

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**JUNE 27, 2016**  
**APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS**  
**C14H-1990-0013**  
**Republic Square**

**Guadalupe and San Antonio Streets between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets**

**PROPOSAL**

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Review and approval of the master plan previously reviewed by the Commission.

**PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS**

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The applicant proposes landscape changes to Republic Square Park, eliminating the existing crossed paths through the park in favor of a more circular walkway around a central lawn. The walkway will have some granite terrace walls providing seating in the park, and will be surfaced with decomposed granite. There will be new trees. Austin's Auction Oaks stand at the southwest corner of the square, and will be untouched by this project. The existing landscape of the park dates from a 1976 Bicentennial project; prior to the 1976 landscaping, the square was a parking lot. The project envisions removing all parking from the 4<sup>th</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Street sides of the square.

**STANDARDS FOR REVIEW**

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The Commission's Standards for Review of applications for Certificates of Appropriateness include:

- Do not destroy the distinguishing original qualities or character of a building, structure, or site and its environment. Avoid the removal or alteration of any historic material or distinctive architectural features.
- Recognize all buildings, structures, and sites as products of their own time. Do not construct alterations which have no historical basis and which seek to create an earlier appearance.
- Contemporary design for alterations and additions to existing properties are appropriate when such alterations and additions do not destroy significant historic, architectural, or cultural material and such design is compatible with the size, scale, color, material, and character of the property, neighborhood, or environment.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

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Not reviewed.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Approve the Master Plan work project as proposed. The applicant came before the Commission with the conceptual plan for Republic Square in 2012, and has moved forward with developing the new landscape for the square, with input from this commission, other commissions, and the public, including the direction to maintain the integrity and the setting of the Auction Oaks at the southwest corner of the square. The intent is to transform Republic Square into a destination for downtown.



Artist's rendering of Republic Square