THE SITE AND HISTORIC RESOURCES
HemisFair Park is approximately 78 acres in size. It was heavily redeveloped for a 1968 World’s Fair. The area was previously occupied by a neighborhood of over 1,000 structures, mostly residential, but also including a church, synagogue, schools, shops, commercial buildings, and some light industrial structures.

Today, there are 24 extant buildings, which survive from the pre-1968 period. Of these 24, only 18 survive on their original sites. Additionally, the historic resources identified in the City’s HemisFair Historic District include 5 surviving buildings constructed for HemisFair, plus a mosaic, artwork and a plaza also from 1968. Notably, the project site includes a visible remnant of the historic and highly significant Acequia Madre de Valero.

HISTORIC DESIGNATIONS
HemisFair was designated as a historic district by the San Antonio City Council in 1987. There are two Registered Texas Historic Landmarks in HemisFair, the Mayes/Haff House and the Acequia Madre de Valero, designated in 1966 and 1968 respectively. The list of State Archaeological Landmarks within HemisFair includes 25 structures, all designated in 1983. These 25, are also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE
The Acequia Madre de Valero, was constructed in the early 1700s. The acequia systems that run through San Antonio typify and define the development of the city in the 18th and 19th centuries.

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Road placement and property divisions are all oriented about the acequia. Where parallel, the roads are on the uphill side of the acequia, with small bridges crossing over to access each property.

RELOCATION OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES
Six buildings in HemisFair are not in their original site. Three structures were relocated as part of the 1968 HemisFair work, the Herman Schultz House (4), Hermann Canitte House (9), and the Solis House (17). In 2002, the Convention Center expansion included relocation of the three historic structures located in the footprint of the new structure: OK Bar (12), Amaya House (15) and Wietzel House (20).

RECOMMENDATIONS
Preserve the older buildings
View of Kampmann/Solomon Halff House, ca. 1967. UTSA Special Collections.

Utilize Alleys
View of Doughill House of the corner of Mahonogdo St. and Amosso Alley, ca. 1967. UTSA Special Collections.

Clear definition of fences with zero lot line buildings
View of 401-403 Mahonogdo St. ca. 1967. UTSA Special Collections.

Follow the legacy of the Spanish acequia system
View looking southeast of the Acequia Madre de Valero. 1888 Koch’s Bird Eye View of San Antonio.

Canopies and overhangs over public sidewalks
View of 601 Mahonogdo St. ca. 1967. UTSA Special Collections.

Larger retail tightly oriented close to edge of major streets
View of S. Alamo St. ca. 1967. UTSA Special Collections.

Build infill structures in the western portion of HemisFair
HemisFair construction site, ca. 1967. UTSA Special Collections.

Retain at corner intersections with entry designed for pedestrians
View of OK Bar, ca. 1967. UTSA Special Collections.

Use Alleys
View of OK Bar, ca. 1967. UTSA Special Collections.

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