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For Immediate Release:

The Conservation Society of San Antonio elects Chairman of 2024 NIOSA®

Festival of food, drink and music celebrates and funds historic preservation

Lisa Pierce—longtime volunteer with NIOSA for more than a decade—was elected in June 2023 as the Conservation Society of San Antonio Fourth Vice President/Chairman for the 2024 "A Night In Old San Antonio®."

"A Night In Old San Antonio®" (NIOSA®)—a four-night festival held during Fiesta San Antonio®—will occur Tuesday through Friday, April 23-26, 2024 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-wide Fiesta celebration.

Celebrating its 76th presentation in 2024, 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 that will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2024).

Through the magic of 165+ 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.

Pierce began volunteering in the early 2000s with NIOSA in the Frog Legs booth. She quickly rose through the volunteer ranks of NIOSA, from Vice Chair then Chair of Frog Legs, Chair of Funnel Fries in Clown Alley area, then Food Chair to Vice Chair to Chair of Clown Alley. Four years ago, she moved up to Vice Chair of NIOSA overall before becoming the Chair of NIOSA/Society Fourth VP this summer—a volunteer, unpaid position where she is ultimately responsible for everything from decorations and cascarones to security and placement of all booths. She also chairs the Society's NIOSITAs (private mini-NIOSAs) in La Villita's historic plazas for conventions, meetings and any group of 300 or more that loves a fiesta—to raise additional funds. 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."

Pierce has also been very active in the Conservation Society, serving as Chair of two Society committees: Yturri Edmunds Mill/House and Educational Grants. She also volunteered on the Membership and Historic Heritage Tours committees.

Outside NIOSA and the Society, she is a Lifetime Member of the Fiesta San Antonio Commission. She has been active in the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo "all my life" and has volunteered in the "Animal Check-in" area. She also has been a member of the Assistance League of San Antonio; a child advocate for Child Advocates San Antonio (CASA); and a superintendent of the Homemaking Division for the Nueces County Junior Livestock Show.

"We want everyone to know that all the best parts of NIOSA are back in 2024: paper coupons for food/drink/ souvenirs (*no wristbands!*); everything is on the La Villita grounds; favorites including Mr. Chicken, Maria's Tortillas, Anticuchos, its signature German sausage, Bongo-K-Bobs, Shypoke Eggs, Beignets, Fried

Mushrooms, Yak-i-Tori and Gorditas; fabulous continuous live music; and advance discount tickets sold on website and at our wonderful partners like HEB, USAA and the military bases," says Pierce. "Remember that every taco you eat; every cascarone you crack; and every beer you drink goes back to preserve the historic buildings and traditions that make San Antonio unique."

Situated at the peak of the NIOSA organizational volunteer pyramid, Pierce is assisted by five NIOSA Vice Chairs (Glenda Duffin, Julie Terrell, Jackie Fellers, Erin Angle and Tisha Smith-Pruski) and NIOSA Treasurer Wayne Hartman.

For more information, visit www.niosa.org, contact (210) 226-5188 or niosa@niosa.org or follow NIOSA on Facebook.

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MEDIA: More comprehensive media materials will be posted as available on the NIOSA website <u>news page</u>. High-resolution photos, recipes, interviews with NIOSA Chair and other longtime volunteers, and more detailed entertainment/food schedules are available from Jeanne Albrecht at 210-392-9047 or ica@jeannebiz.com.