



2022



San Antonio Missions
World Heritage Site


World Heritage Management Group *Accomplishment Report*





World Heritage Management Goals

- a.** Protect and preserve finite cultural resources using the least invasive techniques possible.
- b.** In accordance with their Outstanding Universal Value, interpret the entire cultural history of the missions and provide educational, spiritual, and religious experiences that reflect the multiplicity of stories and continuing heritage of the missions.
- c.** Ensure that visitors can maneuver between the mission sites in a way that is understandable and that has the least impact on the cultural resources.
- d.** Increase visitor capacity and improve visitor experiences while erring in favor of resource protection if necessary.
- e.** Explore innovative ways to fund the protection and interpretation of the missions.
- f.** Encourage academic research on the missions that will shed new light on the people, structures, and landscapes.
- g.** Market the missions to the local community, the country, and the world to increase awareness of their Outstanding Universal Value and the value of their continued protection. Reach out to non-traditional segments of the population for heritage tourism and preservation.



Protect & Preserve

Church Inspection, Maintenance, and Repair



Las Misiones supports the preservation of four Spanish colonial mission churches: Mission Concepción, San José, San Juan, and Espada.

These four iconic structures are internationally significant resources within San Antonio Missions World Heritage Site. Today, all four mission churches continue to have active and lively parishes, and draw visitors from all over the world.

Every year Las Misiones performs detailed building inspections, preventative maintenance, and routine repairs on each mission church. Extensive repairs to the Mission San José roof and tower began in 2022, and will be completed by Summer 2023.



Mission Descendant “Ofrendas” for Día de los Muertos



In October of 2022, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park hosted its annual ofrenda exhibit in the granary of Mission San José. During the week prior to Día de los Muertos, families from the mission descendant community built and displayed ofrendas honoring the lives and stories of their ancestors.

The annual ofrenda exhibit is an important way the park helps to protect and preserve these important and intangible stories for future generations.



Texas State Historical Marker Recognizing the Pajalate Indigenous Language



The Bexar County Historical Commission, through the Texas Historical Commission Undertold Marker Program, is currently working with the Old River Heritage Group to establish a Texas state historical marker that recognizes the Pajalate language.

Pajalate was spoken in the San Antonio area before European arrival and was documented by Spanish missionaries in the 18th century. Pajalte is the only surviving Indigenous language among many that were spoken by Coahuiltecas and others prior to the mission period.

This marker will be located on land at Padre County Park in the San José buffer zone, and will help preserve the story of this language.



Preservation and Archaeology at the Alamo



The preservation of the Alamo represents an important legacy of the Alamo Trust. In the spring of 2022, the west façade of the Alamo church was inspected by the Alamo Trust Conservator following notes from the previous year. Multiple locations were identified and compiled in a report.



The Long Barrack opened the first archaeology exhibit on the Alamo Complex. The exhibit identifies the mission era walls and all the living surfaces which came later. The mission era plaster fragments were stabilized by applying edge stabilization to the fragile edges of the plaster. The plaster surface was gently cleaned with distilled water and consolidated with a water base consolidate. The purpose of the stabilization and application of the consolidate is to keep the mission era surfaces intact. These surfaces are inspected every six months.

The 1719 era Long Barrack Wall is the oldest stone structure in Texas. The wall required stainless steel grouted ties for stability and preservation purposes. This project was completed in August 2022.

Youth in Preservation

A “Youth in Preservation” effort was funded and in the second year of a multi-year Task Agreement in 2022. Crews assisted with deferred maintenance in the cultural landscapes of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. This work is valued at over \$300,000.

The Cultural Heritage Landscape Apprentice Program, in partnership with the Texas Conservation Corps and American Youthworks and supported by Mission Heritage Partners and the National Park Foundation, contributed 2,700 hours of landscape preservation labor.

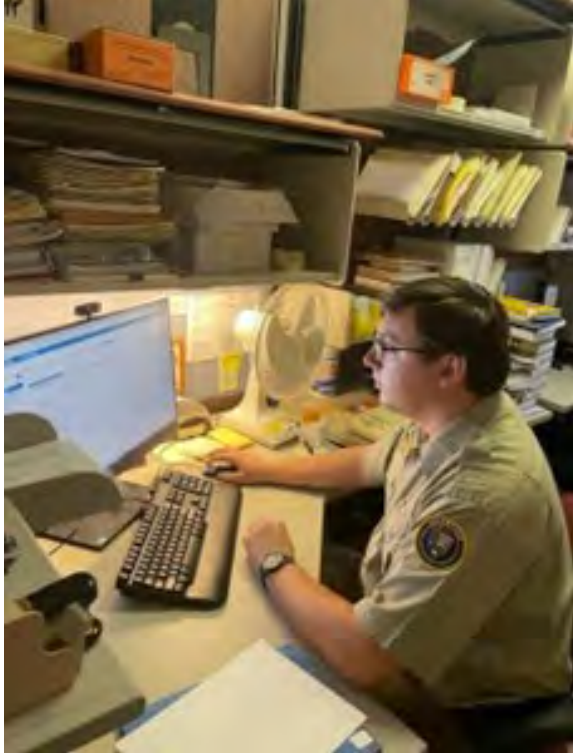
The park hired two members of the crew at the completion of their service into paid National Park Service staff positions.



Rehabilitation of Structure at Mission San José



Project scoping and condition assessment has been completed for the rehabilitation of a National Register structure at Mission San José. Funding in excess of \$800,000 has been secured for the rehabilitation work.



Library and Archives Intern



Mission Heritage Partners funded Library and Archives intern Zachary Wooston to work at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park in 2022.

Zach began work at the park in February while earning his master's degree in Library Science. Zach's objective walking into his position was to organize decades of records into a functioning library for internal use and external research. Zach created a system for documenting, cataloging, and sharing projects and activities at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.





Masonry Preservation



Selected and completed two internship masonry apprentices funded by the National Park Service Historic Preservation Training Center. These apprentices contributed 1,800 labor hours toward masonry preservation.

Selected and completed one masonry apprentice funded by the Mission Heritage Partners. This apprentice contributed 900 labor hours toward masonry preservation of the mission sites.

Two masonry apprentices were hired into paid National Park Service masonry positions following completion of their apprenticeships.



Interpretation & Cultural Experiences



World Heritage Festival

The 7th annual World Heritage Festival presented by the World Heritage Office and the partner organizations that manage San Antonio Missions World Heritage Site, took place from September 7, 2022 to September 11, 2022. Each year, the festival coincides with the Organization of World Heritage Cities Solidarity Day, which occurs annually on September 8.



This year's events included:

- An outdoor exhibit at Mission Marquee Plaza with 500 attendees called Gwangju: City of Light and Democracy, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Sister City relationship between Gwangju, South Korea, and San Antonio.
- The Mission For Water: Building San Antonio's Acequia System Symposium was hosted by The Alamo and had 40 registrants.
- Gwangju Art Exhibition Opening at Artpace had 281 attendees.
- Music and Movies Under the Stars featured a tribute to San Antonio's military legacy at Mission Marquee Plaza, and had 500 attendees.
- Junior Ranger Day, hosted by San Antonio Missions National Historical Park at Mission Espada had 300 attendees and 75 sworn in Junior Rangers.





-The annual Tour de Las Misiones bike ride/walk/run had 515 total registrants. The event is a collaborative effort including Bexar County, San Antonio River Authority, The Alamo, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, National Parks Conservation Association, America’s Walking Club, South Texas Off Road Mountain Bikers, SATX Social Ride, and IAAPWEB.



-The Caring for Creation Mass at Mission Espada, which included a procession to Mission San Juan, had 500 attendees.

-The Press Conference and Festival Preview held on Wednesday, August 24, 2021, at The Alamo had 25 attendees.



All partner organizations that manage the World Heritage Site give time and resources to ensure the festival provides one-of-a-kind experiences. The collaborative events of the World Heritage Festival serve to promote San Antonio Missions World Heritage Site.

Misión de las Estrellas Astronomy Event



Las Misiones and San Antonio Missions National Historical Park partnered to host Misión de las Estrellas, an astronomy night at Mission San Juan in October. This 2-night outreach event included food trucks, children’s activities like the Junior Ranger Night Explore program, and telescope viewing.

Astronomy ranger Kyle from Arches National Park and a group of volunteer astronomers from the University of Texas San Antonio led the telescope viewing and shared the wonders of the night sky with hundreds of visitors each night.





Viva Poesía: Palabra, Música, y Cultura Event at Mission Marquee Plaza



The World Heritage Office held the official National Poetry Month kick-off event, “Viva Poesía 2022: Palabras, Música, Y Cultura!” at Mission Marquee Plaza on March 26, 2022.



MISSION MARQUEE PLAZA

The theme of the 8th annual event was “La Música Que Somos,” a poetic tribute to the legends of the local music scene. The event, partially supported by the Department of Arts & Culture, spotlighted “Eight Greats” who helped establish the soundscape of San Antonio. Eight of San Antonio’s poets and spoken word artists performed poetry based on the accomplishments of eight musical legends in San Antonio.



The free event also included 4 local musicians who performed live to the sounds of the “Eight Greats”, a meet and greet, interactive art workshops, artisans, and food vendors. Visual arts included a video slideshow and artboards of San Antonio musicians, which were created by students of Gilbert Elementary.

Annual United San Antonio POW WOW at Mission County Park



Bexar County supported the Annual United San Antonio POW WOW at Mission County Park. With the sights and sounds of drumming and dancing, the community at large experienced the rich culture of several regional Native American groups who come together to share in their experience.



Día de los Muertos Celebration at Mission Marquee Plaza



The World Heritage Office presented its fifth annual Día de los Muertos event at Mission Marquee Plaza on October 29, 2022. The event engaged several collaborative partners including San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, Missions descendant families, the San José Neighborhood Association, students of Gilbert Elementary, local businesses and vendors, and other community organizations.



The free event included a community altar and remembrances video presentation, spoken word performances and calaveras by the Gilbert Elementary students, free face painting, interactive art workshops, musical and dance performances, and an indigenous blessing and procession from Mission San José Granary. The program also included an outdoor art exhibit on the grounds of Mission Marquee Plaza.



44th Annual Cultural Arts Festival at Mission Marquee Plaza



On April 23, 2022, the World Heritage Office, in partnership with Harlandale Independent School District, held the 44th annual Harlandale Cultural Arts Fair at Mission Marquee Plaza. The Cultural Arts Fair returned from a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the event provided an opportunity for the Harlandale ISD community to reconnect with their culture and enjoy a day filled with activities that promoted student education and success.



The event kicked off with a descendants ceremony at Mission San José to honor the first families of the San Antonio Missions, followed by a parade that started at Harlandale Memorial Stadium to showcase student sports, fine arts, and school pride. The event culminated at Mission Marquee Plaza with live entertainment, student performances, food and beverages, and a variety of fun activities.



Historic Plaza Days on Main Plaza

Bexar County hosts Historic Plaza Days on Main Plaza from June through September to celebrate the rich history of the community and engage with locals and visitors alike.

Historic Plaza Days brings together descendant groups, including the American Indians in Texas, the Tehuan Mission Band of Indians, the 1718 Presidio Soldiers and Familias, and the Canary Islands Descendants Association, to participate.

Additional partner organizations included in Historic Plaza Days are San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, the Bexar Heritage Center, Bexar County Spanish Archives, Main Plaza Conservancy, Casa Navarro, San Pedro Creek Culture Park, and the Spanish Governors Palace.



Alamo Education Program



Attendance and participation in guided programming showed significant growth over 2021, and the emphasis that the Alamo places on education was rewarded in 2022.

The education staff doubled their capacity for the number of students that can be served on site. Student capacity was increased through volunteer training and the integrated participation of professional Alamo History Interpreters. As we enter 2023, a larger portion of school groups are participating in Alamo Discovery Tours.

The education department continued a tradition of service to the education community with our Teach the Alamo workshop. This class helped broaden the story of the Alamo by giving educators an holistic approach to our history and culture. Teacher-centered walking tours covered multiple eras including Indigenous history, the mission period, the Texas Revolution, annexation, statehood, and preservation.



Monthly Nature Hikes along the San Juan Acequia Trail



A new ranger program at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park that was piloted in 2022 turned into a major success.

Beginning in October and recurring the third Saturday of each month, the park launched a nature hike to expand its interpretive and recreational offerings. The hikes along the acequias and the San Antonio River were wildly popular and the park is continuing the program in 2023.



Kayaking with the Spurs



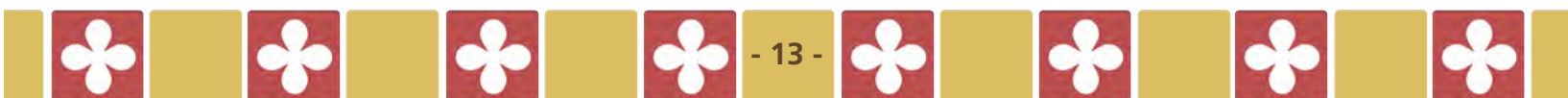
San Antonio River Authority introduced San Antonio Spurs basketball players to the San Antonio River and to the Mission Reach through kayaking. They shared their interest in our culture as well as their willingness to get more involved with the outdoors and our community.

Pueblos del Maíz



In May 2022, four North American creative cities successfully launched the main festivities for the “Pueblos del Maíz”, a month-long, multinational festival. The event celebrated the gastronomies, histories, and food cultures of maize in UNESCO Cities of Gastronomy and Délice Network cities. The festivities connected participating cities which included Tucson (USA), San Antonio (USA), Mérida (MEX), and Puebla (MEX), through collaborative celebrations and sharing of each city’s maize food traditions and cuisine.

San Antonio activities included a community workshop at Kitchen Campus, a chef demonstration at Lanier High School, a call for maize recipes at San Antonio senior centers, a spotlight on local restaurants with maíz menu items, and a youth film contest through #FilmSA highlighting “A Celebration of Corn in San Antonio Foods”.





Weddings, Quinceañeras, Baptisms, Funerals, and Other Spiritual Ceremonies



The Archdiocese of San Antonio continues the Catholic traditions of the missions with the celebration of weddings, quinceaneras, baptisms, and funerals.

In June, the Feast of Corpus Christi was celebrated at Mission San José with a special outdoor Mass celebrated by Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller M.Sp.S., and Eucharistic Procession around the Plaza. Over 300 people attended from all over the Archdiocese for this special event that was a tradition at the colonial mission churches.

In November, Mission Concepción held a Mass in honor of those lives lost in Uvalde during the feast day of All Saints.

In 2022, the Archdiocese of San Antonio received remains that had been excavated from Missions San Juan, San José, and Concepción over several decades. Those remains were reburied in a moving ceremony attended by mission descendants and parish members in December at the cemetery on the grounds of Mission San Juan.



Rallies and Races with San Antonio River Authority



San Antonio River Authority introduced a paddling race series, "Mission Reach Rally" that flows along the San Antonio River. One of the races took place in the river along the Mission Reach and brought out more than 25 racers and spectators. Fifteen other races along the Mission Reach occurred, included fundraisers and organizational awareness events for different partners throughout San Antonio. The San Antonio River Authority appreciates being able to host events like these to share the beauty that is Mission Reach.



Latin American Cultural Festival at Mission Marquee Plaza



The World Heritage Office in partnership with The Sociedad Cultural Hispanoamericana San Antonio (SCHASA) held the Latin American Cultural Festival on Saturday, June 11, 2022, at Mission Marquee Plaza.



Scout Day 2022 at the Mission San Juan Farm Fields



San Antonio Missions National Historical Park hosted more than 60 scouts from troops around San Antonio on June 11, 2022 for a day of working on Mission San Juan’s historic farm fields in conjunction with the San Antonio Food Bank. Scouts helped to mulch acres of orchards.

Mission Reach Art Workshops



San Antonio River Authority partnered with San Antonio River Foundation to host several art workshops throughout Mission Reach. These art workshops allowed attendees an opportunity to share their artistic feelings through different mediums.

Community Engagement and Education Intern



Throughout 2022, Mission Heritage Partners funded Community Engagement and Education intern Ariana Quazi to assist the interpretation team and offer support for special events at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.

Throughout her time as an intern, Ariana led tours, guided visitors, and managed the Volunteer in Parks (VIP) program. Just before her internship came to a close, Ariana landed a permanent position as a Park Guide at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, and continues to share her knowledge and warm personality with all who visit.

Alamo Tours, Living History, Collections, and Exhibitions



2022 witnessed the full energy of the Alamo Master Plan take physical form. The lion's share of construction on the Exhibition Hall & Collections Building got underway and saw the project poised for completion on target for March 2023. This facility will house collections that will enhance and broaden the interpretation of the Alamo and the community at large. This is just the first step in maintaining the Alamo's role as a leader and innovator in preservation, interpretation, and education.

The Living History Department at the Alamo saw continued growth in both the number of costumed interpreters but also expansion in the historical eras and perspectives represented. While the focus is the Texas Revolution, interpretation of the mission era has been enhanced with the inclusion of Spanish Presidio Soldados. The timeline was also moved forward to the US military use of the Alamo and a special living history day to support the kick-off the 2022 San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo. Costumed interpreters represented 1870's era cowboys to help visitors understand life on the range. 19th century games, cooking, branding, and life on the cattle trail were all represented.

Regularly scheduled daily tours were available 364 days in 2022. This, along side audio tours, living history presentations, and special events helped nearly 1.5 million visitors understand our complex and dynamic story.



Ensuring Access



World Heritage Trail Signage and Wayfinding Project



On June 6, 2022, the City of San Antonio’s World Heritage Office, in coordination with the Public Works Department, initiated the World Heritage Trail Signage and Wayfinding project, a 2017-2022 Bond project.

The project consists of approximately 88 signs providing direction and wayfinding for residents and visitors along the World Heritage Trail, spanning from the Alamo area at Caesar Chavez Street to Mission Espada.

Rollout of Free National Park Passes for Military Veterans and their Families



Launched on Veteran’s Day, November 11, 2022 in conjunction with the National Park Service’s nation-wide rollout, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park staff attended events at a local VFW post and the city’s Veteran’s Day Parade to issue the first bunch of veteran’s passes to the men and women who have served our country.

Since the program launched, the park has issued more than a thousand veteran passes.



San Antonio Missions National Historical Park's Education Program Re-Launched!



Coming out of COVID-19, the education program at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park rebooted in a major way.

Thanks to funding from Mission Heritage Partners and The National Park Foundation, the park was able to expand its education program's capacity and served more than 25,000 students on formal ranger-led education programs in 2022. Nearly half of these students were local Title 1 fourth graders.



Native American Cultural Center at Padre County Park



In support of our Native American beginnings, Bexar County Commissioners Court has allocated funds for a Native American Cultural Center located within the buffer zone of the San José Mission at Padre Park.

The center will encourage the celebration of the Native American community and traditions, and highlight local Native American cultural heritage with events and activities that display the roles of those who lived in and around the missions and provide an opportunity for them to celebrate their heritage. An RFQ has been released and those proposals are currently under review.

San Antonio River Authority introduces fishing to more than 175 local children



A long-time partner, Fin Addict is an educational group that educates participants about the ins and outs of fishing through interactive experiences. With this program, the San Antonio River Authority was able to introduce fishing to more than 175 local San Antonio children on October 8, 2022.



New World Heritage Trail Banners

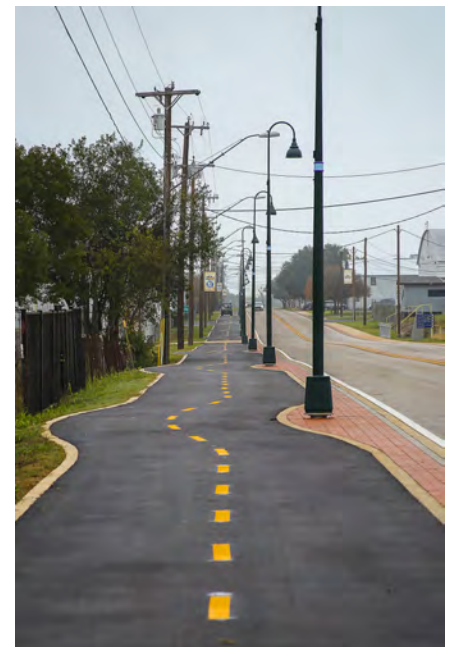


The World Heritage Office replaced 146 banners along the World Heritage Trail. The banners reinforce wayfinding for residents and visitors to the five historic missions. Along the trail, the banners uniquely identify each mission, providing awareness of the trail to residents and visitors alike.

Road, Sidewalk, and Landscaping Improvements Roosevelt Avenue



The Roosevelt Avenue Project, a 2017-2022 Bond Program, initiated construction on July 11, 2022. The construction and road improvements extend for one mile starting at St. Mary's Street near the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and ending at IH 10 and Steves Avenue. Located within the World Heritage Buffer Zone, the project consists of street repairs, the addition of sidewalks, and a beautification component adding landscaping to the corridor. The project intersects with Mission Road, a leading corridor to the Missions and the World Heritage Trail. The project is managed in partnership with the City of San Antonio's World Heritage Office and Public Works Department.



World Heritage Center Groundbreaking Ceremony



The World Heritage Office hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on December 13th, 2022, for the World Heritage Center, a 2017-2022 Bond Program project. The World Heritage Center will serve as a gateway to the San Antonio Missions and a gathering place for San Antonio residents and visitors. Located on the former Mission Drive-In property, also the former agricultural lands for Mission San José, the Center is part of a larger strategy to build a campus-like environment that serves as a gateway for visitors and a community hub that will connect to other improvements and developments along the Roosevelt corridor. The center will provide a space for visitor orientation, community engagement, and education with a focus on the Outstanding Universal Value of the missions as a World Heritage Site. It will offer an indoor and outdoor experience with self-guided tours that provide educational opportunities and information on the history, art, and culture of the community around the missions.



Latino Conservation Week



Three Latinx interns with San Antonio Missions National Historical Park planned and organized a week long celebration of Latinos in park conservation. The week included special tours of the park's San Juan Acequia trail, as well as programs about geology, herbology, and ornithology each led by local Latinx youth interns and emerging experts.

Rancho de las Cabras Education Days



The San Antonio River Authority and the National Park Service joined education expertise to provide a field trip with a half-day education programming day at the historical Rancho de las Cabras. The partners held four program stations featuring Rancho life, tools, environmental resources, and nature. Stockdale Elementary School participated on April 13th with approximately 50 fourth graders.

Funding



Mission Road Project



The World Heritage Office hosted a ribbon-cutting on December 6, 2022, for the completion of the Mission Road 2017 Bond Program. The project included vehicular improvements, pedestrian and bike connectivity to Stinson Municipal Airport, Stinson Hike & Bike Trail, San Antonio River Mission Reach Hike & Bike Trail, and Mission San Juan along the World Heritage Trail. The project was managed in partnership with the City of San Antonio's World Heritage Office and Public Works Department.

Park Receives NPS Funding to Upgrade Museum Exhibits at Mission San Juan



In late 2022, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park received national-level funding to upgrade its museum exhibits at Mission San Juan. The multi-year project is now underway with goals of improving accessibility and elevating more contemporary and diverse stories and voices.



County Commissioner Allocates Funds to Support San Antonio Missions National Historical Park



County Commissioner Rebeca Clay-Flores allocated \$30,000 to Mission Heritage Partners in support of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.



National Park Foundation Grants

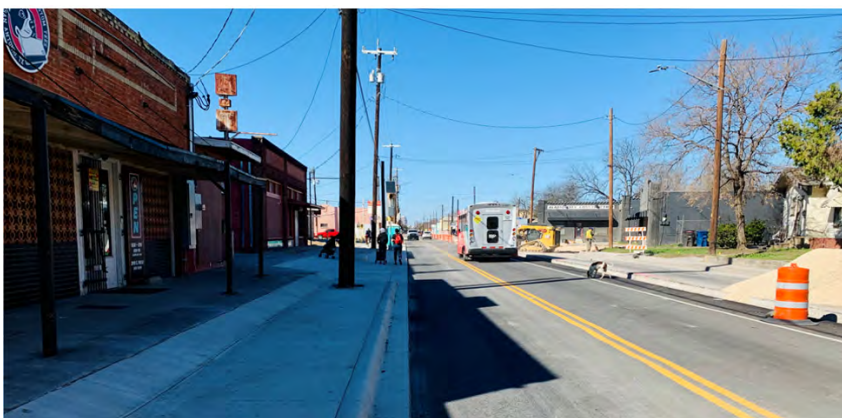
After the success of the education program at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park in 2022, The National Park Foundation committed and funded the program again going into 2023.

The foundation also provided funding for the park’s “Cultural Landscape Apprentice Program,” helping the park meet its high preservation standards and fostering careers among the local San Antonio community in the field of preservation.



South Presa Street Project

The South Presa Street Project, a 2017-2022 Bond Program, began construction on August 22, 2022. The street project spans 3 miles from East Boyer Street to Southeast Military Drive and consists of street reconstruction, drainage improvements, and pedestrian amenities and enhancements. Located within the World Heritage Buffer Zone, South Presa Street is a key corridor that leads residents and visitors to the missions.



Funding for the Education Program at the Park



In 2022, Mission Heritage Partners funded four seasonal education rangers to create educational programs at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. These rangers hosted students from across the city, state, and country with creative activities that supported TEKS objectives for Texas History.

Through this initiative, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park effectively rebooted the education program at the park following two years of social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, through a partnership with the HEB Foundation, MHP has been able to reimburse local schools for their school bus fees to drive students to visit the park through a grant from the HEB Foundation.



Park Secures NPS Funding for Multiple Cyclic Maintenance Projects at the Park



San Antonio Missions National Historical Park secured National Park Service project funding in 2022 in excess of \$500,000 for cyclic maintenance projects in multiple areas, including the regrading of park access roads, hazardous tree abatement, cultural landscape management, and maintenance to the grist mill pump station at Mission San José.



Park Secures Great American Outdoors Act Funding to Support Acequia Work



San Antonio Missions National Historical Park secured funding in the amount of \$495,000 through the Great American Outdoors Act in 2022 to support work on the acequias in 2023.



Educational Tours for UT Health Science Center with San Antonio River Authority



Nursing students from the University of Texas Health Science Center (UTHSC) participated in nature walks to learn about the resources along the San Antonio River and the Mission Reach. Students got the opportunity to connect with the outdoors while learning San Antonio history and culture.

Research

Researching the Granary Building at Mission San José



Research project at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, led by the University of Texas San Antonio, has been ongoing throughout 2022, working towards the completion of a Historic Structure Report for the Granary at Mission San José.



Soundscape and Acoustics Study at Mission Concepción



The Archdiocese of San Antonio was honored to welcome Fr. Menino Allan Tavares from Goa India, well known in international circles for his expertise in acoustics and in preserving and restoring the “aura” of historic churches, to visit Mission Concepción.

Over the course of several days, Dr. Tavares took acoustic measurements inside and outside of the mission. He then compared the San Antonio findings with the findings from the historic Franciscan Missions in Goa, India that are also part of a World Heritage site. His preliminary findings will be presented Spring 2023 at a conference in the United States.

US-ICOMOS Intern Studies Mission Espada



San Antonio Missions National Historical Park with support from Mission Heritage Partners collaborated with the United States National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (US-ICOMOS), now World Heritage USA, to host an international intern for the summer.

Séverine Collard from Belgium, worked with park staff to assess and supplement the cultural landscape report for Mission Espada.





“Skill Bridge” Intern Assists with Research and Compliance at Mission San Juan



San Antonio Missions National Historical Park partnered with Skill Bridge, a program that helps military personnel find new careers after the military service during the summer.

Jana Madrid worked with the park’s resources division to conduct research on Mission San Juan. This worked helped inform best practices for preservation projects and compliance. The internship was a success for both parties as the intern eventually converted to a permanent position with the National Park Service in the division of interpretation.



Mosaics in Science Diversity Intern Researches Stone at Mission Concepción



San Antonio Missions National Historical Park partnered with Mosaics in Science to host a youth intern to assist the park’s science program.

Emmanuel Quintero from the University of California at Berkley worked with park staff to conduct research into the stone at Mission Concepción. Intern Quintero looked into the chemical differences of the limestone at Mission Concepcion’s quarry and that of the stone used to build the mission structures.





US-ICOMOS Intern, Cultural Preservation, Motel Project



From June 18, 2022, to August 27, 2022, the World Heritage Office hosted an international intern from the United States Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (US/ICOMOS), now World Heritage USA. Fernanda Lucia Maez, in collaboration with the World Heritage Office, led a study and assessment of motels located within the World Heritage Buffer Zone. The study evaluated the socio-cultural dynamics of the motel industry and the opportunities for cultural preservation of the motels.

Latino Heritage Internship Program (LHIP) Intern



Through the summer of 2022, the park partnered with the Latino Heritage Internship Program (LHIP) program to host a summer intern from Puerto Rico. LHIP intern, David Gonzalez, led a citizen-science, crowd sourcing project, working with the community to gather modern-era historic photos of mission compounds to better tell recent chapters of the park history and its evolving landscapes.



History Intern Researches Land Ownership after Secularization



San Antonio Missions National Historical Park partnered with Mission Heritage Partners to host a local historian intern, Cristóbal López, a former Latino Heritage Internship Program (LHIP) intern to return and build on the research he completed the year before.



With assistance from Mission Heritage Partners, Cristóbal worked for approximately six months to research the deeds associated with the Indian Quarters, land plots, compound, and lineages after secularization at Mission San José. Cristóbal also assisted in special events, interpretive activities, and regularly presented his research at community meetings. After his internship, Cristóbal secured a job with Bexar County as an archivist.

Outreach & Tourism

El Camino de San Antonio Pilgrimage



The Archdiocese of San Antonio continues to welcome pilgrims to the San Antonio Mission churches and supports pilgrimage groups and individuals through El Camino de San Antonio Missions. The El Camino pilgrimage follows the river path to the 4 mission churches and San Fernando Cathedral. Pilgrims can arrange for pilgrimage guides or obtain information for self-guided pilgrimages on the El Camino website.



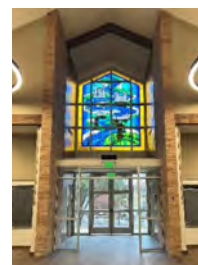
Excitingly, El Camino has partnered with the Archdiocese of Santiago, Spain to offer a Compostela to pilgrims who walk the designated El Camino de San Antonio pilgrimage trail. The Compostela will provide the pilgrim with 30 km credit toward the 100 km walking requirement of the Santiago Compostela for the Inglis route. In 2022 two pilgrimage groups completed the requirement and participants obtained their Compostelas.



El Camino also guided hundreds of pilgrims, who did not desire to walk the pilgrimage trail, through the missions and the Cathedral. Additionally, hundreds of pilgrims participated in the annual Care of Creation Mass and Pilgrimage and the San Juan Diego Pilgrimage to Mission San José.



To support increasing pilgrimage, the chapel and cafeteria of former St. John Seminary are being renovated and will become the Padre Margil Pilgrimage Center and Pope Francis Center. The renovated Pilgrimage Center will welcome visitors in May 2023. The Pilgrimage Center will be a meeting and gathering place filled with interactive stations, an informative video, children's activities and a snack bar with drinks, sandwiches, and light refreshments. The Pope Francis Center will house Mission Concepción's parish office and will be a meeting place for groups and event space for receptions and conferences.



San Antonio Missions National Historical Park Hosts World Heritage Experience Workshop



In January of 2022, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park organized and led a two-day workshop with leaders from the National Park Service, The San Antonio River Authority, Mission Heritage Partners, The Archdiocese of San Antonio/Las Misiones, Visit San Antonio, Bexar County, and the City of San Antonio’s World Heritage Office focused on enhancing collaboration among partners and increasing tourism and the visitor experience to the world heritage site.



Organization of World Heritage Cities Regional Secretariat Workshop



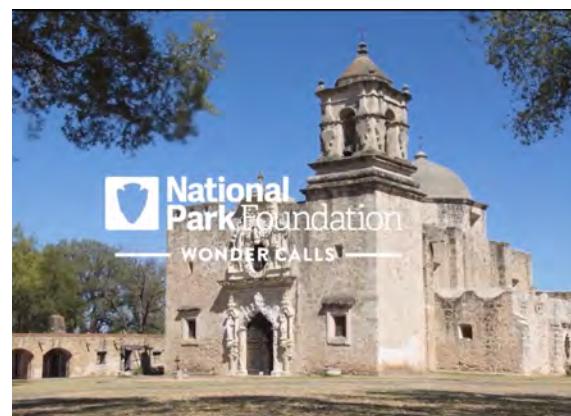
On May 6, 2022, the World Heritage Office attended and participated in the Regional Secretariat Workshop in Regensburg, Germany, along with member cities in Northwest and Central Europe and North America. The workshop focused on the methodology of “Design Thinking” and practical applications for World Heritage Cities. In the World Heritage City of Regensburg, the challenges of historic preservation and architecture were evaluated. In addition, the World Heritage City of Bamberg and its World Heritage Visitors Center was visited and the cultural history and heritage of the city were studied.

National Park Foundation features the Park in Multimedia Campaign



Building on the success of the park’s education program in 2022, the National Park Foundation selected San Antonio Missions National Historical Park to feature in its multimedia campaign inspiring its audiences to continue to support programs like “Open Outdoors for Kids.”

Park staff were filmed over the course of a week. The final products highlight the power of outdoor education and national park access for youth and for all.



Farmer’s & Artisan’s Markets at Mission Marquee Plaza



The World Heritage Office hosted Farmer’s and Artisan’s Markets, which took place twice a month from March through December 2022. Community programming was incorporated and offered access to free community yoga and Zumba classes for all fitness levels, nutritional education and resources, fresh locally sourced foods, interactive food demonstrations, health services, art activities, and cultural events.

During the market activity, SNAP and WIC cards were processed and over 300 senior vouchers were redeemed. The markets included four tree adoptions, where a total of 1200 trees were distributed. The program engaged local farmers, artisans, community partners, and businesses in the World Heritage area which are critical to serving the community and other stakeholders involved.



“World Heritage at 50: A Symposium on the Past, Present, and Future of the World Heritage Convention



World Heritage Convention



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

As part of the 50th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, of which the United States was the first country to sign, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park Superintendent Christine Jacobs joined other leaders from the National Park Service tasked with managing national parks designated as World Heritage Sites for the “World Heritage at 50: A Symposium on the Past, Present, and Future of the World Heritage Convention.”

Superintendent Jacobs spoke to peers about the opportunity to leverage world heritage tourism to better protect our shared world heritage resources and stories. San Antonio Missions National Historical Park is one of 24 world heritage sites in the United States. The National Park Service is the agency tasked with advising world heritage management practices for all sites in the United States, and manages 21 of the 24 sites. San Antonio Missions is proud to be a leader among NPS sites with world heritage inscriptions.



National Public Health Week at Mission Marquee Plaza

On April 7, 2022, the World Heritage Office, in partnership with the City of San Antonio Metro Health Department, hosted its annual National Public Health Week (NPHW) awareness event at Mission Marquee Plaza.

The event theme was “Public Health is Where You Are” and illustrated how Metro Health brings public health directly to where residents live and work. The event included over 30 community and city organizations that offered free health screenings and wellness resources. In addition to information on Metro Health programs, the event included fresh produce distribution, fiesta medal giveaways, live Mariachi performances, and free COVID-19 and flu vaccinations.

Certified Interpretive Guide Workshops



Thanks to support from Mission Heritage Partners, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park sponsored a week-long certified guide interpretive training for its staff as well as staff from community partners such as the San Antonio River Authority, Las Misiones, The City of San Antonio’s World Heritage Office, and members of the Professional Tour Guide Association of San Antonio.



Attendees received new accreditations as interpretive guide, upping the quality of interpretive experiences for all site visitors.

UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy Chef Ambassador Program



The 2021-2023 Chef Ambassador program selected six chefs to represent San Antonio UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy in local, national, and international activities such as festivals, media opportunities, and other events over a two-year period.

The selected chef ambassadors include: Lilla Bernal (Culinary Institute of America), John Brand (Hotel Emma), David Caceres (La Panaderia), Kelly Daughety (Ox Hunting Ranch), Jesse “Chef Kirk” Kuykendall (Hotel Havana and Milpa) and Stephen Paprocki (Chef Cooperatives).



The 16th World Congress of the Organization of World Heritage Cities



On September 6, 2022, the World Heritage Office attended and participated in the 16th World Congress of the Organization of World Heritage Cities in Quebec, Canada. The event hosted 172 participants from 27 countries. The theme of the Congress was “Enhancing Livability in World Heritage Cities” and the contributions of the delegation provided a framework for the Quebec Roadmap, a “New Urban Project.”



San Antonio River Authority engages with the public through media



The San Antonio River Authority engaged with the public through a variety of marketing platforms such as social media and digital opportunities. We encouraged the public to attend park programming, get involved in trash pickup related events, as well as recreation along the river. In 2022, the River Authority continued its Trash Initiative, “Don’t Let Litter Trash Your River” which encouraged the public across 4 counties to take a pledge and come together to help make our parks and river basin trash free.

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and San Antonio River Authority Hosts John Hopkins University



For two weeks in March of 2022, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park hosted John Hopkins University’s Cultural Heritage Management program students for the park-immersive learning experience. Students met with, toured with, and learned from park managers on a variety of subjects from historic preservation to civic engagement. The San Antonio River Authority provided an education tour where approximately 10 students learned about the Mission Reach Ecosystem and Restoration Project objectives, including reconnecting the San Antonio River to their historical importance to the San Antonio Missions and World Heritage.

Alamo Outreach & Community Events



The Alamo has always recognized the role that our armed services play in San Antonio. The women and men that serve our nation and make San Antonio Military City, USA are honored each year at the Alamo. We offer Military Appreciation Days for each branch of the military as well as honoring the families of those who serve on Military Appreciation Family Day.

Tejanos at the Alamo was celebrated on September 17th as a part of Hispanic Heritage Month. This even featured presentations by descendant families as well as displays from other cultural organizations.

2022 saw the creation of a new event “The Alamo for All”. This was a first ever sensory-friendly event that helped create a peaceful environment of inclusivity that supported visitors with special sensory needs.

The Alamo celebrated the legacy of Alamo defender and hometown hero Toribio Losoya on his birthday, April 11th . This event was in collaboration with Losoya family descendants, Hispanic Heritage Matters, Casa Navarro State Historic Site, The Daughters of the Republic of Texas, The Bexar County Heritage Center, UTSA’s Center for Archaeological Research.



Outdoor Family Film Series at Mission Marquee Plaza



The World Heritage Office hosted monthly movie nights as part of the Outdoor Family Film Series at Mission Marquee Plaza from May through November 2022 for a total of 20 events. The movie nights served as a welcoming, family-friendly gathering space that offered free programming to the local community.

The film series featured a variety of pre-entertainment with live music and dance performances, costume character meet and greets, astronomy activities, a bike ride and bike demonstration, car shows, and interactive make-and-take art tables. The program supported local community organizations, businesses, artisans, and food vendors in the World Heritage area.

World Heritage Management Group
Accomplishment Report

2022

Bexar County
Archdiocese of San Antonio
City of San Antonio World Heritage Office
San Antonio River Authority
Mission Heritage Partners
San Antonio Missions National Historical Park
Alamo Trust/Texas General Land Office

