



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 2.

Agenda Date: 3/11/2015

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Office of Historic Preservation

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Shanon Miller

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: City-Wide

SUBJECT:

Briefing on Downtown Design Guidelines, Historic Design Guidelines, River Improvement Overlay District Guidelines, and Placemaking.

SUMMARY:

Briefing on Downtown Design Guidelines, Historic Design Guidelines, River Improvement Overlay District Guidelines, and Placemaking.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Several tools exist to guide the redevelopment of our Center City. These tools include the City's Historic Guidelines, the Downtown Design Guide and others adopted by City Council and included in the City's Unified Development Code (UDC). Additionally, Master Plans are developed and updated to comprehensively guide the development of key areas. Lastly, the Placemaking process has been used successfully to identify concepts to quickly create a sense of place and quickly redevelop a space.

Staff will provide a briefing on the Downtown Design Guidelines, Historic Design Guidelines, River Improvement Overlay District Guidelines, and Placemaking, which are developed to assist in the review of infill building and the process for review of historic properties and properties located within a historic district. Staff will discuss other tools such as master planning and placemaking that can be developed for specific properties or projects.

ISSUE:

The design review process for downtown projects is guided by the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, the City of San Antonio's Unified Development Code, and any additional design guidelines, such as the Downtown Design Guide adopted by City Council when reviewing projects. Often these guidelines are developed within the framework of a master planning process. Master Plans and Guidelines can be developed for specific properties such as Hemisfair or La Villita. This briefing will also include an overview of the tools available.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is a briefing item only.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is a briefing item only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is a staff briefing and requires no action.