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For Immediate Release:

**“A NIGHT IN OLD SAN ANTONIO®” (NIOA®)
NIOA Celebrates 70th Anniversary, April 24-27, 2018
2018 MEDIA CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

EVENTS OPEN TO THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC:

MONDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS, 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; SUNDAYS, noon TO 5 p.m.

The “NIOA Crafters’ Store” is open on 218 S. Presa Street in La Villita. The NIOA Crafters—volunteers who make NIOA and general Fiesta-type wares—are selling their arts and crafts; advance discount NIOA tickets (as of March 1); the 2018 NIOA medal and souvenirs; past NIOA posters, medals and mementos; and select other Fiesta medals in the shop, with all proceeds benefitting the San Antonio Conservation Society.

MARCH 1 UNTIL SUPPLIES ARE GONE:

NIOA MEDAL: Produced in limited quantities and always a hot seller, the 2018 NIOA medal is on sale for \$12 at the NIOA Crafters’ Store at 218 S. Presa in La Villita, on the NIOA website and in NIOA’s souvenir booths. It was designed by NIOA Chairman Margie Arnold; NIOA Director of Operations Audrey Haake; and artist David Durbin to commemorate NIOA’s 70th Anniversary in 2018. (Medal artwork available in high res jpeg to media, in advance.)

MARCH 1 THROUGH FRIDAY, APRIL 27:

Advance discount tickets are available March 1 through April 27 for \$12 at www.niosa.org; NIOA Crafters’ Store in La Villita; H-E-B grocery stores in San Antonio, Boerne, Bulverde, Seguin and New Braunfels; Fiesta Store; USAA; Southwest Research; Ft. Sam Houston; Lackland AFB; and Randolph AFB. Buyers should check with sellers; some may add service charge.

Discount e-tickets can be downloaded from NIOA website to phone or tablet, or printed out. All NIOA gates will have separate lines for e-ticket users. During NIOA, tickets at the gate are \$15; children under 12 are free and must be accompanied by adult.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24 THROUGH FRIDAY, APRIL 27 – 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):

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 5 to 6 p.m.:

NIOA proclamations at the San Antonio City Council Chambers, Municipal Plaza Buildings, 114 W. Commerce St.

TUESDAY, April 10, 10 to 11 a.m.

NIOA proclamations at the Bexar County Courthouse, 200 Dolorosa, 2nd floor

EVERY THURSDAY UNTIL APRIL 19, 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 NIOSA 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.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 10:30 a.m.:

The 2018 NIOSA Medal Unveiling reception at the NIOSA Crafters’ Store at 218 S. Presa in La Villita. NIOSA Chairman Margie Arnold and Conservation Society President Susan Beavin will unveil the 2018 NIOSA medal in front of Society Board members, NIOSA volunteers, special guests and Fiesta dignitaries. NOTE: this is a private reception.

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 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 Glenda Duffin) 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 17 THROUGH TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 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 23, 10:30 a.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. Entertainment will be provided by Timo Hernandez with Party 210 who runs the very popular karaoke booth in Clown Alley area. 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 24 – 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 city and county leaders, NIOSA Chairman Margie Arnold and San Antonio Conservation Society President Susan Beavin. The NIOSA 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 28 - 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.