

San Antonio Missions

2025
World Heritage Site
Annual Accomplishment Report

Report brought to you by the San Antonio Missions
World Heritage Management Group

Contents



World Heritage Management Group

Documentation & Preservation

Interpretation & Education

Community Engagement

Visitor Access & Funding

San Antonio Missions

The San Antonio Missions are a group of five frontier mission complexes situated along a 12.4-kilometer (7.7-mile) stretch of the San Antonio River basin in southern Texas. The complexes were built in the early eighteenth century and as a group they illustrate the Spanish Crown's efforts to colonize, evangelize and defend the northern frontier of New Spain. In addition to evangelizing the area's indigenous population into converts loyal to the Catholic Church, the missions also included all the components required to establish self-sustaining, socio-economic communities loyal to the Spanish Crown.

The missions' physical remains comprise a range of cultural landscape components, historic structures, and archaeological sites including farmlands (labores), cattle grounds (ranchos), residences, churches, granaries, workshops, kilns, wells, perimeter walls and water distribution systems. These can be seen as a demonstration of the exceptionally inventive interchange that occurred between indigenous peoples, missionaries, and colonizers that contributed to a fundamental and permanent change in the cultures and values of all involved, but most dramatically in those of the Coahuiltecan and other indigenous hunter-gatherers who, in a matter of one generation, became successful settled agriculturists. The enclosed layout of each mission complex and their proximity to each other, the widespread sharing of knowledge and skills among their inhabitants, and the early adoption of a common language and religion resulted in a people and culture with an identity neither wholly indigenous nor wholly Spanish that has proven exceptionally persistent and pervasive.

...a demonstration of the exceptionally inventive interchange...

World Heritage Management Group



The World Heritage Management Group (WHMG) for the San Antonio Missions consists of the landowners for the missions, including the National Park Service, the Archdiocese of San Antonio, San Antonio River Authority, the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, and the Texas General Land Office. In addition to the agencies represented on the WHMG, there are three primary partners dedicated to helping achieve World Heritage goals: Mission Heritage Partners, Visit San Antonio, and the San Antonio Conservation Society.

The World Heritage Management Group is an oversight body whose purpose is to continue the high level of coordination and partnering that was established as the World Heritage nomination was under preparation. This committee will assist management of the relevant authorities in reaching the goals stated in the next page and ensure that these cultural resources are protected in perpetuity. In 2023, the group, led by the National Park Service completed its first “periodic reporting” to UNESCO since the site’s inscription in 2015. The report reaffirms the integrity of the site’s globally significant resources and the dedication of this group.

Primary Partners and Contributing Organizations



World Heritage Management Plan Goals

2025

Protect, document, and preserve the finite internationally significant resources as described in the Outstanding Universal Values using the least invasive techniques possible, leveraging the latest technology, and through collaborative efforts with scientific organizations and academic institutions in San Antonio and the State of Texas.

Expand community engagement through collaborative programming, education, outreach, workshops and training opportunities with the Mission Descendant community, adjacent neighborhoods, and a wide variety of connected community organizations.

Recognize and honor the connections of living people who can trace their ancestry to the World Heritage Site, known more broadly as the Mission Descendant Community.

Explore partnerships to ensure visitors can transit between the mission locations in a way that is understandable and that has the least impact on the internationally significant resources while creating increased connectivity to boost travel and tourism dollars in San Antonio and the State of Texas.

Collaborate to identify funding sources to invest in infrastructure (restrooms, trails, etc.) that will accommodate increased visitor capacity and improve visitor experiences, while erring in favor of resource protection if necessary. Explore innovative ways to leverage increase funding for the long-term protection and interpretation of the missions ranging from physical security to staffing and outreach.

Documentation &

Preserving the Alamo



Preservation work on the limestone structures at the Alamo.

The Alamo Church and Long Barrack are the two surviving architectural artifacts from the original Mission San Antonio de Valero that witnessed the Battle of the Alamo. Following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and the Institute of Conservation, preserving these two State Antiquities Landmarks is the #1 priority of the Alamo Plan.

The Alamo Church, an invaluable historic resource and an iconic symbol of Texas, is experiencing active and accelerated material loss due to multiple factors, including rising damp in the limestone foundations, efflorescence, mortar and stone deterioration, inadequate ventilation within the structures, and lack of proper drainage off of the roof.

The Long Barrack, the oldest structure onsite, is also experiencing moisture and water infiltration, mortar and stone deterioration, damp limestone foundations and lack of proper drainage off of the roof. This past year, we installed probes along the south, north and west interior and exterior of the Alamo Church for disassembly and reassembly to maintain watertight integrity and expose the top of the historic masonry walls for structural evaluation and conservation assessment needs.

Limestone from a construction site at the San Antonio Zoo was tested for compatibility with the limestone of the Alamo Church and Long Barrack. Results confirmed the stone is compatible with the current Alamo Church and Long Barrack stone. The Alamo Trust is storing stone salvaged from the zoo should any of the Alamo Church or Long Barrack stones require replacement or dutchman repairs. The Texas Historical Commission approved the temporary protective enclosure for the Alamo Church roof removal and replacement and the work will begin in 2026.

Preservation

Mission Concepción Façade Restoration



Scaffolding in front of the Mission Concepción Church.

In 2025, Las Misiones concentrated its primary preservation efforts on the front façade and south tower of Mission Concepción. Significant stabilization and conservation work began this year and will continue into 2026. The project addresses deterioration of historic stone and exterior finishes, ensuring long-term protection of the most intact Spanish colonial church in the United States.

Freshwater Mussel Reintroduction Project



A tagged Yellow Sandshell (*Lampsilis teres*) that was reintroduced in 2024, was recovered during 2025 mark-recapture surveys.

The River Authority reintroduced 2,148 freshwater mussels into the Mission Reach stretch of the San Antonio River. In two years, nearly 6,000 mussels have been reintroduced in this first of its kind effort in Texas. Freshwater mussels are filter feeders that improve water quality by removing bacteria and algae from the water column, provide habitat for aquatic insects and help stabilize the riverbed. All individuals are marked, with a subset being given PIT tags, that will allow River Authority biologists to monitor this population for years to come.

Accomplishment Report

Acoustic Research Initiative



Acoustic researcher inside Mission Concepción's church.

Research initiatives in 2025 included ongoing acoustical study by Fr. Allan Tavares, exploring the historic sound environment of the mission churches. The Mission Espada project, sponsored by Las Misiones, examines how architecture supports sacred music and liturgy, contributing to both preservation and interpretation strategies. The paper was presented at the joint meeting of the Acoustical Society of America and the Acoustical Society of Japan. Understanding acoustics informs future programming and conservation planning, bridging science, history, and living tradition.

Cultural Landscape and Acequia Maintenance



Youth and staff working in dense acequia ditch.

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park collaborated with the Student Conservation Association to host two individual placements, contributing 1,800 hours to cultural landscape management tasks. This effort maintained 250 acres of historic landscapes, including vegetation control and invasive species removal, while improving facilities to enhance safety and preservation. The park developed and launched recruitment for two 26-week internship positions under the Traditional Trades Advancement Program (TTAP). Interns received hands-on training in cultural landscape maintenance, irrigation repair, and historic preservation techniques, including safety, to build a skilled workforce alongside National Park Service seasonal workforce for future stewardship. This initiative inspires careers in conservation and the program emphasizes no prior experience required, promoting accessibility and education in traditional trades.

Mission Reach Fish Surveys



Staff measure Longnose and Spotted Gar during the 2025 Mission Reach Intensive Fish surveys.

The 2025 intensive fish surveys conducted by River Authority staff in the Mission Reach of the San Antonio River, yielded the most species observed in a single year, 26. Most notably, staff caught numerous Spotted and Longnose Gar, which are host fish for Yellow Sandshell mussels, species that had only been observed a few times in the Mission Reach over the past few years. These top predators are often discarded by anglers but are key to the long-term health of our mussel populations and good indicators of a healthy, functioning ecosystem.

Launching the Collaborative PATH Program



Launched in 2025, The PATH Program: Preserving Archives of Texas Heritage (PATH) is a collaborative initiative designed to build stewardship in cultural resource work while enhancing accessibility to archival and museum collections. The program trains student interns in archival processing, digital preservation, GIS mapping, and community-driven public engagement through hands-on experience and cohort-based learning. These efforts broaden access to resources such as historic maps, documents, and records for the San Antonio and South Texas Community.

The program is co-developed by: Texas Heritage Project of American Indians of Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions, University of Texas at San Antonio, through the Libraries' Community Engaged Digital Scholarship Hub, and San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.



PATH Intern working with museum collections.

Maintenance and Stewardship of Mission Churches



Preservation workers at Mission Concepción.

Las Misiones continued its annual maintenance program across the four active parish churches within the San Antonio Missions World Heritage Site. Routine masonry review, structural monitoring, and environmental mitigation efforts protect these 18th-century sacred spaces from ongoing wear. Preventative maintenance remains essential to preserving authenticity and avoiding more extensive intervention. This ongoing preservation reflects the responsibility of caring for a World Heritage site that remains both sacred and community – centered.

Demolition and Cleanup of Sisson House



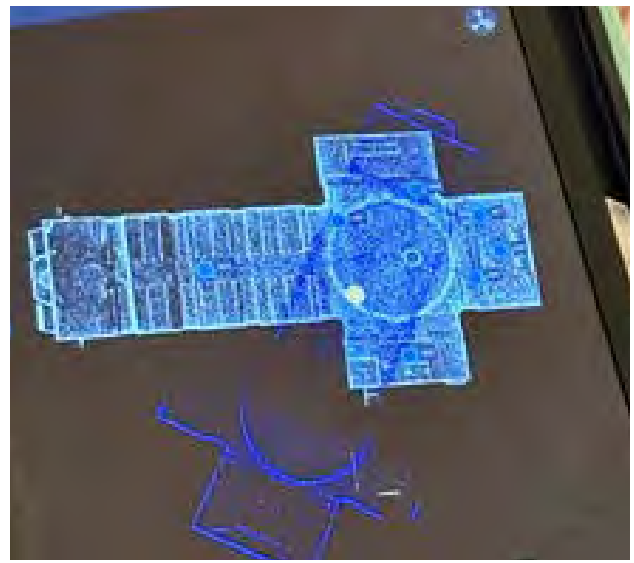
Before and after demolition and cleanup of the Sisson House by Mission San Juan.

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park completed the final demolition and cleanup of the historic Sisson House site. Originally built in the late 1800s, the wood-frame structure had previously undergone partial deconstruction as part of a training program supported by the City of San Antonio. The final phase of work removed the remaining wall sections, foundations, fencing, and debris, while carefully protecting the nearby historic acequia. Crews graded and restored the site to create a safe and uniform landscape that blends with the surrounding mission area. The project supports the National Park Service mission of preserving historic landscapes while maintaining safe park facilities.

Advancing Preservation Through Technology: Laser Scanning Mission Churches



Person showing the laser scanner inside the church of Mission Concepción.



The 3D scans of the Mission Concepción church.

Las Misiones employed cutting edge drone-assisted 3D laser scanning - to obtain a detailed model of each of the mission churches. Using drones equipped with advanced laser scanning and high-resolution imaging, millions of precise data points from both the exterior and interior of each church were captured. These scans were then assembled into highly detailed 3D digital models known as Building Information Models (BIM). The process was entirely non-invasive, creating an exact digital record of the missions' current condition. The resulting BIM models provide a powerful new preservation tool. Architects and engineers can now examine structural elements, materials, and surfaces with extraordinary accuracy. Areas of wear, water intrusion, or structural stress can be identified earlier and addressed more strategically. Over time, future scans can be compared with these baseline models to detect subtle changes allowing preventative maintenance to be planned accordingly.

National Park Project List Fully Funded



Law Enforcement vehicles that were outfitted thanks to Mission Heritage Partners.

Mission Heritage Partners is proud to share that we were able to fully fund the fiscal year 2025 Park Project List for San Antonio Missions in the amount of \$221,000. The funding supported important initiatives such as: upfitting of 3 Law Enforcement Vehicle, support of Education Program that supports 20,000 + local title 1 schools, Maintenance and Vandalism support, and Community Outreach support.

Re-roof Mission Concepción Convento & San Jose Well House



Preservation work is completed at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park to replace aging roofs at two historic structures within the park. The National Park Service is installing a new 135-mil TPO membrane roofing system over approximately 4,000 square feet on the Convento at Mission Concepción, improving drainage and addressing areas where water has historically ponded along the parapets. At Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo, crews are removing the existing cedar shingles from the historic Well House and installing new Class B fire-retardant treated western red cedar shingles to match the building's historic appearance. The work follows the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties to ensure the architectural character of these early-18th-century structures is preserved. These improvements will help protect important mission facilities and extend the life of the buildings for visitors exploring the park in San Antonio.



Preservationists work on Mission Concepción's Convento roof.



The historic Well House at Mission San Jose.



Alamo Archeology

Excavations and processing of artifacts for the Long Barrack Drainage Project were completed in 2025. Thirty-four excavation units equal to approximately 3,973 cubic ft were hand excavated, with 225,026 artifacts, or 1143 lbs of material recovered and processed.

Investigations began at the Alamo Church in March 2025 in anticipation of preservation work. This project has completed 24 of 145 excavation units. Major finds include an intact Mission period adobe surface and two cannon ball fragments from the Battle.



Artifacts from excavation at the Alamo.

Conference Engagements: ATI Archaeology organized and participated in Alamo specific symposia for two national conferences and one state level conference.

Texas Archaeology Society, October 26, 2024

Symposium Title: Archaeology at the Alamo – Ongoing Investigations at 41BX6, Bexar Texas.

Presentations included: *U.S. Military Utilization of the Alamo Site: Preliminary Results from the Long Barrack Drainage Project*, by Tiffany M. Lindley, PhD, RPA, *Laboratory Methods and Results- 2019 Alamo Church and Long Barrack Project*, by Kathleen A. Jenkins, MA, RPA, and *Alamo Plaza History and Development- Main Gate and Lunette Project*, by Gabriella M. Zaragosa, MA, RPA

Society for Historical Archaeology, January 9, 2025

Symposium Title: Mission San Antonio de Valero and the Alamo - A Construction History from Mission to Military Fortress.

Presentations included: *Preserve the Alamo: Objectives and Results of the Alamo Church and Long Barrack Restoration Project*, by Tiffany M. Lindley, PhD, RPA, *Artifact Collection Processing and Analysis Methodology- Alamo Church and Long Barrack Restoration Project*, by Kathleen A. Jenkins, MA, RPA, and *Imagine the Plaza-abilities: An Exploration of Communal Space and Memory at Alamo Plaza*, by Gabriella M. Zaragosa, MA, RPA

Society for American Archaeology. April 27, 2025

Symposium Title: Indigenous Practices and Material Culture: Seventy Years of Mission Life.

Presentations included: *Everyday Life at Mission San Antonio de Valero*, Author: Tiffany M. Lindley, PhD, RPA, *Ceramic Manufacture: Indigenous and Colonial Wares in Mission Life*, by Kathleen A. Jenkins, MA, RPA, and *Religious Ideology and Indigenous Groups at Mission San Antonio de Valero*, by Gabriella M. Zaragosa, MA, RPA

Interpretation &



Opening event for City of San Antonio's World Heritage Center building.

World Heritage Center Opening

The World Heritage Center opened in February and features exhibitions celebrating the living legacies of Mission Communities, provides visitor orientation, and informs the community about the World Heritage Site designation.



WORLD HERITAGE

World Heritage Designation: Celebrating 10 Years Campaign



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10th Anniversary banner for San Antonio Missions World Heritage Site.

In celebration of the tenth anniversary of the World Heritage Site designation, the World Heritage Office launched “Celebrating 10 Years,” a campaign in which 135 decennial anniversary banners were installed along the World Heritage Trail and Buffer Zone. In addition, the World Heritage Office launched a series of celebratory events at the newly constructed World Heritage Center from July through November. The signature event, “Celebrating 10 Years: The Road to World Heritage”, featured a panel discussion reflecting on the journey to designation, the accomplishments of the past decade, and the vision for the future. To mark the occasion, a commemorative decennial anniversary pin was unveiled and shared with the public.

Education

Educational Presentations and Music Formation

Educational programming at the mission churches and included a presentation on the Legacy of the Cristeros Martyrs and Mass at Mission Concepción celebrating the 25th anniversary of certain Cristeros Martyrs canonization. Sacred choral music and songwriting workshops led by acclaimed musicians Jesse Manibusan and Brother Rufino Zaragoza, OFM, culminated in a celebration of music and the arts. These programs emphasized the missions' role as centers of catechesis and sacred music education.



Various music educators.

Organization of World Heritage Cities Board of Directors Annual Meeting



OWHC Board of Directors and staff in front of the Alamo.

In March, the City of San Antonio hosted the annual Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) Board of Directors meeting in San Antonio. The City hosted representatives from Quebec City (Canada), Brugge (Belgium), Angra do Heroismo (Portugal), Krakow (Poland), Cuenca (Ecuador), and Córdoba (Spain). Founded in 1993, OWHC is an international, non-profit, non-governmental organization composed of member cities with an inscribed site on UNESCO's World Heritage List within an urban context. The Mayor of San Antonio serves on the 2024-2026 Board of Directors.



iNaturalist Citizen Scientists



Group of people outside for the City Nature Challenge.

For the annual City Nature Challenge, volunteers contributed 135,007 observations of 5,065 species, placing the San Antonio metro area in first place statewide and nationwide, and 2nd place globally in 2025. In preparation for the Challenge, the River Authority Engagement Team held a series of virtual and in-person training and nature walks throughout the Mission Reach, utilizing the iNaturalist app. The River Authority also partnered with corporate groups such as J.P. Morgan Chase and Ernst & Young to grow community and corporate involvement in the challenge. Both organizations hosted iNaturalist trainings led by SARA Engagement staff and hosted their own group events for the City Nature Challenge.



San Antonio River Authority and Keep Texas Beautiful



The River Authority had the opportunity to partner with organizations Keep Texas Beautiful and Keep San Antonio Beautiful on the Mission Reach in 2025. In May, we hosted KSAB and partnering organizations such as Walmart and Coca-Cola for a paddle cleanup at Davis Lake for the statewide Trash Free Gulf campaign. Volunteers collected over 500 lbs. of trash from the San Antonio River.

In partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful, we hosted the Annual Regional Training at Confluence Park, where partners from all over the state were invited to network and learn about the opportunities offered by KTB. They demonstrated a litter data survey and their reporting tool, the Texas Litter Database.

Group going down steps along the Mission Reach.

2025 Spring Break “World Heritage Explorers”



WORLD HERITAGE



Kids engaging in the World Heritage Explorers event at the World Heritage Center.

During spring break, the World Heritage Office welcomed visitors to become “World Heritage Explorers,” introducing a new element each day while showcasing the many activities available in and around the San Antonio Missions World Heritage Site. World Heritage Management Group partners and Mission Descendants enriched the experience by sharing insights into their work through interactive and engaging activities.

River Authority and San Antonio Missions Educational Partnership



In Spring 2025, the River Authority's Education team joined the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park staff to collaborate on a series of field trips and a special tour. River Authority staff lent their expertise on the San Antonio River on field trips at Mission San Jose and Mission Concepción. National Park Service (NPS) park rangers returned the favor on River Authority for field trips at Confluence Park. Together our teams collaborated on 7 programs in Spring 2025, serving over 560 students and adults!



The Education and Watershed and Park Operations teams at the River Authority teamed up with the National Park Service and the San Antonio Food Bank to give a tour to UTSA and partner universities from Universidad de La Sabana and Universidad Militar Nueva Granada in Colombia as part of a course on Climate and Water.

World Heritage Center Activity Book



In March, the World Heritage Office, in collaboration with Gilbert Elementary and American Indians in Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions (AIT-SCM), released the World Heritage Activity Book. The book introduces younger visitors (ages 3-12) to the Center and the Pajalate language. As part of our ongoing collaboration, the Office delivered books to Harlandale ISD and to AIT-SCM in May. Harlandale ISD recognized this effort with a commendation. The book is printed back-to-back in English and Spanish.



Introducing the World Heritage Activity Book.

Heritage in Partnerships Museum Exhibit



Exhibit inside Mission San José's Visitor Center.

"Heritage in Partnerships" was opened in 2025 as a temporary exhibit hosted at Mission San José museum celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the UNESCO World Heritage Nomination. Preserving and promoting San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and UNESCO World Heritage Site is a collaborative effort with many partners. Visitors can discover the connections we have with our World Heritage partners featured in this exhibit through physical objects and interpretive panels including a Rey Feo regalia and historical objects from The Alamo.



BEXAR COUNTY TX

BEXAR HERITAGE



**Mission
Heritage
Partners**
SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

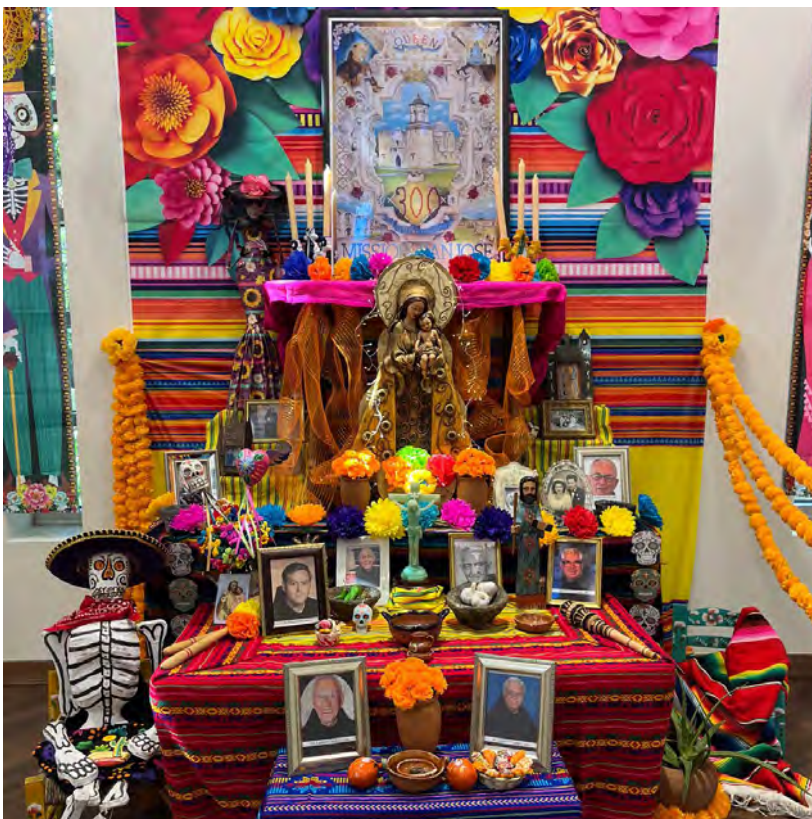
The ALAMO

SAN ANTONIO
RIVER
AUTHORITY

Día de los Muertos Exhibit and Day of Remembrance Pilgrimage



**EL CAMINO DE
SAN ANTONIO
MISSIONS**



Colorful ofrenda full of photos and typical Dia de los Muertos decorations.

The Día de los Muertos exhibit at the Padre Margil Center presented ofrendas from the four mission parishes, interpreting their symbolism and meaning for visitors from diverse cultural backgrounds. The accompanying Day of Remembrance Pilgrimage invited reflection and prayer rooted in longstanding cultural traditions. Together, the exhibit and pilgrimage fostered understanding of the Missions as living cultural and spiritual communities. Attendance reflected strong public engagement.

National Park Week



Graphic images promoting various events for National Park Week.

National Park Week was held April 19–27, 2025, and the theme was National Park Playlist, and parks across the country were turning up the volume with music-inspired programs all week long! San Antonio Missions National Historical Park hosted daily events that hit all the right notes to include:

- Junior Ranger Day at Mission San José
- Find Your Ranger Scavenger Hunt
- Pop! Goes the History, a program focused on mission-era weapons
- Nature Songs at Mission San Juan for a Yanaguana Nature Walk
- Rock with Limestone at Mission Concepción
- Forge the Beat at Mission San Jose with Alex Ruiz to explore blacksmithing
- Rhythm & Blues of the Acequias Mission San Juan Farm Fields

Nature Walks with a Park Ranger



Group of visitors joining a morning park ranger led hike.

Nature Hikes with a park ranger at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park occurred every 3rd Saturday from the months of November 2024 to March 2025 with different starting locations each month. This allowed visitors to learn about and explore the San Antonio Mission landscape and waterways. Each hike was about 3 miles total round trip and along a portion of the Mission Reach Hike and Bike Trail.

Brick Building Contest & Exhibition



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Lego Contest winner stands with his award and design.

The World Heritage Office celebrated the tenth anniversary of the historic San Antonio Missions' designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site with a World Heritage Brick Building Block contest. Contestants created a project inspired by one of the five San Antonio Missions or Rancho de las Cabras. The top entries were displayed in an exhibit at the World Heritage Center from August to October. Winners were announced on opening day of the exhibit, and a free-play day was hosted with the San Antonio Chapter of the Texas LEGO User Group.

“Native Culinary Heritage” Outdoor Exhibition



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Outdoor culinary exhibition at the World Heritage Center.

In October, the World Heritage Office opened a new exhibition, “Native Culinary Heritage,” featuring the work of Chef Adán Medrano and Photographer JoMando Cruz. The outdoor exhibition used stunning photography and storytelling to elucidate Medrano’s message: Texas Mexican cuisine is a distinct culinary heritage reflecting the people and environment of Northern Mexico and South Texas. The dishes reflected in the panels present the result of hundreds of years of intermingling of Spanish and local Indigenous foodways.

Tenth Anniversary Trivia Night



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The first World Heritage Center Trivia Night took place in July, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the San Antonio World Heritage Site. The event focused on the site's history and was emceed by Poet Laureate Eddie Vega and local tour guide Michael Robinson. History experts and locals competed to test their knowledge of the missions. Attendees included members of the San Antonio Conservation Society and the Professional Tour Guide Association. The lively evening offered fresh insights even for the most seasoned experts, proving there is always something new to discover and experience at the World Heritage Site.



Large group of people playing trivia inside the World Heritage Center.

WHC Speaker Series – Carmen Tafolla



WORLD HERITAGE



Carmen Tafolla speaking to a group of people.

In September, the World Heritage Office hosted Carmen Tafolla, Ph.D. to talk about how she has preserved culture and heritage throughout her career. A native of San Antonio, she became a world-renowned poet, storyteller, educator, and performance artist. Yet, her work has always been grounded in community and heritage. In addition to hearing Tafolla recite some of her remarkable work, attendees learned about the many ways she interwove her talents as a storyteller with her passion for preservation.

10th Anniversary Panel



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In August, the World Heritage Office celebrated the tenth anniversary of the designation of the San Antonio Missions as a UNESCO World Heritage Site with a panel discussion featuring five people involved in preparing the application. The panelists included Paul Ringenbach, Ph.D. (Consultant and Historian), Reverend David Garcia (Archdiocese of San Antonio), Suzanne Scott (State Director, Texas Chapter, The Nature Conservancy and Former San Antonio River Authority General Manager), Shanon Shea Miller (Director, City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation), Rebecca Viagran (President & CEO, South Texas Business Partnership and Former City of San Antonio District 3 Councilmember).



Large group of people seated inside the World Heritage Center.

Alamo Education Program



Construction on the Alamo Education Center.



Teacher Travel Experience group.

On May 14, 2025, the Alamo marked a major milestone in its redevelopment plan with the Topping Out Ceremony for the Texas Cavaliers Education Center — a world-class facility set to welcome more than 250,000 students annually when it opens on April 30, 2026.

The Texas Cavaliers were honored as the lead donor. Their early support helped launch the vision for the Education Center. Community leaders, students, donors, and elected officials gathered for the celebration, which featured a ceremonial beam signing, remarks from key stakeholders, and the raising of the final structural beam.

Located just steps from the iconic Alamo Church, the Texas Cavaliers Education Center will include an early learners hub, STEAM lab, distance learning studio, orientation theater, agricultural garden, and an outdoor classroom — all designed to bring Texas history to life for new generations.

Field Trips: 36,751 students visited the Alamo on a field trip during the 2024-2025 school year, and 16,977 Title 1 students visited Alamo. This record number of field trip students and students from Title I schools is a direct result of generous funding from the Tres Grace Family Foundation. Students from Title I schools can now access these paid experiences for free and receive reimbursement to cover transportation fees.

This continued growth and potential for reaching historically underserved students underscores the need for dedicated educational space. The Texas Cavaliers Education Center will provide this much needed space.

Professional Development

Teach the Alamo professional development included: 31 sessions , 582 teachers with 46,926 students served.

New Teach the Alamo professional development sessions introduced this past year:

- Native People
- Texas Republic to Statehood
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) fueled by Boeing included lesson plans and supplies for students on ecosystems, archaeology, and cannon science : 50 teachers attended, 240 STEAM kits for classroom use , and 6,000 students served

Teacher Travel Experiences include: Texas Revolution Road Trip, Alamo Teacher Institute: Mexico City, and Goliad Road Trip.

Legacy Keepers



WORLD HERITAGE



Legacy Keepers program inside the World Heritage Center.

In May, the World Heritage Office began the Legacy Keepers Series. The series connects people interested in preserving family history with local experts and organizations specializing in cultural heritage and preservation. The inaugural guest speaker was Charles Gentry, Ph.D., with the City of San Antonio Office of Historical Preservation. Other guest speakers included Sylvia Reyna from the Central Library Genealogy Department and the late Mission Descendant Vincent Huizar.

San Antonio River Authority Education Programs



The River Authority Education team led a tour of the San Antonio River flood tunnel outlet and nature-based solutions at Confluence Park for high school students in the UTSA Pre-Freshman Engineering program.

The River Authority Education Team conducted field trips, tours, and presentations with an emphasis on the vital role that the river played in the founding of San Antonio and the establishment of the missions. Students in grades K-12 as well as homeschoolers regularly attend field trips at River Authority parks along the Mission Reach of the San Antonio River. Adult audiences from organizations such as the Texas Children in Nature Network, National Park Service, Alamo Area Master Naturalists, H. E. Butt Foundation, the Pre-Freshman Engineering Program at the University of Texas at San Antonio, Region 20, Keep Texas Beautiful, and teachers from many local school districts have also enjoyed field trips along the Mission Reach with River Authority educators. Additionally, the River Authority Education Team visits public schools, universities, and various community organizations to conduct presentations on a wide variety of topics. In 2025, the Education Team served over 4300 individuals along the Mission Reach, an increase of 72% from 2024.

Community Engagement

“Kindred”



WORLD HERITAGE



In November, the City of San Antonio’s Department of Arts & Culture, in partnership with the World Heritage Office, proudly celebrated the dedication of “Kindred” by San Antonio artist Ashley Perez. Standing 20 feet tall, “Kindred” is located along the World Heritage Trail, and near Mission San José. It depicts two hands joined by rippling water — a symbol of unity across time and culture. The design honors the deep connections between generations and the enduring legacy of the area’s communities.

Outdoor sculpture depicting two hands with water in between them.

Race the River: Mission Reach



Vertical text: Kayakers racing down the San Antonio River.

April 12th brought back Race the River: Mission Reach for its annual paddle down the river and once again kicked off the Race the River series of adventure paddling races. This 5-7 mile race takes participants down the Mission Reach paddling trail as they compete for a podium finish or personal best time. The race attracts experienced adventure racers and challenge ready novices to enjoy a day of friendly competition. In 2025 Race the River: Mission Reach hosted 58 racers plus their friends and family cheering them on from the shore.

Sacred Singing and Musicians at the Missions



Vertical text: Musicians on hand bells.



Vertical text: Musical Quartet cover photo.

Sacred and classical music filled the historic mission churches throughout 2025 featuring choirs, soloists, classical guitarists, handbell ensembles, and internationally recognized performers. Highlights included the River City Ringers of San Antonio at Mission Concepción and classical guitarist Andrew Flory at Mission San José. The South American Baroque Music Festival presented Opera Hispánica at Mission San José, and internationally renowned accordion composer Alejandro Brittes performed there as well, celebrating Hispanic musical heritage within a sacred setting. These concerts affirmed the Missions' enduring role as vibrant centers of sacred music and cultural expression.

Organization of World Heritage Cities Workshops and Presentations



WORLD HERITAGE



Group from the Organization of World Heritage Cities Workshops.

In June, a representative from the World Heritage Office participated in a CityLab workshop in Cordoba, Spain. Hosted by the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC), the workshop brought together representatives from OWHC member cities to explore how local heritage narratives help shape urban regeneration projects and strengthen the livability of historic centers. In September, the World Heritage Office presented at the 2025 OWHC Regional Conference, Northwest Europe and North America, in Luxembourg. The central theme of the conference was “Living Heritage: Designing Human-Center Cities for the Future.”

National Recipient for the Impact Award

National Park Service volunteer, Edward Day was the National Recipient for the "Impact Award: Adult Category". This award recognizes a single individual from across the country who has made a meaningful impact for their national park. For nearly a decade, Edward Day has been the driving force behind the weaving demonstration program at Mission Espada. Through his expertise in hand-dyeing, spinning, and weaving, Ed has reconnected thousands of visitors with the traditional textile arts of South Texas. Using materials like cochineal insects and pecans, Ed created historically accurate colors while teaching both staff and visitors about the cultural and ecological roots of these practices. His impact is lasting, visible, and deeply felt—threading together the past, present, and future of the park.



Edward Day at the loom at Mission Espada.

Bexar America250

BEXAR COUNTY TX
BEXAR HERITAGE



Teachers at a park ranger workshop at Mission San Juan.



Superintendent Jacobs with living history staff.

The Bexar County Heritage Center (BHC) launched the America 250 Semi-quintcentennial programming initiatives to highlight the contributions of the Spanish Patriots of Bexar County. These efforts aim to raise awareness of Spain’s significant role in the American Revolution, emphasizing the contributions of Spanish citizens, ranchers, and soldiers. Additionally, they seek to inspire public interest in Bexar County’s historical importance during this pivotal era. The initiative includes teacher workshops, public symposiums, a BHC panel exhibit showcasing Spanish leadership and Texan contributions, and outreach to local schools and summer reading programs. This collaboration involves the BHC, National Park Service (NPS) and various community organizations, including members of the Daughters of the American Revolution. In June 2025 teachers visited Mission San Juan for a park ranger led tour to learn more about the local history and encourage the teachers to bring their students for a tour to learn more about the history of San Antonio Missions.

Matachines Pilgrimage and Festival

The annual Matachines Pilgrimage and Festival brought together dancers and families in a multigenerational expression of devotion honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe. Processions and celebrations connected historic mission grounds with living cultural traditions first recorded in the 18th century and still practiced today. The event remains one of the most powerful demonstrations of continuity between Indigenous, Spanish, and contemporary Catholic heritage. Hundreds participated in prayer, procession, and celebration.



Matachines in front of Mission Concepción.

Celebrating the 10th Anniversary as a World Heritage Site

10 years ago on July 5, 2015, San Antonio's five 18th-century missions which include Mission San Antonio de Valero (Alamo), Mission Concepción, Mission San José, Mission San Juan and Mission Espada were officially designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

This historic recognition marked the first time a Texas site was deemed of outstanding cultural importance to the world by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). After a 9-year campaign with the hard work of many partners and individuals, these missions joined the ranks of iconic places like the Statue of Liberty, Yellowstone, and the Grand Canyon, earning a place among humanity's greatest treasures. For over 300 years, these missions have told the stories of perseverance, cultural fusion, and community, with stories that continue to shape the identity of San Antonio today.



World Heritage Management Group and partners at the city council's chambers for the anniversary proclamation.

City Council Proclamation

In August, the City of San Antonio Mayor and Council issued a proclamation celebrating the tenth anniversary of the World Heritage Festival.

In July and throughout the year, we proudly celebrated the 10th anniversary of the San Antonio Missions World Heritage Site. This special day honored the incredible contributions of the organizations that made this inscription possible. A decade ago, a coalition of local partners, including The Conservation Society of San Antonio, Bexar County, City of San Antonio, National Park Service, Archdiocese of San Antonio and their respective philanthropic partners, and others, came together to preserve our rich history and shine a global spotlight on San Antonio's founding missions.



10th Annual World Heritage Festival

The World Heritage Festival was held on September 3 - 7. The festival promotes and creates awareness for the historic San Antonio Missions while connecting the Missions to the river and other cultural sites.

The multi-day celebration took place throughout the five San Antonio Missions and the surrounding area. This past year's festival included several National Park Service events, Mission Day at the Alamo, the annual Tour de Las Misiones, and the Caring for Creation Mass at Mission Espada with a procession to Mission San Juan. The festival expanded to include key events that occurred before and after the regular scheduled dates — engaging community organizations, stakeholders, and community members.



Heritage in Partnership Tours

San Antonio Missions hosted and led “Heritage in Partnership” tours that took a deep dive into the rich history and significance of our missions.



Junior Ranger Day at the national park.



Annual Tour de las Misiones.

Accomplishment Report

Historic Plaza Days

History buffs, culture lovers, young and old alike. Step back into time onto Main Plaza (Plaza de las Islas Canarias) located in the heart of San Antonio since 1731 and learn about the history and culture of our community. Seventeen local history, lineage societies, and public spaces join together to raise awareness of what makes our community so unique.



Opening prayer at the historic plaza.

BEXAR COUNTY TX
BEXAR HERITAGE

10th Anniversary World Heritage Academic Symposium: 10 Years of Scholarship and Partnership



Superintendent Partnership Award to Bexar County during an Academic Symposium at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.

The National Park Service hosted a 10th Anniversary World Heritage Academic Symposium to highlight collaboration and partnership in the preservation and education of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park over this past decade. This symposium featured an impressive lineup of academics who have made significant contributions to our mission and included a Superintendent's award to Bexar County received by Judge Sakai. The award was presented to honor Bexar County's exemplary leadership in the San Antonio Missions World Heritage Site inscription process and their unwavering commitment to our enduring partnership.

The symposium included:

- Bill Dupont and Angela Lombardi from the UTSA Center for Cultural Sustainability
- Kelton Sheridan from the University of Texas - Austin
- Pam Rosser from The Alamo
- Brian Mast from the San Antonio River Authority
- Sarah Wigley from the UTSA Center for Archaeological Research
- Anna Nau from Ford, Powell & Carson
- Allison Young from the National Park Service

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Kevin Lilly Visits San Antonio Missions



Kevin Lilly shakes hands with military member.



Tour of Mission Concepción.



Distributing America the Beautiful passes.

On Dec. 10, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park proudly welcomed Kevin Lilly, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, for a visit celebrating the park's collaboration with Joint Base San Antonio. As part of Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Lilly's visit, the park hosted a meet-and-greet at the historic Mission San Juan farm fields with members of the JBSA military community.

During the event, the 502nd Force Support Group was honored with the 2026 Superintendent's Partnership Award, acknowledging their ten years of leadership on the JBSA Workforce Alliance and commitment to strengthening connections between service members and America's national parks to include SkillBridge, veteran outreach and recreational outings for military families.

The park also distributed America the Beautiful Federal Recreational Lands Military Passes to the military members in attendance. This free pass provides access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including all national parks, for military members, veterans, and Gold Star families in gratitude for their service and dedication.

Confluence of Cultures: Nuestra Gente, Cultura, y Comida



WORLD HERITAGE



Exhibit piece showing a hand holding corn.

The City of San Antonio Department of Arts & Culture and the World Heritage Office collaborated to host an exhibit, “Culture Commons Gallery- Confluence of Cultures: Nuestra Gente, Cultura, y Comida” with San Antonio-based artists to explore the merging of cultures that celebrates our city’s UNESCO World Heritage Site and Creative City of Gastronomy designations.

Great SA Culinary Conversations



Panel discussion with Texas Public Radio.

The World Heritage Office partnered with Texas Public Radio (TPR) to host panel discussions highlighting San Antonio’s culinary arts, historians, chefs, restaurant and business owners, among others in the industry. The discussions included women in the culinary industry, legacy restaurants, James Beard-nominated chefs, and highlighted the San Antonio Chef Ambassador program.

Sustainable Food & Landscape Discussion at the Culture Commons Gallery



Sustainable Food & Landscape Discussion at Culture Commons Gallery.

The Department of Arts & Culture hosted a Sustainable Food & Landscape Discussion at Culture Commons Gallery, “Confluence of Cultures: Nuestra Gente, Cultura, y Comida”. The discussion focused on the artworks displayed and highlighted the World Heritage Site and Creative City of Gastronomy designations. Panelists discussed ways to preserve our natural environment through sustainable landscaping and gardening.

Puebelos del Maiz



Chefs at the Pueblo de Maiz Showcase.

The World Heritage Office hosted the annual Pueblos del Maiz Showcase at Pearl, celebrating corn as a heritage ingredient that unites cultures and flavors across the globe. It featured live cooking and tastings from UNESCO Creative Cities of Gastronomy chefs and members of The Food Capitals by Delice Network. The city hosted chefs from Tucson, Arizona; Bergamo, Italy; and Castelldefels, Spain. Visiting chefs and city representatives visited cultural and culinary sites, like Mission San Juan farm.

Visit by the Ambassador of Spain to the United States



Various photos showing the Ambassador of Spain to the USA, Angeles Bau touring San Antonio Missions and the City of San Antonio's World Heritage Center.

In partnership with the Economic Development Department's Global Engagement Division, the World Heritage Office, National Park Service and Las Misiones welcomed Her Excellency, Angeles Moreno Bau, the Ambassador of Spain to the USA in July 2025. Her visit included tours of the Spanish Governor's Palace, World Heritage Center, Mission Concepción, and Mission San José.

National Park Friends Alliance Fall Meeting



**Mission
Heritage
Partners**
SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK



Seth Bell and Executive Director Karla Gurgiolo attended National Park Friends Alliance meeting.

In September 2025, Board Chair Seth Bell and Executive Director Karla Gurgiolo attended National Park Friends Alliance Fall Meeting at the Gateway Arch National Park in St. Louis, Missouri. The three-day conference brought together fellow park friends groups for meaningful connections, collaborative breakout sessions, and shared learning.



WORLD HERITAGE

Mission Marquee Plaza Events



Viva Poesia serves as the official kick-off event for National Poetry Month in San Antonio, held at Mission Marquee Plaza in April. The event featured current and past San Antonio Poets Laureate along with an exciting lineup of literary and musical artists. Highlights included interactive workshops led by local artists, a free tree adoption courtesy of the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department, and local pop-up vendors.

Outdoor Family Film Series



Movies were screened every first and third Saturday, and every third Thursday of each month, in March, May through November. The film series served as a welcoming, family-friendly space offering free programming to the local community. The film series featured a variety of pre-entertainment, from music, dance, make-and-take art tables, giveaways, and more! The program supported local organizations, businesses, artists, artisans, and food vendors in the World Heritage area, and is critical to serving the community.

Farmers & Artisan Markets



Markets were held monthly at the Mission Marquee Plaza on the first and third Saturday, from March through November 2025. The markets provided access to fresh, locally sourced food, nutritional resources, health services, art activities, artisans, and cultural programming that represented the community's history and traditions. Tree adoptions were held, and various trees were provided to the community.



Día de los Muertos

The World Heritage Office presented its eighth annual Día de los Muertos (Celebrando las Misiones) event at Mission Marquee Plaza in November. Partnerships included Mission Descendant families, local artists, businesses, artisan vendors, and community organizations. The free event included community and Mission Descendant altars, a remembrance photo presentation, spoken word performances, face painting, interactive workshops, music, dance performances, and an indigenous blessing and procession. The program is an annual cultural event sharing the stories, legacies, and memories of our World Heritage community.



KLRN Kids Fall Festival

The World Heritage Office, in partnership with KLRN, hosted the “KLRN Kids Fall Festival” in October. The free community event included PBS KIDS programming and a costumed character meet-and-greet, along with hands-on educational activities, informational tables with community partners, and a trunk and treat. Youth fitness activities were provided, and healthy food bags, donated by the San Antonio Food Bank, were distributed to the community.



Holiday Market

The World Heritage Office hosted the end-of-season Holiday Market at Mission Marquee Plaza in November. The market featured a holiday-themed Zumba class, tamal-making demonstrations, and ¡Qué Sabor! San Antonio™ Lotería celebrating San Antonio’s UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy designation. Attendees also enjoyed a free community tree adoption. The program showcased local artisans and vendors with handmade goods and specialty products, while engaging sustainable and environmental community resource partners and businesses.



Día del Árbol

In partnership with the SA Parks and Recreation Department, the World Heritage Office celebrated Día del Árbol in honor of Texas Arbor Day. Trees were available for adoption, with forestry experts on hand to educate event attendees on proper tree planting and care. Highlights included interactive forestry demonstrations, nature-based play, art activities, Last Chance Forever bird demonstrations, and an outreach vendor interaction zone designed to connect visitors with local sustainability programs and environmental education resources.



Yoga with Mobile Om

The World Heritage Office offered free community fitness classes before each Farmers & Artisans Market at Mission Marquee Plaza. Yoga classes were offered by Mobile Om, a local Yoga business and Zumba classes were provided by certified Zumba Instructors. Each class welcomed all fitness levels and provided an opportunity for the San Antonio community to gain access to professional fitness instruction, learn new workouts, and improve wellness.



Group at Rex's first Open Studio hours in the Tufa House.



2025 Artist-In-Residence Rex Hausmann

Funded by Mission Heritage Partners, the Artist in Residence Program brings diverse creative voices into San Antonio Missions National Historical Park to interpret and celebrate the park's rich culture, history, and living heritage. Through different creative mediums, artists engage with the missions, offering visitors new and meaningful ways to experience these historic landscapes. This year, MHP was proud to host world-renowned artist Rex Hausman as our Artist in Residence, whose work provided a powerful lens on the missions' cultural and historical significance. The program deepens public understanding of the missions by connecting artistic expression with centuries-old stories and traditions, ensuring these sites remain vibrant, relevant, and accessible for future generations.

The 2025 Artist-in-Residence, Rex Hausmann, is a San Antonio-based contemporary artist whose colorful, autobiographical work blends storytelling with everyday life. A recent recipient of the prestigious Rome Prize, Hausmann has exhibited and lectured nationally and internationally, including at The Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C, McNay Museum of Art, and National Public Radio.

This 10-week immersive residency emphasized public engagement and creative exchange. Artists hosted weekly open studio time, welcoming visitors to observe their creative process and engage in conversation. The program concludes with the creation of a final art piece to be auctioned at MHP's 2026 Gala, with the proceeds directly supporting the continuation and growth of the Artist-in-Residence program.

Sponsored by the National Park Service and Mission Heritage Partners, the program fosters stewardship, dialogue, and a deeper understanding of our collective history through the power of art.

UTSA Center for Cultural Sustainability Colloquium, New Directions in Heritage Practices



WORLD HERITAGE



In November, the World Heritage Office participated in a panel discussion with UTSA Center for Cultural Sustainability, entitled “Diverse Perspectives in Preservation” to speak about the work of the World Heritage Office outside of federal properties.

Document cover page titled: New Directions in Heritage Practices.

Caring for Creation Mass & Pilgrimage and Community Camino Pilgrimages



EL CAMINO DE
SAN ANTONIO
MISSIONS



LAS MISIONES
Preserving the churches of the Missions.

The Caring for Creation Mass and Pilgrimage combined outdoor worship with pilgrimage between mission churches, reinforcing the historic relationship between faith and land stewardship. The Monthly Community Camino continued throughout 2025, encouraging contemplative walking along the El Camino trail and visits to the sacred space of the Missions. Both programs promote experiential engagement with the World Heritage landscape. Participation reflected increasing interest in pilgrimage-based experiences. Pilgrim participation continues to increase on the El Camino trail. Many pilgrims obtain El Camino Compostela certificates to secure credit towards the requirements of El Camino de Santiago in Spain.



Outdoor mass at Mission Espada.

Flotilla Fiesta at Acequia Park



Participants of the Mission Reach Flotilla Fiesta with their bikes.

The San Antonio River Authority and San Antonio River Foundation proudly presented the 2025 Mission Reach Flotilla Fiesta at Acequia Park, it is the official kayaking event of Fiesta! This free community event featured kayaking on the San Antonio River, live music, arts and crafts, cultural performances, animal encounters, contests, a fiesta medal market, food vendors, and a lot of Fiesta fun for all ages.

History and Genealogy Day



Activity table at History and Genealogy Day.

History and Genealogy Day, bringing together over 20 families and genealogical organizations to celebrate their rich heritage and connections to the San Antonio Missions. It was incredible to see families sharing their archives, from cherished documents and photographs to meaningful items. The vibrant history of our missions continues to thrive today, embodied by these families who represent the ongoing community and cultural heritage of San Antonio.

Double Solar Illumination at Mission Concepción



EL CAMINO DE
SAN ANTONIO
MISSIONS



The annual Double Solar Illumination at Mission Concepción once again drew hundreds of visitors on August 15. This remarkable architectural phenomenon—aligned with the Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary demonstrates the intentional sacred design of the church. Sunlight travels through the ocular and dome windows to illuminate the altar area in a dramatic display of faith and geometry. The event deepens public appreciation for the theological symbolism embedded within the mission architecture.

Solar Illumination inside the church.

International Visitor Leadership Program – U.S. State Department



WORLD HERITAGE



Group from the U.S. State Department Program in the World Heritage Center.

In August, the Economic Development Department's Global Engagement Division brought in a group participating in the U.S. State Department Program to the World Heritage Center to learn about the work of the World Heritage Office and World Heritage Center, including the implementation of the World Heritage Work Plan and related projects within the World Heritage Buffer Zone. The participants were from a variety of Cultural Institutions in Mexico.

Visitor Access & Funding

The Alamo's "Surrounded!" Opens



Child using the new Surrounded! augmented experience.

Alamo's newest experience, Surrounded! The Alamo Augmented Experience, presented by Frost, the Official Bank of the Alamo, launched on September 6, 2025. Through the use of a handheld tablet, guests travel through 300 years of history with interactive characters, immersive clips, and 360-degree animations that bring the history of the Alamo to life. Available in five languages – English, Spanish, French, German, and Chinese. This past year, Surrounded has seen: 17,131 guests, with the average guest rating of 4.75 out of 5 and an average dwell time of 65 minutes, spending over one hour on Surrounded! This alone greatly exceeds typical dwell time for Alamo guests.

Regional Brochure Distribution



WORLD HERITAGE



Full brochure rack.

The World Heritage Office produced and coordinated the distribution of the San Antonio Missions – Drive, Bike, and Bus brochures, along with World Heritage Center rack cards throughout the South Texas region. These materials are available at visitor centers across Texas, including San Antonio, Austin, Kerrville, I-10 West (from Houston to Seguin), Corpus Christi, and the Rio Grande Valley. Strategic placement of these brochures is vital to showcasing San Antonio's rich culture and heritage and encouraging travelers to visit the only UNESCO World Heritage Site in Texas. For added convenience, the San Antonio Missions – Drive, Bike, and Bus brochure can also be downloaded at WorldHeritageSA.com.



Mission Heritage Partners in DC for SA to DC .

SA to DC

In March 2025, Mission Heritage Partners participated for the first time ever in SA to DC. Board Chair Seth Bell, Legislative Committee Chair Kristi Villanueva, and Executive Director Karla Gurgiolo held 10 meetings over three days with Congressional staff in support of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.

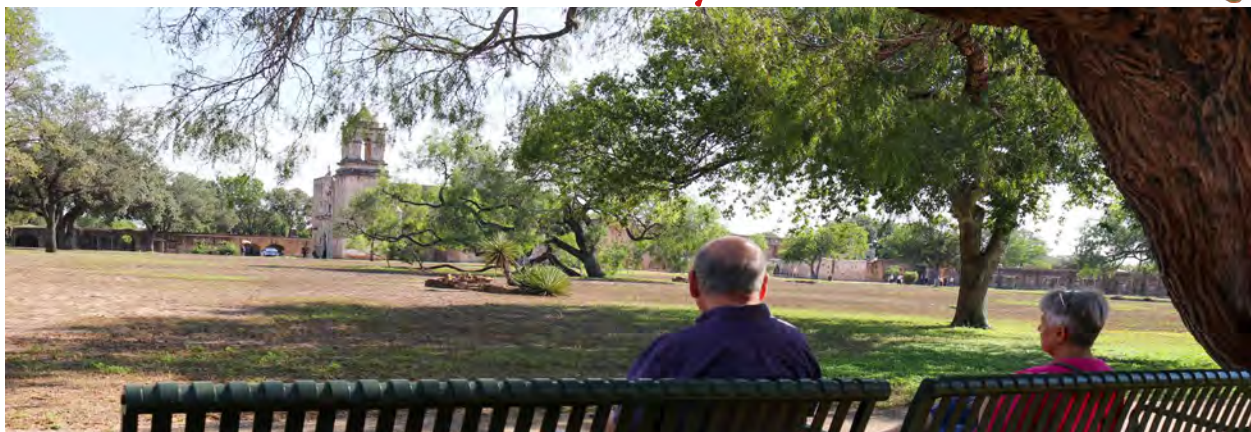


The Passing of House Bill 1866



The passage of House Bill 1866, strengthens the capabilities of National Park Service law enforcement officers under Texas law, was made possible through a strong collaboration between local partners, community advocates and elected officials who share a commitment to preserving, promoting, and protecting San Antonio Missions National Park. Board Chair Seth Bell testified before the Texas House Homeland Security Committee and the Texas Senate Criminal Justice Committee in support of the legislation. Working together we united our voices to highlight the cultural, educational, and economic importance of our beautiful parks, ensuring continued support and recognition at the state level.

Tourism to San Antonio Missions National Historical Park contributes \$171 million to local economy



Two people sitting on a bench at Mission San José.

A National Park Service report that was released in 2025 shows that 1.3 million visitors to San Antonio Missions in 2024 spent \$114,683,000 in communities near the park. That spending had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$171,164,000.

Guided Tours offered in Spanish



Tour guide standing in front of the Alamo church.

The Alamo began offering Spanish-language Remember the Alamo™ Guided Tours twice a day, seven days a week in February 2025. The Alamo is committed to expanding audiences and tour experiences, providing even more opportunities for Spanish-speaking visitors to connect with the Alamo's rich history. These guided tours complement the Alamo's existing audio tours, available in English, Spanish, French, German, and Chinese, ensuring that guests from around the world can explore this historic site in their preferred language.

Visit San Antonio Marketing and Communications



In 2025 Visit San Antonio launched new visitors' tools to help with the overall visitor experience such as:

- New San Antonio's World Heritage landing page dedicated to our World Heritage Designations and San Antonio Culinary Heritage landing page dedicated to our culinary history and chefs and cuisines
- Launched new 2025-2026 Visitors Guide with a section for San Antonio's World Heritage
- The Visit San Antonio visitors guide is also available in Spanish and Chinese catering to our international travelers.
- Visit San Antonio also launched a dedicated page in German highlighting which also includes highlights of our Arts & Culture Offering
- The new Visit San Antonio App, a powerful tool for building custom itineraries
- New Dining Guides a great resource for visitors looking for cultural food experiences in our city.
- New Interactive Neighborhood Map
- Curated Dining Guides by Edmund Tijerina
- "Plan Your Visit" Kiosk at the Henry B. González Convention Center

Visit San Antonio promoted the World Heritage Site with pitching to media from across the United States, Mexico, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, China, and more. The site was included in 311 pieces of global coverage, totaling \$8.2 million in earned media value. Visit San Antonio worked closely with the City of San Antonio (CoSA), The Alamo Trust, and National Park Service (NPS) to provide media tours and interviews about the World Heritage Site. Stories highlighting San Antonio's UNESCO designations included USA Today, Forbes, Associated Press, AARP, Upscale Magazine, and so many more.

Additionally, Visit SA partnered with NPS, Mission Heritage Partners and CoSA's World Heritage Office to host media to experience the World Heritage Festival 2025 and opening of the World Heritage Center in February 2025. Importantly, Visit San Antonio provided the new class of CoSA's Chef Ambassadors media training at no cost.

The Rose Window Gala



The Rose Window Gala, held under the stars at Mission San José, raised significant funds to support ongoing restoration efforts, including the Mission San Jose sacristy dome repairs. Combined with grant funding secured for Mission Concepción façade conservation planning, these proceeds provide critical resources for multi-year preservation work. The evening celebrated heritage while directly investing in its protection. Philanthropic support remains essential to sustaining long-term preservation of the World Heritage Missions.



Law Misiones projected on the church wall.

National Park Project List Fully Funded

Mission Heritage Partners is proud to share that they were able to fully fund the FY 2025 Park Project List in the amount of \$221,000. The funding supported important initiatives such as the upfitting of 3 law enforcement vehicles, support of the park’s education program that supports 20,000 + local Title 1 schools, maintenance and vandalism support, and community outreach support.

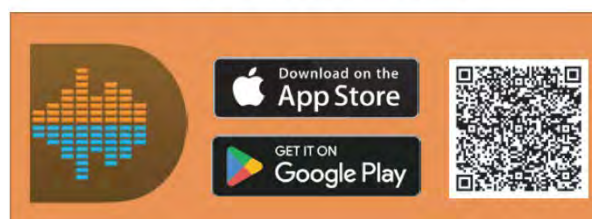


Audio-described Park Brochure

In 2025, San Antonio Missions launched an audio described park brochure where more people can easily explore and enjoy the beautiful features and rich history of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. The audio described version of San Antonio Missions' brochure is available and can be accessed by downloading the UniDescription app which includes all park brochures that have been audio described under the UniDescription partnership project with the University of Hawaii.



The Audio Described San Antonio Missions park brochure is available free on the UniDescription app!



Information and QR code to app for audio description.



Photo taken at Mission Heritage Partner's (MHP) 2025 Gala featuring MHP's Board Chair Seth Bell, San Antonio Missions' park superintendent Christine Jacobs, John Nau, and mayor Ron Nirenberg.



**Mission
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SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

2025 Make it Your Mission Gala

The Make It Your Mission Gala was a tremendous success, bringing together more than 500 guests for an unforgettable evening in an outdoor setting on the historic grounds of Mission San José. The atmosphere celebrated the beauty, culture, and heritage of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park while uniting community leaders, partners, and supporters around a shared commitment to preservation. The evening also honored John L. Nau, III, a true champion of parks, whose lifelong dedication to conservation and historic preservation continues to inspire stewardship of our national parks. Together, the event strengthened community engagement and generated critical support to preserve, promote, and protect the Missions for future generations.

New Architectural Feature



WORLD HERITAGE



Ribbon cutting for the "Bent Will" feature.

The World Heritage Office, in partnership with the Department of Arts & Culture and Capital Delivery Department, unveiled a new architectural feature in December. Located at the corner of Roosevelt Av and Mission Rd, along the World Heritage Trail, the installation of "Bent Will" by artist Jacob Tobar represents San Antonio's strong roots. A tile mural "Entretejendo Historias" (Weaving Stories) by artist Ruth Leonela Buentello draws inspiration from some of the earliest images of the missions. With these artistic components, and enhanced landscaping and sidewalks, the features improve wayfinding and beautification along the World Heritage Trail.



2025 Annual Accomplishment Report

World Heritage Management Group

[San Antonio Missions National Historical
Park, Archdiocese of San Antonio,
San Antonio River Authority,
City of San Antonio World Heritage
Office, Bexar County and
Alamo Trust, Inc.](#)

Primary Partners and Contributing Organizations

[Mission Heritage Partners, Visit San Antonio,
San Antonio Conservation Society,
Las Misiones and El Camino de San Antonio
Missions](#)

San Antonio Missions