

HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

April 06, 2016

Agenda Item No: 1

HDRC CASE NO: 2016-131
CITY COUNCIL DIST.: 1
DISTRICT: Downtown, RIO-2, RIO-3
APPLICANT: Center City Development and Operations
OWNER: City of San Antonio
TYPE OF WORK: River Barges
REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval of a new river barge design.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

UDC Sec. 35-679. - Other Requirements and Regulations.

(c)Boats, Barges and Water Taxis. Any and all private boats, barges, and water taxis allowed to operate on the San Antonio River on a permanent basis will require a certificate of appropriateness from the historic and design review commission. Details regarding the size and design, type of power sources, and other pertinent information shall be presented to the historic and design review commission for their review.

FINDINGS:

- a. The current river barge design originates from San Antonio's 250th anniversary celebration during the 1968 World's Fair. In 2018, San Antonio will celebrate its 300th anniversary. This occasion prompted a desire by City leaders to re-imagine the river barge experience with a newly-designed, more sustainable, modular fleet using innovative technology that can respond to the needs of both tourists and residents. The City's Unified Development Code (UDC) requires HDRC approval of the new design.
- b. The City partnered with The American Institute of Architects, San Antonio Chapter (AIA San Antonio) to implement a two-phased international design competition for a new river barge design. The competition launched on October 30, 2015, with initial conceptual design proposals due February 5, 2016. A panel of 11 distinguished jurors reviewed the 12 anonymous submittals for the first phase of the competition and selected three finalist teams to move into the second phase of the competition based on design innovation, functionality, operational considerations, constructability, and sensitivity to San Antonio's culture.
- c. A design by Houston firm METALAB was selected through the review process. The design provides an all-electric fleet with modularity for boats to accommodate a wide range of uses. The innovative design is representative of San Antonio's culture and presents new opportunities for the river barge experience.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval as submitted based on findings a through c.

CASE MANAGER:

Cory Edwards





