

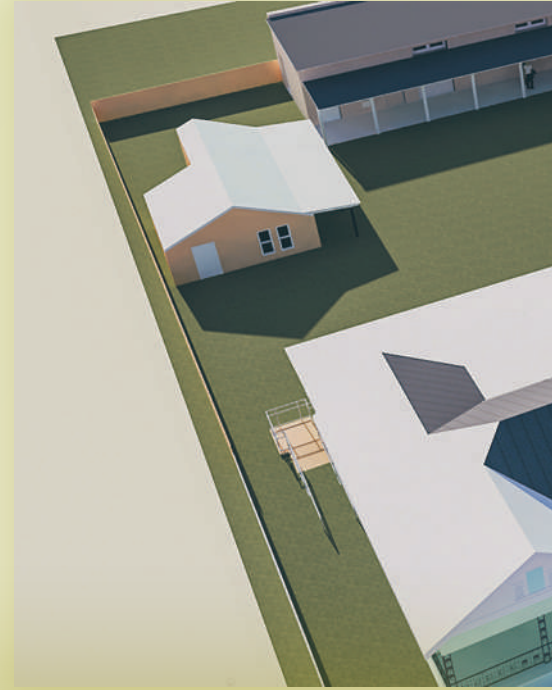
Museo del Westside

The building design planning phase of the Museo del Westside project of the Esperanza is wrapping up! This spring and summer we hosted meetings to gather feedback on the plan to transform the Westside historic landmark, Ruben's Ice House, located at 816 S. Colorado, into a permanent home for a community participatory museum.

To date, this process has included 10 design team meetings, 4 Museo Advisory Committee meetings and 3 community meetings. In January, our design team, including architect Dwayne Bohuslav and designer Arturo Vilchis, both of whom were involved in earlier rehab projects at the Rinconcito de Esperanza, and David Grabitske, a museum consultant with years of experience with projects like ours, began meeting with staff to develop a preliminary understanding of the project with options to present to the community. In early March, we met with family members who sold us Ruben's Ice House to get their blessing. They not only liked the idea of a Museo, but also offered to serve on the Museo Advisory Committee that consists of 17 current and former Westside residents committed to making the Museo a reality. Later in March, the Community Advisory Committee held its first meeting where it developed a working mission statement and has since developed a working vision statement and is now drafting a strategic plan.

At the first community meeting held in late March, the design team introduced to the public their

initial design concepts for the building rehabilitation. The plan called to preserve the original Ruben's building while adding modern heating, ventilation, and cooling systems, making the building wheelchair friendly with a new rear entrance, and adding a compressed earth block addition to the back of the existing structure to provide more gallery space and collections storage. The design was well received. As Ruben's has historic designation we also needed to get preliminary feedback from the city's Design Review Committee (DRC in early July. Feedback was largely positive, but a few minor sug-



Street view of the Rinconcito de Esperanza that includes the Casa de Cuentos at left, the MujerArtes studio at the rear and the proposed new addition to Ruben's Ice House that would be the Museo at right.

La Casita, an additional building, that is not visible is behind the Casa de Cuentos. (See Bird's eye view above) Architectural Design by Dwayne Bohuslav and illustrations by Arturo Vilchis.

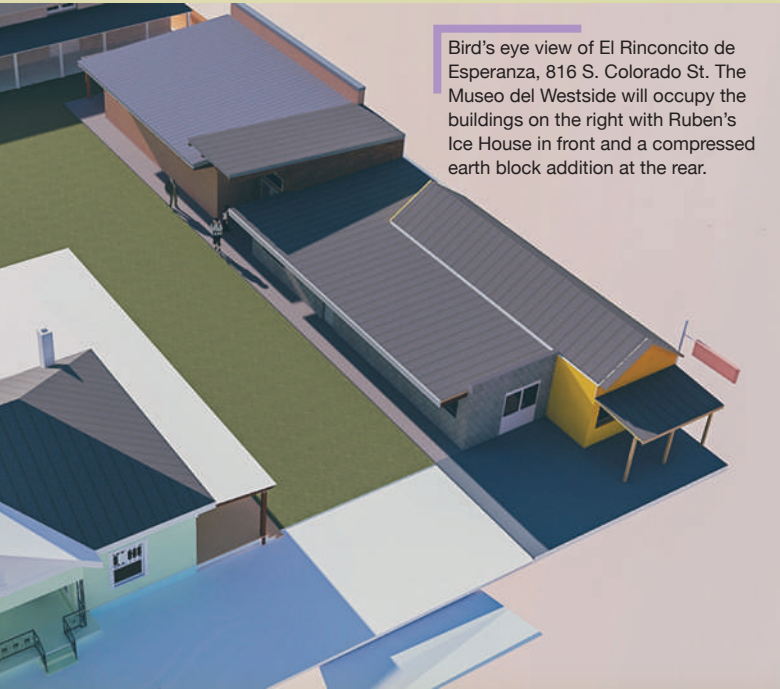
Museo del Westside's **Working** Mission Statement (adopted March 2019)

The Museo del Westside is dedicated to preserving and presenting the unique history, heritage, culture, pride, work ethic, and diverse experiences of la gente del Westside, to increase understanding and appreciation by building

and strengthening knowledge of the Westside in order to create a more vibrant future for our community.

Planning Update

gestions meant revisions needed to be considered. At our July meeting we shared the DRC's feedback, invited design ideas for the planned new adobe wall that will face the Rinconcito's courtyard, and collected testimonials in support of the Museo.



Bird's eye view of El Rinconcito de Esperanza, 816 S. Colorado St. The Museo del Westside will occupy the buildings on the right with Ruben's Ice House in front and a compressed earth block addition at the rear.

The next month, Arturo presented revised drawings incorporating the DRC's suggestions. Those at the August meeting were pleased with the drawings, and filled out a fundraising survey to help us develop the project's fundraising plan. Fill out the survey at: <https://tinyurl.com/y43tuneu>.)

The next step will be to take the plans to the full Historic and Design Review Commission (HDRC) for approval. **We will need your support when we present the plans to HDRC, so please keep an eye out for an announcement about when that is scheduled.**

We still have a lot to do to make this vision a reality! A common question that has come up is about landscaping. So, we are now working on a plan to identify and fund a landscape architect who can work with us on an outdoor environment everyone can enjoy. Stay tuned for future community meetings—this is a long-term project that requires **your** support from start to finish!

Finally, I want to thank the San Antonio Conservation Society and National Trust for Historic Preservation for the planning grants that assisted in this building design planning phase and thank you to every community member who has attended a planning meeting – we couldn't do this without you!

—Sarah Zenaida Gould, PhD, *Director Museo del Westside*



View of the proposed new compressed earth block addition at the rear of the Museo.

We are accepting design ideas for how to customize this adobe wall that does not have windows to minimize light damage to artifacts that are displayed and stored.



Help us make the Museo del Westside a reality! Make a donation to the Museo project or become a monthly Museo donor! Email museo@esperanzacenter.org or call 210-228-0201.

Museo del Westside's **Working** Vision Statement (adopted July 2019)

Recognizing the transformative power of telling our stories, we envision a community that honors the rich histories and cultures of the Westside, including its Mexican American corazón. By inviting community participation, embracing community knowledge, and

being good stewards of community-sourced collections, we create bridges between people by exchanging ideas and educating and empowering each other to promote human dignity and sustain our community.