

HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

March 20, 2024

HDRC CASE NO: 2024-081
COMMON NAME: Robert B. Green Way
ADDRESS: Right of Way at Robert B. Green Way
ZONING: UZROW
CITY COUNCIL DIST.: 5
APPLICANT: City of San Antonio
OWNER: City of San Antonio
TYPE OF WORK: Memorial Way designation for Jovita Idár
APPLICATION RECEIVED: February 22, 2024
CASE MANAGER: Charles Gentry
REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting a recommendation from the HDRC to add the Jovita Idár Memorial Way name designation to Robert B. Green Way bounded to the west by North Frio Street and La Trinidad Street to the east, with no change to the official street name or mailing addresses.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

Sec. 6-674. - Commencement of the process for changing the name of a street and/or adding the designation of a memorial name.

- (a) An application to change the name of a street or adding a memorial name designation shall only be filed with the development services department by:
 - (1) A member of the city council;
 - (2) The director of development services, if it is determined that the street name change is in the best interest of the health, safety, welfare, and public convenience and safety of the citizens of San Antonio;
 - (3) One of the following located on the subject street:
 - a. A group;
 - b. An agency;
 - c. A business;
 - d. An owner of property; or
 - (4) An officer or authorized representative of a governmental subdivision, agency, or department.
- (b) The official application shall be on a form prescribed by the development services department. A complete application shall consist of:
 - (1) The official application form, and
 - (2) Required fees (see section 6-677).
- (c) In addition to the official application, the following shall be submitted:
 - (1) The name and address of all owners of property affected by the name change. The applicant shall submit this information for the purposes of official notification. The development services department shall verify the list of owners of property. An incorrect notification list shall cease the case until such time that a correct list is submitted by the applicant.
 - (2) A copy of the complete application shall also be submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation so that a review as provided in subsection 6-675(c) may commence.
- (d) There shall be an application completeness review that shall take no longer than ten (10) business days.
- (e) From the date of the respective city council action, a segment of street that city council has approved for change of name or addition of memorial designation may not be altered for a period of five (5) years.

(Ord. No. 2011-03-31-0239, § 1, 3-31-11; Ord. No. 2011-12-15-1049, § 1, 12-15-11; Ord. No. 2017-05-04-0296, § 1, 5-4-17)

Sec. 6-675. – Administrative review.

- (a) The development services department shall distribute copies of the application for review and comment

to:

- (1) Every city department.
 - (2) The United States Postal Service.
 - (3) Bexar County
 - (4) Bexar Metro 9-1-1 Network
 - (5) Applicable School District(s)
 - (6) City Public Service Energy
 - (7) San Antonio Water System
 - (8) BexarMet Water System
 - (9) Texas Department of Transportation
 - (10) Any other department or entity the director may determine is appropriate
- (b) The agencies listed in subsection (a) shall have a review and comment period consisting of no more than ten (10) days. The ten-day review and comment period shall begin the next business day following the completion of the application completeness review. All agency comments shall be addressed by the applicant before placement on any commission agenda. If no comment is received by a reviewing agency by the tenth (10th) day, the application shall be presumed acceptable by that agency.
- (c) During the administrative review of the application, the office of historic preservation shall make a determination whether the current street name affected by the application meets any of the following criteria:
- (1) Names a street within a historic district, whether that be local or the National Register;
 - (2) Names a street wholly within, or a street with a portion within, the original thirty-six (36) square mile boundary of San Antonio;
 - (3) Is the name of a primary arterial as shown on the Major Thoroughfare Plan of the city. Should any of these criteria be found, consideration by the historic and design review commission shall be required before the case can be scheduled for consideration by the planning commission, and any recommendation from those considering bodies shall be forwarded to the city council for their review.
- (d) Staff shall schedule the item for consideration on the next available agenda of the planning commission or historic and design review commission, if applicable, following the completion of the administrative review period.

(Ord. No. 2011-03-31-0239, § 1, 3-31-11; Ord. No. 2011-12-15-1049, § 1, 12-15-11)

Sec. 6-676. - Public hearing process for renaming.

- (a) The renaming of streets, including the designation of a memorial name, requires a recommendation from city staff, the planning commission at a public hearing, the historic and design review commission if determined under subsection 6- 675(c), and final consideration by city council at a public hearing.
- (b) Not less than ten (10) days before the first public hearing, the development services department shall:
- (1) Mail notice of the public hearing(s) to all owners of real property along the subject street segment as listed in the Bexar County Appraisal District, and registered neighborhood associations within which the subject street segment is located. Notices of public hearing(s) for renaming streets shall contain the following:
 - a. An explanation of the request; and,
 - b. The submitted street name(s); and,
 - c. The general location of the street to be renamed; and,
 - d. The justification for the renaming submittal; and,
 - e. The date, time, and place of the public hearing(s) to consider the new street name(s); and,
 - f. A statement that the meeting(s) shall be open to the public in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act and shall provide time for public comment; and,
 - g. Information directing that any written response in favor of or against a submitted name change may be sent to the development services department.
 - (2) Post notice on the development services department's internet website and leave posted throughout the entire public process.
- (c) At the public hearings, the planning commission shall consider the request and make a recommendation

on the suggested name(s).

(d) The planning commission's recommendations and rationales for the recommendations shall be forwarded to the city council for final consideration in accordance with the city council agenda item scheduling procedures.

(e) Notification of the city council public hearing shall be as prescribed in section 6-676. Should the city council approve the new name(s), the written rationale of the planning commission shall be kept by the city clerk for historical reference.

(Ord. No. 2011-03-31-0239, § 1, 3-31-11; Ord. No. 2011-12-15-1049, § 1, 12-15-11)

FINDINGS:

- a. The applicant has proposed to add the designation of a Memorial Way for Jovita Idár to Robert B. Green Way, formerly known as Perez Street, bordered by North Frio Street to the west and La Trinidad Street to the east. This portion of Perez Street was granted a Memorial Street Name Designation in 2019 at the request of the University Health System and the City of San Antonio. Robert B. Green Way is located on San Antonio's westside just north of the Cattleman Square Historic District. The street is not a primary arterial, but continues south as North Medina Street and is connected to La Trinidad Street on the east, both of which are north-south thoroughfares. It is located in the City's original thirty-six square mile boundary, but not in a historic district; it is directly north of the Robert B. Green Memorial Hospital at 903 West Martin Street, a local landmark site which is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places (2018). Perez Street continues to the west, bounded by Haven for Hope Way to the east and NW 26th Street to the west, with another break in-between due to Alazan Creek.
- b. HISTORY OF PEREZ ST – The street was established as early as 1873, and has been named Perez St since the mid to late 19th century. The street was most likely named for Lt. Col. Ygnacio Perez, an early settler of San Antonio who served as the Ad-Interim Governor of Spanish Texas in 1816. The family had large land holdings not only within the city, but also a ranch on the Medina River that totaled over 17,000 acres. They were one of the most influential families in early San Antonio history. The Perez family purchased what is now known as the Spanish Governor's Palace in ca. 1806, and Perez resided there at times during his tenure as Ad-Interim Spanish Governor, thus the name Spanish Governor's Palace. Other early settlers and distinguished families such as the Jose Francisco Ruiz family had streets named in their honor in this area. Thus, the Perez Street name is one of the last remaining vestiges of this important chapter of our city's history.
- c. PEREZ ST DEVELOPMENT – Perez Street is also significant as one of the few streets within the area to have retained historic 19th century residential resources: 215 and 219 Perez Street. The two historic structures at 215 and 219 Perez Street are designated local historic landmarks and the only examples of 19th century housing stock to remain in the vicinity. The Jose Maria Gonzales House at 215 Perez Street dates to at least the late 19th century and is one of the few remaining jacal structures within San Antonio. The Charles Cuneo House at 219 Perez may have been constructed as early as 1855 (based on deed research) as a single-story stone structure comprising the first floor of the present building but this is not certain. The stone first floor may have been constructed ca. 1870 or later. The house represents a settlement style residence of limestone block construction on the first floor and buff brick on the second. Although nearly obscured by modern development and surface parking lots, the two houses at 215 and 219 Perez Street have survived demolition and represent the last vestiges of the 19th century residential neighborhood that originally comprised the area.

- d. STREET NAME CHANGE – The proposed street name change is from Robert B. Green Way to Jovita Idár Memorial Way. Robert B. Green was born in downtown San Antonio in 1865 and attended the German-English School on S Alamo St and Texas A&M University. He was appointed as a District Court Judge for the Thirty-Seventh District by the Governor in 1893. He was elected County Judge at the turn of the 20th century and was subsequently elected to the State Senate. His senate tenure is largely remembered for his championing of causes for the “common man,” including working conditions for miners. He died in 1907 at the age of 42. Following his death, County Judge James R. Davis led the establishment of Robert B. Green Memorial Hospital, which opened in February 1917. The hospital site is a local historic landmark and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in November 2017 under Criterion A (local level) in the area of Health/Medicine as the public hospital that has serviced Bexar County since its opening.

Jovita Idár was born in Laredo in 1885, one of eight children of Jovita and Nicasio Idár. She became known for her work as a teacher, journalist, and political activist. In 1903, she earned a teaching certificate from the Holding Institute (a Methodist school in Laredo), and then taught at a small school in Ojuelos. Frustrated by the inadequate equipment and poor conditions at the school, as well as her inability to improve them, she resigned and joined two of her brothers as writers for her father's weekly newspaper, *La Crónica*. The newspaper supported efforts of the revolutionary forces in Mexico, and was vocal in criticizing certain aspects of Hispanic-Anglo relations in 1910 and 1911. *La Crónica* published stories about educational and social discrimination against Mexican Americans, deteriorating economic conditions, decreasing use of the Spanish language, the loss of Mexican culture, and lynchings of Hispanics. She ran the paper after her father died in 1914.

In 1917 Idár married Bartolo Juárez, and the couple moved to San Antonio, where Jovita Juárez became an active member of the Democratic Party. She also established a free kindergarten, worked as an interpreter for Spanish-speaking patients in the Robert B. Green Memorial Hospital, and was an editor of *El Heraldillo Cristiano*, a publication of the Rio Grande Conference of the Methodist Church. She died in San Antonio in 1946.

To celebrate the release of the Jovita Idár Quarter, the ninth coin in the American Women Quarters™ Program, the Mexican American Civil Rights Institute (MACRI) held a series of community events from September 15-17, 2023. On March 9, 2024, MACRI hosted a dedication ceremony and blessing of “Las Esperanzas y Justicias de la Ave Negra,” MACRI's first commissioned public art piece, which commemorates the life and legacy of Jovita Idár. Created by San Anto Cultural Arts with lead artist Rosalinda Alvarez Turuda and assistant Adrian Alvarez, the mural is located at Dress for Success San Antonio (600 North Frio Street), just steps from where Jovita Idár lived and worked.

- e. STREET NAME CHANGE – The applicant has met street name change requirements as outlined in UDC Sections 6-674, 6-675, and 6-676.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the street name change based on findings a through e.

0 0.0375 0.075 0.15 mi

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1:4,637

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST

COSA - CITY CLERK
XEROX
2024 FEB 16 PM 02:24

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Teri Castillo, District 5 Councilmember

COPIES TO: Erik Walsh, City Manager; Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk; Andy Segovia, City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Emily McGinn, Assistant to Mayor and City Council

SUBJECT: Designation of a Memorial Way for Jovita Idar

DATE: 02/16/2024

Issue Proposed for Consideration

We ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the City Council:

Designation of a Memorial Way on Robert R Green Wy from La Trinidad St to N Frio St - with no change to the official street name or mailing address - for Jovita Idar

Brief Background

Background provided by the Mexican American Civil Rights Institute:

The early twentieth century saw the rise of anti-Mexican sentiment in the United States. Ethnic Mexicans were segregated and discriminated against in social and educational spaces, and they were lynched and faced with other forms of racial violence primarily perpetrated by the Texas Rangers.

Jovita Idar (Laredo, 1885 - San Antonio, 1946) dedicated her life to denouncing and actively

fighting against anti-Mexican violence and injustice. Idar began her career teaching at under-resourced ethnic Mexican schools in Texas. Later Idar became a journalist, and wrote for her family's Spanish language activist newspaper, *la Cronica*. She wrote in favor of women's suffrage and education, and denounced anti-Mexican discrimination, educational segregation, and racial violence. She continued writing throughout her life for *la Cronica* and other publications including *El Progreso*, *la Prensa*, *El Heraldo Cristiano*, and her own newspaper, *la Evolucion*.

Idar also took direct action in helping alleviate the issues she wrote about. In 1911, after the lynching of 14 year old Antonio Gomez, the Idar family organized *El Primer Congreso Mexicanista* to discuss issues facing the community. There, Idar founded the *Liga Femenil Mexicana* which started free bilingual schools and fundraisers for children. During the Mexican Revolution, Idar joined the revolutionary army as a nurse for the Cruz Blanca.

After the war, Idar moved to San Antonio's Westside where she spent the rest of her life. She continued her activist journalism, helped undocumented workers obtain naturalization, tutored ethnic Mexican children, and educated women on hygiene and childcare. A teacher, journalist, nurse, health educator, and political activist in the ethnic Mexican community, Jovita Idar expanded the conversation around equity and organized political groups to directly meet the needs of ethnic Mexican women and children. She is an important figure remembered for her work towards better conditions, opportunities, and rights for Mexican Americans in South Texas and beyond.

Permanently commemorating **Jovita Idar** - Mexican American journalist, suffragist, educator, and civil rights hero - is the first step of many in ensuring San Antonio's Mexican American heritage and legacies are appropriately celebrated and honored throughout our city.

Submitted for Council consideration by:

Teri Castillo

Councilwoman Teri Castillo, District 5

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)

District

1. *[Signature]*
2. *[Signature]*
3. *J-R-R*
4. *[Signature]*

2
6
2
1

(https://www.legacyoftexas.com/product/texas-almanac-2024-2025?utm_source=handbook&utm_medium=leaderboard&utm_campaign=texas-almanac-2024-2025&utm_content=energy)

Idár, Jovita (1885–1946)

By: Nancy Baker Jones (<https://www.tshaonline.org/about/people/nancy-baker-jones>)

Revised by: Jessica Brannon-Wranosky (<https://www.tshaonline.org/about/people/jessica-brannon-wranosky>)

IDÁR, JOVITA (1885–1946). Jovita Idár, teacher, journalist, and political activist, was born in Laredo in 1885, one of eight children of Jovita and [Nicasio Idár \(/handbook/entries/idar-nicasio\)](/handbook/entries/idar-nicasio). She attended the Holding Institute (a Methodist school) in Laredo, from which she earned a teaching certificate in 1903. She then taught at a small school in Ojuelos. Inadequate equipment and poor conditions, as well as her inability to improve them, frustrated her, so she resigned and joined two of her brothers as writers for her father's weekly newspaper, *La Crónica* (</handbook/entries/la-cronica>).

In 1910 and 1911 *La Crónica* was vocal in criticizing certain aspects of Hispanic-Anglo relations. It featured stories on educational and social discrimination against [Mexican-Americans \(/handbook/entries/mexican-americans\)](/handbook/entries/mexican-americans), deteriorating economic conditions, decreasing use of the Spanish language, the loss of Mexican culture, and lynchings of Hispanics. The newspaper also supported efforts of the revolutionary forces in Mexico. In 1911 *La Crónica* called a convention of the Orden Caballeros de Honor, a fraternal order, to discuss the troubling issues of the times. In September 1911 Jovita Idár joined lodge members and others at Laredo in the First Mexican Congress to discuss educational, social, labor, and economic matters. Women participated as speakers and participants; for some it was the first political meeting. This congress has been called the first attempt in Mexican-American history to organize a militant feminist social movement. That same year, Idár published a pro-[woman suffrage \(/handbook/entries/woman-suffrage\)](/handbook/entries/woman-suffrage) piece in *La Crónica*. In 1916, when she and her brother, Eduardo, formed another newspaper entitled *Evolución*, they continued to advocate publicly through their press the importance of women's rights in politics. Another outcome of the congress was the formation in October 1911 of [La Liga Femenil Mexicanista \(/handbook/entries/liga-femenil-mexicanista\)](/handbook/entries/liga-femenil-mexicanista). Jovita Idár became its first president and organized its principal effort, to provide education for poor children.

In 1913 during the [Mexican Revolution \(/handbook/entries/mexican-revolution\)](/handbook/entries/mexican-revolution) battle of Nuevo Laredo, Idár and a friend, [Leonor Villegas de Magnón \(/handbook/entries/villegas-de-magnon-leonor\)](/handbook/entries/villegas-de-magnon-leonor), crossed the border to care for the injured. Idár later joined La Cruz Blanca, a medical group similar to the Red Cross, and traveled in northern Mexico with revolutionary forces as a nurse. When she returned to Laredo later that year she joined the staff of the newspaper *El Progreso* and soon offended the United States Army and [Texas Rangers \(/handbook/entries/texas-rangers\)](/handbook/entries/texas-rangers) with an editorial protesting President Woodrow Wilson's dispatch of United States troops to the border. When rangers arrived to close down *El Progreso*, Idár stood in the doorway to keep them from entering. The rangers closed the newspaper later, however, and Idár returned to *La Crónica*. After her father died in 1914, she ran the paper.

In 1917 Idár married Bartolo Juárez. The couple moved to San Antonio, where Jovita Juárez became an active member of the [Democratic Party \(/handbook/entries/democratic-party\)](/handbook/entries/democratic-party), established a free kindergarten, worked as an interpreter for Spanish-speaking patients in a county hospital, and was an editor of *El Heraldo Cristiano*, a publication of the Rio Grande Conference of the [Methodist Church \(/handbook/entries/methodist-church\)](/handbook/entries/methodist-church). She and her husband had no children. She died in San Antonio in 1946.

Jessica Brannon-Wranosky, "Southern Promise and Necessity: Texas, Regional Identity, and the National Woman Suffrage Movement, 1868-1920" (PhD dissertation, University of North Texas, 2010). Martha P. Cotera, *Diosa y Hembra: The History and Heritage of Chicanas in the U.S.* (Austin: Information Systems Development, 1976). José E. Limón, "El Primer Congreso Mexicanista de 1911," *Aztlán* 5 (Spring, Fall 1974). Mary Beth Rogers et al., *We Can Fly: Stories of Katherine Stinson and Other Gutsy Texas Women* (Austin: Texas Foundation for Women's Resources, 1983). Gabriela González, "Jovita Idar: The Ideological Origins of a Transnational Advocate of *La Raza*," in *Texas Women: Their Histories, Their Lives*, eds. Elizabeth Hayes Turner, Rebecca Sharpless, and Stephanie Cole (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2015).

Categories:

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September 22, 2020

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Jovita Idar Mural Dedication Ceremony and Blessing

Join us for the dedication ceremony and blessing of "Las Esperanzas y Justicias de la Ave Negra," a mural celebrating Mexican American civil rights trailblazer Jovita Idar.

Registration is closed
[See other events](#)



"LAS ESPERANZAS Y JUSTICIAS DE LA AVE NEGRA"

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024

**10AM-NOON
CEREMONY STARTS AT
10:30AM**

**DRESS FOR SUCCESS SA
600 N FRIO ST.
SATX 78207**

**LEAD MURALIST:
ROSALINDA ALVAREZ TURUDA**

**ASSISTANT COMMUNITY
MURALIST: ADRIAN ALVAREZ**



**DRESS FOR
SUCCESS®
SAN ANTONIO**

special thanks

San Antonio
Area Foundation

Time & Location

Mar 09, 2024, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM CST

San Antonio, 600 N Frio St, San Antonio, TX 78207, USA

Guests

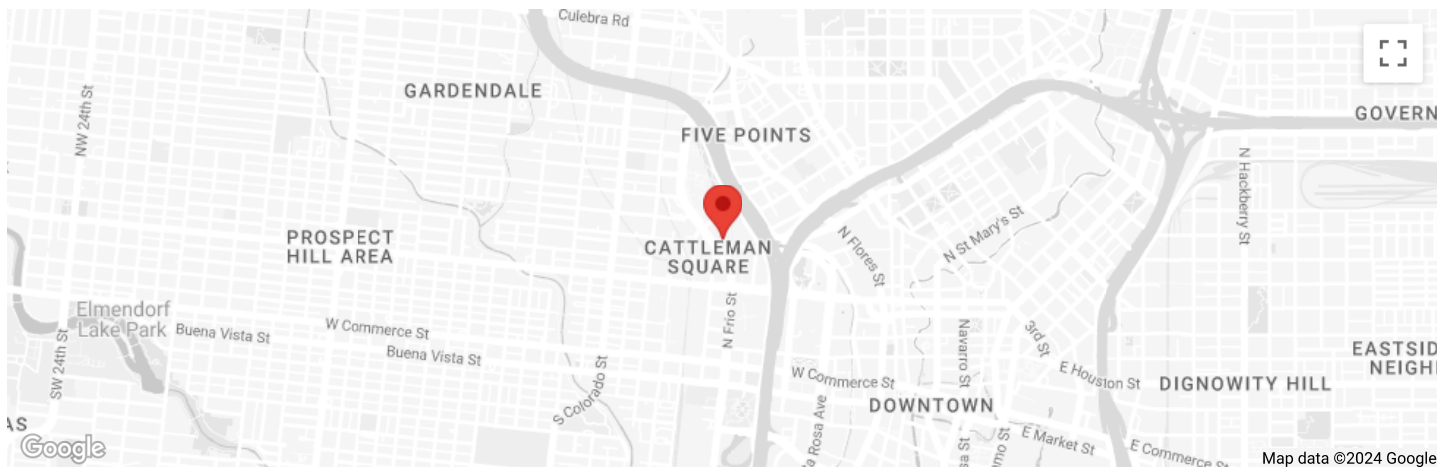
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About the event

Join us for the dedication ceremony and blessing of "Las Esperanzas y Justicias de la Ave Negra," MACRI's first commissioned public art piece, which commemorates the life and legacy of Jovita Idar.

Created by San Anto Cultural Arts with lead artist Rosalinda Alvarez Turuda and assistant Adrian Alvarez and located at Dress for Success San Antonio, just steps from where Jovita Idar lived and worked, the mural was launched during our 3-day Jovita Idar Quarter Launch Celebration in September 2023.

The festivities will begin at 10 am, with the ceremony at 10:30 am.

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Share this event

