

# ‘We don’t want this’: San Antonio community organizations express mistrust in Project Marvel plans

The organizations included COPS/Metro, Domestica Unidas and others



**SAN ANTONIO** – Several community organizations expressed opposition to Project Marvel’s plans and called for a renewed community-centered review process.

COPS/Metro, Domestica unidas, the Historic Westside Residents Association, Esperanza Peace & Justice Center and other organizations attended the Monday morning press conference.

[Project Marvel](#) is the City of San Antonio’s multi-billion-dollar plan to create a sports and entertainment district in Hemisfair in downtown San Antonio. A new Spurs arena would be the main attraction.

Included in the overall project are:

- Retrofitting the former John H. Wood Jr. federal courthouse into a concert venue  
An expansion to the Henry B. González Convention Center
- Alamodome improvements
- A land bridge over Interstate 37
- Various proposed mixed-use developments

During Monday's press conference, the groups largely expressed mistrust in what they described as plans that did not consider the communities' needs.

Susan Strawn, a District 1 resident who [ran unsuccessfully for the council seat](#) during the May election, discussed three takeaways about the project and its financing.

Strawn said the project was being "deliberately and irresponsibly rushed."

Pointing to the San Antonio Spurs' contract at the Frost Bank Center — which ends in 2032 — and city council's recent awareness of Project Marvel plans, Strawn said the short time frame for acting was "particularly egregious."

In her second point, Strawn said the city "should provide neutral facts to inform debate, not a marketing campaign."

She called the city's pitch to citizens that tourists will foot the bill for much of the project's costs "misleading."

"The truth is that all of the proposed funding strategies tap funding that could be put to other uses," Strawn said.