



**San Antonio Missions
National Historical Park**

**San Antonio
Missions
World Heritage
Site Annual
Accomplishment
Report**

2020

Contributing Partners:

City of San Antonio World
Heritage Office

San Antonio River Authority

Archdiocese of San Antonio





A Spanish Dagger, Yucca gloriosa flowering in front of Mission San José church.

Introduction

San Antonio Missions World Heritage Site was inscribed in 2015 by the World Heritage Committee and is the only World Heritage Site in Texas. The site encompasses five frontier mission complexes along a stretch of the San Antonio River basin, as well as a ranch located to the south in Floresville. Consistent with the 2019 World Heritage Site Management Plan, this annual report highlights the accomplishments of the World Heritage Management Group and our primary partners toward the preservation and protection of the World Heritage Site. It is through world class interpretation, education, and preservation of the Spanish Colonial features identified in the Outstanding Universal Value of the inscription, that we will ensure the San Antonio Missions for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine Jacobs'.

Christine Jacobs, Superintendent of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park



San Antonio Missions National Historical Park is a Living, Dynamic Site Central to Community Identity & Cultural Continuity.

Mission descendants at Dia de los Muertos, a special event hosted at Mission San José

Mission Marquee Plaza Dia de los Muertos Virtual Celebration

The World Heritage Office held its third annual Mission Marquee Plaza Dia de los Muertos celebration as a virtual event on November 1, 2020. The program included an outdoor art exhibit on the grounds of Mission Marquee Plaza that featured works by 11 San Antonio artists. "Alive in Memory & Spirit," curated by Rigoberto Luna, was a visual interpretation of some of the critical contributors to San Antonio, the missions and the surrounding area. The exhibit was also available for viewing online. In addition to commissioning the artworks, the World Heritage Office also engaged with local mission descendant families to create Dia de los Muertos altars. The pre-recorded program drew over 1,800 views, and was presented on YouTube and Facebook.

World Heritage Festival

The 5th Annual World Heritage Festival was held September 8-13, 2020 and commemorated the 300th anniversary of Mission San José. The World Heritage Festival is an annual collaborative event organized by the World Heritage Office and its partners to celebrate and promote the San Antonio Missions and raise funds to preserve, promote, and connect. For the safety and wellbeing of the community during the pandemic, many World Heritage Festival events transitioned to virtual events with online components or remained as outdoor events for social distancing.



Mission Marquee Plaza Dia de los Muertos Celebration

San José Drive Restoration & Landscape Project

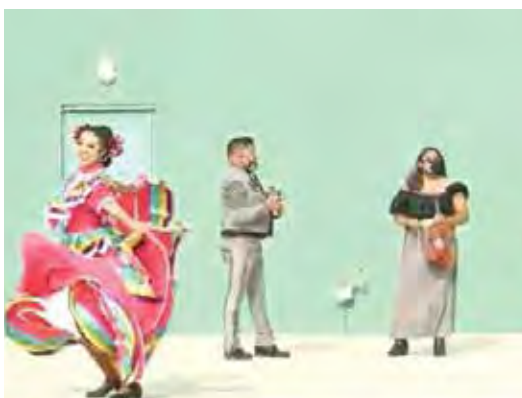
The World Heritage Office invested \$119,000 for the San José Drive Restoration & Landscape Project that was completed in April 2020. The project removed approximately 835 linear feet of asphalt roadway and re-purposed it with seeded grass and natural vegetation to expand San Antonio Missions National Historical Park's existing open space. This also improved pedestrian connectivity between the national park and the San Antonio River. The project aligns with the San Antonio Missions National Historical Long Range Master Plan, Mission Drive-In Master Plan Framework, and the Mission-To-River Connectivity Project.



Ranger Program

Mission Marquee Plaza Virtual Zumbathons

The World Heritage Office promoted healthy living by providing two live-stream virtual



Mission Marquee Plaza Virtual Zumbathon

Zumbathons in 2020 as a way to keep residents and visitors actively engaged with fitness activities during the pandemic, while staying safe at home. The Selena Zumbathon was held on June 6, 2020, and celebrated the “Queen of Tejano Music,” Selena Quintanilla-Perez. On September 19, 2020, in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, the World Heritage Office presented a Mariachi Zumbathon. Both virtual events were filmed on location at Mission Marquee Plaza, near Mission San José, and premiered on YouTube and/or Facebook.

World Heritage Trail Pole Banners

The World Heritage Office works with a local vendor to print, install, and maintain the way-finding street pole banners throughout the World Heritage Area each year. In 2020, the World Heritage Office once again had banners printed and installed to replace missing or faded banners due to the natural elements, and ahead of key events including Mission San José’s 300th anniversary and the World Heritage Festival.

AARP Community Challenge Grant

In summer 2020, the World Heritage Office was selected as an AARP 2020 Community Challenge Grant recipient for a component of the U.S. Highway 90 Underpass Beautification Project. The “quick action” project is located below the U.S. Highway 90 Underpass at Mission Road and Steves Avenue in the World Heritage Area. This project will include a design enhancement and bench seating that complements the “Windows to Our Heritage” World Heritage public art project, as well as to help activate a new public space and beautify the underpass. The City is also making infrastructure investments to this underpass location, as well as S. Presa Street and Roosevelt Avenue that includes sidewalks, hardscape, and landscaping.



AARP Community Challenge Grant



Viva Poesia at Mission Marquee

Mission Marquee Plaza’s Viva Poesia: Palabra, Música, y Cultura

The World Heritage Office held the sixth-annual Viva Poesia: Palabra, Música, y Cultura event on June 13, 2020. Originally scheduled to serve as the official City of San Antonio National Poetry Month kick-off event on April 4, 2020, Viva Poesía 2020 was transformed into an online celebration because of the pandemic and focused on the 300th anniversary of Mission San José. All programming content centered on the storied three-centuries-long history of the "Queen of the Missions," including the indigenous traditions rooted in the area

for thousands of years and the resulting confluence of cultures that developed and remain vital to our San Antonio. The event included a vibrant offering of literary, visual, musical, and dramatic arts through spoken-word performances, live music, photography, graphic design, and dance from some of San Antonio’s creative community. The event was live streamed from Mission Marquee Plaza and featured the participation of the pastor at Mission San José Church and local mission descendants. The program was presented to 4,726 viewers on Facebook and 435 viewers on YouTube.

2020 Virtual Tamal Institute

The World Heritage Office and its collaborative partners presented a community project to expand the knowledge on the history and cultural significance of tamales and tamaladas in San Antonio. The virtual program was a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy initiative that took place as a series over three months from October through December. Two pre-recorded cooking demos and three video tutorials taught participants how to prepare tamales, while a virtual panel discussion shared the historic and cultural significance of tamales. The event also included participation by four UNESCO Creative Cities of Gastronomy: Ensenada, Merida, Portoviejo and Belo Horizonte. Each program in the series was shown on YouTube and Facebook.



2020 Virtual Tamal Institute



Mission San José Tricentennial Mural by Sandra Gonzalez

Mission San José Tricentennial Mural

In 2020, San Antonio commemorated the tricentennial of Mission San José with a mural, titled *Heritage*, on an exterior wall of the Visitor Center. Created by local artist and teacher Sandra Gonzalez, *Heritage* commemorates 300 years since Mission San José’s founding in 1720. Sandra’s artwork respectfully acknowledges the city and mission community’s cultural and natural history. The virtual unveiling ceremony, featuring park partners and mission descendants, was broadcast on the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park Facebook page.

World Heritage Ambassador Program

The World Heritage Ambassador Program is managed by the City of San Antonio World Heritage Office and is a collaborative effort with Visit San Antonio and its Certified Tourism Ambassador (CTA) program. The program is part of the World Heritage Work Plan to better engage San Antonio residents with visitors and provide a unique and enhanced experience when visiting the city. For 2020, the World Heritage Office updated the online course with a new module on San Antonio's UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy designation. The new module gives an overview of the Creative Cities designation and how it intersects with the World Heritage Site designation. For 2020, there were 203 registered World Heritage Ambassadors.



History & Genealogy Day

Coffee Chat with a Ranger

Throughout 2020, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park offered a Facebook virtual series every first Friday of the month to answer frequently asked questions. Participants learned about the park and chatted live with a Park Ranger from the comfort of their home. Monthly topics included park activities, outdoor recreation opportunities, upcoming events, and park FAQs from our direct messages.



Coffee Chat with a Ranger

National Park Week

In April 2020, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park offered several virtual public programs for National Park Week. Over the course of the week, the park offered a live story-time, performance of America the Beautiful, art workshops, and an interactive poetry workshop. All programs were free.



Mission Healthy Heart Walk

Mission Healthy Heart Walk

In early 2020, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, Mission Trail Baptist Hospital, Mission Heritage Partners, Harvey E. Najim YMCA, Brooks, South SA Chamber, and City of SA District 3 Councilwoman Rebecca Viagran offered a free 30 minute walk on the beautiful grounds of Mission San José for Heart Month. Doctors from the Baptist Health System led the walk and answered questions about health and outdoor exercise.





History & Genealogy Day

North American Friendship Garden

The North American Friendship Garden at Confluence Park is a collaborative effort by the Consulate General of Canada in Texas and the Consulate General of Mexico in San Antonio, the City of San Antonio, San Antonio River Authority, and San Antonio River Foundation. This trilateral effort symbolizes the close ties between the peoples of Canada, Mexico, and the San Antonio community. As the Monarch Butterfly and other migrating species travel between Canada, Mexico, and San Antonio, the North American Friendship Garden reminds visitors that through respect,

dialogue, and a true spirit of collaboration, all communities can be nurtured and thrive. The importance of the North American Friendship Garden goes well beyond a symbolic gesture of tri-lateral goodwill. This 2,500 square foot pollinator garden enhances the existing ecosystem restoration benefits found nearby on the Mission Reach of the San Antonio River Walk by adding native grasses, wildflowers, trees, and shrubs that provide year-round opportunities for Monarch Butterflies and other pollinators, as well as resident and migratory birds.

Archdiocese Public Engagement

The San Antonio Archdiocese has promoted a variety of events through mainstream and social media increasing the visibility of the mission churches. Sacred Sanctuary programs were taped at each mission church and shown on Catholic Television and other media outlets. Restrictions due to the pandemic were instituted in April resulting in fewer religious services. However, the masses at Missions San José, San Juan, and Espada were conducted outdoors increasing the visibility of the services. Likewise funerals and weddings continued to occur but outdoors. The Archdiocese sponsored a Care of Creation Outdoor Mass and tree giveaway with appropriate safety precautions in September 2020 as part of the World Heritage Festival. The individual mission churches developed new traditions as they conducted seasonal services outdoors and with safety precautions.



Park Rangers at Mission San José

World Heritage Publications

The World Heritage Office penned articles in two international publications related to world heritage that were released in 2020. “World Heritage, Our Heritage: A Community Process for World Heritage Management” was included in the Romanian publication, “World Heritage Management: Examples of Best Practices from Romania.” The chapter discusses the World Heritage Site designation process for the San Antonio Missions, the benefits and importance of the designation, the development and implementation of the World Heritage Work Plan that the department oversees, economic impact, and related other topics. “World Heritage, Place Making and Sustainable Tourism” also features a chapter about the San Antonio Missions as a World Heritage Site, healthy urban planning, and sustainable tourism development during a time of sometimes over-tourism in sites around the world. The site was featured in the February 2020 US/ ICOMOS monthly membership newsletter as a participating host of the US/ICOMOS International Exchange Program. The article featured the World Heritage Site designation of the missions, the development of the World Heritage Work Plan, the UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy designation, and its role as a IEP intern host.



San Antonio Missions National Historical Park makes a positive economic impact on the local community.

San Antonio River Authority, National Park Service, and service members with the Texas Conservation Corps relocate native plants to the San Antonio River.

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park 2020 Visitation

Outdoor experiences at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park provided refuge from the pandemic for over 1.14 million visitors in 2020. On average, national park sites across the United States experienced a 28% decrease in visitation in 2020 as compared to 2019. San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, however, only experienced an 11% decrease in visitation in 2020 compared to 2019 due to the coronavirus pandemic. During the pandemic, the park remained open to visitors of all ages to experience. The San Antonio River Hike & Bike Trail, Yanaguana Trail, and other outdoor experiences provided safe ways for visitors to recreate responsibly.

South Side Opportunity Zones Strategy

The City of San Antonio's Economic Development, World Heritage Office and South Side First, through a solicitation process in the Fall of 2020 and jointly funded by EDD and WHO, identified a consultant, EPS and MIG, to develop a strategic plan to encourage and attract investment for the southside opportunity zones, Specifically the Mission San José/Brooks area, a historically low-income area. The goal of the strategy is to identify investments that are in alignment with community priorities and sensitive to the existing residents and small business community. The report will be finalized in 2021.



Farm at Mission San Juan

The community outreach and idea generation began in 2020 with objectives to set engagement goals, educate the community, foster excitement, collaborate with stakeholders, establish a community-based vision, identify desired development types, determine concerns about potential impacts of new private development on the community, and inform the community about next steps in the Southside Opportunity Zone.

2020 Mexico-U.S. Sister Cities Mayor’s Summit

The World Heritage Office received an invitation to attend and participate on a panel discussion as part of the 2020 Mexico-U.S. Sister Cities Mayor’s Summit held in February in El Paso, Texas. Through the city’s International Relations Office, both the World Heritage Office and Visit San Antonio were invited by summit organizers to participate in a moderated panel discussion on tourism and heritage. The audience for this particular panel discussion was tourism and marketing professionals seeking best practices and perspective



San Antonio River Authority

on promoting a heritage destination to a global audience. Dorah Benavidez, Director of Tourism Development for Visit San Antonio participated in the panel discussion as the San Antonio representative and spoke about the marketing efforts to promote San Antonio's missions as a cultural and heritage destination and strategies for leveraging the World Heritage Site designation to increase tourism and economic impact in the World Heritage Area. The event was the fourth in a series of bi-national summits designed to strengthen sister city relationships in key countries. The summit connected Mayors, municipal officials, business leaders, academics, and civic leadership to engage each community’s citizen diplomats hosted in El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua.

San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg and Councilwoman Ana Sandoval attended the 2020 summit.

Mission Marquee Plaza Farmers & Artisans Market

The World Heritage Office held a modified Drive-Thru Farmers and Artisans Markets on the third Saturday of the month from October to December 2020. The markets offered local residents much-needed access to food and nutritional resources, health services and cultural programming that represent the community’s history and traditions. The program supported local farmers, artisans, and businesses in the World Heritage Area that have been impacted during the ongoing pandemic. The markets included a tree adoption, “Prescription for Produce” program, informational resources related to health services, a thermometer give-away for the community, and senior citizen food vouchers redemption. Attendees pre-ordered artisan vendor products online and picked up on market day for cashless transactions.



Junior Ranger Program



Texas Conservation Corps at the World Heritage Site



Recreational opportunities at the World Heritage Site are accessible for all.

Park Ranger interprets the park to visitors in front of Mission San José church.

Roosevelt Avenue Visual Concept Plan

In June 2020, the City of San Antonio completed the Roosevelt Avenue Visual Concept Plan with community input to address corridor improvements and pedestrian amenities along 5.6 miles of roadway. The 2017 Bond Program allocated \$13 million for these improvements in addition to \$5.6 million in federal funding for a total project amount of \$18.6 million. Three community input meetings were held with more than 235 residents in combined attendance. Three transportation surveys were distributed to residents with more than 1,000 respondents. Three focus groups were held that included area businesses, people with disabilities, cyclists, and school officials.

Mission Road Bond Project

On December 3, 2020, City Council approved a contract to begin construction on the Mission Road Bond Project along a portion of the World Heritage Trail between S.E. Military Dr. and the San Antonio River. The total project budget is \$5.7 million for lighting, pavers, sidewalks, and a multi-use path for safer connectivity between the neighborhoods and the San Antonio River. The project began construction on December 22, 2020. Additional lighting, pavers, and sidewalks will be added to Acequia St. connecting to Espada Rd.



Bicyclists on the San Antonio River Hike & Bike Trail



The World Heritage Site has been a place for healthy, safe space during the pandemic.

Park Ranger interprets the Indian Quarters at Mission San José for visitors to the World Heritage Site.

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park Visitation & Visitor Spending Effects

The 2020 Visitor Spending Effects report, created by the National Park Service and US Geological Survey, shows that 1.1 million visitors to San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and the UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2020 spent \$84.3 million in communities near the park. That spending supported 1,240 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$126 million. This report not only confirms the park’s role in the San Antonio economy, but also underscores its value to visitors from all over the world. Across the entire National Park Service, the report shows \$14.5 billion of direct spending by more than 237 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported 234,000 jobs nationally. The cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy was \$28.6 billion.

San Antonio River Hike & Bike Trail

Data demonstrated a significant increase in trail/park use during the first few months of community-wide business shutdowns due to COVID-19. Trail counters along the Mission Reach registered nearly 124,000 hits in April and May 2020. That equates to over 7,000 more users on the trails each week as compared to this same time in 2019, which is an 83% increase. The overall trail usage increase identified in C1 above is undoubtedly impacted by the usage registered during the pandemic.



Visitor painting at Mission San José

2020 World Heritage Virtual Open House

The World Heritage Office hosted the 2020 World Heritage Open House live on Facebook and YouTube June 22-24, 2020. The annual Open House was held as a virtual event in response to the pandemic and to keep residents safe and socially distanced. City staff and World Heritage partners provided information on services and response programs, as well as updates on bond and public art projects, and resources available to the community. The design of the new World Heritage Center was also announced.



Junior Ranger Program

Mission Marquee Plaza National Hispanic Heritage Month Virtual Celebration

The World Heritage Office, in partnership with the Mexican American Civil Rights Institute, celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a virtual experience livestreamed directly from historic Mission Marquee Plaza. "Legacies and Promises of the Mexican Civil Rights Movement" was featured on September 26, 2020 and focused on various periods of history throughout the Mexican Civil Rights Movement. Prominent San Antonio activists Dr. Omar Valerio-Jimenez, Rosie Castro, Mario Campean, and Carolina Canizales spoke on topics that range from the impact of the U.S.-Mexico War on Mexican-American civil rights to today's Dreamers movement. The online presentation included a live question and answer session where viewers submitted questions via Facebook and YouTube chat.



Bicyclists on the San Antonio River Hike & Bike Trail

Bridging Cultures: Photography Exhibition of the Classical Gardens in Suzhou, China

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Friendship City relationship between San Antonio and Suzhou, China, the two cities partnered to present an outdoor photo exhibition on the grounds of Mission San José to promote social distancing. The exhibit was unveiled as part of the 2020 World Heritage Festival in September and remained on display through March 2021 with an online component on the WorldHeritageSA.com visitor website. The exhibit honored the flourishing connections enjoyed by the citizens of the two cities. The Classical Gardens in Suzhou are, like the San Antonio Missions, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The exhibit was presented by the City of San Antonio, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, San Antonio Museum of Art and the Municipality of Suzhou.



Visitors walking on the San Antonio River Hike & Bike Trail



Park Ranger at Mission San José



**San Antonio Missions
National Historical Park
preserves the historic
acequias and architecture
in perpetuity.**

San Antonio River Authority, National Park Service, and service members with the Texas Conservation Corps relocate native plants to the San Antonio River.

Preserving History & Our Ecosystem with Native Plant Relocation

Texas Conservation Corps and San Antonio River Authority relocated 3,800 plants from the historic Espada Acequia to the San Antonio River. Sagittaria, or Arrowhead Plants, usually cost between \$8 and \$22 per plant at a retail store. At a value of \$10 per plant, this project equated to an in-kind donation to San Antonio River Authority of \$38,000. It also impacted the historic acequia and local ecosystems in invaluable ways. The Texas Conservation Corps and the San Antonio River Authority collaborate at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park to relocate Sagittaria plants from the Espada acequia to the San Antonio River. Sagittaria is a native plant species, also known as the Arrowhead plant. This project not only supports the cultural resource of the acequias by removing plants that obstruct the water flow, but it also benefits natural park resources by preserving native plant species. Acequias, established here about 300 years ago, were the lifeblood of the missions. They are a key cultural resource in the park.

Repair Project at the San Juan Acequia

In 2020, the National Park Service and partners repaired a section of the San Juan Acequia. Project funding was sourced through the National Park Service, San Antonio River Authority, along with additional stabilization efforts. The project reduced loss of water along San Juan Acequia and provided water to farm fields located downstream.



SALSA Squad clearing brush from the Espada Acequia

Preserving the Churches

This year the Archdiocese of San Antonio, through Old Spanish Missions, has performed annual maintenance inspections, preventative maintenance, routine and emergency repairs at the churches of Mission Concepción, San José, San Juan and Espada. Preservation of the dome of Mission Concepción occurred, providing a new understanding of the colonial construction methods of the dome and an opportunity to document original plaster, carvings and initials from the past.

As part of building renovation behind Mission Concepcion, trenching was conducted and a main part of the Mission Concepcion Acequia was discovered and a small number of artifacts collected by the UTSA archeology team.



Texas Conservation Corps working at the Espada Acequia



Texas Conservation Corps at the World Heritage Site

SALSA Squad Restoration Projects

Volunteers with the SALSA Squad, of the Balcones Invaders, made significant progress on restoration projects at the historic acequias, pollinator garden at Mission San Juan, and more. Their efforts help to preserve historic features like the acequias, and maintain a healthy park ecosystem.

Espada Aqueduct Landscape and Sidewalk Rehabilitation

The rehabilitation of the landscape and new sidewalk project at the Espada Aqueduct was completed in early 2020. This project improved access to the Espada Aqueduct, a National Landmark and part of the World

Heritage Site. This work also helped to preserve the historic landscape of the Espada Aqueduct, an important 18th century feature of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. The project corrected decades of serious erosion and damage to the terraces, and also replacement sections of the walkway to better meet accessibility standards.



Before Landscape and sidewalk rehabilitation at the Espada Aqueduct



After Landscape and sidewalk rehabilitation at the Espada Aqueduct

Activities at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park brought diverse youth and youth groups into the World Heritage Site.



Service members with the Texas Conservation Corps pose with Park Rangers at the San Antonio River Hike & Bike Trail.

Find Your Park at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

The World Heritage Site engaged youth groups through various internships, service opportunities, and volunteer projects in 2020. During 2020, the park welcomed Texas Conservation Corps service members, Cultural Landscape Apprentices, youth volunteers, and more. The World Heritage Site also drew young visitors from the local community and beyond with innovative virtual programming during the pandemic.

Youth Engagement Events

Events which engaged diverse youth and youth groups in 2020 included: Outside for All (1/18/20), a walk/run/bike from Roosevelt Park along the Mission Reach with a panel discussion on how all segments of our community connect to parks, trails, and natural areas; Bloom Project, a kayaking and bird watching program along the San Antonio River's Mission Reach; Twin Cities Field Trips (March/April 2020) a kayaking, biking, bird watching, and ecosystem education program; Rancho Days (March 2020) a partnership hosting one Wilson County school's 5th grade for a field trip to Rancho de las Cabras; and Teacher Training (February 2020)– a birding skills and ecosystems 101 workshop with Project ACORN.



Kids at Dia de los Muertos at Mission San José

Quarantine Date Night Virtual Series

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park hosted six different online programs on Facebook Live as part of the Quarantine Date Night virtual series. Program themes included a history of alcohol at the missions, the history of Tex-Mex food, painting with Artist-in-Residence Cruz Ortiz (x2), tracing our past through DNA, and an interview with local artist Gladys Roldan-de-Moras in partnership with The Briscoe. These virtual programs engaged young adults through an engaging online format on Friday evenings in 2020.



Junior Ranger



Volunteer at Mission San José

Virtual Yoga in Your Park

Yoga at the Missions is a part of the Community Engagement program at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. In 2020, generous support from Western National Parks Association allowed us to offer yoga free of charge. Offered as an in-person class in prior years, this experience was adapted for virtual online classes in 2020. Mindfulness practices such as yoga proved to be particularly beneficial and popular during the pandemic. MobileOm recorded sessions at various locations around the park. San Antonio

Missions National Historical Park premiered the sessions on the park's Facebook page on the first and third Saturdays. Virtual audiences tuned in, and the beautiful mission grounds became the backdrop for the yoga classes being joined by people from across the country. San Antonio Missions National Historical Park continued with the virtual yoga classes through the rest of 2020.

Documenting an Old Empire: Virtual Plein Air Gallery, Cruz Ortiz

In 2020, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park unveiled an online gallery exhibition of 10 original plein air oil paintings by 2020 Artist-in-Residence Cruz Ortiz. Visitors may virtually explore an artistic interpretation of San Antonio Missions National Historical Park on the park website. Local artist Cruz Ortiz used painting, drawing, and public activation to address issues related to his experiences growing up in the bicultural landscape of South Texas.



Cruz Ortiz plein air painting in progress



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



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
WORLD HERITAGE OFFICE

