

Banner Newsletter



Brownsville Historical Association

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The Rudy De La Garza Scholarship & the Brownsville Historical Association's Internship Program

In previous newsletters we have highlighted interns and volunteers whose time and effort help support the BHA's mission. The internships we host are made possible by donors, contributors, and scholarships that help fund their experience with the BHA. In this issue, we would to recognize and highlight the Rudy De La Garza Scholarship that has significantly contributed to our internship program.

The Rudy De La Garza Scholarship is named after its benefactor and creator Mr. Rudy De La Garza. Rudy De La Garza is a longtime member and contributor of the Brownsville Historical Association. In 2020, Mr. De La Garza received the Kino Camarillo Service Award in recognition of his service and commitment to the BHA. One of the notable acts of service are his donations given in support of scholars majoring in history. The interns receiving the scholarship are from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV). The BHA has worked closely with the History Department at UTRGV to offer an internship program where students learn about collections, exhibit curation, and daily museum operations. In 2020, the Rudy De La Garza scholarship officially began funding interns each semester from UTRGV to conduct their internships with the BHA.

Thanks to our relationship with UTRGV and the support of the Rudy De La Garza scholarship, we have maintained a successful internship program that has contributed to the work and curation behind various exhibitions in recent years such as *Behind the Badge*, *WaterWays*, and *Hidden in the Fabric*. Currently, the BHA has four interns for the spring semester, three of which are returning interns from the fall semester.

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Rudy De La Garza at the 2017 BHA Stillman Trust Dinner & Awards Ceremony.



Mr. De La Garza at the 2023 BHA Annual Awards Dinner



UTRGV Interns at 2023 BHA Annual Awards Dinner. Seated: Michael Gonzalez and Elaine Vargas. Standing: Jessica Pulido.

Here's a bit about our returning interns:

Michael Gonzalez is a graduate student at UTRGV majoring in History. He has always been fond of good stories and naturally felt drawn to history as a result. In the future, Michael plans to enter a Ph.D. program for history and pursue a professorship. Over the course of his internship, Michael has learned a great deal about the behind-the-scenes operations that are necessary to keep historical museums like those of the BHA running. He felt it was similar to running a business, with the difference being that the BHA's priority is preservation. He notes, "The biggest lesson I could take away from it, is making sure your organization has a mission statement, a goal, and that they're following it faithfully and ethically, just like a compass and a charter for a crew onboard a ship." Overall, Michael felt his internship taught him valuable lessons that have applications outside of museums and it has assured him of his goal to become a professor.

Elaine Vargas is a junior, majoring in History at UTRGV. One of the things she enjoys about her studies is learning and understanding what causes change in our society as well as the people and events that have set

up the world we live in now. Elaine hopes to obtain her teaching certificate and show her future students how history can be a fun and interesting topic. In regards to her internship, she has found that it has taught her to always be prepared for anything. Elaine remarks, "It's incredibly fun, it definitely keeps me on my toes. I feel right at home with the people around me, I've definitely learned many great things." Moreover, this internship has expanded her knowledge on local history and has helped her be more confident and extroverted.

Jessica Pulido is majoring in History at UTRGV. In the future, Jessica would love to become a history teacher and has also considered becoming a museum professional after interning with the BHA. She has found her internship to be enjoyable and interesting. Jessica reflects, "My internship has been a very great and exciting experience because I have learned many things and I got to witness the hard work that everyone that works at the BHA does every day." As a result, she feels this internship has taught her the importance

of organization and planning which is something that has helped her both personally and academically. Additionally, it has made her take a deeper look into the study of History in our area.

Welcome! NEW BHA MEMBERS

Delina Barrera	Thomas Garcia	Pat & Beth Pace
Dora & Alfredo Bermudez	Bruce & Shelly Glover	Carol Palousek
Celia Campana	Dawn Gordon	Victoria Rodriguez
Elnora Colley	Nyla C. Gordon	Aiden Sanchez
Ana Copeland	Karina Gracia	Valerie Stillman Tidwell
John & Robin Cowen	Lindsay Irwin	Janis Viren
Gary & Eilene Cox	Sharon Livingston	Ivan & Birdie Welker

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BROWNSVILLE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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Rebozos Artesanales Lecture



Winter Walking Tour: Fort Brown



ROOTS OF THE MAYA WORLD: GUATEMALAN TEXTILES

Located in Central America, just south of Mexico, Guatemala is a country known for its diverse landscapes of dense rainforests, mountains, volcanoes, and coastlines. Often referred to as the “Heart of the Maya World”, Guatemala is the center of the early Mesoamerican Maya civilization. Despite the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors in the 16th century, the Maya continued their cultural traditions and exceptional work with textiles. The vibrant and colorful Maya art form of weaving has evolved over the centuries and adapted to social changes without sacrificing its ties to the past.

The Brownsville Historical Association, in collaboration with the Consulate of Guatemala in McAllen, presents *Roots of the Maya World: Guatemalan Textiles*, an exhibition that highlights the traditional dress or *trajes* of various Guatemalan villages. The exhibition features over 20 *trajes*, made in the traditional way, by the Maya art of backstrap weaving. The exhibition explores regional preferences in color and design and illustrates indigenous identity.



The Brownsville Historical Association has been working with the Consulate of Guatemala in McAllen, Texas in curating this exhibit since early November 2022. Collections Manager, Aubrey Nielsen, and Collections & Exhibits Project Coordinator, Leonor Medina, along with other BHA staff and interns have worked together with the Consulate of Guatemala in McAllen on curating this one of a kind exhibit. Many hours of work and

research have gone into piecing together various outfits along with their accessories in the appropriate manner and developing the corresponding description panels. Visitors can expect to learn about the origins of each outfit and gain a deeper understanding behind their designs.



Historical Happenings



Charro Days Exhibit in Collaboration with Brownsville Museum of Fine Arts and Charro Days Fiesta.



Una Noche de Amor con Mariachi 7 Leguas Concert



Winter Walking Tour: Old City Cemetery

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