

El Rinconcito de Esperanza

site of Paseo Por El Westside and Esperanza's work in the Westside

El Paso St.



Casa de Cuentos (porch, rear view), 816 S. Colorado St.

Acquired in 2001, Casa de Cuentos is the largest structure at the Rinconcito appearing in city directories in 1916. It has been a bakery, Torres grocery and various cleaners. In 1994, it became known as La Casa de Misericordia when Emilia Sánchez, owner, began to care for the barrio's needy from here. It is fully remodeled and used as a gathering place for Westside community to share their photos and stories. It is also a gathering place for the Corazones del Westside, elders who work to preserve Westside cultural traditions. During special events, the Casa hosts photo exhibits, workshops, community ofrendas and visiting artists.

Colorado St.



Ruben's Ice House, 820 S. Colorado St.

Formerly the M&E Grocery Store on the corner of S. Colorado and Guadalupe, this site was also a café and popular community gathering space. Mr. Ruben Reyes was listed as the owner in the 60s. It was bought in 2007 by the Esperanza, with the support of the Reyes children. It is used during the Paseo for pláticas and workshops and to screen films and videos. Plans include using it as part of a barrio museum.



El Rinconcito de Esperanza, the little corner of Hope, is a set of buildings at 816 and 820 S. Colorado St. bought by the Esperanza following the demolition of La Gloria. They have been renovated in order to do the work of the Westside that includes the preservation of Westside historical sites and cultural traditions threatened by commercialization, appropriation of culture and encroaching gentrification.

La Casita (behind Casa de Cuentos, obscured by trees)

La Casita (covered by the trees) is a small barrio home that has been restored. Daniel Gonzáles who grew up here tells his boy-hood stories at every Paseo. It is used for office space, visiting artists, pláticas and exhibit space.



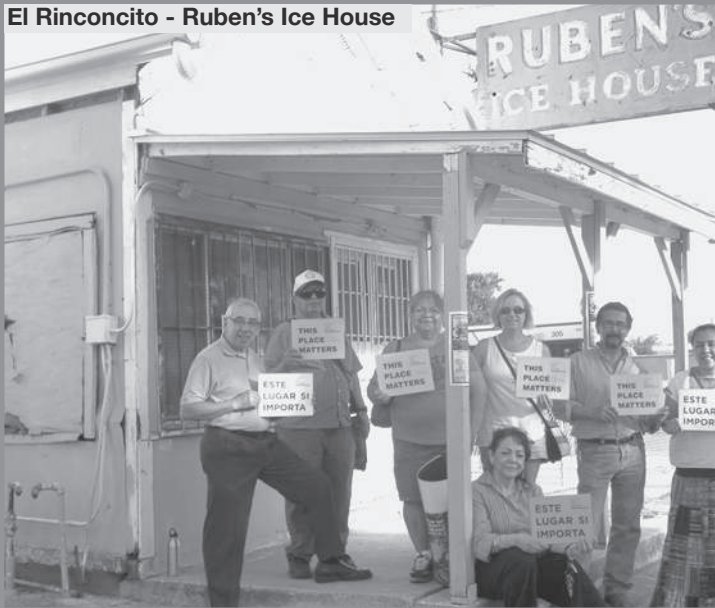
MujerArtes Studio (under construction)

MujerArtes' adobe abode, their new studio, is almost done (see below). They will move from their casita on El Paso St. this summer. The mujeres have been involved in the construction of the new studio from the ground up: making Earth blocks and designing and maintaining the walls. They have decorated it with handmade tiles and murals. Accessible bathrooms, a full kitchen, a large workspace and a room for the kiln complete the studio. Open soon!



From Demolition To Preservation: A response to La Gloria

El Rinconcito - Ruben's Ice House



El Rinconcito - La Casita



El Rinconcito - Casa de Cuentos



El Rinconcito de Esperanza

The Esperanza Peace and Justice Center at 922 San Pedro has committed to working towards the preservation of neighborhoods and cultural traditions of San Antonio's Westside. Following the demolition of La Gloria, the Esperanza purchased two lots, at the corner of Colorado and Guadalupe St. Pictured are the three buildings before being remodeled (current aerial view on p. 4 & 5 shows the buildings after being remodeled.)

Jerma's Nite Club, www.savelermas.org

The historic conjunto dancehall, on San Antonio's Westside, is now recognized on the national register of historic places and was granted historical landmark status by the San Antonio City Council in 2010. Jerma's was known as the heart of conjunto music until concerns about the safety of the building shut it down. In danger of demolition, Esperanza stepped in as caretaker and started a Save Jerma's campaign, a community-driven initiative to restore Jerma's Nite Club.



Casa Maldonado, 1310 Guadalupe, known as the “pink house”, is a historic West Side structure that was the home of early political activity in San Anotnio’s predominantly Mexican American West Side. In danger of demolition, community groups fought the destruction of the building winning support from city officials to preserve it after San Antonio’s Historic Design Review Committee (HDRC) deemed the site historic in March 2011. The Esperanza in partnership with the Westside Preservation Alliance and buena gente staved off plans to annihilate and gen-trify the structure which has now been remodeled.



Casa Maldonado

The Westside Preservation Alliance was formed with the goal of bringing together community groups, residents, businesses and others committed to the economic well-being of Westside communities that will maintain historic & cultural preservation as a value of community progress. The group meets regularly to re-view concerns in the Westside related to preservation, economic development and encroaching gentrification.

This Place Matters is a national campaign that encourages people to celebrate the places that are meaningful to them and to their communities.



Casa Maldonado, “The Pink House”

Jerma’s Night Club is one of four spaces in the building on Zarzamoras St.

