

Banner Newsletter

Brownsville
Historical
Association

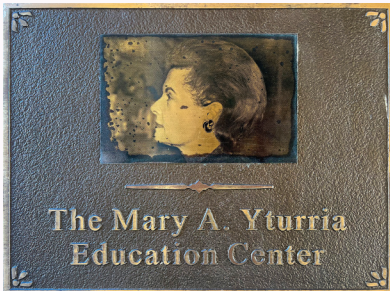


Brownsville Historical Association

Volume 9, Issue 1

January 2023

In Memoriam: Mary A. Yturria



The Mary A. Yturria Education Center building dedication plaque. The Center is located at the Historic Brownsville Museum.

Museum officially opened to the public on March 2, 1986; there were over 750 people in attendance at its grand opening, a testament to the community support for the project.

The board of directors saw an immediate need to expand on the property and provide a space for exhibits, meetings and events, and an Education Center was opened in 1990. Today, the venue serves as a place for various meetings and events hosted by the Brownsville Independent School District (BISD). The naming of the building in Mary Yturria's honor is fitting, as she was passionate about students in Brownsville and educational opportunities for all visitors to the museum.

It was not uncommon for Mrs. Yturria to make the occasional visit to our museums several times a year. Often times, she would stop by and visit about the goings-on in Brownsville and various preservation efforts always piqued her interest.

Mary A. Yturria, a stewardess for Pan American Airways in 1946. Photo courtesy of the Brownsville Historical Association.



We, at the Brownsville Historical Association, were very saddened to hear of Mary Yturria's passing on December 27, 2022 at her home in Brownsville. Mrs. Yturria helped spearhead the restoration of the Southern Pacific Railroad Depot and its conversion into a local history museum. She served on the committee appointed by then mayor, Ruben Edelstein, with H.E. (Gene) McNair, Otis Parchman and others. The Historic Brownsville



Mary A. Yturria on her birthday (2021). Photo courtesy of Miguel Roberts/The Brownsville Herald.

In 2019, Mary Yturria received the BHA's Legacy Award in recognition of her devotion and advocacy for the promotion of our historical museums. The Legacy Award is an award that is not given annually being that it is considered to be one of BHA's most prestigious honors reserved for individuals leaving a lasting impact and expanding outreach for our mission. Mrs. Yturria is one of four recipients to have ever received this award to date.

Mary Yturria's charming personality, beautiful smile and passion for service to Brownsville will be sorely missed.

Eco-Heritage Tourism, a Vital Economic Engine

A message from BHA board member, Rolando L. Garza

Greetings! I hope 2023 is off to a good start for all of you! I would like to take this opportunity to spotlight Brownsville's often overlooked and definitely under appreciated cultural treasures- the Historic Architectural Resources.



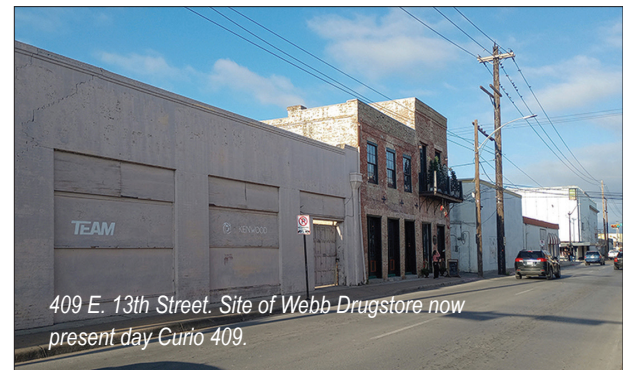
Downtown: East Washington Street.

I grew up in Brownsville, and no matter where I roam, Brownsville will always be my home. I returned to Brownsville in 2001, after leaving for college in the mid-1980s and working the first decade of my career as a Historic Archeologist across the Southern United States, from Arizona to Virginia and down to the US Caribbean. Thanks to my travels and work experience, it did not take me long to realize that Brownsville has a unique and internationally significant history that sets our community apart from anywhere else.

Brownsville has been blessed to retain an extensive and expansive collection of historic

structures that serve to illustrate the distinct role that our community played in the development of the region. There are numerous examples of the regionally unique Border Brick Architectural Style influenced by Charlestown and South Carolina (some still hiding behind 20th-century façade) illustrating our role as a major Gulf Port during the second half of the 19th century. In addition, as you move from downtown to the west and north, there are numerous examples of Victorian-era structures, Mediterranean Revival, early twentieth-century craftsman houses, Mid-Century Modern commercial buildings, and Ranch-Style Bungalows. Most neighborhoods retain their historic integrity (if they fall within the city's protective overlay) however, we continue to lose historic structures due to neglect and demolition.

I cannot express the joy and surprise I have experienced in visitors' eyes when I introduce them to Brownsville's rich historic architectural resources! Remember these resources need our love and help to continue to be preserved.



409 E. 13th Street. Site of Webb Drugstore now present day Curio 409.



1049 E. Monroe Street. Field / Pacheco Complex.



11th and East Washington Street.

"I cannot express the joy and surprise I have experienced in visitors' eyes when I introduce them to Brownsville's rich historic architectural resources! "

Rolando L. Garza

Welcome! **NEW BHA MEMBERS**

Otis Bouwsma III
Pedro & Valeria Soberanis Licona
Diana Tamayo
Dailene Quintero

Hector Marisal Jr
Laura Works
Fabian Lozano
Linda Lemmen

Trudy Hughart
Morgan LaMantia
Krystal Wise
Corina & Ed Alaniz

Rafael Chacon
Janet & Jerry Sherry Trimble
Sherry Phillips



2023 Winter Walking Tours

Cost: \$10 for BHA members and \$15 for non-members.
Sorry, no refunds. Rain or shine.

Historic Downtown

When: Friday, January 13, 2023
Time: 11 a.m.
Where: Meet at the Brownsville Heritage Museum
1325 E. Washington Street
RSVP by calling: (956) 541-5560

Fort Brown

When: Saturday, January 28, 2023
Time: 11 a.m.
Where: Meet at the Brownsville Heritage Museum
1325 E. Washington Street
RSVP by calling: (956) 541-5560

St. Charles District

When: Friday, February 10, 2023
Time: 11 a.m.
Where: Meet at the Historic Brownsville Museum
641 E. Madison Street
RSVP by calling: (956) 548-1313

Mitte Cultural District

When: Saturday, February 25, 2023
Time: 11 a.m.
Where: Meet at the Laureles Ranch House Museum
1501 E. 7th Street
RSVP by calling: (956) 548-1313

Old City Cemetery

When: Saturday, March 25, 2023
Time: 11 a.m.
Where: Meet at the Historic Brownsville Museum
641 E. Madison Street
RSVP by calling: (956) 548-1313

Historical Happenings

*Shades of
Haunted
History Tour*



*October
Historical
Happy Hour*

*Murder,
Mystery,
Mayhem Tour*



*Día De Los
Muertos
Student Art
Exhibit*

Sponsorships help make this newsletter possible!
Please call us at 956-372-1515, to inquire about newsletter sponsorship opportunities, or visit our website at www.brownsvillehistory.org for more information.

BROWNSVILLE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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956.541.5560 Fax: 956.435.0028 | www.brownsvillehistory.org

The Brownsville Historical Association
Presents

Brownsville
Historical
Association

Una Noche de Amor

con

Mariachi 7 Leguas

Saturday, February, 4, 2023

**Historic Alonso Building
510 E. St Charles Street**

**Doors Open at 7:30 pm
Concert at 8 pm**

**BHA MEMBERS \$25
GENERAL ADMISSION \$35
VIP MEET & GREET \$50
*VIP MEET & GREET 6 TO 7PM**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 956-525-7252 OR VISIT WWW.BROWNSVILLEHISTORY.ORG



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