

Banner Newsletter

**Brownsville
Historical
Association**



Brownsville Historical Association

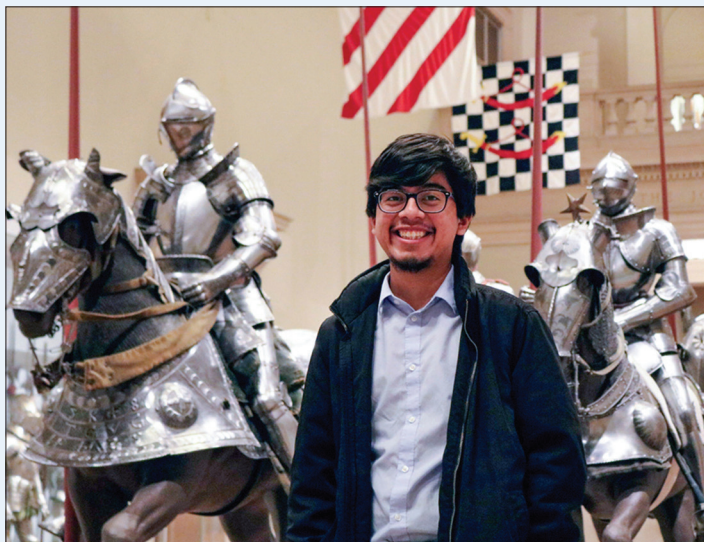
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Former Interns of the BHA and Where Are They Now, Part II

The BHA is grateful to see the influence it has had on various students that have interned with our organization, and more importantly, stay connected with them through updates on their careers and/or studies. In this issue we would like to highlight and update you on two of our past interns for the second installment of *Where are they now?*

José Carlos is a recent graduate from Columbia University with a major in history (specialization in 19th century U.S. history) and a minor in business management. José Carlos interned with the BHA during the summer of 2020. Looking back, he felt that working with



collections and using the PastPerfect software for either creating or updating records was a valuable experience. He recalls, "There were large amounts of data and information that I had to deal with. I believe my BHA internship really helped me become more organized and attentive to detail; skills that would continue benefiting me professionally and academically." He credits his BHA internship with having an impact on his future studies and career aspirations.



José Carlos handling Civil War Collections at the MET.

José remarks, "My internship with the BHA was the first internship program in the museum field. I had just decided I wanted to major in history, but I was unsure of the professional opportunities available with this major. As I completed my internship, I realized that I genuinely enjoyed the work I was doing and I wanted to continue in the field. All but one of my internships after that summer was in the museum field. Without the BHA opportunity, I am not sure I would have been introduced to the museum world."

Since his time with the BHA, José had the opportunity to intern at the Morgan Library & Museum in New York for a full-year with the Printed Books and Bindings Department. Throughout the last quarter of the program, he was tasked with choosing which collections to display for a rotating exhibit and was credited as a curator for his work by his supervisor. He is currently looking for full-time opportunities before applying for a postgraduate program in either Museum Studies or Education.

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Beatrice Lozano is a graduate student at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee working on her Anthropology major and Museum Studies certificate. Beatrice Lozano interned with the BHA during the summer of 2020 and continued working as a volunteer until early 2021. She found that her experience and time with the BHA had valuable applications to her coursework and that her time with the BHA profoundly impacted her choices in her academic career. Beatrice states, “My internship at the BHA had a significant impact on my future plans! Aubrey Nielsen, BHA’s Collections Manager, gave me a comprehensive internship that allowed me to experience collections, exhibitions, events, and Canva. She provided access to virtual workshops that educated me in different museum aspects. This experience was later helpful with my coursework. This internship

was the deciding factor for me to pursue a museum career. I enjoyed the internship, working with Aubrey, and everyone at the BHA, and learned plenty!” Following her time with the BHA, Beatrice has been part of some interesting projects in her graduate coursework at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Currently, she is working on her thesis which focuses on South American aerophones from the Milwaukee Public Museum. This past Spring, she was named the 2023 Ritzenthaler Museum Research Internship Award Recipient and had the chance to intern at the Milwaukee Public Museum to work on her thesis collection.

We are proud of the accomplishments of our former interns and pleased to hear about the impact our internship program made. We hope to share more of their stories with you in the coming issues.



Beatrice Lozano examining the South American Aerophone Collection at the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Welcome! **NEW BHA MEMBERS**

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Maribel Bouswana | Helia Morales |
| Andrea Fletes | Regine Pellicer |
| Keilah Folkertsma | Mariela Rodriguez |
| Jules & Phyllis Frapart | Jesse James & Valeria San Miguel |
| Gabriela Garcia | Dennis and Marianne Sanchez |
| Steven Lanoux | Roy De los Santos |
| Deli Lanoux | Angie Swanson and Family |
| Marc & Angela Millis | |

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 2023 BHA Sponsors**

Marking the Way: Updates to the Old City Cemetery

On a daily basis, one of the many calls the BHA receives from the public is related to genealogy research and the Old City Cemetery. The calls come from near and far with a similar question about where their respective relative is located at the Old City Cemetery.

The Old City Cemetery was established in 1853 and is recognized as an outstanding historical landmark by the Texas Historical Commission. It is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The cemetery reveals much of the city's history; from victims of war and gunfights, to those who died from yellow fever and cholera epidemics. The City has early cemetery Sexton records that show about 30,000 burials from 1853 to 1937. These records have been computerized and published by the BHA. Additionally, the cemetery continues to bury cremated remains of those who have a family plot that has been passed down through various generations. Similarly, when trying to locate a relative, or in doing research, one can find that various family members share a single plot.

As a result of the cemetery's history and its records, the BHA plays an instrumental role in helping visitors navigate the cemetery. The BHA provides visitors with a guide that has a brief history and map of the sections along with the block and plot numbers. For many years, visitors expressed that though the map was helpful it was still difficult to distinguish the block numbers (rows) in the cemetery. Though the block numbers were painted, weathering

and time would erase the numbers leaving only the historical markers placed by certain graves as a point of reference. In 2019, the BHA in collaboration with the City of Brownsville began working on a wayfinding project that would label the block numbers in an effective way and have the ability to withstand weathering. BHA staff member, David Parsons, and the City of Brownsville Parks Maintenance Manager, Daniel Salinas, have worked closely together throughout this process. In late August and early September, the City was able to install tiles with block numbers that are clearly visible.

The Brownsville Historical Association is proud to continue the maintenance work in the Old City Cemetery, an important historical resource. For more information on cemetery projects or to make a donation please contact David Parsons at 956-541-5560.



New tiles marking the block number.



City workers installing the tiles at the Old City Cemetery.

Historical Happenings



"Guatemalan Heritage-Mystical and Unique": Lecture and Presentation by Irma Eralda Cristal Tos



Historical Happy Hour: "Shop & Sip"



Exhibit Opening Reception: "Soul of the Tehuana"

Brownsville Historical Association

1325 E. Washington Street

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SEPT. 5, 2023 - JAN. 5, 2024

Soul of the Tehuana

