



**NEWS RELEASE FOR:**

**SAN ANTONIO RIVER FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SUCCESSION  
AT 9TH ANNUAL RIVERTINI PREMIER COCKTAIL COMPETITION  
PRESS CONFERENCE**

*Robert Amerman to Succeed Estela Avery on March 1,  
Rivertini on March 23*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | Thursday, March 2, 2017

Contact: Shana Avery | 210-224-2694 | [shana.avery@sariverfoundation.org](mailto:shana.avery@sariverfoundation.org)

SAN ANTONIO – Spring may be weeks away, but the [San Antonio River Foundation](#) (SARF) is springing ahead and shaking things up to prepare folks for the fun and flavor of its [9th Annual Rivertini Premier Cocktail Competition](#) from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the [Wyndham Garden Riverwalk-Museum Reach](#) on Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Friends and supporters of the Foundation gathered today for a sneak peek happy hour social at the Wyndham Garden Riverwalk-Museum Reach to be the first to hear about planned happenings at this year's event, which will feature 20 juried bartender competitors going toe-to-toe to take home a \$1000 prize for Best Original Cocktail.

**DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017**

**TIME: 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (VIP early entry at 5:00 p.m.)**

**PLACE: The Wyndham Garden Riverwalk-Museum Reach**

The Wyndham Garden Riverwalk-Museum Reach will host the 9th Annual Rivertini Premier Cocktail Competition on its beautiful Riverwalk patio, overlooking the true star of the evening, the beautiful San Antonio River Museum Reach. Rivertini guests will spend a dazzling evening with music by [JJ Lopez](#), light hors d'oeuvres by [Bourbon Street Seafood Kitchen](#), and the most creative cocktails in San Antonio.

The highly anticipated annual event will offer an opportunity for guests to sample a juried selection of twenty competing recipes submitted by bartenders from San Antonio's top bars and restaurants. The Foundation's organizing and judging partner in this endeavor is the [US Bartenders' Guild-San Antonio Chapter](#) (USBGSA). The top cocktail will be selected by a panel of industry **JUDGES**, and the People's Choice cocktail will be decided by event guests. This year's judges are: Houston Eaves (USBGSA), Christopher Ware (USBGSA), Stephan Mendez (USBGSA),

Michael Rogers (USBGSA), Jorel Pena (The Boulevardier Group), Blair Johnson (William Grant & Sons), Chef Geronimo Lopez (Botika), Chef Nelson Millan (SA Country Club), Samantha Burgess (Culinary Institute of America).

A final list of participating **BARTENDERS/ESTABLISHMENTS** will be announced on Thursday, March 9. To date the Foundation has received over thirty online registrations and accompanying recipes that will be put to the test by USBGSA judges and whittled down to 20 final Rivertini entries.

Another fun aspect of Rivertini is the [Lucky Duck Drawing](#), wherein Lucky Duck purchasers' names are assigned to numbered rubber duckies placed in the hotel pool during Rivertini and drawn from the pool for each prize in an eight-prize package totaling over \$11,000 in value. The name of the person associated with the number on the bottom of each chosen Lucky Duck is the winner of that prize. Each Lucky Duck is \$20, and purchasers need not be present to win. Winners will be announced and texted at Rivertini.

An SA2020 "[Certified Awesome](#)" event, the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Rivertini Premier Cocktail Competition raises funds for the San Antonio River Foundation and celebrates their **MISSION** to enhance the San Antonio River Basin as a vibrant cultural, educational, ecological, and recreational experience. The Foundation's ambitious projects range from creating unprecedented opportunities for education, recreation and interaction with nature along the River to initiating, funding, installing and maintaining exciting urban art projects by renowned artists from San Antonio, the U.S. and across the globe.

Rivertini general admission **TICKETS** are \$75 each and include event entry, unlimited cocktail sampling, and light hors d'oeuvres. VIP tickets are \$125 each and feature the ability to enter Rivertini one hour early, at 5:00 p.m., a VIP barge ride that includes a cocktail by last year's 1<sup>st</sup> Place Rivertini winner, [Grayze on Grayson](#), "barge bites" by [Hawx Burger Bar & Electric Lounge](#), and an ability for VIPs to park at the Pearl and be shuttled to the banks of the Wyndham before enjoying a poolside reception at Rivertini. The barge will then shuttle VIPs back to their vehicles when the event ends at 8:30 p.m. Ride vouchers will be available for all event attendees who need a safe ride home after Rivertini.

Sponsors for this year's Rivertini include the following:



**BUT TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE WASN'T ONLY ABOUT RIVERTINI...**

The San Antonio River Foundation also took the opportunity to announce the retirement of Estela Avery as its Executive Director and introduce her successor, Robert Amerman.

Philanthropist, community volunteer, and fundraiser, Estela has dedicated her time over the past twenty years to the non-profit sector as a board member, capital campaign manager, and through chairing special events in San Antonio and Fredericksburg, Texas.

In July 2010, Estela resigned from the San Antonio River Foundation Board to assume the position of Executive Director. Her years of leadership included overseeing the completion of several dynamic portal art projects along the Mission Reach and building the most ambitious single project undertaken by the Foundation to date, Confluence Park, which will become a physical reality at the end of this year. Estela and her husband, Jim, have been major contributors to the Confluence Park effort, creating its \$1,000,000 Educational Endowment to ensure the park's educational programs will be funded into perpetuity.

The Foundation's new leader, Robert Amerman, is an experienced Executive / Architect / Sculptor who has held a number of professional, founder and board positions throughout his career. Creative complex problem solving exemplifies his diverse range of experiences, from fabrication technologies to business development to digital media and design.

Robert was raised on the coast of South Carolina and has lived full time in San Antonio for the last eight years. He has been volunteering for the Foundation for the last five years. More recently, Robert has served as a Foundation Director and chaired the Foundation's Art & Architecture Committee. He has served for the last four years as a member of the Confluence Park organizational team and currently serves on the Board of Confluence Park.

Robert's story overlays beautifully with the Foundation's Mission and Vision: "I was raised on rivers. I have sought out rivers with each new city in my career. My background spans architecture, sculpture, and education careers as well as founding a technology firm in New York City. My passion for ecological restoration and the natural world are a great fit to the Foundation's mission."

"I could not be more excited to continue to be a part of this organization and its bright future for both San Antonio, Bexar County, and for our downstream counties. I look forward to the unveiling of Confluence Park at the end of this year and the completion of our Mission Reach portals. Continuing to sync our vision to our partnership charter with the San Antonio River Authority, 'from the Blue Hole to the Gulf,' brings such rewards for the Foundation's bright future."

###

Shana Avery  
Director of Development  
SAN ANTONIO RIVER FOUNDATION  
100 E. Guenther Street  
San Antonio, TX 78204  
o. 210.224.2694 / c. 210.789.0600

[shana.avery@sariverfoundation.org](mailto:shana.avery@sariverfoundation.org)

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

 Facebook

 Twitter