FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UTRGV CHAPS Program showcases Fort Brown museum exhibit and trail guide at McAllen Heritage Center

McAllen, Texas – June 10, 2020

The Community Historical Archaeology Project with Schools Program, or CHAPS Program, at UTRGV has developed a traveling museum exhibit that showcases all historical eras of Fort Brown history called "Discovering Fort Brown." This exhibit was designed to travel easily to many different venues throughout south Texas and beyond. It will stand at the McAllen Heritage Center on South Main Street in downtown McAllen from June 10 through August 31, 2020.

The project was created in part by UTRGV anthropology and history students, as part of an upper level course titled "Public Heritage of the Rio Grande Valley."

The project also includes a new audio podcast that are featured on a mobile web app, a map guide and brochure. All aspects of this exhibit project are all bilingual. Since the exhibit launched at the UTRGV Special Collections Library Colonnade in Brownville in April of 2018, it has traveled around the Rio Grande Valley to Port Isabel, Harlingen, San Benito, and Rio Grande City.

The CHAPS Program team has been envisioning this project since August of 2017 and is excited to have it all come together so nicely. The trail guide and audio podcasts have been completely overhauled and to be able to offer it all in both English and Spanish is a wonderful addition to historical tourism of the Rio Grande Valley. This bilingual exhibit assists to accommodate our friends south of the border who are very much a part of the history of region.

The students who developed this traveling exhibit created it with the goal in mind to give the greater community a better understanding of all the different aspects and uses for Fort Brown throughout our region's vast and interesting history.

The CHAPS program was established in 2009 in an effort to provide regional educators with curriculum to teach Rio Grande Valley K-12 students and create archaeologically and historically literate citizens.

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