



## ABOUT OUR HOME

The museum is named in honor of Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe, Jr., and his wife Janey Slaughter Briscoe, who envisioned a museum that would share the story of Western heritage and the people behind that story. Established along the banks of the San Antonio River, the museum's main building served as San Antonio's original public library in the 1930s followed by the Hertzberg Circus Collection and Museum in the 1980s. After an extensive renovation, the Briscoe Western Art Museum opened in 2013. A branch of the San Antonio Public Library can be found on the first floor, honoring the building's origins.

To read more, visit [briscoemuseum.org/history](http://briscoemuseum.org/history)

## MORE TO DO AT THE BRISCOE

### SHOP AT THE HENDLER FAMILY MUSEUM STORE

Browse western-inspired gifts, homeware, jewelry, art prints, and more at our Museum Store located next to the lobby or order online by scanning the QR code.

### GUIDED TOURS

Want to share the West with a group? Schedule a guided tour with one of our knowledgeable docents through our Education team. Call 210-299-4499 or email us [tours@briscoemuseum.org](mailto:tours@briscoemuseum.org) to book a tour.

### YEARLY EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING

**Locals Days:** Every first Sunday of the month, Bexar county residents receive free admission

**Full STEAM Ahead:** Every third Saturday, the Briscoe hosts a hands-on activity for kids and families

**March (3rd weekend):** Annual *Night of Artists* Exhibition and Sale ([briscoemuseum.org/noa](http://briscoemuseum.org/noa))

**April:** Fiesta River Parade Party

**July:** (4th Saturday): National Day of the Cowboy Celebration

**November:** Yanaguana Indian Arts Festival

**December:** Cowboy Christmas

View the full calendar of events at [briscoemuseum.org/calendar](http://briscoemuseum.org/calendar)

## BECOME A BRISCOE MEMBER

Join today to experience **the legacy and tradition of Western Art, only at the Briscoe, in the heart of the downtown San Antonio arts community.** Enjoy 12 full months of free museum access and experience two to three rotating exhibits per year, plus member exclusive events, early access to information and ticket sales, and member exclusive discounts.

Join today at our front desk and apply today's admission cost toward your new membership! You can also join online at [briscoemuseum.org/member](http://briscoemuseum.org/member), or by calling 210.507.4863.

## OUR MISSION

Through the preservation of the art, history, and culture of the American West, the Briscoe Western Art Museum inspires and educates the public with engaging exhibitions, educational programs, and public events reflective of the region's rich traditions and shared heritage.

Each of the four pillars of the Western art genre are vividly illustrated by the Briscoe's interwoven collection of art and artifacts.

## CONNECT WITH US

Love what you've seen and learned?

**Stay Up to Date** Receive a copy of our online newsletter, *Beyond the Briscoe* by providing the front desk staff with your email.

**Join Our Team** Ask our front desk team about our docent training program or volunteer opportunities!

**Interested In Hosting An Event?** Ask the visitor's desk for more information about the Jack Guenther Pavilion and learn about how you can host your next corporate meeting or social occasion at the Briscoe.

Follow us on social media



@briscoemuseum

# BRISCOE

WESTERN ART MUSEUM



# WELCOME

Welcome to the Briscoe Western Art Museum. The West Starts Here, so step inside to experience the art and artifacts that tell the stories of the American West.

Western art is a uniquely American art form and we're proud to share it with you. The cowboy, vaquero, American Indian, and the vast beauty of the Western landscape make up the four pillars of Western art. These subjects are shared through the drawings, sketches, paintings, sculptures and artifacts you'll enjoy during your visit. As our culture shifts, so too does our interpretation of Western art, but the stories, and their timeless resonance, remain the same.

We hope you enjoy heading west with us. Share your experience on social media by tagging us:



# LOOKING AT WESTERN ART

Here are four categories to consider as you move through the galleries:

## ORIGINALITY

Does this work fit within a known theme or depict a popular landscape/figure?

## TECHNIQUE

Is the artist skilled? Do their figures have structure?  
Is the work balanced in color, pattern, and use of space?

## COMPOSITION

What point of view is the artist communicating?  
Does the work show detail and accuracy to its subject?

## AESTHETIC AWARENESS

Does this work visually or emotionally affect you as the viewer?

## PILLARS OF THE WEST

Each of the four pillars of the Western art genre are vividly illustrated by the Briscoe's interwoven collection of art and artifacts. Look for the symbols throughout the guide to help identify the pillars in our galleries.



## PERMANENT GALLERIES

The stories of the American West live within us all, no matter if you were raised in the middle of a busy city, or in the quiet countryside. Through our shared heritage, the values that the land and the stories that are told translate to where we are today. We recommend you begin your journey West with the Briscoe by viewing our introductory video on Level One before heading to Level Three, making your way back down.

### LEVEL ONE

#### New Works Gallery:

Updated quarterly, the gallery is considered the artwork's debut into the Briscoe collection. As our collection grows, you can see the latest acquisitions and loans to the permanent collection.

#### Ruth Bowman Bowers Women of the West Gallery:

Women are an important part of the foundation of the West. This permanent gallery features artworks by Western women artists and portrayals of Western women.

#### Gloria Gaines Clingman Education Gallery:

From a Selena Barbie Doll to a Roy Rogers lunchbox, and exquisite pottery and beading, this gallery offers nostalgic memorabilia and is a restful place to find a seat by our grand fireplace.

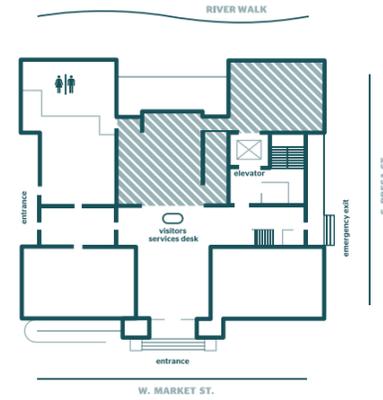
#### Kampmann Public Library Portal:

Our historic building was once home to San Antonio's first public library. The deed to the building includes a clause that the space always feature a library and the Briscoe portal is one of San Antonio Public Library's digital spaces. Relax and browse material related to Western history courtesy of the San Antonio Public Library's collection.



#### STAGECOACH

This is a 1976 re-creation of an original Wells-Fargo stagecoach. Before the coming of the railroad, the stagecoach offered the fastest transportation in the West, and it was an integral part of how many travelers experienced the western landscape. Stagecoaches were in peak use from 1850 to 1890.



## LEVEL TWO

#### Southwest and Native American Art:

View works from artists who have defined the style of Southwest Art from the 1890s to today as well as art created by and featuring Native Americans. An important part of Western art, Native American heritage is one of the pillars of the genre.

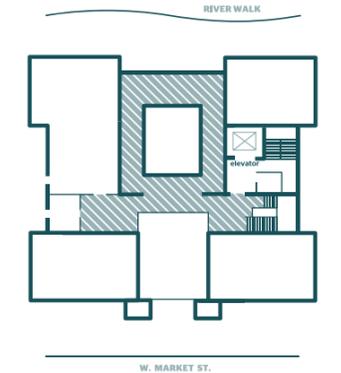
#### Governor Dolph Briscoe Jr. Corner:

Governor Dolph Briscoe and his wife Janey envisioned a museum that would preserve the stories of struggle and perseverance of people who held a vision — and who worked to make it come to life. See his desk and learn about the museum's founder and former Texas Governor.

#### CROSS THE SKY BRIDGE TO THE JACK GUENTHER PAVILION

#### Featured Special Exhibitions:

This gallery houses a rotating schedule of temporary exhibitions. These must-see shows include our annual *Night of Artists* exhibition, one of the premier Western Art exhibitions in the world. *Night of Artists* and our other featured exhibitions explore popular and relevant themes on the people, culture, and region of the West.



## MCNUTT SCULPTURE GARDEN

The 35 works of art that surround the museum's physical footprint aid in the museum's interpretation of the Western experience. The majority of sculptures are located in our beautiful, gated garden space and provide a dynamic backdrop for events or a quiet spot to relax on the River Walk.

## VISITOR GUIDELINES

- Non-flash photography is permitted throughout the galleries.
- Please do not touch the artwork or frames. Maintain at least a 12-inch distance from all artwork and artifacts.
- Food or drink of any kind is not permitted in the museum galleries.
- Please check our website for the most up-to-date hours and holiday schedule.

### LEVEL 3

#### Guerra Family Gallery:

Engage with the influence of Spanish, American, Mexican, Tejano, and Indigenous history as it developed throughout the Southern Borderlands region.



**Santa Anna Sword**  
This ceremonial dress sword embellished with a sharkskin grip, the Mexican coat of arms, and a lion-faced quillon was gifted to the President of Mexico in 1852. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna was a Mexican politician and general who served as President between six and eleven times, including his last term from 1853 to 1855. He fought for Mexican independence from Spain and was commander of the Mexican army during the Texas revolution.

#### A-Bar Gallery:

Learn about the Battle of the Alamo, the Texas Revolution, and the broader cultural history of the Texicans, who resided in and immigrated to the area before 1846.

#### Governor Dolph Briscoe, Jr. Gallery:

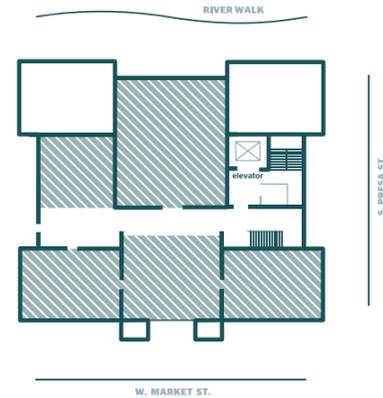
See how horses, cattle, vaqueros, and cowboys visually defined the American West.

#### Kate Marmion Gallery:

Featured works from both the permanent collection and private lenders provide an intimate viewing experience on thematic topics in Western art and the art of collecting.

#### San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo Gallery:

On view is a rotating collection of cowboy gear and tools of the trade including saddles, bridles, bits, and spurs that comprise the Traditional Cowboy Arts.



**Pancho Villa Saddle**  
Created by renowned Mexican artisans Joaquin Rodriguez and Alberto Tulan Cingo Marquez, this classic mochila leather saddle is decorated with silver snake heads, carved diablos, ropes and roses, and Villa's initials "FV." Pancho Villa was a popular leader in the Mexican Revolution and fought against Presidents Diaz and Huerta.