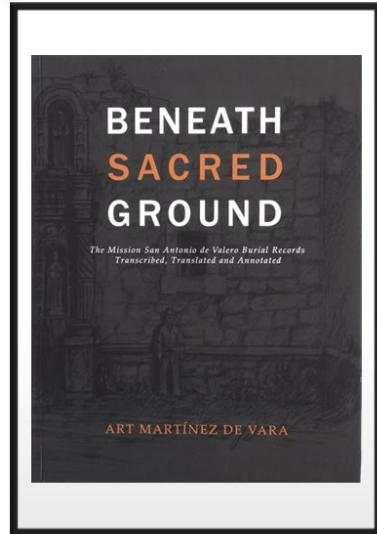
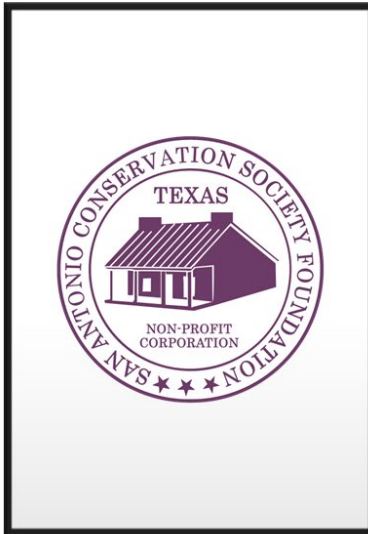
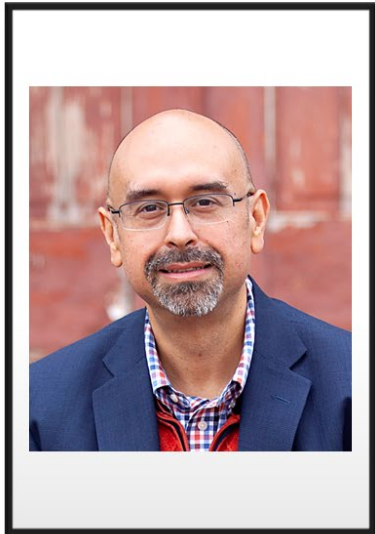


2025 Publication Award Winner – Dr. Art Martinez de Vara
*Beneath Sacred Ground: The Mission San Antonio de Valero
Burial Records Transcribed, Translated and Annotated*



Art Martinez de Vara is a historian, author, anthropologist and attorney. He was awarded S.A. Conservation Society's Publication Award in 2021 for his book "Tejano Patriot: The Revolutionary Life of Jose Francisco Ruiz, 1782 – 1840." He is also the winner of the 2014, 2020 and 2025 Presidio La Bahia Award and numerous other literary awards.

Martinez de Vara holds a Doctor of Law and Master of Arts in Systematic Theology from St. Mary's University, a Master of Arts in History from Sam Houston State University and is currently a PhD student in Anthropology at UTSA.

Martinez de Vara specializes in civil and governmental litigation and governmental/legislative affairs. His firm, the Martinez de Vara Law Firm, PLLC, has been notable lately in local preservation efforts having filed federal and state litigation to protect and preserve the Alamo Cenotaph and Mission Valero Cemetery. He was recently named SuperLawyer Rising Star by Texas Monthly and Outstanding Lawyers in San Antonio by San Antonio Magazine. He served as Mayor of Von Ormy, Texas from 2008 - 2015 and Chief of Staff for State Sen. Konni Burton 2014 - 2016.