FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 3, 2013

Bexar County, theFund launch pilot arts summer internship program

The application period for Bexar County’s inaugural Arts Internship Program is officially open. Bexar County is funding 9 summer internships with local nonprofit arts organizations to allow the nonprofits an opportunity to offer a paid 10-week summer internship to attract motivated college students to work on seasonal or special projects. Students selected to participate will develop a closer understanding of how the arts benefit their community, along with real world application of business skills which can then be applied to their individual careers.

“I think this program will help local nonprofit art agencies create future leaders and advocates for this sector,” County Judge Nelson Wolff said. “And the students will be able to see firsthand how important cultural arts are to the vibrancy of a city.”

Commissioners Court in February approved a grant agreement with theFund, San Antonio’s United Arts Fund, to administer the program. A panel of theFund’s board members and County staff selected the 9 agencies from a total of 12 proposals. The selected internship opportunities include marketing, public relations, alumni tracking, development, theater education and administration.

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The following agencies were selected for the 2013 program (links are to the applications and internship information):

- Arts San Antonio
- Ballet San Antonio
- The Children’s Chorus of San Antonio
- Esperanza Peace & Justice Center
- Gemini Ink
- Jump-Start Performance Co.
- Magik Theatre
- Say Sí
- Youth Orchestras of San Antonio

Candidates must be a resident of Bexar County, but may attend a school located outside of Bexar County. Students from all areas of undergraduate study are eligible, and prospective interns will not be required to have demonstrated a previous commitment to the arts. Candidates must not have earned a bachelor’s degree or higher prior to June 1, 2013. The internships will pay $3,500 for the 10 weeks.

Each participating nonprofit organization is responsible for screening and hiring the interns, so students should apply directly to the organization for which they want to work.