

**Brownsville
Historical
Association**



NEWS RELEASE

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Costumes of the Americas Museum will soon open to the public

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS (Aug. 5, 2022) - The Brownsville Historical Association (BHA) is excited to announce that the Costumes of the Americas Museum (CAM) will open to the public on September 13, 2022.

“We are delighted to open the museum at its new location on 6th Street,” said Tara Putegnat, Executive Director of the BHA. “After closing to the public during the pandemic and moving from the location in Dean Porter Park, we were eager to showcase exhibits from the costumes collection again. Making the necessary repairs and maintenance to the building was a lengthy process but I believe the visitors will be impressed by the exhibit displays and beautiful textiles.”

The first exhibit at the new location is titled *Hidden in Fabric: Stories of Tradition and Culture*. The exhibit stretches beyond fashion and style and focuses on textiles' unique ability to tell a story. For centuries, cultures around the world have used the language of fabric to express themselves, their environments, and their beliefs. The exhibit features traditional clothing from Mexico, Central America, and South America that highlight the hidden stories of culture and traditions interwoven in fabrics, patterns, and colors.

The Costumes of the Americas Museum officially merged with the BHA in January 2021 and the museum will enhance the BHA's mission of promoting the cultural arts and history of the region.

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For over 80 years, Brownsville women have collected, preserved and exhibited over 600 indigenous costumes, textiles and folk art of the Americas. CAM was operated by a volunteer Board of Directors and took great care and sentiment to build a museum dedicated to the appreciation and preservation of the history and cultural heritage embodied by these costumes; currently over 3,000 unique and priceless pieces.

“The Costumes of the Americas Museum was founded with a mission to preserve a one of a kind costume collection and to use the collection as an educational tool,” Putegnat said. “The BHA Board of Directors and the CAM Board of Directors worked together several years ago and began talks of a merger. The decision of the BHA to acquire the costume collection and re-open the museum at a new location strengthened our mission and set goals for better outreach and improving ways to tell the story of our cultural heritage. The merger has had a positive impact on the Association and is an accomplishment for our museum community.”

Operating hours are from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Free admission every Saturday from September 17 through October 15, other days of the week, regular BHA museum admission prices apply. Follow the BHA on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube channels for more CAM updates.

For more background information about CAM, please visit
https://www.brownsvillehistory.org/assets/bha-banner-newsletter_april-2021.pdf

ABOUT THE BHA

The Brownsville Historical Association (BHA) manages eight historic sites and museums in the Mitte Cultural District and Downtown Brownsville: Stillman House Museum, Heritage Museum, Market Square Research Center, Historic Alonso Building, the Costumes of the Americas Museum, Historic Brownsville Museum, the Old City Cemetery and the Laureles Ranch House Museum. Through exhibitions, educational programs, publications, cultural events, and archival collections, BHA shares Brownsville’s history and cultural arts with the local community.

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