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Sehila Mota Casper
Austin, TX

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Transmitted via email
Texas Historical Commission

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Re: Letter of Support for State Antiquities Landmark Designation of the Institute of Texan Cultures Building

Dear Texas Historical Commission,

On behalf of [Latinos in Heritage Conservation](https://www.latinoheritage.us) (LHC), I write to express our unwavering support for the designation of the Institute of Texan Cultures (ITC) building as a State Antiquities Landmark. As an organization dedicated to preserving the rich tapestry of Latino heritage, we believe that the ITC is a cornerstone of our community's history and culture.

The ITC stands as a testament to the resilience and contributions of the Latino community in San Antonio. Designed by the visionary architect William Merriweather Peña, the building itself is a work of art, reflecting the unique blend of architectural styles and cultural influences that have shaped Peña's work and our region.

The ITC is more than just a building; it exemplifies our community's resilience and cultural heritage. For generations, it has been a place of learning, inspiration, and connection. By designating the ITC as a State Antiquities Landmark, we ensure that this invaluable resource remains a beacon of Mexican American culture, inspiring future generations.

The ITC's connection to Willie Peña, a visionary Mexican American architect, elevates its significance to state and national levels. Peña's groundbreaking work and his dedication to representing the Latino community in his designs make the ITC a unique and invaluable asset. By designating and preserving the ITC, we honor Peña's legacy and ensure that his contributions to our community continue to inspire us.

Furthermore, less than 1% of sites on the National Register of Historic Places are associated with Latino heritage, despite Latinos being the largest and longest-standing ethnic group within the country. This designation would help to address this disparity and represent the significant contributions of renowned Mexican American architects like Willie Peña.

We urge you to support this designation and help to preserve the ITC for future generations. By protecting this cultural gem, we are not only honoring our past but also investing in a brighter future for our community.

Sincerely,
Sehila Mota Casper

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