

## **Battle of Flowers Parade and Band Festival Postponed Until 2022**

San Antonio, Texas - With the San Antonio Fiesta Commission and the City of San Antonio decision to cancel the Fiesta celebration in April 2021 and reschedule activities for later in the summer in hopes of the pandemic subsiding, The Battle of Flowers® Association has made the difficult decision to postpone The Battle of Flowers® Parade and The Battle of Flowers® Band Festival until April of 2022.

“It comes at a time when our city and the rest of the world are continuing to fight a disease that has the ability to adversely impact the health and well-being of both spectators and participants in both our parade and band festival,” said Battle of Flowers President Anna-Laura Howell Block.

The Battle of Flowers Parade attracts more than 500,000 spectators each year. With some 12,000 participants making up the parade’s attractions — seventy-percent representing area high schools and colleges — the enormity of producing a parade of that magnitude, which Fiesta patrons have come to expect, is daunting.

“Working with school administrators, band directors, student organizations and teachers each fall to coordinate over 10,000 student entries in the parade is paramount to the success of the annual tradition highlighting April’s Fiesta activities,” said Parade Vice President Melissa Branch. “It would be impossible to hold a parade after school’s have been dismissed for summer because of the tremendous amount of work that is done while students are in session.”

The Battle of Flowers® Band Festival hosts over 5,000 area high school students in a marching band competition and performance that draws some 20,000 spectators to Alamo Stadium.

“Working with every school district in the city to successfully produce the Battle of Flowers® Band Festival, we are so lucky to have this partnership,” said Battle of Flowers® Band Festival Vice President Cameron Armstrong. “But we feel strongly that it is unlikely to continue at the level in which our participants and spectators expect after the school year has ended in June 2021. We look forward to striking up our bands again in April 2022.”

Meeting with the Fiesta San Antonio Commission and their consultant Dr. Martin Adel Makary from Johns Hopkins University, The Battle of Flowers® Association has taken all aspects of a 2021 celebration into consideration and, in what we consider to be in the best interest of our spectators and participants in both the parade and band festival, we must look to 2022 for the celebrations to return.