

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Final design concept for indoor/outdoor Mercado in North Lubbock to be presented to Lubbock City Council

After a six-month project involving dozens of volunteer architectural professionals from the Lubbock area, residents of the North Lubbock Community, students from the Texas Tech University College of Architecture, and a Steering Committee of civic leaders and community representatives, a final design concept for an indoor/outdoor Mercado in North Lubbock has been realized and will be presented to the Lubbock City Council, Thursday May 24. This effort has been led by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Lubbock as a part of the nationwide effort known as the AIA Blueprint for America and the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of AIA.

The Mercado itself consists of indoor and outdoor space, including cafes, kiosks, shopping, park areas, and even a stage for outdoor events and performances. The design for the Mercado embraces the rich artistic and architectural influences of the Hispanic culture both in color, form and specific design elements such as public art. The project is, as currently designed, located on an 11.7 acre site at the northeast corner of North University Avenue and Fourth Street (the future Marsha Sharp Freeway).

This project as envisioned would involve collaboration between public entities (the City of Lubbock) and private enterprise (a yet undetermined local developer), where public right-of-way and utility infrastructure would be handled by the City, and the built structures and outdoor plaza spaces would be developed by private enterprise.

The design concept that has been developed by AIA Lubbock, the Texas Tech University College of Architecture and the Mercado Steering Committee will be presented as a gift to the City of Lubbock as a part of the nationwide AIA Blueprint for America effort.

Throughout cities and communities in the United States, over 140-plus Blueprint for America local initiatives are underway and being driven by local architects and people from the local community are working together to create more livable communities through quality architectural design.

A final bound document will be submitted to the City in mid-June for their use.

MEDIA ADVISORY

WHAT: Final Design Presentation to the City Council – North University Avenue Mercado

WHERE: Lubbock City Hall Council Chambers, 1625 13th

WHEN: Thursday, May 24, 2007 – (approximately at 1:30 p.m.)

NOTE: Following the 30-minute presentation, press kits will be available containing design drawings, a CD including renderings, and facts about the design. These press kits will only be made available to those media outlets present at the presentation.