

THE NEW TOBIN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS opened in 2014 and revolutionized the arts scene in downtown San Antonio, Texas, bringing an influx of people to an area of town that already had limited parking. As a result, just a short walk away from its namesake, the Tobin Center Parking Garage was designed to provide event and additional daily parking and be a complementary artistic element to the award-winning Tobin Center and the unique surrounding community.

Marmon Mok, a local architecture firm, was commissioned to design the new Tobin Garage. The firm, in association with LMN Architects, provided the architectural services for the renovation and expansion of the Tobin Center. Marmon Mok also designed the adjoining Will Naylor Smith Plaza, an urban park that links the nationally known San Antonio Riverwalk with the Tobin Center. With Marmon Mok's extensive experience with both projects and the firm's thorough understanding of the clients, Marmon Mok was able to craft a beautiful and functional space to support the community.

The Partnership and Goals

The Tobin Garage was developed as a public/private partnership between the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts, First Baptist Church, city of San Antonio,

and Bexar County. With several stakeholders involved, the space needed to function as an efficient, multipurpose facility. The parking goals were threefold:

- To relieve the parking congestion from the revived Tobin Center.
- To serve the parking needs of the First Baptist Church.
- To provide public parking for downtown destinations, maximizing use through the varying schedules.

Challenges

The Tobin Garage is a great project to examine because it had several unique challenges outside the realm of most traditional parking structures. The design challenges were fivefold:

- Making sure the unique objectives of each stakeholder were met.



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