

# Multisensory Tours for the Visually Impaired



**SAN ANTONIO MUSEUM of ART**



# How to Begin

Confirm you need multisensory tours

Check with the visually impaired community

Create a small, initial committee





# See the Value in Multisensory Tours

Involving your audience is  
essential

Sensory aids engage the  
visually impaired

Encourages interactive  
teaching strategies



# Develop Your Program

Meet with Education and Marketing

Educational plan

Recruit docents

Promotional strategy



# Search the Galleries and...

Reimagine your museum and consider  
all the senses

Create a variety of model tours

Define roles within your group







## Reach out to local organizations

## Offer sample tours

# Create an email list

## Participate in community activities

# Enrich Your Museum

Multisensory techniques  
enhance all tours

Inclusive multisensory  
programs

Adaptive art activities for all  
visitors

Increases community  
awareness







# Endless Possibilities!

Technology and apps

Educate your museum personnel

Adapt for other special needs groups



# Impact of Description

Build a narrative and provide context

Sensory imagery helps the visually impaired envision an object

Use directional terms (top-to-bottom, left-to-right)



# Audio Elements

Music, sound effects, soundscapes

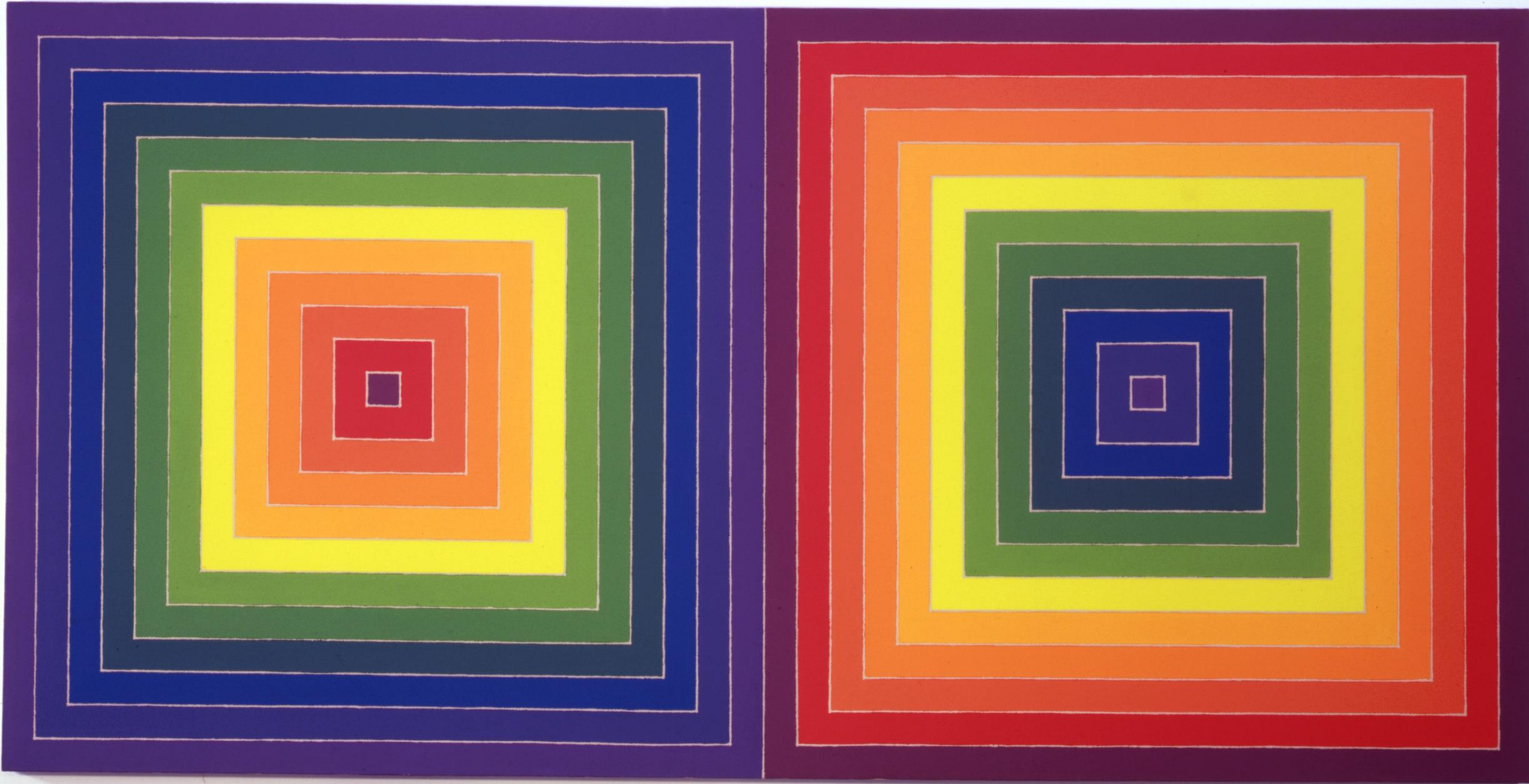
Used alone or paired with verbal description

Creates instant atmosphere



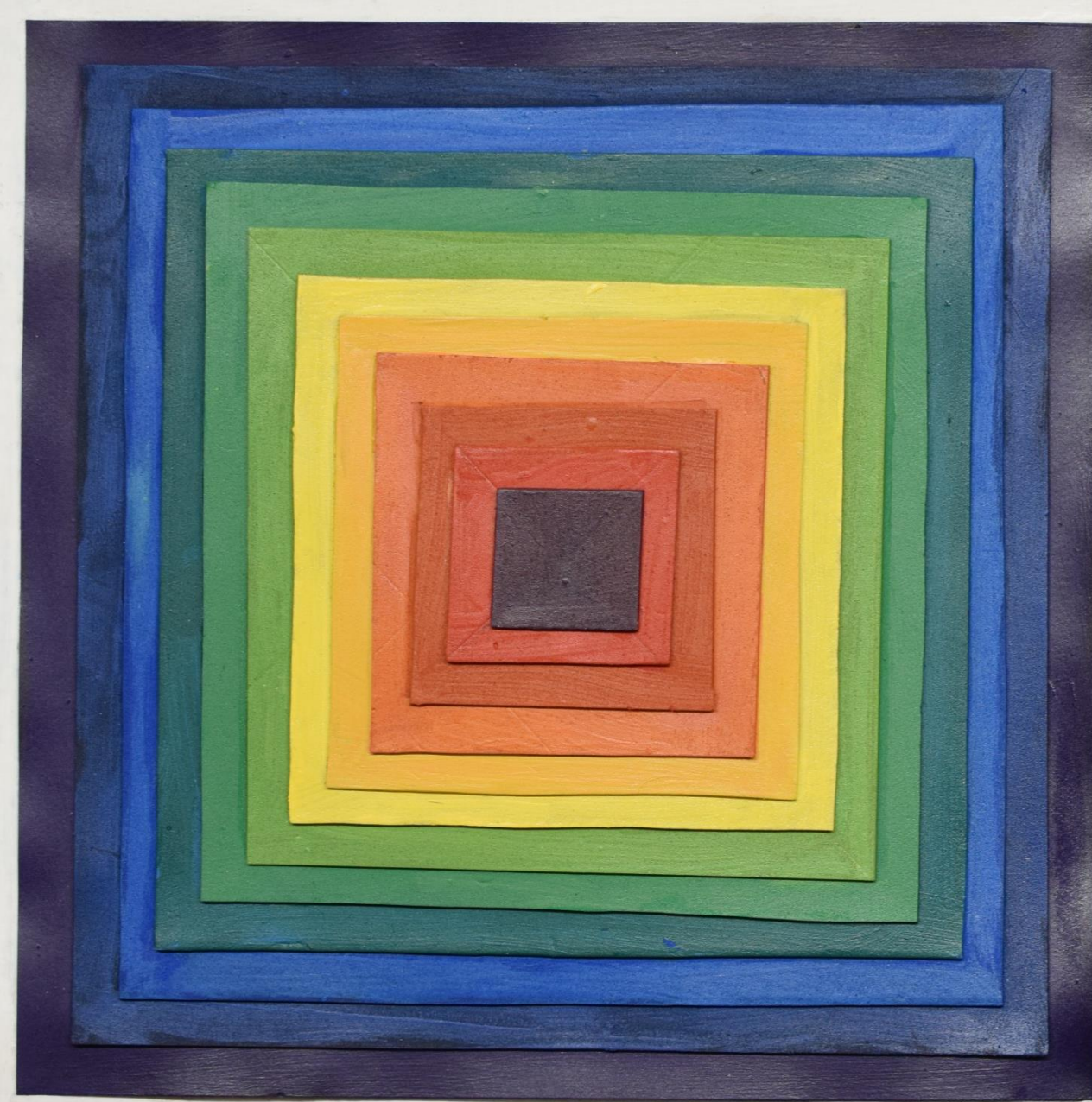
Robert Henri.  
*El Tango*.  
American. 1908.  
Oil on canvas.  
San Antonio Museum of  
Art: 74.16.



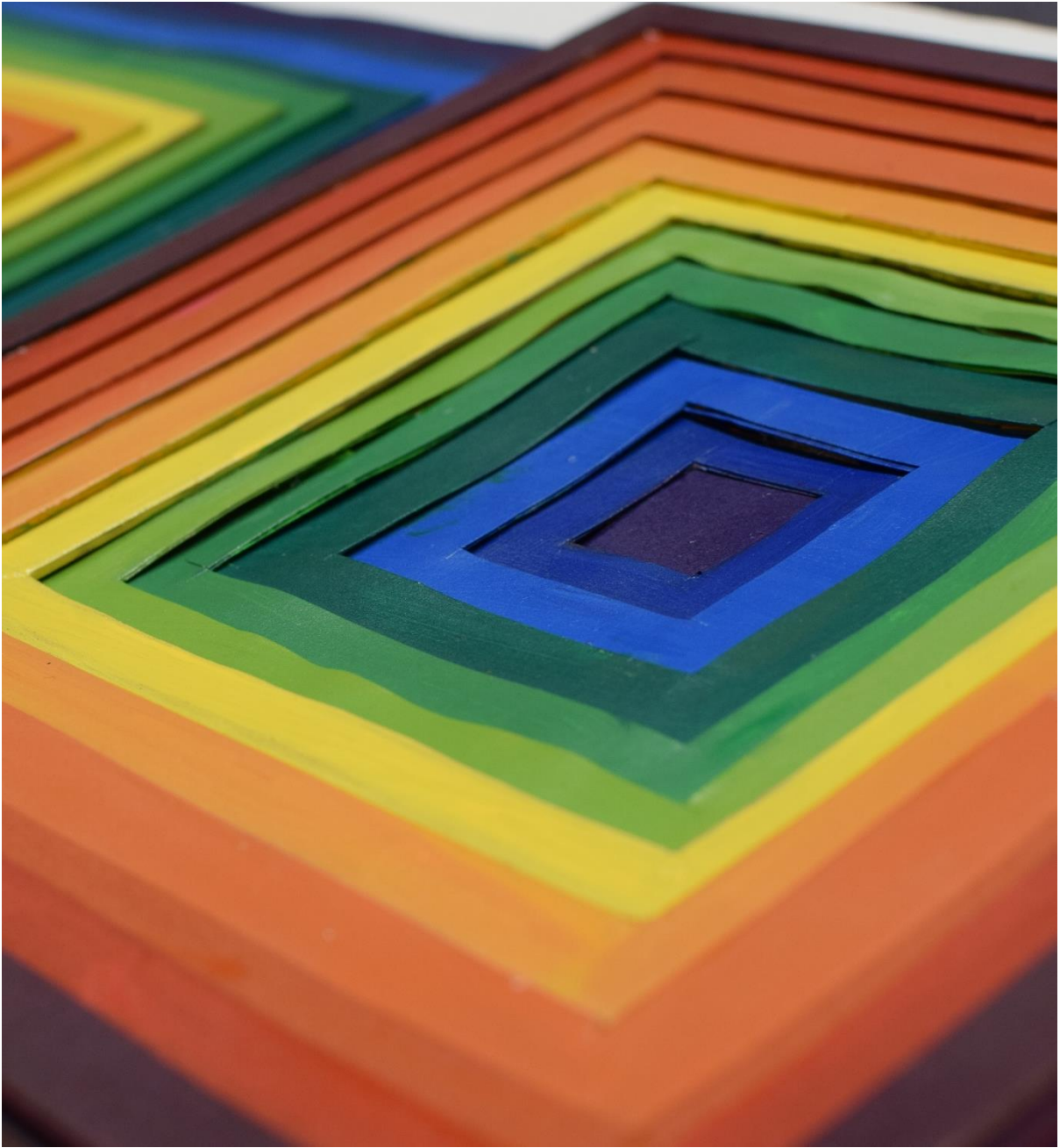


Frank Stella. *Double Scramble*.  
American. 1968. Fluorescent alkyd on canvas.  
San Antonio Museum of Art: 76.27.

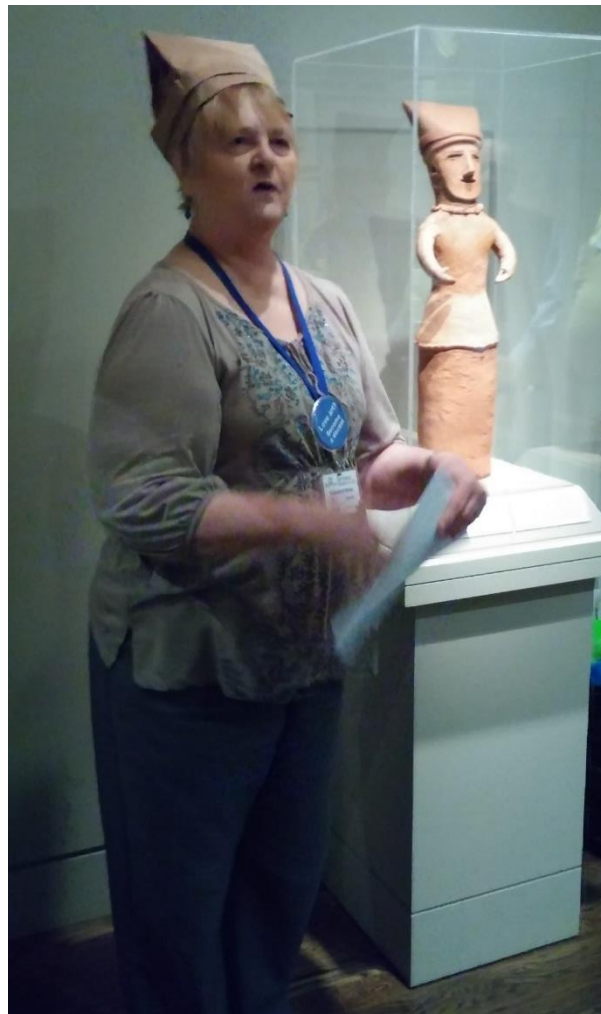












*Haniwa Figure of a Man.*  
Japanese. Kofun Period, ca. 300—600 CE.  
Earthenware. San Antonio Museum of Art:  
2010.10.



# Scents

Smell is closely linked with  
memory

Cultural connections

Sample vials are  
inexpensive









John Gutzon Borglum. *Runnin' Out the Storm*. American. ca. 1890. Oil on canvas. San Antonio Museum of Art: 77.1101.

# Special Thanks

## Video Credits

### Producer

Gary Groth

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### Camera

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Bruce Maniscalco

### Production Assistant

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### Music

Keith Harter

## San Antonio Museum of Art Multisensory Tours Docent Committee

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Catherine Carr

Colleen Yarbrough

Daria Outhwaite

Elisa Denham

Ellie de Guzman

Geoff Leech

Kiki Gay

Mary Hogan

Norma Gómez-Pérez

Susanne O'Brien

Walt Magnus





# The San Antonio Museum of Art is...

Where east meets west  
and  
ancient meets modern

Our city's classroom

A place of wonder and delight

Changing the world one  
visitor at a time