



Fiesta is almost here!

We're ready for the festivities and the opportunity to lend a hand. Remind your friends and patrons that the Centro Information Center is open and ready to help. Located in the Riverbend Garage (West Commerce and North Presa), this destination houses a public restroom and information center—open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and manned around the clock.

Ask an Amigo...we know Downtown!

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS

SPRING 2008

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ben E. Brewer III



Downtown San Antonio is entering a new era—the first phase of renovation of Main Plaza, the centerpiece of the historic civic center, is nearing completion. On Sunday, April 13th, the citizenry will celebrate the re-opening of the central portion of the Plaza and hear about plans for events and activities that will bring new life to the center where San Antonio de Bexar put down its roots in the 1700s. The plan to renovate Main Plaza can be attributed to Mayor Phil Hardberger. It was his vision that led to the design that has been constructed. Main Plaza will once again become a place of gathering that was so inherent in its origin.

Centro San Antonio and the Amigos will play a very important role in the re-birth of Main Plaza. We will contract with the newly established Main Plaza Conservancy to provide maintenance services including cleaning, power washing and horticultural services in the refurbished Plaza and the Portal San Fernando stretching down to the river. We will also provide Ambassador Amigos to serve as eyes and ears for public security and provide guests with directions and historical information. Five new fountains in the Plaza will also be maintained by the Centro Amigos using a special fountain service contractor.

We're honored to have been selected to provide these unique services and look forward to our partnership with the Main Plaza Conservancy. We encourage all San Antonians to come downtown to celebrate the re-opening of the Plaza and stay awhile. Enjoy some music or a snack from one of the food vendors and soak in a bit of history in the original civic center of San Antonio!

A TRADITION BEGINS: RECOGNIZING THE FIRST HONORARY AMIGO

Every day, rain or shine, the Centro Amigos are busy keeping San Antonio polished. Whether with a friendly smile, a groomed flower bed, or a spotless sidewalk, the Amigos are responsible for leaving lasting impressions with this city's daily visitors. Although their presence is never overlooked, there are some very special individuals who go the extra mile to say "thanks" for all of their hard work.

This February, the Centro Amigos awarded the first Honorary Amigo title to Janie Droemer, Director of Sales and Marketing, Ripley's Believe it or Not. In addition to being a Centro San Antonio Board member, Ms. Droemer has been an avid Amigo enthusiast over the years. Her efforts have included organizing a Valentine's Day breakfast for them every year, giving them free Ripley's tickets, and collecting other wonderful prizes for the Amigos to enjoy in their free time.

At this year's Valentine's Day breakfast, the Amigos presented Ms. Droemer with her own Ambassador Amigo shirt, an Honorary Amigo placard, and a colorful hanging basket of flowers. Her spirit of goodwill and giving is very appreciated by the hard working individuals that help keep downtown at its best.



Ms. Droemer is not alone—the Amigos receive praise and gratitude from many of those who make up the fabric of downtown. Centro San Antonio plans to continue the tradition of awarding the Honorary Amigo title to special individuals who support its efforts. Good things always happen when hard work is rewarded and the spirit of appreciation is recognized!

HOUSTON STREET FAIR & MARKET

Any visitor can tell you that the Amigos are always working hard to keep downtown clean, green, and friendly. But, their commitment to downtown's welfare often goes above and beyond expectations.

The Amigos get involved with several community projects including the Houston Street Fair & Market. In addition to providing general information, the Amigos give out balloons, aid with set up and clean up, and add to the general level of merriment that prevails. The clown that makes you smile might just be an Amigo!



MAKE DOWNTOWN SHINE

San Antonio is a favorite destination all year, but certain seasons invite a dramatic increase in visitors: the NCAA Final Four in March, followed shortly by Fiesta in April, culminating in the kick-off of summer and the tourist season shortly thereafter.

In an effort to gear up for this extra traffic, the City's Downtown Operations Department held its annual Make Downtown Shine event in February. This year's focus was on Hemisfair Park, celebrating its fortieth anniversary. Volunteers joined downtown stakeholders, City crews, and the Centro Amigos to clean and restore sidewalks and storefronts. Activities included:

- Painting park benches and newspaper boxes
- Washing windows
- Sweeping and pressure-washing sidewalks
- Picking up litter
- Planting new flowers

Although the Amigos include these tasks in their daily work, they participated in the Make Downtown Shine as part of the Centro mission to make downtown a desirable place to live, work, shop, play, and be entertained.

"Make Downtown Shine is an opportunity for all San Antonio residents and stakeholders to make downtown sparkle," said Paula Stallcup, director of the City's Downtown Operations Department. "We invite volunteers to join us for these cleanup events to beautify our historic downtown."

ASK AN AMIGO!
We Know Downtown

IT'S HAPPENING IN & AROUND DOWNTOWN SAN ANTONIO

LOCAL VENUES

There is so much happening in our city, it's hard to keep up with who's offering what and when. Instead of providing you with a list of events, here's a listing of venues with contact information, including web addresses. Enjoy downtown and all it has to offer!

The Alamo 300 Alamo Plaza / 210.225.1391

Alamodome 100 Montana St. / 210.207.3663

Artpace San Antonio 445 N. Main Ave. / 210.212.4900
www.artpace.org

Aztec On The River 201 E. Commerce, Suite 300
210.227.3930 / www.aztecontheriver.com

Blue Star Contemporary Art Center 116 Blue Star
210.227.6960 / www.bluestarart.org

Carver Cultural Center 226 N. Hackberry
210.207.7211 / www.thecarver.org

Empire Theatre 208 E. Houston St. / 210.226.2121
www.majesticempire.com

Freeman Coliseum 3201 E. Houston St. / 210.224.1374
www.freemancoliseum.com

Gemini Ink 513 S. Presa St. / 210.734.9673
www.geminiink.com

Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center 1300 Guadalupe St.
210.351.7787 / www.guadalupeculturalarts.org

La Villita 418 Villita #903 / 210.207.8610
www.lavillita.com

Magik Theater 420 S. Alamo / 210.227.2751
www.magiktheatre.org

Majestic Theatre 224 E. Houston St. / 210.226.5700
www.majesticempire.com

Market Square 514 W. Commerce / 210.207.8600
www.marketsquaresa.com

McNay Art Museum 6000 N. North Braunfels
210.824.5368 / www.mcnayart.org

McAllister Auditorium 1400 San Pedro Ave.
210.733.2719 / www.accd.edu/sac/theatre/theatrespeech/
McAllister/McAllister.html

Municipal Auditorium 100 Auditorium Circle
210.207.8511

Jump-Start Performance 108 Blue Star / 210.227.5867
www.jump-start.org

RiverWalk 110 Broadway / 210.227.4262
www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com

San Antonio Botanical Garden 555 Funston
210.207.3250 / www.sabot.org

San Antonio Children's Museum 305 E. Houston
210.212.4453 / www.sakids.org

San Antonio Museum of Art 200 W. Jones Ave.
210.978.8100 / www.samuseum.org

San Antonio Symphony 230 East Houston
210.554.1010 / www.sasymphony.org

San Antonio Zoo 3903 N. St. Marys St. / 210.734.7183
www.sazoo.aq.org

San Pedro Playhouse 800 West Ashby / 210.733.7258
www.sanpedroplayhouse.com

SBC Center One SBC Center
210.444.5000 / www.sbccenter.net

Southwest School of Art and Craft 300 Augusta
210.224.1848 / www.swschool.org

Sunset Station-Lonestar Pavilion 1174 E. Commerce
210.222.9481 / www.sunset.station.com

UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures 801 S. Bowie St.
210.458.2330 / www.TexanCultures.com

Witte Museum 3801 Broadway / 210.357.1900
www.witemuseum.org

For more information about what's happening around town, please visit our web site at www.centrosanantonio.org and click on **events**.

AMIGO OF THE QUARTER: DERRICK GONZALES

A native San Antonian and graduate of Jefferson High School, Derrick Gonzales has been an Amigo for over three years and recently began work as a RiverWalk Maintenance Amigo. He enjoys going out on the town and meeting new people. He recommends joining the Amigo team to anyone who enjoys having fun and working outside.

Congratulations Derrick—job well done!

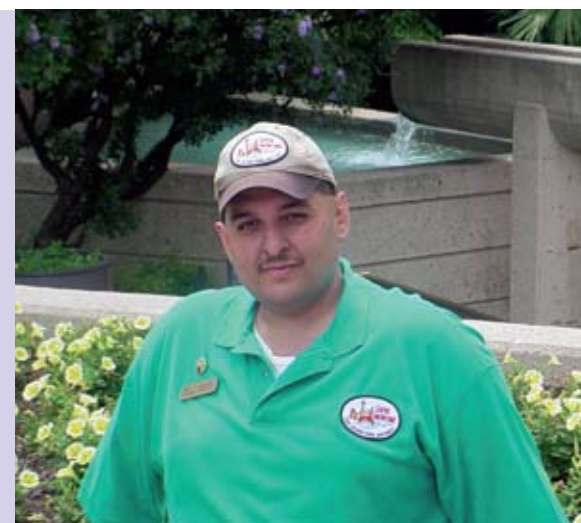
"THANK YOU" RIO MAGAZINE

There's no doubt that the Centro Amigos make any visit to downtown San Antonio more pleasant. But, there are lots of other businesses and organizations that have missions devoted to improving our great city.

The Paseo del Rio Association was founded in 1968 to promote and support the San Antonio RiverWalk. The Association accomplishes its mission by planning special events along the RiverWalk throughout the year and by publishing Rio Magazine, a monthly visitor magazine available online and distributed heavily throughout the city. Additionally, the Association serves as an advocate, facilitator, and moderator among the business, civic, and governmental communities on matters concerning the RiverWalk.

For the past several years, Rio Magazine has generously reserved a column for Centro San Antonio. The entire magazine is a platform to raise awareness for everything that the Alamo City has to offer, and the Ask an Amigo column is a designated forum for the Amigos to inform its audience about all of the things that keep downtown visitors smiling...FREE information and directions, highly maintained flower pots and planted beds, and litter-free, clean sidewalks and walkways.

A big thank you goes to Rio Magazine for making an opportunity for the Amigos. And, a giant pat on the back to the Paseo del Rio Association for extending goodwill toward another organization with the heart and interests of downtown in its mission.



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