



## MEDIA ADVISORY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **GENEROUS DONATION IS GIVEN TO SAN ANTONIO RIVER FOUNDATION**

*\$500,000 Donation to Support Mission Espada Portal*

The San Antonio River Foundation is pleased to announce a very generous gift of \$500,000 from Ramona and Lee Bass in support of the Mission Espada portal art project. A 6<sup>th</sup> generation Texan, Mrs. Bass was born and raised in San Antonio and grew up visiting all the Missions. She is passionate about history and education and feels that it is extremely important for future generations to learn about and appreciate the connection between the river and the Missions. The smallest and most charming mission, according to Mrs. Bass, Espada has always been her favorite. Known as the “ranching mission,” the story to be told fits perfectly with her family’s ranching heritage.

Ramona Bass and her husband, Lee live in Fort Worth and along with various civic interests concentrate their philanthropy on wildlife conservation and education not only in Texas but nationally and internationally. Most recently, Mrs. Bass was appointed Vice President of The Alamo Endowment campaign by Commissioner George P. Bush. She is also an avid supporter and co-chair of the Fort Worth Zoo and has been the driving force behind its privatization and recognition as one of the top five zoos in the country.

The completion of the Historic Mission Reach runs approximately eight miles from Lone Star Boulevard to Mission Espada. The trails parallel to the San Antonio River lead to each mission and the entrance, referred to as portals, invite the passerby to visit the

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missions, enjoy their beauty and learn their history. Bexar County, the Army Corp of Engineers, the San Antonio River Authority and the San Antonio River Foundation have partnered together to make this part of the river a beautiful and peaceful environmental restoration project. In order to make the portals more compelling and inviting, the San Antonio River Foundation has commissioned four internationally known artists to work on public art projects for each portal. Each project will reflect the theme of each mission.

The selected artist for the Mission Espada project is Mary Miss, an American environmental artist whose work is site specific. Mary visited all of the Missions in San Antonio and had extensive conversations with staff from the San Antonio River Foundation and with Mrs. Bass. Also included, were the National Park Service, San Antonio River Authority and members of the Art and Architecture committee. These meetings enabled her to proceed with her initial conceptual designs.

Established in 2003 by the San Antonio River Authority, the mission of the San Antonio River Foundation is to promote educational, cultural and scientific projects and activities that enhance the conservation, stewardship, restoration, preservation and enjoyment of the land and water resources of the San Antonio River Basin and its tributaries.

The San Antonio River Foundation is the catalyst for creating, facilitating and funding new amenities including vibrant public art, public parks, historic and cultural elements and environmental education programs. These additions are being funded through generous donations from foundations and individuals.

For more information about the San Antonio River Foundation, visit [www.sariverfoundation.org](http://www.sariverfoundation.org), follow the River Foundation on Facebook at sariverfoundation, or on Twitter, @riovivo.

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*The mission of the San Antonio River Foundation is to promote educational, cultural, and scientific projects and activities that enhance the conservation, stewardship, restoration, preservation, and enjoyment of the land and water resources of the San Antonio River basin and its tributaries. Established in 2003 by the San Antonio River Authority, the Foundation's primary focus has been the San Antonio River Improvements Project, one of the country's most exciting public works projects creating a linear urban park weaving through San Antonio. For more information, visit [www.sariverfoundation.org](http://www.sariverfoundation.org).*