

# Hillel San Antonio's Search for Space

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## Hillel San Antonio

### Introduction

Hillel, a campus-based Jewish organization, needs space in San Antonio. This study examines the advantages and disadvantages of owning and renting a space.

### Methods

- **In-depth interviews** with 7 key Hillel directors throughout the country.
- **Literary review** of real estate advantages and disadvantages of owning compared to renting a space.



Student members of the Hillel Board of Directors gather at a recent meeting.

*“Look at what student life is going to look like in seventy-three years, what their needs are going to be”.*

–Suzy Sostrin, OU Hillel

### Results

#### **Advantages of Renting**

- Matt Rosenberg and Daniel Septimus from Texas A&M Hillel and UT Hillel, respectively, think their spaces are too big. Matt would rather rent from the university than own his building because of the high costs of \$200,000 a year from running the building.
- Jay Lewis from the Hillel at Kansas University rents a space in a hip area in downtown Lawrence. He suggests renting is better to avoid costs and maintenance issues.

#### **Advantages of Owning**

- Jackie Tolley from the Hillel at San Diego State University says “owning a building gives students and enormous sense of pride for being Jewish, and it absolutely changes the experience for students”.
- Suzy Sostrin from the Hillel at OU thinks not having a building is really tough for students because they cannot find you in the middle of the day and pop in to hang out and study.

### Conclusions

- “It is beneficial for Hillel to rent a space, and owning is not always a great option”- Jay Lewis, KU Hillel Director
- “Owning brings about several advantages such as pride in Hillel, a safe space to meet and hang out”-Margo Sack, Texas Hillel
- Owning a building is an asset.
- Renting is less expensive and more flexible.



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