

**FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF**  
EPRUSKE@EPCOMMERCIALREALESTATE.COM

From the San Antonio Business Journal:

[https://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/news/2026/01/20/behind-the-build-ballpark-architect.html?](https://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/news/2026/01/20/behind-the-build-ballpark-architect.html?utm_source=st&utm_medium=en&utm_campaign=ae&utm_content=AN&j=43660067&senddate=01-21&utm_term=ep3&empos=p3)

[utm\\_source=st&utm\\_medium=en&utm\\_campaign=ae&utm\\_content=AN&j=43660067&senddate=01-21&utm\\_term=ep3&empos=p3](https://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/news/2026/01/20/behind-the-build-ballpark-architect.html?utm_source=st&utm_medium=en&utm_campaign=ae&utm_content=AN&j=43660067&senddate=01-21&utm_term=ep3&empos=p3)

SUBSCRIBER CONTENT:

**Sports Business**

## **Behind the Build: Downtown ballpark designers face tall task**

**Populous principal offers exclusive insight on what's possible in San Antonio.**



The San Antonio Missions are expected to move from aging Wolff Stadium to a new downtown ballpark in 2028.

GABE HERNANDEZ | SABJ



By [W. Scott Bailey](#) – Senior Reporter, San Antonio Business Journal  
Jan 20, 2026

Listen to this article 4 min

### Story Highlights

- San Antonio plans \$160 million Texas League Missions ballpark for 2028.
- Populous will design downtown stadium near San Pedro Creek Culture Park.
- Bond sale could occur in July to finance the project.

As stakeholders move closer to transforming an area in [west downtown into a new ballpark](#) and surrounding mixed-use development worth as much as a billion dollars, the integration of the project will be critical.

How that development plays out could economically energize an underutilized corner of the center city and the area around it.

The architectural firm tapped to design the long-sought new home for the Texas League Missions, [Populous, has a global reach and deep experience in sports venue design work](#). Its résumé includes multiple ballpark projects that could help inspire what's possible in San Antonio.

---

***Related: [City approves ballpark redevelopment plan](#)***

---

"You don't hire firms, you hire human beings," Weston Urban President and CEO Randy Smith told me. "From the first time we sat with them, it just felt like they were certainly the group that would match our energy and enthusiasm and passion for this,"

Smith is a key part of the ownership group that acquired the Missions in late 2022. Weston Urban is driving the planned new development around the stadium.

Populous Principal Geoff Kornegay shared exclusively with the Business Journal the tall task his team faces in San Antonio.



Weston Urban CEO Randy Smith.

CARLOS JAVIER SANCHEZ | SABJ

---

“We have seen the potential of sports venues to serve as anchors of urban development across the country. Other MiLB parks in cities like El Paso, Tulsa and Nashville showcase the unique ability of sports to create the kind of buzz necessary for successful urban development and growth,” Kornegay told me.

---

***Don't miss the latest San Antonio business headlines! [Sign up here for SABJ newsletters](#) and make sure to [download the app](#).***

---

“The new ballpark’s location downtown, connected to San Pedro Creek Culture Park, has provided the unique opportunity to nestle the venue into a beautiful setting primed for further investment,” he added.

San Antonio's [City Council](#) was briefed on Jan. 14 on the status of the planned stadium. The \$160 million project is expected to be completed in time for the 2028 season and addresses [Major League Baseball](#)'s concerns regarding a long-term home for the team.

[A bond sale to finance the project](#) could occur as early as July, according to Ben Gorzell, chief of financial and administrative services for the City of San Antonio. The stadium will ultimately be funded by team ownership and tax revenue tied to significant new development planned around it.

One of Populous's more recent stadium projects is the Covenant Health Ballpark in Knoxville, Tennessee, which opened in 2025. The urban ballpark, home to the Knoxville Smokies, seats about 7,400 fans – similar to the planned capacity for the Missions' new stadium. Backers say that the ballpark has served as a bridge between East Knoxville and downtown, "revitalizing an area that was dormant for decades," Smokies owner Randy Boyd said.

[Populous officials believe there are similar opportunities](#) in the Alamo City.

"The opportunity to design a ballpark in one of the oldest and most storied cities in Texas is a privilege that comes with significant responsibility. Centuries of cultural history, combined with nearly 140 years of baseball history, provide the design team with endless stories to tell and inspiration to draw from," Kornegay said.

Kornegay added that Populous is exploring materials and gathering spaces "that will make the ballpark an only-in-San-Antonio destination."

City Council could receive a final financial report on the project as soon as June.

**T H E L I S T**

## Here are the 20 largest architecture firms in San Antonio

Local licensed architects