

Report on Meetings Attended
Vice Mayor Peggy McQuaid

National League of Cities
City Summit
November 20 - 23, 2019
San Antonio TX
<https://www.nlc.org/>

The first day I attended two “mobile workshops”. The first one, *Innovation in Education: Municipal Pre-K and Library Public/Private Partnerships*. We visited one of the PreK4SA centers. <https://prek4sa.com/>
In 2010 San Antonio voters approved funding for preschool for 4 year olds. This comprehensive early childhood initiative aims to change the education and work force trajectory in one generation.

The next stop was Potranco Branch Library, <https://www.mysapl.org/Visit/Locations/Potranco-Library> and Y which are co-located in a repurposed grocery store. There is some shared meeting space and full library and community services. This facility was built with a voter approved bond project.

The afternoon session was *Exploring the Arts*. After seeing many murals throughout the city we visited Mission San Francisco de la Espada and the Arbol de la Vida art piece. <https://www.tpr.org/post/san-antonio-stories-blossom-rbol-de-la-vida>. This amazing public art was created by community members of all ages sharing the history and culture of San Antonio.

We visited the Day of the Dead exhibit at Centro de Artes San Antonio, <https://www.getcreativesanantonio.com/City-Exhibits/Centro-de-Artes> and completed our tour at Hemisfair, seeing the public art in that park.

The conference included short sessions on a variety of subjects. I attended the following:

- How to Gather the Opinions of Hard to Reach Residents
- Understanding Fair and Effective Vacation Rental Policies and Their Impact on Communities
- Housing Affordability – Best Practices
- Treasured Places – Capitalizing on What is Unique in Every City and Town
- Pairing Police and Behavioral Health Navigators

There were also full sized sessions

- Preparing Your Community for the Next Economic Downturn
- Game Changers – Inspiring Stories and AHA Moments
- Breakthrough in Sustainable, Living Cities
- My Brother’s Keeper, Framework to Affect Systems Change
- REAL City Solutions at the Intersection of Housing and Racial Equity
- Thriving People – the Key to Economically Viable Cities

The General Sessions highlighted speakers on a variety of subjects

- Author Peter Kageyama, author of *For the Love of Cities*, <http://www.fortheloveofcities.com/about>

- Comedian Jesus Trejo , sharing his experiences of being the caregiver for his parents. AARP was also part of this panel <https://www.aarp.org/caregiving/stories/info-2018/care-to-laugh-jesus-trejo.html>
- Common, American rapper, actor, writer, philanthropist, and activist <https://www.biography.com/musician/common>
- Henry Cisneros, former San Antonio Mayor and Secretary of HUD https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Cisneros

There was an exhibit hall full of services and products from a variety of vendors to examine.

Throughout the Conference, the REAL Redlining exhibit, *Undesign the Redline* <https://www.enterprisecommunity.org/news-and-events/undesign-the-redline> was open for viewing and discussion. This is a comprehensive look at redlining policies and other methods of structural racism in cities across America. Through maps, current day stories, and a historical overview this interactive presentation explored the policies that shaped why cities look the way they do today.