



BHA Banner Newsletter

Brownsville Historical Association

Volume 5, Issue 4

October 2019

The Importance of Collections in Museums

Collection objects are at the center of the Brownsville Historical Association's mission to preserve, educate, and promote the history, heritage, and cultural arts of Brownsville, Texas and its environs. Museums exist to preserve, record, and research the materials donated to the collection and held in public trust. Also, museums provide accessibility of their collection to the public through exhibitions, programs, and interpretations. For the BHA, each object yields new discoveries and provides a unique narrative.

In the twenty-first century, the definition of collections in the museum field includes: artifacts, works of art, specimens, and archival documents. In most recent years, institutions have modified the definition to include intangible materials including video and audio recordings. Museum collections are more than an accumulation of objects; they are meticulously chosen

assemblages, the product defined by curatorial expertise.

The fundamental act of museum collecting removes objects from their original habitat and context, to incorporate them into part of a larger acquisition. As a result, the BHA (like other museum institutions) are tasked with the work of exhibit modification and reinterpretation to permanent displays every so often. We hope that as part of your membership, you take advantage of visiting our museums year-round to view our temporary exhibits as well as changes made to our permanent exhibits. Thanks to donations over the years, we are able to tell the rich history of Brownsville, Matamoros and the Rio Grande Valley through our diverse collections of objects.

Aubrey Nielsen, *Collections Manager*



Collections vault inside Market Square Research Center.



Market Square Research Center, home of the BHA's collections and archives.



Participants from the BHA's Time Travelers Camp receive a guided tour inside one of the collections vaults and learn the basics of handling artifacts.

UPCOMING EXHIBITS

Bonita María Félix in Cinema Exhibit Opening & Reception

When: Tuesday October 1, 2019-6pm

Where: Historic Brownsville Museum 641 E. Madison Street

Cost: Reception is free & open to the public.

Exhibit runs October 1-December 28, 2019 and is included with paid museum admission.

For more information please call 956-548-1313

In honor of Hispanic Heritage month, the BHA presents, *Bonita María Félix in Cinema*, a display of vintage movie posters from the private collection of Freddy Peralta. The exhibit highlights the preservation and promotion of the visual history of Mexican cinematography and provides visitors with the opportunity to develop connections and experiences that reflect on the Latino presence in our history and culture.

El Dia De Los Muertos Exhibit & Reception

When: November 2, 2019 @ 2:00 pm

Where: Brownsville Heritage Museum 1325 E. Washington Street

Cost: Free and open to the public.

For more information call: 956-548-1313

On November 2, "All Souls Day", the BHA, in partnership with the Consul of Mexico at Brownsville, will host an opening reception for an exhibit honoring El Dia de los Muertos. As a traditional Meso-American holiday dedicated to the ancestors honoring the gratefully departed and the cycle of life, El Dia de los Muertos has become one of the biggest holidays in Mexico and in the United States.

Department 56 Miniature Holiday Village Exhibit

When: November 29, 2019 – January 4, 2020

Where: Historic Brownsville Museum 641 E. Madison Street

Cost: Exhibit is included with paid admission.

For more information call: 956-548-1313

Back by popular demand, 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.

Christmas Tree Forest Exhibit

When: December 10, 2019 – January 4, 2020

Where: Brownsville Heritage Museum 1325 E. Washington Street

Cost: Exhibit is included with paid admission.

For more information call: 956-548-1313

The BHA is proud to present the 2nd annual *Christmas Tree Forest* Exhibit, on display from Tuesday December 10, 2019 to Saturday, January 4, 2020. The *Christmas Tree Forest* is a community involved exhibit that showcases personal talents. Civic and business organizations are also invited to participate. The *Christmas Tree Forest* is a great outreach opportunity. Please contact the museum if you are interested in displaying a tree.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

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

In this newsletter we introduce you to **Lidia Avila**, *Maintenance Technician* for the Historic Brownsville Museum. Lidia has served the Historic Brownsville Museum long before it became part of the Brownsville Historical Association. She began working at the Historic Brownsville Museum in 1997 and she has since then overseen the maintenance operations of the museum. Additionally, she has assisted in setting up various exhibits, decorated for events and rentals, and above all cared for the museum for over two decades. She is a consistent figure in the museum's history that has worked diligently behind the scenes. Lidia considers the museum her second home after so many years and loves her job. She finds it fulfilling to tend to the museum, whether it be gardening or cleaning, she takes pride in her work.

Thank you Lidia for your years of hard work and dedication!



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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

"Shades of Haunted History Walking Tour": Downtown Brownsville

When: Tuesday, October 15, 2019

2 separate tour groups: First at 6:30 pm, the second at 8:00 pm

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 14th 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 8:00 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!

October Historical Happy Hour

When: Saturday, October 26th, 2019 Time: 6 pm to 8 pm

Where: Historic Brownsville Museum 641 E. Madison Street

Cost: Free for BHA Members, \$5 Non-Museum members paid in advance, \$10 at the door.

Murder, Mystery & Mayhem Haunted Tour

When: Saturday, October 26th, 2019 Time: 8 pm – 9 pm

Where: Old City Cemetery (entrance gates)

Cost: \$10 per person.

Sorry no refunds.

For more information call: 956-548-1313

Are you in for a night full of haunting histories and surprises around every corner? Join the BHA after our monthly 'Historical Happy Hour' for a spooky tour as we explore the Old City Cemetery. There is a 25 person limit for the tour, be sure and register early - spots will fill up fast! Please note the Historical Happy Hour is a separate event that is free to BHA members, \$5 for RSVPs, and \$10 at the door.

Fall Walking Tour: Old City Cemetery

When: Saturday, November 9, 2019 @ 11am

Where: Historic Brownsville Museum 641 E. Madison Street

Cost: \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members.

Sorry no refunds.

For more information call: 956-548-1313

BHA's Dave Parsons will be your guide as you tour this historic cemetery landmark. The history of the city will reveal itself through the stories of the people who built it. Tours are limited to 25 people.

Welcome! NEW BHA MEMBERS

Gerald Alexander

Adele Bromiley

Jeff Brown

Kathy Clark

Elia Cruz

Rebecca De La Garza

Rosie Fuentez

Martha & James Gomez

Jeannie & Brian Kanter

Erik McGee

Martha & Rick Ortiz

Elizabeth Rocha

Gloria & Jamie Salazar

Gregory Vail

Hanani Vasquez

Joe Vega

James Wright

Historical Happenings

Time Travelers Camp this Summer



Craft Beer Lecture at August's Historical Happy Hour



"Bee Strong" Honey Lecture



Sister Cities Tour with Stephen Fox



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The following changes in membership levels, prices, and benefits effective November 1, 2019.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AT ALL LEVELS

- Free admission to the BHA museums
- 10% Discount on all items at Gift Shops
- Free subscription to our quarterly newsletter "The BHA Banner," and advanced mailings and e-mails of upcoming events
- Free or reduced admission to workshops, programs, tour, and events
- Sponsorship listing on the BHA website (Heritage or higher)
- 10% Rental discount on BHA locations (Heritage or higher)
- Private viewing and reception before events (Lifetime & Corporate)
- Exclusive annual tour with private dinner (Lifetime)

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- \$15 Student (w/Student ID)
- \$40 Individual
- \$65 Couple
- \$75 Family (2 adults & children under 18)
- \$100 Patron (per person)
- \$300 Heritage Circle (per person)
- \$750 Corporate (limit 10 individuals)
- \$3000 Lifetime (per person with guest)