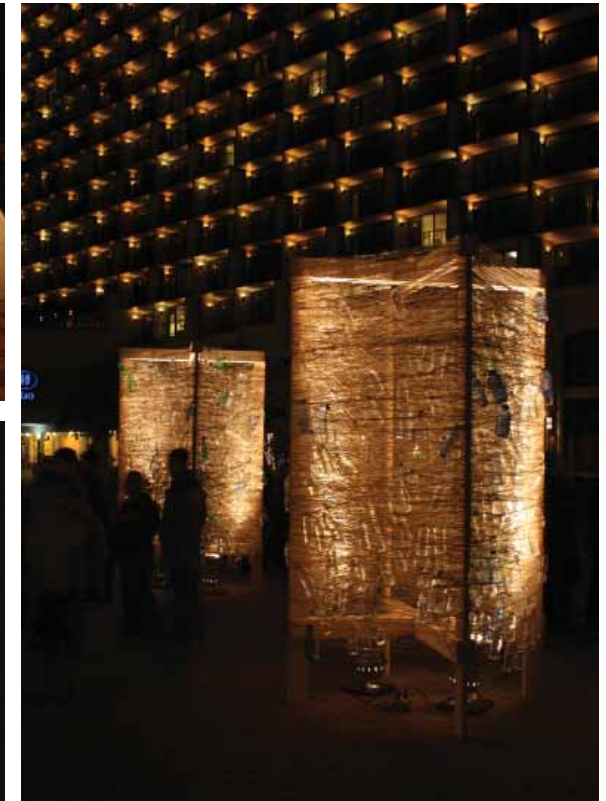


# AIAS participates in Luminaria

On March 14 the city of San Antonio hosted its second annual Luminaria, a day-and-night long public event aimed at showcasing the city's artists, musicians, performers and cultural organizations. UTSA's College of Architecture and its American Institute of Architectural Students (AIAS) were selected to participate in the event.

Luminaria was initiated in 2008 by **Mayor Phil Hardberger** in an effort to celebrate the city's traditional and cultural values. More than 40 non-profit local organizations were invited and over 1,000 artists applied to represent their art, dance, sculptures, theaters or other expression through presentations on street corners, galleries, or one of the eight main stages. Last year, tens of thousands of visitors and residents attended and this year an estimated 100,000 attended the entirely free event. Museums around the city participated and Alamo Street, located in downtown San Antonio, was closed down from Peacock Alley to the Magik Theater for most of the events to take place. Added to this year's event was the first "Film Day SA." The event featured 15 short films by local producers, directors, and actors and publicized as "local films for local people." At the end of the night, a fireworks display from the top of the Emily Morgan Hotel really pleased the crowds.

Associate Dean **Taeg Nishimoto** submitted College of Architecture **AIAS** (American Institute of Architecture Students) organization to participate with an art/architectural installation. The application was selected and Nishimoto



along with studio professors **Dan Gonzalez** and **Armando Araiza** began advising the AIAS members on possible designs. For five weeks 15 students, led by AIAS president **Jefferson Lewey**, **Francisco Gomez**, and **Felix Ziga**, worked on the design of a well-lit structure that somehow promoted the idea of recycling. The only limits were to stay within the budget and create something appropriate for the location. Jeff Lewey contacted the head of UTSA's recycling program and they donated approximately 1,500 plastic water bottles. The group knew they wanted to hang

the bottles in the air from the structure, but later on after discussing with the organizers decided on a wooden structure resembling a lantern wrapped with biodegradable rope. The 45,000 feet of rope was stapled to the corners of the wooden structure and the water-filled bottles were strung through the rope. Finally, the group started building the two structures during spring break and on March 14, showcased their project on the corner of Commerce and Alamo Streets, lit from underneath by two spotlights.

