



King William Association

Volume 13, No. 9

October 2017

## *KWA Announces 2017 Grant Awards*

**F**or many years, the King William Association has been proud to award grants to schools and non-profit organizations in the King William area. The mission of the Association is to promote its residents' educational, cultural and recreational pursuits, as well as to preserve the neighborhood's historic structures and the diversity of its people.

In an annual competitive process, organizations submit a grant application outlining their missions and goals, describing the program or project for which funding is requested and how such funding will address the needs of the organization, and explaining how their project fulfills the Association's mission.

This year, 15 very worthy organizations submitted applications for a wide range of imaginative and beneficial programs and projects. Seven independent grant committee evaluators read each application and scored them based on how effective the project would be, how feasible it would be for the applicant to successfully complete the project, and how clearly each applicant stated its connection to the King William Association charter.

We were able to award grants to 10 of these schools and nonprofits, and were pleased to present checks totaling \$55,335 to our recipients at the Association's September general meeting. The programs funded range from robotics classes at Bonham Academy to veterinary needs for our neighborhood feral cats to the preservation of the native regional musical genre of conjunto. Here are the ten grant recipients:

- **Blue Star Contemporary** - MOSAIC Program - \$5,000
- **Bonham Academy** - Robotics Club - \$6,500
- **Bonham Academy PTA** - ArtSmart Program - \$7,500
- **Brackenridge High School Theater Dept.** - Live Theater Performance - \$1,335
- **Cannoli Fund** - Community Cat Carpool - \$4,000
- **Conjunto Heritage Taller** - Conjunto Classes - \$5,000
- **Gemini Ink** - Letters to the World - \$3,000



*Photo: Susan Athené*

Rudy Lopez, Co-Founder and Artistic Director, and Adela Flores, Interim Director, accepted the KWA grant award for Conjunto Heritage Taller. Mr. Lopez holds a photo of Roberto Casillas, a former student who is now the Bajo Sexto Instructor. Their 14th Annual Tardeada will be October 21 at La Villita!

- **Jump-Start Performance Co.** - Historias y Cuentas - \$5,000
- **SAY Si** - Program Support - \$12,000
- **Villa Finale** - Preservation Thru Education - \$6,000

We look forward to presenting more in-depth information on each organization and its project in upcoming issues of the KWA Newsletter.

*- Amanda Strickland  
KWA Grant Committee Chair*

# President's Report

by Chris Price

Dear Neighbors,

With our newly elected board, we are off to a great start. I am honored to be re-elected as your President and am excited about serving you for another year. I want to thank those Board members who are stepping down for your hard work and contributions to the Association and the community. Your presence on the board will be missed, but we hope you will remain involved!

This past year was a busy one with several accomplishments including:

1. The City crafted a Pilot Parking Program for King William and Lavaca. We are assisting the City in gathering the necessary signatures to implement the program. Many thanks to Rose Kanusky for leading this project with hard work and dedication. Resolving our parking issues have been a challenge for all concerned.
2. The City's TIRZ (Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone) program approved the reimbursement of up to \$160,000 for pedestrian lights, and the City is investing another \$1,000,000 in street and sidewalk improvements for S. Alamo Street.
3. The KWA received two grants from the Texas Commission on the Arts: for wayfinding signs and for the publication of the updated *The King William Area: A History and Guide to the Houses*, originally published in 1973 by Mary Burkholder. Jesse Simpson and her committee lovingly updated the book and expanded the content.
4. Our board has continued to advocate for historic preservation, tree preservation and to support the City oversight in regulating short-term rentals.
5. We celebrated our 50th Anniversary through banners, promotional products and a celebration event in King William Park.
6. Our finance committee has carefully watched over our investments, earning roughly 12% interest.
7. We established the King William Foundation as a support organization to comply with TABC rules for the King William Fair.
8. Finally, the KWA created a walking tour brochure for the Nathan Historic District, San Antonio's newest historic district, an area defined by Guenther, S. Main Avenue, S. Alamo and S. Flores Streets.

We will continue these and other efforts in the coming year. I welcome the newly-elected board members and look forward to working closely with them to plan for new challenges and opportunities.



Amanda Strickland, Grant Committee Chair, presents a check to Cheryl Hanson, director of the Brackenridge High School theater department. Brack's grant will fund admission and transportation for students to attend professional theater productions, providing a valuable opportunity for aspiring thespians.

Photo: Susan Athené



COORDINATORS Susan Athené,  
Alan Cash, Bill Cogburn

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MASTHEAD DESIGN  
Roland Rodriguez  
MASTHEAD CONCEPT Cherise Bell

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion(s) of the Board of Directors of the KWA. Editorial guidelines are available online at [ourkwa.org](http://ourkwa.org)

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# King William Archaeology

## Neighborhood Archaeologist Spies Possible Acequia Remnant



City Archaeologist Kay Hindes and neighborhood archaeologist Harry Shafer alert SAWS employees that they may have exposed an historic acequia.



The wall of the acequia can be seen on the left, under the backhoe.

*Photos: Cherise Bell*

The Pajalache or Concepcion acequia path is under S. St. Mary's Street, according to research and a map created by the late Wayne Cox. It began at the San Antonio River's bend at La Villita and extended past Mission Concepcion.

SAWS excavated a utility trench across S. St. Mary's that may have exposed a remnant of the acequia. SAWS normally schedules such work with the City's Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) so that OHP can monitor the excavations to record any historic features that might be encountered, but emergency work often does not get listed with OHP.

The trench provided an opportunity to see if any trace of the acequia was present. Noticing that the street had been blocked off and a trench dug across the street,

I stopped to take a look. Several utility lines are beneath the street, but in an undisturbed segment a remnant limestone wall lining the ditch appeared in the trench profile. I called City Archaeologist Kay Hindes, who came immediately and confirmed my suspicion that the trench had indeed exposed a possible remnant of the acequia. The evidence was photographed and recorded.

Twelve thousand years of prehistory and history lie beneath San Antonio's infrastructure, and any excavation is liable to encounter some evidence of American Indian or Spanish Colonial history. OHP staff does not always get notified when utility work is done, so everyone needs to be on the look out for opportunities to record San Antonio's rich past.

*- Harry Shafer*



### KWA Free Concert Series

YOUTH ORCHESTRAS  
OF SAN ANTONIO

Sunday, October 22

King William Park Gazebo

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Bring friends, neighbors, chairs, beverages,  
snacks and bug spray!

# Then...and Now: 222 King William



222 King William c 1910

Tastes change, styles change. What's popular today is passé tomorrow. So it is with architecture.

Take the Cook/Keating house at 222 King William Street, which began circa 1890 as a one-story caliche block house. In 1895, George Kalteyer bought the property at a sheriff's auction for \$2700. In 1906, his granddaughter, Minnie Kalteyer Cook, inherited the house. She and her husband, Dr. Fred W. Cook, president of the San Antonio Drug Company, added a second story as well as a porch and Mission style parapet under the guidance of architect Atlee Ayres. Listed in the archive of Ayres' architectural plans is "Fred Cook – Residence addition and stable."

In 1926, Dr. Peter McCall Keating, a prominent orthopedic surgeon, and his wife, Mary, bought the house. They added the north wing and removed the porch, or perhaps, as one early account says, the massive two-story porch simply collapsed and the Keatings chose not to have it replaced. Mary Keating chaired the King William Home Tour in 1951 and also served as president of the King William Area Conservation Association, the forerunner of the KWA. She was an accomplished artist, having participated in 16 art exhibitions throughout the U.S., according to her 1953 obituary.

In 1963, Phil and Mary Schug bought the house. Phil was the pastor of First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio. In a 2002 interview, Mary said she initially had serious reservations about moving to King William, "but that's what Phil wanted to do, so I was willing to go along with it."

"We had two young daughters and this was a pretty slummy place back then," Mary said. "The Joske house just up the street was a half-way house. Across from us was the Sartor house owned by the Tobin Foundation, but the Family Welfare had their offices there and people would be lined up for half a block on distribution days. But once we got settled in, I began to feel perfectly safe down here."

"By the late 60s, people began to realize that the King William neighborhood had a future," Mary said. "People with families were starting to buy these old houses and fix



222 King William now

them up. Most were younger folks, many who didn't have a lot of money but they had vision and lots of energy."

In 1967, Raford Dobie was elected the first president of the newly-formed King William Association. "In 1968, Ray talked me into chairing the first King William Fair," Mary said. "It was strictly a home-made event. Some of the neighborhood fellows slapped a few boards together for make-shift booths. It was just arts and crafts – no food. We did have a drink stand but no beer. The Association kept 10% of sales which amounted to a grand total of \$35.55 that first year."

In early 2008, the Jim Bailey family bought the house from the Schug estate, and in February 2014, it became the home of metal artist George Schroeder and his family. Now we'll just have to wait to see what happens next.

- Bill Cogburn

Source: *A History & Guide to the Houses* by Mary Burkholder; Oral history from 2002 interview with Mary Schug; Early home tour guides; 1910 photo – courtesy ITC-UTSA Special Collections (Ann Russell); current photo Susan Athené.

## Free Outdoor Movies in the 'Hood

**10/3 Lavaca National Night Out  
Home Alone, Labor Street Park**

**10/20  
Night of the Living Dead  
Villa Finale**

**10/22  
Young Frankenstein  
Steel City Pops**

**Movies start at dusk. Bring picnics and blankets.**

# Kay Hines, San Antonio's City Archaeologist, to Present Current Issues in Our City's Archaeology

In recognition of October Archaeology Month, our Cultural Arts Committee has again invited Kay Hines to share the latest finds in San Antonio. Hines has informed our members in past years with presentations about our Spanish Colonial Acequias and about recent investigations at Alamo Plaza. Her enthusiasm is infectious and her long involvement over the past 28 years has led to many exciting discoveries.

After studying anthropology at the University of Texas at San Antonio, Hines went on to do research and work with universities, cultural resources management firms and as an independent research consultant. She is an advocate for historic preservation and works closely with developers and real estate firms. In 2012, Hines received the Texas Preservation Hero award from the San Antonio Conservation Society.

Be sure to mark your calendars and join us to hear more about current projects such as plans for the Tricentennial Celebration in 2018 and findings in the San Pedro Creek Improvements Project.

This event is free and open to the public, Friday, October 6 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m at the KWA office.

- Nora Peterson



Kay Hines, City Archaeologist



## Garden Street School News

Autumn is in the air. The nights are longer and the mornings are darker. Many of our students make their own way to school on these mornings before daylight savings time ends. Please be extra careful in the mornings in these days. Be mindful of crosswalks and school zones. Hang up and drive – slowly. Remember: Cell phone use is not allowed in vehicles in school zones.

We are preparing for our Fall Festival, which will be on October 27 this year, from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. Come by and visit our booths and games! Celebrations will run through November 2, Dia de los Muertos.

Our Monarch Gardens continue to serve as a way station for butterflies going to Mexico for the winter. We are holding Open House for parents to visit the teachers and examine the work their children have been doing in class. Kinder through Second Grades had their Open House on September 21. Third through Eighth Grades' Open House will be on October 8. We appreciate parents who come to school and learn how to partner with teachers for their child's education.

Academy sports leagues are in full swing. We had Girls' Volleyball in September and are finishing up Boys' Basketball. The venue for all these games is the Mission Conception Athletic Center.

As always, thanks for your support of our neighborhood school, and *Go Bobcats!*

- Principal Will Webber



## Fiesta San Antonio Commission

Do you want to be part of The Party with a Purpose year-round? When you join the Fiesta San Antonio Commission, you become part of a proud tradition celebrating San Antonio's culture and diversity – and receive benefits all year long!

Just some of the benefits you will have access to include your very own exclusive annual Fiesta® member medal, special discounts, early access to tickets and opportunities for discounted advertising through the Fiesta® Commission.

Check out our page to see the membership levels and all the benefit: [fiesta-sa.org/be-a-member/](http://fiesta-sa.org/be-a-member/)

If you are ready to join the Fiesta® Commission, family fill out your member application today! Go to [fiestasatx.memberzone.com/member/newmemberapp/](http://fiestasatx.memberzone.com/member/newmemberapp/).

**Want to be healthier?**



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The program is based on health education and lifestyle modification. Its goals are achieved by learning about the relationship between chronic disease and lifestyles; self-monitoring techniques; goal-setting; building self-efficacy; and problem-solving skills.

Call or come visit Christina Piña  
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Saturdays 7am–12pm  
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\$25 per visit



# Blue Star Contemporary Events

Blue Star Contemporary invites the community to join us on Thursday, October 5 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. for the opening reception of two new exhibitions.

*Home Bodies* features artists whose practice and work are informed by and melded with home life and family experience. At 7:00 p.m., artist Courtney Kessel (along with her daughter Chloe) will perform *In Balance With*.

Also opening that evening, *Origins, Rations, Extractions* features artists Gisette Padilla and Paula Luttringer, whose work focuses on under-observed examples of two South American governments' effects on place and people.

Additionally, our MOSAIC Student Artists will debut a new exhibition in their Gallery. Thank you, our neighbors in King William Association, for your ongoing support of this important creative youth development program! If you miss Thursday's opening, please join us on October 6 for First Friday.

On October 26 at 6:00 p.m., please join us at the Michael and Noémi Neidorff Art Gallery at Trinity University's Dicke Art Building for the opening reception of Jennifer Ling Datchuk's *Girl You Can*. This new exhibition features video, ceramics, photography and other mixed media works inspired by beauty and identity. Jennifer participated in BSC's Berlin Residency Program in the 2015-2016 cycle.

Please bookmark [bluestarcontemporary.org](http://bluestarcontemporary.org) to keep up with all of our exhibitions and programs. You can also find us on social media channels at [@bluestarart](https://www.instagram.com/bluestarart).

We are also delighted to offer tours to groups - just shoot us an email at [visit@bluestarcontemporary.org](mailto:visit@bluestarcontemporary.org) or call us at (210) 227-6960.

BSC now has extended hours: Thursday and Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. We hope to see you soon!

- Elaine Leahy  
Development Manager, Blue Star Contemporary



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f t

# In Memory of Doug Fesler

**D**oug Fesler, 71, left this earth on August 11, 2017 after a short battle with Leukemia. He was born in Saint Louis and grew up in San Antonio. He attended Central Catholic High School and graduated from Edison High School in 1964. He attended San Antonio College and the University of California Santa Cruz. He was employed by Mission Pharmacal as a mechanical engineer and was also self-employed as a local musician, performing at multiple venues from Kate's Place in Wimberley to the Olmos Pharmacy. He was a talented singer, songwriter, guitarist and harmonica player. He was well known for being a great musician, but also entertained audiences with his gift of storytelling and his great sense of humor.



Doug Fesler

He moved into the King William area in 1986 and played at numerous local venues including La Tuna, Beaureguards, Casbeers and the Friendly Spot. In 1998, he joined AA and never drank again. He continued to be active and testimonials can be heard about the impact he made on others.

A celebration of life was held for Doug Fesler on August 17, 2017 near his home in King William. Over 150 family members and friends were in attendance as they enjoyed his music and shared stories with each other. As stories and memories were shared, it was apparent to all that Doug Fesler lived a fulfilling life and touched the lives of many.

For Dr. Linda Couch, his love, he was her other half. They had dated in high school and reconnected in 2010. They made each other complete and better people. She moved back to San Antonio in 2013 to be with him and remodeled and moved into the house next door. They shared that once-in-a-lifetime kind of love that you could see in their eyes and their smiles. He died in her arms knowing he was loved.

Doug was respected and loved by his friends and family. With his playful spirit, stories and jokes, he could make you laugh, but he could also gently share his wisdom and life experiences to help guide without trying to lecture. Anyone could turn to him in their time of need because he was selfless and generous and could help others see outside the box to solve any problem that might arise. He was a mentor to so many because of his ability to encourage and bring out the best in everyone.

Memories of Doug will live on in his music and in those who loved him, and while he may be missed, everyone is better for having had him in their life. In order to continue his love of music and songwriting, as well as helping others, the Douglas Fesler Scholarship Fund for the Kerrville music festival has been set up to offer scholarships for songwriting school to musicians who may not otherwise be able to afford it. Through the scholarship fund, his name will continue to make a difference in future generations. Contributions can be made to Doug Fesler Scholarship Fund, Kerrville Folk Festival, 3876 Medina Highway, Kerrville, TX 78028.

- Zet Baer



## Neighborhood Plant Swap

**Saturday, October 7**

9 a.m. to noon

KWA parking lot

122 Madison Street

Bring your favorite plants to  
share and trade!

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## Newsletter Improvement Plan

Do you have a story to  
tell? Submissions and  
contributions to the  
KWA newsletter are  
welcome! Please send to  
[info@ourkwa.org](mailto:info@ourkwa.org).



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# THE EAGLE REPORT

## What's new at Brackenridge High School

**National Honor Society** - Kenneth Davis is the new sponsor for National Honor Society at Brackenridge and wants you to know that each student in NHS is required to do community service to be part of the group. We would love to hear of any events in the neighborhood where there are opportunities for community service. Please reach out to Mr. Davis for student volunteers for community service hours. Thank you for all the support King William gives to Brackenridge!

**Mighty Eagle Band** - The Mighty Eagle Band will be included in several band competitions in October, including SAISD Pre UIL at Alamo Stadium; Vista Ridge Marching Contest at Cedar Park; US Bands Competition at Judson High School; UIL Region 11 Marching Contest at Judson High School; and Area D Marching Contest at Cedar Park.

**Football Schedule** - The Mighty Eagle Band has an amazing performance during halftime!

**Friday, Oct. 6** vs Edison

**Thursday, Oct. 12** vs Memorial

**Friday, Oct. 27** vs Burbank

**Friday, Nov. 3** vs Lanier

**Friday, Nov. 10** vs Highlands - Homecoming

**Watershed Wise Grant awarded** - Brackenridge is the recipient of a \$20,000 Watershed Wise Grant from the San Antonio River Authority. Funds will be used for design and construction/installation of rain gardens. SARA's educators will provide in-class, hands-on, TEKS-aligned presentations, lessons and activities dedicated to the importance of green infrastructure solutions. Innovations in blending classroom and field components will be encouraged, such as cisterns, vegetable gardens and water treatment systems. Plans are to break ground in December.

**SAISD Foundation grants awarded** - The SAISD Foundation has awarded Brackenridge with over \$15,000 in grants to help support our Film and Media Magnet Program. Last year, students were introduced to Virtual Reality in the classroom, and this year they are actually creating Virtual Reality and 360 content. Teachers and students are working hard to produce the first-ever "Virtual Campus High School Tour" of our very own Brackenridge High School.

*Go Eagles!*

- Compiled by Letie Wawrzyniak

## Out in the Garden with Alan Cash

Summer is past. We are officially into fall and there are many things that can be done in the garden.

Compost and organic fertilizer can be applied to lawns to build soil and strengthen roots for spring growth. Mulch around trees, shrubs, and perennials to protect roots in case we get some cold weather this winter. Leave an exposed ring about a foot in diameter around the base of the plants.

Now is the time to plant cool-weather-loving annual flowers. These include petunias, dianthus, ornamental cabbage and kale, phlox and Shasta daisies. Pansies and other violas such as Johnny Jump-ups can be planted later in the month or early November.

Spring blooming bulbs can be planted in October and November. If you are adventurous and want to try growing tulips, refrigerate the bulbs for 6 to 8 weeks in a paper bag prior to planting in December. Do not put them in the freezer.

October is a good time to plant wildflower seeds such as bluebonnets, larkspur and Indian Paint Brush. It is said that a good crop of wildflowers in spring is dependent on the moisture young plants receive in October as the seeds germinate. October is usually our second wettest month, but if Mother Nature doesn't cooperate, supplemental hand watering may be necessary.

As it gets cooler, lawns need less water. Keep up with the changing SAWS watering requirements. Call 210-704-7297, or go to [saws.org/conservation](http://saws.org/conservation). The rules are not suggestions, but City laws. If a police officer sees violations, they can issue citations just like if you speed.

*Garden Note: The garden is my happy place. Gardeners are not strangers, only friends you have not met yet.*



## National Night Out Fall Social

Come join your neighbors and friends on  
**Tuesday, October 3, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**  
**San Antonio Art League Museum**  
**130 King William St.**

The KWA will provide the main dish.  
Please bring a dish, based on the  
first letter of your last name: A-I: Side dishes,  
J-R: Desserts, S-Z: Appetizers.

Our Fall Social will take the place of October's  
General Membership meeting.

# Time to Visit the SA Art League & Museum

The sign on the door said “Closed during August,” but there was a lot of action inside the San Antonio Art League & Museum. Downstairs, volunteers and board members were carefully sliding out paintings by the Onderdonks, William Merritt Chase and Jose Arpa from their storage spaces as they documented and tagged the 600+ artworks in the League’s Permanent Collection. Meanwhile, the old Gift Shop was being scaled down to provide more exhibition space. Upstairs, SAAL&M members were putting together a salon-style Members Gallery that will showcase work by nine different artists every two months.

Adding to the mix was excitement and anticipation about the blockbuster September exhibit, a solo show by James Wyatt Hendricks, the Art League’s Artist of the Year for 2017. If you haven’t seen it, it’s up until October 22, and it’s not to be missed.

Hendriks’ interpretation of Myth and Hero in metal, resin, paint and Prismacolor fills the gallery with magic.

As the new President of the San Antonio Art League & Museum, I am in awe of the fresh energy and creativity that’s resonating in this old house on King William Street. Plans are in the works for a three-day Tricentennial Event in June of next year as well as expanded workshops, informal lectures and artists’ talks.

Admission is free, the upstairs Members Gallery has an ever-changing selection of the best work by San Antonio artists, and the seasonal gallery exhibitions provide something for everyone’s taste.

We may be the old kid on the block, but we’ve got a lot of new ideas (and a newly restored fountain in the front garden). Please visit us in person at 130 King William Street, and on the web at saalm.org – you’ll like what you see.

- Lyn Belisle, President  
San Antonio Art League and Museum



Photo courtesy SAALM

The newly-repaired fountain flows in front of the San Antonio Art League & Museum at 130 King William Street.

# YARD SALE

## October 21

### King William Neighborhood Annual Yard \$ale

**Saturday, October 21**  
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
30+ homes participating!

To have your sale included on official map, contact the KWA office, 227-8786 or [info@ourkwa.org](mailto:info@ourkwa.org). Participants are responsible for obtaining their City garage sale permit.

## The King William Area

A HISTORY AND GUIDE TO THE HOUSES

Mary V. Burkholder and Jessie N.M. Simpson  
Photography by Al Rendon

**Coming in November!**

## Message from District 1 City Councilman

This year, I filed three policy change requests aimed at protecting neighborhoods.

- April 6 - request to amend (strengthen) burden of proof requirement for demolition in the unified development code.
- April 12 - review of the current IDZ (infill development zone) zoning designation.
- August 22 - request to discuss and propose solutions to current issues facing multi-family zoning designations located within our neighborhoods.

The first policy change will make it more difficult to demolish homes that still have a lot of life left. In District 1, we have seen people/developers take advantage of the current policy, which is not very specific. It is my hope that this policy change will help neighborhoods preserve their unique character and charm, while preserving our housing stock.

The second policy change will help urban core neighborhoods address a change in development patterns. Many D1 neighborhoods have concerns that new, incompatible developments will alter the look and feel of their neighborhood - less parking, less open space, more people, etc. This policy will protect neighborhoods by addressing the ways in which infill development zoning designations are being used throughout the city.

The third policy will help curb the number of "out of place" developments inside neighborhoods by seeking to align use, zoning designation, and neighborhood compatibility. For example, constructing a 3-4 story condo in the middle of single story residential block is currently allowed with existing, non-compatible zoning designation.

I will keep advocating for your neighborhood throughout my time in office. Please contact my office with any ideas, questions, or concerns.

- Councilman Roberto Treviño

# The SAFD: On the Front Lines of First Response in Emergencies

If you've ever needed a first responder in an emergency, you know how helpful they can be. What do you know about our own fire department?

The SAFD consists of 51 fire stations and 1800 uniformed and civilian employees. First responders provide service to well over 1 million citizens and visitors within a response area covering over 460 square miles. SAFD responded to over 167,000 emergency incidents in 2015 with medical emergencies accounting for more than 80 percent of total calls. Through careful resource management, the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) has one of the lowest response times and property damage rate for cities of comparable size.

As one of the largest fire departments in the nation, all SAFD firefighters are also emergency medical technicians, making all first responders are equipped to handle medical emergencies. Aside from being on call for fire, rescue and emergency medical services, the San Antonio Fire Department provides a number of community and residential programs to enhance the health and safety of the city.

One of the main programs for homeowners is the SAFDs smoke detector program. The SAFD will provide and install, free of charge, to citizens living in single-family homes in San Antonio. The SAFD has installed tens of thousands of free smoke detectors to date. To request a free smoke detector, simply dial 2-1-1.

Anyone who needs a fire prevention home review may ask for one, and it is provided free of charge. A review will let the SAFD show you where you can make your home safer in the event of a fire, and show you ways to prevent a fire as well as install smoke detectors if needed. To get more information, contact the SAFD's Community Safety and Education Division at 210-207-8422.

- Shelley Galbraith  
Member, KWA Board of Directors

*Shelley participates in the City of San Antonio World Heritage Neighborhood Leadership Academy, a four-month program designed to bring together leaders from neighborhood associations in the World Heritage area to enhance their leadership, advocacy and problem-solving skills to better address the needs of the community.*

**In an emergency, dial 9-1-1.**

**The nearest fire stations to King William are:**

- **Station #7 - 1414 S. St. Mary's St**
- **Station #11 - 610 S. Frio St.**
- **Station #3 - 1425 E. Commerce St.**

**SAPD Non-Emergency**

**210-207-7273**

**KW SAFE Officer on patrol:**

**Officer David McCall**

**Tel: 210-207-7413**

# San Antonio River Flood Control

Major investments in flood control infrastructure on the San Antonio River over the past 100 years has saved downtown San Antonio in terms of life and property, and has opened opportunity for a growing city center to overcome many of the hurdles imposed by being in the heart of Flash Flood Alley.

## Olmos Dam: The First Line of Defense

Four miles north of downtown, a concrete wall stretches across the open space between Highway 281 and the edge of Alamo Heights. Olmos Dam was built to prevent destruction of downtown from flooding. In 1921, lethal amounts of rain caused massive flood waters to engulf downtown San Antonio, killing 51 people.

The completion of Olmos Dam in 1926 marked the beginning of a comprehensive flood control system to protect downtown. Following a storm a 1935, the Olmos Dam proved its worth by holding back 20 feet of water, and, for over 90 years now, the Dam has stood guard over downtown. Since its completion, Olmos Dam has undergone two major upgrades to ensure its continued reliability: once in the 1982 and again in 2010.

## Origins of the San Antonio River Walk

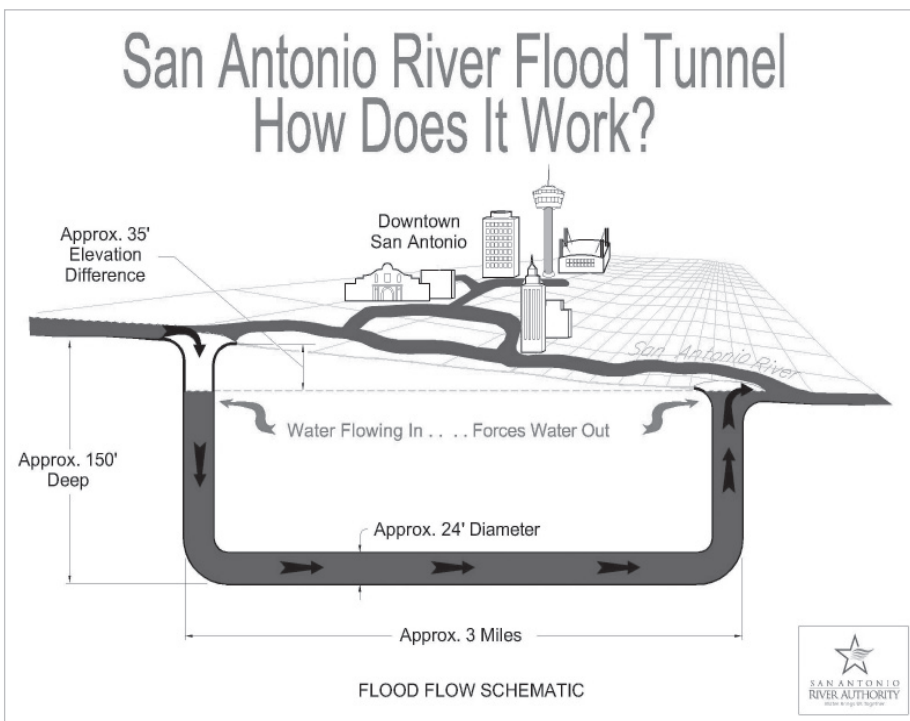
In 1929, just prior to completion of a flood control bypass channel in downtown San Antonio, a young architect named Robert H. H. Hugman presented his proposal endorsing the bypass channel and offering a plan to protect and utilize the "river loop." The idea of the modern River Walk was born.

Funds became available to build the River Walk in 1938 from the Works Projects Administration (WPA) and from a bond assessment of local property owners. The River Walk was completed in 1941 including the expansion of the pilot channel, the installation of several dams, construction of underground drains, and the installation of flood gates at both ends of the river loop. Today, there are also flood gates at Nueva and S. Alamo Streets.

Another major flood in 1946 led to a partnership between Bexar County, the San Antonio River Authority (SARA), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). In 1954, Congress authorized the USACE



Olmos Dam "Progress Photo" from 1926. Olmos Dam was built after a catastrophic flood in 1921 swept through downtown and killed over 50 people.



to work with Bexar County and SARA to channelize 31 miles of the San Antonio River and its tributaries for flood control. In addition to channelization, which began in 1958, the San Antonio

River Channel Improvement Project eventually included construction of the San Antonio River and San Pedro Creek tunnels.

## A Tale of Two Tunnels

Running three miles from Josephine Street to Lone Star Boulevard, the San Antonio River Tunnel carries flood waters, which would otherwise decimate downtown San Antonio, 150 feet underground, bypassing downtown lives, businesses and property. SARA was the local construction project manager, and the tunnel operation was turned over to the City upon the project's completion.

Completed in 1997 for a cost of \$111 million in federal and local funds, this engineering marvel experienced its first major test in 1998 when flood waters were diverted from downtown, saving hundreds of millions of dollars of property from flood damage, effectively paying for itself in one flood event. Its subterranean route follows Alamo Street beneath Alamo Plaza, Hilton Palacio del Rio, La Villita and Beethoven Hall. Augmented by the comprehensive flood control system of dams, flood gates and drainage features, the San Antonio River Tunnel is credited with averting significant property damage during major flood events in 1998, 2002, 2013 and 2015.

The second tunnel running under San Pedro Creek, which became operational in 1991, begins at W. Quincy Street and emerges at Guadalupe Street. Both tunnels transport 80% of the 1% Annual Chance Storm (aka 100-year flood) beneath downtown San Antonio and release it downstream, moving up to three million gallons of water per minute. The remaining flows travel via the main channel.

The story of San Antonio is one of disaster met with resilience. Today, downtown San Antonio is immensely safer than it was a century ago. The flood control improvements have created space for city center growth, investment, and vibrancy. Thanks to smart planning and a communal willingness to invest in our community, future generations will have greater opportunity to recreate, work and flourish in our city center. Resilience runs deep in the heart of San Antonio.

- Steven Schauer  
SARA Director of Government and  
Public Affairs



# Muertitos Fest 2017: Tierra y Libertad

## NOVEMBER 2 - 4

**S**AY Sí presents its annual Muertitos Fest, a 3-day Día de los Muertos festival which celebrates the tradition that ties our city to Mexico and commemorates San Antonio's rich Mexican-American culture.

Muertitos Fest, one of San Antonio's most comprehensive Día de los Muertos celebrations, provides an educational context to this important holiday, with three days of unique cultural happenings including: an exhibition of student art, altars to honor the departed, art workshops, food booths, an artisan mercado and live cultural performances.

- Stephen Guzman, Communications Director

## EPIC Pancake Breakfast and Hard Hat Tours at EPICenter

**E**PIcenter, the non-profit transforming the Mission Road Power Plant into a hub for new energy innovation, is hosting its Neighbors for an EPIC Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, October 28, from 8:00 - 10:00 am.

There will be pancakes and sausage, music, games and face painting for the kids, and, for adults over the age of 18, a chance to tour the historic power plant. Wear

your closed-toe shoes if you hope to tour! Please join us as we open the property to Neighbors for the first time. This event is FREE!

Watch for more details in the KWA weekly e-blast and, if you have already registered as a Neighbor, in your personal email.

The EPICenter Neighbors Program is free to residents and property owners in the 78210 and 78204 zip codes. Neighbors can register at [epicenterus.org/connect/neighbors](http://epicenterus.org/connect/neighbors) or call me at 210-904-2682.



- Jill H. Vassar  
Director of Development and Partnership



122 Madison St.  
San Antonio, Texas 78204

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**Tuesday, October 3**  
*See page 9 for details!*

## October Calendar

- 3 National Night Out / KWA Fall Social –  
San Antonio Art League Museum – 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- 6 Talk by City Archaeologist Kay Hindes –  
KWA office – 6:00-8:30 p.m.
- 7 Neighborhood Plant Swap – KWA parking lot –  
9:00 a.m. - Noon
- 10 Deadline for November KWA Newsletter
- 18 KWA Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
- 21 King William Neighborhood Yard Sale –  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- 22 Youth Orchestra of San Antonio – King William Park –  
5:30-6:30 p.m.
- 27 Bonham Academy Fall Carnival – 3:30-6:00 p.m.