

Alamo Update – June 2022

- **Alamo Leadership**
 - General Land Office
 - George P. Bush – very detrimental to the Alamo during his 8 years in office.
 - Dawn Buckingham – won Republican primary; she will do a much better job with the Alamo.
 - Lt. Governor Dan Patrick – VERY STRONG Alamo advocate. He helped save the Cenotaph. I provided my research to him which was instrumental in saving the Cenotaph. Governor Patrick is the reason the Alamo Plan is back on track.
 - Kate Rogers – confirmed DEMOCRAT who is technically employed by the Alamo Trust (salary \$280,000+). She replaced Douglass McDonald who “retired” in 2020. Rogers supports the Democrat party, follows Wendy Davis, etc. Check her twitter @katersat
- **Alamo Plan** – The plan currently appears to be headed in the correct direction – restoration continues.
 - Plans for the Alamo are currently being presented to the Texas Historical Commission for approval at THC quarterly meetings.
 - Museums – 2 are now planned
 - One Museum will be behind the Alamo, is under construction, and will house the Phil Collins collection.
 - Large Museum and visitors center will be across the street from the Alamo in improved former buildings (Woolworth’s etc). Ripley’s, and other maze/gaming circus-like businesses have vacated the premises.
 - The Large Museum will encompass many segments of history of Alamo Plaza including the desegregation of the lunch counter at Woolworths; indigenous period regarding tribes living in San Antonio. Unknown if slavery, U.S. Army occupation of the Alamo, use of the Alamo as a jail, etc. will be highlighted. **We must ensure the events of 1835-1836 is a strong focus of the visitor’s experience.**
 - Museums and Alamo plan are supposed to focus on the 1836 battle (per Dan Patrick and Texas Republican leadership). The WOKE LEFT wants the Alamo visitor experience to tell the entire mission history, slavery, civil war in such a way to denigrate the fight for independence and disparage our diverse group of Alamo Heroes who fought and died to stop the tyranny of Santa Anna.
 - Gallagher and Associates is the entity hired by the Alamo Trust to work on the Alamo Museums. Patrick Gallagher is the person who has been regularly presenting at the THC quarterly meetings.
 - Not a Texas firm.
Gallagher & Associates (G&A) is an internationally recognized interdisciplinary design studio with offices in Washington, D.C., New York, Portland and Singapore.
 - Website of Gallagher and Associates pledged to Black Lives Matter.
 - In recent meetings, Patrick Gallagher and Kate Rogers are saying the right things to the conservative leaning Texas Historical Commission (THC Chairman is John Nau). Close oversight of their plans will be necessary to prevent a woke version of the Alamo .
- **Alamo Trust** – created by George P. Bush. The Trust replaced the Daughters of the Republic of Texas as the management/custodian of the Alamo. Kate Rogers (democrat) was hired by the Alamo Trust.
 - Private money/fundraising + Texas and San Antonio taxpayer money is used to maintain the Alamo; restore the Alamo; and fund the Alamo Plan/museums.
 - Alamo Trust management through the GLO is permitted by Texas state statute.
 - However, all decisions regarding the Alamo are the responsibility of the GLO.
- **Cenotaph** – memorial to the Alamo Defenders
 - Permit for Relocation was denied by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) on September 22, 2020.
 - State law never permitted relocation in the first place; Bush completely failed to understand Texas Law on the issue.
 - My research and discovery of primary documents proved the location of the Cenotaph was carefully chosen by the Cenotaph artist, Pompeo Coppini (a point the Bush GLO deliberately ignored). Coppini’s original vision for the Cenotaph, MUST be considered because the Cenotaph is a State Antiquities Landmark (legal standard

- Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties; this is correctly incorporated into Texas state law).
- The Cenotaph is owned by the City of San Antonio, and it is the only part of the Alamo Complex excluded in the lease between the General Land Office and the City of San Antonio.
- The Cenotaph has been neglected for many years by the City of San Antonio to keep the monument in good repair. **The Cenotaph needs careful RESTORATION without relocation.**
- The Cenotaph is currently under THC permit (granted in October 2021; and good for one year) for an “internal inspection” where contractors will remove panels from the top of the Cenotaph and use cameras and other technology to assess possible damage to the Cenotaph. There is concern with the aluminum fasteners which were used inside the Cenotaph. The last THC minutes states the inspection is “on hold” for unknown reasons.
- In 2020, the Cenotaph was tagged with graffiti. The alleged perpetrator was initially charged with a misdemeanor which was incorrect. After two years, the Bexar County prosecutor finally upgraded the charges to a felony which is consistent with state law due to cost of damages.
- **Transparency** – I have requested numerous open records through all agencies relating to the Alamo.
 - General Land Office - open records response is excellent. Ms. Schloss is very professional and responsive.
 - City of San Antonio – often goes beyond the ten-day response requirement (especially during Covid); has a good online portal, but they have **not** been consistently responsive in a timely manner.
 - Alamo Trust – has a new communications director named Jonathan Huhn. I am not sure he realizes the legal requirement of responding within 10 business days to open records requests. My last request required prodding and took more than 30 days for the Alamo Trust to respond.
 - The Alamo Trust must reply to a TPIA request like any other government entity since the implementation of SB 943 which is now Texas law – (“an entity that receives public funds in the current or preceding state fiscal year to manage the daily operations or restoration of the Alamo, or an entity that oversees such an entity...”).
- **Recent Woke Books regarding the Alamo by leftist, liberal authors** – books garner national NEGATIVE attention.
 - **“Forget the Alamo: The Rise and Fall of An American Myth” – by Tomlinson, Burrough, & Stanford** – book attempting to denigrate the reasons for the Texas Revolution and the Battle of the Alamo. The authors claim the Alamo story is a **myth** and the Texas Revolution was all about slavery. Nowhere in the Texas Declaration of Independence is there a mention of slavery. Mexico had attempted to prohibit slavery, but never had an effective law at the time of the revolution. Multiple primary documents all refer causes of the revolution related to the tyranny of Santa Anna and his disregard for the Constitution of 1824.
 - **The Alamo: A Cradle of Lies, Slavery and White Supremacy – by Mario Salas;** - Book has yet to be released. The Alamo Heroes were a diverse group made up of Texians and Tejanos; so white supremacy makes no sense. This book obviously ignores the extremely important Latino contribution the Texas Revolution (ex: Seguin).
 - Both authors ignore the fact that most of the Alamo defenders, like Andrew Kent and Gregorio Esparza, were NOT slave owners.
- **Modern Day Burial of Cremated Remains at the Alamo** - per a 2018 policy created under George P. Bush.
 - Per this Bush policy, families may request to bury some of their loved ones’ cremated ashes inside the Alamo Gardens. The Alamo allows an after-hours ceremony/funeral on the Alamo grounds with the help of Alamo staff.
 - In my opinion, this bizarre policy of spreading (modern) cremated remains at the Alamo is in violation of the Health and Safety Code.
 - This practice needs to end as soon as possible. It’s disrespectful to the Alamo defenders.
- **Private events and rentals** – the Alamo is a historic place of reverence belonging to the State of Texas and its citizens. The Alamo complex should not be turned into a Disney-like venue which is rented out to the highest bidder for parties and private events. Rentals are now possible under the Alamo Trust/GLO.
- **Texas History** - the Republican party advocates the accurate teaching of Texas History within our state.
 - 4th and 7th grade Texas History classes – Texas History is required curriculum per state law.
 - 1836 Project – HB 2497; advisory panel: Brandon Creighton, Jerry Patterson; good development.
 - All Alamo Defenders and those who fought against the tyranny of Santa Anna should continue to be labeled as HEROES. We must fight the liberal left’s attempt to denigrate Texas’ Heroes by removing their label as “heroes” as they tried to do in 2018.

Recent Quotes on the Alamo and Texas History are displayed below to reveal the strong push by the left to ignore history, proclaim the Alamo is a myth, and to denigrate the Texas Revolution and its heroes:

*“You know, (the story of the Alamo) is a cherished **myth**. It’s a source of identity for Anglo-Texans; and it’s about as real as the Easter Bunny and Santa Claus.” ~ Chris Tomlinson, co-author of the “Forget the Alamo” book.*

“They told us how glorious that (Alamo) battle was. When I grew up, I learned that the ‘heroes’ of the Alamo were a bunch of drunks and crooks and slaveholding imperialists who conquered land that didn’t belong to them. But as a little girl I got the message — we were losers. I can truly say that I hate that place and everything it stands for.” ~ Rosie Castro mother of Joaquin and Julian Castro.

*“There must be many reasons powerful people behind the Alamo’s redevelopment are clinging to **myths** of Texas heroes, interested solely in liberating Texas from Mexican tyrants with the help of white men from the American South who signed up for a just fight.” ~Elaine Ayala – San Antonio journalist.*

*“One of the reasons that the **myths** are so entrenched was because of the popular media in the 1950s and 1960s. These were profound cultural experiences for Baby Boomers, particularly young white men. But Generation Z can smell the rotten fish.” ~ Chris Tomlinson, co-author of the “Forget the Alamo” book.*

*“The story of the Alamo is a **mythology**, is wrong, and is bunk.” ~ Roberto Trevino, Former San Antonio City Council member. Trevino is (thankfully) no longer involved with the Alamo.*

I think everyone who shed blood in the defense of liberty and the things they believe in, on both sides, out to be honored, and that’s exactly what the intent of the redevelopment plan is...” ~ Mayor of San Antonio, Ron Nirenberg (Santa Anna and his military should NOT be honored).

“We want to bring them in with the events of 1836 but expand from there. To a lot of people, the Alamo is an enigma. Maybe they know the battle, but they don’t know the place’s history as a mission or how San Antonio grew up around it.” ~Alamo Executive Director (and Democrat) Kate Rogers. (The other missions of San Antonio can tell that history).

“The Daughters (of the Republic of Texas) definitely were pushing an agenda, and it was a white supremacist agenda designed to justify the theft of a huge portion of Mexico from that sovereign nation by some illegal immigrants from the United States in the 1830’s.” ~ Chris Tomlinson, co-author of the “Forget the Alamo” book.

I am a member of the DRT along with other women of many nationalities. The Daughters never pushed a white supremacist agenda. This author has no idea that Mexico was encouraging settlement of the Mexican state of Tejas. Stephen F. Austin, Green Dewitt and others were empresarios appointed by the Mexican government for the purpose of settling the land of Texas. No land was stolen. My ancestor, Andrew Kent, was a settler who became a Mexican Citizen under the Constitution of 1824. He was not a slave owner and was perfectly happy living peacefully as a successful farmer and carpenter (as a Mexican citizen) with his very large family near the Lavaca River. All that changed when Santa Anna came along and became a tyrant. Kent was a member of the Immortal 32 from Gonzales who gave his life at the Alamo fighting for liberty.

THE BATTLE OF THE ALAMO IS NOT A MYTH!