



# UNITED STATES PAVILION NEWS

HEMISFAIR '68

U.S. Department of Commerce/U.S. Expositions Staff

Erna S. Hallock  
Information Officer

Facts about. . .

## THE UNITED STATES PAVILION

- Location** Between Old Goliad Road and Plaza del Mundo, on the southwestern front of the HemisFair grounds, in the heart of San Antonio.
- Transportation** The UNITED STATES PAVILION is within easy walking distance from midtown hotels, and on or near all HemisFair transportation routes--mini-monorail, skyride, and waterway.
- Pavilion theme** CONFLUENCE U.S.A.--the story of one nation built by many peoples, of a country enriched by the merging of many civilizations in the mainstream of its national life.
- This confluence of peoples and civilizations in the United States of America is portrayed as a three-part audio-visual story:
- THE LEGACY of the past.
  - THE HARVEST of the present.
  - THE PROMISE of the future.
- The Pavilion** A two-building complex: EXHIBITS BUILDING and CONFLUENCE THEATRE, joined by the open-air MIGRATION COURTYARD.
- Exhibits Building** Three-dimensional exhibits, audio-visual presentations, animated graphics, and stylized exhibits depict the past, present, and future of CONFLUENCE U.S.A.

The exhibits were designed by The Displayers, Inc., New York City, and fabricated by General Exhibits & Displays, Chicago, Illinois, and The Displayers.

The single-story, arc-shaped EXHIBITS BUILDING provides 20,000 square feet of floor space, with entrances and exit ramps below.

The structure was designed by Roberts, Allen & Helmke, San Antonio architects. It was built by the D.J. Rheiner Construction Company, San Antonio.

Migration  
Courtyard

The outstanding feature of this landscaped flower garden and patio is a group of sculptured birds in flight, poised against walls of falling water.

Created by Bill Bristow, San Antonio artist, the birds are symbolic of the migration of peoples.

Confluence  
Theatre

A unique 1,200-seat circular theatre, with disappearing walls and screens, and a huge curvilinear screen that is the only one of its kind in the world. The building is 195 feet in diameter and over 70 feet high. The exterior is travertine marble and glass.

In the interior are three adjoining theatres, separated by movable walls. Each theatre seats 400 persons and is equipped with a separate 15x30-foot screen.

Academy Award winner Francis Thompson, and his associate, Alexander Hammid, both of New York City, produced and directed the motion picture "U S" shown in the CONFLUENCE THEATRE. The narration for this 23-minute documentary film, based on the theme of the UNITED STATES PAVILION, was written by Pulitzer Prize winner W.H. Auden. Composer-conductor David Amram, first composer in residence of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, wrote the music.

The first phase of the film, shown simultaneously on the three separate screens, has scenes of the waiting land, its exploration, and settlement--OUR LEGACY.

In the second phase, still on the three separate screens, now enlarged to 25x30 feet, immigration to and the development of the land are shown--OUR HARVEST.

Before the third and final phase, the dividing walls and screens disappear up into the ceiling and the three theatres become a single "confluence" theatre.

Spectacular photographic techniques are used in this phase to show further development of our confluence, some of the challenges created by this development, and our hopes for the future--OUR PROMISE. The 1,200 persons in the combined audience see OUR PROMISE projected on one of the world's largest screens--37x140 feet--that was specially constructed for the CONFLUENCE THEATRE.

The CONFLUENCE THEATRE is a permanent structure, solidly built from foundation to roof. It is the first exposition building ever designed by the United States Government envisioning a number of possible post-fair uses. For example, it can be adapted as an audio-visual education laboratory, outfitted into a multi-storied administration building, or converted for other end uses.

The architects for the CONFLUENCE THEATRE were Marmon and Mok Associates of San Antonio. The thematic conception for an actual confluence during the projection of a documentary film was by Donald Deskey Associates, Inc., New York City. The structure was built by the D.J. Rheiner Construction Company, San Antonio.

Site

The UNITED STATES PAVILION stands on a 4.59-acre site deeded to the United States Government by the City of San Antonio.

Congressional  
action

The Texas Congressional delegation, led by Senators Ralph W. Yarborough and John G. Tower and Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez, obtained Congressional approval for Federal participation in HemisFair '68.

Legal  
authority

Public Law 89-685, appropriating \$6,750,000 for Federal participation in HemisFair, was signed by President Johnson on October 27, 1966.

Federal par-  
ticipation

Responsibility for planning and organizing Federal participation in HemisFair was assigned to the U.S. Department of Commerce. The Department's operating unit is the U.S. Expositions Staff, in the Office of Administration for Domestic and International Business.