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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MEDIA “A NIGHT IN OLD SAN ANTONIO®” (NIOSA®)

MEDIA INVITED (BUT NOT THE PUBLIC):

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

Approximately 18-20 volunteers from the Decorations Committee meet weekly to create flowers and other decorations used at NIOSA. Annually the Decorations Committee creates approximately 14,000 flowers to make over 500 “flower sticks” (16 flowers stapled to 8’ slats), 217 triplets (3 flowers), 830 streamers, and extra flowers to decorate NIOSA wherever needed. Decorations Committee Chair Gloria de Hoyos is bilingual. The committee meets at Hermann Sons Ballroom, 525 S. St. Mary’s St. Parking is reserved for customers on the side parking lot; check with reception when you enter to be sure you are in the right parking spots. Please contact Jeanne Albrecht to arrange interview.

THURSDAY APRIL 9 AND 16: 10 a.m.to noon: (other dates may be set)

Approximately 30 volunteers from the Cascarones Committee meet regularly to decorate and stuff approximately 60,000 cascarones (confetti eggs) to be sold at NIOSA. Cascarones originated at NIOSA in the Mexican Market in 1959 and are now a Fiesta staple to crack over the heads of fellow visitors, showering them with confetti. The sale of cascarones at NIOSA has contributed over \$350,000 to historic preservation projects from 2005-2025 ALONE.

Cascarones Committee Chair is Judy Simon; many longtime volunteers and the Cascarones Committee vice chair are bilingual in Spanish. Free parking available.

WHERE: 212 Lemonwood (a business in Castle Hills).

You can call Cascarones Committee Chair Judy Simon 210-325-9040 to get specific parking instructions and which door to use:

APRIL 18-19 - 8:30 AM TO 4:30 PM – CONSTRUCTION OF BONGO K BOBS:

480+ volunteers will take shifts for 3 straight days (they started yesterday) assembling 12,500+ Bongo K Bobs—with 40 people per shift. Many of these volunteers have been working on this booth for 12+ years—friends of friends of friends and even family. At NIOSA, 260 volunteers will barbecue the Bongo K Bobs on 20 pits. Booth Chairman since 2013 is Patricia Salinas; she will be there both days and is bilingual. Her cell is 210-833-7199.

WHERE: NIOSA kitchen: Located on the backside of the building that houses Thai Lucky Sushi Bar, [102 Navarro St.](#) Enter kitchen from back of building through door facing Presa Street. Attached map shows its location.

FYI: Bongo K Bobs are served in NIOSA’s Mission Trail area, which commemorates the beloved missions of the San Antonio Missions Historical Park. This booth started in 1992 and moved twice within NIOSA because of its increasing popularity and need for more room. It moved to Mission Trail in 2014.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15 THROUGH TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (including weekends):

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

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 10 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). 2026 NIOSA Chairman Julie Terrill, four Vice Chairs Monica Reyes, Anita Gonzalez, Lisa Pierce and Abbi Power, and DeAnna Keesee as NIOSA Treasurer, NIOSA

Stagers and NIOSA staff will continue the decades-long tradition of raising the Rain Rock the Monday before NIOSA opens, to ward off undesirable weather. C-Rock Band from the Main Street Area will provide sunny music!

The NIOSA Rain Rock tradition dates 50 years, 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 21 - OPENING DAY OF NIOSA:

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

4:30 p.m. – Gates open for volunteers and media with appropriate passes.

5:15 p.m. - OPENING CEREMONIES OF NIOSA (on grounds of NIOSA, at corner of Alamo and Villita Street): Ribbon-cutting with NIOSA Chairman Julie Terrille, Conservation Society of San Antonio President Louis Vetter and Parade Marshals Fire Chef Valerie Frausto and SAPD Chief of Police William P. McManus will be joined by Rey Feo, King Antonio, the four NIOSA Vice Chairmen, NIOSA Treasurer and Conservation Society/NIOSA leaders for the opening parade, which will be led by Christopher Wallace (the "Huichol Shaman" of NIOSA), the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers color guard and Fox Tech High School Mariachis as it parades through La Villita. Contact Jeanne Albrecht for starting point.

7 p.m. - Frontier Town stage - Unveiling of new "Celebration Blooms" Postage Stamp and Postcards to be sold in NIOSA's Post Office booth (an official US Postal Sub-station); unveiling by Frontier Town Area Co-Chairs April Smith and Erin Angle, and a US Post Office representative.

Every town in the old west had a post office, and NIOSA's Frontier Town is no different. Mary Falcon (a postal employee) actually brings in a mailbox and the official NIOSA cancellation stamp for the official U.S. Postal sub-station in Frontier Town. Christina and her fellow workers hand-cancel each card before mailing. Many NIOSA attendees come EVERY year to mail NIOSA postcards to themselves or loved ones. Yvette Martinez is current chair of the Post Office, following in her father's footsteps; Enez Martinez served as Chair for the Post Office five years prior to having his daughter take over. This booth has been in NIOSA for 40+ years.

5:30 p.m. – Gates open for general public

TUESDAY, APRIL 21 through FRIDAY APRIL 24 – NIOSA OCCURS:

4:30 p.m. – Gates open for volunteers and media with appropriate passes. 5:30 p.m. – Gates open for general public.

9 p.m. - Gates close and alcohol sales stop at 10 p.m.

10:30 p.m. - Food sales and entertainment continue until 10:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.:

Take-down/tear down of NIOSA booths and props

EVENTS OPEN TO THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC:

Three 2026 "A Night In Old San Antonio" (NIOSA®) medals are on sale now: the premiere 2026 NIOSA windmill medal for \$15 each; the 2026 beer cup medal for \$5 each; and the NIOSA Rain Rock medal for \$10 each. Medals can be bought at:

- ❖ NIOSA [website](https://www.niosa.org/) through April 10 at <https://www.niosa.org/> (to allow time for mailing)
- ❖ NIOSA office, 227 S. Presa, weekdays between 9 am and 4 pm - through April 16
- ❖ Monarch Trophy Studio and its website at <https://mtsawards.com/pages/fiesta-medal-marketplace> (check Monarch website for prices)



- ❖ During NIOSA in its souvenir booths, while supplies last, from April 21–24
- ❖ Past NIOSA medals and other souvenirs will be sold during NIOSA at its new “Retro Relics” booth in Clown Alley area through April 24, while supplies last

TICKETS:

- Online discount entrance tickets for \$20 are available through April 24 on NIOSA [website](#); handling fee will apply. These e-tickets can be loaded to phone or tablet, or printed. NIOSA leaders strongly recommend that buyers bring a printed e-ticket, as back-up.
- Discount entrance tickets for \$20 are also available through Thursday, April 24 at NIOSA headquarters at [227 S. Presa](#) (at Nueva St.) from 10-noon and 1-3 p.m. weekdays. No free parking available; cash, checks or credit cards accepted.
- Advance discount entrance tickets will be available March 13 through April 24 for \$20/pp at area H-E-B grocery stores; USAA; Ft. Sam Houston; Lackland AFB and Randolph AFB
- Entrance tickets can be purchased nightly during NIOSA at the gates for \$25 per person 13 years or older; cash only. Children 12 and under are free when accompanied by an adult. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. and close at 10 p.m.; food sales and entertainment continue until 10:30 p.m.
- Members of the Conservation Society get NIOSA tickets for only \$15/pp. Join or renew your membership by March 31 at www.saconservation.org to buy member NIOSA tickets at the lowest ticket price available PLUS gain the satisfaction of supporting the preservation efforts of the Society.
- REMINDER: NIOSA occurs rain or shine; no refunds.

NEW ITEMS: **Chicken Gorditas** have been added in Haymarket area. Main Street area will have **Strawberry Lemonade** and **Decadent Pops & Strawberries**. **Retro Relics** booth in Clown Alley will sell past NIOSA medals, posters and souvenirs. **The Pub** booth in Irish Flat will feature international beers, including **The Pub** booth will feature international beers and NA **Dos Equis Lime & Salt Zero**—the first NA beer ever offered at NIOSA. The **Biergarten** in Sauerkraut Bend will include German-inspired beers. Main Street will also have a **second band playing in its Gazebo**. A new prohibited item is **collapsible wagon carts**.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21 THROUGH FRIDAY, APRIL 24 – NIOSA 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.

NOTE: More detailed entertainment and staging schedules—as well as photos, recipes, advance interviews—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.