

LOVE ART AND HISTORY? SADDLE UP AND RIDE WEST AS A BRISCOE WESTERN ART MUSEUM DOCENT

Boots, Hats and Experience are Optional as Museum Rounds Up New Volunteers

San Antonio, TX – (September 2023) Ready to ride into the West and give back to your community by sharing art, culture and fun? Saddle up and join the Briscoe Western Art Museum’s volunteer docent team. Briscoe Docents – specially-trained museum volunteers – help share the art, artifacts and story of the West with museum visitors year-round, providing guided tours of the museum and its collection. And thanks to the museum’s fun and educational training program, no previous museum, art or history experience is required – but you do need to [register by Sept. 22](#) to join the volunteer team.

[Briscoe volunteers](#) are often art or history enthusiasts, as well as people who enjoy being involved in San Antonio’s vibrant art and cultural community. To ensure that docent volunteers know their way around the West and the Briscoe, volunteers will receive special training to learn about the Briscoe’s collection and galleries. The training program includes eight weekly sessions held on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon, Oct. 5 – Nov. 16. The curriculum includes an examination of Western American history and the Briscoe collection, with volunteers working with museum, art and history experts to research selected art and artifacts from the museum’s collection.

“Docents help bring museum collections to life, connecting our visitors more deeply with the stories shared through Western art and artifacts. They are key to helping everyone from visiting schoolchildren to adults enjoying the museum understand not just the art, but the history of the American West,” said Liz Jackson, President and CEO of the Briscoe Western Art Museum. “Many think the American West is just the stereotypical ‘Cowboys and Indians.’ But the truth is that the story of the West is a unique part of American history. And it’s still alive today. That’s what the Briscoe – and our volunteers – help museum visitors see in greater detail. We look forward to sharing engaging Western history content and interpretation with our volunteers and viewing and interpreting the art of the American West together.”

Free Museum Membership and Paid Parking

While the volunteer positions are unpaid, docents have opportunities to meet leading scholars and artists in the genre. The Briscoe values the talent and commitment of its docent team. Once trained, docents receive a free membership to the museum, allowing them to visit the museum year-round, as well as invitations to exclusive exhibition previews, private member events and tours, free or discounted admission to museum programs and events and a 10% discount in the [Briscoe’s Hendler Family Museum Store](#). Docents also receive two guest admission tickets to share the museum with their family and friends.

Throughout the training program and each time docents visit the museum, they also receive free parking. And of course, they receive exclusive access to the Briscoe's docent research library, invitations to information field trips to learn about history, art and other topics related to the American West and other behind-the-scenes educational opportunities. The field trips highlight a benefit of volunteering: socializing with other active arts and culture volunteers through annual parties, appreciation events and quarterly socials, allowing volunteers to grow connections with others in San Antonio.

Become a Briscoe Volunteer: Hats and Boots Optional

While docents are key to the museum, general volunteers are also needed. From roping and wrangling fun at the Briscoe's annual community days like National Day of the Cowboy, Yanaguana Indian Art Festival and the Wild West Wildlife celebration to assisting during the museum's annual **Night of Artists Exhibition and Sale**, there's always fun to lasso at the Briscoe. Volunteers must be 18 or older. [More information](#) and [registration is available online](#).

A Trip West from The Heart of The River Walk

An oasis of Western beauty just off the River Walk, the Briscoe's McNutt Sculpture Garden and the museum grounds feature 35 sculptures portraying various aspects of Western life. Inside the museum's beautifully restored historic home inside the former San Antonio Public Library building, the Briscoe's collection spans 14 galleries, with special exhibitions, events and a fantastic museum shop, providing art, culture, history and entertainment.

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 military members. 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](#).

About [The Briscoe Western Art Museum](#): *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.*