

HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

May 17, 2023

HDRC CASE NO: 2023-171
ADDRESS: 501 W COMMERCE
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NCB 330 BLK LOT ALL OF BLK
ZONING: D, H
CITY COUNCIL DIST.: 1
APPLICANT: Bianca Alvarez/Department of Arts & Culture, City of San Antonio
OWNER: Bianca Alvarez/Department of Arts & Culture, City of San Antonio
TYPE OF WORK: Public art installation
APPLICATION RECEIVED: April 25, 2023
60-DAY REVIEW: Not applicable due to City Council Emergency Orders
CASE MANAGER: Claudia Espinosa

REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to install a mural on the back of the existing seating wall at the north side of the park along N Santa Rosa St.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

UDC Section 35-450. General Rules.

(a) Area of Jurisdiction. A certificate of appropriateness is required and shall be secured by a party prior to the issuance of a permit from the department of planning and development services before said party will be allowed to undertake activities affecting a designated historic landmark, property within a designated historic district, a state archaeological landmark, a recorded Texas historical landmark, property within a National Register Historic District, property listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a National Historic Landmark, property within the river improvement overlay district, public property, public rights-of-way, or public art.

UDC Sec. 35-641. - Design Considerations for Historic and Design Review Commission Recommendations.

In reviewing an application, the historic and design review commission shall be aware of the importance of attempting to find a way to meet the current needs of the City of San Antonio, lessee or licensee of public property. The historic and design review commission shall also recognize the importance of recommending approval of plans that will be reasonable to implement. The best urban design standards possible can and should be employed with public property including buildings and facilities, parks and open spaces, and the public right-of-way. Design and construction on public property should employ such standards because the use of public monies for design and construction is a public trust. Public commitment to quality design should encourage better design by the private sector. Finally, using such design standards for public property improves the identity and the quality of life of the surrounding neighborhoods.

UDC Sec 35-642. – New Construction of Buildings and Facilities:

In considering whether to recommend approval or disapproval of a certificate, the historic and design review commission shall be guided by the following design considerations. These are not intended to restrict imagination, innovation or variety, but rather to assist in focusing on design principles, which can result in creative solutions that will enhance the city and its neighborhoods. Good and original design solutions that meet the individual requirements of a specific site or neighborhood are encouraged and welcomed.

(a) Site and Setting.

(1) Building sites should be planned to take into consideration existing natural climatic and topographical features. The intrusive leveling of the site should be avoided. Climatic factors such as sun, wind, and temperature should become an integral part of the design to encourage design of site-specific facilities which reinforces the individual identity of a neighborhood and promotes energy efficient facilities.

(2) Special consideration should be given to maintain existing urban design characteristics, such as setbacks, building heights, streetscapes, pedestrian movement, and traffic flow. Building placement should enhance or create focal points and views. Continuity of scale and orientation shall be emphasized.

(3) Accessibility from streets should be designed to accommodate safe pedestrian movement as well as vehicular traffic. Where possible, parking areas should be screened from view from the public right-of-way by attractive fences, berms, plantings or other means.

(4) Historically significant aspects of the site shall be identified and if possible incorporated into the site design. Historic relationships between buildings, such as plazas or open spaces, boulevards or axial relationships should be maintained

FINDINGS:

- a. The property located at 501 W Commerce is commonly known as Milam Park. Milam Park is located on the west side of downtown. The applicant has requested to install a public art mural on the seating wall facing N Santa Rosa St.
- b. PUBLIC ART – The applicant has proposed to install one public art mural on the existing limestone and tile seating wall on the north side of the park along N Santa Rosa St. The proposed mural would measure 4 ft.(height) x 84.5 ft (length). The design of the artwork is based on community engagement completed by The Department of Arts & Culture and public attendance at the Public Art Committee and San Antonio Arts Commission meetings. The engineering, fabrication, and installation of the sculpture will be managed by a contractor through the Department of Arts & Culture in coordination with the artist. The installation is scheduled to be completed in Summer 2024. Staff finds the proposal generally appropriate.
- c. SITE WORK – The installation of the proposed public art will not require any digging, electrical, or irrigation work to be conducted; however, the mural will be bolted into the existing wall. The applicant has not proposed any landscaping changes to the site. Staff finds the proposal generally appropriate.
- d. ARCHAEOLOGY – The project shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations regarding archaeology, as applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

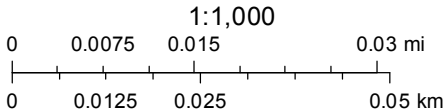
Staff recommends approval based on findings a through d with the following stipulations:

- i. That the applicant submits material specifications to staff for review and approval.
- ii. ARCHAEOLOGY – The project shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations regarding archaeology, as applicable.

City of San Antonio One Stop



May 11, 2023





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COA Support Materials for:
Milam Park Mural
500 W. Commerce St., San Antonio, Texas 78207

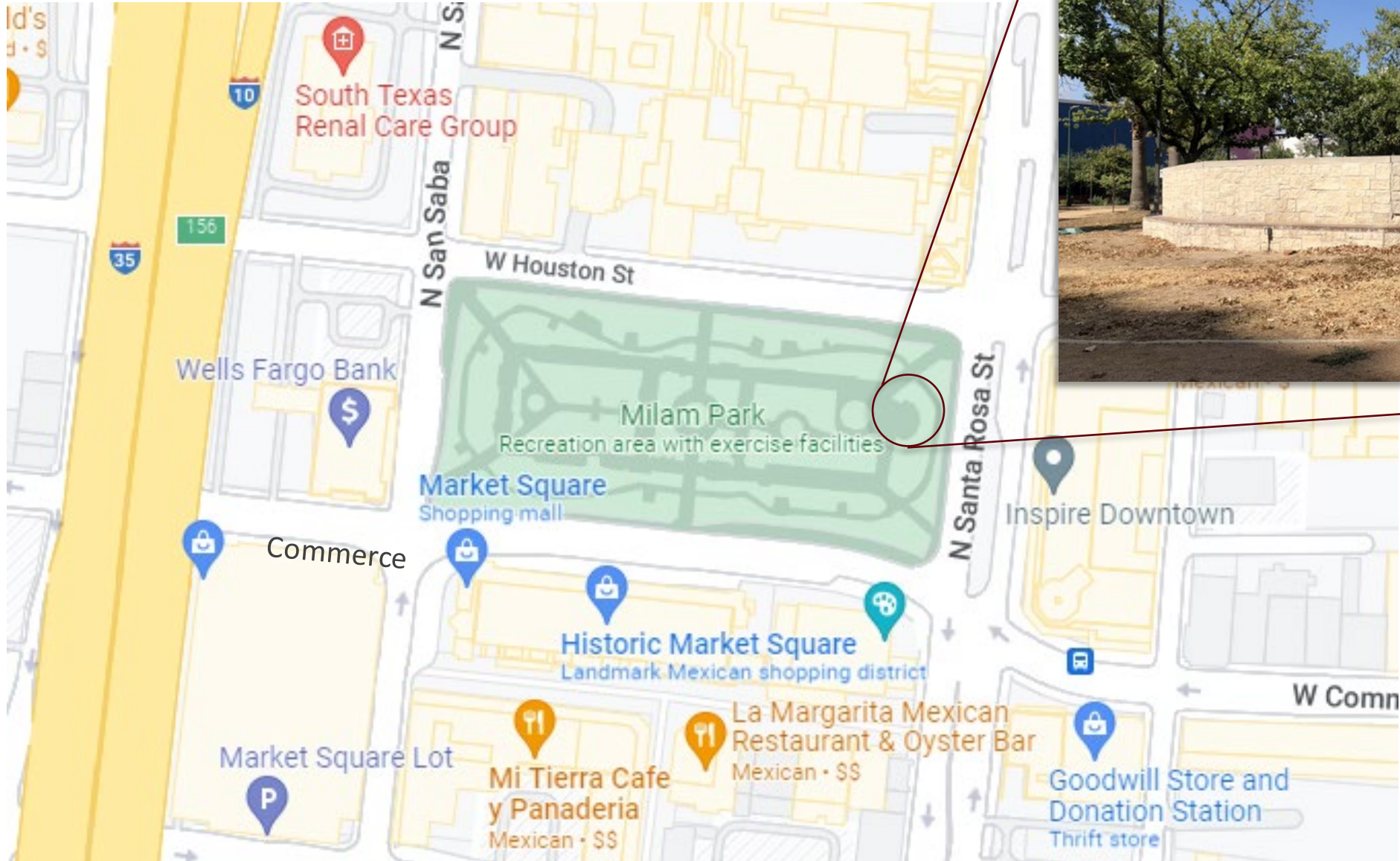
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MILAM PARK

Project Location

Public Art Opportunity



Location: Milam Park
(500 W Commerce St)

Existing Conditions



Seating wall facing N. Santa Rosa St.

Project Scope



In coordination with Public Works and Office of Historic Preservation, The Department of Arts & Culture Public Art Division is proposing to design, fabricate, and install a mural on the back of the seating wall facing N. Santa Rosa St. The mural would measure 4 ft.(height) x 84.5 ft (length). There will be no digging required. All work will be done above ground. Offsite fabrication includes painting on panels that will be bolted to the wall.



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Project Schedule

| Milestone | Start Date | Completion Date |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Project Initiation* | August 2, 2022 | August 2, 2022 |
| Community Engagement | March 1, 2023 | April 30, 2023 |
| Artist Selection* | Spring 2023 | Summer 2023 |
| Design* | Fall 2023 | Fall 2023 |
| Fabrication | Winter 2023 | Spring 2024 |
| Installation | Summer 2024 | Summer 2024 |

**** Require approvals from the Public Art Committee and San Antonio Arts Commission***

Community Feedback Opportunities



| Date | Location |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| March 9, 2023 | Landa Library (tabling) |
| March 15, 2023 | Centro de Artes (tabling) |
| March 29, 2023 | Legacy Park (tabling) |



Survey Link: PublicInput.com/PublicArtMilamPark

Survey Open: March 1-April 30, 2023



Contact:

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www.sanantonio.gov/arts



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