



## MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER PH. 1A AUSTIN, TEXAS

**19.72%** of building materials  
manufactured using recycled materials

**100%** of the hardscape paved with  
highly reflective materials and open grid pavement

**100%** of electricity provided by Austin  
Energy GREEN Power

### LEED® Facts

Mexican American Cultural Center Ph. 1A  
Austin, TX

LEED for NC 2.2  
Certification awarded July 19, 2012

**Certified 32\***

Sustainable Sites 8/14

Water Efficiency 2/5

Energy & Atmosphere 4/17

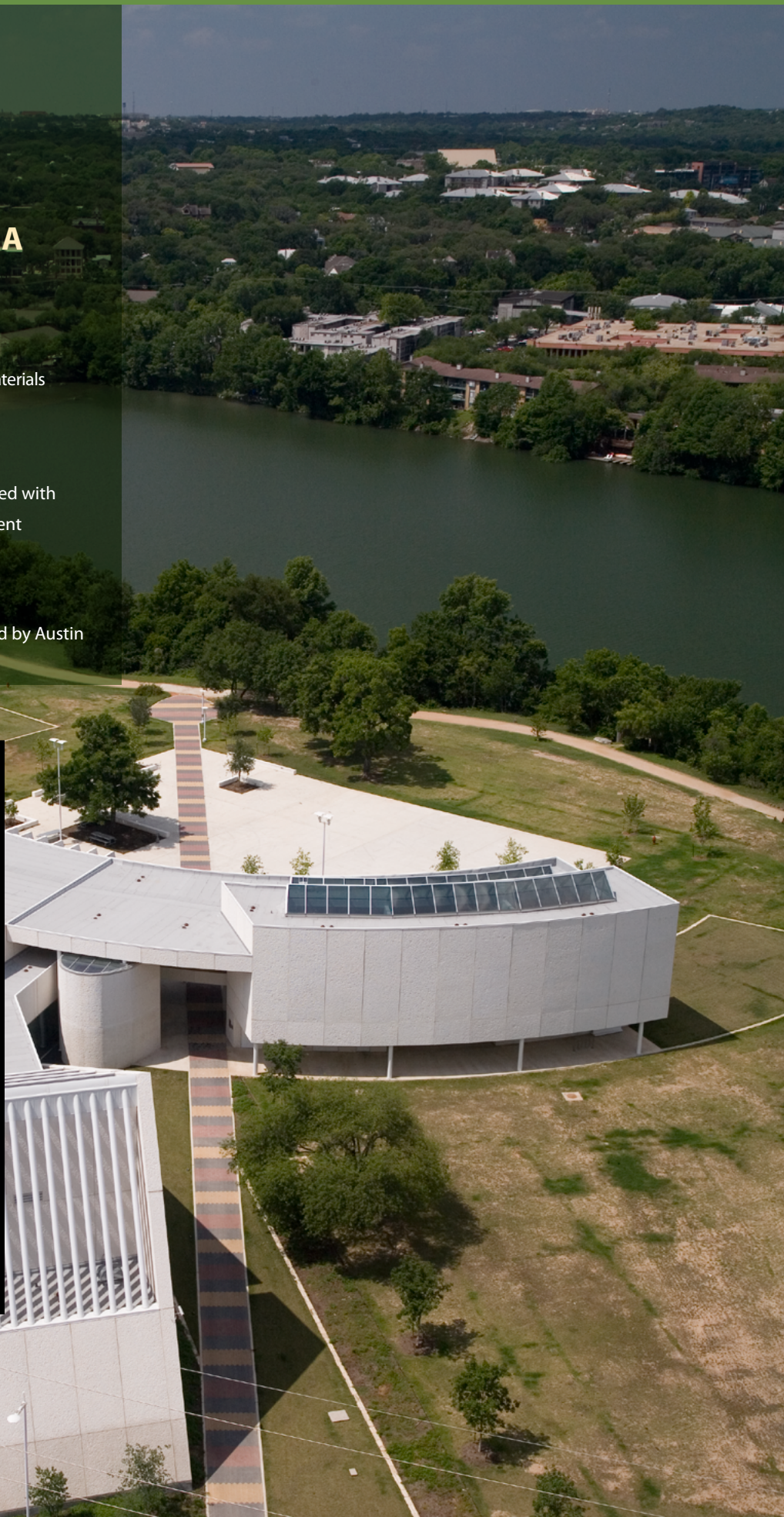
Materials & Resources 4/13

Indoor Environmental  
Quality 10/15

Innovation & Design 4/5

*\*Out of a possible 69 points*

The information provided is based on that stated in the LEED® project registration submittals. USGBC and Chapters do not warrant or represent the accuracy of this information. Each building's actual performance is based on its unique design, construction, operation, and maintenance. Energy efficiency and sustainable results will vary.





## MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER PH. 1A

## Phase 1-A of the Mexican American Cultural Center achieves LEED certification

### Sustainable features include daylighting and material selection

#### PROJECT BACKGROUND

The design team made up of CasaBella Architects and its joint venture partner, Del Campo & Maru, in association with Mexican Architect Teodoro Gonzalez de Leon, provided master planning services for the first phase of the Mexican American Cultural Center project. Responding to the City of Austin's proposed project in 1999, the design team was selected and persuaded the City to develop a master plan for the entire project. After holding several community stakeholder meetings, Architect Teodoro Gonzalez de Leon proposed an outstanding design which had an overwhelming response when presented: a standing ovation, at a board meeting of the Center for Mexican American Cultural Arts (CMACA) and attended by the public. The design centered around the creation of a two-acre zocalo, opening up toward Lady Bird Lake and its jogging trail, with a two-story crescent shaped building with offices, classrooms and exhibit spaces. Within the zocalo there are planned three "shading" structures creating partial shade for the summer months.

#### MAJOR PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Designed according to LEED guidelines and LEED Certified for sustainable features. The white building exterior and roof designed to mitigate heat island effect consist of hand-chiseled precast concrete panels imported from Mexico, a signature of celebrated architect Teodoro Gonzalez de Leon. This was his first project in the United States. Other building materials were primarily sourced from within a 100-mile radius. Significant use of windows has maximized use of daylight and views.

#### STRATEGIES AND RESULTS

Multiple public workshops were held to obtain input as to the ultimate use and size of the facility and a master plan was developed. The first phase had the appearance of a completed facility, achieved through meticulous design and careful consideration of programmatic requirements, the idea being that as subsequent funding was provided additional phases could be completed. Site development involved careful coordination with the City of Austin during the permitting process to relocate high tension electrical transmission lines with cost savings and future phases in mind. CasaBella then led an effort to study contaminants in the existing structures and developed a plan for mitigation. CasaBella also worked with Austin Energy to define new power line easements for future phases, and an inter-local agreement that modified Right-Of-Way for adjacent streets between the City and neighboring owners.

*"As an architect, I am most pleased with the design of the facility...You [the architects] not only achieved the programmatic goals but also successfully reflected the culture and heritage of the community."*

Paul Medrano, Project Manager,  
City of Austin



Owner: City of Austin  
Architect: CasaBella + Del Campo & Maru joint venture, in association with Teodoro Gonzales de Leon  
Civil Engineer: Turner Collie & Braden, Inc.  
Contractor: Solis Constructors, Inc.  
Electrical Engineer: Kanetzky Electric  
Landscape Architect: Eleanor H. McKinney  
LEED Consultant: CasaBella Architects  
Lighting Designer: Archillum Lighting Design  
MEP Engineer: Jose I. Guerra, Inc.  
Structural Engineer: Jose I. Guerra, Inc.  
Project Size: 96,000 square feet - All Phases  
Total Project Cost: \$ 17 million - Phases I & II

Photographs Courtesy of: Paul Bardagjy

#### ABOUT LEED

The LEED® Green Building Rating System™ is the national benchmark for the design, construction, and operations of high-performance green buildings. Visit the U.S. Green Building Council's website to learn more.



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