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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MEDIA**  
"A NIGHT IN OLD SAN ANTONIO®" (NIO SA®)

**EVENTS OPEN TO THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC:**

**NIO SA MEDALS:** Produced in limited quantities and always a hot seller, all medals are on sale now (until sold out). The two larger medals at \$13 each and the lapel medal for \$6 each are on sale at:

- ❖ NIO SA office, 227 S. Presa, weekdays between 9 am and 4 pm - through April 19
- ❖ Starting March 4: Amol's Party & Fiesta Favors, 227 Fredericksburg Rd (near Five Points) (\$13 each)
- ❖ During NIO SA in NIO SA souvenir booths, while supplies last
- ❖ Maddie Mac Boutique, 2607 Vance Jackson (\$15 each)
- ❖ Monarch Trophy Studio website at <https://mtsawards.com/pages/fiesta-medals-san-antonio> (\$15 each)

**TICKETS:**

- Advance discount entrance tickets for \$20 are available now through April 26 on NIO SA website; handling fee will apply. These e-tickets can be loaded to phone or tablet, or printed. NIO SA leaders strongly recommend that buyers bring a printed e-ticket, as back-up.
- Advance discount entrance tickets for \$20 are available now through April 19 at NIO SA 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 1 through April 26 for \$20/pp at area H-E-B grocery stores; USAA; Ft. Sam Houston; Lackland AFB and Randolph AFB
- Members of the Conservation Society get NIO SA tickets for only \$15/pp (the lowest ticket price available). Join or renew your membership by March 31, 2024 at [saconservation.org](http://saconservation.org) to buy member tickets PLUS get the satisfaction that you are supporting the preservation efforts of the Society.
- Entrance tickets can be purchased nightly during NIO SA at the gates for \$25 for adults; 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.
- All tickets are non-refundable; NIO SA is open, rain or shine.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 23 THROUGH FRIDAY, APRIL 26 – NIO SA 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 (BUT NOT THE PUBLIC):**

**EVERY THURSDAY FROM NOW THROUGH APRIL 11, 10:30 a.m.to noon:**

Approximately 12 volunteers from the Decorations Committee meet weekly to create flowers and other decorations used at NIO SA. 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 wired together), 830 streamers, and extra flowers to decorate NIO SA wherever needed. Decorations Committee Chair Gloria de Hoyos is bilingual.

FYI: The Decorations now meets at different location than Cascarones Committee; please contact Jeanne Albrecht to arrange interview and for address.

**EVERY THURSDAY YEAR-ROUND (WITH EXCEPTION OF MARCH 28 AND APRIL 25), 10:30 a.m.to noon:**

Approximately 15 volunteers from the Cascarones Committee meet weekly 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. 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 over \$700,000 for historic preservation projects since they were introduced in 1959. Cascarones Committee Chair is Judy Simon; many longtime volunteers and the Cascarones Committee vice chair are bilingual in Spanish.

FYI: The Cascarones committee now meets at different location than Decorations Committee; please contact Jeanne Albrecht to arrange interview and for address.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 THROUGH TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 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 22, 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). 2024 NIOSA Chairman Lisa Pierce, the five NIOSA vice chairmen, 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. 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 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 Lisa Pierce, Conservation Society of San Antonio President Kathy Krnavek and Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar will be joined by Rey Feo, King Antonio, the five 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 the Brackenridge High School Drum Line as it parades through La Villita. Contact Jeanne Albrecht for route.

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

**TUESDAY, APRIL 23 through FRIDAY APRIL 26 – NIOSA OCCURS:**

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

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

10 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 27 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and SUNDAY APRIL 28, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.:**

Take-down/tear down of NIOSA booths and props

**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](mailto:jca@jeannebiz.com). NIOSA does NOT honor Fiesta media passes.

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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.