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For Immediate Release:

**“A NIGHT IN OLD SAN ANTONIO®” (NIOA®)
NIOA Celebrates 71st Anniversary, April 23-26, 2019**

2019 MEDIA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVENTS OPEN TO THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC:

NIOA MEDAL: Produced in limited quantities and always a hot seller, the 2019 NIOA medal is on sale for \$12 at:

- ❖ Now until sold out - NIOA website at www.niosa.org
- ❖ Now through April 12 – NIOA office, 227 S. Presa, weekdays between 9 am and 4 pm
- ❖ March 1 through April 19 – Bldg behind San Antonio Conservation Society office, 107 King William (at corner of St. Mary’s) weekdays from 9 - 11:30 a.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. Look for signs.
- ❖ April 23-26 - During NIOA in NIOA souvenir booths, while supplies last

NEW THIS YEAR: The 2019 medal will also be sold in a special “NIOA Medal Bundle” that includes the 2019 medal, the 2018 NIOA medal, and the 2018 70th Anniversary Commemorative Medal (which was not sold to the public last year and is pictured on the website on the [Collectibles](#) page at <http://www.niosa.org/p/things-to-do/shop-for-collectibles>). These bundles will be sold for \$30 via the same ways listed above for the 2019 medal:

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MARCH 1 THROUGH FRIDAY, APRIL 26:

Gate tickets are \$15 for adults; children 12 and under are free when accompanied by an adult. Discount advance tickets are available starting March 1 for \$12 at www.niosa.org, H-E-B grocery stores in San Antonio, Boerne, Bulverde, Seguin and New Braunfels; Fiesta Store; USAA; Ft. Sam Houston; Lackland AFB; and Randolph AFB. Buyers should check with sellers; some may add service charge. Discount e-tickets for smart phone or tablet (or can be printed) are sold on NIOA website.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23 THROUGH FRIDAY, APRIL 26 – NIOA OCCURS:

5:30 p.m. - Gates open. Gates close and alcohol beverage sales stop nightly at 10 p.m.; food sales and entertainment continue until 10:30 p.m.

MEDIA INVITED (NOT THE PUBLIC):

EVERY THURSDAY UNTIL APRIL 18, 9 to 10:30 a.m.:

Gathering of approximately 20+ volunteers from the Cascarónes Committee to decorate and stuff cascarónes, and 20+ from the Decorations Committee to create flowers and other decorations used at NIOA on booths, etc. Each year the Decoration Committee makes approximately 14,000 flowers to make over 500 “sticks” (16 flowers stapled to 8’ slats), 217 triplets (3 flowers wired together), 830 streamers, and then enough “extra” flowers to decorate NIOA wherever needed. The Cascarones Committee makes an average of more than 53,000 annually. The committees gather from 9 to 11 a.m. Volunteers range from 20 to 91 years of age and some have been volunteering for over 40 years. Both committees meet in the River House, behind Steves Homestead, 509 King William Street. NOTE: Decorations Committee Chair

Gloria de Hoyos is bilingual.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 5:30 to 8 p.m.:

The NIOSA Chairman's Dinner will be held at the Whitley Center, 285 Oblate Drive. 2018 NIOSA Chairman Margie Arnold will be joined by her four NIOSA vice chairmen (Sharon Hearn, Dee Wright, Jana Foreman and Julie Terrill) and NIOSA Treasurer Jackie Fellers as they give final instructions and the oh-so-important worker passes to the 200+ booth chairmen, and the 15 "Area Chairmen" of NIOSA's 15 cultural areas.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 THROUGH TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (including weekends):

Staging of NIOSA on the grounds of La Villita (more detailed schedule available upon request)

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 10:30a.m.:

Official hanging of the Rain Rock on the porch of NIOSA headquarters on NIOSA grounds, 227 S. Presa St. (corner of Presa and Nueva streets). NIOSA Chairman Margie Arnold, the four NIOSA vice chairmen, NIOSA Treasurer and the NIOSA Stagers will continue the decades-long tradition of raising the Rain Rock the Monday before NIOSA opens, to ward off undesirable weather. The NIOSA Rain Rock tradition dates back to the late 1970s when NIOSA volunteer Sue Armitage assured then NIOSA chairman Joanna Parrish, who was fretting about ominous clouds, with the Texas good luck tradition of hanging a rock with a hole in it on a fence to ward off bad weather. That year, Joanna took her advice, and NIOSA was blessed with beautiful weather. NOTE: NIOSA fences will be up so you cannot drive a vehicle onto the grounds.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23– OPENING DAY OF NIOSA:

9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.: Last minute preparations and staging on grounds of NIOSA

5:15 p.m. - OPENING CEREMONIES OF NIOSA (inside gate in front of Guadalajara Grill):

Ribbon-cutting with NIOSA Chairman Margie Arnold, San Antonio Conservation Society President Susan Beavin and Everett L. Fly, FASLA, NCARB. The opening parade immediately follows and is led by Christopher Wallace, the "Huichol Shaman" of NIOSA, the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers and Brackenridge High School Drum Line, as it winds through NIOSA.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27 - 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.:

Take-down/tear down of NIOSA booths and props

NOTE: More detailed entertainment and staging schedules are available from Jeanne Albrecht.

[NIOSA media passes and interviews](#) must be coordinated through Jeanne Albrecht at 210-392-9047 or jca@jeannebiz.com. NIOSA does NOT honor Fiesta media passes.

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In 2018, for the seventh year in a row, "A Night In Old San Antonio"® (NIOSA®) has again earned one of the highest certifications from the City of San Antonio based on its Green Events Ordinance sustainable policies for medium and large-scale events. In 2011, NIOSA earned the "Platinum Status" in the city's Fiesta Verde program, the first organization in the city to do so.