



AIA San Antonio

February 8, 2011

POSITION PAPER

Courthouse Construction Funding

The San Antonio Chapter of The American Institute of Architects (AIA San Antonio) recognizes the extraordinary opportunity that a new courthouse will bring to the region. AIA San Antonio supports preserving urban centers as well as building vibrant public spaces. Funding the construction of this project has the ability to do both in one of the nation's fastest growing regions.

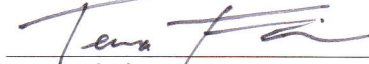
AIA San Antonio believes there will be many beneficial ramifications stemming from appropriating the funds for the courthouse:

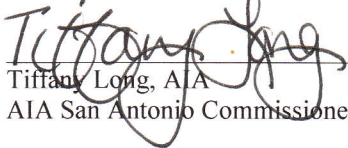
1. The second busiest court in the country gets an adequately sized and safer building that meets current federal guidelines; as the court is now housed in a building originally designed as The US Pavilion at HemisFair 1968.
2. Moving the location of the court allows the current site in HemisFair Park to be revitalized as part of a large planning effort that is currently underway. This means by appropriating funds for the courthouse Congress is in effect enabling other local development to happen, in addition to the Courthouse, at no additional cost to the United States Government.
3. The new location of the courthouse will help revitalize an additional area of Downtown San Antonio and spur economic development.

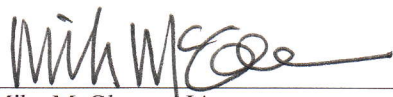
AIA San Antonio's Board of Directors believes funding the courthouse construction will not only make the San Antonio Division of the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas more efficient and effective but will be an important investment in making Downtown San Antonio a better more livable place to be, work, and live.

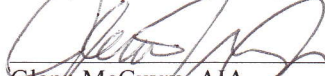

Jonathan Smith, AIA
AIA San Antonio Chapter President

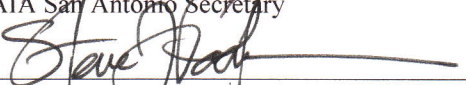

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