

# Hays Street Bridge Restoration Group v. City Of San Antonio

Yaneth Flores

In a photo contest sponsored by the Esperanza, community members highlighted the beauty of the Hays St. Bridge from the corner of Cherry and Lamar Streets—an endangered view in our city. The contest was conducted to bring attention to the area in dispute that will be the subject of a hearing before the Texas Supreme Court. For background and history of the Hays St. Bridge, the Hays St. Bridge Restoration Group and the land at the corner of Cherry and Lamar check the July/Ag 2018 issue of La Voz de Esperanza.

A park that has yet to be—803 N. Cherry—is under threat of becoming another luxury apartment complex. The City of San Antonio gave Alamo Beer owner, Eugene Simor, this land in an unethical backroom deal. Since then, Simor has partnered with Mitch Meyer in a project dubbed “The Bridge” Apartments that will block the view of the Hays St. Bridge from the corner of Cherry and Lamar St. The view would then be open to only those who can afford to pay for it.

“The Bridge” Apartments will become yet another overpriced eyesore in our city—one more vacant apartment complex struggling to rent units at prices San Antonio cannot afford. This will be at the cost of our history, our community, and our neighborhoods. A project that has had millions of dollars in city incentives, “The Bridge” Apartments will add to the ongoing gentrification of San Antonio’s Eastside, pushing out lifelong residents.

After a six-year-plus legal battle, the Hays St. Bridge Restoration Group awaits a Texas Supreme Court hearing on Thursday, September 13th, where they will challenge the City on the illegal sale of 803 N. Cherry. The Group, along with the Hays St. Bridge Community coalition, will be making their way to Austin in support of our public spaces. June Bratcher, of Daisy Charters and Shuttles, has generously donated a bus to take community members from San Antonio to the State’s Supreme Court. It is crucial that community members attend the hearing. Call 210.228.0201 or email [organizing@esperanzacenter.org](mailto:organizing@esperanzacenter.org) to go with us to Austin! We need to show the court we want to keep #privatehandsoffpubliclands in San Anto!



“Greed” by Elionas Puente shows a house made of “We Buy Houses” signs found throughout the Eastside as speculators motivated by GREED flip homes to sell for a huge profit. Developers and elected officials, oftentimes the same, often put profits over our people. (House made by Brian Gordon, Marisol Cortez, and Raul Gomez.)



“I Wanna Ride My Bike at the Park” by Veronica Arnold suggests that Eastside kids might never have their park—that was promised over ten years ago—and be able to play under the shadow of the Hays Street Bridge.



“Downtown Blueberry Yoke Swirl” by Ernie Román This iconic view of the Bridge could be blocked by an apartment complex that none of us can afford to live in.

# Cherry & Lamar Para La Gente



“San Antonio TriSilencio” by Barbie Hurtado, Giomara Bazaldúa, and AnaKaren Parga focuses on the City’s celebration of 300 years of colonization that continues in the guise of “growth” at a cost of our neighborhoods pushing lifelong San Antonio residents out of their homes silencing their voices.



“Save” by Jess Gonzáles  
If we do not save 803 N. Cherry from the hands of private interest, the view of the historic Hays St. Bridge will forever be lost—blocked by a five story luxury apartment complex adding to the privatization of our public spaces. The building of this complex in a historically working class neighborhood of color is a catalyst to the gentrification and erasure of our communities.



“Reminiscing at the Hays” by Thainna Marquez  
The potential for the property at 803 N. Cherry to become community property benefitting generations to come may be determined at the upcoming hearing at the Texas Supreme Court on September 13.