



**Request for Coverage**  
**April 11, 2019**

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**Pre-K 4 SA's Sixth Annual *Gracias San Antonio* Art Exhibit and Auction to Benefit ChildSafe  
*Four-year-olds create art, learn civic engagement, and participate in cultural life of San Antonio***

**WHAT:** The *Gracias San Antonio* Art Reception is the culmination of Pre-K 4 SA's yearlong civic engagement program. Pre-K 4 SA students worked with prominent local artists to create pieces of art inspired by the children's explorations of the city. The art pieces will be auctioned to support ChildSafe with a goal of raising \$20,000.

*Gracias San Antonio: Children Are Citizens Project* is grounded in the belief that children are not just future citizens, but are citizens of the city today. *Gracias* engages the 4-year-olds to express their opinions and participate in the civic and cultural life of San Antonio. As citizens of the community, the students also learn to give back to their city.

ChildSafe was chosen as the benefiting charity by students in a vote held at the four Pre-K 4 SA Education Centers on Nov. 5 to promote Election Day. Throughout the year, children and families engaged in City Explorations by visiting different places around San Antonio. Local artists joined students in the classroom to create authentic art pieces using a variety of artistic media to express the children's perspective of their city and the places visited. More than 100 pieces have been created and will be displayed at the gallery on opening day.

"One of the primary goals of Pre-K 4 SA is to create a strong, educated workforce in San Antonio. Through our civic engagement initiatives like *Gracias*, our children and their families have the opportunity to engage with the community and experience what makes San Antonio a unique and vibrant city," Pre-K 4 SA CEO Sarah Baray said. "Integrating the arts into the early childhood curriculum enhances the children's learning and development."

Art enthusiasts can bid on and secure their favorite piece of art through the online auction between Monday, April 8 and Monday, April 22 at [www.32auctions.com/graciassanantonio2019](http://www.32auctions.com/graciassanantonio2019).

**WHEN:** **Thursday, April 11, 2019, 5:30-7:30 p.m. (Opening Reception)**  
The *Gracias* Exhibit continues through Sunday, April 21.

**WHERE:** **The San Antonio Central Library, Art Gallery**  
600 Soledad Street  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

**Interviews:** Pre-K 4 SA CEO, Dr. Sarah Baray  
Pre-K 4 SA student artists and families  
Local Artist Mentors to Pre-K 4 SA  
ChildSafe President, Kim Abernethy



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**About Pre-K 4 SA:**

Pre-K 4 SA is a comprehensive early childhood initiative aimed at changing the education and workforce trajectory of San Antonio in one generation. Pre-K 4 SA offers full-day pre-kindergarten for 4-year-olds living in the City of San Antonio. Pre-K 4 SA is free for qualifying students and also accepts tuition-paying students. The school day begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. Extended hours are available at no additional charge from 7:15 to 8 a.m., and from 3 to 6 p.m. for working families. Breakfast, lunch and two snacks are included and free transportation is available to all students. Pre-K 4 SA has four Education Centers located throughout the city: North Education Center, 3635 Medical Dr.; South Education Center, 7031 S. New Braunfels Ave.; East Education Center, 5230 Eisenhower Rd.; and West Education Center, 1235 Enrique M. Barrera Memorial Parkway. The Pre-K 4 SA Professional Learning program provides pre-kindergarten through third grade educators in San Antonio with complementary continuing education to support best practice instruction to help every child in San Antonio excel. The Pre-K 4 SA Competitive Grants program provides more than \$4 million in funding annually to increase quality and access in early childhood programs throughout San Antonio.

Visit [www.prek4sa.com](http://www.prek4sa.com) for more information.

**San Antonio: America's 21st Century City**

San Antonio is a global city with a dynamic economy and workforce, a deep cultural heritage and diverse communities that are resilient and welcoming. It is one of the strongest fiscally managed cities in the country with a vibrant business climate and a 'AAA' general obligation bond rating from all three major rating agencies. San Antonio is a city that nurtures entrepreneurship, encourages investment and funds infrastructure. America's seventh-largest city offers growth opportunities in bioscience, financial services, aerospace, cybersecurity, energy, transportation, manufacturing and health care. In 2015, UNESCO designated San Antonio's 18th century Spanish colonial missions as a World Heritage Site — the first in Texas. Proudly called Military City, USA<sup>®</sup>, San Antonio is home to one of the largest populations of active duty military, veterans and crucial military commands. In 2018, the city will celebrate its 300th anniversary, honoring its rich past and a bright future focused on innovation and livability. For more information, visit [www.sanantonio.gov](http://www.sanantonio.gov).