AIA San Antonio, in partnership with Centro San Antonio and the City of San Antonio, announce a Design Competition open to Texas architects to provide innovative solutions for shading in response to the need for a healthy, walkable environment in our downtown core.

WWW.AIASA/SHADE.ORG
Shade is a civic resource that should be shared by all.

Shade is an essential component of public health. It encourages people to walk and leave their car behind. Access to shade for the vulnerable in our society – children, outdoor workers, the elderly and the homeless – is critical, quite literally the difference between life and death.

Shade impacts the economic health of cities. Predictions estimate that daily temperatures will rise two-to-three degrees by 2050. Expanding shade-giving infrastructure is a tool that will help cities reduce thermal load by up to 50%.

Everyone needs and deserves access to shade.

COMPETITION OVERVIEW

This competition challenges Texas architects to identify an artistic and practical concept for a “Shade Structure” that can be implemented by the City of San Antonio.

We seek a solution that is buildable, and that addresses innovation, sun shading, night-time lighting and all code issues related to right of way for pedestrians, and vehicles, including emergency vehicles.

The proposed Shade Structure should offer a clear, unique, exciting, memorable and positive solution. The Shade Structure should be creative and evocative of the spirit and culture of the City of San Antonio.

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to registered Texas architects.

PRIZE

The winning entry will receive a $10,000 prize. Second place will receive $3,500 and third place will receive $1,500. Selection as a competition winner is not a guarantee that the Centro will enter into a contract with the winners for professional design services, or that the winning entries will be constructed. Any awarded design or construction contract shall be pursuant to Centro’s or the City of San Antonio’s (COSA) required process for contracting with design consultants.

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<th>COMPETITION SCHEDULE</th>
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<td>March 3</td>
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PROGRAM

The Shade Structure should provide at least 80% shade coverage to sidewalks and corners to ensure a more comfortable pedestrian experience, especially during the summer and rain events. Further, the Shade Structure should encourage active sidewalks and street level business activity, superior pedestrian connectivity, and engaging public spaces.

There are no specific requirements governing the form or materials of this structure. The goal is to give entrants the maximum amount of flexibility and creativity in their designs. Entrants should be mindful that the Shade Structures will be located in prominent public areas, where they will be subject to weather, public contact and possible vandalism, with a limited ability to control these elements.

The competition seeks a modular, scalable solution, rendered in one location, but designed to fit multiple locations. The solution should be responsive to the variable conditions (sidewalks, bridges, trees, etc.) presented in the three sites.

CRITERIA

- Freestanding shade structure preferred. If proposed design attaches to buildings or other existing infrastructure, deliverable must identify exactly where and how attachment will occur.
- Deliverable should be buildable within City of San Antonio ordinances.
- Design should accommodate emergency vehicle needs, as well as any known events in the Site (see below for Site Description).
- In effort to make design scalable, deliverable should be replicable and/or modular.
- Accommodate existing trees and infrastructure, as applicable
- Maintain and enhance existing streetscape standards to promote continuity of streetscape treatments
- Develop opportunities to support jogging, biking, and scooters utilizing the public realm
- Develop strong pedestrian connections from VIA stations and other centers of activity
- Focus on enhanced pedestrian street amenities on primary and secondary streets
- Maintain existing block patterns, including alleys, to promote direct pedestrian access from place to place
- Encourage and, preferably enhance, continuous storefront activity on primary and secondary pedestrian streets
- Optional:
  - Provide a cool gateway to downtown
  - Develop pedestrian shelters or oasis at unshaded street crossings
  - Incorporate trees
**SITE DESCRIPTION**

The competition offers three sites in need of shading solutions:

- Market/Dolorosa Street across from the Westin Hotel (long stretch on the garage side/north side of the street) from Navarro continuing past St. Mary’s (Drury hotel) to Main Plaza
- Flores St at Commerce St. (along old Frost parking garage)
- River bridge on Houston St. (near Valencia Hotel)

**BUDGET**

After the competition, the final design and implementation of the Shade Structure budget cannot exceed $750,000. Assuming that the design is modular, each module must not exceed $200,000 on average to implement.

**SHAPE**

The Shade Structure may be any shape desired as long as the structure complies with the stated dimensions. No projections beyond 4” unless below 27” or above 80” to comply with ADA requirements.

**MATERIALS**

There are no restrictions on material usage; however, all materials must be non-hazardous and there can be no sharp edges or other elements that would create a safety hazard. The Shade Structure is intended to have a significant lifespan. Materials should be selected with this in mind.

**ACCESSIBLE DESIGN**

The Shade Structure materials and information will be accessible by all persons of all physical abilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines.

**REGISTRATION**

Advance registration is required to participate. To register, visit [http://aiasa/shade.org](http://aiasa/shade.org)

**ENTRY FEE**

The entry fee per submittal is $175. If you are experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19, please check the hardship box and indicate the factors affecting your circumstance. Each case will be considered individually for a 50% - 100% fee waiver.

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**SHADE IS AN INDEX OF INEQUALITY, A REQUIREMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, AND A MANDATE FOR URBAN PLANNERS AND DESIGNERS.**

-Sam Bloch, April 2019

PLACES, WRITING THE CITY
SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

Entries are due September 10, 2020 by 4 PM CT and must be submitted in digital format via Submittable online platform. JPEG file should be no larger than 10 mb in size.

#1 – Design Team Information
- Project Title
- Team/Firm Name
- Team Member Contact Information, including name, physical address, e-mail, and cell phone for each member of the team.

#2 – Design Concept Narrative*
Narrative may not exceed 750 words.

#3 – One 30” x 42” Presentation JPEG
All entries will be showcased at a VIRTUAL public open house. Please provide in landscape format all of the following:

Site Plan:
- ONE (1) Site Plan, showing full extent of site, with Shade Structure clearly denoted.

Elevations/Sections:
- Elevations and sections through shade structure

Context Illustrations:
- Renderings showing the solution in context with the site you selected and how the site solution relates to adjacent structures.
- At least one rendering or elevation that shows what is existing and what is proposed

*NOTE: No identifying information of any kind (team, firm or individual names, or logos) may be included on the Project Narrative or Presentation Boards, or the submission will automatically be disqualified.

EVALUATION CRITERIA
Your solution will be judged on
- Creativity
- Practicality and feasibility
- Modularity and repeatability
- Innovation in design or materials
- Aesthetics
- Cultural and brand connection to San Antonio

SUBMITTAL CHECKLIST
Log In Information will be provided upon registration. Materials to be uploaded to competition portal.
- Design Team Information*
- Design Team Concept Narrative*
- One 24” x 36” Presentation JPEG
COMPETITION JURORS

Gopi Akalkotkar, AIA – CoSA City Architect

Analy Diego, RID, IIDA Interior Designer | Graphic Artist

Lori Houston Assistant City Manager, City of San Antonio

Juan Miró, FAIA LEED AP Miró Rivera Architects

Riley Robinson Director, Artpace

REFERENCES

A variety of resources on shading are available and have been provided for your use in considering a solution:

- Market/Dolorosa Street Photo Gallery
- Flores St at Commerce St. Photo Gallery
- River bridge on Houston St. Photo Gallery
- Site CAD files provided to entrants upon request
- Texas Accessibility Standards: https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/ab/abtas.htm
- 2018 International Building Code: https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IBC2018?site_type=public
- City of San Antonio Building Code Amendments: https://library.municode.com/texas/san_antonio/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICO_CH108ULACO_ARTIIIIBUCO_S10-30AMADCH1NBUCO2018