

MUSEUM WITHOUT WALLS



The River's Edge

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Cities of all sizes that have recently rediscovered their waterfronts, and embraced them as a catalyst for developing urban communities. New York has just declared its 520 miles of coastline to be its sixth borough and issued a comprehensive plan to reclaim the city's edge. Bike paths, waterfront parks, recreational facilities, artwork both temporary and permanent and performance spaces are sprouting along riverfronts from Boston to Seattle. Even Los Angeles which almost completely encased its riverbed in concrete in the 30's is actively engaged in revitalizing its riverfront.

The granddaddy of all water-based developments has got to be River Walk in terms of a city transforming what could have been a drainage channel to mitigate flood control into the premiere cultural feature of its downtown. Since the first river carnival and night parade was held on March 14, 1941 San Antonio has never looked back. Their vision and continuing commitment to using the river as a cultural catalyst has lessons for the rest of us 'late bloomers'. It's fitting that our colleagues in the public art world many of whose hometowns are launching festivals and art programs around their own rapidly gentrifying waterways would have selected San Antonio to host their annual conference so that they can be truly inspired about what is possible and how cities can embrace their natural features to celebrate their resources, culture and heritage.

This issue is about place and what creates places. We are showcasing the cultural richness and diversity of a single city, San Antonio. It's extensive public art collection is peppered everywhere throughout the city, not only inside and in front of many public buildings as well as in the parks and surrounding country. **Bill FitzGibbons** a local

sculptor who can be often found at Blue Star is our featured artist. We wanted to share the work of three of the most interesting architecture firms in town: Lake|Flato Architects, Alamo Architects and Overland Partners Architects. And, we are launching a self guided tour of, what else, River Walk. A stroll below grade is in our view the best way to experience this amazing city.

Abby Suckle,
President

Featured Artist:
BILL FITZGIBBONS

Bill FitzGibbons is a San Antonio artist who wears two hats. As a sculptor, his work can be found throughout the country.. But he is also strongly committed to arts education and promoting the arts. Since 2002, in his day job, he has served as the President and



Executive Director of the Blue Star Contemporary Art Gallery. What makes his artwork compelling is that sculptures are often designed as forms in the landscape and if they are lit, it is usually by a spotlight from afar. He has been working with integral LED lighting which incorporates an 'after dark' component. At night the pieces are transformed into something almost completely different adding a new dimension to the work