



Briefing Statement

BUREAU: National Park Service
ISSUE: San Antonio Missions World Heritage Nomination
PARK: San Antonio Missions National Historical Park
DATE: November 8, 2012

Current Status:

- June 1, 2012 Secretary of the Interior Kenneth Salazar announces that the San Antonio Franciscan Missions is given authority to prepare an official nomination document to present to the World Heritage Committee
- June 2012 Establishment of Advisory Committee for San Antonio Missions World Heritage Nomination
 - Budget \$873,380 (cash and in-kind)
 - Funding
 - Los Compadres de San Antonio Missions \$25,000
 - San Antonio Conservation Society \$50,000
 - Intermountain Region, National Park Service \$70,000
 - 1 year term GS-9 archeologist to backfill World Heritage lead position
 - National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) \$10,000
 - Bexar County: 1/3 of World Heritage consultant salary plus complete funding of an economic impact study on the effects of World Heritage Listing
 - San Antonio River Authority \$18,000 for marketing/media firm
 - In-Kind
 - City of San Antonio staff salaries to prepare new view shed ordinances and historic district guidelines
 - San Antonio Missions NHP – staff including ONPS monies to hire temporary students FY12 and FY13
 - Ford, Powell, and Carson Architects – up to 20 hrs/week for architectural historian services
 - Los Compadres – staff time to manage funding accounts
 - NPCA – staff to manage contact lists and send out e-blasts for public meetings
 - Contracts
 - Lead Writer
 - World Heritage Consultant
- June 25, August 23, October 29, 2012 Stakeholders/Public Meetings – approximately 40 attendees each



- June-October 2012 Presentations to various community groups to familiarize them on the World Heritage nomination.
 - San Antonio Conservation Society Board of Directors
 - San José Neighborhood Association
 - South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
 - The Rotary Club of San Antonio
 - San Antonio Museum of Art Board of Directors
 - Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
- July-October 2012 Meetings with missions descendant and indigenous groups; working with interested parties to allow participation and input
- August 22, 2012 Media Roll-out of World Heritage Website: www.MissionsofSanAntonio.org for the community to go to get updated information, provide comments, and express their support
- August-September 2012 – Presentations to various city departments to work with them on providing appropriate buffer zones and development plans for the World Heritage Nomination
- September 2012 – Meeting with the Texas General Land Office, new official state division in charge of the Alamo to acquaint them with the nomination process and what World Heritage status means to the General Land Office
- October 2012 Support Letters from the Greater San Antonio Tourism Council, The San Antonio Hotel and Lodging Association, and the Hilton Palacio del Rio
- October 22, 2012 Meeting with Texas General Land Office Commissioner Jerry Patterson. General Land Office endorses nomination.

Next Steps:

- November 8, 2012 – Presentation to Timely Topics Women’s Group.
- December 12, 2012 – US/ICOMOS Gala in Washington DC
- January 8, 2013 6pm Public Update Meeting on World Heritage Nomination, Mission San José Visitor Center
- January 13, 2013 3pm Public Lecture, San Antonio Museum of Art
- March 7, 2013 6pm Public Update Meeting on World Heritage Nomination, Mission San José Visitor Center
- May 1, 2013 Complete draft due to the Office of International Affairs, NPS
- September 2013 Complete draft sent to World Heritage Committee for preliminary review
- February 1, 2014 Official submittal to World Heritage for consideration
- Summer/Fall 2014 On site inspection by World Heritage Officials
- 2015 Official inscription on World Heritage list (if successful)



Other Initiatives:

- San Antonio Conservation Society has asked the Office of Cultural Affairs for \$100,000 in support of the nomination process
- Fundación Consejo España-Estados Unidos is supportive of the nomination
 - Alejandro Polanco, Secretary General
 - Planning visit to San Antonio
 - Spanish Consulate of Houston
- Monthly calls with Office of International Affairs, National Park Service



Background:

- San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, the Archdiocese of San Antonio, the Texas General Land Office and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas preserve the single largest extant concentration of Spanish Colonial mission resources in the United States. Assets of both parks were united to create the proposed **San Antonio Missions** World Heritage Site.
- The **San Antonio Missions** World Heritage Nomination has tremendous support from State, County, City, and partner organizations including letters from Senator Kay Hutchinson, Senator John Cornyn, Governor Rick Perry, the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Bexar County, City of San Antonio, and the City of Floresville
- Members of the Advisory Committee include: the National Park Service, Los Compadres de San Antonio Missions NHP, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, San Antonio Conservation Society, San Antonio River Authority, City of San Antonio, Texas General Land Office, Archdiocese of San Antonio, Bexar County, and the National Parks Conservation Association
- The **San Antonio Missions** located along the San Antonio River collectively represent the largest and most complete surviving example of the Viceroyalty of New Spain's colonial missions in the northern frontier. The impressive Franciscan churches and conventos in this serial nomination - which is comprised of Misión San Antonio de Valero (The Alamo), Misión Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña, Misión San José y San Miguel de Aguayo, Misión San Juan Capistrano, and Misión San Francisco de la Espada - eloquently demonstrate the Spanish Crown's effort to evangelize and convert the indigenous population to Roman Catholicism. Moreover, the missions' fifty standing structures and archaeological remains, including indigenous peoples' housing, perimeter walls for protection, a ranch, farms, and sophisticated irrigation systems, illustrate the full extent of the Crown's political and economic objectives of creating self-sustaining settlements that would develop into permanent secular communities in defense of the territory.

Contact:

Susan Snow, World Heritage Nomination Coordinator, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. 210-534-8875 x243 susan_snow@nps.gov