's of Texas including the Payaya (Peyaya), Pamaya, Sijame, Xaramé and Mesquite, among others. San Antonio was colonized by Spain in 1718 and has since seen waves of European, Anglo-American, Latin American, and African American communities move into San Antonio. The city saw the political changes and shifts through the recognition of the city, the creation of the Texas Republic in 1836, incorporation of the city in 1837, and later incorporation of Texas into the United States in 1845.

Between 1880 and 1947 the United States government imposed multiple immigration exclusionary laws to forbid the entrance of non-European immigrants, especially from Asia. Even with multiple exclusion acts some communities were able to immigrate into the United States and settle down. In 1896, Fred Kadane, a Syrian man who had recently arrived in San Antonio, described his first impressions of Texas as "Cowboys, Indians were walking up and down Main St. in Denton." He also observed that "Saloons and Gambling houses wide open. Silver Dollars were stacked on the tables knee high. Wild horses, wild women, and it seemed to me everyone there was wild... there was nothing left to do but peddle (Key 2024)."



Syrian and Lebanese communities immigrated to San Antonio along with Italians immigrants between 1900 and 1930. There was a lot of back and forth between home and the US - "Many immigrants, both male and female, left their spouses, children, parents, and extended families behind in their villages and towns. Thus, some returned to Lebanon to escort family to the Mahjar (place of immigration) or to build newer and bigger houses back home and improve the living conditions of their families before resuming their lives in their new country (Stevens and Knepper 2015)." The following extract is from "Texas Bound: Syrian-Lebanese Immigrants in the Lone Star State" and describes aspects of the migration during the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth century:

"Between 1870 and 1930, roughly 300,000 individuals immigrated to the Americas from the region Bilad al-Sham (the lands that today encompass Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine/Israel). From this mass migration, 90,000 moved to the United States, with 1,600 settling in Texas. There was no single factor that drove this mass migration, instead people came for a combination of personal, economic, political, and social reasons. The slow collapse of the Ottoman Empire was a major driving force for economic and political instability in the region, which opened the door for French and English authorities to begin exercising control over certain parts of "Greater Syria." Lebanon specifically suffered economic hardships given that famine had destroyed their primary export, silk in the late 19th century, at a time when Japan and China began to take over and saturate international silk trade, undercutting the prices for what little silk Lebanon was able to export. Lebanese and Syrian families struggled to support themselves in the Ottoman Empire, so they began to look beyond for opportunities (Khater, Stevens, and Foster 2024)."

According to Jay Cody Key's research, the Saint George Maronite church in San Antonio was founded in 1925 and was originally located at the corner of Pecos and Martin Street in a two-story home. "The Church was reconstructed in 1952 brick by brick using the old Church's materials on North Frio Street and Morales, not too far from the original location. This site would eventually be condemned by the Urban Renewal Agency in 1967, forcing the final migration of the Church from its central location in the city to a 14.5-acre plot of land off Babcock, miles Northwest of where the community originally began (Key 2024)." This neighborhood, known as "Laredito" was also home to many Lebanese, Syrian, and Chinese refugees who had fled the Mexican Revolution (1910-1917). This group included the 527 Chinese Mexicans who assisted General John J. Pershing in his pursuit of Francisco (Pancho) Villa in 1917 who settled in San Antonio (Briscoe 1959). Scott Huddleston wrote in the San Antonio Express "The Chinese community created its own school in the 1920s. One of its teachers, Theodore H. Wu, operated a grocery in the HemisFair area and became a co-founder of Boysville, a children's home that opened in 1943 for troubled youth. He later opened the Tai Shan Restaurant in an art deco building on Broadway that later housed the Fiesta Commission offices for a time (Huddleston 2017). Another organizer of the school, Don Wong, arrived in San Antonio before Pershing's group in 1912. He opened a bakery in today's Market Square area, and raised several children who became business owners or

professionals. The Chinese and Chinese descended population in San Antonio grew in after 1943 when the Chinese Exclusionary Act was repealed.

Huddleston wrote that Cantonese Chef Kok An Huey opened Hung Fong on Broadway in the 1930's. The restaurant became popular with the military troops nearby and has become the longest running Chinese Restaurant in San Antonio, continuing to operate to this day.

## History and Development of the Wurzbach Corridor



Wurzbach Road is named after William A. Wurzbach (1869-1939), the second child of Charles and Kate Wurzbach. William Wurzbach married Emily Schmeltzer, and in 1904 he purchased 1,200 acres in northwest San Antonio with his father-in-law, Gustav Schmeltzer. The Wurzbachs built their “summer retreat” at this location, near present-day I-10 and Wurzbach Road. This area was distant from downtown San Antonio, so there were few modern amenities. William Wurzbach constructed a paved road, installed power lines and phone lines, and built a house near Fredericksburg Road. In February 1908, William Wurzbach and Richard Bluemel donated land to the county government and the commissioners granted a petition to open to the public what was then known as “the Wurzbach Road,” which ran northeast from Fredericksburg Road. In addition to the Wurzbachs, several other prominent San Antonio families owned property along the Wurzbach Road, where they maintained summer homes and farmland: Friedrich, Groos, Sullivan, et. al.

Multiple large-scale developments and the expansion of city limits between the 1950s and 1970s shaped the landscape where the SRCHD is located. The construction of the I-10 interstate highway was a lengthy and large-scale endeavor that was completed between 1957 and 1968. The San Antonio Medical Foundation was created in 1944 to begin conceptualizing new medical institutions. The Medical Foundation spearheaded the construction of the current Medical Center, a grouping of public and private teaching hospitals servicing veterans and the greater public. Construction of the Methodist Hospital was completed in 1963 (Allen 2022). The University of Texas Medical School and the Bexar County Teaching Hospital (University Health) were inaugurated on July 12, 1968.

In 1925, twenty-five military veterans funded The United Services Automobile Association (USAA) in San Antonio to provide car insurance for members of the military (“USAA Company History,” 2024). The business eventually began providing veterans and their families insurance at a national level. The company moved its campus to the current location near I-10 in 1976 where it still operates to this day. The USAA offices are considered a major employer in San Antonio working with the military, and veterans, and employing people from throughout the United States and the world.



Many other things happened in 1976 within the same region, which impacted the movement and populations throughout the area. In 1969, the University of Texas at San Antonio was established in the outer perimeter of San Antonio just a few miles north of the SRCHD. The new campus attracted an international student body, many of whom ended up settling in San Antonio, calling the city home. During this year the Robert F. McDermott Elementary School located near Fredericksburg Road, named after a retired Airforce Brigadier general who took over as USAA president in 1969, opened.

During all this time there were tight-knit communities from the earlier and more recent diasporas that found each other through cultural spaces. The author and poet Naomi Shihab Nye, born in St. Louis in 1952 to a Palestinian father and white mother, moved to San Antonio in 1967 after having lived in Jerusalem. Shihab Nye shared the following recollections:

I'm Naomi Shihab Nye Palestinian-American writer, born in 1952 in St. Louis; moved to San Antonio 1967 - from Jerusalem. Grad. Trinity University have worked as visiting writer for 50 years in hundreds of schools here [and] elsewhere.

Father Aziz Shihab (Born in Jerusalem 1927) was a reporter at the San Antonio Express News from 1967-1975. The newspaper sold to Rupert Murdoch then (my father had a disagreement with his editorial demands and sued him - then went to Dallas to be a writer/editor for the Dallas Morning news. My mother Miriam Allwardt Shihab, born in Illinois 1927, worked as a substitute teacher for the SAISD. My father started a Cultural Exchange Group (discussing everything BUT NOT politics!) in around 1970 - it met at Incarnate Word University - big attendance then! My father helped to bring or sponsor many Palestinian cousins, nieces, nephews, to come to San Antonio.



Shihab Nye recollected two restaurants in particular: Ralph Nasri Karam's Kantina which served Mexican food formerly located at the intersection of Zarzamora and W Commerce Streets and an Arabic restaurant that served either Lebanese or Syrian food owned by Dr. Souheil Samuel Tawil, a professor who taught various San Antonio universities. According to the City Directory of San Antonio of 1976, there were roughly 30 East Asian restaurants throughout San Antonio, serving mainly Chinese and Japanese food (City Directory San Antonio 1976).

Families continued to move into San Antonio from the 1970s into the twenty-first century for work and studies, establishing themselves in the city and seeking to find community and familiar food options. A large Iranian population was established in the 1970s, drawn to San Antonio for studies and military training with the Air Force (Times 1979). Other groups arrived to work closely with the Medical Center, the University of Texas in San Antonio, and other businesses. Nadia Mavrakis shared in an interview with Texas Public Radio, "...there is this hub that grew a few decades ago with new students coming from the Middle East, North Africa, Asia region — studying here in San Antonio," continuing, "And the Wurzbach Road Corridor started to become the hub for where those residents lived (Palacios and Katz 2023)."

Restaurants and supermarkets catering to Middle Eastern, North African, Central Asian, South Asian, and Southeast Asian cuisine began to crop up, providing both national and regional dining, as community members saw a growing need.

During all this time, San Antonio has been a military city, catering to multiple branches of the United States armed forces, maintaining a strong presence even as multiple bases have opened and closed throughout the years. Geopolitical involvement of the United States military in the Middle East and Central Asia along with the connections of the military with San Antonio has made the city a center for displaced people. With a strong foundation established, people fleeing other conflicts and persecution made their way to San Antonio as well. As Vincent Davis stated in a 2017 newspaper article "San Antonio has welcomed people from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Nepal, Myanmar, and Syria, fleeing famine, religious persecution and war (Davis 2017)." Refugees from these and many other countries have been arriving in waves that are dependent on both national and international policies, but also on networks based on family and friends, already established in San Antonio (Busch 2020). In the 1990s refugees were coming from Croatia, Kosovo, Somalia, and Iraq (Parker 1997; Hoholik 1999). The 2000s saw people fleeing conflict, often minoritized groups such as Kurdish people from Northern Iraq, the Karen people from Myanmar, and the Bantu people from Somalia (Davis 2010c). The 2010s, even in times of complex geopolitical policies saw refugees coming in from Syria along with other parts of the world (Albadri 2018). The United State's retreat from Afghanistan in 2021 saw the arrival of thousands of Afghan refugees arriving in San Antonio seeking to create a new life (Torres 2023). This is not an exhaustive retelling and cannot do justice to each complex story of survival, tragedy, and joy of the thousands of people who have made San Antonio their home.





## Community Organizers

There have been various refugee-based organizations in San Antonio for decades. These include organizations such as the House of Prayer Lutheran Church, Center for Refugee Services, Communities in Schools, and the Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement program, amongst others. These organizations have and continue to provide services that include assisting with bureaucratic processes, reunification with families, attaining and maintaining safe housing, access to food, education, and other necessities needed by families that are rebuilding their lives.

Catholic Charities established the Refugee Services in 1973 to work with Vietnamese refugees coming to the United States due to the Vietnam War (Davis 2010). They have continued to provide both basic necessities and advocacy regarding issues such as transportation, education, and access to other resources over the years (Davila 2014).

The Center for Refugee Services, has provided a landing ground for thousands of displaced peoples from throughout the world both near and far since 2008, providing food, access to interpreters, baby products, and welcoming kits amongst other vital services over the years.

Culturingua is an organization that works with youth, community, and economic development, civic engagement and arts and culture with communities of Middle Eastern North African, and South Asian Heritage. The Mehr Foundation promotes Persian arts and culture within San Antonio. There are many other cultural, business, and professional organizations along with religious instructions were established and continue providing multiple venues of support for the thousands of people with a multitude of lived experiences within the area of the proposed SRCHD.

The multi-generational communities, spanning communities that have been in San Antonio for generations along with the recently arrive coexist and often work together in ensuring that the more vulnerable are taken care of. Some examples out of the countless stories include the yearly drives hosted by Catholic Charities to help collect donations (Davis 2010b), refugee families have housed other families to avoid houselessness for those in great needs (Davis 2010a), Afghan Village Restaurant & Afghan Halal Market supplementing the help that Afghan refugees receive from the local organizations, and the Mehr Foundation's work with Pasha Mediterranean Grill during the Covid Pandemic of 2020 to provide free warm meals to those who needed them ("Free Meal Giveaway by MEHR Foundation & Pasha" 2020).

## The Process



Multiple stakeholder groups and communities had been working to bring recognition, economic development, and foster community cohesion in the Wurzbach corridor. In response to the multiple paths towards greater recognition, Manny Palaez, Councilmember for District 8, submitted a Council Consideration Request (CCR) seeking recognition of San Antonio's "Silk Road," leading to the recognition of the SRCHD.

The Office of Historic Preservation began outreach to major stakeholders individually to assess the needs and asks of the proposed district. Three community listening sessions were held at the Bob Ross Senior Center on Wurzbach where community members actively participated in place marking and writing down their stories. Through this process the OHP was able to define the core and surrounding areas, focusing on restaurants, supermarkets, and community-serving institutions and nonprofits. OHP staff then prepared the staff report based on the collected data, supplemented by archival research.





## Oral Histories and Community Stories

### Ashraf Nahil

Ashraf Nahil, owner of Ali Baba International Food Market stated “When they come here, they feel like, wow, you took us back home. Wow, we feel like back home. Wow, when you grind the coffee, it smells like back home. You know, things like this. So, they, they like it. Plus, you know, um, a lot of times families or people come and shop here. They meet their friends that they haven't seen in a long time. Um, they, um, I have sometimes customer, they sit, you know, they just stand in a corner there and, and they talk for like half an hour because they haven't seen each other (Culturingua 2024).”







## Bilal Deiri

Bilal Deiri is the owner of Pasha Mediterranean Grill and other establishments in San Antonio. These are his words when interviewed by Culturingua on the creation of the restaurant Pasha: "The Middle Eastern population has grown, so this particular area, for whatever reason, a lot of international refugees are brought here and housed in a lot of the apartments close by, Alibaba is, you know, probably close to 30-year-old Middle Eastern grocery store. There is an Islamic Masjid [mosque] not far from here. So the area kind of already had some of the things that, you know someone as a refugee coming from a Middle Eastern Country or someone with that type of background would already be looking for, and it kind of became an epicenter for that community um and we did what we could to help with that right piecing together all the property on this corner so we went from owning just one building to all the buildings around it right so it used to be the Diane flack furniture store behind us we purchased that the building that Alibaba was in we purchased that and Arby's we purchased that there was a churches chicken here we bought that knocked it down for parking helped you know not renewed leases for tenants next to Alibaba so they could expand and make it bigger and everything around here has change in the fact that you know you see I mean I don't know you walk around and you see the diversity in this area is like nothing else anywhere in the city.

You see people from everywhere around the world just walking up and down the streets and being kind of in the middle of that has been a really unique atmosphere and we feel like it's important for the city to have kind of a cultural district right you know it's kind of become that naturally on its own so I would say that's how its changed because when we opened it was not anything like that we had people scattered throughout but nothing like what it is today (Culturingua 2024)."

## Naomi Shihab Nye

Naomi Shihab Nye was born to a Palestinian father and American Mother in St. Louis, Missouri but was raised in San Antonio, Texas. Much of her life's work has been one of creating bridges across cultures through her world-renowned poetry and fiction writing. The following is Shihab Nye's "Visiting the Ali Baba Grocery / Market always makes me cry. It is such a transporting experience (Shihab Nye 2024)."



## Community Feedback

The following statements were provided by a resident during the Community Listening Sessions. "My parents immigrated to San Antonio in 1976 from the Middle East. At that time, San Antonio was mostly homogenous. As the years have passed, the city has grown into a beautiful multi-cultural melting pot. The Hispanic influence is always front and center which makes sense, but as more people join our city it is important to acknowledge their contributions as well.

I visit the corridor frequently. The variety of ethnic restaurants and grocery stores is absolutely wonderful. Our city is becoming more diverse and it's lovely to see more representation from these immigrant communities. Everyone I've come into contact with has been very welcoming."

# Recommendations & Implementation

Based on this assessment, the Silk Road Cultural Heritage District demonstrates cultural significance for its contribution to the cuisine, languages, cultures, immigration patterns, and economy of San Antonio. The Office of Historic Preservation therefore recommends that the HDRC endorse the Silk Road Cultural Heritage District. In addition, the following are existing opportunities within OHP existing heritage programs that support the SRCHD and which can function to highlight specific aspects and sites of cultural significance to the community:



Recognize sites, businesses, and institutions that are currently in operation, but also recognize businesses, institutions, and buildings that no longer exist but have had a significant impact on the community.



Use the There's a Story Here story mapping tool to build an online repository of significant places, whether they are buildings, businesses, or institutions through the memories and stories of the communities that consider them meaningful.



Support community stakeholders in preparing grant-based proposals and advocate with district council members to promote culturally based initiatives. The following are some examples of potential projects that stakeholder groups have raised.



Maintaining communication with local stakeholders to gauge changing needs and concerns over time through periodic meetings and assisting with community initiatives such as storytelling sessions and community activities.





Consider placing one or multiple History Here markers which provide on-site storytelling. These markers are coordinated by OHP. The text is prepared by the community and peer-reviewed by a team of historical experts within San Antonio. There is an application process and fee to cover the cost of production.

The following sites are candidates for History Here Markers:

- **Cielo Community Gardens** – 10226 Ironside Dr, San Antonio, TX 78230. House of Prayer Lutheran Church, to recognize the work with interfaith community members from the Wurzbach corridor to find joy and solace in gardening along with providing other services in collaboration with other organizations.
- **Shopping Center with Ali Baba International Food Market** – This shopping center is one of various areas where international food and other services are clustered together. It provides an assortment of food experiences and is a driving business core on the Wurzbach Corridor



Consider creating a logo representative of the the district to use on materials pertaining to the Silk Road Cultural Heritage District.

Precedents of logos used by local stakeholders:





The Legacy Business Program is designed to recognize and boost businesses that have endured over time. There are currently two Legacy Businesses that have been officially recognized as part of the nomination process:

**Ali Baba International Food Market** (9307 Wurzbach Rd, San Antonio, TX 78240)

**Pasha Mediterranean Restaurant** (First location at 9339 Wurzbach Rd, San Antonio, TX 78240)

### **Proposed for Legacy Business Program:**

**Golden Wok (1972)** (8822 Wurzbach Rd, San Antonio, TX 78240) This Chinese restaurant specializes in dim sum meals and has been a popular staple for San Antonio in the last 50 years.



**India Palace (1996)** – (8474 Fredericksburg Rd #100, San Antonio, TX 78229) – India Palace has been in the same location at The Oaks Shopping Center serving the community for almost thirty years.





**Dahlia Thai Cuisine (1990s)** – (8498 Fredericksburg Rd, San Antonio, TX 78229) – Dahlia Thai has served the Medical Center and local communities their delicious Thai food at The Oaks Shopping Plaza for over twenty years.



**Center for Refugee Services (2008)** - (8600 Wurzbach Rd Suite 802, San Antonio, TX 78240) – The Center has helped thousands of people in their most vulnerable moments in finding a footing.







## Art Installations

Continue inspiring and promoting art installations featuring community talent such as Artwork by Muhammad Firdaus' "A New Home" installed on the roof of the bust stop at the intersection of Wurzbach Road and Ironside Drive (Images courtesy of Culturingua).



## Mural Projects

Another example of possible public art that recognizes the diverse experiences of San Antonio's community. An example of this is the Muses project in San Francisco painted in 2018 by a collaboration of artists. (Image credit: <https://www.aawaa.net/generations-of-hope>).





## Street Signs or Street Sign Toppers



## Light poles with banners



## Crosswalks

Creating and implementing unique crosswalks within the district such as this one in Oakland's Chinatown

(Credit: <https://transportation.art/2021/04/06/creative-crosswalks-in-oaklands-chinatown/>).







## Creating Open Green Spaces

Exploring the possibility of creating addition of walkable areas and gardening initiatives such as adding the Rock Creek Drainage Easement to the Linear Greenway Trail System, where Culturingua has been hosting Service Day community clean up events (Images Courtesy of Culturingua).



There may be additional design considerations or expansion of projects such as the Medical Center Loop paved trail currently proposed for the west side of the Medical Center. Additional information is available at the Activisa Webpage: <https://activatesa.org/our-work>



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## Cultural Resource Survey



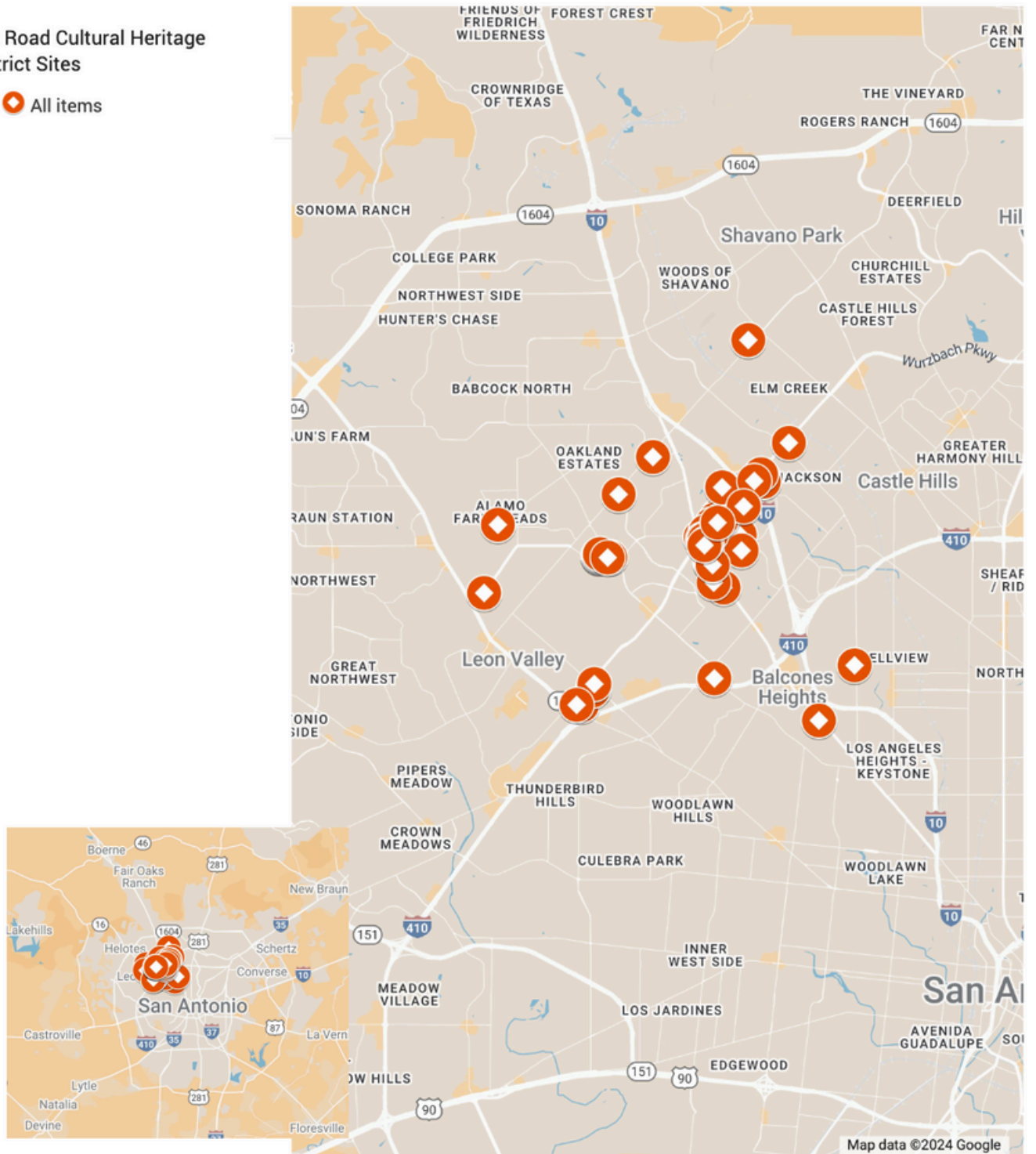
The survey was centered on sites of meaning, especially institutions and businesses, it includes various specific buildings, but the significance draws from community recognition. Foodway plays a significant role in providing diasporas intersecting definitions of home as well as introducing San Antonians to global cuisines in the process. The survey includes other places where communities congregate such as non-profit organizations, local businesses, religious institutions, and others such as gardens.





## Silk Road Cultural Heritage District

## Silk Road Cultural Heritage District Sites



#	Name	Business/institution/gov	Known Ethnicity or specialization	Existing or closed
1	Afghan Bakery & SheerYakh, @BakeryABS	Restaurant	Afghani pastries	Existing
2	Afghan Kabab House	Restaurant	Afghani food	Existing
3	Afghan Village Restaurant & Afghan Halal Market	Restaurant	Afghani Restaurant and Market	Existing
4	African Village Ethiopian restaurant	Restaurant	Ethiopian Restaurant	Existing
5	Baba Shawarma Food Truck	Restaurant	Shawarma	Existing
6	Baba Wali Restaurant	Restaurant	Afghani food	Closed?
7	Baklava	Restaurant	Middle eastern pastries	Existing
8	Berni Vietnamese Restaurant	Restaurant	Vietnamese Food	Existing
9	BiryaniExpress San Antonio	Restaurant	Indian Food	Existing
10	Bombay Street Food kitchen-Biryani house	Restaurant	Indian food	Closed?
11	Cedar Mediterranean Grill	Restaurant	Mediterranean restaurant	Existing
12	Chef's Table Turkish Mediterranean Grill	Restaurant	Turkish Mediterreanean restaurant	Existing
13	Crepeccino Café & Crêperie	Restaurant	European serves a variety of Italian and French food	Existing
14	Dahlia Thai Cuisine	Restaurant	Thai restaurant	Existing
15	Dallah Mediterranean Cuisine	Restaurant	Mediterranean restaurant	Existing
16	Dr. Souheil Tawil's Restaruant	Restaurant		

17	French Sandwiches	Restaurant	Sandwich shop	Existing
18	Fusion Food	Restaurant	Fusion restaurant	Existing
19	Golden Meals Restaurant	Restaurant	Mediterranean restaurant	Existing
20	Golden Wok	Restaurant	Chinese Restaurant	Existing
21	Himalayan Bazar	Restaurant	Indian grocery store	Existing
22	India Palace	Restaurant	India restaurant	Existing
23	Indian Street Flavor	Restaurant	Indian Restaurant	
24	Jasmine Thai Restaurant	Restaurant	Thai restaurant	Existing
25	Kababchi Grill	Restaurant	Mediterranean restaurant	Existing
26	Kahramana Mediterranean Grill	Restaurant	Mediterranean restaurant	Existing
27	Karam's Mexican Restaurant	Restaurant	Mexican restaurant	Closed
28	King Of Shawarma and Kebab Halal	Restaurant	Mediterranean restaurant	Existing
29	Luxor	Restaurant	Mediterranean restaurant	Existing
30	Makan Halal Cuisine	Restaurant	Mediterranean restaurant	Existing
31	Mencius' Gourmet Hunan Restaurant	Restaurant	Chinese Restaurant	Existing
32	Mexican Manhattan	Restaurant	Mexican restaurant	Closed



33	Moroccan Bites Tajine	Restaurant	Moroccan restaurant	Existing
34	Naara Cafe and Hookah	Restaurant	Middle eastern restaurant	Existing
35	Pasha Mediterranean Grill	Restaurant	Mediterranean restaurant	Existing
36	Radad Grill	Restaurant	Mediterranean restaurant	Existing
37	Sevin Mediterranean Kitchen	Restaurant	Mediterranean restaurant	Existing
38	Shisha Cafe	Restaurant	Mediterranean restaurant	Existing
39	Sultan Cafe and Grill	Restaurant	Mediterranean restaurant	Existing
40	Tandoor Palace Indian Restaurant	Restaurant	Indian restaurant	Existing
41	Trices Cafe and Lounge	Restaurant	African restaurant	Existing
42	Ubon's Thai Cuisine	Restaurant	Thai restaurant	Existing
43	Zaatar Lebanese Grill	Restaurant	Lebanese restaurant	Existing
44	Al Madina Meat Market	Grocery	Meat products store	Existing
45	Ali Baba International Food Market	Grocery	Middle eastern store	Existing
46	Aryana Halal Meat Market	Grocery	Asian grocery store	Existing
47	Asia Market	Grocery	Asian grocery store	Existing
48	Babylon Bakery	Grocery	Middle eastern bakery	Existing

49	Baklovah Bakery & Sweets	Grocery	Middle eastern bakery	Existing
50	Bengal Grocery Fish And Halal Meat	Grocery	Bengali grocery store	Existing
51	Burmese Foods	Grocery	Asian grocery store	Existing
52	Cuban Grocery Co.	Grocery	Cuban grocery	Existing
53	Indian Supermarket	Grocery	Indian grocery store	Existing
54	Man Pasand Indian Pakistani Halal Groceries Supermarket	Grocery	Grocery store	Existing
55	Minnano Japanese Grocery	Grocery	Japanese grocery store	Existing
56	NOOR GROCERY	Grocery	Asian grocery store	Existing
57	Saffron Indian Grocery & Fresh Produce (OPEN)	Grocery	Indian grocery store	Existing
58	Tj African Market	Grocery	African grocery store	Existing
59	Basila Frocks	Other Commercial	Building	Closed
60	Workforce Solutions Alamo Career Center - Datapoint	Other Commercial	Employment Center	Existing
61	Skin & Wigs Etc	Other Commercial	Wig shop	Existing
62	Hair Stylist Sedat Kurukluoglu	Other Commercial	Hair Salon	Existing
63	Ultimate Dental Care	Other Commercial	Dental Clinic	Existing
64	International Refugee Community Garden	Environment	Community garden	Existing

65	Cielo Community Garden at House of Prayer Lutheran Church	Environment	Lutheran church	Existing
66	Rock Creek drainage easement & potential future trail	Environment		
67	VIA Bus Stop with Malaysian Refugee Art	Environment		
68	Center for Refugee Services	Institutions	Social services	Existing
69	Culturingua	Institutions	Non-profit organization	Existing
70	House of Prayer Lutheran Church	Institutions	Lutheran church	Existing
71	Hussainiah of San Antonio- حسينية سان انتونيو	Institutions	Religious destination	Existing
72	Islamic Center of San Antonio	Institutions	Mosque	Existing
73	Islamic Education Center - San Antonio - IECSA	Institutions	Education Center	Existing
74	Mehr Foundation	Institutions	Cultural association	Existing
75	Rahmani Masjid and Learning Center	Institutions	Mosque	Existing
76	St. George Maronite Church	Institutions	Catholic church	Existing
77	Shiraz	Restaurant	Persian Restarant	Closed
78	"A New Home"	Art Installation	Student Art installation at bus stop	