

# CITY HALL FOR ALL



Ryan Loyd / TPR News

*Accessibility Design Competition*  
<http://adadesigncompetiton.org>

## COMPETITION ORGANIZERS



**City of San Antonio**



**AIA**  
San Antonio



**The Gordon Hartman**  
FAMILY FOUNDATION



*Environmental barriers  
create disability, so no  
barriers—no disability.*

*- The late Judy Babbitt  
Disability Access Officer  
City of San Antonio*

**The City of San Antonio and The American Institute of Architects, San Antonio Chapter in partnership with H-E-B and The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation, announce a design competition to make San Antonio’s iconic City Hall accessible to all.**

The generous support of the Gordon Hartman Family Foundation has provided the \$20,000 competition prize as well as a stipend for the development of base drawings of City Hall prepared by graduate students from the Center for Architectural Engagement at UTSA’s College of Architecture, Construction and Planning. Since 2005, The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation has been dedicated to assisting the special-needs community through multiple initiatives such as unique Morgan’s Wonderland theme park and The Academy at Morgan’s Wonderland school for students with special needs. Foundation founder Gordon Hartman’s involvement honors the public service of his late father, Glen Hartman, who served on the City Council from 1975 to 1979 and spent countless hours at City Hall serving the citizens of San Antonio.

**COMPETITION OVERVIEW**

City Hall is one of San Antonio’s most prominent, historic public buildings. This competition challenges participants to design an accessible solution for the east elevation of City Hall. The solution must meet the standards of preservation while also supporting equality of opportunity, full participation and self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities. All submittal information becomes the property of the City of San Antonio and AIA San Antonio

**<http://adadesigncompetitor.org>**

The competition registration opens on March 14, 2017 and closes on April 3, 2017. Attendance is mandatory at a Pre-submittal Conference will be held on April 17, 2017. All registrants are required to participate, either in person or by conference call; those who do not participate will not be eligible to submit a solution. Tours of City Hall will be offered immediately afterwards. For those participating from out of town, additional tour opportunities will be provided.

Submittals are due on June 30, 2017. All entries will be displayed beginning on July 17, 2017 in the Plaza de Armas Culture Commons Gallery. The public will be invited to review and comment on the solutions. Entries will be vetted by the Jury on August 1, 2017 and the winner will be announced on August 16, 2017.

**ELIGIBILITY**

The competition is open to individuals or teams with expertise in architecture, accessibility, engineering, or historic preservation. At least one team member must reside in Texas, or be formally enrolled in a Texas School.

**PRIZE**

The winning entry will receive a \$20,000 prize. Selection as the competition winner is not a guarantee that the City will enter into a contract with the winner for professional design services, or that the winning entry will be constructed. Any awarded design or construction contract shall be pursuant to the City’s required process for contracting with design consultants.



San Antonio Conservation Society



The Rivard Report

## HISTORY

One of the United States' oldest public buildings in continuous use, the San Antonio City Hall is prominently located on Military Plaza, which has been the heart of the city since the 18th century. The present building has served as City Hall since its dedication in 1892.

The building was designed by Otto Kramer, a prominent architect of the time working in New York, Chicago and St. Louis. His Renaissance Revival-style building changed the character of Military Plaza from an open market to the center of municipal government. The construction of City Hall began in 1888 and was completed in 1891. Originally designed as a three-story structure, the limestone building featured an octagonal clock tower that stood 135 feet high. The tower and corner turrets were removed in 1927, when a fourth floor was added.

With entrances that face both east and west, the building is symmetrical with the exception of the corner towers; those on the north facade are square, and those on the south are circular, a feature that was erroneously interpreted in later years as indicating the presence of two architects.

The east-facing steps of City Hall, which serve as the grand public entrance along Flores Street, provide for a variety of gatherings, including press announcements, public demonstrations and community ceremonies. As the entry point to the building which provides offices for local government elected officials, its substantial presence on the façade has become a symbol of local democracy. However, for persons with disabilities, the steps of City Hall may also be seen as a barrier to fully participate in the public process.

## CONTEXT

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 does not require that an accessible entrance be located at the current public entrance, atop the grand stairs at the east entrance. Persons with disabilities are directed to the southwest side of the building where they must take a ramp to the basement entrance under the west entrance stair, "check in" at the security station, and then take an elevator to the first floor.

This design competition seeks to generate solutions that will provide an accessible approach to the east entrance of City Hall that is both celebratory and respectful. In the words of District 1 City Councilman, Roberto C. Trevino, AIA, "*City Hall should not be just adequate, and technically correct, in the manner it complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act, but should allow all residents and visitors equal access to the front door of City Hall.*"

*"We at The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation greatly appreciate being involved in this long-overdue endeavor that will ensure all San Antonians unfettered access to the seat of their city government."*

*— Gordon Hartman, CEO, The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation*

## REGISTRATION

Advance registration is required to participate. To register, visit <http://adadesigncompetiton.org>. The entry fee for each submittal is \$175.. Questions should be sent to [cityhallforall@aiaa.org](mailto:cityhallforall@aiaa.org).

## SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

Entries are due June 30, 2017 by 4 PM CT and must be submitted in digital format (3 separate PDF files no larger than 10 mb in size) to AIA San Antonio's Dropbox provided upon registration.

### FILE # 1: Design Team Information \*

- Project Title
- Team/Firm Name
- Team Member Contact Information, including name, physical address, email address, and telephone number for each member.

### FILE # 2: Design Concept Narrative \*

Narrative may not exceed two 8.5" x 11" pages addressing the evaluation criteria. Font must be 12 pt Arial.

### FILE # 3: Two 24" x 36" Presentation Boards

Must be in landscape format, and include all the following information:

#### Site Plan:

- One (1) Site Plan, showing full extent of the City Hall parcel, with accessible path clearly denoted.
- One (1) Partial Site Plan, showing detailed plan extent of improvement and existing front door steps.

#### Elevation/Section:

- East Elevation of Improvement.
- Section through Improvement, that illustrates beginning/ending elevations, any riser, slope or elevation changes.

#### Context Illustrations

- Illustrates the solution in context with City Hall showing how the existing structure is impacted.
- At least one rendering or elevation that illustrates the existing condition and the proposed solution.

**\* NOTE:** No identifying information of any kind (team or firm name, individual names, or logos) may be included on the Project Narrative or Boards, or the submission will be disqualified.

## SUBMITTAL CHECKLIST

Login information will be provided upon registration. Materials to be uploaded to Competition Dropbox

- Design Team Information\*
- Design Concept Narrative\*
- Two 24" x 36" Presentation Boards

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

The submitted solution must meet TAS standards. The evaluation criteria for the competition includes:

- Design Innovation 35%
- Historic Appropriateness 35%
- Feasibility 30%

## 2017 SCHEDULE

<b>March 14</b>	Registration Opens
<b>April 3</b>	Registration Closes
<b>April 17</b>	Mandatory Pre-Submittal Conference, 114 W. Commerce St. – B Room, 10 AM (City Hall tours will be offered)
<b>June 30</b>	Submittals Due - 4 PM CT
<b>July 17</b>	Open House—Competition Entry Public Viewing, Culture Commons Gallery, Plaza de Armas Bldg.
Exhibition will remain on view through July 28, with a subsequent exhibition at Morgan's Wonderland.	
<b>August 1</b>	Jury Review of Entries
<b>August 16</b>	Winner Announced
<b>December 3</b>	Proclamation on International Person's with Disabilities Day

## COMPETITION JURORS



The Honorable Diego Bernal  
State Representative—District 123



Jeffrey Fetzler, FAIA  
Historic Preservation Architect



Sharon Fleming, AIA  
Texas Historical Commission



Peter Grojean, P.E.  
Registered Accessibility Specialist



Todd Hargroder  
Special-Needs Community Representative

## REFERENCES

A variety of resources on retrofitting historic and/or civic buildings for accessibility are available, and have been provided for reference in considering a solution:

*City Hall Partial As-Builts (PDF and AutoCad)*  
<http://adadesigncompetiton.org>

*Preservation Brief #32—Making Historic Properties Accessible*  
<https://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/32-accessibility.htm>

*Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS)*  
<https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/ab/abtas.htm>

*City of San Antonio Historic Design Guidelines/ Historic Review Process*  
<http://www.sanantonio.gov/historic/Resources/HistoricDistrictGuidelines>

*Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*  
<https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards.htm>

*The Antiquities Code of Texas, State Review Process*  
<http://www.thc.texas.gov/project-review/antiquities-code-texas>

## COMPETITION PARTNERS



City of San Antonio



AIA  
San Antonio



  
The Gordon Hartman  
FAMILY FOUNDATION

 UTSA College of Architecture,  
Construction and Planning