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## One University, Multiple Campuses

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## 1.1 Mission and Vision

**The University of Texas at San Antonio is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge through research and discovery, teaching and learning, community engagement and public service. As an institution of access and excellence, UTSA embraces multicultural traditions and serves as a center for intellectual and creative resources as well as a catalyst for socioeconomic development and the commercialization of intellectual property—for Texas, the nation, and the world.**

UTSA's vision is to be a premier public research university, providing access to educational excellence and preparing citizen leaders for the global environment. The university's core values are to encourage an environment of dialogue and discovery, where integrity, excellence, inclusiveness, respect, collaboration, and innovation are fostered.

**UTSA's strategic plan charts a course for the university over the next ten years. It designates three overarching destinations:**

- **UTSA will be a model for student success**
- **UTSA will be a great public research university**
- **UTSA will be an exemplar for strategic growth and innovative excellence**

The strategic plan destinations are accompanied by presidential initiatives, including this master plan.

UTSA, and San Antonio in general, are poised to play a significant role in Texas and beyond in coming decades. San Antonio is currently growing at a nation-leading pace, and the current demographics of the city already mirror projections for the nation at large twenty years in the future. This master plan is designed to proactively address that future.



2018 UTSA Commencement

## 1.2 History

**From its founding in 1969, the University of Texas at San Antonio has been an important part of San Antonio's public profile. In the past 15 years, UTSA has transitioned from a commuter-centric university to a more residential campus. It has grown quickly into one of the state's largest universities, and its programs and facilities have developed accordingly.**

The coming years will see even greater change. From an isolated original campus with a disconnected satellite campus downtown, UTSA is becoming a networked campus ecosystem woven into the fabric of San Antonio. More than that, UTSA has already begun integrating its campus programming and development into downtown, transforming not just the physical relationships of UTSA and the city, but also connecting programs and people to the heart of the city.

UTSA's Main Campus was established on land donated by the Delaven Trust. The site was selected from a list of ten contenders; The University of Texas System Regents noted the site's proximity to major highways, capacity for expansion, and proximity to college-bound high school seniors (at that time, concentrated in the northwest quadrant of San Antonio) as factors in the selection.

The site lies on the southern edge of the Balcones Escarpment, one of the most concentrated areas of prehistoric human habitation dating back to the Paleoindian period, roughly 12,000 years B. P. Numerous archaeological sites have been identified on

the campus as well as in nearby areas. In the Spanish Colonial period, a major *camino royal*, or royal road, was established along the route of what is now I-10 near the Main Campus.

The Downtown Campus was built on land which was formerly the site of Fiesta Plaza Mall, a failed urban renewal project (part of the broader Vista Verde South project financed by a federal Urban Development Action Grant). Evidence of prehistoric occupation is limited, likely due to the destruction of sites in historic times, but archaeological sites in surrounding areas indicate that the site was part of a larger area of settlement dating back to roughly 12,000 years B. P.

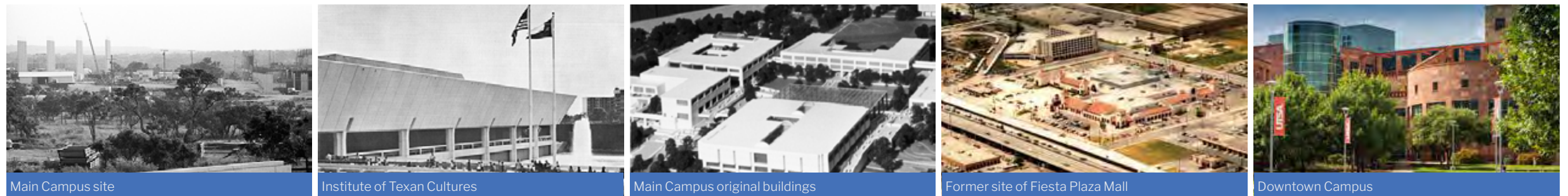
The land was part of the original land grant which formed the settlement that was to become San Antonio. As the city grew, the blocks which now contain the Downtown Campus were residential on the east and commercial on the west (adjacent to the railroad tracks). By 1900, the blocks were either part of, or immediately adjacent to, San Antonio's notorious collection of brothels, known as the Sporting District. The Vista Verde South project included demolition of all structures on the sites.



## 1.2 History

*From an isolated original campus with a disconnected satellite campus downtown, UTSA is becoming a networked campus ecosystem woven into the fabric of San Antonio.*

Figure 1.1 Abbreviated Timeline of UTSA's Evolution



Main Campus site

Institute of Texan Cultures

Main Campus original buildings

Former site of Fiesta Plaza Mall

Downtown Campus

**1969**

UTSA commissioned by the 61st Texas Legislature

**1972-1976**

Construction on seven major buildings at the Main Campus, designed by Ford, Powell & Carson and Bartlett Cocke

**1975**

Classes begin at the Main Campus; more than 4,000 students

**1986**

Institute of Texan Cultures joins UTSA

**1993**

Land for the Downtown Campus donated by Bill Miller Bar-B-Q (formerly the site of Fiesta Plaza Mall)

**1997**

UTSA opens Downtown Campus

**2007**

125 acres west of campus acquired for Park West Campus from Patricia Shield Ayers, initially intended for recreation and athletics programs, intramural fields, parking, and housing

**2013**

Park West Campus athletics facilities open

**2018**

UTSA acquires additional downtown properties, enlarging the university's downtown presence

## 1.3 Sustainability and Resilience Principles

### Sustainability and Resilience

**As an institution of higher education, UTSA will be a responsible steward of its unique environmental and cultural assets. Across the university, UTSA will leverage data-driven approaches and promote knowledge to ensure a sustainable future for UTSA and the wider community.**

UTSA's master plan strives for connected, mixed-use, resource-efficient campuses that support the health, wellness, and prosperity of all individuals in the community.

These principles are recommended for all UTSA campus sites and will be carried forward in the work by UTSA's Sustainability Council. Specific strategies will be determined based on feasibility and relative impact to establish an implementable roadmap.

Figure 1.2 Sustainability and Resilience Topics



## 1.3 Sustainability and Resilience Principles

The master plan covers topics in all three areas but can only substantively address a subset of these. Policies, programs, and strategic partnerships will be required to cover the full breadth of sustainability and resilience subjects.

The following principles are recommended to promote a sustainable and resilient future for UTSA and its community:

Figure 1.3 Sustainability and Resilience Principles



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