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## Request for Coverage

### San Antonio's First Original StoryWalk to Premiere at Mission Branch Library

*The children's book "All Around Us", authored by former San Antonio Public Library employee Xelena González, will be presented in a public art format and celebrated in multiple library programs.*

**What:** The premiere of San Antonio's original StoryWalk: *All Around Us*, written by Xelena González and illustrated by Adriana M. Garcia.

**When:** 10 a.m., Saturday, August 6, 2016

**Where:** Mission Branch Library, 3134 Roosevelt Ave., 78214

### More about the Program

The San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) invites the community to the premiere of San Antonio's original StoryWalk: *All Around Us*, written by Xelena González and illustrated by Adriana M. Garcia. Enjoy children's literature in a new way as you walk with your family along the grounds of Mission Branch Library and watch the story unfold through public art. The *All Around Us* StoryWalk will take place on Saturday, August 6 at 10 a.m. The walk will include a reading by the author, and a guided viewing of the large-panel illustrations of *All Around Us*. Participants will be greeted at various illustrations by invited artists responding to the written/illustrated work either in the form

of music, poetry/spoken word, or dance. Participating artists include Anthony The Poet, Maya Guirao, Andrea Vocab Sanderson, and Jai Roots, with snacks provided by Healthy Neighborhoods.

*All Around Us* is a public art and family literacy project that encourages community members to enjoy children's literature in a contemporary way. The project will present 16 weatherproofed illustrations in local outdoor settings such as parks, library grounds, and hiking trails. Each illustration is equivalent to a page in a picture book, so that the story unfolds as viewers walk along the path of the art installation.

This project is supported by the National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures (NALAC), who funded the illustration process and the digital and physical production of the book.

Author Xelena González is a former employee of the San Antonio Public Library, where she worked as an Early Literacy Specialist with the Library's Little Read Wagon Department. González is currently a librarian at an international school in Guangzhou, China, and plans to display the StoryWalk there. Because of her connections to both the international and local communities, she has received offers to have the story translated into Chinese, Italian, Arabic, Greek, Korean, Mam, Quiche, and Braille.

Illustrator and NALAC grant recipient Adriana M. Garcia is known for her many breathtaking murals on San Antonio's Westside as well as the Institute of Texan Cultures. She is also overseeing the production of the book in digital format, which will also be available in Spanish.

Two specially-created Library programs will precede the August 6 StoryWalk:

**Toddler Time** on Wednesday, August 3, 11 a.m. - Participants and their parents will enjoy the first public reading of the story *All Around Us* as well interactive stations centering on the themes of circles, plants, and digging/gardening. Little Read Wagon, SAPL's early literacy team, is supporting this activity.

**Tween Time** on Thursday, August 4, 4:30 p.m. - The program will begin with a reading by the author, followed a discussion delving into the cultural traditions referenced in the book. Metro Health will sponsor the event with free snacks and a brief demo on the topic of healthy eating. Participants will save the seeds from their snack for

a seeding activity. Finally, participants will help map the course of the StoryWalk that will be installed soon thereafter.

For more information about the StoryWalk or the book, contact Xelena González or Adriana M. Garcia at [AllAroundUsBook@gmail.com](mailto:AllAroundUsBook@gmail.com) or call 210-995-4599.

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