

SECOND WARD ACTION PLAN AND AIA DOCUMENT (1996)

Authoring organization, time frame, geographic area, and primary issues:

The City of Houston's Planning and Development Department produced this plan. It mainly serves to identify the community's goals for itself at a general level. The plan's issues, under the umbrella of neighborhood revitalization, are categorized as:

- Education,
- Housing, and
- Economic development.

An additional report focuses more on an illustrated vision for portions of the area. The primary issues this document focuses on include:

- Housing
- Transportation
- Streetscape / landscape
- Public facilities
- Land use

Plan creation and public involvement:

The Second Ward Action Plan was the result of a task force created to start the process of neighborhood revitalization. Following the Action Plan, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) worked with the Second Ward Association to create a series of subarea plans and renderings.

Plan vision statement:

Plan goals or objectives:

The first portion of the plan recommended the following goals to address each major issue:

- Education – increase community involvement in schools, develop gang intervention programs, add park facilities and programs
- Housing – refurbish existing housing, promote affordable housing development, increase homeownership, increase crime and drug reduction efforts
- Economic development – identify redevelopment / development opportunities, create marketing plan for area real estate

Strategies:

Key projects:

Recommendations in the Action Plan would be mainly characterized as “soft” projects or programs – new ways to promote educational awareness, create a Cantina Task Force, work with HPD, and work with property owners to encourage better property management and development. Several recommendations are made to begin a process that could lead to physical projects – a traffic study, identification of abandoned properties for redevelopment, identification of CIP projects and neighborhoods-to-standard items.

The AIA document is mainly a series of plan and cross-sectional view drawings with associated lists of suggested projects for smaller areas of the Second Ward. Among the emphasized improvements are open spaces and trails.

Implementation and funding:

As mentioned above, the CIP and the neighborhoods-to-standards program are two methods identified in the plan for implementing and funding physical projects. The plan also calls for collaborative efforts by community organizations and nonprofit corporations in addition to efforts by the City of Houston to implement recommended actions.

