



# DOWNTOWN HARLINGEN

HARLINGEN, TEXAS

## GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGNEE—2020

Downtown Harlingen was founded in 1902 on fertile land on the Rio Grande River delta. The railroad near the west side of downtown still operates as it did over 100 years ago, and many of the existing buildings have unique shapes as a result of the tracks. Building materials and architectural styles were brought in from the north through the eras, establishing the eclectic look of Downtown Harlingen.

With the original center layout consisting of wide streets and sidewalks, Downtown is now home to trendy and traditional restaurants, boutiques, specialty and antique shops, green spaces, gyms, event centers, retail and health stores, offices, and residential living. Downtown is known for its 30+ murals depicting history and the arts with seven new murals underway.

Two parks and a green space in the central area of Downtown host community events including Shrimp Fest, Market Days, and the Lighted Christmas Parade that has been operating in Downtown for 74 years. The neighborhood is highly connected with hike and bike trails throughout the city and county and there are regular community walks and monthly bike rides in the neighborhood. Downtown Harlingen is also surrounded by other neighborhoods, cultural centers, and the city lake and library all within walking distance.

Harlingen City leaders continue to support growth and revitalization in Downtown, and as a result, Downtown Harlingen has become a thriving, safe, pedestrian- and bike-friendly area that serves local needs in diverse ways.

