

HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

September 07, 2016

Agenda Item No: 17

HDRC CASE NO: 2016-350
ADDRESS: 311 E HOUSTON ST
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NCB 415 BLK 18 LOT A3 & A4
ZONING: D HE
CITY COUNCIL DIST.: 1
LANDMARK: Kress Building
APPLICANT: Eddie Romero/Centro San Antonio
OWNER: Gray Street Partners
TYPE OF WORK: Mural
REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to display a temporary wall mural at 311 E Houston, commonly known as the Kress Building.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

UDC Section Division 5. – Public Art San Antonio (PSAS)

The purpose of Public Art San Antonio (PASA) is to support a public process for incorporating artist services and artworks in the design of civic spaces and capital projects and to define the City of San Antonio's policies and guidelines for acquiring and commissioning art of the highest standards which shall enrich the quality of life for all residents and visitors of San Antonio.

The goals of Public Art San Antonio (PASA) are to create a better visual environment for the residents and visitors of San Antonio, to integrate the design work of artists into the development of city eligible capital improvement projects, and to promote tourism and the economic vitality of the city through the enhancement of public spaces. Public Art San Antonio (PASA) serves the entire City of San Antonio as the public art program for all city departments, capital projects and public art initiatives, and is a division of the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA). Public Art San Antonio (PASA) specifically seeks:

To encourage the selection of artists at the beginning stages of each project who can work successfully as members of the project design team, and to encourage collaboration among all arts and building disciplines;

To foster quality design and the creation of an array of artwork in all media, materials and disciplines that best respond to the distinctive characteristics of each project site and the community that it serves;

To select experienced artists who represent the diverse cultural landscape of San Antonio;

To encourage the selection of design enhancements that are accessible to the public and respect the historical resources and mobility of the citizenry;

To encourage artists, design enhancements and programs for open spaces, parks, infrastructure and facilities that contribute to neighborhood revitalization and enhance the quality and pride of neighborhoods in the city;

To encourage participation by citizens in the process of acquiring and commissioning of design enhancements;

To encourage the role of public art and design enhancements in enhancing economic development and cultural tourism;

To encourage the role of artists in the functional design of eligible capital improvement projects;

To exhibit art in designated city facilities for the enjoyment of the public and to heighten awareness and appreciation for local artists; and

To maintain and provide stewardship of the city public art and design enhancements collection.

Sec. 35-651. - Eligible and Ineligible Public Art and Design Enhancements.

(a) Eligible Public Art and Design Enhancements. It is the policy of the City of San Antonio that all public art and design enhancements commissioned or acquired through PASA are designed by an artist, craftsman or an artist or craftsman in collaboration with the project architect, landscape architect or engineer. Such artworks may include, but are not limited to the following:

(1) The incremental costs of infrastructure elements, such as sound-walls, utility structures, roadway elements and other items if designed by an artist or design team that includes an artist co-designer.

(2) Artistic or aesthetic elements of the overall architecture or landscape design if created by a professional artist or a design team that includes a professional visual artist.

(3) Earthworks, neon, glass, mosaics, photographs, prints, calligraphy, any combination of forms of media including sound, literary elements, film, holographic images, and video systems; hybrids of any media and new genres.

(4) Murals or portable paintings in any material or variety of materials.

(5) Sculpture: freestanding, wall supported, or suspended; kinetic and electronic in any material or combination of materials.

(6) Temporary artworks or installations, if such artworks serve the purpose of providing community and educational outreach purposes.

(7) Public art and design enhancements that are an integral part of architecture, landscape architecture, and landscape design.

(b) Ineligible Public Art and Design Enhancements. Public art and design enhancements that are mass produced or of standard manufacture, such as playground equipment, fountains or statuary elements, unless incorporated into an artwork by a project artist, or reproductions, by mechanical or other means, of original artwork, except in the case of film, video, photography, printmaking or other media arts.

(c) Specifically excluded from this section is artwork in the museum collection of the San Antonio Museum of Art and the Witte Museum.

FINDINGS:

- a. The Kress Building at 315 E Houston was constructed in 1938 in the Art Modern style. The structure currently features five levels with an open air patio on the fifth level and a mechanical penthouse on the roof level. The façade currently features fenestration on the north (Peacock Alley) façade and the south (E Houston Street) facades. The east façade lacks fenestration and façade separating elements and is composed of brick.
- b. The applicant has proposed to display a temporary public art mural on the east façade of the Kress Building. The east façade is immediately adjacent to a surface parking lot. The proposed mural is to read “Downtown San Antonio”, “Since 1718” and feature various circular designs in tan, maroon and orange and graphic depictions of local historical and architectural landmarks such as the Tower of the Americas and architectural elements of mission style architecture.
- c. According to the UDC Article 5, the purpose of Public Art San Antonio (PASA) is to support a public process for incorporating artist services and artworks in the design of civic spaces and capital projects and to define the City of San Antonio’s policies and guidelines for acquiring and commissioning art of the highest standards which shall enrich the quality of life for all residents and visitors of San Antonio. Additionally, the goals of Public Art San Antonio (PASA) are to create a better visual environment for the residents and visitors of San Antonio, to integrate the design work of artists into the development of city eligible capital improvement projects, and to promote tourism and the economic vitality of the city through the enhancement of public spaces. Staff finds that the proposed sculpture has met the objectives of Article 5 of the UDC.
- d. The applicant has proposed for the mural to be displayed in a temporary manner to be removed in February of 2017. Per Development Services Department staff, the proposed mural is not classified as commercial advertising and will not require permitting.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval based on findings a through d. The applicant should ensure that a water permeable paint is used to avoid trapping moisture within the masonry.

CASE MANAGER:

Edward Hall



Flex Viewer

Powered by ArcGIS Server

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Subway

Segway Nation
San Antonio

Palm

The St. Anthony, A
Luxury Collection

Walgreens

Texas de Brazil

Navarro St

Navarro St

Level 1

311 East Houston Street

E Houston St

Peacock Alley

E Travis St

Navarro St

st Resort
onio
ab Shack

/s Seafood

Presa St

N Presa St

Jefferson

Rings of Fire

Jefferson

Cowabunga

Alamo Antique Mall

Paris Hatters

El Vaquero

Ticket Sports Pub

College St

E Travis St

