



For Immediate Release
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Pre-K 4 SA Gracias San Antonio Art Exhibit Auction Goes Live April 14
Four-year-olds learn civic engagement and create art, and proceeds benefit the THRU Project

SAN ANTONIO — [Pre-K 4 SA's](#) *Gracias San Antonio: Children Are Citizens Project* is grounded in the belief that children are not just future citizens but are active citizens today. Even at 4-years-old, children have the right to express their opinions and participate in the civic and cultural life of San Antonio. The year-long curriculum concludes with its art exhibit and online art auction opening this week.

Art enthusiasts can attend the *Gracias San Antonio* opening reception at the Pre-K 4 SA East Education Center on April 14 from 5–6 p.m. or attend the open exhibit April 18–20 from 3-4 p.m. All citizens of San Antonio are encouraged to bid on and secure their favorite piece of art through the online auction April 14-24 at <https://www.32auctions.com/Gracias2022>. Winning bidders will be notified and have the option to pay online or have the artwork shipped. Winning bidders may also arrange for payment over the phone or schedule a time to pick up their artwork from the Pre-K 4 SA East Education Center between April 27 and May 20 during regular business hours.

“One of the primary goals of Pre-K 4 SA is to create a strong, educated workforce in San Antonio,” Pre-K 4 SA CEO Sarah Baray said. “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.”

Gracias San Antonio integrates several strategic and engaging curricular innovations such as civic engagement, art infusion and outdoor learning which run throughout the school year. The incorporation of family engagement helps build generational understandings of how everyone can make a difference in their city by learning what is important to them, and how to be a voice of change in their community.

Each year the program begins in November with the children’s participation in a program-wide election to vote on a local nonprofit to support for the year. As citizens of the community, the children also learn to give back to their city. The proceeds from art pieces in the online auction will support this year’s chosen nonprofit organization, [the THRUproject](#). Activities continued throughout the year as children and families engaged in City Explorations with their teachers to visit different places around San Antonio. Local artists joined children in a virtual or outdoor classroom to create the authentic art pieces using a variety of artistic mediums to express the children’s perspective of their city and the places they visited.

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 7:45 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 Gardendale Early Learning Program powered by Pre-K 4 SA is the first replication site and was made possible through a partnership with Edgewood Independent School District. This program creates greater capacity for high-quality early education with both pre-k and kindergarten classrooms. 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 for more information.

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