

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO STORIES

CELEBRATING 300 YEARS

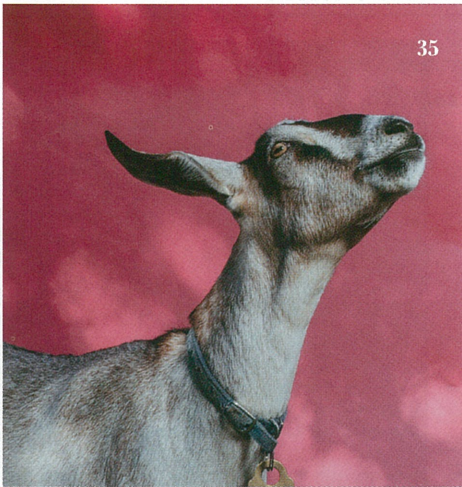
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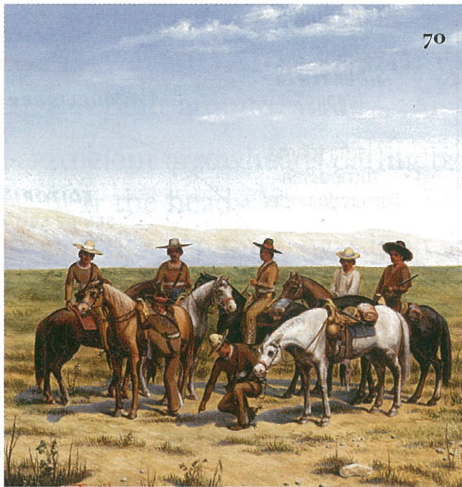
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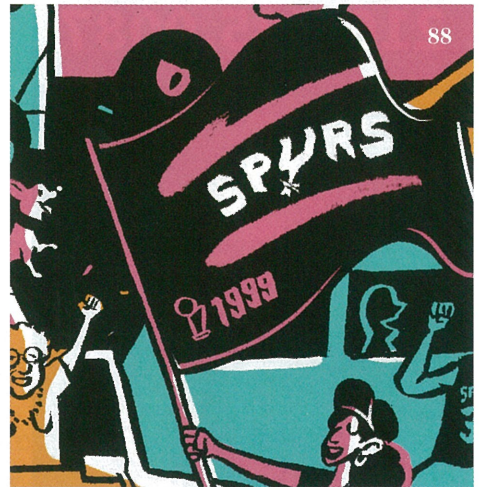
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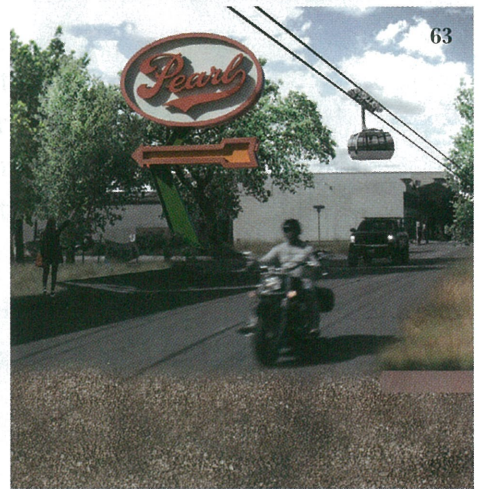
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51



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23

PAST

Take a look at some of the major people and moments that shaped San Antonio history. Plus, we spotlight selections from *Common Currents*, the six-institution art exhibition put together by 300 San Antonio artists to commemorate each year in the city's past.

51

PRESENT

Nothing shapes the Alamo City quite like the people who live and work in it. Meet 11 San Antonians—from a chef to nonprofit leaders to a literary performer to a longtime Fiesta volunteer—who are helping define San Antonio in 2018 and beyond.

63

FUTURE

Leaders in culture, government, development and culinary arts discuss their visions for the next 300 years.

DATEBOOK 69 Best Bets Make plans to celebrate Commemorative Week, May 1-6, and mark your calendar with other don't-miss May events, including Culinaria's Wine + Food Festival, the Tejano Conjunto Festival, *A Wrinkle in Time* and *The Book of Mormon*.
DINING OUT San Antonio's legacy restaurants **76 Food History** Tex-Mex isn't the only element to San Antonio's culinary past.
78 H-E-B may not have started in the Alamo City but it's more than made its mark here. **80 Jim's** is a family institution.
SA MOMENTS 88 Readers muse on their best Alamo City memories.



What does San Antonio mean to me?

Like most non-natives, at one time, San Antonio was defined in my mind by the Alamo, the River Walk, SeaWorld and Fiesta Texas—all places I enjoyed (and still do, to be honest). When I moved to San Antonio in early April seven years ago, Fiesta was my first lesson in the local culture. I had never heard of the festival before, but it was a welcome party like no other. While working for *San Antonio Magazine* in the years since, I've spent my days thinking about what makes San Antonio tick.

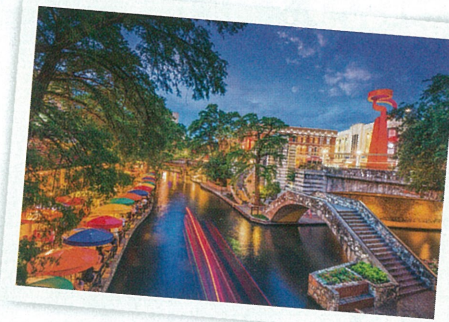
I pay close attention to the businesses launched by the latest crop of entrepreneurs and the institutions that have been around for generations (for good reason), the people who pour their efforts into initiatives designed to improve the community, the culture (high and low) that entertains and inspires dialogue, and the problems, too, that often only get solved when various groups come together.

My San Antonio roots will never be as deep as some others', but what I love most about the city is its willingness to embrace new people and ideas while still celebrating its heritage. My San Antonio story is vastly different from a born-and-raised South Sider, a military transplant or an international immigrant—but all of our contributions to the city make it whole.

This month, the San Antonio love will be palpable as the official commemorative celebrations in honor of the city's 300th birthday take place. We present

our own tribute to San Antonio's past, present and future in this special issue. You'll notice things look different and some of your favorite sections may be missing. In the spirit of innovation, we threw out the playbook just for this month. You'll still find Datebook on page 69 with our best bets of things to do this month and Dining Out on page 75 with restaurant listings—but both have a special tricentennial focus.

The rest of the issue dives into San Antonio's history, current state and potential next chapter. Throughout, we focus on people—highlighting trailblazers, community changers, innovators and sector leaders. We could never recognize every resident who has played a role in the city's past or present, but we tell the stories of a small selection. They're all San Antonians, of course, but that's probably the only thing they all have in common—making it a true San Antonio story.



SA
STORIES

WHAT DOES SAN ANTONIO MEAN TO YOU?

To marketing and communications professional Daniela Oliver de Portillo, it was a refuge that became a second home. After her father received kidnapping threats during the early 2000s, she and her parents and siblings left Mexico City for San Antonio, not knowing how long they would be here.

"Over the years, every member of our family has found their place in the city. San Antonio is part of us, and we are part of San Antonio," she says. "It's a city that allows us to stay true to our roots while being so welcoming and allowing us to assimilate and adjust ... I constantly switch back and forth between English and Spanish, between American, Mexican and San Antonian traditions—I cannot think of another city that would allow me to have that great duality, to gain a new sense of self, without letting go of my identity."

Find more "SA Stories" at sanantoniomag.com and share yours by emailing editor@sanantoniomag.com or at sanantoniomag.com/sa-story-submissions/.



Rebecca

Rebecca Fontenot Cord
Publisher & Editor in Chief



COMING NEXT MONTH

Summer is almost here and we have all the fun things to do.

ABOUT THE COVER

From Then to Now

Creative director Hector Sanchez worked with illustrator Adam Simpson to create this progression of some of San Antonio's most notable landmarks over time



01 JACALES
(straw huts) 1700s

02 THE ALAMO
Established 1718, moved to current site 1724, rebuilt 1850

03 MISSION SAN JOSÉ
Founded 1720, completed 1782, restored 1930s

04 MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO
Moved to San Antonio 1731, standing church completed 1790, latest restoration 2012

05 URSULINE CONVENT AND

ACADEMY / SOUTHWEST SCHOOL OF ART

Built 1851; purchased and restored by Southwest School of Art 1971-81

06 KING WILLIAM HISTORIC DISTRICT
Most homes built late-1800s

07 MENGER HOTEL
Built 1859

08 JOSKE'S
Founded 1869 then relocated to Alamo Plaza 1875, renovated 1939, 1953 and 1968, sold 1987; Rivercenter Mall today

09 SAN FERNANDO CATHEDRAL

Built 1738-1750, renovated and redesigned 1868-1902

10 FORT SAM HOUSTON

Quadrangle constructed 1876-1878

11 MAJESTIC THEATRE

Built 1929, renovated 1980s-1990s

12 PEARL STABLE
Built 1894, restored 2000s

13 MEDICAL ARTS BUILDING / EMILY MORGAN HOTEL

Hospital built 1924,

redesigned as offices 1976, converted to hotel 1984

14 LONE STAR BREWERY / SAN ANTONIO MUSEUM OF ART

Built 1895-1904, transformed to San Antonio Museum of Art 1981

15 TOWER LIFE BUILDING

Opened 1929 as Smith-Young Tower

16 RIVER WALK

Dedicated 1941

17 TOWER OF THE AMERICAS

Debuted with 1968 World's Fair

18 WESTON CENTRE
Completed 1989

19 SIX FLAGS FIESTA TEXAS
Opened 1992

20 CENTRAL LIBRARY

"Enchilada red" branch opened 1995

21 ALAMODOME

Completed 1993

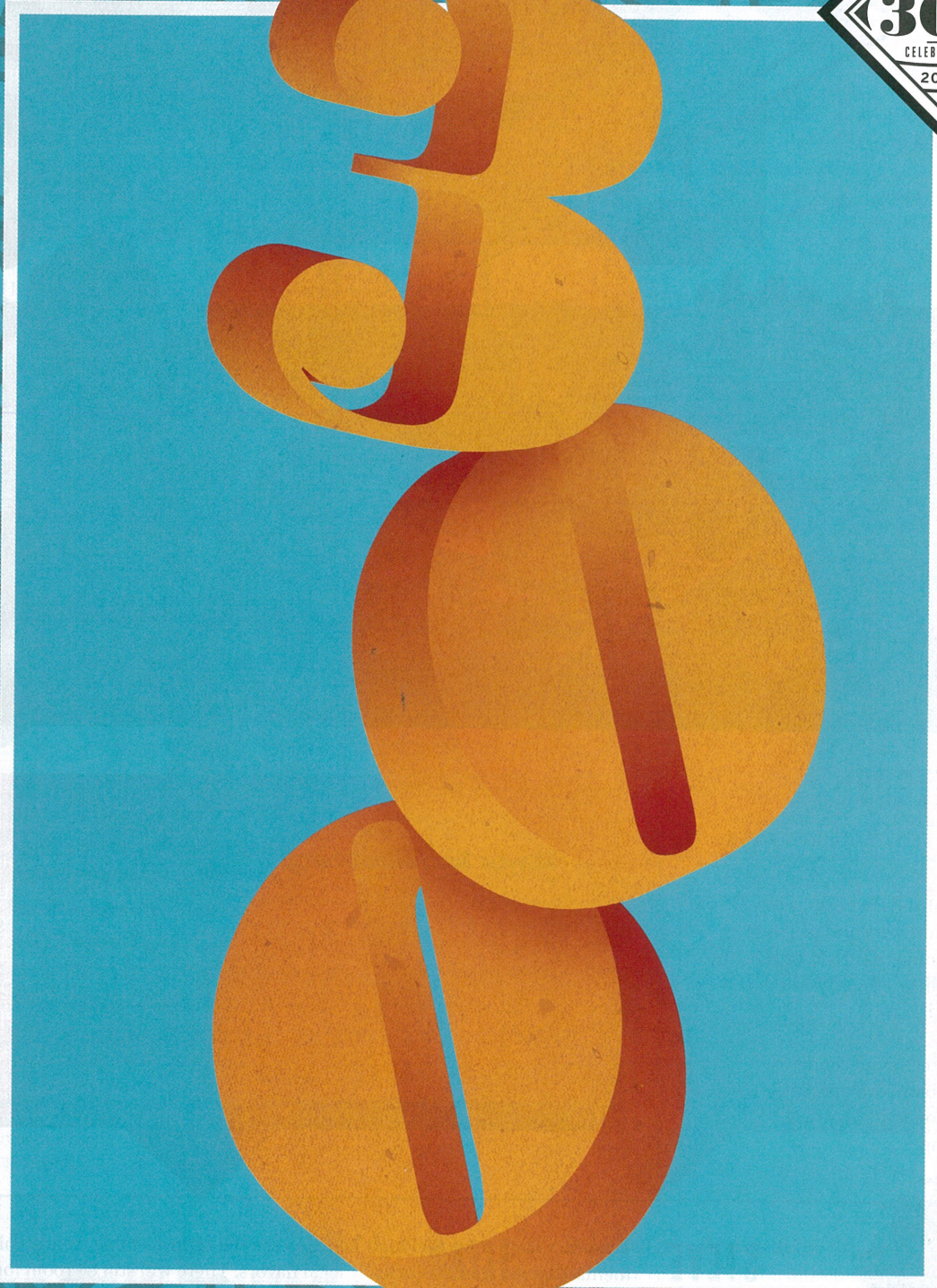
22 FRIENDSHIP TOWER

Gift from Mexico 2002

23 FROST TOWER

Broke ground 2017, scheduled for completion 2019

FUTURE



ONLY THE BEGINNING

LEADERS FROM AROUND SAN ANTONIO SHARE THEIR VISIONS FOR THE NEXT
10, 50, 100 AND 300 YEARS



UTSA assistant professor Antonio Petrov says transportation is one issue facing San Antonio as it moves forward. His Urban Future Lab has envisioned an urban cable skyride that would connect people from the airport to downtown, providing a new view of the city while alleviating congestion.

ANTONIO PETROV

Founder, Urban Future Lab
Assistant Professor of Architecture, UTSA

For Petrov, looking at the next 300 years involves two things: mystery and problem solving. For San Antonio to thrive three centuries from now, he believes the city will need to address these major issues:

- Transportation
- Environment and climate change
- Inequality (in urban development, housing, education and elsewhere)
- Energy harvesting
- Water

STEVE MCHUGH

Chef/Owner, Cured;
Three-Time James Beard Foundation Award Nominee

Ten years from now, McHugh hopes to see the farm-to-table trend evolve even more into menus derived from historically local flavors. There will still be room for ramen joints and fine French restaurants, but McHugh says he wants to see more local chefs relying on the region, which could mean true Tex-Mex cuisine or dishes crafted with ingredients used by Native Americans or other indigenous peoples. "I love preaching the gospel of utilizing local," he says, "but I think it's more than just saying, 'I bought this pig locally or these chickens come from a local farmer,' which is great and what we should be doing, but I think there's an opportunity to really dig deep down and look at what are the indigenous ingredients to our area? What are those products that make San Antonio unique?"

Mayor Ron Nirenberg says he envisions the city in 75-100 years as a global leader and happy community. "A city of the world, San Antonio is a place of history and prosperity where people, cultures, and economies connect and harness the future. We are family, compassion, resilience, innovation, strength and enterprise."



SAY SÍ

History is cyclical. So for a city to truly move forward, it must first learn from its past. That's the lesson that 10 high school artists with the nonprofit SAY Sí hope to share in an 8-foot-by-24-foot mural. The students worked under the guidance of teaching artists Zeke Peña and Cassidy Fritts. In their mural, the students wanted to reference San Antonio's indigenous past while also drawing on their own connections to the San Antonio River and looking ahead to a city they believe will still rely heavily on and center around the river that has for so long helped sustain the Alamo City. The mural will be on display May 4-June 2 as part of SAY Sí's *Stories Seldom Told* exhibition and will be permanently installed outside SAY Sí following the exhibition.

ADAM REED

Principal,
Ford Powell & Carson

In 50 years, the urban core will still be a central tenant to San Antonio's development, says Reed, an architect with Ford Powell & Carson, which is known for its work in historic preservation. While he believes sectors outside of downtown will continue to thrive—from the Medical Center to Loop 1604—the urban core, particularly development of the first 30 feet above ground, will be what defines the city. Reed says he hopes to see development that acknowledges both the city's past and the roots of the very structures in which infrastructure likely will be added. "As an architect you realize that development in San Antonio is happening at a record pace that we haven't seen since HemisFair," he says. "You have one shot to do it right."



DANNY ANDERSON

President, Trinity University

"San Antonio is a city where I see the future of our nation emerging. A city is a space where we live as an everyday reality, a space where we work out our problems, innovate our solutions and build community through human relationships. As I look to the future, I see a city of creativity giving rise to new industries, a city of education giving rise to inclusion and equity and a city of many identities where deep understanding and respect are being forged."

"San Antonio will continue to evolve and grow into a resilient city of the future where businesses, and more importantly, people thrive. Our culture, quality of life to cost of living ratio and our business-friendly atmosphere make San Antonio a fast-growing economy and we're primed for big things. Over the next several years, we will welcome new industries and headquarter operations that will transform our downtown skyline. We'll be an international cybersecurity powerhouse and information security professionals will converge in our wonderful city. Our future is bright, and as long as we continue to collaborate and work together to grow the right way, we will outpace the competition." — **Jenna Saucedo-Herrera** President & CEO, San Antonio Economic Development Foundation



KATIE LUBER

Kelso Director,
San Antonio Museum of Art

About half of the guests at the San Antonio Museum of Art each year visit during the museum's free hours, which occur just twice a week. Decades into the future, Luber says she would love for there to be enough alternate funding from the community and its corporate citizens for the arts to be accessible to everyone all of the time—because the arts really are for everyone. "My dream is for San Antonio to be a destination for art lovers and a place where all our citizens have access to a rich cultural and artistic life," she says. ★