

BOARD



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY

January 23, 2004

Ms. Jean Brady
President
Monte Vista Historical Association
247 E. Rosewood
San Antonio, Texas 78212

Dear Ms. Brady:

We have received inquiries from the media and the public about a report that the Monte Vista Historical Association will no longer support the Landa Branch Library through fund-raising activities, and that another group has assumed those responsibilities.

Because of the long association between the Association and the San Antonio Public Library, I am inquiring whether there is any basis for this report. As you know, there have been a number of agreements made as a result of MVHA's fund-raising, and, if any changes are planned, we need to update those agreements and our records. Please feel free to contact me by phone at 207-2631 if there are any matters we need to discuss.

Thank you for your attention to this request. We appreciate all the contributions made to the San Antonio Public Library by the Historical Association and hope to continue our relationship.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aubrey George".

Aubrey George
Library Acting Director

Cc: John Nicholas, Chair
SAPL Board of Trustees

To Whom It May Concern:

As a taxpayer, I am concerned by the fact that the Monte Vista Historical Association continues to exclusively occupy, rent free, a building on the grounds of the city-owned Landa Library. This is a well-heeled organization that can readily afford to pay rent that then could be used by the library for its Landa Gardens Project, for books, etc. This is also discriminatory; other neighborhood associations are not given rent free quarters.

I, especially, think that the M.V.H.A. should now pay rent since its board majority, headed by its new president-elect, recently voted to sever all ties with Landa Library and to cease all fundraising for Landa Gardens, while it continues to raise thousands for the Main Street Project, the pet project of the neighborhood La Fonda restaurant's owner Cappy Lawton. Mr. Lawton allows the M.V.H.A. to have a fiesta at LaFonda, but insists that the profits be directed to the commercial Main Street Project, which is prohibited by the association's by-laws. He also makes a good profit by selling all the drinks at this event.

The new M.V.H.A. board is bitterly locked in a battle with the majority, headed by the new president elect, who is pro-Lawton and the Main Street Project, and brought about the recent vote to sever relations with the Landa Library, and the minority, headed by the new president who is pro-library and anti-Main Street Project and abides by the association's by-laws.

The new president elect has completely divided this once very congenial board and association, unbeknownst to most of the neighborhood's residents.

Ann Van Pelt, former M.V.H.A. president and head of the Landa Gardens fundraising, has moved out of the association's quarters and will now have to fundraise on her own. The board majority now plans to direct all its fundraising to the commercial Main Street Project.

A Concerned Taxpayer

PS - The La Fonda Fiesta excludes all other Monte Vista businesses; The board majority further carries out its exclusivity by electing no minorities.

PS - The M.V.H.A., since it has now severed its relations with the Landa Library, should be asked to vacate the building on the Landa grounds; the office space should now be given to Ann Van Pelt who continues to devote her time and energy to fundraising for the Landa Gardens Project. After the severance vote she was forced to move out of the M.V.H.A. office space.

PS - The M.V.H.A. has already contributed close to \$10,000 to pay for planning done for the Main Street Project by Cappy Lawton's architect, Donald McDonald, and now the board majority is promising to contribute thousands more to this project.