

The Conservation Society of San Antonio THE PRESERVATION ADVOCATE



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NIOSA- Where Good Friends Meet

Lisa Pierce, Chairman for 2024 and 2025 "[A Night In Old San Antonio](#)"
The Conservation Society of San Antonio Fourth Vice President

Isn't that the truth?!? This year you will see this new motto on our beer cup Koozies and other mementos because that personifies our wonderful event!



I am super excited to share this year's medals, which are on sale now: the larger piñata medal for \$13 each; the 2025 beer cup medal for \$5; and the Rain Rock medal for \$10 each at:

- ❖ NIOSA office, 227 S. Presa, weekdays between 9 am and 4 pm - through April 28
- ❖ Monarch Trophy Studio and/or its website at <https://mtsawards.com/pages/fiesta-medal-marketplace> (Monarch adds service charge)
- ❖ During NIOSA in its souvenir booths from April 29 through May 2

As you can see, all 14 of NIOSA's areas are featured, as they should be! The inspiration for the medal comes from my gratitude and devotion to the volunteers who make NIOSA happen every year—including my immediate team: Six NIOSA Vice Chairs (Glenda Duffin, Wayne Hartman, Julie Terrell, Jackie Fellers, Erin Angle and Tisha Smith-Pruski) and NIOSA Treasurer Judy Hartman; Business Manager Fernando Villarreal; Bookkeeper Lisa Schneider; and Executive Assistant Mandy Rodriguez; the Warehouse Guys Mario Gloria and Richard Montemayor; and the incomparable stagers led by Brad Dietrich: Rick Zertuche, Chris

Celis, Juan Garcia, Rey Moreno and Artie Dietel.

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS: we are excited that Glazer's Beer & Beverage is our official 2025 Beer Provider this year, featuring Miller Lite, Dos Equis, Smirnoff Ice and El Jimador Margaritas, among others. Preparadas lovers will be thrilled the original recipe with Smirnoff Ice that made Preparadas so popular when we introduced them in 2013 is back.

Watch for new food booths: "Rose's Street Tacos" in Haymarket, and "Strawberries and Cream" is back in Main Street.



Two super friends of NIOSA will be the 2025 Parade Marshals for the opening night parade: Jennifer Fraga of the City of San Antonio and Bobby Magee of Escalera Capital. Jennifer is Special Projects Manager and has been our advocate for 10 years, often working small miracles on our behalf. Bobby's company now owns the La Villita Assembly Building and he is our Guardian Angel since he is letting us keep Sauerkraut Bend and Mexican Market in that wonderful landmark in 2025.

NIOSA - CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lewis Vetter, President

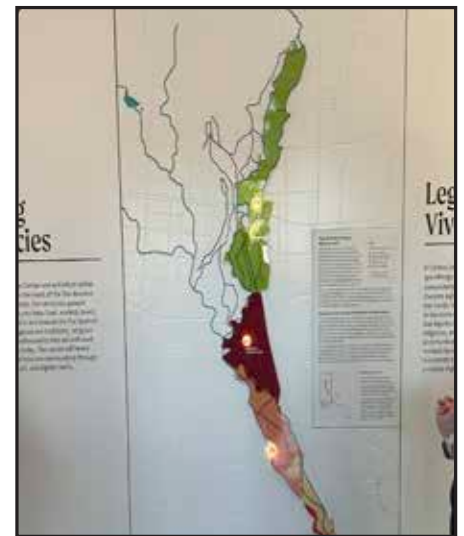
It has been six months since you elected me as your President of the Conservation Society. It has been a very busy and rewarding time. There is an outstanding Board of Directors and committee chairmen that bring new ideas, challenges and enthusiasm to all that they do. There are more than 100 volunteers dedicating their time working on committees and projects. Add to that the 10,000+ volunteers that make NIOSA a success every year. We have an experienced staff working every day to support the goals of the Society and Foundation and its members.

As you read the articles in this issue of the *Preservation Advocate* newsletter, you will find we are continuing to commemorate our centennial. At the February Membership Meeting we will be giving out the *100-Year Centennial* pin to those members who have not yet received them. There are events designed to include you so please be sure to participate. As you read the stories of NIOSA, April 29 - May 2, be sure to add to the festivities by attending at least one evening. Viva!

As you've heard before, we celebrate our successes and those that make it happen. In March you will have the opportunity to meet the authors that have been selected as our winners at our bi-annual Publications Award event. This year we are celebrating three decades of the Society's endowed professorship at UTSA and its impact on our community. Displays in the newly opened World Heritage Visitor Center include several of the members of the San Antonio Conservation Society that were key to the designation of the first and only World Heritage Site in Texas. You can find their names in the exhibits.

To show your pride in the Conservation Society, we now offer polo shirts for sale. They are 'Conservation Society purple' with the name *The Conservation Society of San Antonio*. They are only \$20 (including tax) and may be purchased at the Society headquarters at 1146 S. Alamo. Be sure to wear yours at community events and meetings.

We continue to engage in the issues facing the Society. The fate of the ITC building is not yet "set in concrete" as we strive to protect it. We are prepared to take a stand objecting to the Digital Media and Art Pilot Project when the City of San Antonio decides on its future. In March we will be meeting with legislators at the federal and state levels to assert our interests in the issues of preservation and conservation. If you know of a project that needs our attention, please let me know. The "Watchful Eye" of the Conservation Society is still needed as we start our next 100 years.





FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Vincent Michael, Executive Director

A Decade of World Heritage

In 2015, the San Antonio Missions were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list, becoming the only World Heritage site in Texas and making San Antonio one of three U.S. World Heritage cities. This February, the City of San Antonio's World Heritage Center opened near Mission San José, and over 500 people came to celebrate.

The effort to achieve World Heritage status began in 2006 at a Conservation Society Board Meeting when it was suggested by former President Virginia Nicholas. Soon the Society had engaged the services of author/historian Dr. Paul Ringenbach, who wrote and rewrote (and rewrote) the World Heritage nomination. Experts were brought in and we coordinated with World Heritage USA (then called US/ICOMOS).



The inscription took nine years from start to finish, but that is actually pretty quick in World Heritage time. The Frank Lloyd Wright sites also began to work on World Heritage inscription in 2006, but did not achieve it until 2019 - four years after San Antonio. I did not move to San Antonio until 2016, but having spent years working on World Heritage sites worldwide, and having toured the missions in detail, I was excited and impressed.

The new World Heritage Center has a screened veranda by Adriana Garcia that takes its motifs from the flowers, waterfowl and nopales of the San Antonio River. The interior features specially commissioned works of art and provides many layers of people-based interpretation. Many Conservation Society leaders are included in the first exhibit area, which focuses on the voices that helped make this special place happen. A large video details not simply the significance of the Mission in world history, but the experiences of those who have lived here for generations and generations. Indeed, a "gift box" exhibit focuses exclusively on the voices of the Mission descendants.

Unlike many World Heritage sites, the San Antonio Missions are not archaeological ruins. Not only are all five mission churches still extant, but four of them are active Catholic parishes! While the mission walls have vanished at the Alamo and Mission Concepción, they survive in part at the other three missions, having been rebuilt at Mission San José 95 years ago. The landscape is still there, with two of the mission acequias still operating as working irrigation systems.

Most importantly, the people are still there. And they are at the center of the exhibits in the new World Heritage Center. At the opening, many wore badges identifying them as mission descendants, and throughout the exhibits there are opportunities to hear and see their stories.

The preservation of the San Antonio Missions goes back a century! The first item that the Conservation Society purchased in order to save it was the embossed wooden door to the Mission San José Granary, which you can see on display at the Mission today. We saved it 99 years ago.

WORLD HERITAGE- CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

A Decade of World Heritage

continued from page 3

From a preservation point of view, the Missions are a lesson in persistence. The ladies of the Conservation Society managed to purchase and restore the Mission San José Granary in the early 1930s. This led to the reconstruction of the entire Mission San José complex and to the Archdiocese deciding to restore the church, which had been without a roof for a century.

The Conservation Society persisted. In 1941 the four southern missions became a State Historical Park thanks to our efforts. In 1978 the Conservation Society lobbied tirelessly behind the scenes to get the Missions listed as a National Historical Park. In 2006 we led the World Heritage effort. That is persistence. The other word I keep coming back to when I think about the Missions is partnerships. How do you get entities as diverse as the National Park Service, Archdiocese of San Antonio, City of San Antonio, Bexar County, State of Texas and at least four not-for-profits (Conservation Society, Mission Heritage Partners, Los Misiones and the Alamo Trust) to work together to create a singular World Heritage Site? Partnerships. And practice. San Antonio has been practicing these partnerships for most of a century and the Conservation Society has been at the center of it the whole time.

NIOSA- Where Good Friends Meet

continued from page 1

VOLUNTEERS: volunteers can help in the NIOSA office; during staging for the week leading to NIOSA; volunteering in a booth during NIOSA; and after NIOSA as we pack up. Individuals; groups of volunteers from corporations or non-profits; and/or those needing service hours are MORE than welcome; we supply tools and training. **IF YOU ARE A NEW VOLUNTEER,** please contact NIOSA at 210 226-5188 or niosa@niosa.org.

Every time you see the 2025 NIOSA medal, that is a love message of thanks from me—for everything you do to make this a Celebration of Preservation!

Available Now!



*Don't miss out on the fun,
get your tickets by scanning here!*

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: RICKI KUSHNER

Cristina Escobedo, Membership and Volunteer Chairman

From Music Education to Historic Preservation: A Lifelong Journey of Passion and Purpose

For this issue's Member Spotlight, we're delighted to highlight **Frederica 'Ricki' Kushner**, whose remarkable career and diverse interests embody a true commitment to preservation, creativity, and community.

Education and Early Career

Growing up in the small town of Oak Grove, Louisiana, Ricki developed a passion for learning and the arts. She earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees in Music Education from the University of Louisiana at Monroe, followed by a graduate degree in Library Science from LSU. Ricki's professional journey began in music education, transitioning to roles that showcased her unique blend of skills. These included serving as the Circulation Librarian at the University of South Alabama, a Music Specialist at National Public Radio's library in Washington, DC, and a brief tenure at Voice of America as a librarian. Eventually, she made history as the first official Recorded Sound Cataloger for the Motion Picture, Broadcast, and Recorded Sound Division at the Library of Congress.

Family and Hobbies

Now settled in San Antonio, Ricki shares her life with her husband, Marty Kushner, and their beloved cat, Lincoln. Her brother, John Primm, lives in Kyle, Texas, while her late parents hailed from Arkansas. In her free time, Ricki has immersed herself in the arts and the outdoors. She sang with the 100+ voice Washington Chorus for 25 years, even performing at Carnegie Hall and earning a Grammy as part of the group. She and Marty produced numerous plays for amateur theater. Ricki has also been a sound designer for about 40 years. Today, Ricki is retired and channels her energy into managing her xeric, native plant garden, maintaining a 1915 bungalow, and collecting prints.

Fun Facts about Ricki

- As a teenager, she ushered at the Oak Grove motion picture theater, earning free movie passes.

- She has provided live sound effects on stage for a theatrical production of a 1930s radio show.
- Her theatrical sound design expertise brought iconic productions to life, including the sinking of two legendary ships, the Titanic and Pequod (*Moby Dick*)!



Civic Engagement and Conservation

A San Antonio resident since 2001, Ricki quickly became involved with The Conservation Society, becoming an Active Member in 2004. Over the years, she has taken on various leadership roles, including serving on the Board and chairing committees such as the Demolition by Neglect Task Force, the Historic Building Survey Committee, and the Historic Gas Station Survey and website. She has also assisted with The Conservation Society Library, The Yturri-Edmunds Homestead committee and the Neighborhood Liaison committee. Outside The Conservation Society, she is deeply involved in historic preservation in the Tobin Hill area, serves on the Tier 1 Neighborhood Coalition steering committee, and participates in the Historic District Coalition. What Have You Learned from The Conservation Society? "The importance of connections, how to collaborate effectively with the City of San Antonio government, and even how to catalog books—drawing from my professional background as a music cataloger."

Looking Ahead

Through her incredible breadth of experience, Ricki exemplifies how one person's passion for the arts, history, and preservation can leave a lasting impact on both a community and its culture. Her journey is an inspiring testament to the power of dedication, creativity, and lifelong learning. We're proud to have her as an integral part of The Conservation Society and look forward to her continued contributions!

Centennial Celebrations

CELEBRATING THREE DECADES OF PROFESSORSHIP

Allison Elder, Programs Chairman



The Society continues to celebrate its Centennial with a bonus membership event on Saturday, March 15th marking three decades of the Conservation Society Endowed Professorship at UTSA. This event is free to Conservation Society Members, Capital Club Donors, and invited guests of the School of Architecture + Planning. The San Antonio Conservation Society Endowed Professorship in memory of Mary Ann Blocker Castleberry was established in 1996. The endowment was created to advance the goals and philosophies of historic preservations in the training of architects at UTSA. The professorship is awarded to a recognized scholar and designer who specializes in the preservation of historic buildings and sites and is actively involved in the training of architects. During this event, we will recognize the retirement of **William**

A. Dupont, FAIA, as the Endowed Professor, a position he has held since 2007. Professor Dupont, a Conservation Society “Hero of Texas Preservation” awardee in 2018, has leveraged the professorship for transformative impacts on students and a national impact on the field of historic preservation. Attendees will have an opportunity to hear from many graduates and current students about their involvement. A high tea reception will follow the formal presentations. For more information and to register, scan the QR code above.

OPEN HOUSE & NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

Cristina Escobedo, Membership and Volunteer Chairman



We want to celebrate you!

Society members, please join us as we welcome our New Members at The Conservation Society’s Open House. Come meet your fellow newcomers, explore our new headquarters, get to know The Courand House team and connect with other members. This is our opportunity to thank you for becoming a member and give you the resources to know what your membership can do for you! Let’s celebrate this exciting new chapter made possible by your support!

New members, please RSVP if you are interested in attending a brief introduction to The Conservation Society to begin at 6:30.

All members, welcome to attend a self-guided tour of the new headquarters between 6-8pm.

The Courand House: 1146 S. Alamo Street, San Antonio, TX 78210

2025 PUBLICATION AWARDS

Beth Standifird, *Research Librarian*

The Conservation Society's 52nd Publication Awards Luncheon provides the perfect opportunity to celebrate the latest and greatest literary offerings in Texas history, together with their award-winning authors. Join us at the Estancia del Norte hotel on March 28, 2025. Following the ceremony, attendees may purchase their own copies of the winning books and have them signed by the authors.

Since 1949, the Society has used these awards to encourage the publication of works that document Texas history and culture in a way that educates the public and inspires a deeper appreciation for our regional heritage. Every other year, the Conservation Society invites authors and publishers to nominate their most recent works. A committee of volunteer readers chooses the top ten, plus one outstanding children's book.

Our 2025 award recipients stand out for their fresh perspectives. Several explore art as an expression of identity and culture. Others allow readers to visualize key battles of the Texas Revolution in new ways. From the people of the Tāp Pīlam Coahuiltecan Nation to the young wife of the UT Tower shooter, we hear the voices of those unjustly marginalized and silenced. Three books spotlight people and places with national acclaim: Houston architect Preston Bolton, San Antonio's Brackenridge Park and the Waco Mammoth Site. The children's award recipient celebrates the ongoing connection a child can forge with wildlife and nature.



The Conservation Society congratulates the authors of the following award-winning books for 2025:

Arte del Publico: The Outdoor Public Art of San Antonio
Dr. Frederick Preston and Dr. Carmen Tafolla,
Schiffer Publishing, Ltd., 2022

Battleground Bexar: The 1835 Siege of San Antonio
Richard L. Curilla, State House Press, 2022

Beneath Sacred Ground: The Mission San Antonio de Valero Burial Records Transcribed, Translated and Annotated
Art Martinez de Vara, Tāp Pīlam Press, 2024

Brackenridge: San Antonio's Acclaimed Urban Park
Lewis F. Fisher, Maverick Books/Trinity University Press, 2022

Comanches, Captives and Germans: Wilhelm Friedrich's Drawings from the Texas Frontier
Dr. Daniel J. Gelo, C.B. Hopkins, Dr. Christopher J. Wickham, and Bryden E. Moon, Jr., State House Press, 2022

A History of the Waco Mammoth Site: In Pursuit of a National Monument
Calvin Smith and David O. Lintz, 1854 Books/Baylor University Press, 2023

The Legend of the Fire Stag (Children's Book)
Sheri Phillabaum and Roy Ellzey (illustrated by Liz Painter),
Shearer Publishing, 2022

Miraflores: San Antonio's Mexican Garden of Memory
Anne Elise Urrutia, Maverick Books/Trinity University Press, 2022

Preston Morgan Bolton, Texas Architect and Civic Leader
Lillian C. Woo, Texas A&M University Press, 2022

The Road to San Jacinto: Retracing the Route of Sam Houston's Army
Dave Dyer, State House Press, 2022

December - Gingerbread House Party

Unheard Witness: The Life and Death of Kathy Leissner Whitman
Jo Scott-Coe, University of Texas Press, 2023

Many thanks to the following readers: Alberto Alambar, John Carter, Rose Castro, Ken Erfurth, Pat Ezell, Anne Ferguson, Jennifer Fischnar, Ernest Gerlach, Katherine Glasheen, Martha and Lee Grant, David and Michael Haynes, Beth Hollowell, Frederica Kushner, Jane Martin, Jacqueline Morales, Doug Piper, Irene Rendon, Felicity Rich, Rebecca Smith, Janie Thomas, Virginia and Albert Van Cleave, and Carolyn Wright.



UPDATES TO VOTING PROCEDURES

Lewis Vetter, President

Later this spring members will elect officers and directors to lead the Conservation Society for the 2025-2026 year. All of the changes have been documented in “Voting Procedures”, dated June 20, 2024. It is available on the Society’s website under ‘Governing Documents’ .

Here are some of the important facts that you should know:

- To vote you must be an Active Member and be current in your dues.
- **No dues will be accepted at the election meeting in May.** This is different from what has been done in the past. Dues must be paid at least 30 days prior to the Annual Membership meeting on Wednesday, May 28, 2025
- Active Members names must be on the official sign-in sheet to indicate they are current in their dues. Members will sign-in on the official list.
- Having signed-in, each Active member will receive a voting card, which is numbered and handed out in order.
- When elections begin, the Chair will ask the Membership Committee Chairman for the number of credentialed voters. No voting cards shall be distributed after this announcement. The count will be used to prepare the ballots.
- Before tellers distribute ballots, the doors will be closed and no admittance to the room will be allowed until voting is complete. When the tellers hand out the ballots, the portion of the voting card for the specific election will be torn off and given to the teller.
- When the polls are declared ‘closed’, the voter places their own ballot in the ballot box.
- Officer positions will be elected first, then Directors will be elected.
- Candidates may be nominated from the floor if the candidate completes and submits the consent to serve form prior to the election and is aware of the position’s duties.
- Candidates may run for more than one position. In the event the candidate wins both positions they must immediately choose the office they want to serve.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP



Society Members



It is that time of year to renew your membership to one of the largest and oldest preservation organizations in the country. We dedicate ourselves to protecting historic buildings, objects, places and customs, and with your continued support, we look forward to our next 100 years!

Remember your membership will expire 3/31/2025. Annual dues are \$35.00, and you should have received your renewal information in the mail. If you would prefer to renew online, visit our website at saconservation.org/get-involved/membership/ or scan the QR code above.

Juniors

Attention Parents & Grandparents

Are you looking for fun for the whole family? Have you heard of the Junior Members of The Conservation Society of San Antonio? This membership is comprised of youths, ages 2 - 18 years, and dues are only \$10 annually! This past year, members experienced fun programs including, miniature golf at one of the nation's oldest courses, cemetery tours, an exclusive tour of San Antonio Fire Museum and our annual gingerbread decorating.

If you have a youth interested in joining, please contact the office at JA@saconservation.org.

Already a member? Don't forget to renew! Your membership will expire 3/31/2025.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

December 1, 2024 - February 12, 2025

Associate Members

Lauren Bricker
Suzanne Buchanan
Delia Cardenas
Robert Castleberry
Susan Catt
Nancy Cook-Monroe
Nicole Foss

Brandy Gaskins
Clayton Johnson
Harold Johnson
Karen Kincaid Brady
Charles Leddy
Ricardo Macias
Bobby Magee

Kira McCloskey
Victoria Moran-Smith
Ricardo Ramirez
Ray Rodriguez
Miguel Saldana
Edit Toth
John Vassar

Company Members

Escalera Capital

THANK YOU DONORS!

December 1, 2024 - February 12, 2025

Preservation Corner

Susan Beavin
Jerrie Bethel
Anna Catalani
Kay Day
Perry T. Donop, Jr.
Tertia Emerson
Maria Stevenson Greene
Karen Hixon
Reagan Houston
Martha James
Trudy Chance Kinnison
Marline Carter Lawson
M.D. McCullough
Doug McMurry
Miguel Saldana
Jane Ann Temple
Larry Travis
Peggy Weyel
Julius Womack
Eleanor Marie Zepeda

Bricks & Mortar Friends

Pamela Wadsworth
John Carter
Linda Carter
Jacqueline Contreras-Epstein
Natalie Curran
Caryn Hasslocher
Robert Jenkins
Many Jurewicz
Neborah Kelly
Harold (Ray) Knox
John Albert Kuba
Fredrica C. Kushner
Mentoria Lewis-Sherfield
Nickey McCasland
Dorothy Pierce McSweeny
Aurora Jean Pacheco
Thelma A. Parker
Annalisa Peace
David Ramirez
Evelyn Roach
Celmintina Rodriguez
E.R. Sisson
Penny Speier
Marcia Foren Weser

Foundation Builders

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Kellie Niederkrom
Abbi Power
Virginia Ruth Robins
David L. Seale
Regina Torrez
Karen Trcka
Joyce Miller Trent
Mary Jean Williams

MEMORIALS: IN MEMORY OF...

Carmen Blyth
Kate Ruckman

Peggy Marie Bolner
Penshorn

Mr. Randy Mayer and Bill
Graves

Janet Francis
Mrs. Allison Elder

Dolores Michael
Kate Ruckman

Lou Eda Nixon
Kate Ruckman

Patsy Pittman Light
Robert Buchanan
Sarah Westkaemper Lake
Carol Grisham

Harriet Christian
Stephen Fox
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Pedgeling Foundation
(Ramsey Sutherland)

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Fran West
Ms. Ruby Lehrmann

Gerald Yarbrough
Barbara Elia



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Ms. Anne Alexander
Dr. Anna Catherine Armstrong
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Mrs. Magdalena Barrera -
SA Gift Shop, Est. 2019
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Mr. Gary Cox & Michael Simon
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Mrs. Virginia Van Steenberg -
Majestic Development Company
Mrs. Mary Jane Verette
Mr. & Mrs. David Williams
Mr. V.T. Wood - The Wood Agency
Mrs. Belinda Molina Yndo

HONORARIUM: IN CELEBRATION OF...

Beth Standifird
Martha Doty Freeman

Carol Gibson Wagner
William Wagner

Peter Maier Lake
Sarah Westkaemper Lake



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conserve@saconservation.org.

The purpose for which the San Antonio
Conservation Society was formed is to preserve
and encourage the preservation of historic
buildings, objects, places and customs relating
to the history of Texas, its natural beauty and
all that is admirable and distinctive to our State;
and by such physical and cultural preservation to
keep the history of Texas legible and intact, to
educate the public, especially the youth of today
and tomorrow with knowledge of our inherited
regional values.

SAVE THE DATES !

Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 5:30 PM

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

“Placemaking With The San Antonio River Foundation”

Frates Seeligson, Executive Director of San Antonio River
Foundation

San Antonio Garden Center: 6000 N. New Braunfels, 78209

Monday, March 3, 2025 – Thursday, March 6, 2025

PRESERVATION ADVOCACY WEEK

Washington, DC

Saturday, March 15, 2025 at 2:00 PM

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION LECTURE

“Celebrating 30 Years of Endowed Professorship at UTSA”

William Dupont, UTSA Endowed Professor

UTSA Downtown Campus: 501 W César E Chávez Blvd., 78207

Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 6:00 PM

CENTENNIAL OPEN HOUSE &

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

Courand House: 1146 S. Alamo St., 78210

Friday, March 28, 2025 at 10:30 AM

PUBLICATION AWARDS

Estancia Del Norte: 37 NE Loop 410, 78216

Monday, March 31, 2025

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DEADLINE

Don't Miss This Date!