NIOSA® GATE TICKETS & BLAST PASS WRISTBANDS NOW ON SALE

Jana Foreman, NIOSA Chairman

A Night In Old San Antonio® (NIOSA®) 2022 is almost upon us. All the volunteers are working hard to make this year’s 73rd presentation of NIOSA a huge success.

Five discount advance member entry tickets were mailed out February 8th. We hope you will support our fundraising efforts by paying for these tickets by check or credit card. A self-addressed return envelope was included for your convenience. If you would like additional discounted member tickets, we will be happy to accommodate you. If you do not want the tickets, please return them in the enclosed envelope.

Interested in volunteering at NIOSA? Go to our website, www.niosa.org - Click on Volunteer and then select “Become a Volunteer.” We will welcome all who want to help.

The NIOSA 2022 medal was unveiled January 31st. Tickets, medals, and wristbands are on sale now at NIOSA.org or at the NIOSA office. Member tickets are $15.00 - Tickets purchased at the gate are $20.00. NIOSA medals are sold online or at the NIOSA office for $12.99 includes tax. NIOSA Blast Pass wristbands are $2.00 each. Use these wristbands instead of tickets or cash. Purchase wristbands ahead of time online or at the NIOSA office. Or, you can buy them at NIOSA. Wristbands will also be sold at Fiesta Fiesta on March 31st.

NIOSA® 2022 - VIVA!

To contact the NIOSA Team directly:
Phone: 210-226-5188/ Email: niosa@niosa.org

www.niosa.org/p/tickets
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kathy Rhoads, President

On February 24, a fire destroyed 503 Urban Loop. Last August, the Conservation Society, together with Esperanza Peace and Justice Center and Westside Preservation Alliance, prepared a Request for Review of Significance for the building. The City Council never acted on the Request for Review of Significance which was delayed several times as the Conservation Society and its partners met with ownership to find a plan to both preserve and develop the site.

Built in 1883 by Aurelia Dashiell as a brothel, the building was the sole survivor of the city’s infamous Red Light District, where madam Fanny Porter hosted Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. In 1913, the Archdiocese of San Antonio purchased the building, which served the working-class neighborhood of Laredito as an orphanage and child care center for over a century. In the crowded Laredito The Conservation Society began preservation work in Laredito in 1959 with the purchase of Casa Navarro, now a National Historic Landmark. With the loss of 503 Urban Loop, Casa Navarro remains one of the few landmarks from this once thriving neighborhood.

BOARD MEMBER CHARLES JOHN IS THE NEW PRESERVATION TEXAS PRESIDENT

Board member Charles John is the new President of Preservation Texas, the statewide historic preservation advocacy organization and partner with the National Trust dedicated to protecting the historic resources of Texas. A long-time member of the Society, Charles is a preservation architect with over 46 years of experience in the field. He previously served for nine years on our board and for twelve years on the Bexar County Historical Commission. In 2021, Charles was re-elected to our board. He holds additional board positions with Mission Heritage Partners and with the Power of Preservation Foundation.
The Conservation Society of San Antonio turned 98 years old this month! Some of the buildings, sites and structures we are trying to save are actually much younger than that! Good examples include the buildings of HemisFair 1968. Recently, reports were issued on the Institute of Texan Cultures, built for the 1968 World’s Fair as the Texas Pavilion and designed by Houston architects Caudill Rowlett Scott. The building’s Brutalist architectural style has long granted it a somewhat foreboding character, and during the Fair it was surrounded by bermed hills, which have been reduced over the years. Owned by the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), the Institute of Texan Cultures is an ethnographic museum that has occupied the building for over 50 years.

Not long ago, UTSA constituted a series of Task Forces to review the situation of the museum. I served on the Facility and Land Stewardship Task Force. At the beginning, UTSA instructed us that we were not deciding the future of the building itself, but rather the future of the museum. We were then presented with a series of studies showing the building’s deficiencies.

Rushing cognitive dissonance to one side, we spent several meetings discussing what the Institute of Texan Cultures could be and how it could be more a part of UTSA. Located two miles from the downtown campus, the Institute is largely known for the annual Texas Folklife Festival, which generated up to half of the museum’s annual attendance. Clearly, the museum cannot meet current museum standards, and the building is quite large.

The Institute of Texan Cultures building is not the only one that does not fit San Antonio’s present. The Confluence Theater/US Pavilion of HemisFair, which became the Wood Courthouse in 1975, has a similar problem. The courthouse is moving into a new building on the west side of downtown.
2022 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS

The San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation will host the 2022 Historic Preservation Awards on Thursday, March 17th at the San Antonio Country Club to honor four winners of their Historic Preservation Awards for the Built Environment and six special awards for individuals. Visit www.saconservation.org/awards for more information.

Lynn Ford Craftsman Award
Diana Kersey, Visual Artist & Ceramicist

Texas Preservation Hero Award
Patricia “Pat” Ezell
Maria Stevenson Greene
Harold “Ray” Knox
Humberto Saldaña
County Judge Nelson W. Wolff

Awards for the Built Environment
San Antonio City Hall
City of San Antonio
Kelso House
Power of Preservation Foundation
Temple Beth-El
Congregation Beth-El
Out of Town Award for the Built Environment
The John Ruckman House
Karnes County Historical Society

Special thank you to the Historic Preservation Awards Sponsors: Economic & Community Development, Frederica & Martin Kushner, Dolores and Thomas Michael, Kate Ruckman, and San Antonio Parks Foundation.

Welcome New Members! December 23, 2021 - February 28, 2022

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IN HONOR OF...

Dr. Vincent Michael
The Houston Seminar – Emily Todd

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STARTING MARCH 21ST - ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2023 PUBLICATION AWARDS

The 2023 Publication Awards competition is open to printed books on any aspect of Texas history that supports the Society's stated purpose and has a copyright date of 2020, 2021, or 2022. Anyone may nominate a book, including the author, provided he or she submits a nomination form and two copies of the book. Nomination forms and criteria can be found at: www.saconservation.org/news-events/publication-awards. The deadline for nominations is Friday, May 13, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

Publication Awards – Call for Readers

Do you enjoy reading about Texas history? The library is issuing a call for volunteer readers/evaluators for the 2023 Publication Awards. If you are interested in reading and helping to decide the award winners, please contact Beth Standifird at 210-224-6163 or bstandifird@saconservation.org. More information will be provided to readers in late April. Once the competition is over, readers will be able to choose a favorite book or two to keep from the titles not added to the library collection.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation is seeking to hire a part-time museum attendant vacancy at the Historic Edwards Steves Homestead Museum. Hours will be Saturdays and Sunday 9am-3pm. Visit our website for more info: www.saconservation.org/employment

IN FEBRUARY, THE JUNIOR ASSOC TOURED MISSION ESPADA

Join the Junior Associates and see where we go next. Next meeting will be held April 3rd. Interested in joining or want more info? Email: ja@saconservation.org or contact the office for more information.
NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS, OFFICERS, AND DIRECTORS

INTERESTED IN ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP?

If you are an “Associate” member of the Conservation Society for at least one year and would like to become an “Active” member, nomination forms are due to the Society office by **9:00 am on Monday, April 25th**. **Active members are voting members and may hold office on the Conservation Society’s Board of Directors.** Active Member Nominations require the signature support of two active members.

SOCIETY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Nominating Committee is accepting recommendations of individuals who are interested in being an integral part of the Conservation Society by service on the Board of Directors as either an Officer or Director. Officers elected by the Board of Directors must have had at least one year of Board membership within the past five years before taking office. Directors elected by the membership must have been Active Members for at least one year or the major portion thereof. Forms for your recommendation must be submitted to the Nominating Committee by **9:00 am on Monday, April 25th**. Active Members, please watch for your packet which will be mailed soon.

Please refer to the Society Bylaws for more information. For additional questions, please call the office at 210.224.6163. To access governing documents for the Society, visit www.saconservation.org under “Governing Documents. The newly amended San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation Bylaws can also be accessed here.
'Here it is, I helped to save it’ - Miss Anna Ellis - 1927

ESPADA AQUEDUCT

After the founding of Mission Espada in 1731, its inhabitants needed an irrigation system to carry San Antonio River waters to their farm fields. A limestone aqueduct across Piedras Creek was completed in 1745. Then in 1937, Society President Elizabeth Graham offered the Society a small tract of land that included the aqueduct she had purchased with her “burying money.” The Society accepted, becoming guardians of the nation’s only surviving aqueduct. We transferred ownership to the National Park Service in 1983.