



Banner Newsletter

Brownsville Historical Association

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Remembering Fernando San Miguel

Early this past September, the Brownsville Historical Association mourned the passing of former BHA board member Fernando San Miguel.

Before serving on the Brownsville Historical Association's Board of Directors, Fernando dedicated much of his life to serving his country and his community. He honorably served his country in the United States Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Reserve. His career was a reflection of his strong work ethic and commitment to service. He worked as



Fernando San Miguel

career in the railroad industry.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Fernando had a passion for classic cars and a deep commitment to giving back. As president and organizer of Brownsville Classics, he helped organize car shows at the Historic Brownsville Museum in support of the Brownsville Historical Association. These events included the Annual Toys for Tots Car Show and Father's Day Car Show, bringing car enthusiasts and families together while helping support BHA programs and initiatives.



Fernando San Miguel posing with his classic truck at the 2021 Toys for Tots Show.



Fellow BHA Board Members and Fernando San Miguel (far right) film 75th Anniversary video.

a firefighter with the Brownsville Fire Department, a chemical operator and fireman at Union Carbide, and Safety Director for the Brownsville & Rio Grande International Railway. An entrepreneur at heart, Fernando later founded and owned South Texas Railroad Construction, where he continued his



Fernando San Miguel (left) with Gene Balch (right) unveiling model locomotive at the Historic Brownsville Museum.

Fernando's dedication to service, community, and the preservation of local history left a lasting impact. The Brownsville Historical Association extends its deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Our Experience at the BHA



Daileh Vasquez
2nd Year Graduate Student
History MA

The BHA and their Collections Manager have been amazing in teaching interns how to intake new collections to a museum and how to prepare exhibitions. I was lucky to witness most of the process of a recently acquired collection, working with over two hundred items that ranged from photographs to textiles that required different handling.

One memorable part of working with the BHA was setting up the pop-up exhibition for Charro Days in one of the buildings at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley's Brownsville campus. The items we displayed were several Mexican regional outfits including the China Poblana, Tamaulipeca, and the Charro suit of Kenneth Faxon, the Father of Charro Days. Our team of staff and interns moved the mannequins and costumes into the university and spent hours carefully dressing the mannequins with the decades-old clothing. It was a great experience to showcase the BHA's remarkable artifacts at my own university.



Emily Puentes
Graduate Student
Bachelor of Arts in History
Master of Arts in History

My short and sweet time with the Brownsville Historical Association has shown me the importance of history and community in the city of Brownsville. I had the amazing opportunity to work with two experts in two fields this year, Aubrey Nielsen and Dr. David Fisher. They both taught me different lessons of history, museum work, and navigating behind the scenes to preserve the story of our city and the culture that runs deep in its core. My time with the BHA pushed me to become a better historian, as I learned how to archive, catalog, plan events, and write for our public history audience. I am incredibly grateful to have been a part of the team earlier this year and I am indebted to everyone at the BHA for making the organization feel like home.

Thank you to the UTRGV Rudy de la Garza scholarship program for making the internship curriculum possible.

Welcome! **NEW BHA MEMBERS**

August Munoz
Ruth Ann Ragland

Mauro Garza & Graciela Smith
Maria Elena Gonzalez

Anthony Gleen Simpson
Susana Vazquez

Thanks for your membership renewal!

Mary Elizabeth & Larry Hollmann
Dennis & Ellen Franke
Michael Wayne Frizzell
Jovita Chase
Higginbotham Insurance
David Combe
Eileen Mattei
Wayne Powell
Jayden Roy
Karen Wilkins & Royall Clark

Eliza & William Youngblood
Mary Guajardo
Joe Lee Rubio
Gregory Vail
Debbie & John Kilroy
Jose Lozano
Nyla C Gordon
Walter E. Wilson
Elizabeth Groff
Jesus De Leon

Dora & Alfredo Bermudez
Blake Bowen
Amelia Yznaga
Mellena Conner
Walter A. & Ginger Pawkett
Rosendo Escareno
Charles Lackey
Benjamin Hruska

BROWNSVILLE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

Museum After Dark: Heritage Museum & Historic Brownsville Museum



Los Tejanos: A 500-year History Sponsor Night & Brownsville Film Premiere



Historical Happy Hour: July & August



¡Bailamos! Dance Class



Second Saturday: ¡Bailamos! Craft Program



Brownsville Historical Association
1325 E. Washington Street
Brownsville, Texas 78520

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U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 47
Brownsville, TX

Historic Laureles Ranch House
1501 E. 7th Street
Brownsville, TX 78520
March 20, 2027



SAVE THE DATE



TASTE OF TEXAS