

ESB-MACC Phase 2

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Has a Master Plan been completed for ESB-MACC?

The Austin City Council adopted the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center (ESB-MACC) Master Plan on May 24, 2018. Now, this plan is referred to as the 2018 Facility Expansion Plan and presents design recommendations to better meet the current and future needs of the center. The plan incorporated current needs and consideration of the evolving neighborhood. This project identifies the priority items for Phase 2. Future phases will address the remaining items not constructed in this project, such as a performance theater.

Q: What are the priorities identified in this 2018 Facility Expansion Plan?

The current ESB-MACC facility has insufficient space to host the numerous community activities available or desired; additionally, staff and storage areas are inadequate in providing support. The existing space is in need of updates and expansion to better meet present and future needs. The connectivity to the Ann Richards and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trails, Lady Bird Lake, pedestrian walkways, and surrounding neighborhoods needs to be improved to activate the plaza and draw interest to the facility.

Based on information received from the public, the 10 most important stakeholder issues identified in the 2018 Plan were:

- More classrooms and studios
- Access and views to Lady Bird Lake
- More gallery space
- Shade structure at the zocalo
- Larger performance space
- Adequate parking
- Café
- Gran Entrada (The Grand Entrance)
- Outdoor amphitheater
- Teaching/Industrial Kitchen

Q: What is the Design Phase?

There are two stages in the Design Phase. The Schematic Design process is the first step of design in which the Architect consults with the client to determine the project requirements, goals, and constraints.

Design Development is the next step. During this process, the schematic plans are reviewed, revised, and expanded to incorporate all the details and specifications required for construction. Project components are investigated in detail, codes are reviewed, and materials are selected.

Q: Has a design firm been selected?

An architectural and engineering design team is on board and consists of a joint venture of Miró Rivera Architects and Tatiana Bilbao Estudio as the prime leading the sub-consultants. The building

construction contractor, Rogers O'Brien Construction Company, will also work with the project team providing pre-construction services.

Q: What are the enhancements/changes included in this ESB-MACC Phase 2 project?

This Phase 2 project considers the addition of music rehearsal spaces, renovations to performance spaces, classrooms, galleries, office/support space, dedicated storage space, teaching kitchen, as well as, landscaping and gathering spaces. The proposed renovation includes enhanced safety features, rooms with natural light, a closed/controllable perimeter of the zocalo with a shaded structure and better wayfinding.

Q: How is this ESB-MACC Phase 2 project being funded?

Primary funding for Phase 2 of the 2018 Plan project was obtained through approval of the 2018 General Obligation Bond Election, Proposition B: Libraries, Museums and Cultural Arts Facilities, with \$27 million allocated for the ESB-MACC. Additional funding was provided from the remaining unused balance of Proposition Four of the 2006 General Obligation Bond Election, as well as rental proceeds from 64/70 Rainey Street and Parkland Dedication Fees.

Q: What is the timeline for completion of the project?

- 2018 May: ESB-MACC Facility Expansion Plan adoption
Nov: Bond 2018 passes
- 2020 Feb: Use of CMAR (Construction Manager at Risk) approved by Council
Nov: Architect & Engineer under contract
Dec: CMAR under contract
- 2021 March: Building Programming completed
April: Design Phase starts
Sept: Community Engagement for Schematic Design
- 2021 Design Phase Complete - Fall 2021
Production of Construction Documents – Winter 2021
- 2022 Winter: Site work begins
- 2024 Winter: Substantial Completion of Construction
- 2025 Grand Opening

Q: What construction company will complete the project?

Rogers-O'Brien Construction Company was awarded the construction contract in December 2020.

Q: Have community engagement meetings been held for Phase 2?

The previous Building Programming Phase consisted of small group discussion meetings. Covid-19 restrictions required meetings to be held virtually. During the building programming step of the project, key stakeholders were identified and consulted to determine whether the 10 priorities identified in the 2018 Plan were still valid priorities.

- **Small Group Discussions and Community Meetings**
 - ESB-MACC Advisory Board: December 14, 2020, 2020-present
 - Latin /Hispanic Quality of Life Advisory Commission: 2020-present
 - Youth Programming Group: January 28, 2021
 - Visual and Performing Artists: February 1, 2021
 - Education and History Stakeholders: February 2, 2021

- Legacy Stakeholders and Community Leaders: February 4, 2021
- Spanish Speaking Community Meeting: February 6, 2021
- Schematic Design Virtual Meeting #1: September 21, 2021
- Schematic Design Virtual Meeting #2 (Youth Oriented): September 22, 2021
- Schematic Design Virtual Meeting #3: October 2, 2021
- **SpeakUp Austin – Community Survey Open from January to February 2021**
- **Comment Cards open from August 2021 to Fall 2021**
- **Data collection and processing Fall 2021**

Once construction design documentation begins, the community will receive project information through regular Community Communication Forum of designated community leaders and via project updates.

Q: How will community input be incorporated at the Design Phase of the project?

The Project Team listened to and acknowledged concerns identified by community feedback and explained how their input influenced design decisions. The design team presented a schematic design concept in September and October 2021 meetings that responded to the input received from stakeholders and community members during the meetings held in early 2021. Subsequently, the design process continues into design development and construction drawing documentation. The project team is providing continuous updates during the remaining phases of design and construction of the project.

Q: How can I receive updates on the ESB-MACC Phase 2 Project?

Website: <https://www.austintexas.gov/MaccPhase2>

Contact: Capital Delivery Project Manager, Heidi Tse (Public Works Department)

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Q: Will the ESB-MACC be open during construction?

Safety is paramount for the MACC and its users. The facility will be closed for the construction of Phase 2 beginning December 2022. However, the MACC is actively working to find locations throughout the city to partner with other public and private organizations to host their programs. This opportunity will bring awareness to the MACC and provide cultural services in parts of the City where none are currently available. More information on MACC programs and their locations can be found on the MACC website: <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/emma-s-barrientos-mexican-american-cultural-center>

Q: There are other nearby construction projects that may happen at the same time. How will those impact the project?

The project team is actively working with nearby development projects such as Waterloo Greenway Conservancy, the Austin Transportation Department, Austin Energy and The Trail Foundation to ensure coordination and minimize disruption. For information on any of those projects, you may visit their websites. As nearby private development happens and is proposed to the City, the project team will collaborate with those developers to minimize disruption of the center.