



Visitor Experience #43

A New Reason to Give!

Feel the excitement as we near completion!



Welcome our new Executive Director!

Thank you!! Dziękuję! *Reasons to Give*

By Betty Kowalik

You will soon be walking through our beautiful, world class, state-of-the art Polish Heritage Center. You will be transported back in time through sights and sounds that will make you feel a part of the journey, joining those first immigrants crossing the ocean and trekking over 200 miles to their new home in the Texas wilderness. Thanks to you, our donors, the Center is in its final phase of completion. You have made this beautiful tribute to our Polish ancestors possible and we are grateful. Your sacrifices of money and time are beyond amazing.

As we worked with you, we discovered that each of you has a personal reason for investing in this project. You are honoring your ancestors, their courage, faith and their sacrifices. You desire to keep your Polish history, faith, family and community values alive and vibrant for your children and grandchildren as demonstrated by your donation(s) and choices of meaningful sponsorships. You are keeping safe the first Polish settlers' history by sharing treasured family photos, stories and memories with friends and visitors. The reasons to give are many. We learned that each of you brings so many special treasures and talents to the Center and through that effort, we are together rekindling the Polish community spirit that was so important to those first immigrants.

This world class, state-of-the art Center will educate students, researchers, and lovers of history about this immigration and the hardships, struggles, and successes of the early settlers. They will learn of the contributions of major Polish leaders to the history of our state, our nation, and the world. Together, we will

share and celebrate the rich, authentic, and dynamic stories of the Polish people to audiences in Texas, America, and across the globe. Bishop Yanta has always insisted that the Polish Heritage Center be “world-class.” Our ancestors, our families and future generations should expect no less.

We now ask that you consider again those reasons you gave to the Polish Heritage Center. Together we have come this far and together we will complete this monumental task. We all have worked diligently for years, but we still need funds for completion and the first year of operation. We need \$2.1M to complete this goal. If we all come together in the spirit of family and community passed down to us by our ancestors, we can successfully reach this goal.

As we approach the season of charitable giving, think again of the reasons you gave and please consider supporting us again. We are a 501c(3) non-profit organization and contributions reduce your tax liability if you itemize deductions. No matter the size, all gifts are appreciated. We value each and every one of you.

Contributions can be mailed to Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria Foundation, P.O. Box 28125, San Antonio, Texas 78228

Polish phrases:

In Poland, this is considered the proper greeting when you meet a religious: you say: **Niech Będzie Pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!** (*Praise be to Jesus Christ!*) The response is: **Na wieki wieków, Amen!** (*Now and forever, Amen!*)

There is a family story from my Pawlik branch that goes when my great-great-grandfather, Anton Jacob Pawlik, arrived in Yorktown, *Niech Będzie Pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!* was the “code” he announced to find his relatives at the station! Family story from *John Wojtasczyk*.

Welcome our New Executive Director!

Angelica Docog



The Board of the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria Foundation has appointed Angelica Docog as the first Executive Director of the Polish Heritage Center. Docog most recently served as the executive director of the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio.

Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta, Chairman and President of the PHC Board, announced that the appointment was effective September 1, 2020. “I am convinced that the Holy Spirit continues to guide us as we are getting closer to the opening of the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria,” said Bishop Yanta. “Ms. Docog’s experience as executive director of the Institute of Texan Cultures provides the Board with the kind of expertise needed at this time to prepare for the opening of the Center. She brings the enthusiasm and skills to implement the administrative, educational and cultural programs needed for this extraordinary Polish Heritage Center.”

Angelica Docog was executive director of the Institute of Texan Cultures, the university museum of The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), from March 2012 to August 2020. She was the first female and first Asian-Latina to lead the ITC.

Angelica’s ethnic heritage and being raised in a military family definitely influenced her career path to work in museums. Her mother is from Mexico and her father is from the Philippines, and because her father was in the U.S. Navy, she and her family lived all over the world. Whenever the family moved to a new place, whether it was in America or overseas, two of the first activities her family did in order to learn more about their new home were to visit museums and to do community service. Early on, Angelica and her siblings learned about US history and the importance of community engagement. Working in the museum field continues to give Angelica the opportunity to do both.

Highly respected by peers in museum sciences and administration as an educator, researcher and museum administrator, Angelica uses these skills in her work in public history, education and community engagement. Angelica is committed to providing educational opportunities on America's cultural history and the role that material culture and historic sites play in shaping the historical narrative for the public to better understand history. Angelica is a member of the board of directors of the San Antonio Women's Chamber of Commerce, Philippine American Chamber of Commerce, and Bexar County Historical Commission. Angelica is also a member of the Catholic Charities Refugee Advisory Board. In addition, Angelica was the co-chair of the City of San Antonio's Tricentennial History and Education Committee. Angelica is a past member of the Smithsonian Institution Affiliates advisory board and past chair of the Latino Committee of the American Alliance of Museums and the Asian Pacific Committee of the American Alliance of Museums.

In 2019, in recognition for providing innovative initiatives to promote museums as centers for multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional learning, Angelica was inducted into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame. And in 2020, Angelica was awarded by her undergraduate college, Seton Hill University, with the Distinguished Alumnae Leadership Award.

Angelica received her B.A. from Seton Hill College, in Greensburg, PA, and her M.A. from the Cooperstown Graduate Program in History Museum Studies in Cooperstown, New York. As a graduate student, she was the recipient of the New York State Minority Fellowship. At present, Angelica is a doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Texas in San Antonio (UTSA). Her area of research is how museums and heritage centers, cultural traditions, and landscape are used to formulate cultural tradition, cultural identity, cultural preservation, and cultural sustainability in American history.

From Bishop Yanta, the Board of Directors, our staff and our many volunteers, and the supporters of the Polish Heritage Center, we say Welcome!

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