



BHA Banner Newsletter

Brownsville Historical Association

Volume 6, Issue 4

October 2020

A Stronger BHA Starts with You

It is my hope that this newsletter finds you and your family safe and healthy. We, at the BHA, are excited to announce that we will start hosting programs and tours again at our museums; first time since the Coronavirus shutdown. We hosted a poetry reading on September 25th in conjunction with a temporary exhibit celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. The exhibit, *Our Voices, Our Heritage*, featured art and poetry from local talent and showcased influences from our bi-cultural community. Attendees followed new protocols (mask wearing, social distancing, etc.) and we enjoyed a lovely afternoon of poetry, music and art.

We are fortunate to have the support for our mission from members, residents of Brownsville and those living elsewhere. Many museums are struggling with whether or not to open or remain closed. We find ourselves having to make extraordinarily difficult decisions at this time. Statistics show that 1/3 of small museums in the U.S. have closed, never to re-open. Budget cuts, losses in fundraiser income, memberships and admission fees have taken a toll on the museum world. Our decision to re-open and program again is driven by a desire to interact with visitors and educate students. In the near future, the BHA hopes to provide more virtual options and is currently seeking funding to provide educational resources in a digital format for teachers and students. This will not only expand our outreach but provide an alternative for visitors not able to visit in person.

The Association receives funds throughout the year from various sources in order to operate and maintain all of our sites. Without a doubt, it is the private donations that provide the support needed to pay staff, bring in temporary exhibits to our museums and maintain the buildings under our care. I hope that you consider an end-of-the-year donation to the Brownsville Historical Association and encourage you to invite friends and family to become members. Your support strengthens our operation and allows us to continue our mission to promote and protect our local history.

Staff and I look forward to seeing you soon at the museums. Merry Christmas and Happy 2021!

Tara Putegnat
Executive Director

The Meaning Behind Being Hispanic

Hispanic Heritage and what it means to me.

Its about all the people that came before me

And the rest yet to be seen.

It is a way of life in which we wear our pride

Where we work hard and never show divide.

There may be walls and borders to say they separate.

But little do they know that Hispanic

knowledge will open every gate.

We will show that we belong and nothing was given

For we are hardworking, powerful, and truly driven.

So if you learn anything from our

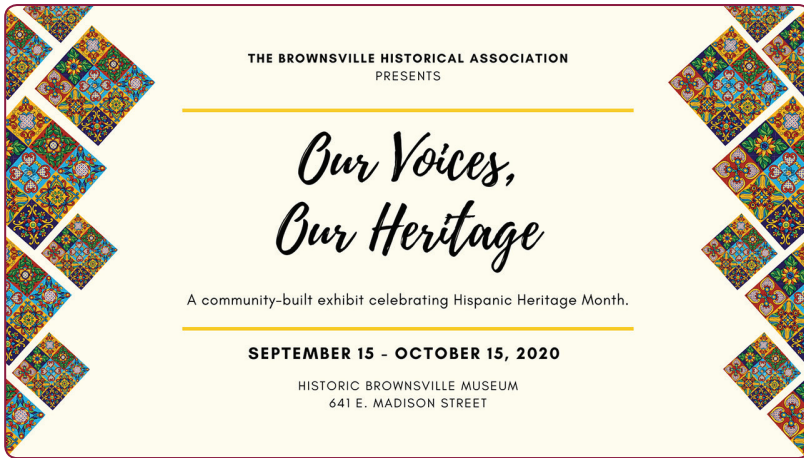
customs, traditions and way of life,

It is that we will succeed in every fight.

By: Breanne Ruiz

A poem submission to Our Voices, Our Heritage exhibit by Breanne Ruiz.

TEMPORARY EXHIBITS



Our Voices, Our Heritage

When: September 15, 2020 – October 15, 2020
Where: Historic Brownsville Museum
(Yturria Center)
641 E. Madison Street

Cost: Included with paid Museum admission

For more information, call: 956-548-1313

Our Voices, Our Heritage is a community-built exhibit celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. Join us as we showcase the variety of talent and creativity our community has to offer.



Department 56 Miniature Holiday Village Exhibit

When: November 27, 2020 – January 9, 2021
Where: Historic Brownsville Museum
641 E. Madison Street

Cost: Included with paid Museum admission

For more information call: 956-548-1313

This holiday season, the BHA is proud to present its Department 56 Miniature Holiday Village Collection. Donated by the Gloor family in memory of collector, June Gloor, the exhibit contains over 500 ceramic pieces including figurines, animals, and lit structures! This holiday season create a new tradition with friends and family by visiting this magnificent display.

VOLUNTEER & INTERN SPOTLIGHT

We are fortunate to have interns and volunteers whose time and effort help support the BHA's mission. In this issue we would like to introduce to you one of our summer interns and current volunteer.

Beatrice Lozano is a recent graduate of the Class of 2020 from the University of Texas at Arlington where she majored in Anthropology. She enjoys the many fields of study in Anthropology and says, "I especially like archaeology because it studies humans through material remains and it's like trying to solve a puzzle of people of the past." She started her internship with the BHA this summer and has continued to volunteer her time despite the conclusion of her internship. Beatrice found her internship to be insightful and learned about daily museum operations. She also enjoyed learning about local history. The favorite part of her internship was working with the collections and in-putting artifact information. She comments, "Interestingly, the way I view artifacts has changed a lot since I started at the BHA. Before, artifacts used to mean stone tools or a bone needle."

Beatrice credits her time with the BHA for showing her the amount of work that goes unseen and effort that goes into planning an exhibit. She was able to experience this first hand by assisting in the *Our Voices, Our Heritage* Exhibit. Overall, Beatrice feels her internship reaffirms her interest and future goal of working in a museum. Beatrice, thank you for all of your hard work!



Beatrice Lozano

UPCOMING TOURS

Shades of Haunted History Walking Tours

When: Tuesday, October 13th, 2020
Friday, October 23rd, 2020
2 separate tour groups per date:
First at 6:30 pm, the second at 7:30pm

Where: Brownsville Heritage Museum
1325 E. Washington Street

Cost: \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members.
Sorry no refunds.

For more information call: 956-541-5560

Join the BHA for the 15th Annual "Shades of Haunted History Walking Tour." As our guides lead you through downtown Brownsville, you will uncover the spooky past of the historic buildings in the area. We are offering two downtown tours. The first tour begins at 6:30 pm and will be led by Dr. Tony Knopp. The second tour begins at 7:30 pm and will be led by Michael Rodriguez. There is a 25 person limit for each tour, be sure and register early - spots will fill up fast!



Murder, Mystery, Mayhem Tour

When: Friday, October 16, 2020
Time: 8pm
Where: Old City Cemetery
Cost: \$5 for members and \$10 for nonmembers.
Sorry no refunds.

To register please call: 956-548-1313

Are you in for a night full of haunting histories and surprises around every corner? Join the BHA as we explore the Old City Cemetery. Inhabitants of the cemetery will come alive and share their stories of love, deceit, and horror. Attendees should meet at the Old City Cemetery entrance gate. There is a 25 person limit, be sure and register early - spots will fill up fast!

Fall Walking Tour: Old City Cemetery

When: Saturday, November 14, 2020
Time: 11 am
Where: Historic Brownsville Museum
641 E. Madison Street
Cost: \$5 for members and \$10 for nonmembers.
Sorry no refunds.

For more information call: 956-548-1313

Expand your knowledge of local history and tour this historic landmark. Wear comfortable shoes. It is suggested that you arrive early unless you have pre-registered. Tour is limited to 20 people – call now to reserve your spot!



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THANK YOU FOR BEING A MEMBER!

Your commitment to the Brownsville Historical Association helps support educational programming and exhibits