

Citizens group forms to oppose Project Marvel

Citizens group opposing Project Marvel demanded a delay for an independent cost analysis.



Excitement and pushback: That was the vibe of a workshop held in District 2 for San Antonio's Sports and Entertainment district.

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SAN ANTONIO — A citizens group that opposed Project Marvel called for a delay in moving forward with the plan for a new Spurs arena.

Project Marvel is the name for the [plan to build a Spurs arena](#) and accompanying entertainment district in downtown San Antonio. A coalition of several groups such as Pueblo Over Profit, COPS Metro, Domestica Unidas, Historic Westside Residents, Esperanza Center, as well as many others have formed "No! Project Marvel."

No! Project Marvel opposes all or parts of the plan, but organizers say they are united in asking the mayor and the city council to delay any action on the project. They are asking to postpone funding and/or proceeding with Project Marvel until an independent cost benefit analysis can be done and made public.

Several members of the groups spoke at a news conference Monday.

"This is a city that is city that is very, very poor and our folks have been struggling...and we can't continue to enrich the rich while the poor get poorer," said Graciela Sanchez with the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center.

They are particularly concerned about money coming from SAWS to accommodate the downtown project. KENS 5 reported back in May that SAWS was considering \$2.3 million allocated to Project Marvel. The organizations opposed to Project Marvel believes the money could be better spent by fixing leaking infrastructure to prevent water losses within the SAWS water supply system.

Additionally, the groups say there are not enough large arena shows to fill up three arenas and stadiums.

"We are going to have to figure out how to fill the Alamodome, the Frost Bank Center and the new arena. We don't have the ability to do that," Sanchez said.

This also comes after the Spurs announced they are prepared to [spend around \\$1 billion](#) on the project. In a letter to the city, Peter J. Holt, chairman of Spurs Sports & Entertainment, outlined details of the commitment to provide funding for the ambitious project, including \$500 million for a new downtown arena and cost overruns.