

# BHA Banner Newsletter

Brownsville Historical Association

Volume 6, Issue 1

January 2020

## The Taste of Texas — goin' strong for 10 years!

The Brownsville Historical Association is proud to announce that 2020 marks the 10 year anniversary of the Taste of Texas fundraiser. What originally started as a quaint wine tasting event with homemade hor d'oeuvres at the Alonso building has grown into an annual fundraiser celebrating all things Texas! Under the directorship of Ms. Tara Putegnat, the event's name was changed and centered on the theme of Texas History Month in March. Putegnat wanted to explore a unique look into history and culture through a culinary experience. Offering guests tastings of various Texas-themed dishes with the help of local vendors and providing samples of beer, wine and liquors from Texas gave locals an opportunity to sample great food and visit with other enthusiasts.

In 2015, once the restoration of the ranch house was completed, the event was moved to the Laureles Ranch House Museum. The

Taste of Texas has become one of the largest fundraisers for the BHA and an opportunity to highlight all the Brownsville Historical Association has to offer. More importantly, events like Taste of Texas help the BHA provide support for the museum's educational programs and exhibitions.

This year's Taste of Texas will take place on Saturday, March 21, 2020, at the Laureles Ranch House Museum located in Linear Park. Inside the house, we will temporarily feature pieces from the Lonesome Dove Exhibit that will be on display at the Historic Brownsville Museum in the Mary Yturria Education Center from March 3, 2020 to April 11, 2020. We hope that you can join us for special viewing of this temporary exhibit. For more information on the exhibit or the fundraiser visit our website, Facebook page, or call 956-548-1313.



9th Annual Taste of Texas at the Laureles Ranch House Museum.



5th Annual Taste of Texas at the Historic Alonso Building.



Mr. Whiskey, Bluegrass Band at the 7th Annual Taste of Texas.



Members of Renfro family viewing the Texas Naval Battle Flag Unveiling at 9th Annual Taste of Texas.

## LONESOME DOVE EXHIBIT

Beginning March 3, 2020, in the Mary Yturria Education Center at the Historic Brownsville Museum, the Brownsville Historical Association will present Lonesome Dove, an exhibition produced by the Wittliff Collections at the Alkek Library at Texas State University. This exhibit is presented in partnership with Humanities Texas, the state affiliate for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Lonesome Dove, Larry McMurtry's epic novel of two aging Texas Rangers who drive a herd of stolen cattle 2,500 miles from the Rio Grande River to Montana to found the first ranch there—captured the public imagination and has never let it go. The Lonesome Dove miniseries, which first aired on CBS in 1989, lassoed an even wider audience.

Capturing the sweeping visual imagery of the original miniseries, the Lonesome Dove exhibition presents fifty-five framed classic images taken during filming by Bill Wittliff, renowned photographer, writer, and executive producer (with Suzanne De Passe) of Lonesome Dove. The images, however, are worlds apart from ordinary production stills, depicting an extraordinary union of art, literature, and history.

The exhibition will be available to the public from March 3, 2020 to April 11, 2020. For more information about viewing hours or to arrange group visits, contact the museum at 956-548-1313.

Humanities Texas develops and supports diverse programs across the state, including lectures, oral history projects, teacher institutes, museum exhibitions and documentary films. For more information, please visit Humanities Texas online at <http://www.humanitiestexas.org> or call 512.440.1991.



# Welcome!

## NEW BHA MEMBERS

Jacqueline Blankenship  
Casey T Charles  
Ramiro Cisneros  
Rory Eggleston  
David Fisher

Andrea Flores  
Gerardo Garza  
David Girault  
Samuel Graybill  
Hannah Huerta

Yazmin Juarez  
Mariana Llanas  
Ximena Lopez  
Emily Lozano  
Celia McLean

Enrique Medina  
Michelle Mendoza  
Marifer Moctezuma  
Noemi Montiel  
Caroline Muniz

Logan Nunez  
Wesley Reed  
Maria Rodriguez  
Krista Ruppert  
Alexandra Shepperd

Avy Torres  
Christian Valles  
Eric Wells

## WINTER WALKING TOURS

Brownsville is one of the most historic cities in the state of Texas. Venture with Dr. Anthony Knopp through some of Brownsville's most historical sites. Check out the dates below and join us in walking through Brownsville history! Tours are limited to 25 people. \$5 for BHA members \$10 for non-members.

- January 25, 2020 - Fort Brown Tour at 11am RSVP by calling 956-541-5560
- January 31, 2020 - Downtown Tour at 11am RSVP by calling 956-541-5560
- February 15, 2020 - Old City Cemetery at 11am RSVP by calling 956-548-1313
- February 21, 2020 - Mitte Cultural District at 11 am RSVP by calling 956-548-1313



**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.brownvillehistory.org](http://www.brownvillehistory.org) for more information.

## COFFEE AND CULTURE SERIES



### México: Emergence of a Nation

The lecture series will cover the history of Mexico, from Independence Day to present. Series includes six sessions in English for one hour on Tuesdays at 10:00 am at the Heritage Museum, located at 1325 E. Washington Street (next to the Stillman House Museum).

SESSION TOPICS

February 4	The Struggle for Independence
February 11	Santa Anna and the War with the United States
February 18	The Era of Juarez, Maximillian, and Porfirio Diaz
February 25	The Mexican Revolution
March 3	Presentation by the Mexican Consul
March 10	Development and Democracy

The sessions will be conducted by Anthony K. Knopp, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.  
Sponsored by the Brownsville Historical Association and the Mexican Consulate in Brownsville.  
Free Admission for Members of the BHA; \$5.00 Admission per session for non-members (\$20.00 for the series).  
Reservations can be made by calling (956) 548-1313 or email: rgarza@brownvillehistory.org




## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

We are proud to highlight a staff member in each newsletter and introduce to you our committed team.

**Eric Gonzales**, *Collections and Media Archivist*, started working with the Brownsville Historical Association in May of 2017 as an intern before being hired as an employee in July of 2017. He works closely with the collections, conducts research requests and serves as media specialist

to document BHA events and activities. Eric spends much of his time at Market Square where the BHA houses its archives and artifacts in secure vaults, and he serves as a supervisor of the Market Square event hall rentals.

Eric enjoys his work with the BHA and says, "I have two favorite things about the BHA. First, is my interaction and involvement with the Brownsville community at our various events. Secondly, that I am lucky enough to always learn something new about Brownsville's past. Knowledge is always obtainable if you don't stop wanting to learn." He shares his passion for learning in his work outside the BHA as a middle school history teacher at Incarnate Word Academy in Brownsville, Texas. Eric has spent the last fourteen years in the field of education, in both public and private districts. Through his work as an educator he hopes to be a positive influence for our future leaders and inspire future historians.

Thank you Eric for your dedication and love of history!



## Historical Happenings

Exhibit Opening & Reception:  
**Bonita María Félix in Cinema**



Fall Walking Tour: OCC



Exhibit & Reception:  
**El Día de los Muertos**



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Brownsville, TX

*Celebrating the Food  
& Drinks of Texas*  
**10th Annual  
Taste of Texas**

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020  
6 PM TO 9 PM  
LAURELES RANCH HOUSE MUSEUM  
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

SAVE THE DATE:  
3.21.20

**TASTE OF  
TEXAS**

THE BROWNSVILLE  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
PRESENTS:

