

2025 Publication Award Winner – Anne Elise Urrutia
Miraflores: San Antonio's Mexican Garden of Memory



Anne Elise Urrutia: As a teenager in the late 1970s, Elise’s interest in journalism inspired her to venture into and photograph Miraflores, a decaying family garden created by her great grandfather, Dr. Aureliano Urrutia, from 1921 to 1962 as an expression of his connection to Mexico. After further traversing the family history through extensive conversations with her father, Elise’s personal journey took her deeper into ancestral territory, and inspired her to recreate, through words and pictures, the doctor’s lost landscape. She was delighted to find herself transported to this beautiful and expressive place, near the headwaters of the San Antonio River, to receive her *bisabuelo*’s powerful messages of cultural heritage.

Anne Elise Urrutia is a writer and explorer of family history, especially the life, work, and legacy of her father’s family, who were exiled from Mexico City in 1914 during the Mexican Revolution. She received a silver medal, Mimi Lozano Best History Book award, from the International Latino Book Awards in 2023 for her book *Miraflores, San Antonio’s Mexican Garden of Memory* (Trinity University Press, 2022). Ms. Urrutia received her English degree from Colorado College, and blogs at www.quintaurrutia.com. Raised in San Antonio, Texas, she lives in North Adams, Massachusetts.

Photo of Ms. Urrutia courtesy of Josh Huskin.