



**MEDIA CONTACT:** Jeanne Albrecht  
210-392-9047  
[jca@jeannebiz.com](mailto:jca@jeannebiz.com)  
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For Immediate Release:

**The Conservation Society of San Antonio  
to bring the city's culture alive at 2021 "A Night In Old San Antonio®"**  
*NIOSA® is back in June 2021—better than ever with smaller crowds*

"A Night In Old San Antonio®" (NIOSA®) is a four-night festival, that celebrates the city's diverse cultural legacy, traditionally held during [Fiesta San Antonio®](#). Originally scheduled for April 2021, the festival will now run Tuesday to Friday, June 22-25, 2021 from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. nightly.

Celebrating its 72nd presentation in 2021, NIOSA is the top fundraiser for historic preservation in the United States—living up to its motto as a "Celebration for Preservation." It is solely produced by and benefits [The Conservation Society of San Antonio](#) (one of the nation's oldest and most active historic preservation organizations). Last year NIOSA was scheduled for April 2020, but was cancelled entirely—along with Fiesta San Antonio—because of Covid-19.

Through the magic of 155+ food, drink and atmosphere booths and entertainment stages; continuous live musical acts; decorations; souvenirs; and many dedicated volunteers, NIOSA brings the city's heritage alive in its 14 cultural areas. San Antonians have consistently voted NIOSA as their favorite event. The last time it was held, NIOSA was listed as the #1 Fiesta event by [San Antonio Current](#), which called it an "essential experience."

**SOMETHINGS NEVER CHANGE** (*thank goodness!*); NIOSA 2021 will still:

- occur in the heart of downtown San Antonio on the grounds of La Villita Historic Arts Village District, with its four+ acres of historic buildings, cobblestoned streets, walls and fountains.
- feature booths run by volunteers making food or beverages; many volunteers are second or third generations of a family.
- serve the foods NIOSA has created or perfected, prepared and served including these favorites: Mr. Chicken, Maria's Tortillas, Anticuchos, its signature German sausage, Bongo-K-Bobs, Shypoke Eggs, Beignets, Fried Mushrooms, Yak-i-Tori, Steer on a Stick, Eggrolls, Gorditas and Fajitas de Pollo. Click [HERE](#) for map of grounds and list of foods
- feature NIOSA's favorite entertainers who will be back every night of NIOSA
- sell its popular NIOSA souvenirs [HERE](#) on its website and on the NIOSA grounds, including the 2020 NIOSA medal
- sell beer in its signature collectible cups
- be put on by an army of volunteers, led by the Society's Fourth Vice President/NIOSA Chairman (Terry Schoenert this year) who is ultimately responsible for everything from decorations to cascarones and security. She is assisted by three NIOSA vice chairmen and a treasurer; 14 area chairmen; and booth chairmen for hundreds of food and drink booths.
- continue as one of the top Green events during Fiesta with recycle bins in all of its 14 areas so guests can reduce, reuse and recycle. A bicycle valet is offered outside the NIOSA gate at the corner of Alamo and Nueva streets from 5:30 – 10 p.m. so bicycles (not motorcycles) can be locked up in a supervised area. Cyclists must bring their own lock/chain. VIA Metropolitan Transit may offer Park and Ride services; check [www.viainfo.net/park-and-ride/](http://www.viainfo.net/park-and-ride/) for complete information.

- First Aid stations are located in Chinatown, Frontier Town, Irish Flats, Mission Trail, South of the Border and Haymarket areas, and on porch of NIOSA headquarters at corner of Nueva and Presa Streets.

### **SOME THINGS WILL CHANGE** (*for the better!*):

- The City of San Antonio and Metro Health will set up three mobile Covid-19 vaccination sites all nights of 2021 NIOSA (June 22-25) from 5:30 to 8 p.m. for the public (starting at 4 pm for volunteers). Clinic sites will be located on the NIOSA grounds in Clown Alley (Maverick Plaza), South of the Border (Villita St. near Alamo) and Mexican Market (Assembly Bldg. patio) areas. Interested person will need to present identification. Vaccine suppliers will vary and will not be known in advance.
- A limited number of tickets for each night of NIOSA will be sold in advance [HERE](#) on the NIOSA website. This will lessen crowds and allow for more distancing.
- Entrance e-tickets are available now, **ONLY** on NIOSA website.
- Guests must present e-Ticket purchase code by cell phone (or print-out of ticket code) at the entrance gates, where it will then be scanned.
- No paper entrance tickets will be sold at locations around San Antonio, as in past years.
- All NIOSA guests must purchase [BlastPass](#)—a cashless, touchless wristband that all guests must use to purchase everything onsite at NIOSA (food, beverages and mementos).
- BlastPass stores credits on the wristband for an easy payment process that is a convenient, cleaner way to pay for items, with no need for paper coupons that can easily get lost.
- Guests can no longer purchase paper coupons on the NIOSA grounds.
- BlastPass can be purchased [HERE](#) on the NIOSA website **OR** on the NIOSA grounds at the many convenient BlastPass stations, marked well with bright blue signs. Those stations will also allow guests to load more money on their wristbands.
- *Don't worry:* There will be many manned BlastPass stations on the NIOSA grounds to help people buy and load their wristband with more money via credit card or mobile phone.
- More details on [BlastPass FAQ](#) on NIOSA website.
- A few areas and some booths will be in new locations in La Villita this year. Click [HERE](#) to see map and list of foods in each area.
- Children 12 and under are still free when accompanied by an adult. However, there will not be children's games nor face-painting.
- Covid policies and protocols will be constantly updated [HERE](#) on NIOSA website. **NIOSA will not require a mask for guests and volunteers who have been vaccinated; they ask that unvaccinated guests please wear a mask. NIOSA will not require proof of vaccination status.**
  - Other policies and initiatives include:
  - NIOSA will provide additional trash receptacles, recycle bins and hand sanitizer/hand wash stations
  - New food serving procedures for all booths to minimize contact
  - A limited number of tickets for each night of NIOSA will be sold in advance [HERE](#) on the NIOSA website.
  - A limited number of tickets for each night of NIOSA will be sold; this will lessen crowds and allow for more distancing

**TICKETS:** Entrance tickets are \$20 for adults; children 12 and under are free when accompanied by an adult. This year, **ONLY** e-Tickets will be accepted at NIOSA this year and can only be purchased online. Guests must present e-Ticket purchase code by cell phone (or print-out of ticket code) at the entrance gates, where it will then be scanned at an entrance gate. (No advance paper tickets will be sold at locations around San Antonio, as in past years.) A limited number of tickets for each night of NIOSA will be sold in advance on the NIOSA website. This will lessen crowds and allow for more distancing.

**HISTORY:** NIOSA began in 1936 as a harvest festival on the grounds of Mission San Jose. From 1936 to 1946 (with breaks in 1943 and 1945 because of the war), it was held in the fall—finally becoming the “River Festival” in 1944. In 1946, the City of San Antonio asked The Conservation Society to hold its event during Fiesta. In 1948 the one-street, one-night festival was called “A Night In Old San Antonio” for the first time. By 1958 it had expanded to four nights and in 1966, the name was registered and trademarked, reserving it exclusively for The Conservation Society.

## NIOSA's 14 CULTURAL AREAS

### Arneson Theatre (added in 1951)

Entertainment is the focal point of the historic Arneson River Theatre, a venue for musical shows year-round on the **San Antonio River Walk**. The open-air theater was built as a Works Progress Administration project during the 1930s. Grab a bite to eat, have a seat on the grass covered steps of the theatre and sing along to the great tunes of **The Groove Doctors**. Enjoy **Banana Smoothies, Fried Jalapeños and Broadway Chicken** (fried chicken on a stick). This area features **Smirnoff Ice malt beverages, beer** booths featuring Miller Lite, Coors Light and Blue Moon and a **Cerveza Especial** booth with Dos Equis.

### China Town (added in 1984)

The Asian mystique begins with traditional Chinese cuisine in Chinatown. Crowd pleasers are **Lemon Chicken, Egg Rolls, Potstickers, Crispy Shrimp Wraps** and **Yak-I-Tori** chicken-k-bob (2,300 servings sold annually). Restrooms and a First Aid station are located just outside of the Bolivar Café (north side). **Wines** and four varieties of **beers** (Miller Lite, Coors Light, Summer Shandy and Blue Moon) are sold here.

### Clown Alley (added in 1977)

It wouldn't be Clown Alley without clowns! This area features childhood food favorites such as **Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers, Corn Dogs, Curly Q Fries, Dutch Chocolate Freeze** (ice cream bar) and souvenirs. No games this year in Clown Alley.

### French Quarter (added in 1969)

French Quarter celebrates the tastes of France, New Orleans and south Texas French. **Crepes Suzette, Crayfish Etouffee**, 25,000 servings of **Beignets** annually, **French Sausage** and **Shrimp Po'Boys** are served by costumed mesdames and messieurs. **Back in 2021:** the immensely popular **Escargot**. Guests can enjoy a glass of **wine, champagne, beers** (Miller Lite, Coors Light, Summer Shandy and Blue Moon) and **Smirnoff Ice malt beverages**, as they listen to soft jazz by **Bad Banjo Brown** and take photos in front of the 15-foot lit Eiffel Tower.

### Froggy Bottom (added in 2004)

Many of the city's early African-American settlers migrated to San Antonio from the Froggy Bottom region of Louisiana in the mid-to-late 1800s. The Froggy Bottom name comes from a popular, local social club on the near East Side of downtown in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This NIOSA area pays tribute to the cultural contributions of African-Americans, celebrating their Southern hospitality and home cooking.

A variety of southern foods are offered, including NIOSA's most popular dish: **Mr. Chicken** (skewered fried chicken topped with a jalapeño--22,000 of these sold annually). **Mama's Sweets** (pralines) and **Shrimp Parilla** (seasoned and grilled shrimp) can also be found here. **Smirnoff Ice malt beverages**, and **beers** (Miller Lite, Coors Light and Blue Moon) are sold here. Visitors can dance to the rhythm and blues performed by **Celsius**.

### Frontier Town (started 1966)

An early Texas settlement, including an official **U.S. Postal sub-station** which offers an official NIOSA cancellation stamp, is re-created in one of the largest areas of NIOSA. NEW: This year the **Hitching Post** will share space with an official **U.S. Postal sub-station** with its official NIOSA cancellation stamp. A windmill marks this popular area, where there's plenty of room for boot-scootin' to **Mario Flores & The Soda Creek Band. Horseshoe Sausage** (exclusive NIOSA blend), **Texas Bird Legs, Sopapillas, Steer-on-a-Stick (6,800 servings sold annually)** and **Shypoke Eggs** keep visitors' appetites satisfied. Popular NIOSA favorites **Bongo K Bobs** (11,000 sold annually) and **Fried Mushrooms** will move to this area. There are plenty of **Wrangler Margaritas**, cold **suds** (Miller Lite, Coors Light, Summer Shandy and Blue Moon), a **Cerveza Especial** booth with Dos Equis) and non-alcoholic **Mangonadas** in this area. A First Aid station is found here.

### Haymarket (added in 1981)

During the Spanish Colonial period, San Antonians used to gather near San Fernando Cathedral to sell produce and livestock. This area, known as the Haymarket, inspired the NIOSA version with its facades and

colorful banners resembling those from the farmers' markets. NIOSA goers will enjoy constant Tejano music from a DJ.

One of NIOSA's most famous and beloved foods bears the name of the woman who prepared it so long ago. **Maria's Tortillas** (a hand-patted, grilled corn tortilla, buttered and filled with cheddar cheese and salsa) is named for Maria Luisa Ochoa, housekeeper to Ethel Harris, Conservation Society president from 1951-53. Ochoa was enlisted by Harris to make tortillas for the event. Introduced in the early 1950s, the booth today sells nearly 6,600 concoctions each year. Other popular Haymarket dishes include **Gorditas**, **Puffy Tacos**, and **Wine Margaritas**. **NEW to this area but not new to NIOSA: Buñuelos a la Mode** (ice cream with Cajeta sauce and buñuelo chips), **Roasted Corn**, **Ranch Steaks** and **Tamales**. This area features **Cerveza Especial** booth with Dos Equis, the very popular **Preparadas** (fruit-flavored malt beverage with fresh fruit, chamoy and chili lime powder) and other **beers** (Miller Lite, Coors Light, Summer Shandy and Blue Moon).

### Irish Flats

Irish Flats, one of the original NIOSA areas, features **Potato Skins** to commemorate the Irish settlers of yesteryear. Visitors can try the very popular **Smirnoff Preparadas** (fruit-flavored malt beverage with fresh fruit, chamoy and chili lime powder) and several **beers** including George Killian's. A First Aid station is found next to this area.

### Main Street USA (started in 1976)

Main Street USA was established as a bicentennial project in 1976. American classics and NIOSA exclusives—including **Fat Bread** (an English muffin covered with sautéed mushrooms and Jack cheese)—appeal to hearty appetites. Other food booths include **Fried Green Tomatoes**, **Banana Splits**, **Fried Oreos** and **Pizza**. Visitors can enjoy the sounds spun by **DJ Ben Steward**. Libations include **wine**, **Miller Lite**, **Coors Light**, **Summer Shandy** and **Blue Moon**.

### Mexican Market (original area of NIOSA)

A Mexican market is re-created with colorful papel picado banners and paper flowers in this original area of NIOSA. Celebrating the city's cultural ties to Mexico, this is where visitors find a NIOSA exclusive: **Anticuchos**—a marinated steak kabob with origins from Peru. First introduced in 1955, hundreds of volunteers serve more than 10,000 of these each year.

Other favorites include **Chalupas**, **Quesadillas**, **Fajitas de Pollo**, **Bean Tacos** (with fresh corn tortillas made on the spot), **Burritos**, **Enchiladas**, **Elotes** (roasted corn on the cob), **Fruit Market** and **Lemonade/Hibiscus Tea**. Mexican sweets include **Churros** and **Buñuelos** (crisp fried Mexican pastry dusted with cinnamon and sugar). This area features **Wine Sangria**, **Cerveza Especial** booth with Dos Equis, the very popular **Preparadas** (fruit-flavored malt beverage with fresh fruit, chamoy and chili lime powder) and Beer booths with Miller Lite, Coors Light, Summer Shandy and Blue Moon.

Workers costumed in huipiles, Oaxacan dresses, ponchos and peasant attire enhance the flavor of Mexico, along with the musical entertainment of **Karizma**. In keeping with a true marketplace, a **Tienda** booth offers folk art from all over Mexico, including toys, apparel and accessories. The **Bolsa** booth originated here and still resides here, selling hand-painted paper shopping bags decorated by area artists, including notecards and 8x10" mini-prints by Caroline Shelton—a longtime, beloved member of the Conservation Society and NIOSA volunteer who painted the first NIOSA poster in 1983.

**Cascarones** (confetti eggs) originated at NIOSA in the Mexican Market in 1959 and are now a Fiesta staple. Each year, approximately 35 dedicated Conservation Society volunteers work year-round to make more than 50,000 of the popular confetti eggs. For only \$1, revelers may buy three cascarones to crack over the heads of fellow visitors, showering them with confetti. The sale of cascarones at NIOSA has contributed around \$700,000 for historic preservation projects since they were introduced in 1959.

### Mission Trail (added in 1991)

These sacred San Antonio landmarks are commemorated in the Mission Trail area, which features facades of four missions of the San Antonio Missions Historical Park. This area also symbolizes The Conservation Society's successful promotion of a parkway to connect San Antonio's historic missions in the 1990s. During

1993-94, The Society was integral in securing federal funding for the Mission Trails project. The Society was also integral in the Missions' nomination as an UNESCO World Heritage Site, initiating the nomination process in 2006 and continuing to support the nomination until the missions were awarded UNESCO World Heritage status in 2015. The Society's support of the Missions includes a substantial donation to Los Compadres operation of Mission San Juan Spanish Colonial Farm.

This area features **Mission Maize, Tacos de Espada, Sangria Slush** and **Chuleta de Puerco** (Pork Chop on a Stick). **Pan Dulce de Mission** (funnel cakes) satisfy those with sweet cravings. This area features **Cerveza Especial** booth with Dos Equis and **Beer** booth serving Miller Lite, Coors Light and Blue Moon.

**Fortune Tellers** predict fortunes of some, while others find festive Fiesta hats at **Sombrero Wagon**. An **Artista** (caricaturist) captures humorous renditions of visitors. The country western sounds of **Mick Hernandez & The Texas Silveradoes** will entertain guests. A First Aid station is found here.

#### **Sauerkraut Bend (added in 1971)**

German influence in San Antonio dates back to the early 1800s, when immigrants built their homes in the King William neighborhood along a bend in the San Antonio River. Called Sauerkraut Bend, it inspired the NIOSA version, which is set in the Villita Assembly Building. **Eurofest** will provide continuous entertainment (including the popular Chicken Dance).

Visitors to the cool, spacious hall enjoy **Sausage on a Stick** and **Sausage Sampler** (1,200 pounds worth of a blend made exclusively for NIOSA), **Deutsche Nachtsche** (sweets including Black Forest Cake), **Bretzlyn, Bavarian Kreme Horns, Bratwurst Broetchen, and Pigs in a Blanket**. The area also offers **wine, Coors Light, Miller Lite** and **Blue Moon**. The **Spezial Beer** booth serves **Leinenkugel's Summer Shandy, Heineken, Shiner Bock and Shiner Light Blonde**. The **Craft Bier Haus** features craft beers on draft from local brewery Ranger Creek including **San Antonio Lager, Sunday Morning Coming Down** (traditional British style brew with the addition of cold brewed coffee), **Love Struck Hefe** (German-style Hefeweizen) and **OPA**. Restrooms are located in this area.

#### **South of the Border (added in 1981)**

Imitating the roadside vendor stands in Northern Mexico, canopies of bright green, yellow, red and blue adorn booths here. Favorites include **Aguacates** (fresh avocado halves filled with a blend of salsa and sour cream), **Pollo Rancheros, Beef Tacos** and **Queso Flameado**. **Smirnoff Preparadas** (fruit-flavored malt beverage with fresh fruit, chamoy and chili lime powder), **NIOSARITAs** and **Cerveza Especial** booth with Dos Equis are served here. Fruit drink carts as found in border towns serve **Jugos Frescas** with mango, strawberry and watermelon juices blended into a favorite for parched participants. A First Aid station is located here.

#### **Villa España (added in 2004)**

Villa España celebrates the city's Spanish and Canary Islanders heritage with colorful Spanish murals. Libations include **Cerveza Especial** booth with Dos Equis, **beers** (Miller Lite, Coors Light and Blue Moon) and **Sangria**. Listen to the continuous entertainment of the popular R&B music of the **Dukes of Cool**.

#### **More about NIOSA:**

**WHEN:** Tuesday through Friday, June 22-25, 2021, from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. Gates close and alcohol sales stop at 10 p.m.; food sales and entertainment continue until 10:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Grounds of the La Villita National Historic District—the 18th century Spanish neighborhood, bounded by the San Antonio River and Alamo, Nueva and Presa streets (approximately five acres). Handicap access at all gates.

**WHO:** NIOSA is sponsored solely by The Conservation Society of San Antonio. Founded in 1924, The Conservation Society is one of the oldest and most active community preservation groups in the U.S. Beginning with efforts to prevent historic structures from being razed and to preserve such unique sites as the city's Spanish Colonial missions, The Society has been responsible for saving most of the historic attractions that now make San Antonio one of the top tourist

destinations in the country. The Society was integral in the Missions' nomination as an UNESCO World Heritage Site, initiating the nomination process in 2006 and supporting the nomination until the missions were awarded UNESCO World Heritage status in 2015. The Society's support of the Missions includes a substantial donation to operation of Mission San Juan Spanish Colonial Farm.

**PROCEEDS:** NIOSA is the top fundraiser for historic preservation in the nation and truly lives up to its motto as a "Celebration for Preservation." The NIOSA committee is able to present The Conservation Society of San Antonio with an average of more than \$1.6 million annually in NIOSA profits to fund the Society's preservation of historic properties and parks throughout the city and neighboring counties, as well as education and advocacy programs such as the Heritage Education tours, seminars, scholarships, resource library and house museums.

**NIOSA TEAM:** NIOSA chairman Terry Schoenert, elected by The Conservation Society for the 2020 and 2021 NIOSA as its Fourth Vice President/NIOSA Chairman, volunteers her time all year to plan and coordinate the event, and is assisted by three NIOSA vice chairmen (Dee Wright, Julie Terrell and Lisa Pierce) and NIOSA Treasurer Jana Foreman, also all volunteers. They oversee the many dedicated volunteers who contribute more than 150,000 volunteer hours to make NIOSA happen.

**POLICIES:** Covid policies will be constantly updated [HERE](#) on NIOSA website.

- The following items are prohibited on the grounds of NIOSA (NIOSA does NOT provide a place to check/store these items): weapons (including concealed weapons); baby strollers; outside food & beverages; recreational wheels (i.e., scooters, skateboards, roller blades, Heelys, etc.); drones and backpacks.
- **Bags/Backpacks/Diaper Bags:** Any bags, including diaper bags and backpacks, larger than 12"x12"x6" are prohibited unless they are clear or mesh. We encourage the use of clear bags for any size so that we can expedite entry into this event; all bags brought into the event may be screened. Prohibited bags will not be held nor checked-in at the gates.
- **Service Dogs:** NIOSA welcomes guests with disabilities and their service animals but have strict requirements that follow ADA guidelines i.e. the term "service animal" means any dog or miniature horse that is individually trained to perform tasks for people with disabilities. (Miniature horses generally weigh between 70 and 100 pounds.) We reserve the right to refuse entry to a service animal that reacts aggressively to people, sounds or other animals and thusly poses a direct threat to health and safety.
  - NOTE: Emotional support, therapy or comfort animals (that provide comfort just by being with a person) will not be admitted to the event.
- **Trademarks:** Since 1948, The Conservation Society of San Antonio has used NIOSA® and A NIGHT IN OLD SAN ANTONIO® trademarks to identify the popular festival and its associated merchandise. Any use of "NIOSA" or "A Night In Old San Antonio" on medals or other uses (such as t-shirts, caps, advertising, events, websites, Facebook and other social media outlets)—not explicitly authorized and/or created by the Conservation Society—is prohibited under the trademark laws of the United States.

**INFO:** Visit [www.niosa.org](http://www.niosa.org), contact (210) 226-5188 or [niosa@niosa.org](mailto:niosa@niosa.org) or follow NIOSA on [Facebook](#) at [www.facebook/niosa.niosa](http://www.facebook/niosa.niosa).

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"A Night In Old San Antonio®" (NIOSA®) has earned one of the highest certifications every year since the City of San Antonio began 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.

**MEDIA:** More comprehensive media materials are available on the NIOSA website [news page](#). High-resolution

*photos, recipes, interviews with NIOSA Chair Terry Schoenert and more detailed entertainment schedules are available from Jeanne Albrecht at 210-392-9047 or [jca@jeannebiz.com](mailto:jca@jeannebiz.com).*