

# Municipal Plaza Building



# HISTORY

*The Municipal Plaza Building is an historically significant building located within the Main and Military Plaza Historic District on Plaza de las Islas next to San Fernando Cathedral. The 12-story building was constructed to house the Frost National Bank and was completed in 1922. Original interior features included a bank lobby with a three-story high space, an ornamental coffered plaster ceiling featuring floral medallions, a mezzanine wrapping around the second story, stone arcades, electrical fixtures by Tiffany, Italian marble stairway and bronze pocket doors at the entrance.*

*In 1973, Frost Bank moved to its current location on Houston Street. Luby's Cafeteria occupied the former bank lobby space from 1975 to 1989. The City of San Antonio purchased the building in 1989. City Council voted in 1992 to relocate the Council Chamber to the former bank lobby and renamed the building the Municipal Plaza Building in April, 1994.*

## ARCHITECTS

*Rehler Vaughn & Koone, Inc.  
John Zimmerman, AIA  
Project Manager*

*Beaty Saunders Architects, Inc.  
Michael Beaty, AIA  
Principal-in-Charge/Project Designer*

*Hilary J. Saunders, AIA  
Historic Preservation Architect*

## GENERAL CONTRACTOR

*M.J. Boyle General Contractor, Inc.  
Mike Boyle  
Principal*

# City Council Chambers



# CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER FEATURES

- *Auditorium seating for 252*
- *Occupancy for 499 including mezzanine space*
- *Renovation of lobby for Council Chamber and mezzanine for public functions*
- *Restoration of original ornamental ceiling*
- *Replacement of damaged cast stone and marble finishes*
- *Uncovering of windows facing San Fernando Cathedral*
- *Rewiring of historic light fixtures*
- *Relocation of staircase to provide access to mezzanine*
- *Addition of public lobbies off Main Plaza and Treviño Streets*
- *Asbestos abatement in floor and ceiling areas*
- *Code upgrades including additions of fire sprinkler system and stairways to mezzanine*

# GIFTS/DONATIONS FOR COUNCIL CHAMBER

***San Antonio Conservation Society***  
*Restoration of decorative painting in mezzanine  
and of 24 oil paintings of former mayors*

***Paragon Cable***  
*Fiber optic broadcast technology*

***Beaty Saunders Architects, Inc./  
Rehler Vaughn & Koone, Inc.***  
*Clock restoration*

***Restoration Associates Limited***  
*City Seal*

***AT&T***  
*Council Chamber telephone system*

***Sony Corporation***  
*Contribution toward audio/visual system*

***M.J. Boyle General Contractor, Inc.***  
*Building plaque at Commerce St. entrance*

***Goldbeck Co.***  
*Council portrait and frame for Treviño St. lobby*

# GRAND OPENING CEREMONIES ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*Bob Salter*

*Ella Austin Day Care Center*

*Backdraft/ Fire Department*

*Color Guard/ Police Department*

*Texas Square Singers/ Fiesta Texas*

*Coca-Cola Bottling Company of the Southwest*

*H.E.B.*

*Tires and Llantas, Inc.*

*Mi Tierra Restaurant*

*Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl*

*Most. Rev. Patrick Flores*

*Tom Frost, Jr.*

*Rev. Claude Black*

*R.K. Group*

*Old Time Coffee*

*Sun Harvest Farms*

*Dixie Flag Manufacturing Co.*

*GGC Engineers, Inc.*

 PROGRAM 

<i>Welcoming Reception</i>	<i>Plaza de las Islas</i>
<i>Entertainment</i>	<i>Backdraft San Antonio Fire Department</i>
<i>Master of Ceremonies</i>	<i>Bob Salter KSAT-12</i>
<i>Reading of Proclamation</i>	<i>Mayor Nelson W. Wolff</i>
<i>Ribbon Cutting</i>	<i>Mayor and City Council</i>
<i>Processional into Building</i>	<i>Mayor, City Council and Guests Musical Selections by La Rondalla</i>
<i>Color Guard</i>	<i>San Antonio Police Department</i>
<i>Pledge of Allegiance</i>	<i>Ella Austin Day Care Center with Grandparent Program</i>
<i>National Anthem</i>	<i>Texas Square Singers Fiesta Texas</i>
<i>Invocation</i>	<i>Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl Temple Beth-El</i>
<i>Acknowledgments and Remarks</i>	<i>Mayor Nelson W. Wolff City Council Alexander E. Briseño, City Manager</i>
<i>Retrospect</i>	<i>Tom Frost, Jr. Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Frost National Bank</i>
<i>Blessing of the Building</i>	<i>Most Rev. Patrick Flores Archbishop of San Antonio</i>
<i>Benediction</i>	<i>Rev. Claude Black Mount Zion Baptist Church</i>





**NEWS RELEASE**  
**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO**

P.O. BOX 839966  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78283-3966

**For Immediate Release:**  
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**Contact: Rebecca Waldman/299-7080**  
or **Carmen Vázquez-González/ 299-7235**

**City Council Moves to New Chamber**

City Council today inaugurated the Council Chamber in Municipal Plaza Building at 103 Main Plaza.

Hundreds of people attended dedication ceremonies to mark the completion of the \$1.9 million construction project that showcases the original interior designs of the former Frost Bank lobby and subsequent Luby's cafeteria now turned into an accomodating state-of-the-art meeting facility.

"This new chamber makes local government more accessible to its citizens," said Mayor Nelson W. Wolff. "The increased seating will allow more people to participate while the new audio-visual system will enhance the clarity of presentations for people in the chamber and for those watching at home on television."

The new Council Chamber features auditorium seating for 252 people although occupancy can reach up to 499 with space in the mezzanine level.

Two large video screens behind the Council have been installed for better viewing of presentations.

Gifts and donations from the community provided for several aspects of the new facility including the restoration of decorative painting in the mezzanine, the City Seal,

**-more-**

## Council Chamber, page 2

the clock above the dais and paintings of former mayors displayed in the first floor lobbies.

The new Council Chamber is located in the former Main Plaza building known to many citizens as the location of Frost Bank until 1973 and Luby's Cafeteria from 1975 to 1989. The City of San Antonio purchased the building in 1989. City Council voted in 1992 to relocate the Council Chamber to this new site and renamed the building the Municipal Plaza Building in April 1994.

Architects of the project were Rehler Vaughn & Koone, Inc. and Beaty Saunders Architects, Inc. The general contractor was M. J. Boyle General Contractor, Inc.

Public tours by Council Districts have been scheduled for Saturday, May 21 at the following times:

Districts 1 and 2:	9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Districts 3 and 4	10:30 a.m. to noon
Districts 5 and 6	Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Districts 7 and 8	1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Districts 9 and 10:	3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.