

San Antonio Missions World Heritage Site

World Heritage Management Group Accomplishment Report

2021



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





VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Park Guide leading a tour in summer 2021

World Heritage Cities Workshop: “Digitization in Cultural Heritage Management”

The World Heritage Office participated in a virtual workshop about digitization and virtual cultural heritage programming and management during the pandemic. WHO presented about its pivot to virtual programming on world heritage in San Antonio. The department shared background and key learnings about virtual programs within the World Heritage Area, including online events for Mission Marquee Plaza, the World Heritage Festival, and various community meetings and open houses. The workshop was part of the Organization of World Heritage Cities' regional meeting on October 25, 2021.

National Park Service Investment in Facilities

The National Park Service made substantial investments in the long term up keep of facilities with both completed and planned projects. In the Visitor Center at Mission San José, HVAC design work is underway, the interior was repainted and deep cleaned in its entirety. The Harris House, which houses Mission Heritage Partners offices, has an exterior envelope rehabilitation design underway and the wood floors were refurbished. At Mission Espada the museum wood floors were also refurbished, and masonry repairs at Mission San Juan continue throughout the year.



Visitor Center building

Mission Reach Reaches Thousands
Trail counters located at five different locations along the Mission Reach trail counted 520,411 visitors this year.



Cyclists on Mission Reach



U.S. Highway 90 Beautification Project
The World Heritage Office hosted a ribbon-cutting dedication on December 14 for the U.S. Highway 90 Beautification Project and AARP Community Challenge Grant. The event, held at the corner of Steves Avenue and Mission Road beneath the U.S Highway 90 underpass, included remarks by Councilmembers Phyllis Viagran (District 3) and Teri Castillo (District 5), the World Heritage Office, Department of Arts & Culture, and AARP. The beautification project consisted of benches, sidewalks, lighting, artwork, and landscaping, encouraging wellness and enhancing connectivity to public art along the World Heritage Trail.

World Heritage Office Digital Statistics

World Heritage SA [Visitor Website](#)
2021 Visitors: 23,843 (16,759 in 2020)
2021 Top 10 Countries of Visitors:
United States, Canada, Mexico, India, United Kingdom, Japan, France, Germany, Spain, Ireland

2021 [Audio Tour](#) Visitors:
Mission Concepción: 3,418 (2,106 in 2020)
Mission San José: 5,616 (2,501 in 2020)
Mission San Juan: 1,658 (1,071 in 2020)
Mission Espada: 1,407 (881 in 2020)

2021 World Heritage Office Wi-Fi Users:
Mission Concepción: 1,025 (529 in 2020)
Mission San José: 2,016 (669 in 2020)
Mission San Juan: 297 (126 in 2020)
Mission Espada: 282 (206 in 2020)

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park hosted 1.33 million visitors in 2021. [Read Press Release here.](#)

Approved Street Names Changes
On June 10, San Antonio City Council passed an ordinance approving the renaming of portions of Mission Road, Mission Parkway, Acequia, and Ashley Road, all located within the World Heritage Area in Council Districts 3 and 5.



World Heritage Community Meeting

World Heritage Community Meeting

District 3 and the City of San Antonio hosted a World Heritage Community Meeting on Nov. 16, 2021. The meeting focused on investments underway as part of 2017-2022 Bond Projects within the World Heritage Buffer Zone. Councilwoman Phyllis Viagran, the World Heritage Office and Development Services gave presentations with updates on World Heritage Area projects, and other City departments had resource tables with additional information. Attendees included representatives from Mission San José Neighborhood Association, Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association, Mission Heritage Partners, Las Misiones, National Park Service, Bike Texas, Credit Human, Frost Bank, San Antonio Light house for the Blind, SABOT Development, Phyllis Browning Co., Bexar County, San Antonio Housing Authority, Harlandale Sunshine Pantry, San Antonio River Authority, Southside First, and LULAC.

Padre Margil Pilgrimage Center, Pope Francis Center and Margie and Bill Klesse Gardens

The building of a [pilgrimage center](#) began this year with the renovation of the St. John's Seminary Chapel and its Cafeteria. Located behind Mission Concepción, the pilgrimage center will provide information and support for visitors as well as space for conferences and events.



Rendering of the Pilgrimage Center

Public Safety & Homeless Encampment

The World Heritage Office with the National Park Service, San Antonio River Authority, Bexar County, SAPD, Park Police and other Law enforcement agencies, as well as various City of San Antonio departments identified solutions to address homeless and security concerns in the World Heritage Area. As a result, the Parks and Recreation Department extended and expanded the Trail Stewards program and the Department of Human Services (DHS) provided training to partners on resources for homeless. The group identified strategies to educate and train partners agencies on the reporting process for homeless encampments; connected partners with the San Antonio Police Department and DHS to report homeless encampments and activity.

Lenten Season at the Missions

The Lenten season began in February with the distribution of Ashes. Due to the pandemic, ashes were distributed by dusting them on the recipient's head instead of the usual cross on the forehead. During Lent Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller carried the cross to all the mission churches with a message of solidarity for the community's suffering. During Holy Week and Easter, numerous indoor and outdoor Masses were celebrated over the week. Pilgrimage groups traveled to each mission church to reflect and be refreshed by the sacred space of the missions.



Archbishop carrying the cross



Outdoor Mass at Mission San José

Care of Creation Mass

September is the Season of Creation when the Christian family unites for a worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. The Archdiocese sponsored a Mass and Pilgrimage to Mission San Juan to promote San Antonio's Care of Creation.



Blessing of the animals

Pandemic Ministry

The mission church parishes suffered losses due to the pandemic but continued to minister to the community by bringing the celebration of Mass and other sacraments outdoors, offering online Mass and reflection options, and by keeping the churches open not only to parishioners but to the public.

Feast of St. Francis

Oct. 4, 2021 on the Feast of St. Francis, the mission parishes had blessings of the animals at the missions. Popular with the parish and community animals of all variety are blessed.

OUTREACH



Dancers before Dia de los Muertos event at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

Fourth Annual Dia de los Muertos Celebrando las Misiones

The World Heritage Office presented its 4th annual [Dia de los Muertos event](#) at Mission Marquee Plaza on Oct. 30, 2021. The event featured the National Park Service, mission descendants, the San José Neighborhood Association, and several local businesses and vendors, and other community organizations. San Antonio Missions National Historical Park hosted their 7th annual event Ofrendas in the Granary which featured mission descendant family altars in the Mission San José granary for two weeks leading up to Day of the Dead holiday.

Parish Altars on Feast of All Saints

On Nov. 1 and 2, 2021 mission parishes celebrate the Feast of All Saints and the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls) where the community unites its heart with and remembers in a special way the faithful departed. Altars or Ofrendas containing pictures of deceased parishioners and mementos of their lives are popular in the churches and homes of the parishioners.

International Award for Best Overall Program

City of San Antonio was named the winner of the Sister Cities International 2021 Award for Best Overall Program for a city with a population greater than 300,000. San Antonio was selected for the Award for Best Overall Program for key projects that included an outdoor panel exhibit and [video project](#) between San Antonio and Suzhou, China with a spotlight on World Heritage led by the World Heritage Office in collaboration with San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and the San Antonio Museum of Art.



Suzhou Exhibit

“Emerging to My Sacred Self”

On Jan. 23, 2021 Andrea "Vocab" Sanderson -the first Black, Poet Laureate of San Antonio and dance artist Amber Ortega explored identity and heritage with a virtual poetry performance during the city's DreamWeek. This event was hosted through Facebook Live with the beautiful backdrop of Mission San Juan. This virtual poetry performance focused on life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in the midst of uncertainty, insecurities and simply not knowing. It was about identity, heritage, and finding peace with who you are.



Andrea "Vocab" Sanderson and Amber Ortega



World Heritage Festival September 8-12

The World Heritage Office and its partners held the 6th annual World Heritage Festival with in-person and virtual programming. The festival included a special Sept. 11 commemoration to San Antonio's military and first responders, the return of Restored by Light, an outdoor exhibit celebrating San Antonio's Sister City relationship with Darmstadt, Germany, and several virtual offerings. The annual Tour de Las Misiones also produced a record-number of registrants.

Bexar County donated \$10,000 to the World Heritage Week celebrations as well as underwriting the use of the Mission County Park for Tour de las Misiones World Heritage Event.

Outdoor Family Film Series

The World Heritage Office returned to in-person movie screenings from May-September. A total of 13 movies were screened for free and included live performances by the Woodlawn Theatre Academy at select events. The program supported other local community organizations, businesses, and food vendors in the World Heritage Area.

World Heritage Virtual Open House

The World Heritage Office hosted a [virtual open house](#) on April 20 to provide the community with updates on projects and programs in the World Heritage Area including bond projects, street name change, signage and wayfinding, and the upcoming World Heritage Center.

World Heritage Center Interpretive Plan

In December the World Heritage Office and the Witte Museum hosted a community input meeting at the Mission Branch Library. The Witte presented the Interpretive Plan draft for the new World Heritage Center for community feedback and to answer questions. Currently, the World Heritage Center is in the final design development stages and is scheduled to break ground in late 2022.

Farmers & Artisans Market

[Mission Marquee](#) Plaza's outdoor markets returned to in-person format monthly from April through September. The program offered the community access to food and nutritional resources, health services, and cultural programming that represented the community's history and traditions. The markets featured demos and other educational resources and fresh food offerings from the San Antonio Food Bank Mobile Mercado, free tree giveaways presented by San Antonio Parks & Recreation, and supported local farmers, artisans, and businesses in the World Heritage Area.



Superintendent at Native Plants event

Native Plants of the Missions

As part of Latino Conservation Week, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park hosted an event July 24th celebrating conservation, sustainability, and highlighting Mission San Juan's pollinator garden. Partners included Texas Conservation Coprs, Latino Outdoors, Texas Invaders, Compost Queens, and San Antonio Audubon Society.

30th Annual "Make It Your Mission" Gala [Mission Heritage Partners](#), the official friends' group to San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, held their 30th annual "Make It Your Mission Celebration" at Mission San Juan. A large portion of the proceeds goes to underwrite programs and infrastructure projects for the park.

Collaboration with Briscoe Western Art Museum

The National Park Service partnered with Briscoe Western Art Museum in October to bring two special programs, one with a park ranger at the Briscoe titled "Landscape and Memory: How the Spanish Colonial Mission Sites Shaped the American West", and the other with a museum member at Mission San José titled "Make Your Own Mission".

2021 #FilmSA Contest

The World Heritage Office partnered with the City of San Antonio Department of Arts & Culture on the annual #FilmSA film contest that invited local young filmmakers to create short films focused on the theme, "New Beginning. New Vision. New City" to showcase how San Antonio has continued to celebrate its heritage and culture during the pandemic. The two winning films were entered into the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) International Video Production Competition, a contest with the same theme as the #FilmSA Contest. Each year the competition provides winners from locally held contests in the network to compete for additional cash prizes and recognition at the OWHC's Virtual General Assembly.

Watch: 2021 #FilmSA Winner – "[San Antonio Strong](#)"

Watch: 2021 #FilmSA Winner – "[Maria's Café](#)"



Gala at Mission San Juan

Virtual Yoga and Zumbathon

Mission Marquee Plaza kicked off the 2021 programming season with its first-ever virtual Yoga con Alma and Baile Con Juntos Zumba sessions in March. Yoga con Alma featured yoga performed to the to live flamenco music by Los Flamencos de San Antonio, while Baile con Juntos got the community moving with Zumba to the sounds of local Tejano legends, Max Baca y Los Texmaniacs. MixFitSA and several local fitness instructors led these free online presentations, recorded on location at Mission Marquee Plaza. Watch: [Yoga con Alma and Baile Con Juntos Zumba](#)



Yoga con Alma

Viva Poesia: Palabras, Musica, y Cultura Virtual Event

The World Heritage Office presented San Antonio's annual National Poetry Month kick-off event, "[Viva Poesa 2021: Palabras, Msica, Y Cultura](#)" on April 3 as a virtual event. The seventh annual event showcased three San Antonio spoken-word artists, Good Spirit of T'ai Chi Ch'uan, and musical performances by Agarita Chamber Music Ensemble.

Watch: Seventh Annual Viva Poesia

Metro Health Community Popup Vaccine Clinics

The World Heritage Office, in partnership with San Antonio Metro Health, hosted three in-person popup vaccine clinics June-Aug. 2021 as a resource for the community to get free Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, and Pfizer Covid-19 vaccines. The events also included free health screenings, wellness resources, giveaways, and more. The events were advertised through social media and radio and print media ads.

El Camino de San Antonio Missions

The El Camino de San Antonio Missions is a ministry of the Archdiocese of San Antonio that encourages and supports pilgrimages to San Antonio Missions. El Camino provides materials for self-guided walks as well as docents that can guide groups through the missions. Despite Covid-19 restrictions, numerous pilgrimage groups walked, biked, and drove to the mission churches.



Seminarians at Mission Espada

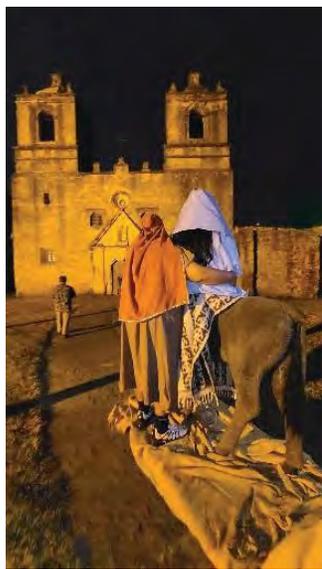
Fiesta Youth Back-to-School Bash

The World Heritage Office, in partnership with Fiesta Youth, a local LGBTQ youth organization, held a back-to-school event at Mission Marquee Plaza on Aug. 14. The free family-friendly event featured live entertainment, art, community resources, health screenings, backpack and school supplies giveaways, and healthy foods and produce bags, and more. More than 30 local organizations and businesses participated in the event to provide information and resources to the community.

History and Genealogy Day
 San Antonio Missions National Historical Park hosted its annual History and Genealogy Day on April 17, 2021 as part of National Park Week. Families with ties to the missions interacted and shared their stories with national park visitors at Mission San Jos. Historical societies and institution were also present with information and genealogy research tools.



History and Genealogy Day



Posada

Vice-Consulate of Hungary Visits Mission San Juan

The Archdiocese of San Antonio welcomes visitors to the missions from all over the world. In 2021 the Consulate General of Hungary, Tama Szeles, and Vice-Consulate of Hungary, Gabor Markoscany visited Mission San Juan as part of the partnership it has with Hungary to restore the Mission’s statue of San Juan Capistrano.

Posada at Mission Concepción

December at the mission churches features a number of Advent traditions including the Posada. Each of the mission churches has a Posada featuring Mary and Joseph in search of shelter and the refusal of some to offer relief. This year the December Posada at the Mission Concepción church featured a lifelike donkey to carry Mary to her destination.

Preserving Cultural Images

Images of the Virgin of Guadalupe can be found in all of the mission churches. Many in San Antonio hold a fervent devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe and her maternal presence. On December 11th approximately 400 matachine dancers departed from Mission San Juan and danced the entire way to Mission San José about 3 miles along Mission Reach trail in honor of the Virgin of Guadalupe with their intentions and prayers.



Matachines at Mission Concepción

PRESERVATION



Relocating Sagittaria to the San Antonio River

Texas Conservation Corps and San Antonio River Authority

The Texas Conservation Corps and the San Antonio River Authority worked together at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park to relocate the native species Sagittaria (or Arrowhead plant) from the Espada acequia to the San Antonio River in May 2021. More than 2,000 plants are expected to be relocated with this effort. This project not only supports the cultural resource of the acequias by removing plants that obstruct the water flow, but benefits natural park resources by preserving native plant species. Acequias, established here about 300 years ago, were the lifeblood of the missions and continue to be used for irrigation. They are a key cultural resource in the park and within the San Antonio Missions World Heritage Site. San Antonio Missions National Historical Park is committed to preserving these internationally significant landscape features.

Cultural Landscape Apprentice Program

National Park Service implemented the [Cultural Landscape Apprentice Program](#) to increase operational capacity in grounds maintenance that contributes to visitor enjoyment. This collaboration between the National Park Foundation, National Park Service, Mission Heritage Partners, and American YouthWorks' Texas Conservation Corps, matches local Hispanic/Latino young adults with opportunities to learn about cultural landscape management in a hands-on environment alongside employees at the national park. The program prepares participants for careers in conservation, water management, and environmental planning.



Cultural Landscape Apprentice

Online Workshop on Risk Management

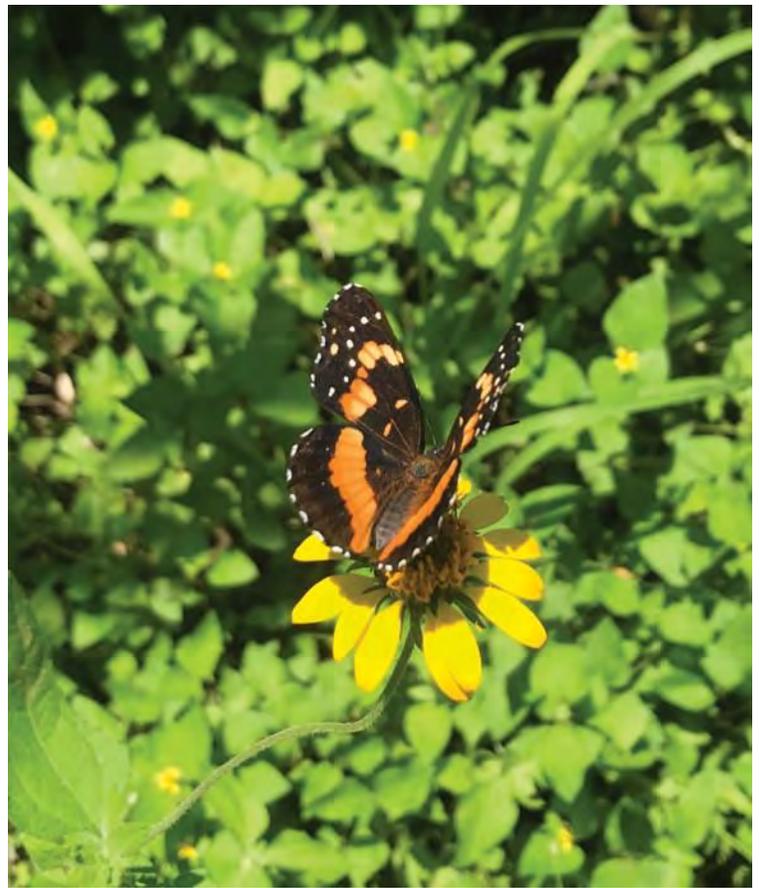
The World Heritage Office participated in an online workshop on risk management hosted jointly by the Organization of World Heritage Cities Regional Secretariat for Northwest Europe and North America together with HERITAGE PRO, an EU project for developing training programs in heritage management. 15 participants from 10 OWHC member cities as well as partners from the Heritage Pro network met to discuss future challenges from Climate Change to COVID-19 and its impact on heritage management.

Cultural Heritage Workshops

The World Heritage Office was invited to participate in a two-part series of webinars hosted by Kairós, which is a URBACT Action Planning Network focused on cultural heritage as a driver for sustainable urban development and regeneration. The webinars focused on determining common challenges and the potential of cultural heritage for urban redevelopment and regeneration and the potential and role of the community in heritage-based urban regeneration and how this is connected to urban resilience and sustainability.

Five World Heritage Center Focus Group Sessions

Focus group sessions on the upcoming World Heritage Center were held June-July in collaboration with the World Heritage Office and the Witte Museum. Stakeholders representing partners, local agencies, culture and community, parish and legacy families, tourism and business, and educational and research entities attended. Sessions focused on the visitor experience, exhibitions, programming, and facility use.



Bordered Patch Butterfly at Mission San Juan



Old classroom and Cuellar House at Mission Espada

US/ICOMOS Internship Study

Mission Heritage Partners and San Antonio Missions National Historical Park hosted Laurent Genereaux, a young Canadian architect, in Sept.-Nov. 2021 as a part of the U.S. National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (US/ICOMOS) foreign exchange internship program. Laurent completed a condition assessment and treatment recommendations report for the old classroom and the Cuellar house along the northwest indigenous quarters at Mission Espada. This important work will guide future preservation of these resources.

History of the Cemetery at Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo

The 2021 Latino Heritage Internship Program Intern, Cristóbal López, completed a detailed investigation of primary and secondary sources including deed records and historic photographs to complete a report on the late 19th century use of the area between the granary and church as a cemetery. This research was presented to the public and is available to view on the [park's website](#).

Best Practices in Stone Building Preservation Management Manual

University of Texas at San Antonio's Center for Cultural Sustainability and the park conducted a virtual symposium about best management practices for Spanish Colonial stone building preservation management. This was the culmination of 3 earlier hands-on preservation workshops in 2016-2018. Experts in risk management, lime mortars, plaster conservation, water management, and more provided technical papers which were synthesized into a manual to guide park managers through preservation decisions. The Best Practices in Stone Building Preservation Management Manual is available to download through the [park's website](#).



*Mission San José c. 1889-1893
Photograph courtesy of the DeGolyer
Library, Southern Methodist University.*



POW WOW at Mission County Park

Preservation of Cultural Heritage

Bexar County was proud to underwrite the location for the annual United San Antonio POW WOW, an official Fiesta San Antonio event. The POW WOW promotes tribal traditions, cultures, and the opportunity to celebrate with one another. The site of the event, Mission Park Pavilions and is located within San Antonio Missions National Historical Park boundary. This event brings in many local residents and visitors to the area for an opportunity to witness the cultural heritage being preserved. Various community vendors provided food, drinks, and authentic wares.



Moisture monitoring at the Alamo

Moisture Monitoring Program

With the historic stone masonry at the Alamo church deteriorating at a significant rate, the Moisture Monitoring Program measures moisture flow into and out of the masonry walls. Moisture inflows are from groundwater, soil moisture, rain, and moisture vapor in the interior and exterior air. Moisture outflows are limited to drying of the stone to the interior and exterior air. The results of the one-year program, combined with the results of other testing programs for the stone and mortar, will inform the decision-making process as to the interventions that can reduce deterioration of the Alamo church masonry and extant interior finishes.

Reopening and Repairs on the Alamo Long Barrack

The Long Barrack was closed during the Discovery Phase of the Preservation Plan for the Alamo church and Long Barrack. After the archaeological units were back filled the space was cleaned up and open to the public. The Long Barrack roof deficiencies were repaired under current warranty and structural repairs for the below grade and above grade masonry walls include deep repointing, pinning and grouting.

Las Misiones Preserve Mission Churches

[Archdiocese of San Antonio](#), through Las Misiones, performed annual maintenance inspections, preventative maintenance, and routine repairs at the churches of Mission Concepción, San José, San Juan and Espada. This year's preservation efforts were also supported by the biannual Rose Window Gala bringing over 600 people. The gala focused on the immediate repairs of the Mission San José roof and tower. With the support of our generous donors, we will be able to complete the Mission San José repairs in 2022.



Restoration work at Mission Concepción

EDUCATION



Junior Ranger signing her book



Education ranger on tour

Park Receives National Park Foundation Grant

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park received an [Open OutDoors for Kids grant](#) from the National Park Foundation (NPF). This grant provided education programs for thousands of school kids throughout the community. "This exciting opportunity allows us to welcome and reach so many more school children, especially fourth and seventh grade students taking Texas History.

"Through engaging and fun teaching, they can learn about the national park in their neighborhood" said park superintendent Christine Jacobs. Through this grant the park hired four seasonal education park

rangers to provide programs within the park, in classrooms and virtually.

World Heritage Cities Coloring Poster

The World Heritage Office worked with the Organization of World Heritage Cities to launch a coloring poster for kids featuring several World Heritage Sites. The poster is available for [free online](#), and kids can explore the San Antonio Missions by downloading the coloring sheet and coloring the printout.



World Heritage Cities coloring poster 15

World Heritage Team Training

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park hosted a week long Certified Interpretive Guide training for San Antonio Missions World Heritage educators and interpreters. Special thanks to Mission Heritage Partners for sponsorship. Participants included individuals from: Mission Heritage Partners, City of San Antonio World Heritage Office, San Antonio River Authority Archdiocese of San Antonio/Las Misiones and The Professional Tour Guide Association of San Antonio who joined the national park staff in this week long training.



Certified Interpretive Guide training in 2021

Rancho de las Cabras Tours Began
Beginning on Oct. 2nd, 2021, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park offered monthly ranger guided tours of Rancho de las Cabras. These hour-long tours explored the stories, myths, and mysteries surrounding Rancho de las Cabras. A park ranger also went Live on Wilson County News talking about Rancho de las Cabras.

[Watch the interview here.](#)



First tour at Rancho de las Cabras.



Texas Tech University Archeology
Dr. Tamra Walter with Texas Tech University in collaboration with the National Park Service led a five week field school for archeology students at Mission San José to investigate the age and original use of the capped limestone ruins in the compound. Fourteen students learned about archaeological techniques, mission culture, and analysis of artifacts. Their research will help the San Antonio Missions tell a more accurate story of the people of the missions.

San Antonio UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy

*In 2017, San Antonio was designated as a **Creative City of Gastronomy** by UNESCO, becoming the 2nd city in the United States to receive this designation. Gastronomy is the celebration of our local culinary heritage and culture, but also how we sustain, share and blend it with new influences. Staying true to our roots, yet open to innovation, San Antonio's gastronomy is a multi-layered confluence of cultures that is continuously evolving.*

City of Gastronomy Exhibition Hall - April

San Antonio was featured at the 2021 International Horticultural Exposition in Yangzhou, China. A garden was dedicated to the City of San Antonio designed by the San Antonio River Authority.



North American Friendship Garden Dedication at Confluence Park - June

World Heritage Office was a collaborative partner for the dedication of the North American Friendship Garden. The garden highlights San Antonio's longstanding connections to Mexico and Canada, while promoting sustainability and pollinators, such as butterflies, bees, and bats that are essential to our food supply.

Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival at Confluence Park- Oct.

World Heritage Office (WHO) provided information and resources to festival attendees, as well as wildflower pollinator kits with seeds. WHO also partnered with Merida, MX, another UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy, to premiere a short film as part of the local festival on bees as pollinators and honey production in the Yucatan.



Pueblos del Maiz at Mission Marquee Plaza - Nov.

Corn as a traditional ingredient in many local foods was celebrated as part of a multi-city series of events called "**Pueblos del Maiz**" with Tucson, AZ; Mérida, MX; and Puebla, MX. The event included popcorn kits with corn from the Mission San Juan farm and chocolate champurrado from the San Antonio Food Bank, as well as many other contributors and partners. In the evening, a special screening of the film, "Tortilla Soup," finished the day's activities.



Tamal Institute: SA Lighthouse for the Blind and Vision Impaired

World Heritage Office presented a tamal-making demo at San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind and Vision Impaired. The workshop was led by SA Creative City of Gastronomy Chef Ambassador Jesse "Chef Kirk" Kuykendall for staff at San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind. Chef Kirk also shared the history and culture behind one of San Antonio's favorite traditional foods.



Ofrenda highlighting Native American culture

Plans for Native American Cultural Center
Bexar County's most recent commitment is for a Native American Cultural Center located within the buffer zone of the world heritage site. The center will allow for a cultural heritage opportunity with events and activities that highlight the lives of those who lived in and around the missions and provide an opportunity for them to celebrate their cultural traditions.

Video Heritage Tours

The Conservation Society of San Antonio partnered with the National Park Service and El Camino de San Antonio Missions to produce Heritage Education [Virtual Tours](#) for Missions San José and Concepción. Designed for fourth graders studying Texas history, the virtual tours provided a safe way to bring the history of the World Heritage Missions and San Antonio to school children during the pandemic. The video production was supported by The Edouard Foundation, the Mirza Trust and HEB. They can be viewed on the Conservation Society website [here](#).



Angel on the San José church facade



"We're Still Here" ribbon cutting at airport

We're Still Here Exhibit

Wednesday, Oct.13, 2021 San Antonio Missions National Historical Park officially revealed its exhibit "[We're Still Here: San Antonio Missions Descendant Stories](#)" inside San Antonio International Airport. A small ribbon cutting ceremony with the participating families was held at the exhibit site inside Terminal B Wednesday morning. A duplicate is now on display inside the Visitor Center at Mission San José.



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