

A LEE ENTERPRISES NEWSPAPER
SERVING TUCSON SINCE 1877

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A long look back at downtown master plans

OUR VIEW: This exhibit of plans dating from 1932 is worth checking out tonight

Downtown redevelopment. Those two words probably have echoed among the buildings of our downtown since Lt. Col. Hugo O'Connor, the Irishman who served the Spanish Army, rode into our region and established an 11-acre fort in 1775, near the corner of what is now Church Avenue and Washington Street.

The 234-year leap from presidio to present is lined with about 100 — that's right, 100 — downtown Tucson master plans, comprehensive plans, studies and projects, which will be presented in a show that opens tonight.

Our idea is to spend a Saturday evening getting a new perspective on downtown development by viewing the old ideas and plans, some of which came to fruition and many that did not.

"It should be a hoot," said Tucson artist and architect Bill Mackey, who helped gather the collection. It will be interesting to look at the documents and to pause and see the passion expressed in the design.

We envision years of time, effort, public meetings, not to mention taxpayer and private dollars will be reflected in the exhibition.

The show includes:
• An interactive timeline that tracks and contrasts world events, economic and social trends with Tucson's history and the plans.

• Photographs of successful places and places, some of them planned, others not.

• "A Guide to the Master Plans of Downtown Tucson" — a small booklet — will be for sale for \$5.

The idea for the exhibition percolated from a discussion in June with Mackey and Julie Ray of Pop-Up Spaces. Mackey said he has been



IDEA FORUM
+/- 92: DOWNTOWN MASTER PLANS, 1932-2009

Where: 63 E. Congress St.
When: Grand opening is 6-10 tonight. Hours continue 6-10 p.m. Saturdays, Oct. 10, 17 and 24.
How much: Free

gathering and summarizing the plans since July. Rachelle Diaz and Kimi Eisele, representing several collectives, including Worker, Inc. and Design Co*op, have also been involved in developing and executing the display, according to press materials.

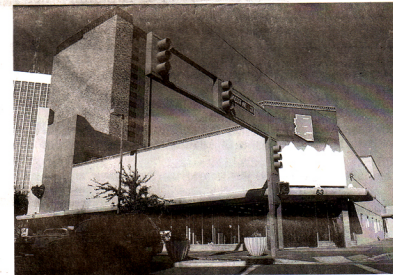
The Pima County archives were the "gold mine" for the project, Mackey said. Items from the city of Tucson Transportation Department, ParkWise and private collections are also in the exhibition.

Plans authored from about 1932 to 2009 will be displayed, but Mackey said he is aware of at least 20 more.

We appreciate the apropos use of the McLellan Building, the former downtown variety store turned event center, which is owned by developer John Wesley Miller.

"This is a rare opportunity to see all of the planning for downtown Tucson in one space at one time," according to press materials.

We hope you'll take advantage of the free opportunity.



GREG BRYAN/ARIZONA DAILY STAR 2005
The McLellan building at 63 E. Congress St. will be the site of an exhibit of downtown master plans, open each Saturday night in October.

MY VIEW: D

Contact editorial cartoonist David Fitzsim

SAYS HERE PEOPLE WHO OBEY STRANGE DISEMBODED VOICES COMMANDING THEM TO DO BIZARRE THINGS ARE CALLED SCHIZOPHRENICS.



LETTERS TO

Giffords votes as an American

I have voted Republican for the past 63 years, with the exception of one time. I voted for (Democrat) Gabrielle Giffords. My support was not in vain.

Rather than acting like a trained seal for Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, she votes as an American. I don't agree with all her stands, but then I disagreed with Eisenhower and Reagan at times.

Voters who wish to have Pelosi run things should move to Northern California and back her for trash collector.

John Backer
Retired veteran, SaddleBrooke

Lies are too big to ignore

Health-care reform to our economic well down the road? Unde

are too many wild claims being perpetuated by Republicans, and to believe them. From de

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John Kyl — no way.

Lawmakers creating a dangerous state

Re: the Sept. 29 article "191 new state laws cover guns, abortion, safety seats and more."

The "lawmakers" who passed the laws listed in Tuesday's paper should be tarred and feathered and thrown out of Arizona. They are making this state a downright scary place to be. Why don't they just do away with laws altogether and let everyone do whatever they want? The end results would be just about the same.

These people are being paid by the citizens of Arizona and in return are making this a dangerous place to live.

Merlin Spillers
Retired art historian, Tucson

Alternative energy has many benefits

There are arguments about whether global warming is a hoax or real. Regardless of which is true, the development of alternate energy is imperative to release the U.S. from dependence on countries that are not friends.

The good news is that there is an additional benefit of alternative energy. If global warming is real, the use of sustainable energy sources will almost certainly help reduce the warming.

This is a win-win in many respects, including job creation.

George Hubbard
Tucson

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GUEST OPINION

Passing TUSD override would help en

By Ann-Eve Pedersen
SPECIAL TO THE ARIZONA DAILY STAR

In just one year, the Tucson Unified School District has undergone a major shift under the leadership of Dr. Elizabeth Celania-Fagen. As voters decide whether to vote yes on Propositions 401 and 402 (the TUSD override) on Nov. 3, it's an important time to look at what's been accomplished.

This has been a challenging time to lead an urban school district that educates 57,000 students — more than all the other local districts combined. The loss of \$40.6 million in state funds to our community's primary district was unprecedented — forcing cuts that went quite deep.

As a TUSD parent, I appreciate Fa-

schools and created avenues for community input.

Fagen wanted to keep the cuts away from the classroom, so she made dramatic cuts to central administration — eliminating departments, reducing the executive team budget by 46 percent and cutting \$5.5 million from the central administrative budget.

She also reorganized the team supervising schools. Previously, seven managers oversaw 105 schools based on geographical regions.

Now, there are four assistant superintendents — one each for elementary, middle and high schools and



Ann-Eve Pedersen is a TUSD parent and spokeswoman for the Invest In Our Kids Committee.

was impossible to completely insulate the classroom. Fagen allowed school site councils — made up of parents, teachers and community members — to decide how to cut 14 percent from their school budgets.

It was far better to give schools local control rather than having the district dictate one solution for everyone.

While previous administrations were criticized for being too insular, Fagen created a much more inclusive environment, forming several citizens advisory committees to make recommendations to her and her staff. In addition, Fagen instituted a meri-

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