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**The west starts here: the briscoe western art museum**

The Briscoe Western Art Museum showcases the American West. You’ll hear many cities claim to be the birthplace of the West, but without San Antonio and South Texas, the West as we know it wouldn’t exist. Step inside the Briscoe to learn why “The West Starts Here” in San Antonio and extends westward on the 98th meridian. Experience the vibrant history and stories of the West from the heart of the River Walk in downtown San Antonio.

**Mission and Background**

Founded in 2013, the museum embraces a mission to preserve and interpret the art, history and culture of the American West through engaging exhibitions, educational programs and public events reflective of the region’s rich traditions and shared heritage. The Briscoe is named in honor of Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe, Jr., and his wife Janey Slaughter Briscoe. They envisioned a museum that would share the story of Western heritage and the West's diverse people, landscape and wildlife. With 14 galleries on three levels, the Briscoe Museum is a repository for art and artifacts related to a broad concept of the American West, including paintings, sculpture, Native American art, Spanish and Mexican colonial era art, Western folk art, artifacts and photography.

**Housed in History**

Nestled on the banks of the San Antonio River Walk, the building that houses the museum’s permanent collection began as San Antonio’s original public library in the 1930s. In the 1980s, the building was home to the Hertzberg Circus Collection and Museum. After extensive renovation to restore the building to its original splendor, the Briscoe Western Art Museum opened its doors in 2013. The Briscoe Campus occupies an acre and a half of land that include two buildings and the expansive McNutt Sculpture Garden.

**Collection Highlights**

From works by renowned Western artists such as Charles Marion Russell, Frederic Remington and W. Herbert Dunton to saddles that belonged to Western icons Roy Rogers, “Buffalo Bill” Cody and Pancho Villa, the Briscoe’s collection is wide-ranging. Visitors can learn more about the Spanish and Mexican colonial eras through art and artifacts that include General Santa Anna’s sword, a sixteenth-century silk embroidered Spanish saddle and a Comanchero jacket. Combining a documentary approach with romantic realism, visual artists of the American West captured the essence of the American frontier, the Old West, and the Western United States. Works by Allan Houser and Martin Grelle and a monumental bronze sculpture in the lobby, *Visions of Change* by John Coleman, depict the important role Native Americans played in the West. Works by Curt Walters, Z. S. Liang and Greg Beecham show the West’s dramatic landscape and wildlife.

The Briscoe is open Thursday through Monday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and closed to the public on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Admission is free for children 12 and under and for active duty members of the military. The museum is proud to participate in Museums For All, Blue Star Museums and Bank of America Museums on Us. The Briscoe is located on the south end of the River Walk, near the Arneson River Theatre and La Villita, with convenient parking at the Riverbend Garage directly adjacent to the museum or one of many downtown surface lots. Museum hours, parking and admission details are available [online](https://www.briscoemuseum.org/hours-admission/). The museum is operating at 75 percent capacity, with [health and safety protocols](https://www.briscoemuseum.org/health-safety/) that require both staff and guests to wear masks. Temperature checks are also conducted upon entry.

**About** [**The Briscoe Western Art Museum**](https://www.briscoemuseum.org/)**:***Preserving and presenting the art, history and culture of the American West through engaging**exhibitions, educational programs and public events reflective of the region’s rich traditions and shared heritage, the Briscoe Western Art Museum is**located on the San Antonio River Walk at 210 W. Market Street in the beautifully restored**1930s former San Antonio Public Library building. Named in honor of the late Texas Gov. Dolph Briscoe Jr. and his wife, Janey Slaughter Briscoe, the museum includes the three-story Jack Guenther Pavilion, used for event rentals and programs, and the outdoor McNutt**Sculpture Garden. Follow the Briscoe on social media, @BriscoeMuseum.*