

HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

September 02, 2026

HDRC CASE NO: 2026-226
ADDRESS: 1315 SAN PEDRO AVE
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NCB 996 BLK LOT ALL OF BLK (SAN PEDRO PARK)
ZONING: RM-4, H
CITY COUNCIL DIST.: 1
APPLICANT: Thu Nguyen
OWNER: Thu Nguyen/CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
TYPE OF WORK: Public art installation
APPLICATION RECEIVED: August 07, 2026
60-DAY REVIEW: October 06, 2026
CASE MANAGER: Bryan Morales
REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to install a public art sculpture located near the main entrance of San Pedro Springs Park.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

UDC Section 35-450. General Rules.

(a)Area of Jurisdiction. A certificate of appropriateness is required and shall be secured by a party prior to the issuance of a permit from the department of planning and development services before said party will be allowed to undertake activities affecting a designated historic landmark, property within a designated historic district, a state archaeological landmark, a recorded Texas historical landmark, property within a National Register Historic District, property listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a National Historic Landmark, property within the river improvement overlay district, public property, public rights-of-way, or public art.

UDC Sec. 35-641. - Design Considerations for Historic and Design Review Commission Recommendations.

In reviewing an application, the historic and design review commission shall be aware of the importance of attempting to find a way to meet the current needs of the City of San Antonio, lessee or licensee of public property. The historic and design review commission shall also recognize the importance of recommending approval of plans that will be reasonable to implement. The best urban design standards possible can and should be employed with public property including buildings and facilities, parks and open spaces, and the public right-of-way. Design and construction on public property should employ such standards because the use of public monies for design and construction is a public trust. Public commitment to quality design should encourage better design by the private sector. Finally, using such design standards for public property improves the identity and the quality of life of the surrounding neighborhoods.

UDC Sec 35-642. – New Construction of Buildings and Facilities:

In considering whether to recommend approval or disapproval of a certificate, the historic and design review commission shall be guided by the following design considerations. These are not intended to restrict imagination, innovation or variety, but rather to assist in focusing on design principles, which can result in creative solutions that will enhance the city and its neighborhoods. Good and original design solutions that meet the individual requirements of a specific site or neighborhood are encouraged and welcomed.

(a) Site and Setting.

(1) Building sites should be planned to take into consideration existing natural climatic and topographical features. The intrusive leveling of the site should be avoided. Climatic factors such as sun, wind, and temperature should become an integral part of the design to encourage design of site-specific facilities which reinforces the individual identity of a neighborhood and promotes energy efficient facilities.

(2) Special consideration should be given to maintain existing urban design characteristics, such as setbacks, building heights, streetscapes, pedestrian movement, and traffic flow. Building placement should enhance or create focal points and views. Continuity of scale and orientation shall be emphasized.

(3) Accessibility from streets should be designed to accommodate safe pedestrian movement as well as vehicular traffic. Where possible, parking areas should be screened from view from the public right-of-way by attractive fences, berms, plantings or other means.

(4) Historically significant aspects of the site shall be identified and if possible incorporated into the site

design. Historic relationships between buildings, such as plazas or open spaces, boulevards or axial relationships should be maintained.

FINDINGS:

- a. The property located at 1315 San Pedro Ave is a public park and designated local historic site with the common name of San Pedro Springs Park. The park is the second oldest in the United States and is the location of the Yanaguana village. The park is of significant archaeological, cultural, environmental, and architectural value. The park is situated to the north of Downtown and is an individual landmark.
- b. PUBLIC ART – The applicant is requesting approval to install a public art sculpture located near the eastern main entrance to San Pedro Springs Park off San Pedro Ave behind the stone wall near an existing sidewalk. The applicant has provided examples such as Susan Budge’s *Acequia* in Brackenridge Park and Brad Konick and Nick Ulrich’s *The Journey* in Flagstaff, Arizona to represent the inspiration of the proposed art installation. The location of the sculpture is noted in the applicant’s document submission and is represented by a yellow oval. Staff finds the proposal generally appropriate.
- c. SITE WORK – The applicant has indicated electrical, irrigation, or landscape modifications will not occur as a result of the proposed art installation other than the digging for the base. Staff finds the request generally appropriate.
- d. ARCHAEOLOGY – An archaeological investigation is required. The project shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations regarding archaeology, as applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

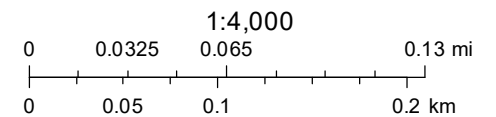
Staff recommends approval of the request, based on findings a through d, with the following stipulation:

- i. ARCHAEOLOGY – An archaeological investigation is required. The project shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations regarding archaeology, as applicable.

City of San Antonio One Stop



August 13, 2026





SAN PEDRO SPRINGS PARK PUBLIC ART

Thu Nguyen, Public Art Project Manager

September 2, 2026



**ARTS &
CULTURE**

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & CULTURE

To enrich quality of life by leading and investing
in San Antonio's arts and culture.



**Grant
Management**



**Cultural Events
& Exhibits**



Public Art



**Marketing,
Film, & Music**

PUBLIC ART PROCESS



*Approval from Public Art Committee & San Antonio Arts Commission (Public Meetings)



WHAT IS COSA PUBLIC ART?

Mission: *We open the landscape to diverse voices and narratives to create engaging public art for San Antonio's residents and visitors.*

- Art in a public place that has been through a public engagement process to help inform important design features
- Developed by artists & unique (not mass produced)
- Approved by San Antonio Arts Commission (SAAC) & Public Art Committee (PAC)

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Location: San Pedro Springs Park,
2200 N Flores St, San Antonio, TX 78212

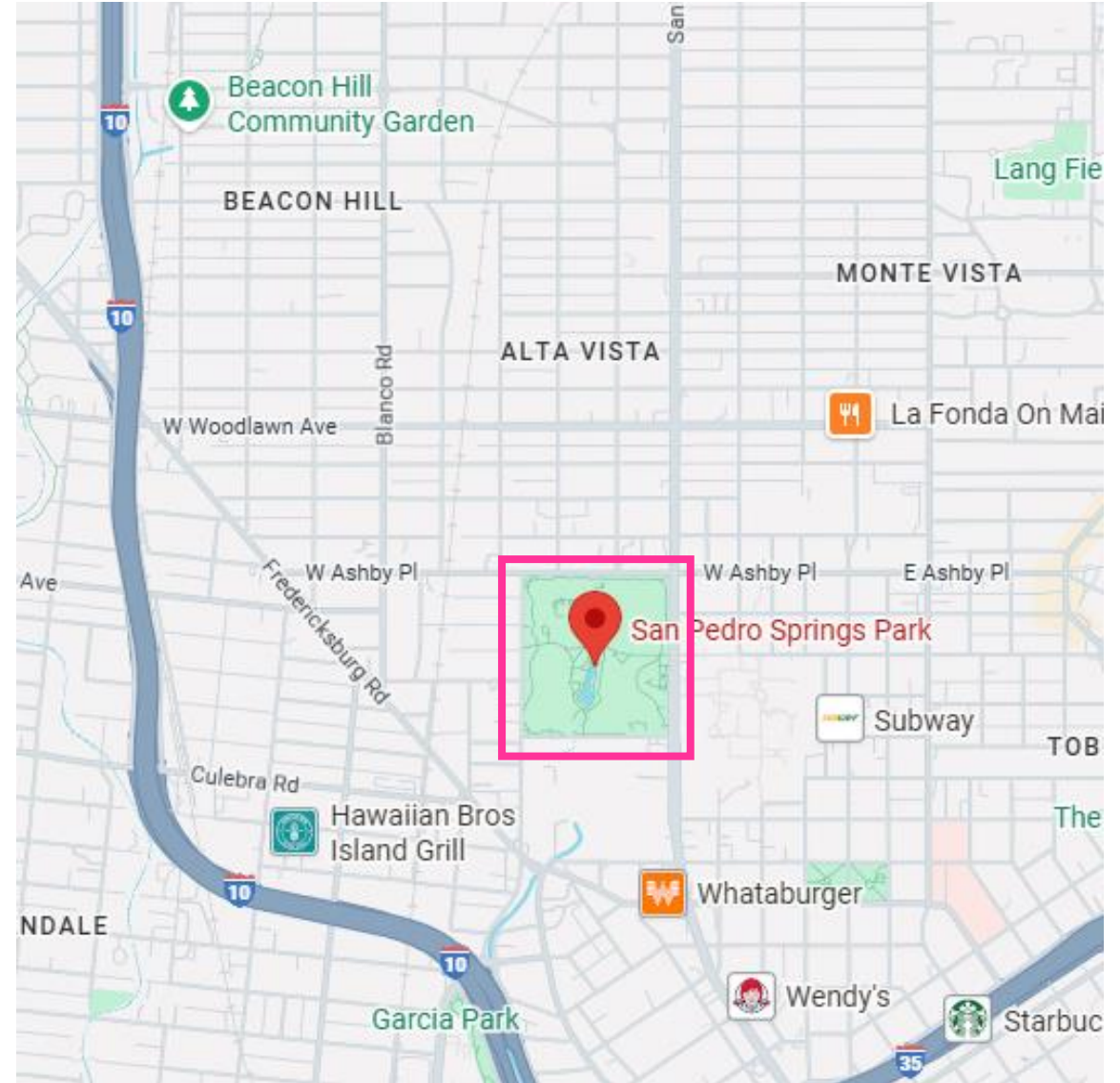
Funding: 2022-2027 Bond, Parks

Capital Delivery Department Scope:

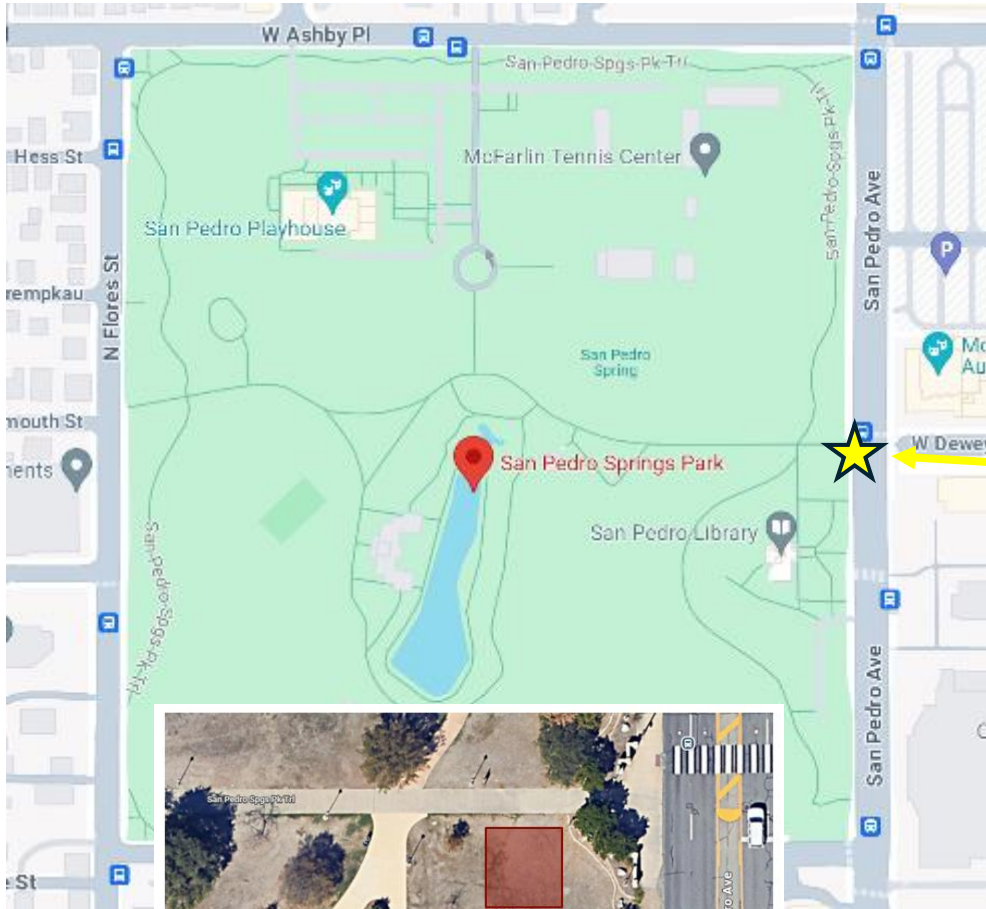
Park improvements, tree planting plan and park lighting plan

Stakeholders:

- Council District 1
- Capital Delivery Department
- Parks & Recreation
- Design team
- Park stakeholders (Friends of San Pedro Springs Park, San Pedro Springs Park Conservancy, San Pedro Playhouse)
- Visitors to the park
- Nearby neighbors and businesses
 - Alta Vista Neighborhood Association & neighboring associations



APPROXIMATE ART LOCATION



Street view of San Pedro Ave near San Pedro Branch Library (on the left)



LOCATION HISTORY

San Pedro Springs Park is the oldest park in San Antonio, and the 40-acre park offers the community opportunities for recreation, nature and connection to our city's history. The historic San Pedro Playhouse, McFarlin Tennis Center and San Pedro Branch Library are all located within the park.



Source: <https://www.sa.gov/Directory/Departments/Parks/Parks-Facilities/Parks/Directory/San-Pedro-Springs-Park>

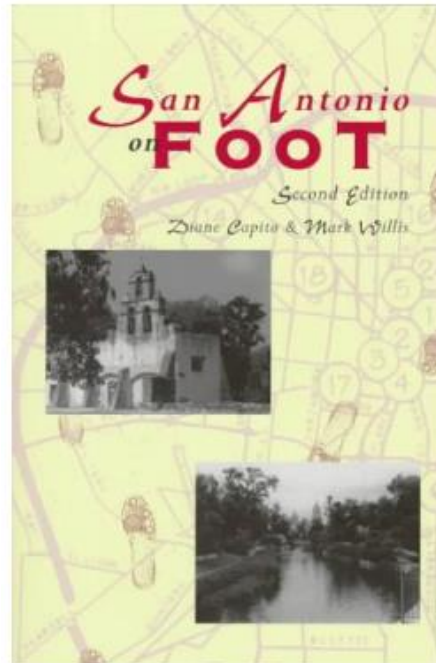
Archival research encouraged.

Suggested resources:

- Texas State Historical Association
- National Park Service
- COSA Parks & Recreation
- Edwards Aquifer

Key points for research:

- History of park and/or springs
- Environmental significance
- Recreational activities that take place



Source: <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/san-pedro-springs-park>

ARTWORK THEME

Considerations:

- **Archaeological and historical** significance in the area
- **Walking paths** are the primary activity of park users
- **Maintenance & upkeep** are immediate priorities
- **VIA Metropolitan Rapid Greenline** infrastructure
- Natural environment of the park

Three key pillars:

- History
- Nature
- Recreation



Important reminders:

This is the inspiration/launch point for artwork design.

Artists are expected to research the location's history as part of their proposal.



2000. *Unique Tiles, Medallions, and Markers*, Jack Robbins. Tile, porcelain enamel.