ART is a language through which a community expresses itself. Art is a medium to bring people closer together. Art serves as an instrument to channel difficult conversations. Art educates a city on its past, present and future.

At the Department of Arts & Culture, we strive to enrich the quality of life of San Antonio residents and visitors by leading and investing in San Antonio’s arts and culture. We hope to inspire the public to participate in the arts, whether through cultural events, public art, music, film or creating their own art. This annual report serves as a tool to recap developments and celebrate the accomplishments we’ve made in the 2019 fiscal year toward our goal.

CULTURAL EVENTS & EXHIBITS

2 EXHIBITS AT CENTRO DE ARTES

64 SAN ANTONIO AND 3 NATIONAL ARTISTS FEATURED AT CULTURE COMMONS

MORE THAN 15,000 VISITORS FROM 48 STATES AND 29 COUNTRIES TO BOTH GALLERIES

13 EVENTS PRODUCED

PUBLIC ART

This division finalized the development of the 2017 Bond Program Five-Year Plan, completed its 2012 Bond Public Art Program and performed maintenance on several pieces of art in the City’s collection — including San Antonio’s iconic “La Antorcha de la Amistad” or “Torch of Friendship” by Sebastián in preparation for a Citywide retrospective of the artist’s work in 2020.
This division managed and monitored the first year of the new three-year equity funding policy adopted by City Council on February 15, 2018. All delegates have been trained on SMU|DataArts, an online tool providing a comprehensive view of the impact funding makes on the agencies and their programming.

In addition, the division doubled funding available for training and technical assistance to individual artists, provided through two re-granting agencies.

Marketing promoted San Antonio arts and culture events and programs to visitors and residents through print, broadcast, digital marketing and communications strategies, including news releases and press conferences, the SanAntonio.gov/arts website, fliers, brochures, cross-collaboration with City departments and arts partners, and more.

**Arts Funding**

- 48 arts agency contracts with $6.8M total funding
- 4.2M attendees to agency events
- City funding leveraged by agencies for an additional $57M from other funding sources
- 6 agencies selected for a capacity building consulting & coaching program

**Marketing**

Department activities, including exhibits at City owned galleries, promoted on lifestyle TV shows

- Generated 55+ positive news stories for the department and its partner organizations
- Communicated arts happenings weekly to 5,000+ e-newsletter subscribers and 34,000+ total social media followers
Also known as the San Antonio Film Commission, this division continued implementation of its Film Strategic Plan, assisting more than 200 film productions.

The division also presented two film workshops with more than 200 attendees and represented San Antonio at eight outer market film festivals and events.

In collaboration with the San Antonio Arts Commission’s Music Committee, the music division began implementation of the Music Strategic Plan passed in FY2018. The division also collaborated with other City departments to provide additional opportunities for musicians, including Center City Development to allow actively working musicians to use commercial loading zone parking. In addition, the division hosted two music community workshops focused on professional development with more than 50 attendees.

HBO Latino’s “Entre Nos” hired 25+ San Antonio crew and highlighted locations across the City.
In the past few years, our Department worked on cultural equity to support a creative life for all and champion policies and practices that empower a just, inclusive, and equitable city. Guided by our Cul-TÚ-Art Plan, we applied an equity lens to our initiatives, whether curating exhibits dedicated to women, African American, and LGBTQ artists, working with a majority of Latino artists in our galleries or enlisting emerging artists of color for public art installations in historically underserved districts.

In 2018, we implemented new Arts Agency Funding Guidelines to create equitable funding allocations, including launching Cultural Specific Support — an operational grant funding organizations that promote and preserve the identity and character of a group of people united by oppression and resilience based on past discrimination. It is particularly rewarding to hear about the ripples our work creates. For example, how our funding elevates an agency’s story to help secure additional funding. Specifically, agencies collectively received an additional $57 million from other funders after becoming one of our funded agencies.

I am honored to work alongside the community to promote an equitable environment for artists and arts organizations to enrich the lives of San Antonio residents and visitors through art.