



SA HISPANIC CHAMBER ANNOUNCES A NEW LOCATION AND PARTNERSHIP WITH PORT SAN ANTONIO

New headquarters will provide chamber members and other stakeholders a strategic platform in the heart of the region's thriving innovation campus.

December 3, 2021

For more information, please visit www.portsanantonio.us

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS – The San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (SAHCC) is proud to share plans to move its headquarters and create a partnership venture with their Members at Port San Antonio.

After a temporary move from the Pearl to the Bexar County Public Works building earlier this year, permanent planning with the SAHCC's leadership has resulted in an exciting partnership and new home on the Port campus.

"This is a great opportunity for our Chamber as well as our Members," said SAHCC President and CEO Marina Gonzales. "We are thrilled about this partnership with our Members at the Port, who are at the forefront of so many innovative initiatives in San Antonio. We look forward to building upon this foundation to expand our advocacy efforts and continue to lead as the small business champion for our community as the oldest and largest Hispanic Chamber in the country."



Marina Gonzales, SAHCC President & CEO, standing to the left of JR Treviño, SAHCC Chair-Elect for 2023, followed by Port San Antonio Leadership: Jim Perschbach, President & CEO; Chris Alderete, Port Board Chair; and Juan Antonio Flores, Executive Vice President for Government Affairs for Port San Antonio and also a SAHCC Board Member

The new facility at 3006 General Hudnell Drive will bolster the organization's already strong connections with leading industries that are expanding at the Port and across the region. Among them are globally renowned firms to locally-headquartered startups that are charting new courses in leading sectors, including cybersecurity, aerospace, robotics, space science, biomedicine, advanced manufacturing, global logistics and defense.

"Our two institutions have proud legacies that unite us and shape our vision for the future," said Port Board Chair Chris Alderete. "Our histories trace back to early in the last century — when the Port began as the former Kelly Air Force Base and the Hispanic Chamber was first established. Now, we are both leading the way in working across the community to chart an exciting course for the century ahead. Together, we are stronger and look forward to making great things happen."

The Port is already home to over 80 public and private-sector organizations who directly employ 15,000 people from throughout the community. The regional economic impact of business activity at the Port is \$5.6 billion annually, and the continued trajectory of the Port is also creating opportunities for an array of other businesses across the region.

“This is truly a win-win for two organizations that share the same dedication and passion to serve our community by delivering transformational opportunities for people today and for generations ahead,” said Port President and CEO Jim Perschbach. “The Hispanic Chamber’s roots run very deep here, and we are greatly looking forward to the many ways we will be able to collaborate even more closely as we develop entrepreneurial, educational and other initiatives in a city that is playing a leading role in charting America’s future.”

The San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has been recognized as one of the best-run chambers in America. A strong advocate for Hispanic businesses and Hispanics in business since 1929, the SAHCC operates under 5 core pillars of their organization: Small Business, Economic Development, International Trade, Leadership, and Education.

Both organizations share a deep commitment to ensuring that current and future generations have the educational foundation to pursue their ambitions in careers and in business. At the Port, the Chamber will be in close proximity to the San Antonio Museum of Science and Technology (SAMSAT).



The Chamber’s new home will also be just down the street from the Port’s upcoming innovation center — Tech Port Center + Arena—which will open its doors in spring of 2022.

Since establishing on the Port campus in 2017, SAMSAT has connected with over 70,000 area students through an array of innovative STEM/STEAM programs and delivered pathways toward furthering their education in the region’s leading tech sectors. Additionally, the Chamber plans to revive its popular CORE4STEM program for middle school children with the Port as an important partner.

That work will be amplified when the Port’s innovation center — Tech Port Center + Arena — opens its doors next spring.

The 130,000-square-foot facility will significantly expand the museum’s offerings and will also provide the Chamber and other Port partners a unique state-of-the-art platform to advance their work and deepen connections within the region, across the nation and around the world.

The space will include a 3,200-seat arena, classrooms, and technology labs that can accommodate an array of activities of particular interest to the Chamber and its members, including product demonstrations, conferences, trainings / workforce development and social functions.

The Chamber looks forward to opening its doors on the Port campus in February 2022.