



Fall 2021

A Proposal to Move the
San Antonio peaceCENTER
to Northwest Vista College



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT

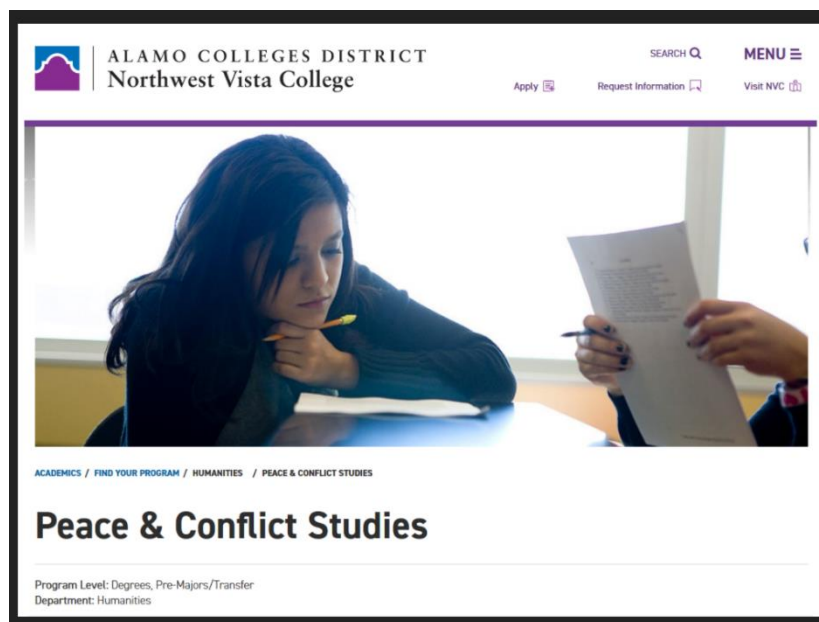
Northwest Vista College



Fall 2021

Outline

I.	Executive Summary of the Proposal.....	04
II.	Why Bring the San Antonio peaceCENTER to Northwest Vista College?.....	05
	History of the San Antonio peaceCENTER.....	06
	History of Peace & Conflict Studies at Northwest Vista College.....	07
	Mutually Beneficial Goals.....	08
III.	Budget.....	11
IV.	Revenue Opportunities.....	12
V.	Legal Issues.....	13
VI.	Space for the peaceCENTER at Northwest Vista College.....	14
VII.	Conclusion.....	15



I. Executive Summary of the Proposal

This is a proposal to move the San Antonio peaceCENTER to Northwest Vista College.

This proposal was prepared for the leadership of Northwest Vista College, the Alamo Colleges District, and the San Antonio peaceCENTER. The proposal was prepared by Migdalia Garcia, Academic Program Coordinator, Andrew Hill, Associate Professor of Philosophy at St. Phillip's College, and Neil Lewis, Associate Professor of Humanities at Northwest Vista College.

Key Benefits

Northwest Vista College (NVC) has a well-established peace and conflict studies program with historic ties to the peaceCENTER. NVC would bring the academic framework, faculty expertise, space, and student volunteers that could animate, extend, and innovate the existing initiatives of the peaceCENTER.

The peaceCENTER brings more than 25 years of programming experience, community connections, and high impact/ high visibility signature events such as the naming of the San Antonio Peace Laureates at the annual Blessing of the Peacemakers. The peaceCenter's connections with the city of San Antonio as well as national/international organizations would bring exceptional opportunities to Alamo Colleges

The melding of the two would reap the benefits of integrating the program, activities, and global connections of the peaceCENTER with the curricular and co-curricular peace projects at NVC to increase student learning and enhance community outreach. The merging of the peaceCenter with NVC would become an innovative and sustainable model for other communities to emulate.

Key Points

Legal: The San Antonio peaceCENTER is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is now doing business as Compassionate San Antonio. We suggest that Compassionate San Antonio and Northwest Vista College sign a Memorandum of Understanding so that NVC may use the name San Antonio peaceCENTER.

The peaceCenter Board: After the signing of the MOU, a new provisional board will be created, with all current members serving in an advisory role for the remainder of the Academic Year 2021-2022. After this transition period, a new board would be created including community members and NVC faculty/staff.

Financial: One time Start-up Costs: \$55,000 (office space renovation, logistics)

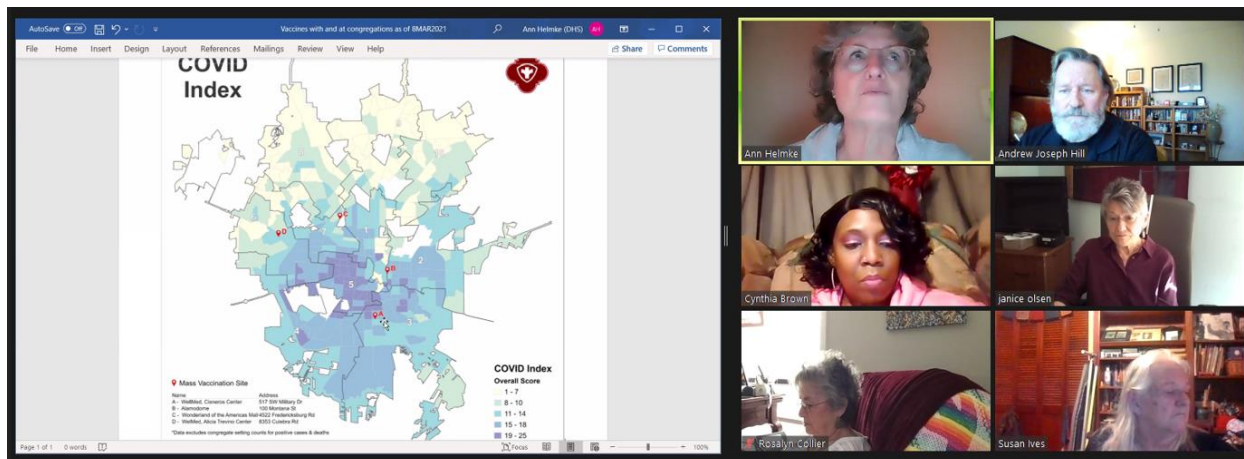
On-going Administrative Costs: \$84,000 (salary, release time, programs)

Space: Convert LOH 202 and LOH 204 into small event/collaborative space and offices.

Organizational Structure: (1) peaceCenter Director, (2) peaceCenter Academic Program Coordinator, (3) Renewal and Wholeness coordinator, and (4) Advisory Board. The Director would report to the Vice President of Academic Success.

II. Why Bring the San Antonio peaceCENTER to Northwest Vista College?

Prior to 2020, the human landscape and demographics in the United States were already changing dramatically. Then the global COVID-19 pandemic further revealed deep fractures caused by political, cultural, racial, and economic divisions that rocked our trust in institutions, democracy, and each other.



Responding to these growing divisions, the peaceCenter and NVC have worked independently and in partnership on various projects and events. The peaceCenter's leadership and guidance have been critical in the foundation and formation of the NVC Peace & Conflict's vision and work.

Texas has enormous influence geopolitically, as many trends that develop here become replicated throughout the country. This is a prime opportunity for Northwest Vista College, Alamo Colleges, and San Antonio to have an educational institution provide a response, antidote, and a path to peace for its citizens.

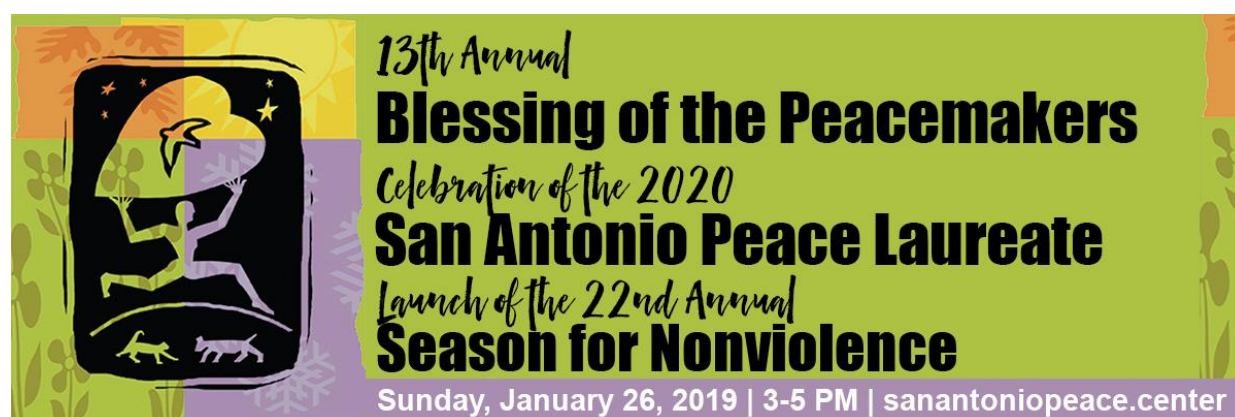


The History of the San Antonio peaceCENTER

Since 1994, the San Antonio peaceCenter has been nurturing peace and compassion in San Antonio. The peaceCenter's early work centered on addressing gang violence, beginning with its historic Gang Peace Summit in 1994 and the Fair-Well to Violence event in 1995.

Founders Rosalyn Falcón Collier, Ann E. Helmke, and Susan Ives are innovative, creative, and practical in their approaches to peace. The founders collected tools for community peacemakers and started their own press that has published books that inspired people around the world. For example, "The Class of Nonviolence," a robust compilation of curriculum online, became an important source and guide for academic endeavors and research for peace and conflict studies programs.

In 2006, the peaceCENTER celebrated its inaugural "Blessing of the Peacemakers." At each annual blessing, the San Antonio community comes together in a joyous interfaith ceremony featuring music, prayer, new inclusive and innovative rituals, and inspirational speakers. Starting in 2008, the peaceCENTER has announced and appointed an annual San Antonio Peace Laureate, a local voice of wisdom and experience to speak for peace and justice in San Antonio.



Starting in 2012, the peaceCENTER became a catalyst for having San Antonio recognized as a world-class Compassionate City, which was achieved on June 22, 2017, when the City Council unanimously voted to make it so. City Council approved a resolution affirming the Charter for Compassion and authorized registration with the International Campaign for Compassionate Cities, actions that underscore Council and Mayoral commitment to modeling good government that works for everyone.

"San Antonio is a city whose residents have shown time again that they will choose acceptance over fear and unity over division," said Mayor Nirenburg. The International Campaign for Compassionate Cities is a global movement inspired by the Golden Rule, or Ethic of Reciprocity, which calls on each person to treat others as they would want to be treated.¹

¹ For a more detailed history of the San Antonio peaceCenter, please see Appendix I.

History of Peace & Conflict Studies at Northwest Vista College

NVC is home to San Antonio's only formal Peace & Conflict academic recognition. Over the past decade, the Peace & Conflict Studies committee has hosted world-renowned speakers and events that have engaged our campus and community in important and timely topics. Through a cadre of dedicated NVC employees, they have set a precedent of creativity and bridge-building on campus, between disciplines, and between students.

In 2007, under the leadership of President Jackie Claunch, NVC began to plan a "Peace Studies" program. David Smith from the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and other community stakeholders, including the San Antonio peaceCenter, were brought to campus to help faculty develop the mission, vision, and proposed activities of a new "Peace Studies" program.

While limited due to Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), NVC offers a transcript distinction in "Peace & Conflict Studies." To earn the transcript distinction students are required to complete the foundation class of HUMA 1302 and two additional courses that have a "Peace & Conflict emphasis." Even though traditionally there has been no budget, staff, or release time, the NVC Peace & Conflict Studies committee has become a strong and innovative organization. The NVC Peace & Conflict Studies committee organizes events on the campus that provide thousands of students with opportunities for engagement and activism, as well as a diverse range of thought-provoking programs on campus.² Recently, the NVC Peace & Conflict Studies committee has dedicated itself to offering faculty and staff development sessions for all Alamo College employees, hosting or facilitating sessions directly for faculty and staff.

Another signature initiative at NVC is the impressive formation work accomplished through the Renewal and Wholeness program. A highly skilled group of facilitators has led retreats for hundreds of members of the faculty and staff, addressing the human experience and the process of the inner teacher inviting us to courage and vulnerability. The work that has been done and the iterative work that awaits, strategically aligns with the history and initiatives of the San Antonio Peace Center.

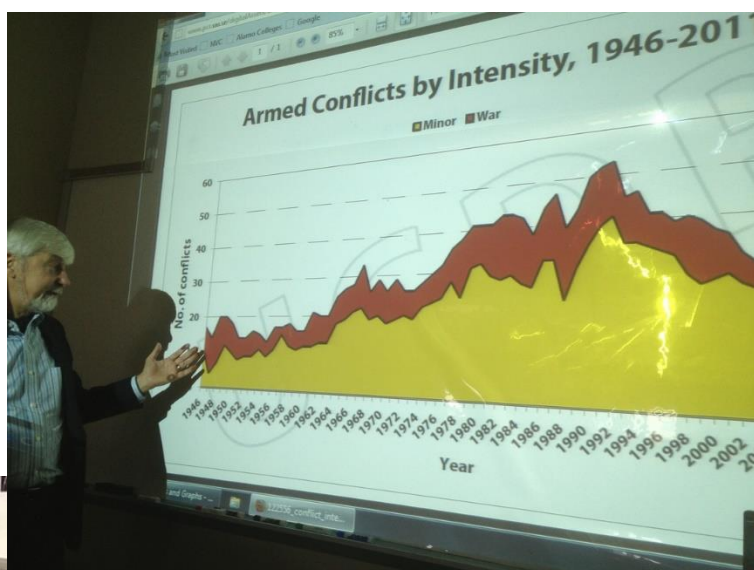


² For a more detailed list of activities from the past several years, please see Appendix II.

Mutually Beneficial Goals

1. **Engage in premiere programming, training, and partnerships**

- Provide workshops and courses for business, government, nonprofit, and community organizations in conflict transformation and Compassionate Integrity
- Facilitate conversations on campus, at our sister institutions, and in the community about peace, conflict transformation, justice, human rights, race, and privilege
- Host global experts in peace and justice studies as speakers, workshop facilitators, and international peace scholars
- Establish and strengthen community relationships with the city, sister institutions, businesses, and nonprofit communities
- Reinvigorate peaceCenter website content and design



2. Diversify Experiential Opportunities for Alamo Colleges Community

- Deepen student hands-on experiences such as internships and service-learning opportunities to imbue meaning and context to the theories of peace
- Increase faculty and staff development sessions centered on conflict transformation, diversity, communication, and restorative justice
- Provide local and global travel enrichment for students and employees (Peace & Conflict focused Study Abroad programs, Study Stateside programs, Faculty/Staff retreats, and travel)
- Grow community-based projects that will expand and enhance Alamo College's relationship with San Antonio citizens



3. **Strengthen Peace and Justice curriculum and practices into a variety of courses, disciplines, and departments and into the college's practices**

- Create and develop curriculum for CE classes and workshops
- Establish formal transfer agreements with St. Mary's University, Incarnate Word University, and other global partners
- Expand Peace & Conflict Studies to other Alamo Colleges
- Create Peace Journal and publishing opportunities for faculty and staff via peaceCenter press
- Redesign the process for Peace and Conflict certification for faculty
- Streamline process in awarding the Peace & Conflict emphasis on student's academic transcript



Home » Stories » Peace Workshop Brings International Speakers

Peace Workshop Brings International Speakers

Thursday, July 18, 2013 - 19:57



With San Antonio's proximity to Mexico, and the escalating drug violence on the border, Northwest Vista College co-sponsored a Peace and Conflict Summer Workshop June 12 and 13 with funding by the U. S. Institute of Peace's "Public Education for Peacebuilding Support initiative," seeking to support American colleges in advancing international peace and conflict resolution.



Northwest Vista College welcomed two internationally-recognized speakers from Northern Ireland to share stories of hope for peace and reconciliation, as well as other local and regional experts who taught students how to resolve conflict and become leaders. The workshop was an initiative of the NVC Peace and Conflict Studies program led by Carlos Lopez, and was held at Northwest Vista College and at St. Mary's University, which also has a similar peace program led by Aaron Tyler.



The first keynote speaker was Matthew Scrimgeour, born in Perth, Scotland, who is a professional peace practitioner and published poet. Scrimgeour works as a program coordinator and volunteer support worker for the Corrymeela Peace & Reconciliation Centre in his home of Ballycastle, Northern Ireland. The second keynote speaker, Aaron Gordon, born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, works as the program coordinator at

"Music Theater 4 Youth." Gordon studied at the Belfast Royal Academy, and was a long-term volunteer at the Corrymeela Center. The third keynote speaker was Brian Flannery, the DEA resident agent in charge of the border of San Diego and Tijuana, Mexico - the busiest land-border crossing in the world.

NVC Employees Facebook Page



Campus Announcements

- Winter Social Survey
- Important Dates
- New EOM Selection Process
- New NVC Employee Facebook Page

[READ MORE](#)

Higher Education in the

News

- 5 Tips for Researching Online Programs as an International Student
- 10 Best Global Universities in Europe
- 3 Reasons to Apply to High-Effort, High-Dollar Scholarships

[READ MORE](#)

III. Budget

Much of the budget for the San Antonio Peace Center (SAPC) at NVC is already part of the NVC operational expenses. Cost-saving benefits include the use of the Student Activity Fee to help fund campus and community programming and the use of campus facilities. We would also shift Migdalia Garcia's position from Academic Program Coordinator to Academic Program Director. The renovation of a classroom in Live Oak Hall could be paid out of the Alamo Colleges Foundation/Bond funds (for details, see section below on "Space at NVC").

Academic Program Director (S19)	\$74,152 (\$20,000 increase from current budget)
Part-time Academic Support Specialist (S11)	\$20,000
Faculty Release for Curriculum Development, Programming	\$21,145.44 (Annual total based on \$881.06 per credit hour)
Renewal and Wholeness Retreat Budget	\$20,000
Programming and Speakers	\$5,000
Supplies and Materials	\$3,000
Hospitality	\$3,000
Total Annual Budget	\$138, 297. 44 (\$84,297 in new money)



IV. Revenue Opportunities

Bringing the San Antonio Peace Center to NVC can create revenue opportunities to help support the center's budget, special initiatives, and projects.

- Community education courses and/or workshops (i.e., “Conflict in the Workplace”, “Diversity in the Holidays” “Active Bystander Training”, etc.)
- Compassionate Integrity Training
- Renewal and Wholeness retreats for community groups
- Peace & Justice Tours (faculty and staff-led educational trips open to the San Antonio community- i.e., Peace & Justice Memorial in Montgomery, AL)
- Published works such as journals and books via the website (Peace is our Birthright, Heartwood: 40 Year History of San Antonio Laureate)



V. Legal Issues

The San Antonio peaceCENTER is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is now doing business as Compassionate San Antonio. We suggest that Compassionate San Antonio and Northwest Vista College sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) so that NVC may use the name “San Antonio peaceCENTER” to describe a newly created unit within the administrative structure of the College.

After the signing of the MOU, a new provisional board will be created, with all current members of Compassionate San Antonio serving in an advisory role for the remainder of the Academic Year 2021–2022. After this transition period, a new Advisory Board to the San Antonio peaceCENTER would be created.

The new Advisory Board to be created for the Academic Year 2022–2023 will be made up of 8 members, including members of Compassionate San Antonio, NVC faculty and staff, and community members. This new Advisory Board would be for the center, and would be separate and independent of the Advisory Board that currently exists for the Peace and Conflict Studies Program.



VI. Space for the peaceCENTER at Northwest Vista College

The San Antonio peaceCENTER (SAPC) will need a home on campus that will include a workspace for the director, administrative assistant, interns and/or student workers. It would also include collaborative space for staff and faculty to work together, have retreats, host visitors, and small events. We imagine that the space will be accessible to community groups.

Given the recent new construction on the NVC campus, there are several possibilities, and we believe the best location would be in Live Oak Hall (LOH). LOH is in the heart of the NVC campus, and this location would allow the SAPC to remain highly visible and accessible for both NVC faculty and students. LOH is also the largest academic building on campus, having 35 classrooms as well as the speech lab, two science tutoring labs and various study areas for students.

LOH 202 and LOH 204 would make an ideal location due to its proximate location to faculty offices and the possibility to connect directly with the LOH 206T conference room and LOH 206V (currently the office of Migdalia Garcia) which could be converted to a peace library and SAPC archives.

The combined space of 202 & 204 would not only allow for workspace but would also create a welcoming space to hold smaller intimate events and create an inviting collaborative space for the SAPC and NVC faculty and staff that will foster dialogue.



VII. Conclusion: Cultivate Collaboration & Sustainability

Northwest Vista College (NVC) has a well-established peace and conflict studies program with historic ties to the peaceCENTER. NVC would bring the academic framework, faculty expertise, space, and student volunteers that could animate, extend, and innovate the existing initiatives of the peaceCENTER.

The peaceCENTER brings more than 25 years of programming experience, community connections, and high impact/ high visibility signature events such as the naming of the San Antonio Peace Laureates at the annual Blessing of the Peacemakers. The peaceCenter's connections with the city of San Antonio as well as national/international organizations would bring exceptional opportunities to Alamo Colleges

The melding of the two would reap the benefits of integrating the program, activities, and global connections of the peaceCENTER with the curricular and co-curricular peace projects at NVC to increase student learning and enhance community outreach. The merging of the peaceCenter with NVC would become an innovative and sustainable model for other communities to emulate.

The San Antonio peaceCENTER has deep roots that have been carefully cultivated to be life giving and nourishing for the community. The peace leadership is ready to transplant and entrust the care of the tree which they have tended to for decades to the nurturing gardeners at Northwest Vista College.



POWER
 WITHOUT LOVE IS RECKLESS
 AND ABUSIVE, AND LOVE WITHOUT
 POWER IS SENTIMENTAL AND ANEMIC.
 POWER AT ITS BEST IS LOVE
 IMPLEMENTING THE DEMANDS OF
 JUSTICE, AND JUSTICE AT ITS BEST IS
 POWER CORRECTING EVERYTHING THAT
 STANDS AGAINST **LOVE.**

Martin Luther King, Jr.



Appendix I

Appendix I: San Antonio peaceCenter History

The brief history below is adapted from the history of the peaceCENTER written by **Susan Ives**.

Part I – The Peacemaking Conference on Gang Violence of 1994

In 1995, Rosalyn Falcón Collier returned to her hometown of San Antonio and began teaching French at Texas Lutheran University. She had read in the newspaper about a “Gang Peace Summit” organized by a Lutheran pastor named Rev. Ann Helmke. She was intrigued by her work, cold called her, and asked her to breakfast. She told her on the phone that she had recently moved from Prince George’s County Maryland, where she had been doing peace work. She invited Helmke to join her for coffee and biscuits at Mama’s Café, and although they had never met before, they talked for over three hours.

At that first meeting with Collier, Helmke described how she helped to organize the “Peacemaking Conference on Gang Violence” (informally known as the Gang Peace Summit). In November of 1993, Helmke had attended the “International Consultation on the Global Peace Service,” which was held at the United Nations headquarters in New York. There she had met Carl Upchurch, who was the national coordinator for the Kansas City Summit, and she urged Upchurch to come to San Antonio and help it join the national movement toward gang truces. After Kansas City, Upchurch sponsored conversations in Cleveland, Minneapolis, Chicago, Washington, Pittsburgh, and then – at Helmke’s invitation – San Antonio in April 1994.

Working locally with the Rev. Michael Harrington of the Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, Helmke offered her own sacred space, Grace Lutheran Church, as the location of the event: “It was not something I went looking for,” she says. “He (Upchurch) explained that it needed to be an inner-city church with lots of parking... So, I said, ‘Let’s do it.’”

The conference was controversial before it got under way, however, once it was started, it captured the city’s imagination and led to concrete results. The Gang Peace Summit was a success, and the City of San Antonio officially recognized this accomplishment with an official proclamation declaring that “April 4 – 11, 1994, will be observed as a ‘Week of Peace’ throughout San Antonio.”

Part II – Next Steps: The Follow-up in 1995 and 1996

Capitalizing on the success of the 1994 Gang Peace Summit and the energy it created, the planners — not yet the peaceCENTER — organized two more events.

Realizing that there was a great need for fundamental education about nonviolence, a Fair-Well to Violence was conceived in 1995. More than 2,000 people attended over the 13-14 October weekend. Arun Gandhi, grandson of M.K. Gandhi, was the keynote speaker. Conference speakers also included Carl Upchurch, who had led the 1994 Gang Summit, and now was returning to continue the peace work. Upchurch was an ex-gang member and ex-convict, yet he had become a nationally recognized leader in

efforts to end teen violence. People of all ages attended workshops on nonviolence, conflict resolution, mediation, and peace training. A networking space for San Antonio social agencies and grassroots organizations was created, and a “Month of Peace” was declared in San Antonio by the Mayor and City Council.

A year later, A New Generation for Peace was held (October 5, 1996) at the San Antonio Municipal Auditorium. Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi; Bernice King, daughter of Martin Luther King; and Julie Rodriguez, granddaughter of Cèsar Chàvez, spoke to their experiences and family philosophies for a common vision for peace. Speakers, panels and interactive discussions throughout that day were designed to bring the community together to share information, to learn alternatives to violence, to be energized to work together, to reach across the generations and to empower all to be the new generation of peace makers in this time and in this place. October was again declared a “Month of Peace” by the Mayor and City Council. More than 1,000 people attended the event.

The Founders

Rosalyn Falcón Collier is the peacework educator at the peaceCENTER where she designs and facilitates conflict engagement and transformative mediation skillshops and presentations dealing with creative nonviolence in multicultural situations. She is the recipient of the 2000 Peace Educator of the Year Award from the Consortium on Peace Research, Education and Development.

Ann E. Helmke is the animating director at the peaceCENTER and a Lutheran ordained minister (ELCA.) She keeps the peaceCENTER vision-focused with an emphasis on interfaith based community organizing and relationship building in the community at large. Ann is the recipient of the 1999 Imagineer Award from the San Antonio Mind Science Foundation and the 1995 Peacemaker of the Year Award from the San Antonio Bar Foundation.

Susan Ives was invited to help the peaceCENTER launch their first Web site. She never left. She manages the peaceCENTER’s Web sites and designs most of our communication — from postcards to posters. Susan is also the editor-in-chief of peaceCENTER books and has published seven of her own, including *Squint*, a compilation of her Express-News columns, *The Facilitator’s Manual for the Class of Nonviolence and Visualize Whirled Peas*, a vegan cookbook originally designed to help the local Food Not Bombs chefs figure out what to do with foraged produce. Susan is an engaging and sought-after speaker for universities, community groups and rallies, especially adept in connecting peace and justice history to contemporary events. In 2005, she was named the San Antonio Bar Foundation’s Peacemaker of the Year.

Part III – Vigils at Sites of Violence in 1997

In 1997, four teenagers and a father to one of them were shot in the back with their arms and wrists duct taped behind them in the West French Place neighborhood of San Antonio. It was a horrendous story for a neighborhood and community to share — for families and friends to live through and find peace again.

At the peaceCENTER, they learned that some people in other parts of the country were holding prayer vigils at sites of violence, and after some research, they were able to locate and contact the families to invite them to such a service near the scene of the massacre. Twelve community faith leaders from various traditions were also contacted, invited, encouraged to invite others, and come with a candle.

By dusk on the designated day media trucks, reporters, camera operators, and another 120 people came ready. Neighbors cautiously came out their front doors and joined us for what became a two-hour vigil. People were invited to gather and encircle the family members. Those who attended were thanked for coming, reminded that we were people of many faiths, and invited to share prayers respectfully.

Poetry followed prayers that produced tears and holding of each other that inspired more poetry and more prayers. When moments of silence occurred, people were asked if there were any more prayers. This prayerful ebb and flow continued until no one else responded. And without any encouragement those gathered began to naturally walk around the house where the killings occurred. Candles were planted into the ground near the foundation. Hands touched the sides of the house as if in blessing. Someone began singing Amazing Grace and by the third note most had joined in.

Neighbors shared how much better they felt because of the vigil experience. Most of them hadn't been out of their homes since the violence except to go to work and buy groceries. For another hour family members embraced and swayed back and forth singing to one of the victim's favorite songs playing from a car stereo.

This initial experience established a pattern and tradition sponsoring vigils as sites of violence.

Part IV – The Blessing of the Peacemakers in the 2000's

Since 2006, the peaceCENTER has celebrated The Blessing of the Peacemakers, a joyous hour-long interfaith ceremony featuring music, prayer, new inclusive and innovative rituals, and inspirational speakers. It is the first event marking the beginning of the 64-day Season for Nonviolence and honors all of the peacemakers in the city. It is always held on the last Sunday in January.

The national Season for Nonviolence, January 30 – April 4, is a 64-day educational, media, and grassroots campaign that demonstrates that nonviolence is a powerful way to heal, transform, and empower our lives and our communities.

Inspired in 1998 by the 50th and 30th memorial anniversaries of the assassinations of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., this international event honors their vision for an empowered, nonviolent world. It has been endorsed by such notables as the Dalai Lama and the late Coretta Scott King. During the

Blessing of the Peacemakers, since 2008, the peaceCENTER has announced and appointed the San Antonio Peace Laureate, a local a voice of wisdom and experience to speak for peace and justice in San Antonio.

Part V – The peaceCENTER Transforms into Compassionate San Antonio in 2012

Since 2012, the peaceCENTER has been the catalyst for having San Antonio recognized as a world-class Compassionate City, which was achieved on June 22, 2017, when the City Council unanimously voted to make it so. City Council approved a resolution affirming the Charter for Compassion and authorized registration with the International Campaign for Compassionate Cities, actions that underscore Council and Mayor commitment to modeling good government that works for everyone.

The International Campaign for Compassionate Cities is a global movement inspired by the Golden Rule, or Ethic of Reciprocity, which calls on each person to treat others as he or she wishes to be treated.

“For this to be one of our first acts as a City Council represents a symbolic commitment to governing with fairness and compassion,” Mayor Ron Nirenberg said. “San Antonio is a city whose residents have shown time again that they will choose acceptance over fear and unity over division.”

Mayor Nirenberg celebrated this important event by signing the resolution during a Facebook Live event Thursday afternoon, the first resolution ever signed by a San Antonio mayor on social media. He was joined by Rev. Ann Helmke, the City’s Faith-Based Liaison, and members of the faith community: (1) Rabbi Chaim Block, Executive Director of Chabad Center for Jewish Life & Learning, and (2) Dr. Rajam Ramamurthy, Retired Neonatologist and Professor at UT Health Science Center at San Antonio and 2017 San Antonio Peace Laureate.

“The faith community in San Antonio is one of our largest natural resources,” Rev. Helmke said.

“Garnering that resource through the lens of compassion will strengthen San Antonio into fully becoming a community that truly cares by serving together collaboratively.”

In 2013, the interfaith community, in partnership with the International Campaign for Compassionate Cities, established Compassionate San Antonio to bring the Charter for Compassion to the City of San Antonio. Adoption of this resolution is consistent with the goals of the City of San Antonio, Department of Human Services (DHS), and will be facilitated by and integrated with the DHS Faith-Based Initiative.

“It is said that a child learns by what they live and how important it is to create an environment of compassion for them so that as they grow to adulthood, they naturally gravitate towards it,” Dr. Ramamurthy said, highlighting a section of the resolution that encourages institutions of learning to teach compassion. “I think that’s very wonderful.”

The Charter for Compassion is active in communities, both large and small, in approximately 50 countries around the world. It has been affirmed by more than 80 cities globally, including Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio’s sister city, Monterrey, Mexico.

“I think it’s so significant that you chose compassion to launch your new administration,” Rabbi Block said to Mayor Nirenberg. “It further underscores the biblical notion that we are all created in the image of God and every one of us has within us a spirit and when we focus on the spiritual, it makes it easier to look past our differences and unite together with understanding, empathy and compassion.”

K2 | Sunday, February 11, 2018 | SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS AND MYSA.COM


PAGE TWO



Courtesy / Courtesy

Peace laureates named

The peaceCENTER named former Councilman Mario Marcel Salas and longtime community activist T.C. Calvert its 2018 peace laureates. The Blessing of the Peacemakers event was Jan. 28 at the Whitley Center on the Oblate School of Theology campus. The yearlong appointments make Salas and Calvert, the father of County Commissioner Tommy Calvert, local voices for peace and justice. T.C. Calvert and Salas have been friends and advocates for 50 years. Go to NOWCastSA to watch the event.



Then. Now. Now Then?


Two Places. Two Poets.
At the Intersection of Our Times.

A Global and Virtual Conversation


Sunday, October 3, 2021
2:00 PM/Texas | 8:00 PM/Ireland

[Register Here](#)

Brought to the world by the peaceCENTER of San Antonio,
currently doing business as [Compassionate San Antonio](#).



Pádraig Ó Tuama
is an Irish poet, theologian, storyteller, and conflict mediator. From 2014-2019, he served as leader of the Corrymeela Community. He is now the staff poet & theologian for the On Being Project.



Naomi Shihab Nye
is the current Young People's Poet Laureate and recipient of the NSK Neustadt Prize for Children's Literature and four Pushcart Prizes. Born to a Palestinian father and an American mother, she refers to herself as a *wandering poet*, who calls San Antonio home.

Appendix II

Appendix II: Northwest Vista College – Peace & Conflict Studies Overview

Semester	Event	Estimated Students
Spring 2018	DC Peace Team – Active Bystander Training for NVC Students (2 sessions)	225 +
Spring 2018	Multifaith Panel - “Reaching Beyond the Gender Divide”	115
Fall 2018	Sam Mihara – Japanese Internment Camp Survivor (day and evening events)	400
Fall 2018	International Peace Day – Refugee Stories	65
Fall 2018	MC Red Cloud (various events, class visits) – Native American rapper	200 +
Fall 2018	IEW: NVC Annual Hunger Banquet	300 +
Fall 2018	IEW: <i>Watu Woke</i> : Short Film and Activity	200

Spring 2019	Kristin Houle, Executive Director Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty	150
Spring 2019	Gun Safety Panel, featuring local activists, law enforcement and academics.	300 +
Spring 2019	SAAAW: Britt Piper on Rape Culture	130 +
Fall 2019	<i>The Penalty</i> : Film Screening	200 +
Fall 2019	Restorative Justice Panel featuring Bexar County DA Joe Gonzales and local judges	150 +
Fall 2020	Career Conversation: What marketable skills are needed to be competitive globally ?	30
Fall 2020	Poetry and Peace: Padraig O'Tuama	90+

Peace & Conflict Faculty/Staff Development- Fall 2017 to Spring 2020

Semester	Event	Estimated Participants
Spring 2018	Bystander Training – Faculty/Staff Development	10
Spring 2018	SA Peace Center Faculty Development	7
Fall 2018	Active Bystander Training for Faculty at NVC Fall Convocation	30
Spring 2019	RCC & NVC Staff - “What do I say and do when a student says they’ve been sexually assaulted?”	3
Fall 2019	IEW - Derrick White – Peace Education Luncheon	17
Fall 2019	The Holidays & Diversity – Good Morning Student Success (NVC Staff Development Session)	125+
Spring 2020	Hudson Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Alliance Common Book Read: White Privilege	200
Summer 2020	Compassionate Integrity Training	10

Student Interfaces/Other Projects – Fall 2017 to Spring 2020

Semester	Event	Estimated Participants
Spring 2018	Marble Madness (Gun Violence in the US) – Student Interface	200
Spring 2018	Faculty/Staff Walkout in solidarity with national student walk-out against gun violence	55
Fall 2018–Spring 2019	Lobbied for Campus Pride Index Tool Successfully	60
Spring 2019	SAAAW: RCC & #startbybelieving interface	100–200
Fall 2019	Constitution Day Interface – What would you change?	100+



Appendix III

Mission and Vision

The San Antonio Peace Center at Northwest Vista would create a unique and innovative approach to community-based peacebuilding. The benefits to our students and the community would be transformative.

Leveraging the strengths of both the San Antonio Peace Center and Northwest Vista would strengthen our Alamo College Values.

Students First – The SAPC at NVC would create world-class opportunities, projects, and programming for Alamo Colleges students

Respect for All – The SAPC to NVC would nurture space to build conflict transformation skills between faculty, staff and students.

Community-Engaged – The SAPC at NVC would deepen community partnerships and continue to grow Alamo Colleges and NVC’s footprint in San Antonio.

Collaboration – The SAPC at NVC would be a collaboration between faculty, staff, the colleges, and the community.

Can-Do Spirit – The SAPC at NVC will continue to exemplify the can-do spirit of Alamo Colleges and the San Antonio peaceCenter.

Data-Informed – The SAPC at NVC would aim to integrate data-informed, transparent decision making, using data to guide to programming, special projects, and budgeting.



Appendix IV

Members of the NVC Peace & Conflict Studies Committee

Adam Aguirre, Anthropology faculty

Sarah Ball, History faculty

Craig Coroneos, Humanities faculty

Migdalia Garcia, Academic Program Coordinator and Peace and Conflict Studies Co-Coordinator,
Humanities faculty

Michael Lee Gardin, English faculty

Neil Lewis, Peace & Conflict Studies Co-Coordinator and Humanities faculty

Manny Martinez, Community Collaborations

Steven Montemayor, Speech faculty

Julie Moore-Felix, English faculty

Chad Mueller, Government faculty

Kara Paige, Sociology faculty

Janie Scott, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Robert Williamson, Government

Liz Wright, Psychology faculty

