

# Creating Community

Creating community is generally not included in a Comprehensive Plan, but during the fall neighborhood meetings citizens expressed a desire to be more connected and involved in civic activities. Citizens expressed a desire for a community band, community theater, and events that bring people together, such as parades and outdoor gatherings. Building community by bringing together residents who share common interest and talents is in keeping with the goal to improve the quality of life in Alamo Heights.



## Action Steps

- Encourage citizens interested in establishing a community theater or a community band by providing communication opportunities through the City newsletter or website.
- Continue to support non-profit parades such as Howdy Night parade, the Holiday parade, the Pooch parade and the Fourth of July parade.



## Public Art

Public art is created through a process that gathers input from the citizens, is located on public property, and can be funded by public and/or private dollars. Art can enrich the lives of

residents and visitors in a number of ways. The placement of art can create a sense of place and add significance to the visual texture and character of the community. Visual expression of the local values and culture can raise collective memory and give meaning to a place by remembering local history, events or persons. It can help promote and image or identity resulting in a stronger sense of community spirit and pride.

## Action Steps

- Explore opportunities to enliven and enrich the community through Public Art.
- Consider establishing a non-profit to support the arts in Alamo Heights.



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Many of the residents suggested the formation of a community band and/or community theater. These groups are generally formed and operated by private citizens with a passion for the performing arts. Local musicians and thespians come together and share their talents with others in the community. Once the band and theater group/s are established, the community will occasion to attend plays and concerts and enjoy an evening with their friends and neighbors. Together residents, commercial businesses and property owners can resent special events such as “Music under the Stars” at one of our proposed green spaces or “Dinner Theater Night” at one of our local restaurants would attract visitors and have a positive impact on local commercial businesses.

Special events in Alamo Heights is not a new concept but the cry for more expressed at the meetings in the fall has been heard. The plan encourages events such as parades, picnics and fairs. Many individuals seek opportunities to get involved and to make a contribution to the lasting image of the city. The citizens of Alamo Heights have asked for a vibrant, high energy community filled with activities and gatherings. Building community through the coming together of residents with common interest and talents is in keeping with the vision of the plan to increase the quality of life and preserve the charm of Alamo Heights.