



**PRESS RELEASE
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*Storytellers Share Local Tales To Honor San Antonio's Westside in SA 300 Celebrations
Westside Development Corporation Celebrates San Antonio 300th Anniversary with Historic
Storytelling Event*

SAN ANTONIO, TX—The Westside Development Corporation (WDC) in partnership with VIA and SERVE 300 SA will celebrate San Antonio's 300th anniversary by selecting storytellers from the Westside to share their local tales that honor the Westside's history, culture, people and places as part of a Westside bus tour. The second of four Tricentennial events WDC is hosting throughout the year, 'This Happened Here: History in Hidden Corners of the Westside Tour,' set to embark on May 5th, is open to the public and will make stops at important Westside destinations to meet and hear each selected local storyteller. The interactive stops will be 5 to 15 minutes in length and combine place making history and culture.

"These tours reflect and celebrate the deep appreciation and value the San Antonio community has for their city. We are proud of honoring the history and culture of the Westside during this year's Tricentennial celebration," said Leonard Rodriguez, President/CEO of the WDC.

The bus tour begins at VIA Centro Plaza and will make five stops at various Westside locations reminiscent of the community's rich culture and history. The first stop will be at Westside Motors LLC, where Jaime Macias, first generation American and longtime Westside resident, captures the rich history of inclusiveness and community spirit that he witnessed while working as a young boy at his father's business, Las Brisas Mexican Restaurant.

The second stop will be at the Emma Guerrero's childhood home, where Guerrero will take you back to the 40s and 50s to recount the spirit and hope that lifted her from the tough times to the better days she lives now.

Stop three will be at Guadalupe Theater, where Mary D. Goodarzi will reminisce about the Saturdays spent with her Father watching matinee showings, eating double decker ice cream at the pharmacy, and ending the day with tamales from the lady in the front of the school.

The 4th stop will be at The Madonna Center, where Madonna's Center President Pablo Escamilla and Sister Bern will share the history of the Madonna Center founded in 1939 by the Sisters of the Divine Providence.

The final stop before heading back to VIA Centro Plaza will be at Edgewood H.S., where community organizer Manuel Garza will share the story behind the advocacy and demands of high school visionaries that ultimately led to the Edgewood H.S. student walkout on May 16, 1968.

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About Westside Development Corporation

Westside Development Corporation (WDC), founded in 2006 by the City of San Antonio Council and Mayor, addresses long-term economic development concerns in the inner Westside of San Antonio, including blight, gaps in goods and available services, high unemployment rate, and low per capita income for an area where 93% of the population is Hispanic and/or Latino. WDC operates solely in the Westside in the WDC Empowerment Zone, serving the most vulnerable in San Antonio's communities. The WDC Empowerment Zone has a population of 103,944 that encompasses several neighborhoods and census tracts in a historically underserved Westside community of San Antonio.