



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
{{item.tracking_number}}

Agenda Item Number: {{item.number}}

Agenda Date: April 8, 2025

In Control: San Antonio Arts Commission

DEPARTMENT: Department of Arts and Culture

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Krystal Jones

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Director's Report: National Poetry Month, Confluence of Cultures: Nuestra Gente, Cultura y Comida Poetry Night, San Antonio Arts Commission Terms, and Department Updates

SUMMARY:

National Poetry Month

April marks National Poetry Month in San Antonio

Confluence of Cultures: Nuestra Gente, Cultura y Comida Poetry Night

The Department of Arts and Culture will host a **Poetry Night** on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 6pm at Culture Commons Gallery. This event occurring during National Poetry Month, will feature twelve (12) local poets reflecting on the current exhibition, *Confluence of Cultures: Nuestra Gente, Cultura y Comida*. San Antonio Poet Laureate, Eddie Vega will be featured along with former San Antonio Poet Laureate, Andrea “Vocab” Sanderson as part of the programming.

San Antonio Arts Commission Terms

The San Antonio Arts Commission is comprised of 15 Members: 10 District Appointed Members appointed by their respective Councilmembers and four (4) Members appointed by the Mayor. Members serve a two-year term of office concurrent with the City Council term. Members remain in their seat beyond the expiration of their term to continue to conduct Commission work while maintaining quorum. The current term officially ends on May 31, 2025.

Department Updates

The Department of Arts and Culture will provide staffing updates.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

National Poetry Month

Launched by the Academy of American Poets in 1996, National Poetry Month is one of the largest literary celebrations in the world. The City of San Antonio joined National Poetry Month in 2009 to raise awareness about the importance of poetry and celebrate the spoken and written word. The 2025 National Poetry Calendar coordinated by the Department of Arts and Culture includes more than 40 poetry events throughout the city.

Confluence of Cultures: Nuestra Gente, Cultura y Comida Poetry Night

This event is in part of the programming for the *Confluence of Culture: Nuestra Gente, Cultura y Comida* exhibition currently on view at the Culture Commons Gallery. This exhibition was organized in collaboration with the City of San Antonio World Heritage Office and brings together 20 San Antonio-based artists who explore the merging of cultures that made their home and shaped their people. Through paintings, drawings, prints, sculptures and installation pieces, San Antonio artists explore the legacy that has created a City of Gastronomy and World-Heritage-designated missions. The exhibition will be on view until January 16, 2026. Culture Commons is located in the Plaza de Armas Building and is managed by the Department of Arts and Culture. It consists of a storefront gallery located on the first and second floors as well as a 1,500 sq. ft. exhibit hall that features visual art exhibits, performances, invited speakers and workshops. The vision for Culture Commons is to serve as the City of San Antonio's cultural space that integrates the arts into our civic conversation by encouraging creativity, supporting local culture and engaging our community in transforming the future.

San Antonio Arts Commission Terms

The San Antonio Arts Commission members must be residents of the City of San Antonio.

a. Council District residency shall be based on one of the following: place of residency, place of employment or otherwise significant ties to a community.

San Antonio Arts Commission member shall be a recognized, qualified representative from one of the following categories:

Visual Arts - professional and/or active community participants associated with the creation, education, and exhibition of art involving the visual senses, inclusive of traditional two dimensional art (painting, photography, printmaking, etc.) and three-dimensional art (sculpture, ceramics), as well as film, new media, conceptual art and time-based art

Performing Arts - professional and/or active community participants associated with the creation, education and production of performance-based art that is experienced by audiences; such as theatre, music, dance, and performance art

Literary Arts - professional and/or active community participants associated with the creation, education and publication of literary art consisting of writings; such as prose (fiction/non-fiction), drama and poetry

Public Art & Urban Design - professional and/or active community participants associated with public art and urban design; such as public artists, public art administrators, curators, urban planners, and architectural designers

Cultural Festivals & Events - professional and/or active community participants associated with the organization and production of arts and culture festivals and events

Art Patronage - professional and/or community representatives associated with arts patronage and advocates for the advancement of arts

Film and Media Production – professional and/or active community participants associated with the creation, education, promotion and/or production of feature films, short films, television series / episodes, mini-series, made-for-television movies, animation, documentaries, and other videorelated media

Music - professional and/or active community participants associated with the creation, education, promotion and/or production of music

Department Updates

The Department of Arts and Culture will provide staffing updates.

ISSUE:

National Poetry Month, Confluence of Cultures: Nuestra Gente, Cultura y Comida Poetry Night, and Department Updates

This is an announcement only.

San Antonio Arts Commission Terms

San Antonio Arts Commission members shall follow the term limits and appointment procedures set forth in Chapter 2, Article IX, Section 2-530 of the City Code - General Rules and Procedures for City Council Boards and Commissions. The current term officially ends on May 31, 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact as this is an announcement only.

ALTERNATIVES:

National Poetry Month, Confluence of Cultures: Nuestra Gente, Cultura y Comida Poetry Night, and Department Updates

None, this is an announcement only.

San Antonio Arts Commission Terms

San Antonio Arts Commission Members are to take one of the following actions: (1) reapply for a seat on the Commission, to be considered for reappointment; or, (2) email the Department Commission Liaison and the Office of City Clerk Boards and Commissions Coordinator indicating the intent to step down until a new member is appointed to the respective seat or another date.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an announcement only.