



City of San Marcos

City Council Work Session

November 5, 2025

Dunbar History Walk



Receive a presentation from Destination Services regarding the creation of the Dunbar History Walk, and provide direction to the City Manager.

Dunbar History Walk



The Story of the Dunbar Neighborhood

- Purpose of the project is to acknowledge, remember, and formally recognize the places and people important to the Dunbar community
- Recognition of past neighborhood businesses/business owners, community advocates, and widely acclaimed people of note
- Multi-year cultural and heritage public art project with annual installations
- Submissions will come from the community
- Project Development Committee will plan project and draft guidelines
- Submission Review Committee will review submissions for accuracy by conducting research and contacting current and past residents
- Submissions that meet criteria will be kept on a running list until installed

Dunbar History Walk

The Story of the Dunbar Neighborhood

- Plaques installed along Dunbar Park sidewalk
- Work with a Dunbar neighborhood artist for imagery on the plaques



Dunbar History Walk



The Story of the Dunbar Neighborhood

- Information on each person as they are installed will live at Visit San Marcos' arts microsite SMTXarts.com on the current Dunbar Neighborhood History and Culture page
- Aims to become a robust site with information, details, photos, and audio stories added as they become available
- Project sign in park will give overview and include a QR code and URL to visit for full information



Dunbar History Walk

Project Planning and Review Committees

Project Development Committee Representation:

- Dunbar Heritage Association
- Calaboose African American Museum
- Dunbar Sistas
- Current neighborhood resident
- City Community Resource & Engagement
- City Arts & Heritage staff

Submission Review Committee Representation:

- Dunbar Heritage Association
- Calaboose African American Museum
- Dunbar Sistas
- City Historic Preservation Officer
- City Library local history staff
- City Arts & Heritage staff

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Community Outreach

- Coordinate with Communications on PR and social media posts
- Host multiple community open houses to explain the project and distribute paper applications and online submission information
- Engage with key community groups, including churches and neighborhood groups
- Door-to-door distribution





Dunbar History Walk

Timeline for Inaugural Installation Fall 2026

Apr 2025 – Present to Arts Commission for consensus (complete)

Aug 2025 – Present to Parks and Recreation Board for consensus (complete)

Nov 2025 – Present to City Council – Work session

Nov 2025 – Budget approval from the Arts Commission

Dec 2025 – Seek final approval from City Council; Parks and Recreation Board

Feb-Mar 2026 – Community outreach, promotion, gather submissions

Mar-May 2026 – Review submissions and finalize current year selections

Apr-Jun 2026 – Finalize design & production; buildout website

Jul-Aug 2026 – Installation and plan the unveiling

Fall 2026 – Dedication ceremony