

HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

April 01, 2015

Agenda Item No: 1

HDRC CASE NO: 2015-118
ADDRESS: 200 RIVERWALK
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NCB 405 BLK LOT P-100 (PT OF RIVER WALK)
ZONING: UZROW
CITY COUNCIL DIST.: 1
APPLICANT: Beaty Palmer Architects
OWNER: City of San Antonio, Downtown Operations, a Division of Center City Development Office
TYPE OF WORK: Robert H Hugman statue
REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to:

Install a memorial bust honoring Robert H Hugman in an existing planter bed on the River Walk sited near his former studio and the Clifford Building. The existing planting bed was installed circa 2011 and is not an original Hugman feature.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

UDC Section 35-673. – Site Design Standards

(f) Plant Materials. A number of soil conditions converge in the San Antonio area to create unique vegetation ecosystems. Along the route of the San Antonio River, the soil conditions vary greatly from the northern boundary near Hildebrand to the city limits near Mission San Francisco de la Espada (Mission Espada) and therefore native and indigenous plants will vary accordingly. Landscaping should reflect the unique soil characteristics of the specific site.

(1) Incorporate Existing Vegetation. Extend the use of landscape materials, including plants, shrubs and trees that are used in the public areas of the river onto adjacent private areas to form a cohesive design.

(2) Use indigenous and noninvasive species characteristic of the specific site as found on the permissible plant list maintained by the parks and recreation department or the Unified Development Code Plant List found in Appendix E. In "RIO-3," plantings of tropical and semi-tropical plants with perennial background is permitted.

UDC Section 35-679. – Other Requirements and Regulations

(d) Monuments, Markers, Memorials, and Acknowledgements. Monuments, markers or memorial plaques are not permitted on the riverside of property abutting the river, or within the publicly owned right-of-way without the express written consent of the historic and design review commission. The following standards shall apply:

A. Texas historical markers are permitted, but must be mounted to walls or structures. Pole mounted THC markers are not permitted in "RIO-3."

B. Monuments and memorial plaques must commemorate an event or person significant to the Riverwalk or the history of the Riverwalk. To assure that the significance of an event or person has withstood the test of time, memorial plaques may commemorate an event ten (10) years or older a person ten (10) years or more posthumously.

C. Memorial gifts, such as benches, fountains or art etc. may from time to time be accepted as gifts by the city, plaques acknowledging the gift, shall be bronze and no larger than ten inches by four inches (10" x 4"). Memorial plaques for a gift of a tree or other plantings are not permitted.

D. Placement of monuments, memorials and markers will be under the jurisdiction of the director of parks and recreation, rather than the director of planning, after consultation with the historic and design review commission.

E. Plaques recognizing donors for significant improvements or plaques acknowledging the naming of significant improvements such as, but not limited to, pocket parks, footbridges, fountains, grottos, gardens, gazebos, boat landings, overlooks and other significant features may be placed along the San Antonio River. The plaques may be no larger than four (4) square feet and must be made of either cast bronze, cast aluminum (or other suitable metal),

carved stone, or tile. Language utilized (in recognition of an individual, corporation or foundation) on a plaque must contain language substantially similar to "sponsored by, underwritten by, a gift from."

FINDINGS:

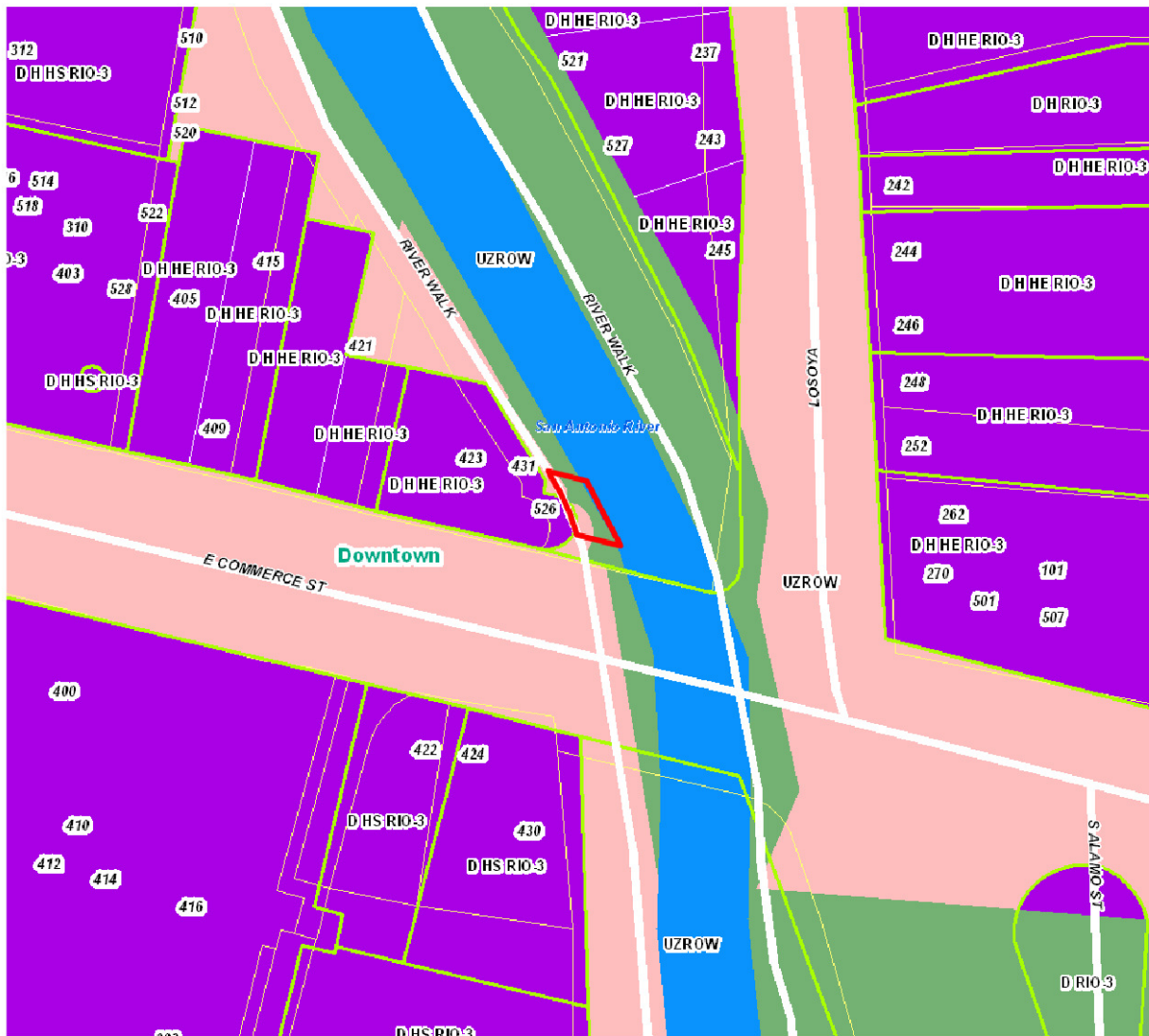
- a. The applicant has proposed to remove an existing planting bed that was installed circa 2011 that is not an original Hugman feature. By removing this, the applicant would be returning to the original, Hugman design, which would be appropriate.
- b. The applicant has also proposed to remove a section of the river wall that's approximately eight (8) inches in height to accommodate a reinforced concrete foundation which will support the granite statue base. The applicant is responsible for complying with any State and Federal regulation regarding the removal of a portion of the river wall.
- c. The applicant has proposed to mount the bronzed bust of Robert H. H. Hugman on a granite base. Per the UDC Section 35-673(g) in regards to paving materials, any new materials on or adjacent to the Riverwalk pathway should be clearly distinguishable from those of the Riverwalk. The applicant's proposed to use a granite base is consistent with the UDC.
- d. Per the UDC Section 35-679(d) in regards to Monuments, Markers, Memorials and Acknowledgements in the River Improvement Overlay, monuments must commemorate an event or person significant to the Riverwalk or the history of the Riverwalk. The applicant's proposal to place a bust and plaque honoring Robert H. H. Hugman, the designer of the Riverwalk is consistent with the UDC.
- e. The applicant is proposing the modify the existing landscaping around the proposed location of the commemorative plaque and bust. The applicant is responsible for complying with the UDC Section 35-673(f) in regards to plant materials.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval as submitted.

CASE MANAGER:

Edward Hall



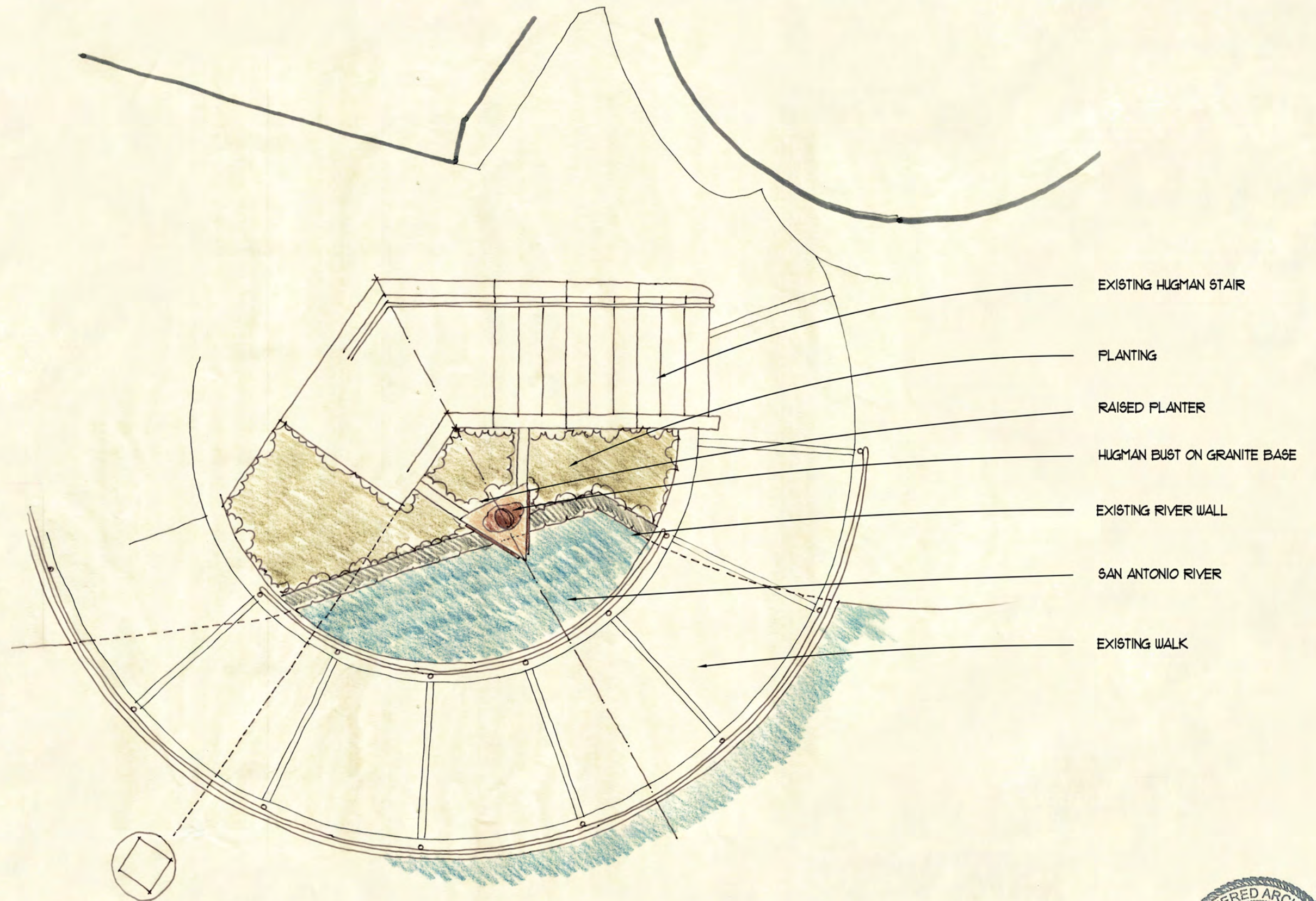


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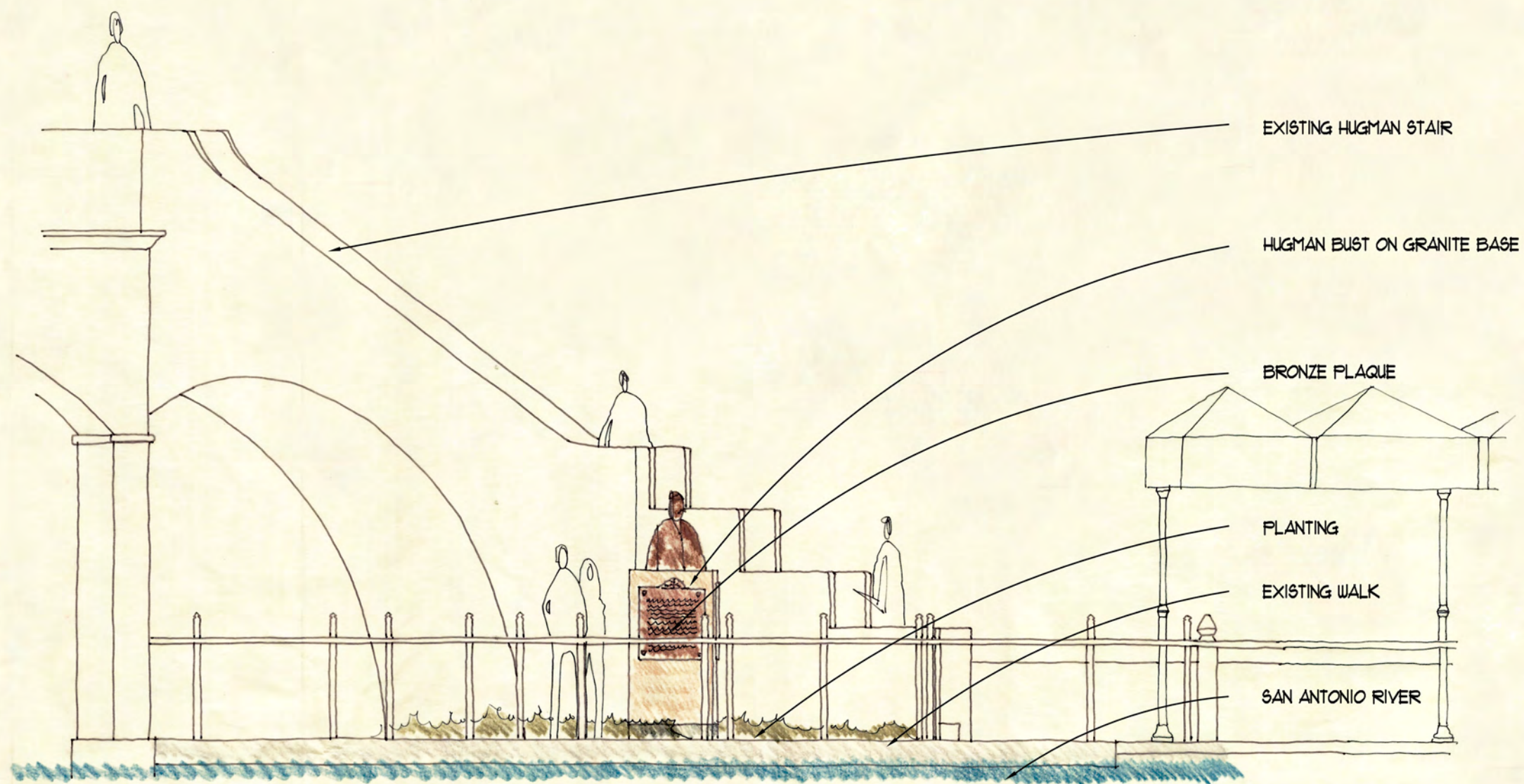
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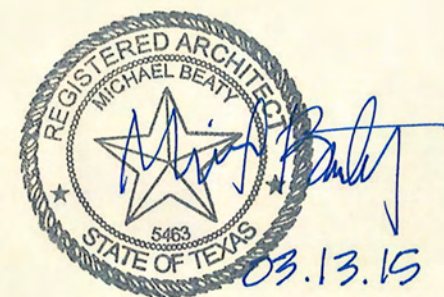


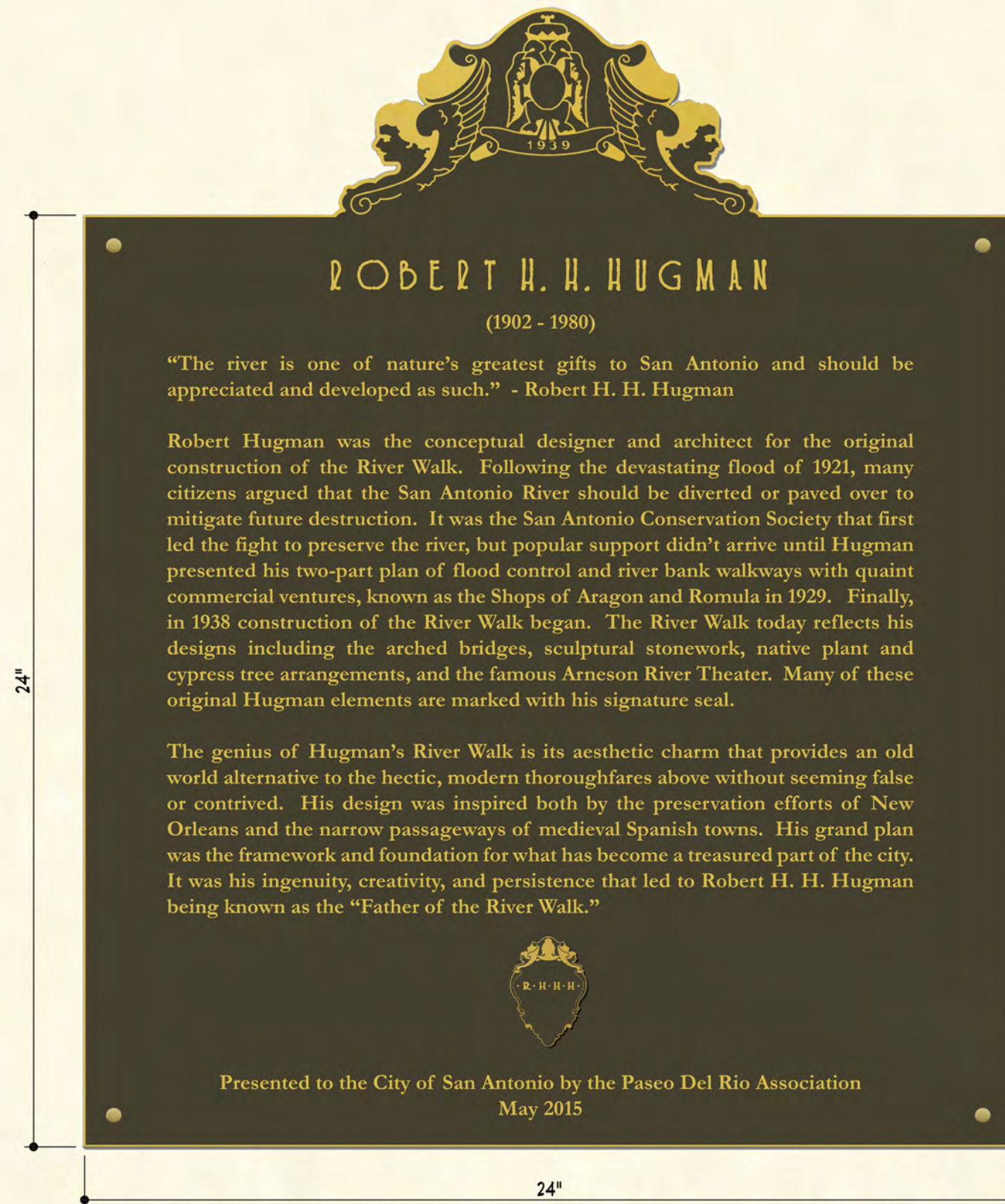
1 PLAN
 sc. 1/4" = 1'-0"



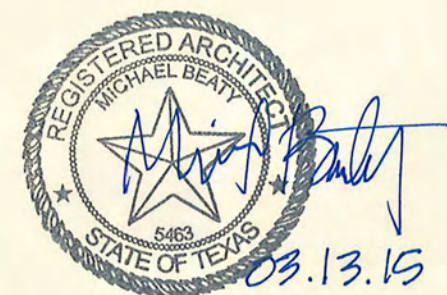


2 **ELEVATION**
 sc: 1/4" = 1'-0"





6 **PLAQUE ELEVATION**
SC: NTS





ROBERT H. H. HUGMAN

(1902 - 1980)

“The river is one of nature’s greatest gifts to San Antonio and should be appreciated and developed as such.” - Robert H. H. Hugman

Robert Hugman was the conceptual designer and architect for the original construction of the River Walk. Following the devastating flood of 1921, many citizens argued that the San Antonio River should be diverted or paved over to mitigate future destruction. It was the San Antonio Conservation Society that first led the fight to preserve the river, but popular support didn’t arrive until Hugman presented his two-part plan of flood control and river bank walkways with quaint commercial ventures, known as the Shops of Aragon and Romula in 1929. Finally, in 1938 construction of the River Walk began. The River Walk today reflects his designs including the arched bridges, sculptural stonework, native plant and cypress tree arrangements, and the famous Arneson River Theater. Many of these original Hugman elements are marked with his signature seal.

The genius of Hugman’s River Walk is its aesthetic charm that provides an old world alternative to the hectic, modern thoroughfares above without seeming false or contrived. His design was inspired both by the preservation efforts of New Orleans and the narrow passageways of medieval Spanish towns. His grand plan was the framework and foundation for what has become a treasured part of the city. It was his ingenuity, creativity, and persistence that led to Robert H. H. Hugman being known as the “Father of the River Walk.”



Presented to the City of San Antonio by the Paseo Del Rio Association
May 2015



Site Photo 1



Site Photo 2



Left side of proposed statue placement



Right side of proposed statue placement



Statue base



Front view of bust



Back view of bust