



Case Study

Edinburg City Hall

Project Snapshot

City of Edinburg, Texas
Edinburg City Hall
42,000 sf city hall

When the City of Edinburg decided to build a new City Hall, their primary goals were to consolidate administrative offices and establish a place for the City Council to meet; however, they also wanted to strengthen the City's identity and encourage new development in the downtown area. Working closely with the City, TAG helped define and expand their vision to encompass an innovative gathering place that will be a source of pride for the City and a new epicenter for cultural and civic activities.

Site evaluation and land planning require a willingness to think creatively.

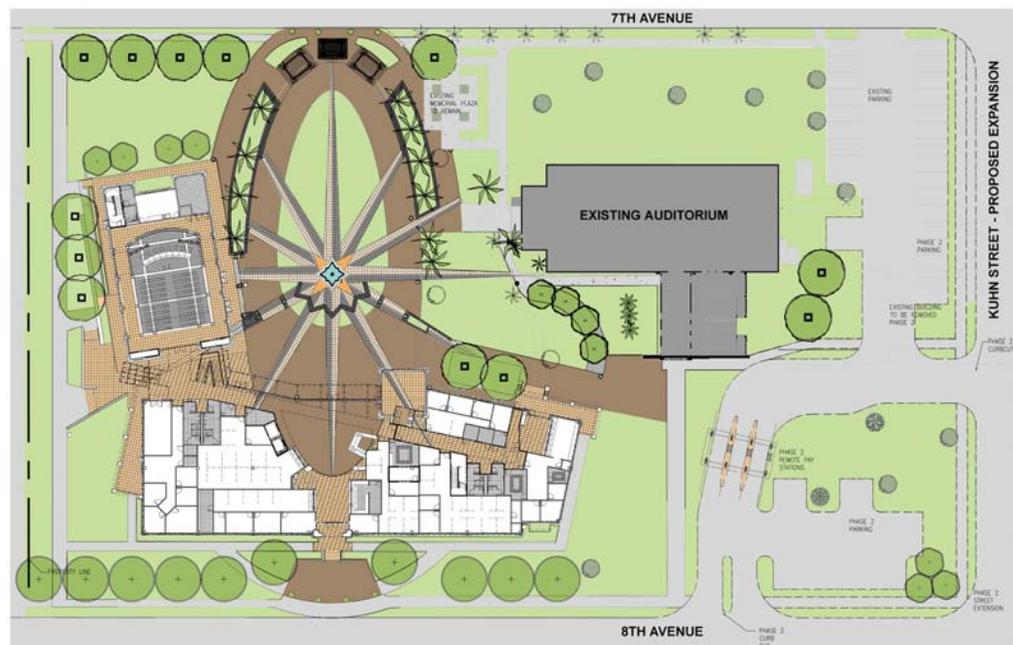
In creating the initial project vision, the City of Edinburg had identified a site that was occupied by several historic buildings — including a 1920's-era Auditorium often used by the community for weddings and various social events. While the Auditorium was in relatively good condition, other historic buildings on the site were in a significantly greater state of disrepair.

Upon thorough evaluation, TAG determined that — while the Auditorium was both a viable structure and a historical landmark with great intrinsic value — it would not be economically feasible to remodel and re-use the surrounding buildings. TAG also evaluated options for making a new addition to the Auditorium, which was the City's initial concept.

However, the City also expressed a desire to make a broader impact on the surrounding area. They wanted to encourage revitalization and were willing to close a portion of West McIntyre Street to create a pedestrian-friendly environment and establish a connection between downtown Edinburg to the east and the University of Texas Pan-Am campus to the west.

TAG recognized the physical and symbolic importance of key historical places within the City and used the City Hall project to link those elements together — as part of a larger vision and, ultimately, to capitalize on the project's maximum Building Potential®.

The site's major axis will connect the new City Hall to the University of Texas-Pan American to the west and the Museum of South Texas History and the Hidalgo County Courthouse to the east.



Edinburg City Hall

Services provided:

Concept Planning and Strategy
Site Evaluation and Planning
Feasibility/Due Diligence
Architecture and Design

Embodying a contemporary interpretation of Spanish Colonial and Baroque architectural traditions, the 42,000 sf City Hall structure will include a three story tower which will provide a visible city landmark.

The shape of the surrounding plaza was chosen as an ellipse to center the development and locate the buildings, both historic and new, along the orbit of the elliptical plaza.

The nexus of a master planning effort.

TAG collaborated with the City to create a Master Plan for re-development of the West McIntyre Street corridor as a pedestrian-oriented connection between the City and the University of Texas Pan-Am, locating the City Hall within this context.

With creative insight and immense respect for the historical and cultural value of the site, TAG helped the City expand on their vision to make the new City Hall more than just another facility. The project was redefined to feature an innovative civic center and gathering place that would be a source of pride and identity for the City. To that end, TAG envisioned a new City Hall that would convey a progressive new identity, while reflecting the rich historical traditions of Edinburg. Located on an axis connecting the University, the City, and the County Courthouse square, the project is centered by a large, landscaped public plaza that engages both the new City Hall and the existing Auditorium.

The Master Plan encompasses landscape and street improvements — including lighting, signage, shade trees, street furnishings, brick paver sidewalks and curb extensions — along portions of West McIntyre street on both sides of the new City Hall site.



This project provides a valuable opportunity for the City of Edinburg to stitch the City together, along the underutilized axis of West McIntyre, while creating an epicenter of cultural and civic activities. The development of the new seat of City Government in this key location will also provide an impetus for future development in the City's center.

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