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**THE CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF SAN ANTONIO
OPENS A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MIRAFLORES
IN OBSERVANCE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH**

Miraflores, the site of the late Dr. Aureliano Urrutia’s legendary family garden, with its former ponds and waterways fed by the nearby San Antonio River, has long lain shrouded in mystery. Talavera-tile decorated benches and statues honoring great figures in Mexican history from the Aztec King Cuauhtémoc to former president Porfirio Díaz once punctuated an extensive landscape of flowers, trees and herbs, nestled behind a decorative gate at the north end of Brackenridge Park.

Inaccessible for years, public and scholarly interest in Miraflores has begun to surface with new information through the publication of Anne Elise Urrutia’s extensively researched “Miraflores: San Antonio’s Mexican Garden of Memory” (Trinity University Press, 2022). The book tells the story of the garden and its founder, one of the most prominent physicians in pre-revolutionary Mexico, who continued his career in San Antonio. What are the plans for the future of this once beautiful, historically important space now owned by the City of San Antonio?

In response to growing public interest, **the Conservation Society of San Antonio (CSSA) will hold a free panel discussion with a Q&A session, open to all, on the morning of Saturday, June 24, 2023, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon, in Seddon Recital Hall at the University of the Incarnate Word, 4301 Broadway (doors open at 10 a.m.).** Seddon Recital Hall is located in the Lucilla Bennack Music Center, just north of Hildebrand Avenue and south of the UIW roundabout off Broadway. Free surface parking is available in front of the Music Center.

CSSA's Historic Preservation Month event will feature author Anne Elise Urrutia and architect/anthropologist Eugen Logan Wagner Ph.D., FAIA in a conversation moderated by cultural historian Claudia Guerra to illuminate the historical and cultural significance of the site and to explore motivations and obstacles for future restoration as a public, educational garden.

Anne Elise Urrutia (www.quintaurrutia.com) is the great-granddaughter of Dr. Aureliano Urrutia and continues to devote significant time to researching and writing about his life and legacy. Dr. Wagner, born and raised in Monterrey, Mexico, is the author, together with Hal Box and Susan Kline Morehead, of "Ancient Origins of the Mexican Plaza: From Primordial Sea to Public Space" (University of Texas Press, 2013) and a practicing architect in Austin, (www.alarifearchitects.com). Claudia Guerra is the cultural historian for the City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation and editor of "300 of Years of San Antonio and Bexar County" (Trinity University Press, 2019).

"We hope that this event will build on opportunities initiated in 2006 by the City in its acquisition of the property, and by the Brackenridge Park Conservancy's ongoing stewardship of the property since 2009," stated Conservation Society President Kathy Rhoads. "For almost 100 years, our organization has focused on 'Making History by Saving History.' This conversation about Miraflores as a significant cultural landscape is an important one to have now before what is left at the site vanishes forever."

The CSSA event builds upon the momentum begun at a 2021 Miraflores symposium hosted by the San Antonio Botanical Garden, the Department of Art and Art History of Trinity University and Trinity University Press. The goal of the Conservation Society's Historic Preservation Month Seminar is to open new discussion that will inspire the next stage of active leadership and momentum for Miraflores to be restored as a place of distinct cultural heritage.

"CSSA invites local government, educational institutions, the architectural, planning, landscape, and design communities, and anyone with a passion for beautiful public spaces to join us on Saturday, June 24 to consider the serious efforts needed to advance this important project," stated Rhoads. "Miraflores belongs to us all, so let us imagine its future together!"