



The Cultural Cornerstone of Río Nuevo

TUCSON ORIGINS HERITAGE PARK will be the link between Tucson's past and present, exploring our history and giving us unique insight into who we are.

You Can Help Create Origins

COMMUNITY SUPPORT IS VITAL to making Tucson Origins Heritage Park a success. For information about volunteer opportunities and other ways to get involved in this exciting project, please contact the City of Tucson Historic and Cultural Resource Division at 791-4505.



Reconstructed presidio wall at the southwest corner of Church Avenue and Washington Street

RÍO NUEVO is the City of Tucson's comprehensive revitalization plan that is turning Downtown into the Heart of the City. It includes a number of public and private projects including entertainment venues, museums, shopping, restaurants, offices, transportation improvements and residential housing.

For more information about Río Nuevo, please contact the Río Nuevo office at 791-5580.



TUCSON ORIGINS HERITAGE PARK is planned as Río Nuevo's signature cultural attraction. When complete, it will be an exciting place to learn about the daily life of Native Americans, Spanish missionaries, Mexican and Anglo settlers and others who turned the tiny military and religious outpost of Tucson into a thriving desert community. The Park will also explore the values and traditions of those early residents of the Tucson basin – influences that live on in our language, cuisine, architecture and customs.

Portions of the 18th century

San Agustín Mission, including the convento (pictured above),

will be rebuilt in

Tucson Origins Heritage Park.



Exploring Our Past, Understanding Our Present

THE PARK WILL JOIN THE EAST AND WEST SIDES OF RÍO NUEVO. The Tucson Presidio will be interpreted at the corner of Church Avenue and Washington Street, serving as the focal point for the east element of the Park. It will include reconstructed portions of Tucson's original Presidio wall as well as historical artifacts discovered there by archaeologists. Interpretive signage and hands-on demonstrations will give insight into what life was like for Tucsonans within the protected compound. The perimeter of the Tucson Presidio will be marked in several locations throughout Downtown.

MANY OF THE BUILDINGS that made up the 18th century San Agustín Mission will be re-built as the centerpiece of the west side of the Park. These structures – the convento, chapel and granary, along with Mission gardens – were central community gathering places for work, worship, and celebration. Re-built with traditional materials, furnished and designed authentically, they will allow thousands of visitors the unique opportunity to step back in time and into the lives of those early Tucsonans.

Re-Constructing Our Origins

CONSTRUCTION OF THE PARK WILL BEGIN IN 2005 and proceed in phases, as funding becomes available. Phase I will reconstruct the Presidio walls and Mission gardens, plus provide the infrastructure for future development of other cultural attractions on Río Nuevo's west side. The estimated cost for this first phase is \$11.4 million. Phase II, which is expected to total \$7.8 million, will complete the San Agustín Mission complex.



TUCSON THROUGH TIME

- 1450 to late 1600's *O'odham peoples are dominant residents of Tucson region*
- 1540's *Coronado Expedition crosses Arizona in search of gold*
- 1540 *Coronado claims Arizona as part of New Spain*
- 1699 *San Xavier del Bac Mission founded by Father Francisco Kino*
- 1771 *Mission San Agustín established on west bank of Santa Cruz River*
- 1775 *Spanish presidio (fort) established in Tucson*
- 1821 *Tucson becomes part of Mexico when it gains independence from Spain*
- 1853 *Gadsden Purchase makes Tucson a part of the United States*
- 1863 *Arizona becomes official U.S. territory*
- 1867-89 *Tucson is territorial capital*
- 1880 *Southern Pacific Railroad reaches Tucson*
- 1912 *Arizona becomes 48th state in the Union*

re-constructing our origins

1880
Southern Pacific Railroad reaches Tucson

