

Archeological Site 41BX2359 Focus Group Summary

San Antonio River Authority

June 4, 2020

Oct 19, 2020

June 4, 2020 Meeting

Presenters

Kerry Averyt, Senior Engineer, San Antonio River Authority
Steve Tillotson, Architect, Munoz & Co.
Steve Tomka, Archaeologist, Raba Kistner
Carrie Brown, Public Art Curator, San Antonio River Authority

Moderator

Monica Trevino-Ortega, Community Engagement, San Antonio River Authority

Focus Group

**Dr. Raymond Bryant, St. James AME Church
**Dr. Teresa Fry Brown (or research assistant), National AME Church Historiographer and Executive Director of Research and Scholarship
Betty Bueche, Bexar Heritage and Parks, Bexar County Historical Commission
Everett Fly, Architect, Landscape Architect
Gary Houston, Bexar County Historical Commission, San Antonio Conservation
Dr. Cary Latimore, Trinity University, SPC Interpretive Plan Committee
Clinton McKenzie, Bexar County Historical Commission
Vincent Michael, Executive Director San Antonio Conservation Society
Members of the AME Church were called to a short notice peaceful vigil in light of the recent events and not able to participate on the call

Support Staff

Jeff Mitchell, HDR
Chad Zimmerman, HDR
Ryan Silbernagel, Sundt Construction
Steve Dean, Pape-Dawson Engineers
Victor Carrillo, Munoz & Co.
Leslie Crippen, USACE
Shanon Miller, OHP
Matthew Elverson, OHP
Tony Canez, Bexar County

Objectives

Under the direction of Bexar County and with support from the City of San Antonio, the River Authority facilitated a Focus Group in order to appropriately navigate the commemoration of the extremely important historical finding. The Focus Group was comprised of historians and AME Church experts appointed by Bexar County and Commissioner Tommy Calvert. The purpose of this virtual call was to:

- Provide the appointed group of experts with a brief overview of the project.
- Get the Focus Group participants up to date on the timeline of the discovery process on the archaeological site.
- Facilitate discussion among the group in order to collect feedback and identify their preference/support for the best way to commemorate the history of the AME Church.

Preparation

All participants were provided various materials through a Dropbox link as background information regarding the history of the area in the archaeological site, some of the research that was done regarding the AME Church prior to construction, as well as site aerials and a rendering of the current design for the area between Houston Street and Commerce Street. All participants were asked for their titles and biographies in advance and were prompted to contact the River Authority for any additional information needed. Focus Group participants were provided the presentation slides shortly before the virtual meeting commenced.

Summary

The presenters provided adequate background information to the Focus Group participants, and the participants' discussion commenced at the 59:50 mark in the meeting.

Follow Up

All Focus Group participants were contacted to inform them of the meeting recording made available through the provided Dropbox link. Focus Group members were thanked for their time and efforts, and additional information regarding the Interpretive Panel content was also sent to those members as requested. The two AME Church officials have been contacted twice for discussion with no response.

Oct 19, 2020 Meeting

Presenters

Everett Fly, Architect, Landscape Architect, SA African American Community Archive and Museum

Marc Molina, PhD Student, UTEP

Dr. Katherine Walters, Texas State Historical Association

Moderator

Monica Trevino-Ortega, Community Engagement, San Antonio River Authority

Focus Group

Dr. Raymond Bryant, St. James AME Church Elder

Betty Bueche, Bexar Heritage and Parks, Bexar County Historical Commission

Everett Fly, Architect, Landscape Architect, SA African American Community Archive and Museum

Clinton McKenzie, UTSA, Bexar County Historical Commission

Vincent Michael, Executive Director San Antonio Conservation Society

Pastor Alvin Smith, St. James AME Church

Lon Taylor, Active St. James AME Church leadership, & African American Community Expert

Johnnie Davis, AME Church

Support Staff

Chad Zimmerman, HDR

Ryan Silbernagel, Sundt Construction

Steve Dean, Pape-Dawson Engineers

Victor Carrillo, Munoz & Co.

Leslie Crippen, USACE

Shanon Miller, OHP

Matthew Elverson, OHP

Tony Canez, Bexar County

Kerry Averyt, SARA

Steve Tillotson, Munoz & Co.

Steve Tomka, Raba Kistner

Carrie Brown, SARA

Summary

Everette Fly presented his additional research to the Focus Group. Focus Group members provided feedback on the presented materials and exchanged supplementary research and documentation.