



Department of Culture and Creative Development Director

## Felix N. Padron

**F**elix Noel Padrón has led the City of San Antonio Office of Cultural Affairs since 2001. During his tenure, OCA has evolved and now recognized as the Department for Culture and Creative Development leading San Antonio's creative sector. As head of DCCD, Mr. Padrón works with non-profit arts and cultural organizations, artists, City departments, neighborhoods and the business community to anchor the arts as an economic asset in San Antonio.

Mr. Padrón initiated the City's first city-wide ten year cultural plan "The Cultural Collaborative" that was adopted by City Council in 2005. Under his leadership, 90 percent of all adopted TCC strategies have been implemented and/or completed including: increasing city arts funding by 250 percent since 2005, implementing city-wide arts marketing strategies, adopting the city's first Public Art San Antonio (PASA) Plan, establishing partnerships with chambers of commerce, the approval of a referendum to build a new Bexar County Performing Art Center, and providing professional development workshops for working artists. Since 2008, Padrón has been the city's lead in coordinating Luminaria: San Antonio's annual celebration of the arts. In 2009, the International Downtown Association awarded the Pinnacle Award to Luminaria. For the past four years he has worked to increase the City's international profile by implementing arts and cultural programs with San Antonio's Sister Cities Program. As a result, the Taiwan Council for Cultural Affairs recognized Padrón with the Taiwan Ambassador Award in 2011. More recently and with his leadership, OCA was tapped to lead the implementation of the Mayor's SA2020 arts and cultural community vision.

Before becoming director, Mr. Padrón was responsible for developing the City of San Antonio's first public art program and served six years implementing city-wide public art projects. His responsibilities required a deep understanding of the need to foster a continued collaboration and coordination between artists, design professionals, arts organizations, city officials, and community representatives. His success and expertise in the public art arena earned him city-wide respect. During his term leading the public art program, Mr. Padrón was recognized by the San Antonio Express News as one of the top twenty most influential people in San Antonio in 1999.

Mr. Padrón is also commended for his arts and cultural advocacy efforts by appearing as a guest writer and commentator in print and media; testifying at the Texas State Capitol, and speaking at regional, local and national arts and business sector meetings and conferences.

### Education

- School of Visual Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, New York, New York
- Attended Public Arts Studies, Masters Program, University of Southern California Los Angeles
- Fashion Institute of Technology, Associates Degree, New York
- City of San Antonio Leadership Program, 1997, San Antonio, Texas

### Professional Memberships and Community Involvement

- President of Texans for the Arts Board of Directors
- United States Urban Federation Executive Committee Member
- The Fund Ex-Officio Board Member,
- Board Member of San Antonio Tourism Council
- UTSA Public Art Commission Member
- Luminaria Ex-Officio Board Member

### Honors

- 2011 Taiwanese Government Recognition for Promoting Taiwanese Art and Culture
- 2010 Avenida Guadalupe Ernest Olivares Culture Award
- 2009 San Antonio Bravo Award
- 1999 *San Antonio Express-News*: Top 20 most Influential People in San Antonio's Arts & Culture
- 1994 Public Art Studies Fellowship – University of Southern California
- 1988 Artist in Residence – Bronx Council for the Arts, Bronx, NY

### Personal

Padrón is a native of Cuba and an accomplished artist and curator in his own right. His artworks have been exhibited in San Antonio, New York City, and in Los Angeles, and extensively published in the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker* and *Noticias del Mundo*. Padrón is also a frequent guest juror and speaker at events and exhibitions throughout the country.