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LuminariaSA.org | 210-721-1670

PO Box 120188, San Antonio, TX 78212

LUMINARIA 2017

CONTEMPORARY ARTS FESTIVAL



PARTNER LOCATIONS

Hemisfair | Yanaguana Garden | Magik Theatre
The Mexican Cultural Institute | Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
San Antonio Convention Center | Riverwalk | Freight Gallery
Cevallos Lofts | Southtown Flats | Showdown Gallery
Sandy Whitby Studio | Southtown Arts District | Mercury Projects | The Pavillion by Hilton

STAFF

Kathy Armstrong, Executive Director | Kat Berrospe, Administrative Assistant
Ethel Shipton & Maritza Quiroz, Production Managers | Sarah Fisch, Media Manager

BOARD

Stuart Allen | Akeem Brown | Susanne Cooper | Gisela Girard | Phil Hardberger Cari Hill | Jane Lewis | Paul Martin | Felix Padron | Eric Rodriguez | Liz Tullis | Debbie Racca-Sittre

LUMINARIA 2017



STATEMENT

Luminaria works as a large-scale showcase arts festival and as a multi-arts laboratory. We are committed to education, encouraging public/artist interaction at the night festival and hosting smaller special programs. We are a proven place-making event in downtown San Antonio. We are a cultural connector between artists, audiences and the world. Luminaria is a 501c3 Non-profit organization.



LUMEN /ARIA

light comes on / like a love song

did you know / you could whistle?

how much more / might we see?

light comes on / heartstrong

a melody /built like a column

engaged in place /some languages

use the same phrase /for weather & time

light comes on / break upon break upon

& some nights / remind us why

we still dance / everything may

not be okay /not the earth shaken

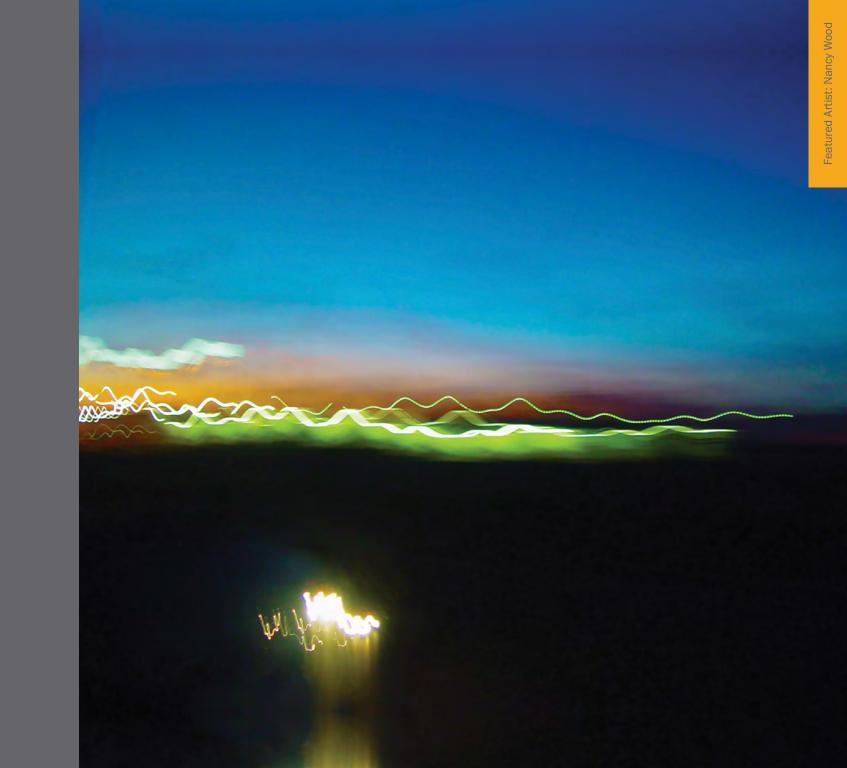
the waters rising / to inspire means

to breathe in / again

so we may / make that living sound

Jenny Browne

2017





A'lante Flamenco

Austin, Texas

A'lante Flamenco will perform a new dance called The Flamenco and Other Wildlife in the grotto by the San Antonio River. The production will take the audience on a safari to a wondrous world full of music, movement, and magical beasts.

AMEA

San Antonio, Texas

Oklahoma born R&B singer-songwriter AMEA has been rising to attention with countless shows throughout the United States. AMEA's music has garnered acclaim with the release of her single record, "VayCay," shortly followed by her 2016 EP release Baggage Claim, via Spotify and Soundcloud. With energetic live performances, AMEA writes music with the mantra "Inspire, Love, Dream."

Artpace Teen Council

San Antonio, Texas

For Luminaria 2017, Artpace Teen Council, in collaboration with Brenda L. Burmeister, will work with local teens and four San Antonio artists to create artwork in augmented reality (AR) that will be scattered in and around Hemisfair Park. The artwork will be accessible to anyone with a smartphone, and viewers will be encouraged to search the Luminaria footprint for the AR artwork.

Ballet San Antonio

San Antonio, Texas

Ballet San Antonio's artistic director Willy Shives has choreographed a program called Something Stupid to premiere at Luminaria 2017. The theme is described by a quote by poet Paul Valéry, "Love is being stupid together."

Ben Jackson

Houston, Texas

Ben Jackson got his first taste of the comedy stage in 2011. Speaking on personal experiences he's witnessed, Ben has performed at the Houston Improv, Arlington Improv, Laugh It Comedy Lounge, and the Joke Joint Comedy Showcase. In 2017, he placed 2nd in the Funniest In South Texas Competition.

Bill Simons

San Antonio, Texas

Bill Simons attempts to recreate the days of the circus sideshow in his work for Luminaria 2017. Visitors will step through a curtain, and instead of seeing a bearded lady, they will see seven of his equally unique illuminated sculptures. Simons has been creating illuminated art for several years, and his work has been featured in several San Antonio galleries.

Cade Bradshaw

San Antonio, Texas

Cade Bradshaw is a visual artist formally trained in biology. His work uses the scientific process to explore the complexity of our world by devising quantitative and qualitative studies. Through this analysis, he makes objects exploring the nature of our realities. For Luminaria 2017, Bradshaw has produced a minimalist video that will illuminate the windows of the historic Hermann Schultz House.

Caesura

San Antonio, Texas

Writers Melanie Robinson and Claudia Cardona visualize a future where poetry is tangible and accessible to all, where poetry isn't intimidating. Their Luminaria project Ololyga: Think Like a Mouth explores the contributions and history of women poets. The project will highlight women of color, queer women, and local women poets who are fundamental to the history of poetry."



Castro

Windhoek, Namibia

Castro plays a hot combination of African traditional, reggae, and jazz. The award-winning band has gained international attention with successful tours around the world. Performing for the first time in the USA, Castro is Luminaria's honorary guest as part of the International Sister City relationship between the City of San Antonio and the City of Windhoek.

COLLID

Austin, Texas

COLLIDE will perform TRAFFIC JAM, a project created by Steve Parker featuring the Alamodome's resident marching band, the Spirit of San Antonio (SOSA) and a symphony of carhorns performed in a parking lot by audience members. Each participant will receive an intuitive graphic score and stopwatch, and will "play" their vehicles - no previous musical experience will be necessary.

CRITT Project

San Antonio, Texas

CRITT Project members Almendra C. Desmond, Yma Luis and Hilary Scullane are uniting to perform Burst for Luminaria 2017. Hoping to inspire connections and conversations, performers will move in a seemingly choreographed dance, creating massive bubbles and using the human form and its movement to directly affect the shapes and sizes of the bubbles produced.

Daisy & Buck

San Antonio, Texas

Missy & EPSR Martinez are Daisy & Buck, and they will present Scratch-n-Stitch for Luminaria 2017. They will perform side by side, exhibiting their individual passions in parallel; DJ EPSR will manipulate sound with the needle of his record player, and Missy will manipulate fabric with the needles of her sewing machine.

Essentials

Austin, Texas

Essentials members Misa Yamamoto, Fabian Villa, Steven Casanova, Adrian Orozco and Sixto-Juan Zavala will present Biochromatic at Luminaria 2017, which examines the limitations and exploitations of human perception. This multimedia installation will explore uncommon arrangements of light, such as those found in the fringes of the natural world or on the edges of the human visible spectrum.

Esther de Monteflores

Seattle, Washington

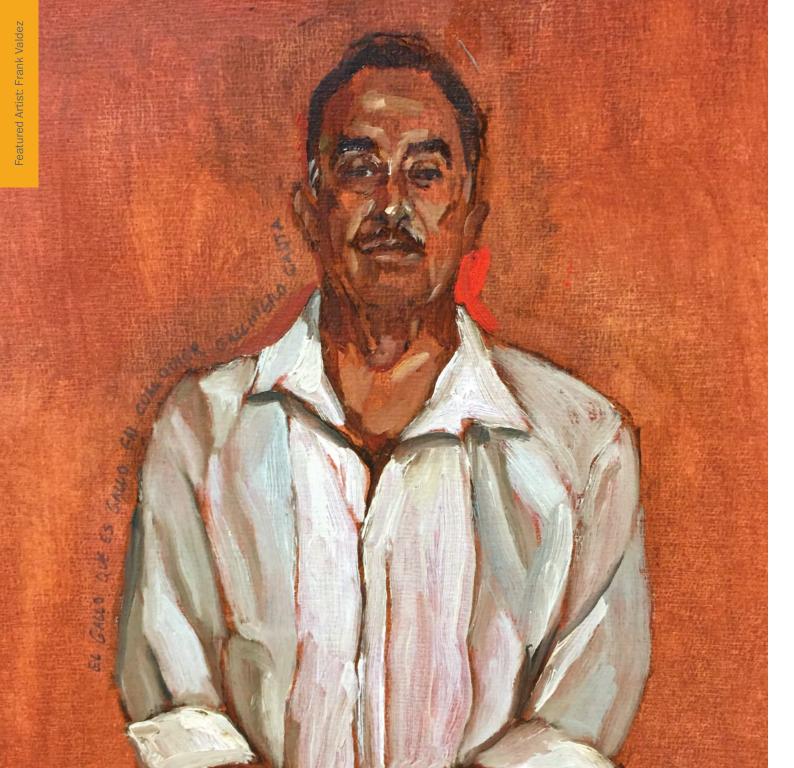
Esther de Monteflores is an American circus artist, physical performer and choreographer seeking a balance between technical skill and expressive movement. She will perform Tiny Cities at Luminaria, an absurd and whimsical celebration of Columba Livia, the common pigeon who represents the wildness in our cities and invites us to see our homes in a new light.

Filth

San Antonio, Texas

Filthy is an experimental, darkwave, post-punk three piece from San Antonio, Texas, described as "beautifully dark & art damaged princes." Members Alex Alvarado, Rick Flores and Leonard Guerra will perform a set of original music at Luminaria that is a side of San Antonio's underground music scene that is rarely heard, accompanied by projected imagery and texture curated by Filthy.





Frank Valdez

Los Angeles, California

Frank Valdez specializes in painting people from underrepresented populations: immigrants, day laborers, students, maids and janitors. For Luminaria, Valdez will work in and around the Hemisfair District, painting portraits and landscapes of people and places in San Antonio. Valdez will exhibit a painting series that tells a fuller story of San Antonio than any one piece could manage.

Gabriela Santiago and Nicolas Rivard

San Antonio, Texas

Gabriela Santiago and Nicolas Rivard will commemorate the cycle of commerce and community that has existed in the Hemisfair area for centuries by recreating signage of businesses that existed in the pre-1968 World's Fair Germantown neighborhood in white neon. During Luminaria 2017, look for illuminated, neon signage hung above contemporary interpretations of the archived businesses.

Gera Lozano

Brooklyn, New York

Gera Lozano is a muralist based out of Brooklyn, New York who intentionally beautifies and brings to light both sacred patterns and the patterns woven into our social fabric. Lozano will paint overlapping murals in three colors that can be viewed separately as colored lights illuminate the mural throughout the night of Luminaria. Gera Lozano's mural will be on the back wall of the Magik Theatre.

Henry Brun and The Latin Playerz

San Antonio, Texas

The Latin Playerz, led by Grammy Award winning Henry Brun, will play Latin jazz music driven by folkloric, Afro Caribbean rhythms. Interpretive dancers will accompany the band; the musicians and dancers alike will use their body and paintbrushes to express their interpretation of the music on canvas as they perform.

House of Trees

San Antonio, Texas

House of Trees will present Word Around Town, a collaborative project between San Antonio artists, writers and poets that celebrates the people, landscape and culture of San Antonio. This project consists of a series of double-sided arrowed marquees that focus messages from works by Naomi Shihab Nye and John Phillip Santos toward the history of the city, its culture and Hemisfair itself.

Jason Ibarra

San Antonio, Texas

Jason Ibarra, also known as "Popguy," will install a new light collage called Artist and Eye in Yanaguana Garden. Ibarra recently exhibited at Common Cultures Gallery, Plazas des Armas.



Julia Barbosa Landois

Houston, Texas

Julia Barbosa Landois will present a walking meditation labyrinth made out of found materials from the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey and based on suburban expansion in Texas metro areas. Viewers will be invited to slowly traverse a map made possible by the culture of cars. Presentation of this piece in the 19th century Carriage House provides a further point of historical contrast and begs questions about the future of San Antonio's footprint.

K23 Gallery

San Antonio, Texas

K23 Gallery will feature a brilliant, melodious multicolored paradise of light and sound featuring three musical acts including Jerry Paper, a postmodern synth-pop producer from Los Angeles. Dancers as well as world-class light artists including Ether Wave, a 1960's revivalist style light show from Austin, will accompany the musical acts.

King Pelican

San Antonio, Texas

King Pelican members Ernest Hernandez, Darren Kuper and Lloyd Walsh will call attention to the importance of the upcoming 50th anniversary of Hemisfair '68 with an original multimedia suite called TRANSFORMATION 68: THE CONFLUENCE OF SAN ANTONIO AND HEMISFAIR, that marries 8 original King Pelican instrumental surf-rock compositions to iconic images from the Hemisfair '68 World's Fair.

Land Heritage Institute (LHI)

San Antonio, Texas

LHI, in collaboration with EPIcenter, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, and the Land Art Generator Initiative, is proud to present the world's first solar mural, a land art generator. La Monarca, a giant lotería card celebrating San Antonio's status as the National Wildlife Federation's 1st Monarch Butterfly Champion City, includes an image by San Antonio artist Cruz Ortiz embedded into the solar-energy-producing-film that constitutes the surface of this land art generator.

Larry Garza

San Antonio, Texas

Larry Garza will perform his brand of a stand-up comedy that blends his San Antonio, non-Spanish speaking origins with cynical satire about married life, social media, disease and religion.

Leland Drexler-Russell

Austin, Texas

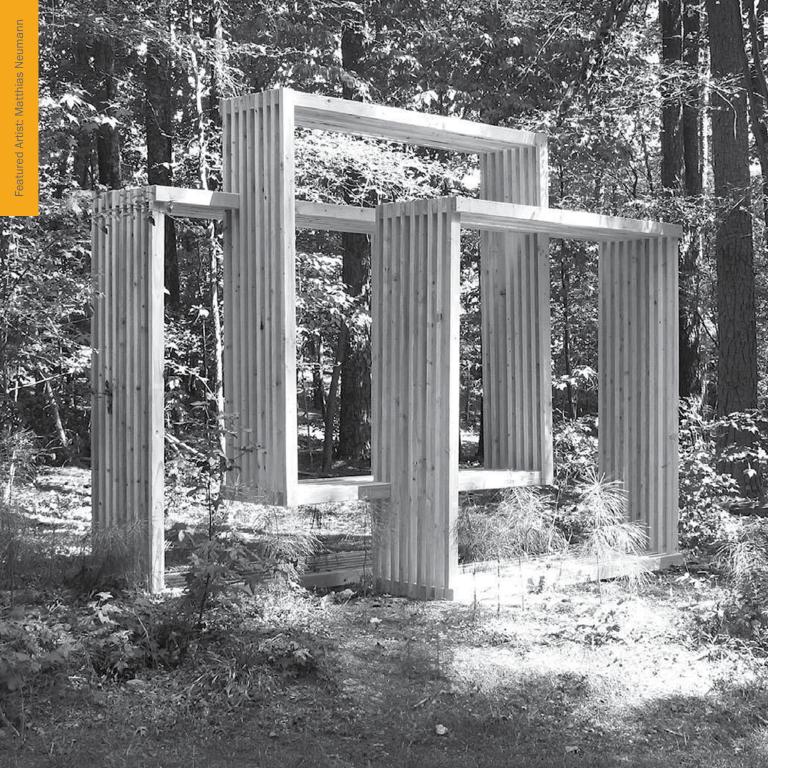
Leland Drexler-Russell is inspired by the amazingly diverse flora and fauna found on our earth and speculative astrobiology of faraway worlds. For Luminaria, he has created a collection of large, woven, illuminated sculptures titled Awakening, which are brought to life by viewer participation. Curious artifacts stir upon human presence, leading viewers through an enchanted trail along the San Antonio Riverwalk.

Lower Dens

Baltimore, Maryland

Ribbon Music is pleased to announce the return of Baltimore's Lower Dens with their third album, Escape from Evil. On Escape From Evil, Lower Dens' Jana Hunter emerges: cerebral and hot-blooded, rash and incorruptible, and, crucially, possessing of a loud, clear voice. The album sees Hunter stepping up and taking center stage, and emboldening every aspect of the band.





Magik Theatre

San Antonio, Texas

The Magik Theatre has been providing children and families with professional, accessible, literature-based theater and education since 1994. The Magik Theatre will present Excerpts from the Kingdom of Texas.

Marisela Barrera

San Antonio, Texas

Marisela Barrera is a genre fluid writer who creates Tex-Mex stories on stage and in print. For Luminaria, she will perform GenteTalk: Testimonios from San Antonio, a live theatre performance which she prepared for by capturing stories from gente (people) from each general sector of San Antonio: Southside, Eastside, Westside and Northside.

Matthias Neumann

Brooklyn, New York

Matthias Neumann is an artist based in New York City. His work fluctuates between architecture and a wide range of artistic media, with a particular focus on public art and installations in the public sphere. Neumann will create a sculpture conceived site-specifically at Hemisfair Park by reacting to his environment as he builds.

Michael Menchaca

San Antonio, Texas

For Luminaria 2017, Michael Menchaca has created a video installation rich with repeated patterns, animations and a lightshow that will hint at the building's 1968 World's Fair usage history. Menchaca's installation will convert the facade of the Sweeney house into a large-scale altarpiece that attempts to connect the structure back to its previous Irish immigrant residents.

Miniature Curiosa

San Antonio, Texas

For Luminaria 2017, members Murphi Cook and Zach Dorn will premiere The Clown Was Stung by Wasps, a one-of-a-kind theatrical experience in which audiences can tune into the actors' chatter via FM radios. Simultaneously, an obscure silent-film will play, creating a strange and enchanting landscape performed through live-projection puppetry. Together, these spectacles create an immersive evening of secrets, nostalgia, and perhaps even a bit of terror.

Nancy Wood

San Antonio, Texas

Nancy Wood uses photography and digital painting to explore the aesthetics of the natural landscape. The colors in her work are intensified, and the forms are abstracted to express the mystical qualities experienced while absorbed in the beauty of nature. Her Luminaria work, Early Morning Drive, shows her fascination of the abstract qualities of freeway automobile lights captured in long exposures.



Peterson/Hayes Duo

San Antonio, Texas

Local musicians Kristin Hayes and Eric Peterson will perform a program featuring the world premiere of a new work for flute and percussion by Thad Anderson written specifically for Luminaria 2017. This new work is inspired by three volumes of drumbeats by drummer Billy Martin, which will be incorporated into the piece.

ProyectoTeatro

Austin, Texas

ProyectoTeatro will present an original, multidisciplinary project titled Brujas under the direction of theatre director Luis Ordaz Gutiérrez and in collaboration with choreographers Roén Salinas and Jasmine De Leon. Brujas is a dance theatre piece that unravels the mystical representations of brujas (witches) and mythological deities in Mexican folklore to codify the cultural DNA passed on through generations of Latina women.

Public Art San Antonio (PASA)

San Antonio, Texas

Public Art San Antonio will premiere ART//craft, a travelling gallery and cultural space designed and built by Sam Houston High School students that delivers arts and culture to San Antonio communities. Eastside artist SCOTCH! created the exterior mural of the repurposed shipping container that is ART//craft. ART//craft will exhibit work from Eastpoint Public Art Residencies Program, including paintings, original choreography, a short film and more.

Reskate

Barcelona, Spain

Reskate is a workshop and graphic arts studio from Barcelona that creates handmade, artisanal projects. Members María López and Javier de Riba - from Donostia-San Sebastián and Barcelona respectively - will create a new glow-in-the-dark mural designed for Luminaria 2017. The mural will be located between the historic Sweeney and Hermann Schultz Houses.

Ruth Leonela Buentello

San Antonio, Texas

Ruth Leonela Buentello's work explores the sociocultural examinations of Chican@ identity, cultural representations of gender, and the cooptation of Chican@/Tejan@/Latin@ history and culture. Buentello will present an original painting for Luminaria, which depicts a portrait of a contemporary Latina immigrant mother figure.

San Antonio Bcycle

San Antonio, Texas

San Antonio Bcycle is connecting San Antonio to local artists by having artists Ruth Buentello, Kathy Sosa, Cristina Sosa Noriega, Resa Wohlrabe and James Sedgwick paint a selection of Bcycle bike frames from the city's bike share program. The painted bikes will be presented at Luminaria and added into the Bcycle fleet to be seen and used by hundreds of thousands of San Antonians and visitors for years to come.





San Antonio Dance Fringe

San Antonio, Texas

San Antonio Dance Fringe is a group of strong-willed, forward-thinking dancers who have compassion for their fellow person. Sisters Ashley Mazzanti and Sarah Starkweather have put together a performance for Luminaria that features impeccable technique and touches on current social issues in order to provoke strong feelings.

Sanctuary

San Antonio, Texas

Sanctuary is a diverse arts collective comprised of aerialists and theater professionals. For Luminaria 2017, they will performing Beyond Walls, a theatrical performance written by Sheila Rinear, that carries a timely message of welcoming, refuge, and the human capacity for hope.

Sarah Fox & Jared Theis

San Antonio, Texas

Sea of Love is an original animation and musical score created by Sarah Fox and Jared Theis that explores the symbiotic if separate relationship between two main characters, one a young bird boy, the other a mermaid of sorts. The film and sound will provide an immersive environment where visitors can enter a vivid world where creatures, familiar yet strange, swim, fly and grow on a journey of love and acceptance.

TAB Labs

Oakland, California

Members Bill Baird and Taurin Barrera will present Skywave, a new installation made for Luminaria that takes the guise of a radio-centric museum exhibit in the year 2117. Viewers will have an uncanny and fun experience with interactive and immersive A/V that celebrates San Antonio and the mystery and beauty of radio technology.

Tatsuya Nakatani

Truth or Consequences, New Mexico

Japanese avant-garde percussionist and acoustic sound artist Tatsuya Nakatani sculpts an intense, intuitively primitive, expressive sound form that defies genre using a barrage of various instruments. His work engages improvised-experimental music and movement, while still retaining the traditional sense of space, depth and deep time found in Japanese art. For Luminaria, he will spontaneously compose and perform a fiercely intimate acoustic sound piece.

The Lullwood Group

San Antonio, Texas

The Lullwood group is an artist collective seeking to encourage audience participation, foster exploration and promote art discovery. Members Chris Castillo, Anthony Francis, Joe Harjo, Joseph Duarte, Julie Ledet, Clay McClure, and Connie Swann will perform Law of Reflection at Luminaria, in which each member will wear entire-body-covering bodysuits covered in thousands of mirror tiles.



The Octopus Project

Austin, Texas

The Octopus Project is Toto Miranda, Yvonne Lambert, Josh Lambert and Lauren Gurgiolo. The group of multi-instrumentalists has been releasing joyous party music since 2002, following a musical path that veers through blown-out rock'n'roll, vibrant electronics, surreal pop and expansive psych landscapes.

Wayne Holtz

San Antonio, Texas

Wayne Holtz plays an exciting mixture of experimental pop and rock/indie music.

Women Who Weld

Houston, Texas

In 2016, the women of ArtX NonProfits launched the Women Who Weld program to encourage women of all ages to learn and practice a skill typically attributed to males. For Luminaria 2017, they will present TempleTrip, a unique fire-mobile that premiered at Nevada's Burning Man Festival.



ARTISTIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jenny Browne Poet Laureate of San Antonio & Professor at Trinity University

Garrett T. Capps Musician & Production Manager at World Audio & Lights

Joe De La Cruz Visual Artist & Head of Silkworm Studio

Cassandra Parker-Nowicki Cultural Supervisor, The Carver Community Cultural Center

Troy Peters Music Director Of Youth Orchestras Of San Antonio

Joel Celestino Settles Founding Member Of Comedia A Go-Go And Program Director At Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center

Maritza "Blu" Vasquez Visual Artist And Exhibition Committee Head Of Blue Star Contemporary Art



MARKET ENTRY E Market St INFO SANTIAGO & RIVARD LAND HERITAGE WHO WELD VIP S **CRITT PROJECT** TAB LABS **SARAH FOX** LELAND DREXLER-RIVER **ENTRY BILL SIMONS STAGE 1 HENRY BRUN B-CYCLE ALAMO** INFO KING PELICAN RUTH RESKATE **ENTRY** BUENTELLO MICHAEL OCTOPUS PROJECT MENCHACA A'LANTE FLAMENCO LOWER DENS DRINKS STAGE 1 **BRADSHAW** COLLIDE MINIATURE DAISY CURIOSA MATTHIAS NEUMANN VIP & BUCK **LULLWOOD K23 GALLERY MAGIK** GERA BEN JACKSON VIP LOZANO **THEATRE IEXICAN** JULIA BARBOSA STAGE FILTHY LANDOIS RESTROOMS SARAH FOX & JARED THEIS SANCTUARY ESSENTIALS SANTIAGO CAESURA NANCY WOOD & RIVARD PASA FRANK VALDEZ MAGIK THEATRE HOUSE OF TREES JASON IBARRA SA DANCE FRINGE MARISELA BARRERA **TATSUYA** NAKATANI BALLET SA ESTHER DE PETERSON/HAYES DUO MONTEFLORES PROYECTOTEATRO YANAGUANA **GARDEN** ARTPACE INFO E César E Chávez Blvd CHAVEZ E César E Chávez Blvd **ENTRY**

NOVEMBER 10th - 11th, 2017 San Antonio, Texas | LuminariaSA.org

FRIDAY, NOV 10 AT HEMISFAIR

THE CONTEMPORARY ARTS FESTIVAL 7 PM - 12 AM | FREE

Join Luminaria 2017 Featured Artists from San Antonio and the world. Experience performances, exhibitions and installations as the arts come alive in downtown San Antonio as never before.

Art Quest - Participate in family fun passport program with Spare pARTS educators.

Arts Organizations - Learn about other arts opportunities in San Antonio from Blue Star Contemporary, Carver Community Cultural Center, SA Artist Foundation, San Antonio Dance Umbrella, San Antonio Museum of Art, Southtown Arts District, Southwest School of Art, The Witte Museum.

Audience Interaction - Attend in your own artful outfit to light up the night.

Food & Drink - Partake in culinary options from festival favorites and Hemisfair restaurants, including Paletería San Antonio and CommonWealth Coffeehouse.

Transit - VIA Metropolitan Service will extend its Culture Route hours. Bike Valet service from Pop-up-Pedal will be provided on-site.

SATURDAY, NOV 11 IN SOUTHTOWN

ARTIST BRUNCHES | 11 AM - 12:30 | \$35

Hit the Street | Freight, 1913 S Flores St.

Join Luminaria muralists, Reskate, Ruth Buentello, and Gera Lozano, in a discussion about street art.

San Antonio Revealed | Cevallos Lofts, 301 E Cevallos St. Join Luminaria artists. Marisela Barrera, and Frank Valdez. whose work delves into the identity of San Antonio.

Hemisfair in Transition | Southtown Flats, 111 Probandt Join Luminaria artists, King Pelican and Gabriela Santiago & Nicolas Rivard, in a lively conversation about the Hemisfair District.

CD SALES & SIGNING SESSION | 1-3 PM | FREE

Showdown Gallery, 1420 S Alamo St.

Meet many of Luminaria's featured musicians and purchase CDs from the bands you heard at the festival.

SATURDAY, NOV 11 IN SOUTHTOWN (CONT.)

LITERARY READINGS | 2:00 - 4:00 | FREE

Sandy Whitby Studio, 1906 S. Flores

Listen to readings from local poets who contribute to Word Around Town by House of Trees.

ART-SCI SYMPOSIUM | 9:00 AM - 4:00 | FREE Mercury Projects, 538 Roosevelt Ave.

Land Heritage Institute (LHI) hosts the 5th biennial LHI Art-Sci Symposium. For a full agenda visit LandHeritageInstitute.org.

ARTIST-RUN WORKSHOPS | 1:00 - 3:00 | FREE

SmArt Project Space, 1906 S Flores St. All ages and experience levels welcome.

San Antonio Dance Fringe - Contemporary Dance

Learn basics of contemporary dance, even some choreography from the dance performed at Luminaria's night festival.

Miniature Curiosa - Live Projection Storytelling

Make a miniature model puppet, explore methods of camera manipulation, and develop new skills to conquer unthinkable stories using found materials.

SATURDAY, NOV 11 AT HEMISFAIR **CLOSING PARTY | \$55**

Featuring music and performance by AMEA, Wayne Holtz, Larry Garza and the Lullwood Group. Celebrate with international artists from San Antonio's sister city of Windhoek, Namibia and guests for an exclusive and exciting party. At the Pavilion by Hilton.

THIS PLACE

HEMISFAIR

The area where Luminaria's contemporary art festival is celebrated today originally included the farmlands of the Mission San Antonio de Valero, founded in 1718. A portion of the Acequia Madre, built to provide water for the mission occupants and fields, still flows through this area. By the 18th century, the area was known as the Barrio del Alamo. It was a small community of former mission Native Americans, Spanish settlers, military soldiers and their families.

Beginning in 1856, the corporate limits of San Antonio were divided into four wards covering 36 square miles. Hemisfair district falls within the boundaries of Ward 4, which included all of the land east of the San Antonio River and south of Commerce Street. Well into the 19th century, this area was predominately German in population—giving it the colloquial name, German Town—but it was a diverse community comprised of multiple cultural groups including those of Polish, African, Alsatian and Mexican heritage.

By the mid-20th century, many of the residential areas around the city's urban core had aged and were deemed un-restorable. The phenomenon afflicting the Hemisfair district was common amongst many U.S. cities at the time. Cities were given federal monies to purchase areas termed "blighted," which were sold to construct new public areas. In 1959, local business leaders conceived what would eventually become the 1968 World's Fair. A 92.6 acre site on the southeastern edge of the central San Antonio Business District—the old German Town—was chosen.

Held from April 6 through October 6, 1968, the World's Fair commemorated the 250th anniversary of the founding of San Antonio. Its theme, the "Confluence of Civilizations in the Americas," celebrated the long tradition of economic and cultural collaboration between the United States and Latin America and positioned San Antonio as the "Gateway to the Americas." The fair attracted more than 30 participating nations, entertained 6.3 million visitors and focused international attention on the city.

Today, Hemisfair is transforming into a district that will reconnect surrounding neighborhoods through pathways and multi-modal streets. Visitors to Hemisfair can enjoy the recently opened Yanaguana Garden, an exciting 4-acre park that is dotted with public artwork created by many of San Antonio's most prolific artists. Additionally, historic structures from the Worlds Fair that speak to San Antonio's culture have been preserved. Here, not far from the San Antonio River, the past, present and future mingle in the Hemisfair district.

SOUTHTOWN

Southtown is a community that includes the Collins Garden, King William, Lavaca, Lone Star and Roosevelt neighborhoods, located just to the south of Hemisfair. Designated in 1991 as a revitalization project, their creative culture is home to First Friday and Second Saturday, San Antonio's longest running artwalks. Repurposed commercial and industrial spaces are now a mix of restaurants, galleries and studios.



