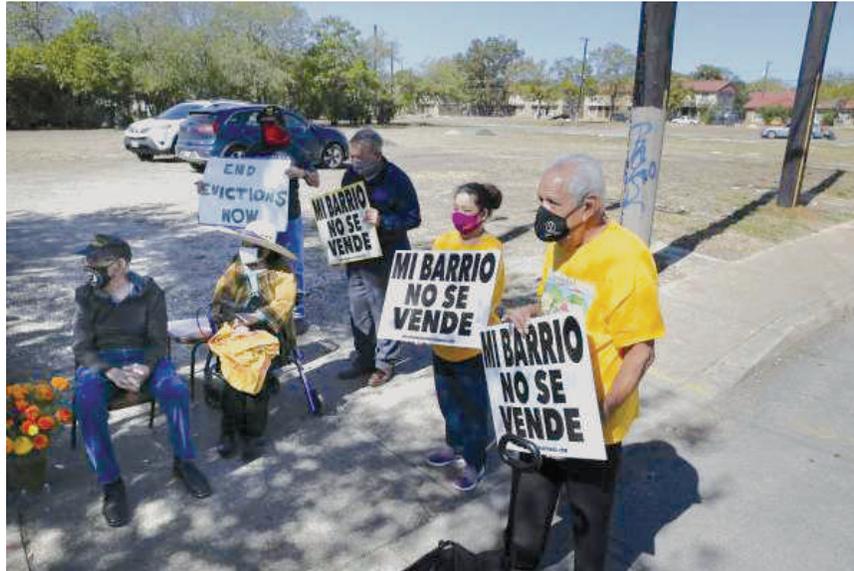


at the very back of large U-shaped bleachers. My seat was the end seat, top row. I realized that I would be watching the backs of the performers the entire night and that I could see backstage. The “premium” high priced tickets were in front of the stage, and that was the focus of performers. I watched “magic” tricks from behind, seeing every sleight of hand, every false bottom, watching the woman remove a panel and walk across to the next booth. There were oohh’s and aahh’s from those who paid higher prices. I just kept thinking, ‘what a waste of money’. That is what happens in life. Those of us who are lower incomes can see backstage. We see the illusions that are being laid for the higher income individuals. We wonder why they are falling for the tricks. Unfortunately, this is how the majority of shady business deals get past the general public. Many people are content with what they are told, what sounds pretty. Others bow to fear tactics and live their lives head down. I want to challenge everyone reading this to lift up your head, see through the illusion. Do not let another person take away your rights, your culture, your hopes and dreams. Don’t fall for the sleight of hand.



The Historic Westside Residents Association (HWRA) protests the virtual groundbreaking of the Legacy at Alazán, an 88-unit mixed-income complex being constructed across the Rinconcito de Esperanza.

The truth is that a large majority of people in San Antonio do not know how to spot the lies wrapped up with a nice bow on top. A good rule to follow is if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. It’s not the only rule though. I like to follow the rule of—you get what you put in. When you put in the time and effort to research a subject before listening to a presentation or having

a conversation about it, there is a greater chance you can defend your perspective and detect misrepresented facts. When you arm yourself with knowledge, you’re better able to make informed decisions based on that information. When it’s something as important as where you and your children live, there is no greater need for informed decisions. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. “ Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.”

SAHA is banking on our community being ignorant. It’s my pleasure to educate as many people as possible.

BIO: Kayla Miranda, a housing justice advocate organizing in the Westside of San Antonio resides at the Alazan/Apache Courts.



S.T. Shimi

Beloved artist, activist and educator, S.T. Shimi died tragically on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 after being struck by an SUV on the streets of San Antonio. She was 49 years old. Shimi was often seen walking briskly in the Southtown area where she lived with her beloved, artist husband, Oscar Alvarado. News of her death spread quickly throughout the arts world of San Antonio and beyond. Shimi, whose stage name was Black Orchid, performed with San Antonio’s Stars and Garters burlesque troupe. She was skilled at dancing incorporating pole dancing, fire-eating, aerial silks



Photo: Oscar Alvarado

and hooping. Her performances were a wonder to behold! Shimi was a defender of LGBTQ rights, an environmental justice advocate, a fierce feminist and a champion of social justice. Her introduction to the San Antonio stage came by way of Jump-Start Performance Co. and she remained close to company members. Her untimely death is a blow to us all. There was so much more ahead for her that was not to be. Her memory will burn bright in our hearts. A native of Singapore, Shimi’s given name was Thanalakshmi Subramaniam. May she rest in power! ¡S.T. Shimi, presente!