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**Events are pending due to COVID-19; check [www.niosa.org](http://www.niosa.org) as event nears.**

For Immediate Release:

## **The Conservation Society of San Antonio re-elects Chairman of 2021 NIOSA®** *Festival of food, drink and music celebrates and funds historic preservation*

Terry Schoenert—long-time volunteer with The Conservation Society of San Antonio/NIOSA® for three decades—was re-elected in June 2020 as Conservation Society Fourth Vice President, which means she again has the very important role of chairman for the 2021 “[A Night In Old San Antonio](#)®.”

“[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, NIOSA and Fiesta San Antonio were postponed because of Covid. NIOSA will now run Tuesday to Friday, **June 22-25, 2021** from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. nightly. It celebrates the city’s diverse cultural legacy for more than 85,000 revelers annually during the city’s [Fiesta San Antonio](#)® celebration.

Through the magic of 155-plus food, drink, atmosphere booths and entertainment stages; continuous live musical acts; decorations; souvenirs; and many dedicated volunteers, NIOSA brings the city’s heritage alive in 14 cultural areas.

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).

Terry began volunteering at NIOSA 35+ years ago in a pasta salad booth and moved onto a beer booth in Mexican Market. After several years, she was asked to help in NIOSA’s Sauerkraut Bend area and recruited family and friends to volunteer with her—all who became Society members. From 2000 to 2019 she served as chair of the large Sauerkraut Bend area. In summer of 2019 she was elected as Chairman of the 2020 NIOSA, which was rescheduled and then cancelled entirely because of Covid-19.

In 2021, Terry is assisted by her team of vice chairs—also all volunteers—Dee Wright, Julie Terrell, Lisa Pierce, and NIOSA Treasurer Jana Foreman.

### **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.
- run booths by volunteers making food or beverages to benefit the Conservation Society; many 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 own German sausage, Bongo-K-Bobs, Shypoke Eggs, Beignets, Fried Mushrooms, Yak-i-Tori, Steer on a Stick, Eggrolls, Gorditas and Fajitas de Pollo.
- feature NIOSA’s favorite entertainers who will be back every night of NIOSA

### **SOMETHINGS WILL CHANGE (for the better!):**

- 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 will be available the beginning of May, ONLY on NIOSA website.
  - 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. 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.
- 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 will be constantly updated [HERE](#) on NIOSA website. Presently policies include:
  - NIOSA will provide additional trash receptacles, recycle bins and appropriately distanced portable restrooms
  - Guests must wear masks at the event except when eating or drinking
  - New food serving procedures for all booths to minimize contact
  - Enhanced sanitizing protocols will include additional hand sanitizer and hand wash stations, at entrances and throughout venue

Schoenert also chairs the Society's NIOSITAS (private mini-NIOSAs) in La Villita's historic plazas for conventions, meetings and any group that loves a fiesta—for groups of 300 and up—to raise additional funds. In fact, the Conservation Society was the first organization in San Antonio to produce these outdoor festivals for private groups, establishing NIOSA as the premiere caterer of "fiestas."

For more information, 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](#).

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A Night In Old San Antonio® (NIOA®) has always 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 since the city began that program. In 2011, NIOA first earned the "Platinum Status" in the city's Fiesta Verde beautification program, the first organization in the city to do so.

**MEDIA:** More comprehensive media materials will be posted as available on the NIOSA website [news page](#). High-resolution photos, recipes, interviews with NIOSA Chair Terry Schoenert and more detailed entertainment/food schedules are available from Jeanne Albrecht at 210-392-9047 or [jca@jeannebiz.com](mailto:jca@jeannebiz.com).