



**AMERICA'S
WALKING CLUB**
— ESTABLISHED 1976 —

American Volkssport Association

1001 Pat Booker Road, Suite 101
Universal City, Texas 78148.4147
210.659.2112 ▲ 210.659.1212 Fax
▲ www.ava.org

January 7, 2020

Mr. Giuseppe Colantonio
Via Del Gaggio, 34/A
22070 Senna Comasco (CO)
ITALY

RE: Application for 2023 IVV Olympiad

Dear Mr. Colantonio and Members of the IVV Presidium,

Happy New Year to all from the American Volkssport Association (AVA), America's Walking Club! The American Volkssport Association has been an IVV National Member since 1976. We currently have 210 clubs comprised of 11,000 members nationally. On the average we have over 140,000 participants each year who attend our 1,900 IVV sanctioned events!

On behalf of the AVA's Board of Directors and Visit San Antonio (Tourism Office) we hereby present our candidacy to host the 2023 IVV Olympiad. The host city will be San Antonio, Texas in the United States of America. San Antonio is the Seventh largest city in the United States with a population of 1,511,946 (2017 U.S. Census Estimate) and more than 47,000 hotel rooms throughout San Antonio and the Metropolitan Area. Anecdotally, San Antonio enjoys more than 250 days of sunshine a year! The proposed dates for the Olympiad are February 19-23, 2023, to be followed by the Texas Trail Roundup IML event February 24-26, 2023.

The Alamodome is the proposed venue to host the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for the 2023 Olympiad. It is the preferred venue for almost any occasion to include trade shows, conventions, concerts and sporting events. With over 160,000 square feet of flexible indoor space and capacity for over 65,000 people, the Alamodome has consistently cast its spotlights on an incredible range of entertainment and sporting events.

The walks will highlight the rivers, history, culture, and architecture of the city to include the Alamo and the Riverwalk. The Alamo is the most recognized part of the San Antonio Missions World Heritage Site. It was founded in the 18th Century as a Roman Catholic mission and compound and is most famously known as the site of the Battle of the Alamo in 1836. The Riverwalk, once three miles long, now runs more than 15 miles. Its downtown core, built in the 1930s, was extended to the north in May 2009. This extension is known as the Museum Reach. It connects downtown with the San Antonio Museum of Art, Pearl and other attractions. In 2013, the River Walk extension to the south, called the Mission Reach, was completed, linking downtown with four of the city's Spanish colonial missions.





Social activities will include fiesta style events with food, lively music and local entertainment. The highlight will be the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo. This is an 18-day event that includes a live Texas style rodeo and stock show complete with cows, pigs, chickens, sheep and goats, shopping booths, family activities like the petting zoo and pony rides and educational exhibits to teach farm to table practices. Yes, and even real Cowboys!

As President of the American Volkssport Association I have already employed a 2023 Olympiad Committee that will be responsible for securing financial resources and the planning of all events and festivities for the Olympiad. This committee is comprised of David Bonewitz, AVA President, Henry Rosales, AVA Executive Director, Susan Medlin, Chair, AVA National Programs, Sean Massay, Senior Sales Manager, Visit San Antonio, Dolores Grenier, IML Vice-President and AVA Club President as well as other Volkssporters, city officials and media representatives.

The American Volkssport Association will be responsible for upholding the IVV statutes and directives for all events and ceremonies as required by IVV Presidium. With 210 active clubs across our nation, and over 11,000 club members, we are able to support such an endeavor through the high number of club members and volunteers readily available in the area as well as financial backing from our membership, sponsors and the AVA National Office. In addition, the AVA Board of Directors understands the financial responsibility for hosting this event and has already committed \$50,000 from our reserves to support the Olympiad in 2023!

We look forward to your approval of our country to host the highly regarded international Olympiad and are eager to show walkers from all over the world how excited we are to have them experience an Olympiad in the United States!

Thank you for your Consideration.

Respectfully,

David Bonewitz, AVA President



Missions



Rodeo



Alamodome

