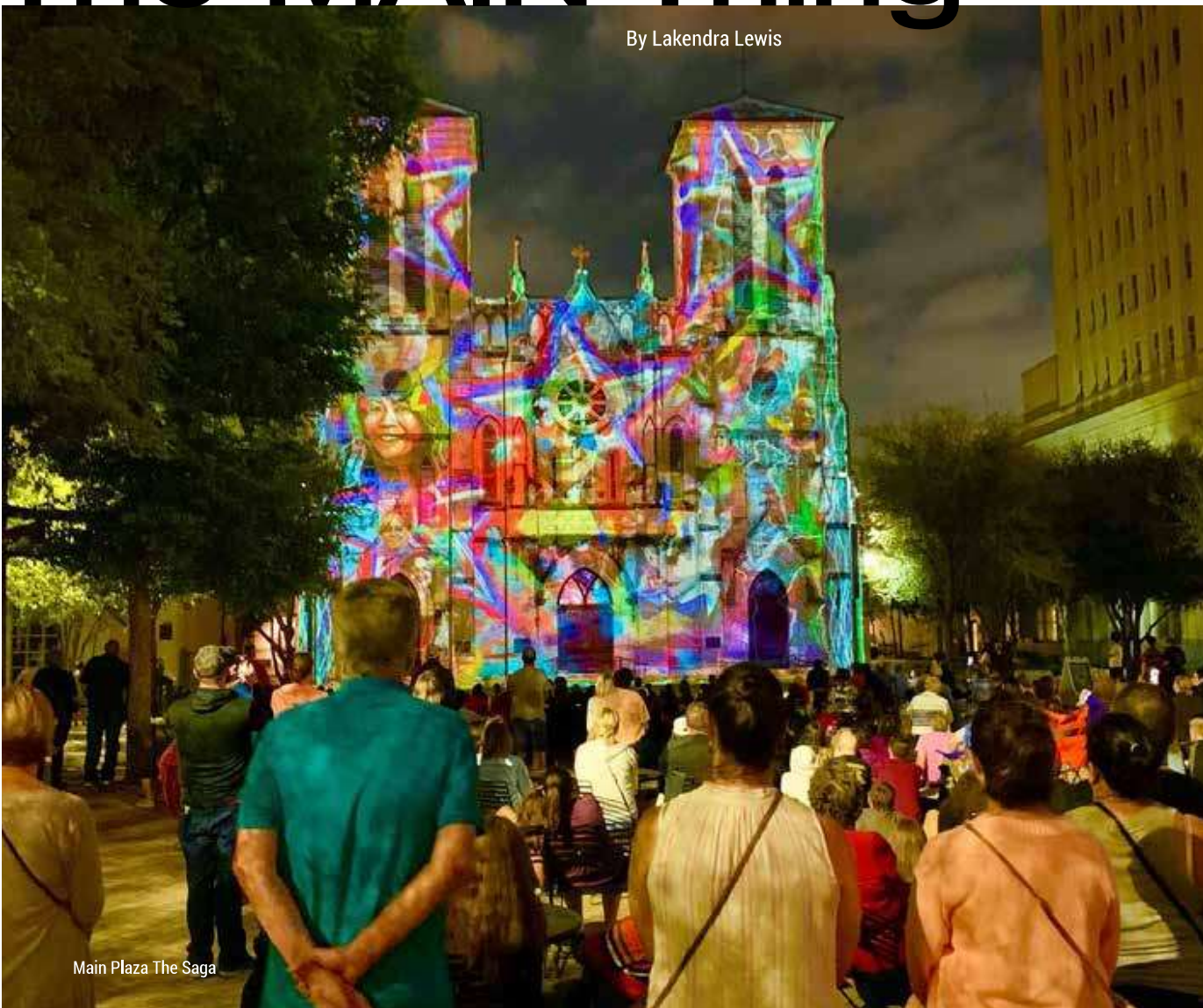




# The MAIN Thing

By Lakendra Lewis



Main Plaza The Saga

Witte Museum



Before there was the Alamo, there was Main Plaza or “Plaza de las Islas,” a space marked by 18th century Spanish urban planners that consisted of streets along which government buildings, shops and houses interconnected by the backdrop of a church that became the San Fernando Cathedral. Countless festivals, rallies, parades and all the hustle of everyday living have happened in Main Plaza, which still thrives as the “People’s Plaza”—a place where the community comes to work, play and pray.

Through the oversight of the Main Plaza Conservancy, a nonprofit committed to stewarding Main Plaza and its place as the “heart of the city,” music, art and culture abound in this non-assuming square though fantastic, educational light shows, concerts and community gatherings are worth seeing when in the Alamo City. Below are some highlights of what Main Plaza has to offer, along with other suggestions of where to take in a show or art exhibit right along the River Walk. Please check the accompanying websites for ticket information, days and times.



Main Plaza



Briscoe Western Art Museum  
Artist Billy Schenck



Kountry Wayne  
at the Aztec Theatre



### MAIN PLAZA

#### San Antonio | The Saga

This 24-minute art installation by international French artist Xavier de Richemont depicts the historical discovery of not only the settlement and development of San Antonio but also the state of Texas and our U.S. history. This story is depicted in 7,000 square feet of light, color and visual narration projected onto the façade of the San Fernando Cathedral, the oldest cathedral in the United States. The light show, which was put on hiatus due to scaffolding on the front of the San Fernando Cathedral, is slated to resume in late May to continue delighting audiences who travel to see it from all over the world.

### EAT & PLAY

Main Plaza hosts a monthly **pop-up food truck park** from **11:00am to 2:00pm** on select days. Spend your lunchtime on the Plaza to enjoy live music and unique eats curated by San Antonio's Downtown Food Truck Association. See the website's calendar to find out when these special lunches "pop up!"

### OPERA UNDER THE STARS

**Friday, June 23, 7:00 to 10:00pm**

This showcase features performances from Opera San Antonio's Apprentice Artists, which concludes with the Saga light show, and demonstrates the storytelling magic of opera. The performance is free to the public in collaboration with Opera San Antonio and the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts.

### FIESTA ON THE PLAZA

**Saturday, April 8, 6:00 to 10:00pm**

Head to Main Plaza and the San Fernando Cathedral grounds for food, live music, beer and Fiesta fun. Admission is free.

Main Plaza also hosts Second Saturdays. Each month has a different activity/theme, including a **Mother's Day Mercado** from **6:00 to 10:00pm** on **May 13**, so be sure to check their website for more details.

### RIVERWALK ANIME

**Saturday, April 15, 10:00am to 7:00pm**

**Sunday, April 16, 10:00am to 5:00pm**

If the mere mention of series such as **Dragon Ball**, **YuYu Kakusho** and **Demon Slayer** make you feel *ureshiii*, San Antonio's upcoming **Riverwalk Anime** is where you want to be. This two-day, family-friendly convention is being held downtown at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center where anime lovers will rub elbows with some of the biggest voice-over talents in the world, including voice actors Sonny Strait (Krillin), Justin Cook (Yusuke Urameshi), the cast of the popular Manga comic book series, **One Piece**, as well as renowned anime voice actors Zach Aguilar, Kristen McGuire, Alexis Tipton and David Matranga, just to name a few. **Cosplay**, did you say? *Sugoi!* Participants are encouraged to come dressed as their favorite anime character. But remember, costumes must be in good taste and no nudity is allowed. So, come on down to interact with your favorite voice-over celebs, get autographs, and shop the most unique vendors and artists in Texas. *Daijōbu!*

### BRISCOE WESTERN ART MUSEUM

#### 2023 NIGHT OF ARTISTS PUBLIC EXHIBITION

**(Now – May 7)**

The museum's annual Night of Artists is one of the premier Western art events in the world showcasing the sale of more than 270 new works of painting, sculpture and mixed media by more than 80 of today's leading contemporary Western artists. The art from this event, which is the Briscoe's primary fundraiser, is now open to the public for display and purchase from now through May 7, with all proceeds benefiting the museum's full array of exhibitions, engagement and educational programs throughout the year.

CLICK ON THIS

#### MAIN PLAZA

[www.MainPlaza.org](http://www.MainPlaza.org)

#### RIVERWALK ANIME

[www.RiverwalkAnime.com](http://www.RiverwalkAnime.com)

#### BRISCOE WESTERN ART MUSEUM

[www.BriscoeMuseum.org](http://www.BriscoeMuseum.org)

#### SAN ANTONIO MUSEUM OF ART

[www.SAMuseum.org](http://www.SAMuseum.org)

### SOUTHWEST RISING: CONTEMPORARY ART AND THE LEGACY OF ELAINE HORWITCH

(May 26 – September 4)

For lovers of art known as “New Western art” or “Southwest pop,” the name Elaine Horwitch is legendary. As a gallery director and art dealer beginning in the early 1970s, Horwitch brought experimental styles such as pop art, minimalism and conceptual art to the Southwest, and was influential in launching the careers of hundreds of artists from the region until her death in 1991. This exhibit highlights the works of some of the Elaine Horwitch Galleries’ most popular artists whose paintings, sculptures and works on paper reveal the level of art and innovation that occurred in the Southwest at a pivotal time of change. Artists featured include Tom Palmore, Billy Schenck, John Fincher, Fritz Scholder, Anne Coe, Marilyn Levine, Earl Biss, Woody Gwyn, Bob Wade and Lynn Taber.



Briscoe Western Art Museum  
Artist David Bradley

### SAN ANTONIO MUSEUM OF ART (SAMA)

**Roman Landscapes: Visions of Nature and Myth from Rome and Pompeii (Now – May 21)**

Strap on your Roman sandals and venture back to that ancient city during a guided tour of SAMA's special exhibit. Visitors are introduced to the cultural and archaeological contexts of Rome via murals and landscapes that depict imaginary visions of a countryside dotted with seaside villas and rural shrines, where gods and mythological heroes mingle with travelers, herdsmen and worshippers. The exhibition features works loaned out by museums in Italy, France and Germany, many never before shown in the United States, and features 65 wall paintings, sculptures, mosaics and cameo glass and silver vessels created in Roman Italy between 100 BC and AD 250. The exhibit is free with general admission into the museum



SAMA  
SongScapes  
Musical  
Performance  
Soprano  
Bronwyn White



SAMA Roman  
Landscapes  
photo by David  
Stover

### SONGSCAPES MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

(May 12, 7:00 to 8:00pm)

In celebration of “Roman Landscapes: Visions of Nature and Myth from Rome and Pompeii,” join SAMA and acclaimed soprano Bronwyn White for a recital that explores how the character of the landscape influences cultures and how that is reflected in music. Featuring songs in German, English, French and Mandarin, SongScapes Musical Performance will highlight pieces from the standard classical repertoire as well as songs by composers from traditionally underrepresented populations. Admission is \$15 for SAMA members and \$20 for non-members.



Eric Johnson  
at the Aztec Theatre  
photo by Max Crace



Psychidelic Furs  
at the Aztec Theatre

### WRITER'S BIO

Lakendra Lewis is an arts and entertainment journalist, editor and author whose articles have appeared in Edible San Antonio Magazine, The Texas Observer and San Antonio Christian Woman Magazine. She enjoys movies, music, cooking, singing and telling other people's stories. You can contact her/read more of her stories at [LakendraLewis.JournoPortfolio.com](http://LakendraLewis.JournoPortfolio.com).