



Latinos in Architecture AIA San Antonio

**2020 Diversity Recognition Program Application
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

INTRO + SUMMARY



AIA SAN ANTONIO MISSION

AIA San Antonio unites the community of architects to advance architecture as professional craft and shape a more livable and sustainable future.



LIA MISSION

The AIA San Antonio Latinos in Architecture Committee supports our local communities by participating in volunteer opportunities, investing in community issues, strengthening relationships between professionals in the field of architecture and design and promoting professional and student work. We aim to positively influence students aspiring to become architects and designers by providing guidance and expertise.

Hello! Latinos in Architecture (LiA) is one of about six networks/committees within the AIA San Antonio Chapter. LiA has about 60 members and operates on a volunteer basis. There are no fees or participation minimums to be a member of LiA. The committee meets monthly and holds annual events supporting LiA's mission. In order to eliminate barriers for entry all LiA events are free of charge. Since its conception LiA has raised funds for the sole purpose of funding programming, awarding scholarships, organizing events, and sponsoring speakers, design competitions and exhibitions.

LiA collaborates with local non-profits, institutions of higher learning, schools, festivals, neighborhood associations, community groups, neighbors and architecture firms for events and activities.

This document was created for the 2020 AIA Diversity Recognition Program application and chronicles AIA San Antonio Latinos in Architecture (LiA) Committee contributions to local communities. This document summarizes efforts focused on diversifying creative professions and architecture advocacy. This report serves as the supplemental information attachment requested in the application.

AIA San Antonio's Latinos in Architecture (LiA) network was founded in 2014. This network exists in 6 other U.S. cities, 5 of which are in Texas. In each community, the network has grown from a need to serve underrepresented, growing populations in the architecture community. Not all LiA events and volunteer efforts are included in this document.

For more information please contact lia.sanantonio@gmail.com.

This document was created by Siboney Díaz-Sánchez with help from Luis Ahumada, Adrianna Swindle, Rick Torres, Laura Smith, Torrey Carlton, Belinda Sánchez, Mary Ann Alcorta Mitchell, and others.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

taken from LiA 2014 Introductory Event Report submitted to AIA San Antonio Board of Directors to form LiA San Antonio

REALITY 1 // GROWTH

There is a growing Hispanic/Latino/a/x population in our communities. As of the 2010 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau Hispanics made up 61.2% of San Antonio population. Hispanics/Latinos/a/x are growing in population in Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, and in other major cities in the US. This growth is creating challenges and opportunities. As architects, we see and understand this as an opportunity to step up and take a leadership role.

REALITY 2 // REPRESENTATION

A current void in leadership in the Hispanic/Latino/a/x communities. Hispanics/Latinos/as/x have been historically less represented. There is a lack of support regarding architectural guidance in the Hispanic/ Latino/a/x communities, and this is an opportunity for involvement, as architects to intervene and find ways to help them with our expertise.

REALITY 3 // RELATIONSHIPS

A lack of connectivity/network between Latino/a/x architects. There is a need for an organized committee that strengthens relationships between professionals and students in the field of architecture, and that helps to overcome the lack of promotion for Hispanic/Latino/a/x architecture.

FORMATION

LiA San Antonio's founding co-chairs, Adrianna Swindle, AIA and Jimmy Castellanos, AIA were asked by AIA San Antonio Board of Directors to host an introductory event to gauge the interest prior to approving the formation of the committee. The event exceeded everyone's expectations with over 100 people in attendance – members and non-members. From that single event grew LiA San Antonio, an official network of AIA San Antonio. The committee was formed shortly after the event and began meeting monthly.

LEADERSHIP

LiA San Antonio has historically had two co-chairs, a historian, a treasurer, a secretary and occasionally has had a community engagement officer and graphics director.

Current Co-Chairs

Luis Ahumada, Assoc. AIA (01/2018 - 2020)

Mary Ann Alcorta Mitchell, AIA (10/2019 - 2020)

Past Co-Chairs

Siboney Díaz-Sánchez, AIA (09/2014 -12/ 2016; 01/2019 - 10/2019)

Ricky Torres, Assoc. AIA (01/2017 - 12/2017)

Founding Co-Chairs

Adrianna Swindle, AIA (06/2014 - 12/2018)

Jimmy Castellanos, AIA (06/2014 - 09/2014)

Past Officers

Treasurer - Wanira Magaloni (2014 - 2017)

Historian - Noella Cantu (2014 - 2018)

Donation Coordinator - Dan Lazarine (2014 - 2018)

Marketing Director - Isadora Sintes (2014 - 2016)

Marketing Director - Rick Torres (2016 - 2018)



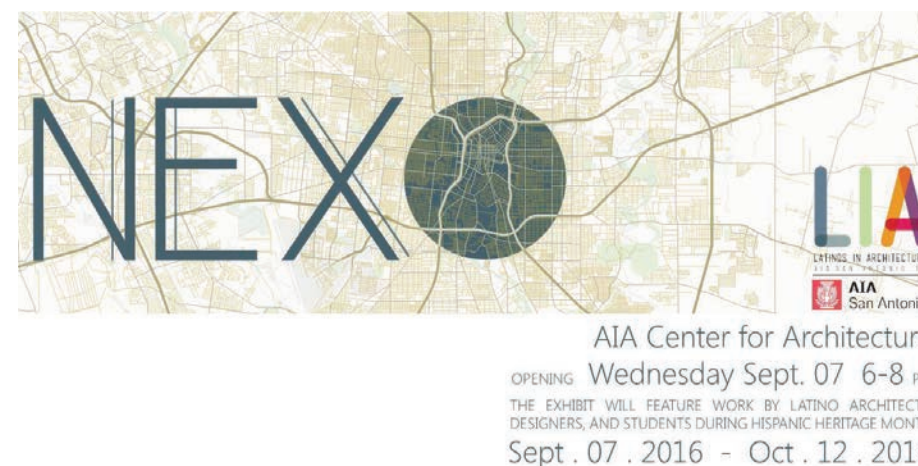
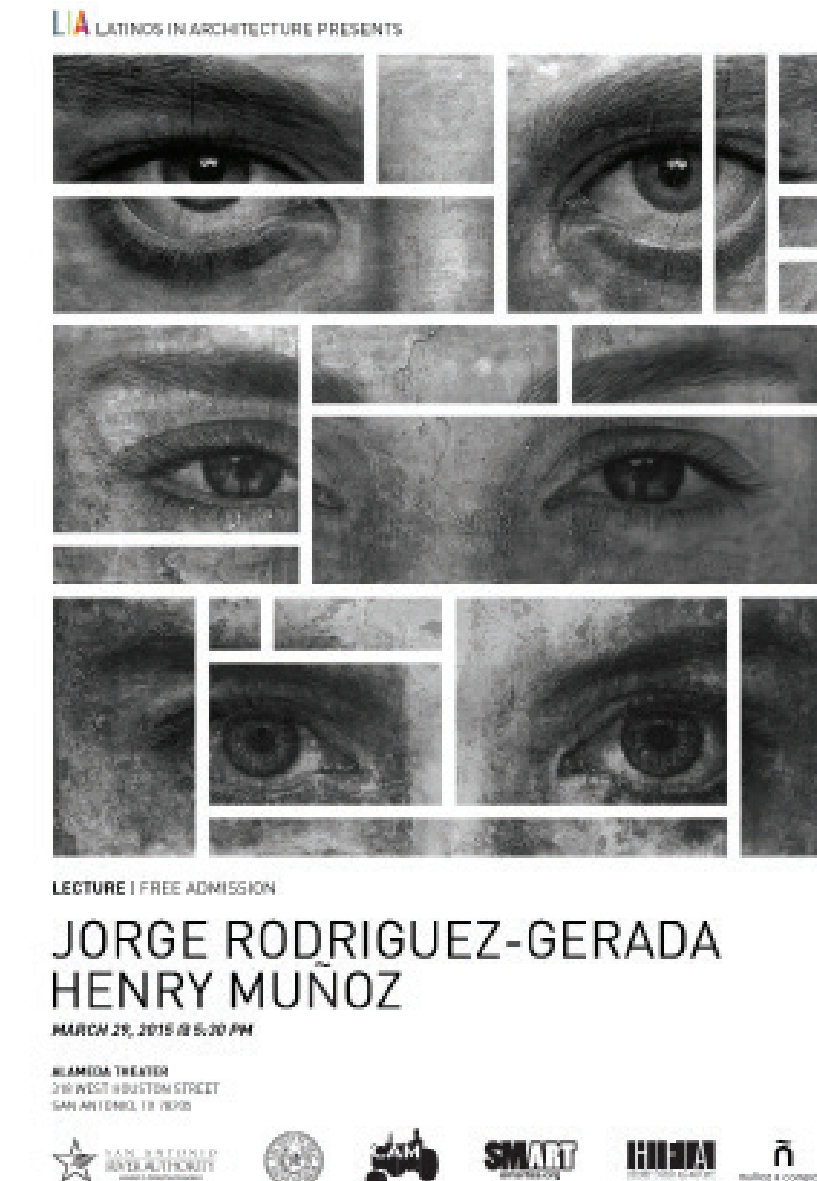
DOCUMENTATION

MARKETING MATERIALS +
PUBLICATIONS +
TESTIMONIALS +

MARKETING MATERIAL

LiA San Antonio members created graphics for a variety of events. We wrote press releases, call for entries, interviewed with local press, created social media events, had a list serve and posted posters as needed depending on the event.


The following pages document many of the published graphics created by LiA San Antonio. Not all posters are included in this document.









Rick Torres (co-chair 2016-2018) produced the vast majority of the graphics and posters. Other contributors included but are not limited to Isadora Sintes, Italia Aguilera, Siboney Díaz-Sánchez, Adrianna Swindle, and Luis Ahumada. Some posters were created in collaboration with co-hosts and/or sponsors.







LiA San Antonio also reached out to college students/architectural interns and paid them for graphic assistance.

Second Annual



NEXO
 Opening 09.17.2015 6-8:00 PM
 Closing 10.16.2015 6-8:00 PM
 National Hispanic Heritage Month
 AIA Center for Architecture
 1344 S. Flores #102
 \$5 Donation

UTSA College of Architecture Construction and Planning
SPEAKER SERIES FALL 2015

Architecture as Rendered Society | Office for Political Innovation

OCTOBER 14
 5.30P
 AULA CANARIA

ANDRÉS JAQUE

Presented by UTSA CACP + AIA SAN ANTONIO LATINOS IN ARCHITECTURE




SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE / LATINOS IN ARCHITECTURE
 THIRD ANNUAL LECTURE

JUAN MIRÓ

MIRÓ RIVERA ARCHITECTS

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 08, 2019 5:30PM

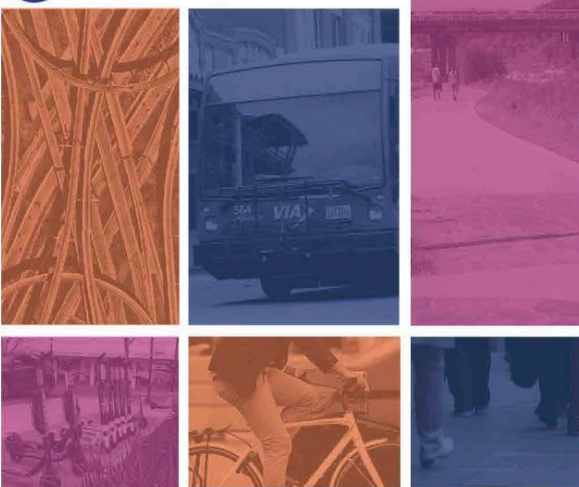
SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE
 MCALLISTER THEATER
 1300 San Pedro Ave

AIA San Antonio LIA

present

CONNECT SA



Tuesday, October 15th
 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

The Center for Architecture
 1344 S Flores St,
 San Antonio, TX 78204

Guest Speaker
 Former Mayor Henry Cisneros

ConnectSA focuses on projects that expand transportation choices, improve transportation flow, and introduce smart initiatives that help move more people faster, smarter, and in least costly ways possible.

Former Mayor, Henry Cisneros, a Tri-Chair of Connect SA, will share the process now underway for ensuring that San Antonio is prepared with an efficient and safe transportation system that connects every resident with mobility.

architectures
 in san antonio



master of architecture
 architectural design
 studio based
 stimulating studios
 developing the next generation
 of critical practitioners
 an accredited professional
 program which prepares
 students for future architectural
 licensure
 M.Arch 2 program is designed
 for students who have earned
 architectural degrees
 12 credit hours of
 coursework topped off with
 an independently-derived
 research-informed project
 M.Arch 3 program is designed
 for students with degrees in
 fields other than architecture
 and requires up to 91 total
 credit hours (24 hours of
 preparatory work + 50 credit
 hours of M.Arch 3 sequence)
 M.S. in Architecture program is
 a non-studio research program
 that prepares students for
 careers in research, teaching,
 consulting, and further graduate
 study. The program allows
 students in all fields related to
 the expertise of our faculty.
 M.S. concentrations include:
 historic preservation
 sustainable architecture
 contact:
 Department of Architecture
 210.453.3410
 email: lia.sanantonio@aia.org
 Dr. Sueli Cogener
 graduate advisor
 cogener@utsa.edu
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 http://lia.sanantonio.aia.org
 Department of Architecture
 1122
 501 W. Cesar E. Chavez Blvd
 San Antonio, Texas 78207
 UTSA COA

2014 FROM AN ARCHITECT'S BOOKSHELF




Write a motivating phrase on the inside front cover of the donated book. Students who open it will see how the design community supports education, creates awareness of architecture, and shares about our profession as a career path.

Donations can include books about:
 architecture
 engineering
 interior design
 art
 construction

Please drop off books at your designated collection point or at the San Antonio Center for Architecture located at 1344 South Flores, Suite 102, San Antonio TX

Help inspire Design & Construction Professionals of tomorrow. Donate a Book to San Antonio high schools today!

Collections are July 21st - October 10th for the 2014 & 2015 school year.




www.aiaa.org

latinos in architecture
 MAY GATHERING

05.06.2019
 6pm-7pm
 @ the alameda
 318 w. houston st.

7pm-8pm
 @ rosella
 @ the rand
 114 e. houston st.

Join us for
 updates +
 snacks +
 a tour of the
 Alameda
 Theater followed
 by drinks @ rosella
 down the street!

email
 lia.sanantonio@gmail.com
 with questions







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Vamos
 Let's a hablar
 talk

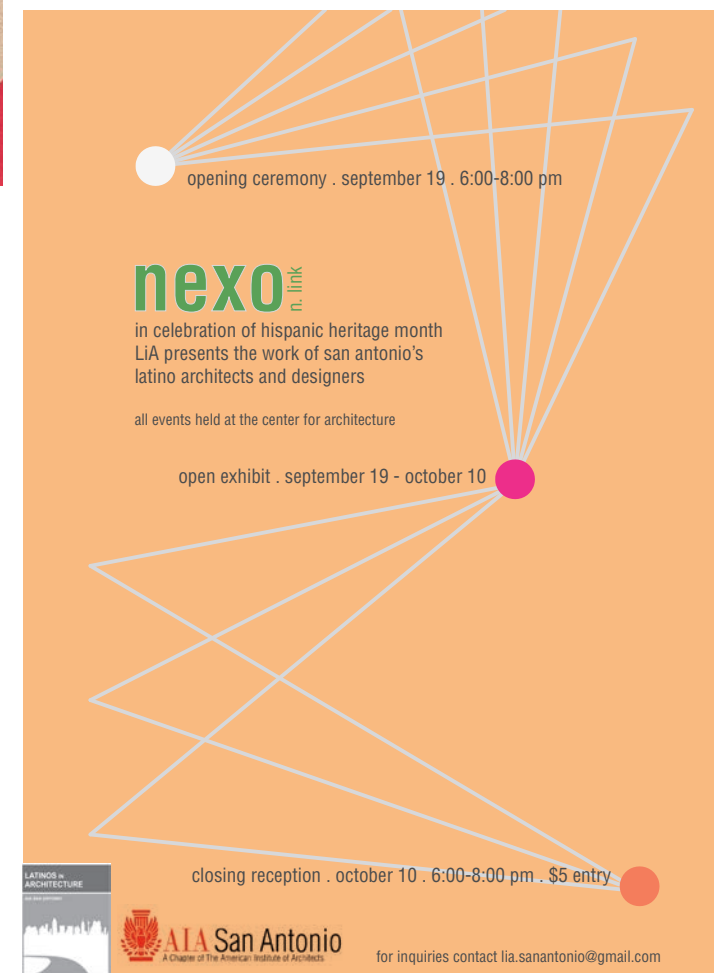
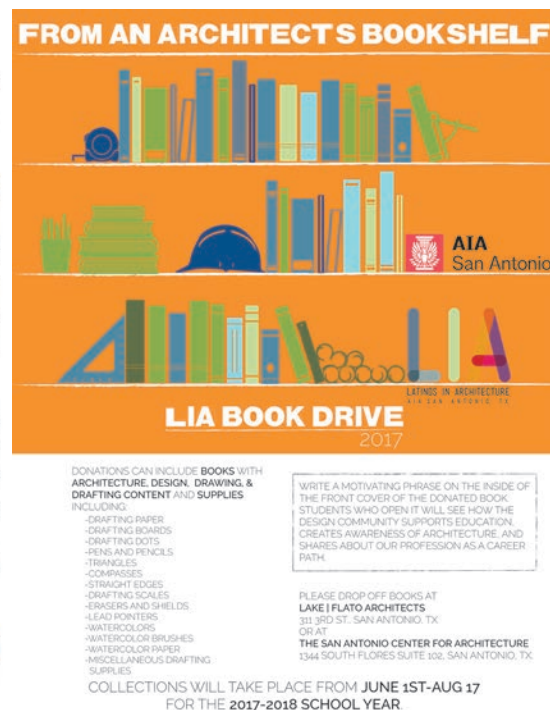
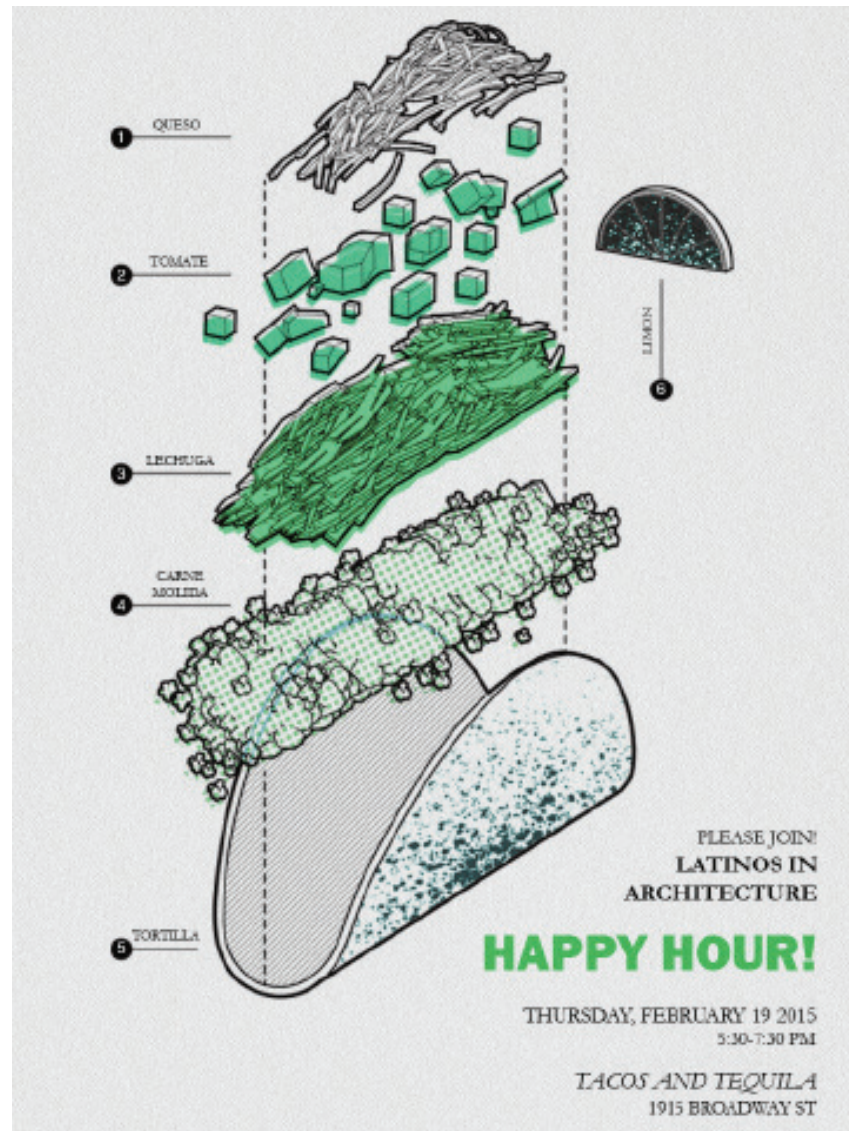
FORUM
 DISCUSSION
 CHARRETTE
 PRESENTATION

about
 acerca de
 Malt House.

AIA CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE
 1344 S FLORES ST SAN ANTONIO, TX
 DECEMBER 12, 2016
 6-8PM







PUBLICATIONS

Within the first three months of forming the committee in 2014 Adrianna Swindle and Siboney Díaz-Sánchez wrote an article in a local publication about the annual exhibition NEXO, celebrating local architects, designers and students as part of National Hispanic Heritage Month. LiA San Antonio events were reported on. The committee committed to community engagement work that created exposure to press. Co-chairs and member appeared in local articles and on our local public radio station to discuss public-interest design facilitation. In those instances, we prioritized sharing what we heard from community groups and advocated for the collaborative skills of creative professionals.



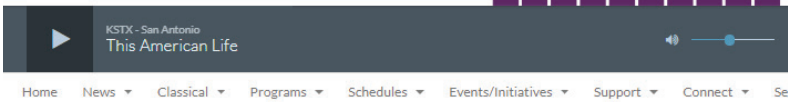
Community Design Blog: Engagement + Implementation

Siboney Díaz-Sánchez

BLOG COMMUNITY DESIGN
August 15, 2019

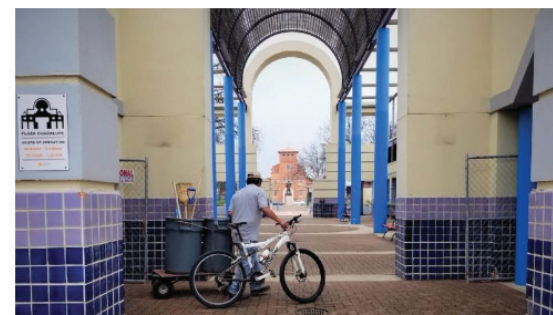
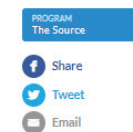


Your station for npr news.



Plaza Guadalupe: Restoring A Westside San Antonio Landmark For The Public

By JAN ROSS PIEDAD & DAVID MARTIN DAVIES - FEB 4, 2019



UTSA architecture students Estefania Barajas, Eddie Sanchez, and Donovan Linsey look at professional firm exhibition pieces perched on the wall at the Latinos in Architecture Nexo exhibit. Photo by Rocio Guenther.

articles

12.06.2019

[Looking inward and outward, architects make strides toward more significant inclusion in the field](#)

AIA National // Kathleen M. O'Donnell

09.19.2019

[Family Design Day meant to further discussion on Plaza Guadalupe](#)

The San Antonio Heron // Ben Olivo

08.15.2019

[Community Design Blog: Engagement + Implementation](#)

Texas Architect // Siboney Díaz-Sánchez

06.04.2019

[Every Community Is Our Client](#)

Architect Magazine // Siboney Díaz-Sánchez

02.04.2019

[Plaza Guadalupe: Restoring A Westside San Antonio Landmark for the Public](#)

Texas Public Radio // Jan Ross Piedad + David Martin Davies

12.19.2018

[City will consider two Plaza Guadalupe options - one with a fence, one without](#)

The San Antonio Heron // Zendra Morales

10.30.2018

[Guadalupe Plaza conceptual plan to be released Dec.4](#)

The San Antonio Heron // Zendra Morales

12.14.2016

[Vamos a Hablar: Residents, Architects, Artists Reimagine Malt House](#)

The Rivard Report // Edmond Ortiz

09.08.2016

[Latinos in Architecture Exhibit Connects Firms and Students](#)

The Rivard Report // Rocío Guenther

08.09.2016

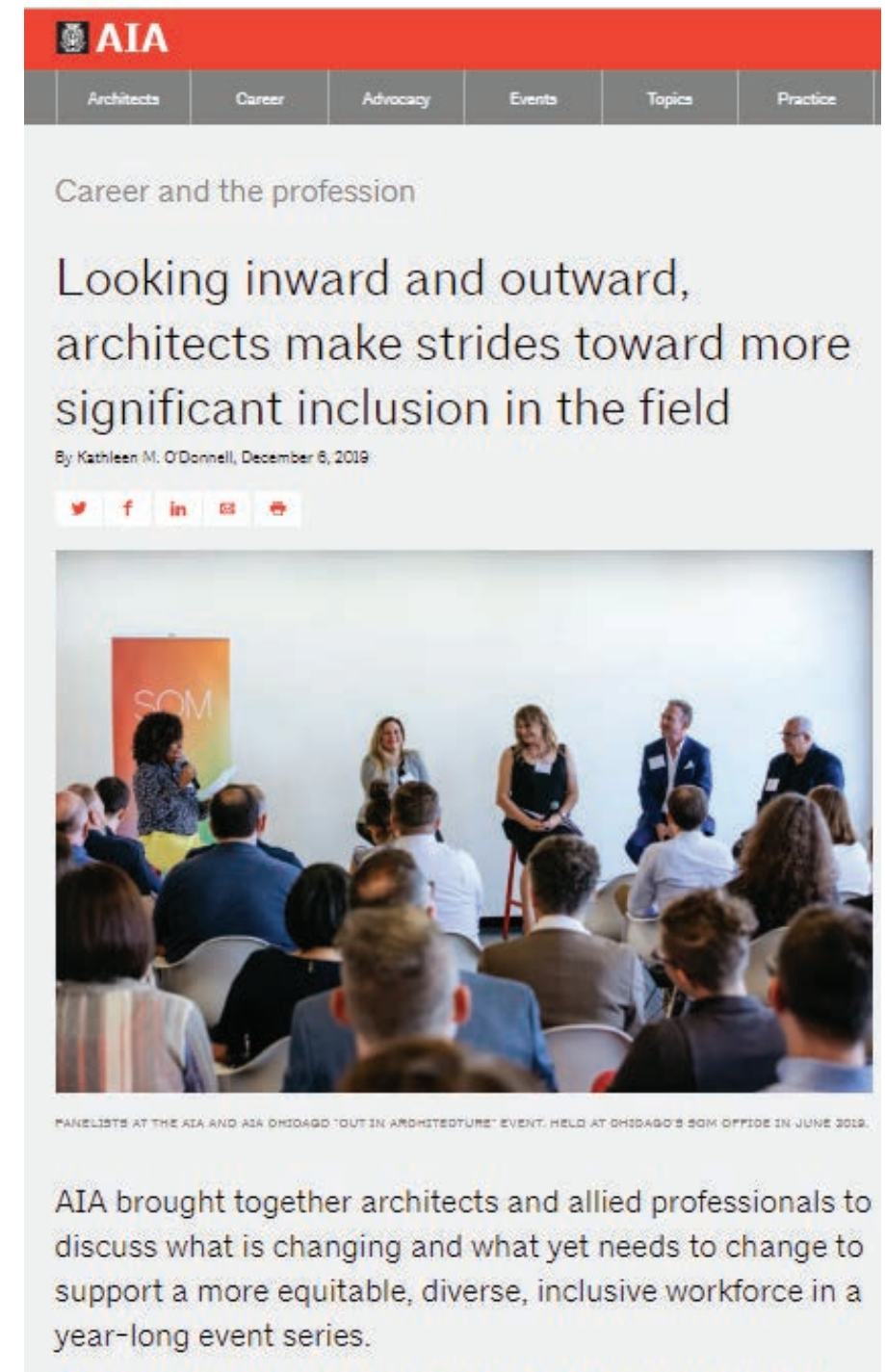
[Latinos in Architecture Connect in San Antonio](#)

The Rivard Report // Sarah Talaat

09.22.2014

[Latinos in Architecture Connect in San Antonio](#)

The Rivard Report // Siboney Díaz-Sánchez + Adriana Swindle



testimonials

“Being part of LIA makes you feel like you can make a difference in something bigger than yourself. Being originally from the Ciudad Juarez/El Paso border area is hard to do an immediate service for my Latino community, but LIA opens the opportunity for me to use my professionalism to guide the Latino community in San Antonio, Texas. **It allows me to feel closer to home and more importantly connects with other Latino/Latina architects that are going through the same challenges that I’m facing in the profession. LIA makes you realize that you are not alone when it comes to building a better future for the Latino community.”**

ANAGISEL TOSCANO RAMOS

Designer at Overland Partners
LiA Member

“Latinos in Architecture committee not only supports professional development activities, like resourcing Latino student designers, highlighting local practitioners and elevating local issues through a lecture series, but also engages directly to solve problems in their community. **Using their professional expertise and leveraging their political and social capital, LiA advocates for marginalized voices.** I strongly believe that everyone deserves access to good design. **While diverse representation is an important first step, it is important that we all invest our time and ourselves for more equitable outcomes. In watching LiA develop and evolve over the last 5 years, I have seen them do just that.”**

SEEMA KAIRAM, RA

Architect and Enterprise Rose Fellow
The Trust for Public Land

“Latinos in Architecture initiatives build community resilience and embodies cultural values. LIA allows me to engage in community outreach while developing leadership skills. The people I closely work with to make this world a better place have become my greatest friends and mentors. It has been an enjoyable journey working with Latino professionals strengthening the value of ‘place’.”

ITALIA AGUILERA

San Antonio-based architectural designer
LiA San Antonio Member

“LiA helped to make the work of architects and other “built environment” professionals more accessible to members of the San Antonio community, and more importantly, worked to elevate the voices of local residents into spaces of influencing policy and decision-making. **Their work and events helped to make AIA San Antonio more relevant to those who don’t have “AIA” in their title, which is much needed in a city that facing many questions and decisions about its future growth.”**

EMILY BOWE

Urban Design Graduate Student

“As a citizen architect charged with leading San Antonio’s Downtown City Council District, I rely on LiA and AIA San Antonio to be partners in building a safe and equitable community. LiA’s leaders can be trusted to listen impartially, lead with courage and act on behalf of the citizenry in a manner that builds trust and authenticity in our community. They are the role models for the next generation of architects.”

ROBERTO C. TREVIÑO, AIA

City of San Antonio District 1 Councilman

“We recognize that the rates for people of color becoming licensed architects aren’t where we want them to be. I see the LiA San Antonio network as a very positive step in attracting and retaining Latinos in the profession.”

DEBRA J. DOCKERY FAIA

1993 AIA San Antonio Chapter President
Chair Texas Board of Architectural Examiners

“Being in LiA has allowed me to meet new people within the profession, at various levels. **It has allowed me to have people I can go to for advice and mentorship, something I feel is extremely important for students, especially those that have recently graduated!”**

MARCOS VIZCAYA

San Antonio-based intern architect

“My experience with LIA has been wonderful. Personally and professionally, I support the mission and goals of this organization as it applies to increasing the awareness and space for underrepresented voices in the realm of place and space making. Even more so, I appreciate and respect the commitment of LiA’s leadership team. **The Family Design day organized by LiA in the fall of 2019 was one of the more impactful and direct community events that I have been a part of or engaged with. This has made me want to double down on my own efforts in regard to community engagement and activism.”**

GREGORY STREET, NOMA

San Antonio-based architect + activist

“LiA’s energy and dedication to equity and place-making in San Antonio is world class. We live in a unique city with a deep and vibrant history. **LiA helps citizens and architects in San Antonio look forward to a bright future with due respect paid to the past and present.”**

ADAM WORD GATES, AIA

San Antonio-based architect
AIA San Antonio Young Architects Co-Chair

“Having LiA as a partner in community engagement—from charrettes to community discussions (platicas) has been an enormous advantage in creating an inclusive and transparent process for San Antonio citizens, particularly in the work of preservation and public space. LiA fundamentally understands that preservation is about culture, community, and ultimately about people. Being able to work with a collaborative partner who understands that it’s not just about a building, has helped ensure we are all working together to maintain and empower vibrant and thriving communities.”

CLAUDIA GUERRA

City of San Antonio Cultural Historian

“I was impressed with the placemaking event LiA organized on the Westside of San Antonio. **Never before had I seen such a collaborative event focused on this part of town and centered around placemaking. I love how it brought people together to think about the structural elements of this community and its history.** ¡Bravo, LiA, for bringing a collaborative focus to the Westside!”

CLAUDIA CASTILLO GONZALEZ

San Antonio resident

In San Antonio, LIA has had an important, actively engaged presence in issues of social justice, equity and diversity. In 2018-2019 LIA members attended meetings, and worked with, the Westside Preservation Alliance (WPA) in seeking ways to preserve the history, culture, and structures of working-class Westside communities, historically and contemporaneously largely comprised of Mexican American families. LIA actively participated with WPA and other community organizations in addressing issues of community memory, design, and social justice in relation to refurbishing of the Teatro Alameda. **We acknowledge and deeply appreciate LIA’s collaboration with the WPA and other community based organizations, in bringing the architectural knowledge and expertise of its membership, and the weight of the organization, to bear on issues of equity, social justice, diversity and historic preservation of working class history, culture and structures in San Antonio!**

DR. ANTONIA CASTAÑEDA

Westside Preservation Alliance (WPA) Member

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PLAZA GUADALUPE + MARKET SQUARE

**NOTEBOOK TEXTS FROM MTGS (SEPT. + OCT.)
PLAZA GUADALUPE - NOTEBOOK #8**

GENERAL NOTES

- How do we know that we're being heard?
- The plaza has been full of prostitutes tailing, faces, drug deals and druggies before the fence went up.
- Someone brought a gun when kids were present.
- Movies are a waste of time.
- Help the community with health care, food and clothing.
- Help for the elderly.
- Mental health care.
- I was born and lived here. I went to Luvier and gave back to the community by establishing a scholarship. Every Sunday this place was filthy. Board members and volunteers cleaned up every weekend. - I represent the church.
- This is not a park, we need a park but not here, too much bad stuff after 6pm.
- Everyday there are things.
- Opening the plaza is a good idea but it will and won't work here.
- Understand the community.

What does the plaza mean to you?

- Dangerous.
- Busy.
- Unsafe.
- Scared.
- Opportunity.
- How we work.
- Financial.
- King of the hill.

What is your vision for the plaza?

- More parking.
- Beautiful fence like La Villa (ornamental).
- We could have quincaneras here.
- New sound system.
- The community could have their own events here not by the City.
- Don't mess it up.
- Volunteer services from the City.
- Work release programs.
- Security cameras and security teams.
- Tables and chairs for events.
- On the weekends we need the food bank here.
- Free treatment for Diabetes, Dental Work, Clothing and Health Screenings.
- A place for healing and nourishment.
- COPS - Community of Public Service.

**NOTEBOOK TEXTS FROM MTGS (SEPT. + OCT.)
PLAZA GUADALUPE - NOTEBOOK #9**

What does the plaza mean to you?

- Amy Kader: Former Board Member
- Life, music.
- Less crime.
- Urban renewal, housing.
- Experiencia Center wanted to activate the plaza.
- George.
- First movie theater that I went to was here.
- Mother was a founder of the Avenida Association.
- Performance venue used informally.
- The fence has been here for 3 years. I can relate to the Experiencia Center and Urban 15.
- People don't see the danger here.
- Access and accountability.
- Safe place.
- Not officially a park.
- Roberto Ruiz: grew up here, does accounting for non-profits, consults for Avenida Staff.
- Avenida has made no money here.
- This is not a park.
- It is difficult to have events in the park because the cost of SAPO insurance is high.
- Raúl: has lived here for 35 years, works with cosmetics, has been a dance instructor for 40 years and is a former student of Guadalupe.
- The plaza is a symbol of the beautiful West Side.
- The fence is a symbol of ignoring the problems associated with the plaza and neglect.
- The sun is typically in your eyes until 6pm.
- We need a shade structure for comfort.
- There needs to be grills.
- Artists should be able to work here.
- We need TV equipment and support for graduations and award ceremonies.

Guiding Imperative

- Accessibility.
- Reduced rental rates for quincaneras.
- Urban 15.
- Big families.
- Accountability for non-profits.
- Addressing health issues together with the community.
- Architects don't realize that concrete floors in the face of the plaza should be more comfortable.
- We need dressing rooms.
- The plaza is too exposed to the elements.
- The plaza is a place for young stars to be discovered.
- The plaza is a place for nourishment.
- Partner with the Knights of Columbus.

**NOTEBOOK TEXTS FROM MTGS (SEPT. + OCT.)
PLAZA GUADALUPE - NOTEBOOK #11**

What does the plaza mean to you?

- Natalie: born and raised on the Westside.
- Park/plaza should close at 11pm like all other places on the Westside.
- Jeremy: Master's degree at St. Mary's University in Public History, lives on the Westside.
- There should be no defined fence around the plaza.
- Curfew would be acceptable.
- Alejandro: husband is an artist.
- Leticia: from the Westside.
- The plaza is where people hang out and socialize.
- I am questioning the current management and not convinced that they have been forthcoming with the neighborhood.
- We are all against a permanent fence.
- The plaza needs lighting upgrades for vendors.
- Abel: lives on the far NW side.
- Fees are too high to host events.
- Upgrades for the stage are needed.
- Key words.
- Historic, nostalgia, soul of the westside, welcoming, cultural traditions.
- Why is the plaza not part of the parks system?
- Create a profit to support the plaza.
- Current management is not a good example of how to run a plaza.
- We need someone researching the history of the space involved in the master plan.

Feedback on Plaza Examples

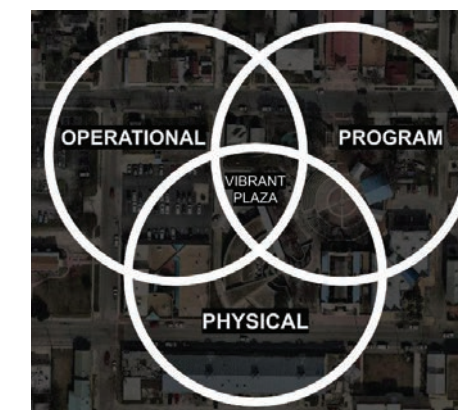
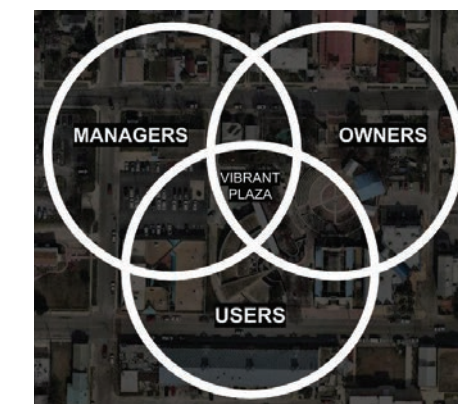
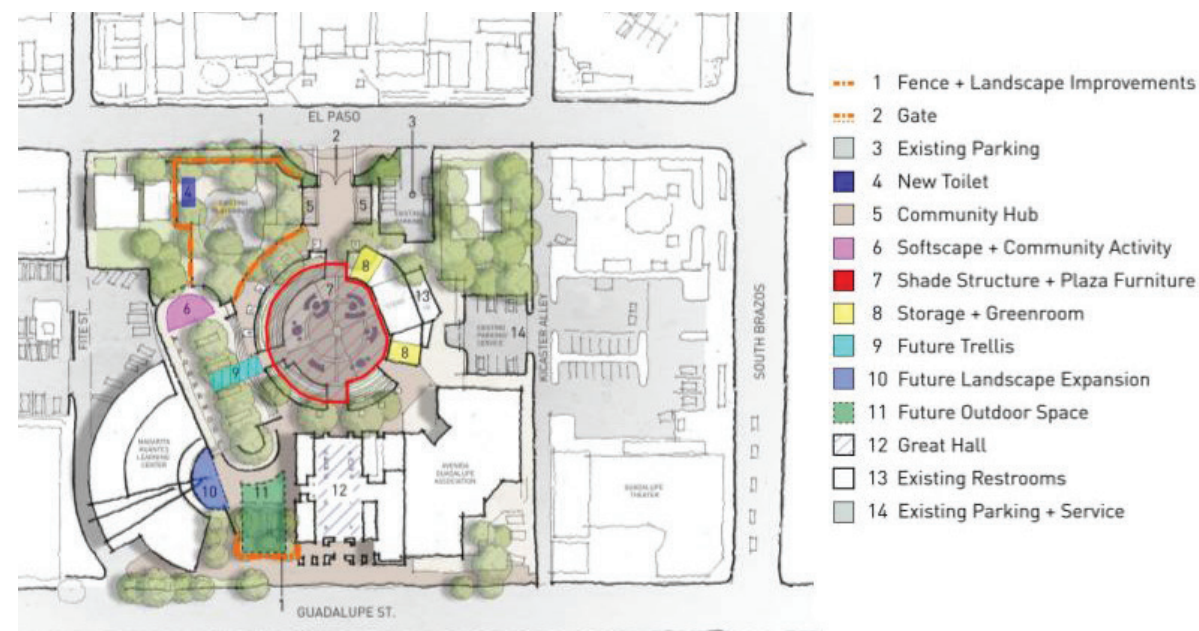
- We had shade structures 10 years ago.
- The plaza was a place to be after 11pm.
- Need police presence 24/7.
- The Plaza was featured in an Architectural Magazine as an example of Post Modernism.
- Restrooms need to be renovated.
- More accountability.
- Need a true non-profit to administer the plaza.
- Hours could be from 9am-9pm.
- I like the fence but it needs to be porous during operating hours.
- The Plaza is a nice place to take portraits.
- Committees to organize flea markets, cultural arts events. The plaza is currently too expensive to rent.
- There is no green roof, adequate lighting or sound system.
- There is no sense of equity or a vision for sustainability.
- We need to appeal to the younger generation.
- Need more conversations so that our input is heard.
- No tolering.
- No skate boards.
- Need bike infrastructure and an information system.
- Lower impact activity surfaces.
- Healthy competitions.
- Get schools involved with graduation ceremonies at the plaza, we should listen to them more.

What is your vision for the plaza?

- Create a safe, comfortable and green environment for the community.
- We need to have traditions, culture and history through events and programming.
- We need someone researching the history of the space involved in the master plan.

PLAZA GUADALUPE

In the Fall of 2018, the Latinos in Architecture Committee (LiA) was asked by City Councilwoman Shirley Gonzáles and San Antonio's Center City Development and Operations Department to assist with community meetings in order to better understand how allocated funds for Plaza Guadalupe could be utilized. Plaza Guadalupe is a historic site located on the west side of San Antonio. The plaza, owned by the City of San Antonio and managed by the Avenida Guadalupe Association (AGA), is a vital and valued space. It is the location of night markets, local festivals, and where Julián Castro chose to announce his presidential candidacy in 2019. **In response to an alleged increase in criminal activity and lack of maintenance funding to support upkeep operations, AGA proposed permanent fencing and gates around the plaza. Many communities were opposed to any fencing or barriers of any kind.**



For Plaza Guadalupe, LiA prioritized listening into the community meetings. The committee was there to absorb and record what we heard. **We reported back and provided two conceptual plans based on the information collected. We included recommendations for physical, operational, and programmatic improvements.** Partial fencing was approved by the city's Historic Design and Review Commission in April of 2019. Disagreements of the locations and extents of the fencing continue. The committee remains committed to the future of the plaza, not because it is outlined in a contractual scope, but because we care about this space.

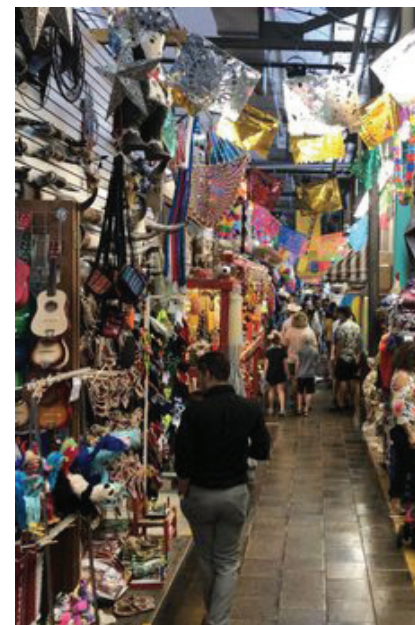
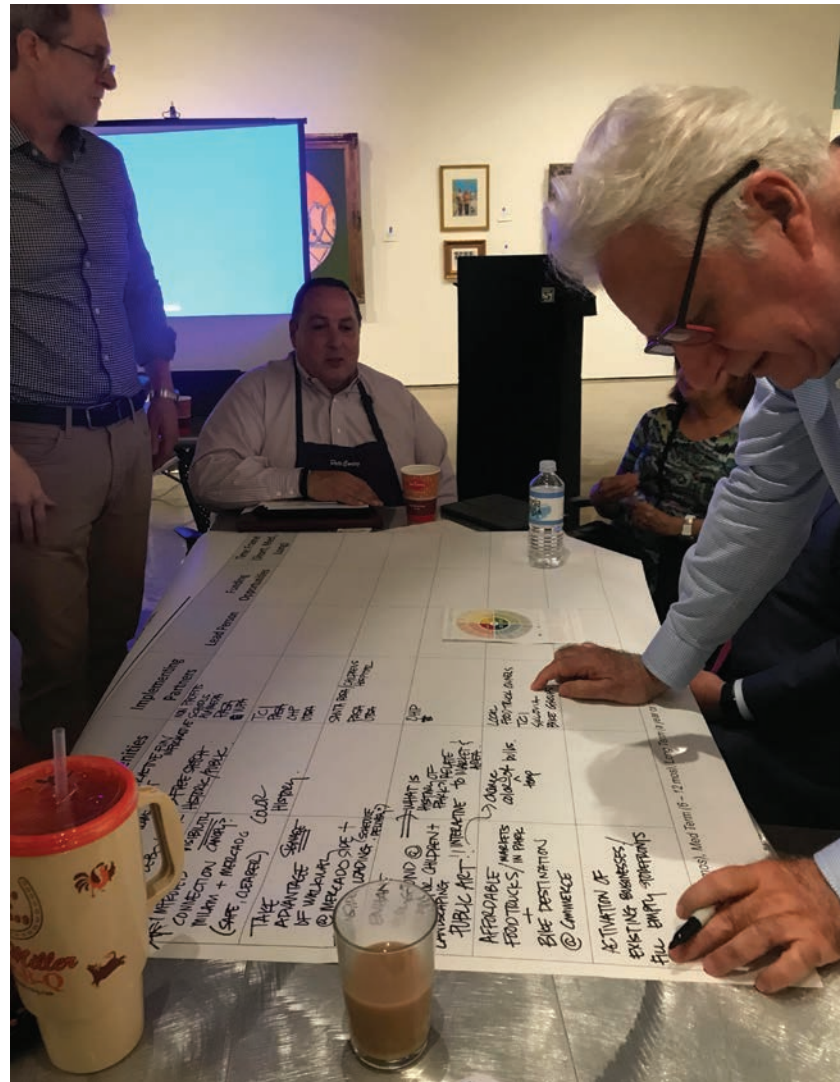
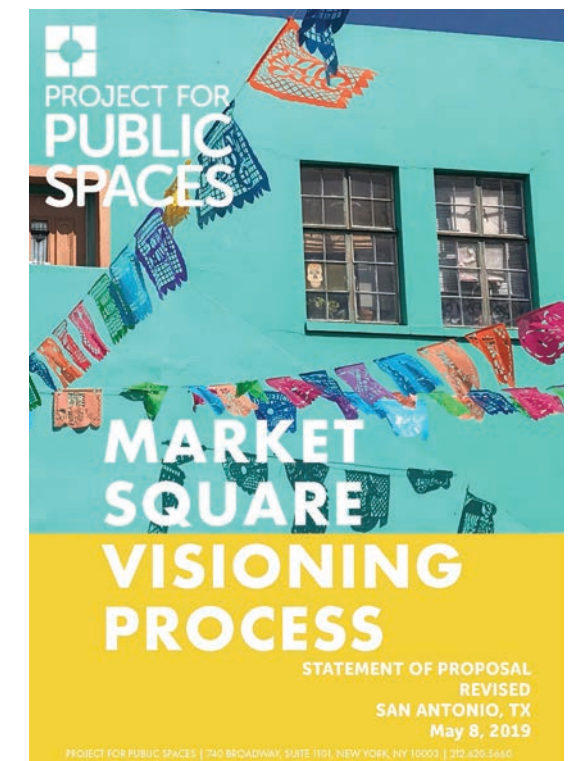
MERCADO + SAN ANTONIO MARKET SQUARE

A three-block outdoor plaza lined with shops, and restaurants in downtown San Antonio, Market Square is the largest Mexican market in the United States. The “El Mercado” and the “Farmer’s Market Plaza” boasts more than 100 locally owned shops and stalls.¹ The facilities are a destination for many visitors and local alike. Local shops sell gifts, clothing, art and food. **Facilities have struggled with securing physical improvement funding through the years. The visioning process coordinated by the City of San Antonio was the first move forward in understanding how to most effectively reinvest in the market to allow for the historic spaces to best serve visitors and vendors.**

¹ <https://www.marketsquaresa.com/>

The role of AIA San Antonio and LiA was to serve as an advisor to the City of San Antonio by attending and providing feedback on Market Square Vision Plan sessions, preliminary planning meetings, kickoff meetings, visioning sessions and vendor open houses. Our role was to serve as a consultant to interpret findings and collaborate with Project for Public Spaces.

Collaborative work for public spaces is ongoing and LiA remains committed to local areas that serve and employ generations of San Antonio residents.





SPECIAL EVENTS

**DREAMWEEK +
FAMILY DESIGN DAY +
CÉSAR CHÁVEZ MARCH**

DREAMWEEK 2019

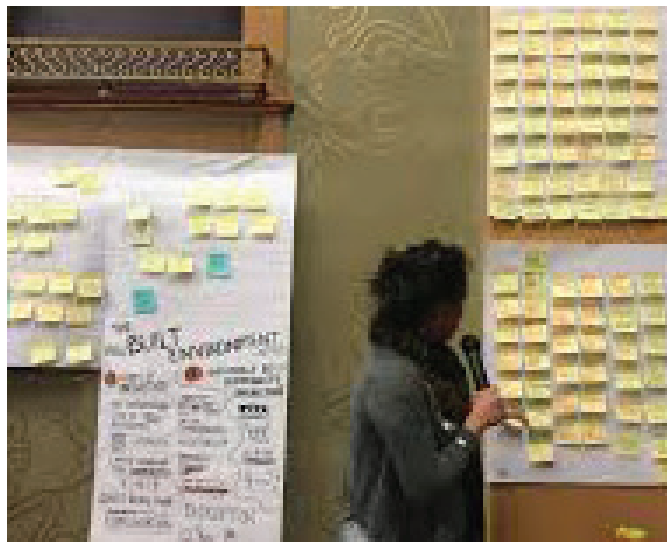
INNOVATING FOR INCLUSION + EQUITABLE GROWTH: HOW INNOVATION IMPACTS EQUITY IN THE SMART CITY AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Innovation creates both opportunity and unintended consequences. Good design and development unifies people, profoundly affects the health and well-being of communities, and sustains our unique identities, cultures, stories, and experiences. In Smart Cities and the built environment, where new technologies and the data generated by them are poised to re-shape how people connect to public services, how does innovation impact equity? How can employing principles of design justice to empower historically under-represented communities create inclusive spaces in the smart city?

On January 22, 2019 at the Guadalupe Theater in San Antonio, Bryan C. Lee, a design justice advocate and architect from New Orleans was asked to speak about his work at Colloqate and throughout the US. **This event was organized by the City of San Antonio Office of Innovation, Overland Partners, and AIA San Antonio Latinos in Architecture as part of DreamWeek San Antonio.** Over 150 individuals gathered at the event and attendees were from all 10 San Antonio city council districts.

After a presentation given by Bryan C. Lee, from Colloqate in New Orleans attendees were asked to move to one of two groups. **Two discussions were facilitated about the built environment and smart cities. Both groups were asked about forms of injustices in their neighborhood(s)/communities. Questions were identified to guide the conversations but evolved and verbal report outs were given after about an hour of discussion time.**

A ONE PAGE SUMMARY WAS CREATED BY LIA AND SENT TO ATTENDEES. [THE DOCUMENT CAN BE FOUND HERE.](#)



QUICK FACTS

- About 290 people attended.
- Over 400 tacos were handed out to volunteers, participants and organizations.
- Attendees and volunteers were fed empanadas for lunch.
- Free paletas were distributed - 300 of them.
- Aguas frescas were available for free.
- Two local bands and DJ Despeinada were paid to provide music to all attendees.
- Over 20 people were registered to vote.
- A mural was started and finished for Nexo 2019.
- Student work was exhibited from San Anto Cultural Arts and J.T. Brackenridge.
- The San Antonio Young Women's Leadership Academy students performed spoken word.
- Over \$500 worth of donated prizes were given and included HEB gift cards, Spurs tickets, Mission tickets, and VIA Metropolitan Transit passes.
- Children created their own spaces with boxes and legos.
- People registered to vote by Move Texas.
- Over 100 books were given out from our book drive.
- 18+ organizations came together to provide programming in Plaza Guadalupe related to art, architecture, urban planning, sustainability, preservation.
- Volunteers were given t-shirts.

[A report was generated and distributed to volunteers, partnering organizations and sponsors. It can be found here.](#)



FAMILY DESIGN DAY

On September 21, 2019 AIA San Antonio Latinos in Architecture organized Family Design Day at Plaza Guadalupe in San Antonio, Texas. **LiA partnered with over 18 organizations** to activate the public space and create **programming for all ages related to architecture, design justice, environmental sustainability, urban design, and cultural preservation.** The event was free and open to the public.

CÉSAR CHÁVEZ MARCH

For 23 years The César Chávez March for Justice has been a day our San Antonio community to unite, celebrate, and remember a great humanitarian.¹

LiA San Antonio decided to march in 2017 and again in 2019 to remember Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta in their fights for equality. LiA organized small groups consisting of members and their families to walk along-side community leaders and connect with others gathered to recognize the power in justice movements. Both years were successful in members learning that there is strength in numbers and to never give up!

¹ <https://cecilef.org/what-we-do/march-for-justice/>



A photograph of four people seated on a stage for a panel discussion. From left to right: a man in a grey blazer and glasses, a woman in a pink shirt and glasses holding a microphone, a woman in a grey cardigan and dark pants, and a woman in a dark blazer. They are seated in orange chairs. Behind them is a large screen displaying the AIA San Antonio logo, a portrait of a woman, and a list of names including Mary Ann, Paola Fern, Ricardo de, Associate, and Siboney D. The text 'ANNUAL EVENTS' is overlaid in large, bold, black letters across the center of the image.

ANNUAL EVENTS

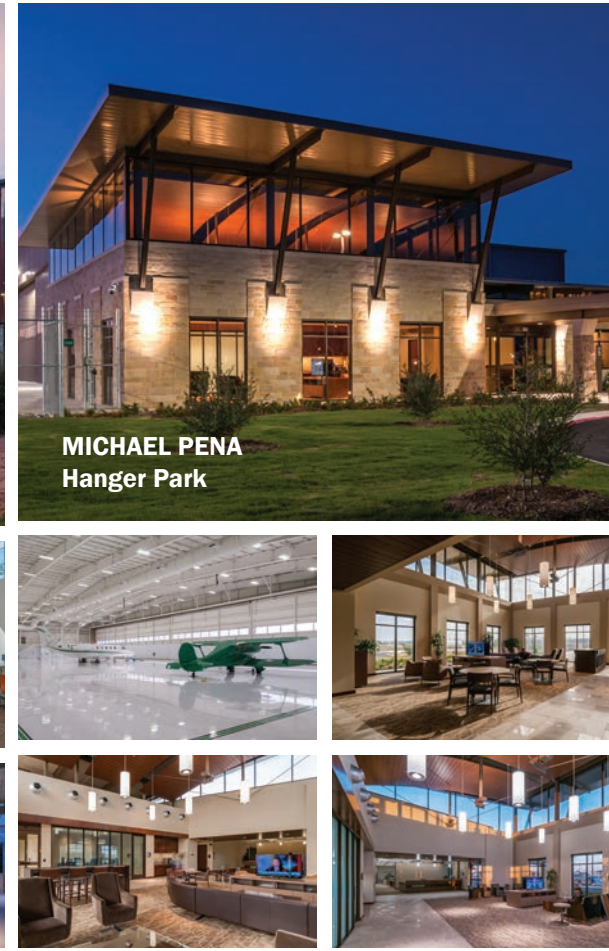
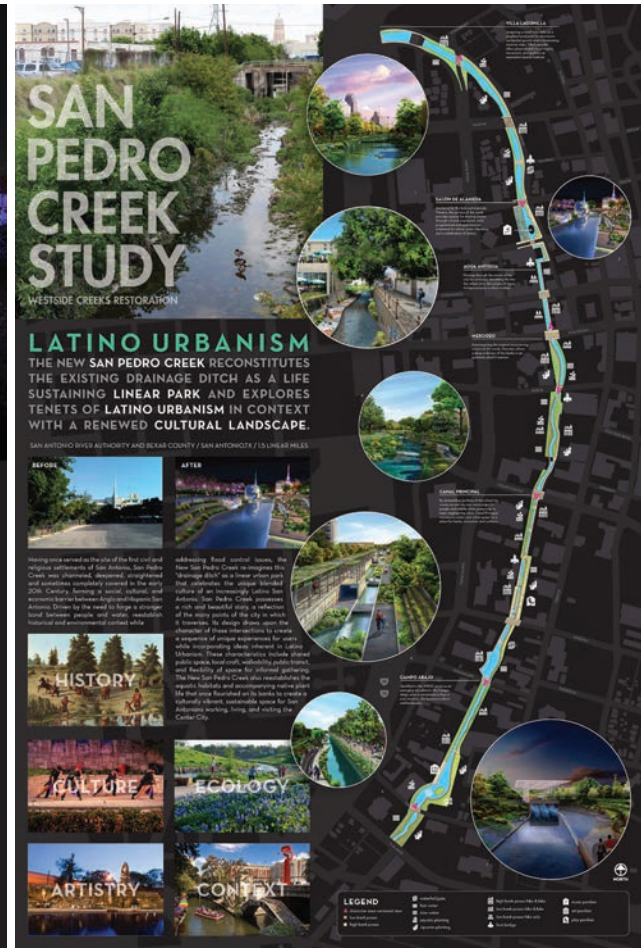
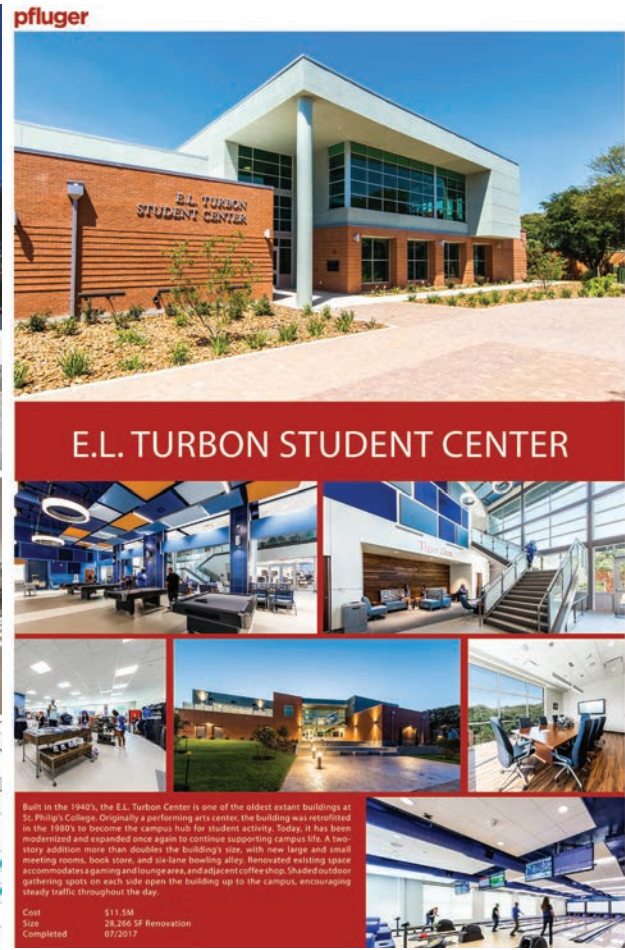
NEXO +
LECTURES +
PLÁTICAS



NEXO

NEXO is LiA San Antonio's annual exhibition commemorating National Hispanic Heritage Month. Through LiA, local students are afforded opportunities to engage with professionals at NEXO. Students can submit their work at no charge for this month-long exhibition. For LiA members, it is an amazing experience to witness proud families of these students view their work displayed with professionals from San Antonio's design communities. NEXO serves to showcase all that LiA stands for, recognizing award winning projects from local design professionals while bringing those skills and knowledge to those aspiring to become part of the architecture profession.



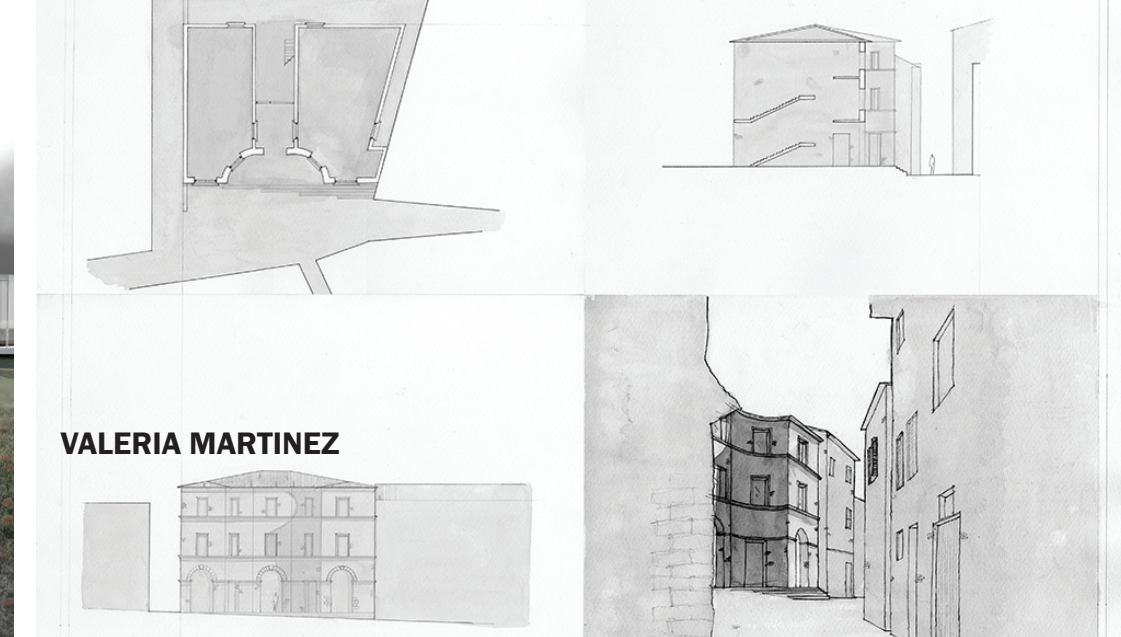




ESTRELLA JUAREZ



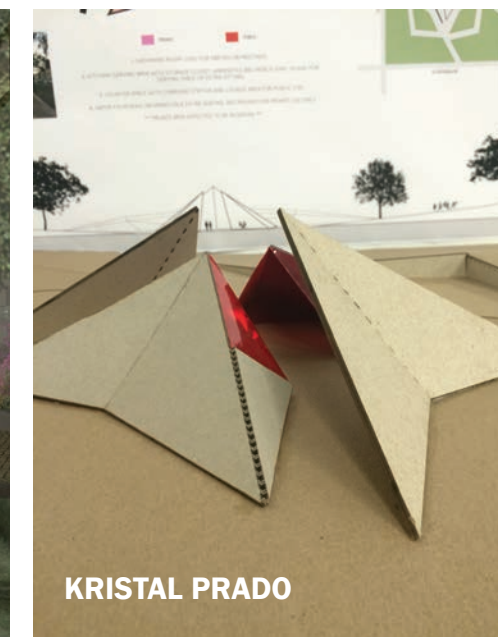
ITALIA VITRA AGUILERA



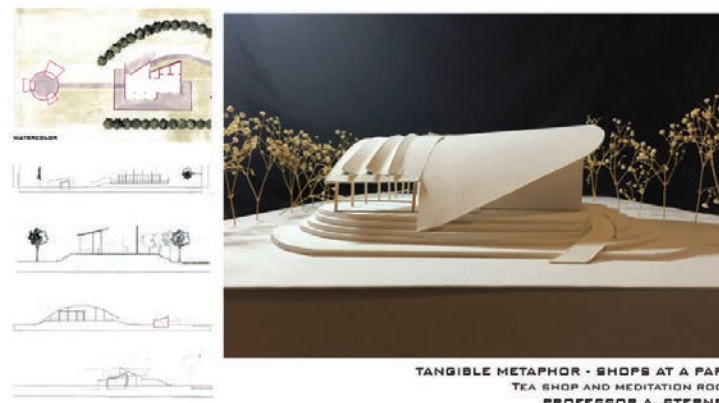
VALERIA MARTINEZ



ANA LOZANO



KRISTAL PRADO



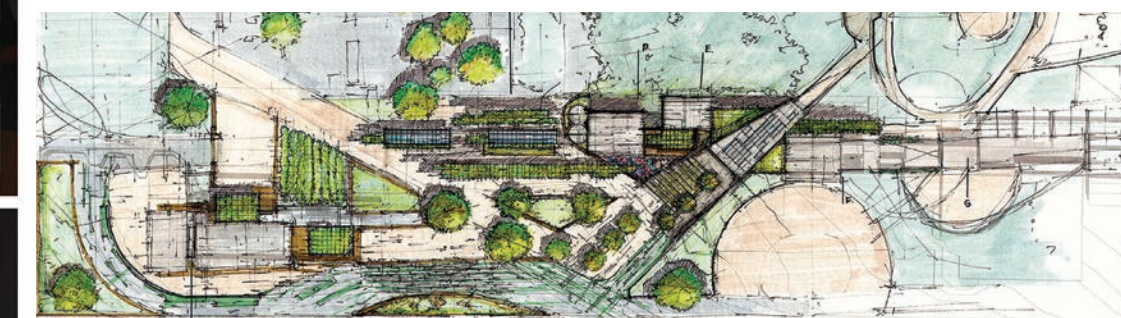
TANGIBLE METAPHOR - SHOPS AT A PARK
TEA SHOP AND MEDITATION ROOM
PROFESSOR A. STERNER



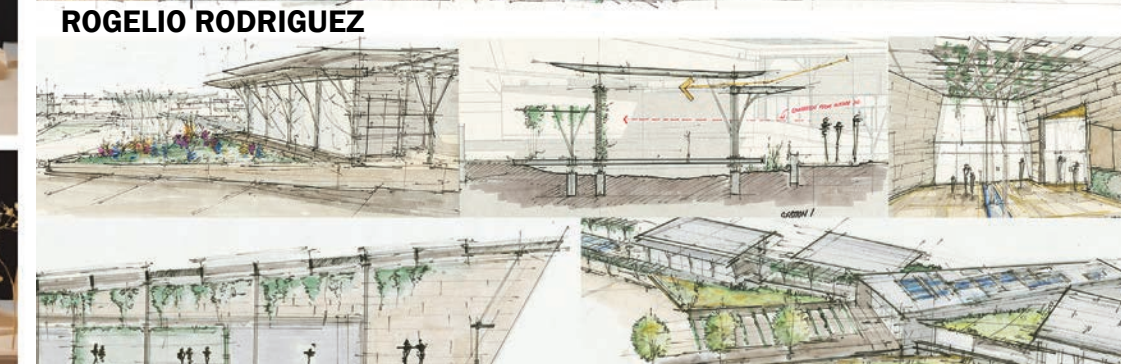
DEBORAH RAMOS



DAVID MONTEMAYOR JR.



ROGELIO RODRIGUEZ



ANA SALINAS



LECTURES

San Antonio College's Architecture Program and LiA San Antonio have collaborated to develop a lecture series for the college. This lecture series is instrumental in developing a focused culture and identity for their program. The series continues to be a successful means of emphasizing the importance and independence of this program in our community. Similarly, in 2015 LiA began a collaboration with UTSA CACP focused on diversifying lecture opportunities that featured Latinx Architects and designers. Since then, there have been two successful partnering opportunities with UTSA CACP and LiA.

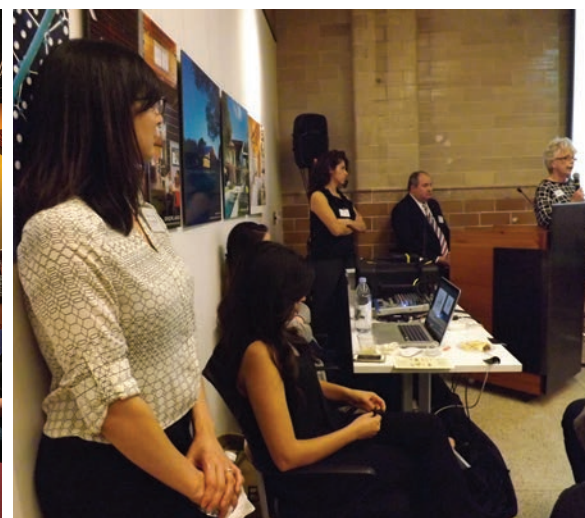
Through LiA partners with the University of Texas San Antonio campus (UTSA) and Alamo Colleges San Antonio College (SAC) to sponsor Latino/a/x lecturers at the two campuses. To date LiA has been instrumental in bringing Andres Jaque and Manuel Cervantes Cespedes to UTSA Carlos Jimenez, Juan Miro and DUST Architects to SAC.



PLÁTICAS

Rather than hosting typical happy hours to bring members and the community together, LiA curates “Platicas” or community discussions. These discussions bring people from various disciplines together to discuss critical issues such as maintaining the cultural fabric of San Antonio during its rapid growth and the ever-changing reality of water in our city. These community-centric discussions have opened opportunities for LiA to engage with local government officials and further the understanding of the issues impacting our city.

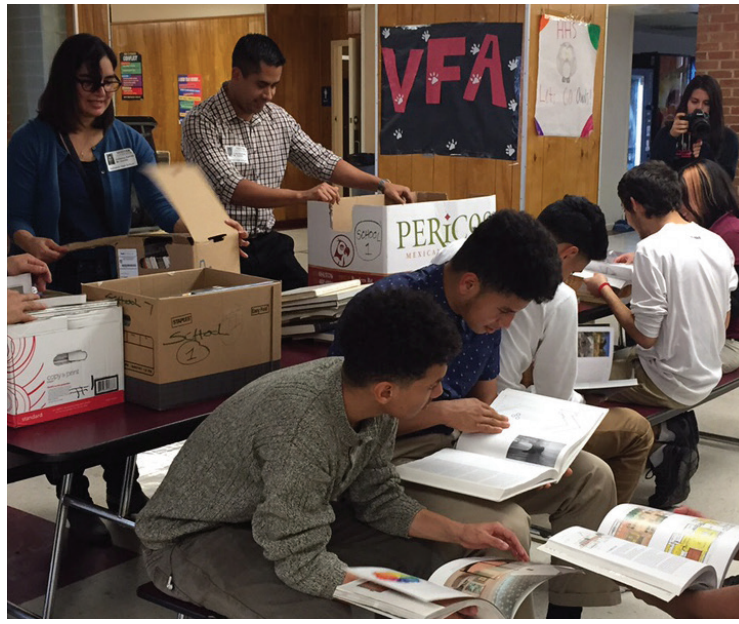
Through conversations and outreach LiA members are often asked to speak on other local and national panels at conferences and at workshops.





COMMITMENTS

BOOK DRIVES
SCHOLARSHIPS
GATHERINGS



BOOK DRIVES

LiA's targeted support of the next generation of Latinx architects seeks to nurture a diverse representation in our profession. From engaging with high school students during book drives to distributing scholarships to UTSA CACP Students, LiA San Antonio mentors have sought to serve as a resource to the next generation of design professionals in San Antonio.

LiA has donated over 300 books during numerous book drives it has held in high schools that are unable to fund architecture libraries. During Book Distributions days, LiA members will give a presentation about their professional journeys. In addition to contributing to high schools, LiA has been part of career days to varying levels of education, from elementary school and junior school levels.

Dan Lazarine + Luis Ahumada, among others, help lead this drive year after year. They collect, store and deliver books.





SCHOLARSHIPS

For several years now LiA has worked to sponsor the Sophomore Design Competition at San Antonio College which has bridged gaps between students and professionals during this early phase in their career. In 2017, LiA worked with City Council District 1 to establish an annual Scholarships for UTSA architecture students. Ten scholarships have been awarded to date. Building on our early success with scholarships, AIA San Antonio is now in the process of establishing a Diversity Endowment. This endowment will influence the lives of many aspiring students in the coming years and promote the goal of licensure.





GATHERINGS

Event planning events take time. Advocacy and organizing takes time. LiA meets monthly in multiple settings. The group will gather to relax but also meets to review budgets, sort books, speak in classrooms and set up exhibitions. LiA collaborates with other networks like San Antonio Young Architects and Women in Architecture for other social events. Occasionally LiA gatherings consist of LiA members attending a march, a performance or a community meeting.





GUADALUPE

INFORMATION

RESOURCES +
CLOSING



RESOURCES

Documents were created by LiA members for various projects and exhibitions. **Refer to links below for more information.**

[2019 LATINOS IN ARCHITECTURE VIDEO](#)

[NEXO 2019 slide show](#)

[Family Design Day 2019 Report](#)

[DreamWeek 2019 One-Pager](#)

[Plaza Guadalupe Community Meeting Slide Show \(Meeting 5 Report-out\)](#)

[NEXO 2016 student work](#)

[NEXO 2015 student work](#)

[NEXO 2014 student work](#)

[NEXO 2014 professional work](#)



gratitude

LiA San Antonio is a community and will evolve to serve the people that need it most.

LiA aims to create a safe space for underrepresented peoples in design professions to express themselves, feel understood, be heard and find mentors and friendship.

We are thankful for each and every current and past LiA member. We are thankful for every sponsor, supporter, family member, friend, partner that has strengthened and continues to enrich LiA San Antonio.