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Star-crossed Tricentennial nears end with intriguing museum exhibits at Witte, Briscoe

by Jim Lefko
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The Maestro, aka Joshua Segovia, guides Witte Museum visitors through a hands-on experience when it comes to explaining the history of the San Antonio area over the past 300 years. (SBG Photo)

SAN ANTONIO - As 2018 concludes, so does the star-crossed, year-long Tricentennial celebration in San Antonio.

There is still time to participate in a final few events, including the New Year's Eve bash and fireworks extravaganza on Monday.

Also open to the public are the "Destino San Antonio" exhibit at the Briscoe Western Art Museum and the "Confluence and Culture 300 Years" presentation at the Witte.

"If you want to get a hands on experience at that 300 years of history, this is the place to do it," said Joshua Segovia, the costumed and glib Maestro, at the Witte.

"Not only are you going to get to meet a real maestro, but you're also going to get to (try) your hand at building the city. You're going to get to feel what it's like to carry water buckets."

The Briscoe's Destino exhibit is a stereograph collection, two superimposed images that give a 3D effect when viewed with special glasses.

"They would sequentially take two images. And those two images would then be placed essentially on a postcard-sized backing. And they were sold as souvenirs," said Ryan Badger, museum educator at the Briscoe. " This was one of the earliest forms of 3 dimensional entertainment. "

There are more than 80 stereographs on display at the Briscoe.

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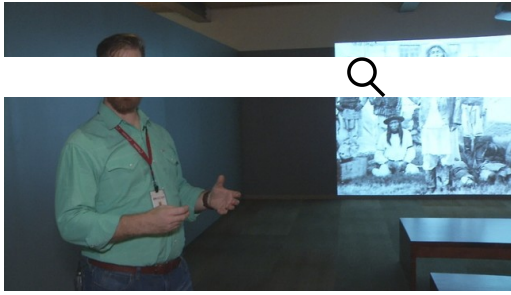
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The Tricentennial celebration is winding down but Ryan Badger, educator at the Briscoe Western Art Museum, is excited about Destino San Antonio, a exhibition of 80 historic stereographs. (SBG Photo)

"The thing that's great about our exhibition, it really shows the evolution of San Antonio from the 1860s through the early 1900s," Badger said. "And it shows how the city has grown. But it really fleshes out the diversity that makes our city such a wonderful place to live, and why it's been around for 300 years, it's ability to appeal to so many different types of people."

The Witte exhibit traces San Antonio's layout and economic and cultural development over the past three centuries.

"History definitely comes alive," Segovia said.

In keeping with the inconsistent nature of the Tricentennial, officials at the Christus Medical Center had no idea where to find the "Life for God and Heart for Others" exhibit, which was supposed to be on display at their facility all month, according to the Tricentennial web site.

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