

Knowledge into Action: Excerpt from student advocacy letter to the Alamo

Dear Alamo Museum:

...The phrase, “The Mission, The Battle, The Legend,” is a fitting reminder of the battle of the Alamo because of the keyword ‘legend.’ The story of the Alamo has been twisted and turned to fit the victor’s purpose (Texas) for so long that many Texan schoolchildren have been taught that one side and only one side was right during the battle. Young Texans are raised without knowing the true story behind the Alamo and the Texan Revolution, because educators and curators refuse to display or show the real truth behind the Battle of the Alamo. History that isn’t true cannot be called history at all.

I would like to respectfully suggest several changes that might make The Alamo a more accurate display of Texan history. For starters, in the Long Barracks, where most of the information of the Battle of the Alamo and San Jacinto is located, I suggest that the museum should also take time and create exhibits that focus on the Mexican and Tejano’s perspectives of the war. This would be a good step in adding factual and informative data about the ‘enemies.’ Texans should be able to identify what Texans did to provoke the war, and what Texans did to the native Tejanos and Mexicans. There should also be an exhibit showcasing the causes of the war that tells both stories. The museum should focus on not giving visitors false hope so that they can go out and say, “The Mexicans were bad and cruel so that was why Texas rebelled,” because that is false. The timeline of events leading up to the Texas Revolution should not just focus on the wrongdoings of the Mexicans, instead, it should also combine the Texan’s wrongdoings that ultimately prompted the Mexican government to act.

The Alamo is a vital and symbolic historical site for all Texans, but facts and information should not be left out in order to appeal to the visitors. It is simply unfair and unjust to depict one side in such an ugly light without reasons. Even the Texans had their bad side, and all of this should be showcased in a museum that provides actual information without obscuring the truth by painting over the battle with legends and false information. As an iconic historical site, The Alamo plays a major role in Texas’ history, and by honoring it by giving tourists a more diverse information, the museum will be doing the right thing by showing the world it truly cares about true history.

Best regards,
Tan H., 8th grade student and proud Texan