



# THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

LEADERSHIP  
EDUCATION  
SUCCESS



**Dr. Jeffrey Ward**

Dean of the College of Fine Arts

**Dr. Katherine Moore McAllen**

Director of the Center for Latin American Arts



2023  
2024

PROJECT OVERVIEW 2023-2024



## SENDING OUR APPRECIATION AND THANK YOU

The Center for Latin American Arts advances scholarship, performances, and the exhibition of the arts in the popular, folk, and academic traditions from the United States and Spanish-speaking and Portuguese-speaking countries. Based in the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley College of Fine Arts, the Center facilitates the exchange of ideas among students, performers, artists, and scholars united by common interests to bring performances and knowledge of these arts to the Rio Grande Valley community and beyond. The core values of the Center are a dedication to community engagement, excellence in scholarship, art production and instruction, and performance, and a focus on student success by providing our students with unique learning opportunities on and off campus.

The Center for Latin American Arts has served more than 7,000 students of all disciplines from the fine arts, medicine, education, and engineering. Over 2,000 public school students have benefited from workshops and clinics provided by the CLAA and its UTRGV faculty and students this year. Scholars, playwrights, artists, dancers, writers, ethnomusicologists, and music performers have presented their talents and research to members of our community in the past year with generous funding from our winning grants.

In 2023-2024, the CLAA was awarded grants to support new publications, invitations to visiting artists and scholars to visit our campus, research roundtables, and unique performances by musicians from around the world to demonstrate our dedication to community engagement and multidisciplinary projects. These winning grants include funding from the Rea Charitable Trust at Wells Fargo (\$50,000), The Raul Tijerina, Jr. Foundation (\$25,000), the Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation (\$7,500). The Center has achieved its goals this year because of the generosity of these institutions and private donors, who are friends in our community and supporters of the Center for Latin American Arts. We are forever thankful for your support, and we hope you enjoy this overview of our events from the 2023-2024 year.





CENTER FOR

LATIN AMERICAN ARTS



UTRGV  
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# GRANTS AWARDED TO THE CLAA 2023-2024

RAUL TIJERINA, JR. FOUNDATION,  
ALICE KLEBERG REYNOLDS FOUNDATION,  
RAE CHARITABLE TRUST AT WELLS FARGO



ALICE KLEBERG REYNOLDS  
FOUNDATION



THE  
RAUL TIJERINA JR.  
FOUNDATION

The Center for Latin American Arts has received grants from these organizations to make our research and programing possible:

The Rea Charitable Trust at Wells Fargo (\$50,000), The Raul Tijerina, Jr. Foundation (\$25,000), The Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation (\$7,500).

In addition to The Rea Charitable Trust grant at Wells Fargo (\$50,000 for 2022-2024), The Center for Latin American Arts has also won previous grants with The Raul Tijerina, Jr. Foundation (\$20,000 for 2019-2020 and \$15,000 for 2020-2021), The Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation (\$10,000 for 2020-2021 and \$10,000 for 2022-2023), The Hollyfield Foundation (\$5,000), The Brown Foundation (\$7,000), and H-E-B (\$6,000). We are thankful to be recognized for our succesful dedication to community outreach projects that educate students at UTRGV and help K-12 teachers and students collaborate with our faculty to enjoy unique learning opportunities in music, dance, theatre, and museum art exhibitions. By focusing our innovative programs in the creative disciplines for young people in the Rio Grande

Valley to enjoy, we aim to support today's students and involve them in meaningful research and creative activities, so they can connect to our community and study art that resonates with our culture thorough strong ties with Latin America.

With the Raul Tijerina, Jr. Foundation grant, the CLAA completed dance workshops with 5 public schools in the Upper and Lower Rio Grande Valley, teaching free dance clinics under the leadership of Sonia Chapa and the UTRGV Ballet Español program. This project was made possible by important collaborations with professional Flamenco dancers Daniel Caballero and Nerea Carrasco from Madrid, Spain ([www.instagram.com/claa.utrgv](http://www.instagram.com/claa.utrgv)). In 2023-2024, the Rea Charitable Trust grant funded various projects serving our community with student art exhibitions and lecture events., such as University of Michigan's Nadine Hubbs visiting UTRGV for her Music Residency.

The Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation also provided financial support for many students'

travel to conferences and residencies, visting artists' workshops, and made it possible for the CLAA to host other scholarly roundtables supporting new research. For example, these grants invited Gareth Dylan Smith and Bryan Powell from New York and Boston to UTRGV to participate in teacher-training workshops that expanded students' teaching and music skills, as well as hosting visiting Creative Writer Cecilia Ballí and suporting theatre performers Francy Acosta and Luis Posada to exhibit their skills and share their knowledge of the Fine Arts in the Rio Grande Valley. These important opportunities helped our students and faculty enjoy the value of a well-rounded education in the arts and advance their own research in their fields of expertise. When students feel acknowledged, supported, and involved in their creative practice, they become lifelong learners and educators, and they are more likely to be academically successful, finish school, and receive their college degree. The CLAA is honored to help support our students and faculty and forever thankful for the generous grant funding that makes these programs possible.



# CLAA YOUTUBE CHANNEL

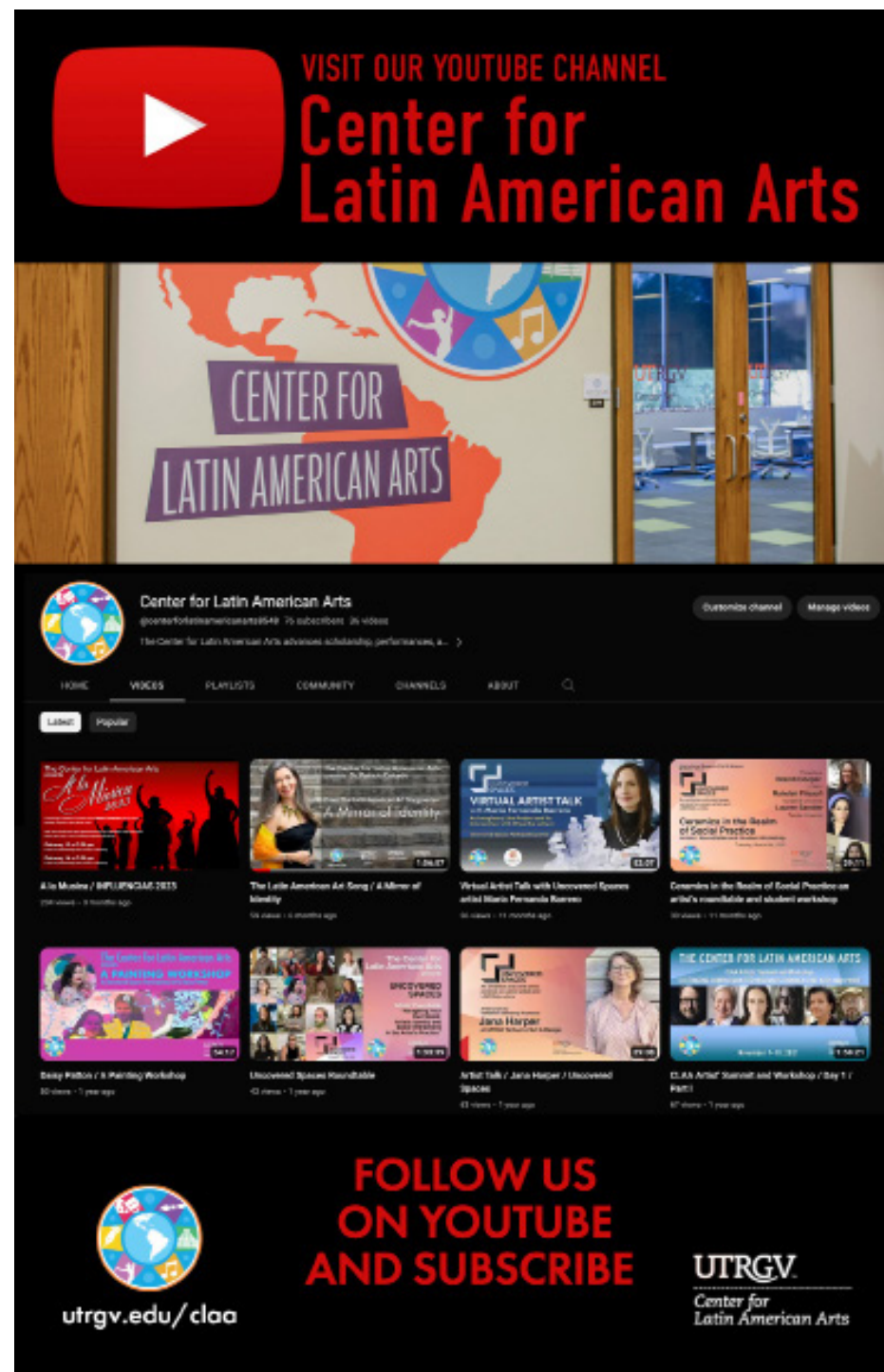


The Center for Latin American Arts continues to offer recording of all our events, which are later uploaded on our YouTube Channel under the name Center for Latin American Arts. Our channel features all Center performances, lectures, roundtables, exhibitions, and a series of visits to artists' studios entitled Visita Mi Estudio (Visit My Studio).

The Center for Latin American Arts YouTube Channel can be accessed on the application and any other internet platforms as the hyperlinks are interconnected on the official CLAA website and Linktree on Instagram. Viewers can safely access recorded events at their leisure on cellular devices, smart televisions, laptops, desktops, and tablets.

YouTube: Center for Latin American Arts

IG @claa.utrgv



Center for Latin American Arts



# SOUNDING MEXICAN AMERICAN LIFE, MUSIC, AND, ART

WITH DR. NADINE HUBBS, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
EDINBURG, OCTOBER 04, 2023

The Center for Latin American Arts was honored to host visiting scholar Dr. Nadine Hubbs, Professor at the University of Michigan in Women's and Gender Studies and Musicology, from October 2-6. As part of National Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month, Dr. Hubbs presented a series of lectures, research workshops, and concerts in collaboration with the Center for Mexican American Studies and Gender and Women's Studies. We invited everyone to join us in celebrating this occasion and to share the news with their colleagues and classes. Dr. Hubbs, also known as Nadine "Dean" Hubbs, engaged with local music artists, offering a unique blend of academic insight and musical performance.

## UTRGV

CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS

### SOUNDING MEXICAN AMERICAN LIFE, MUSIC AND ART

**A RESEARCH WORKSHOP**  
with Dr. Nadine Hubbs  
University of Michigan

UTRGV Edinburg Library Foyer and  
the Center for Latin American Arts



CELEBRATING NATIONAL  
HISPANIC HERITAGE  
MONTH  
2023

UTRGV  
Center for  
Mexican American  
Studies

UTRGV  
Center for  
Latin American Arts











# RESEARCH WORKSHOP

## SOUNDING MEXICAN AMERICAN LIFE, MUSIC AND ART

EDINBURG, OCTOBER 03, 2023

During her one-week research residency, Dr. Nadine Hubbs led a Research Workshop on October 3rd, featuring panelists Dr. Christen García from the School of Art & Design and Dr. Teresita Lozano from the School of Music. This event was followed by a lecture and a performance by The Texas Sweethearts band on October 4th. Dr. Hubbs encouraged student and community bands to participate in discussions about songwriting and ethnomusicology, aiming to advance research on Mexican American music and gender studies. Special thanks were given to Dr. Andrés Amado for his support and planning, and to Dr. Christen García and Dr. Teresita Lozano for their participation in the workshop and events.

# UTRGV

CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS  
**SOUNDING MEXICAN  
AMERICAN LIFE, MUSIC AND ART**  
**A RESEARCH WORKSHOP**

with Dr. Nadine Hubbs  
University of Michigan  
Guest Panelists  
Dr. Christen García  
and Dr. Teresita Lozano

Go Watch On  YouTube



UTRGV.EDU/CLAA

CELEBRATING NATIONAL  
HISPANIC HERITAGE  
MONTH  
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UTRGV  
Center for  
Mexican American  
Studies

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Latin American Arts









# NAVIDAD LATINOAMERICANA EN CONCIERTO

EDINBURG, DECEMBER 02, 2023  
BROWNSVILLE, DECEMBER 03, 2023

Celebrating the Holidays The Center for Latin American Arts was honored to collaborate with Assistant Professor Nicaulis Alliey-Rodriguez to support Navidad Latinoamericana en Concierto offering traditional Latin American Christmas Music in an exciting concert series over a weekend in December.

The group of guest musicians visiting UTRGV were from countries across Latin America, and Professor Nicaulis Alliey-Rodriguez arranged their visit to UTRGV to perform in Edinburg on Saturday December 2nd and in Brownsville on Sunday December 3rd. All concerts were free and open to the public and the UTRGV community. These concerts also served as an inspiring collaboration with public schools in the Upper and Lower Rio Grande Valley, including the Brownsville Independent School District where the performance was held in the Brownsville Independent School District auditorium.



**NAVIDAD**  
Latinoamericana  
en Concierto

**Dec 2** 5 pm | **Dec 3** 4 pm

Edinburg TX  
UTRGV  
Performing Arts  
Center

Brownsville TX  
BISD Administration  
Building Auditorium

**ARTISTS**

Francy Acosta (voice)  
Jose Luis Posada (guitar)  
Javier Saume (percussion)

Miguel González (bass)  
Ney Alliey (guitar/cuatro)  
Nicaulis Alliey-Escalona (flute)

*Free Admission*

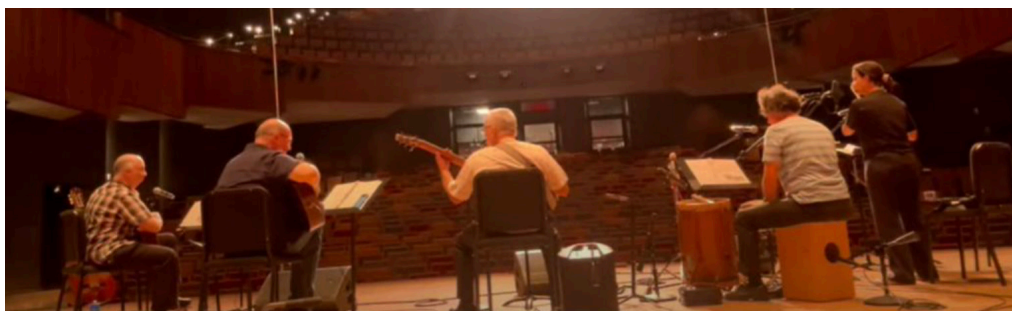
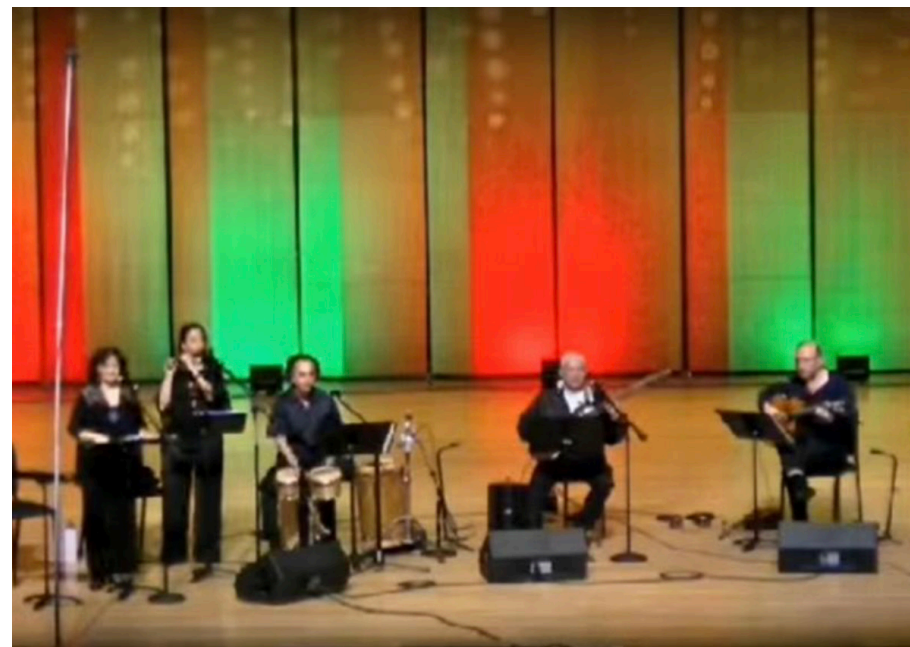
UTRGV | School of Music

The University of Texas  
Rio Grande Valley  
Bilingualism, Biculturalism  
& Bilingual (B3) Institute

UTRGV  
Center for  
Latin American Arts

UTRGV







# NEW PUBLICATION & LECTURE

## SOUND ROOTS PRESERVING COSTA RICA'S ANCESTRAL AND NATIVE SOUNDS

### BY ÁLVARO DÍAZ

### ESTUDIO ROMBOS, COSTA RICA

EDINBURG, FEBRUARY 27, 2024

To participate in Festiba 2024, the Center of Latin American Arts collaborated with Dr. Andrés Amado in the School of Music to invite Álvaro Díaz, owner of Estudio Rombos recording studio in Costa Rica, to give a presentation on music history and soundscapes in Central America. Álvaro Díaz also completed a publication project with Professor Amado in the journal *Istmo* to record and research Central American music in Nicaragua and Costa Rica to study the history of music in this region and their connections to culture in local communities and towns. Estudio Rombos blends design, innovation, and technology to compose soundscapes that improve the quality of life for people and offer educational opportunities. This professional creative team led by Álvaro Díaz and Bruno Cortina, who are dedicated to producing high level musical study and performance experiences, played an important role in this publication with Professor Amado. This event successfully shared new insights about the interview, research, and publication process with our students during Festiba.



**Festiba**  
INSPIRING HOPE & PROSPERITY THROUGH  
ARTS & LITERACY

The Center for Latin American Arts  
and the School of Music Present

**A Lecture by**  
**Álvaro Díaz**  
**of**  
Rombos Sound Studio Costa Rica

**Sound Roots: Preserving Costa  
Rica's Ancestral and Native  
Sounds as the Acoustic Identity  
of the Central American Region**

Moderated by Dr. Andrés Amado

**Tuesday, February 27, 2024  
at 6:00 pm**

Zoom Meeting ID:  
839 5254 7609  
To Watch Zoom Lecture in Person:  
EPAC B 1.128

  
www.utrgv.edu/claa

**UTRGV**  
Center for  
Latin American Arts

**RAM  
BYS**  
SOUND  
STUDIO

**UTRGV**  
School of Music







# ALEGRÍA

## UTRGV BALLET FOLKLÓRICO

EDINBURG, FEBRUARY 2- 11, 2024  
BROWNSVILLE, MARCH 9, 2024

Miguel Peña, a member of the CLAA Executive Committee, and his Ballet Folklórico dancers performed their annual concert series, Alegría, with six shows at the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex in Edinburg and one performance in Brownsville. Alegría brings to life Mexico's beautiful art of folk dance. An energetic and spirited cast of 40 dancers, 15 musicians, colorful costuming, dramatic and exciting choreographies are supported by special theatrical lighting and lively music. A history of Mexico's folk dance is unveiled through original works and choreographies of invited guest artists from a variety of Mexican states and regions including Veracruz and Oaxaca. Ballet Folklórico is under the direction of Assistant Professor Miguel Angel Peña Caballero and Zeidy Eneidy Garza, who serves as the production director and head administrative assistant in the Department of Dance.





# ALEGRÍA

★ 2024 UTRGV BALLET FOLKLÓRICO ★



**PERFORMANCES**

**UTRGV PERFORMING ARTS COMPLEX**  
1201 W. University Dr, Edinburg, TX 78539

FEBRUARY 2,3,9,10 | 7:30 PM  
FEBRUARY 4 & 11 | 2:00 PM

**TSC PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**  
90 Taylor Ave, Brownsville, TX 78520

MARCH 9 | 7:30 PM

**PUBLIC CONCERT TICKETS**

ADULTS | \$15  
SENIOR CITIZENS | \$10  
STUDENTS | \$10  
CHILDREN | \$5

**TICKETS: SHOWPASS UTRGV ARTS**  
OR [UTRGV.EDU/ARTS](https://www.utrgv.edu/arts)







# MAKING CONNECTIONS: BUILDING A CAREER THROUGH ART HISTORY AND STUDIO PRACTICE

BY CRISTINA CORREA, MFA

EDINBURG, MAY 01, 2024

The Center for Latin American Arts had the honor of nominating Cristina Correa, MFA, for the Young Alumnus Merit Award at the College of Fine Arts Awards. Cristina received her MFA in 2018 from the graduate program in the School of Art and Design, and she has excelled in her profession, achieved leadership roles at Idea Schools in the Rio Grande Valley, and she now holds a leadership position in the Plano ISD in North Texas. Nationally, she serves as an AP evaluator and a curriculum advisor. She has also won awards for teaching excellence from Idea Public Schools, and she has served her community with impressive distinction by coaching and mentoring educators in course leadership at the National Education Testing organization. She also serves as a National Visual Arts Curriculum Manager. She is currently the Visual Arts Department Chair at Plano Senior High School, the Central Cluster Lead Teacher for Plano ISD, and she was also just appointed as Arts Chair for the College Board's Academic Advisory Council. These prestigious honors demonstrate her exemplary reputation as an art educator.

During her visit to receive her award, the CLAA hosted a lecture and workshop titled "Making Connections: Building A Career Thorough Art History and the Studio Practice".

## Making Connections:

Building A Career Through Art History  
and the Studio Practice

by **Cristina Correa, MFA**  
UTRGV Alumna School of Art and Design  
Young Alumnus Merit Award

**4:00pm**  
**May 1, 2024**  
**at The Center for Latin American Arts**  
**Library, 2nd Floor, ELIBR 2.114**

Join us to celebrate our UTRGV Alumni and all the recipients of  
the College of Fine Arts Awards Ceremony



utrgv.edu/claa



UTRGV  
College of Fine Arts



UTRGV  
Center for  
Latin American Arts



UTRGV  
School of Art  
& Design











# RESEARCH AND WRITING THE BORDERLANDS

## BY CECILIA BALLÍ

EDINBURG, MARCH 20, 2024

The Center for Latin American Arts had the honor to collaborate on the project "Cecilia Ballí & RGV Mariachi," co-sponsored by the Department of Creative Writing in the College of Fine Arts, the Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS), the Department of History, and the Center for Bilingual Studies in the College of Liberal Arts.

Cecilia presented her new work recently published in the New York Times and Texas Monthly highlighting the mariachi programs in Starr County, Texas. After her lecture, she participated in an informal roundtable with Dr. Dahlia Guerra and Eloy Garza on stage for a panel discussing Mariachi and its important connections with UTRGV. The event concluded with a performance by Mariachi Nuevo Santander.

On Wednesday, March 20th, the CLAA hosted a workshop for students and faculty titled "Research and Writing the Borderlands with Cecilia Ballí." Cecilia shared her research conducted on the border, emphasizing the importance of both undergraduate and graduate research, and was opened to the public.

The recording for this event is available on our CLAA YouTube channel.

## Cecilia Ballí AND RGV MARIACHI

Wednesday, March 20, 2024  
11:00am-1:00pm



Cecilia Ballí is a writer, journalist, and cultural anthropologist as well as a contributor to Texas Monthly, Harper's Weekly, and the New York Times. She began her journalism career as a high school senior writing for her hometown newspaper, The Brownsville Herald. Please join us for a presentation on her current book project on high school mariachis on the Texas border.



Photo Credit: Benjamin Lowy

**Following the presentation, Dr. Dahlia Guerra and Eloy Garza will join Ballí on stage for a moderated panel discussion on Mariachi and its connection to the RGV. The event will conclude with a performance by Mariachi Nuevo Santander from Roma High School.**

**UTRGV STUDENT UNION THEATRE  
(EDINBURG CAMPUS)**

**UTRGV** Creative Writing

**UTRGV**  
Center for  
Latin American Arts

The University of Texas  
**Rio Grande Valley**  
Center for Mexican American Studies

The University of Texas  
**Rio Grande Valley**  
Department of History

The University of Texas  
**Rio Grande Valley**  
Center for Bilingual Studies

For more info and accommodations please contact:  
george.diaz@utrgv.edu





# Cecilia Ballí AND RGV MARIACHI

Cecilia Ballí is a writer, journalist, and cultural anthropologist as well as a contributor to Texas Monthly, Harper's Weekly, and the New York Times. She began her journalism career as a high school senior writing for her hometown newspaper, The Brownsville Herald. Please join us for a presentation on her current book project on high school mariachis on the Texas border.

WATCH NOW ON  YouTube



**UTRGV** Creative Writing

The University of Texas  
**Rio Grande Valley**  
Center for Bilingual Studies

The University of Texas  
**Rio Grande Valley**  
Center for Mexican American Studies

The University of Texas  
**Rio Grande Valley**  
Department of History

**UTRGV**  
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Latin American Arts



UTRGV Center for Latin American Arts





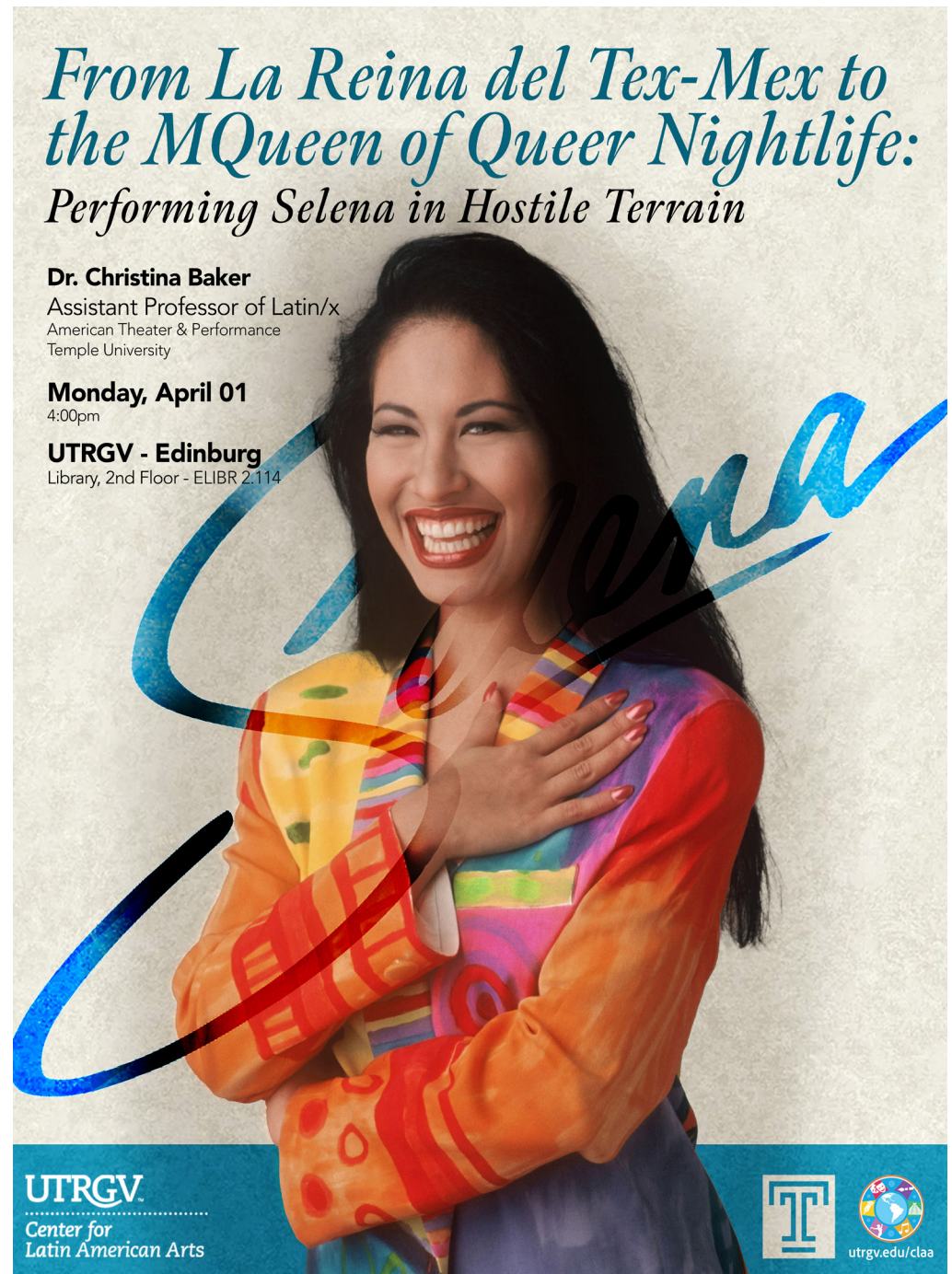
# PERFORMING SELENA IN HOSTILE TERRAIN

## BY DR. CHRISTINA BAKER

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY  
EDINBURG, APRIL 01, 2024

Dr. Christina Baker of Temple University delivered a lecture on Selena's legacy titled "Performing Selena in Hostile Terrain." As an assistant professor of Latinx American Theater and Performance, Dr. Baker visited the Rio Grande Valley during her research leave for her current project, which explores the significance of Selena Quintanilla in South Texas music history.

The public lecture took place at the Center for Latin American Arts at the UTRGV Edinburg library, with an option to join online via Zoom. We had the privilege of learning about Dr. Baker's research, which highlighted Selena as a symbol of protest within Tex-Mex communities. This event facilitated valuable dialogues between students and faculty in the College of Fine Arts. We extend our gratitude to Dr. Teresita Lozano and Dr. Andrés Amado from the School of Music ethnomusicology faculty for their participation.





*From La Reina del Tex-Mex to the MQueen of Queer Nightlife:  
Performing Selena in Hostile Terrain*

**Dr. Christina Baker**  
Assistant Professor of Latin/x  
American Theater & Performance  
Temple University

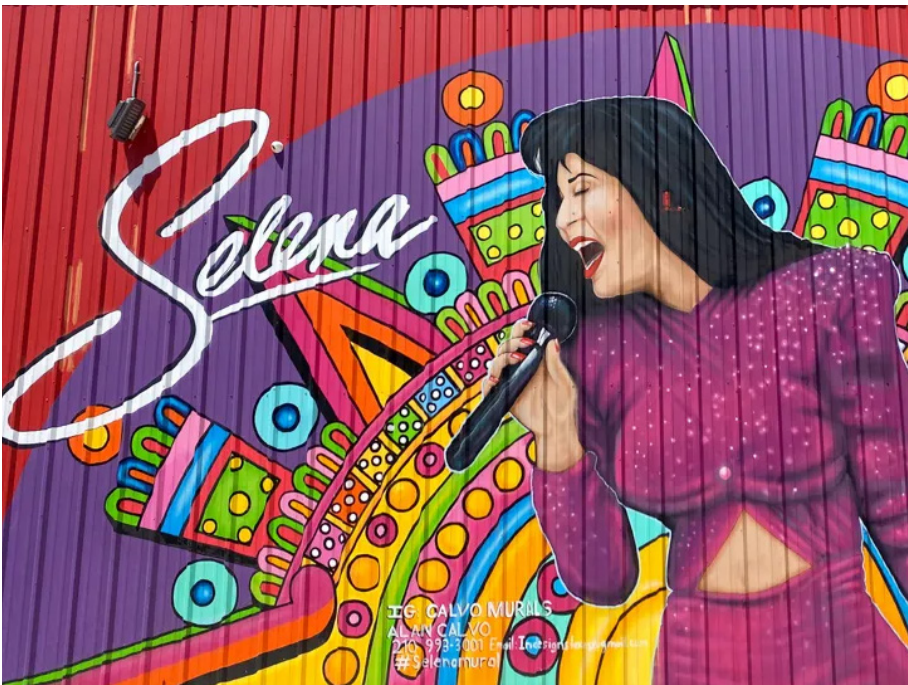
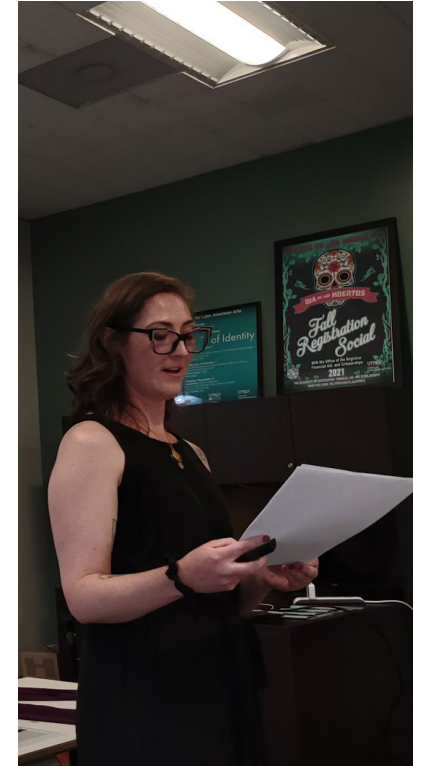
**Monday, April 01**  
4:00pm

**UTRGV - Edinburg**  
Library, 2nd Floor - ELIBR 2.114

**UTRGV**  
Center for  
Latin American Arts

   
utrgv.edu/claa







# EL QUINTO FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE TEATRO LATINO & UTRGV THEATRE PRODUCTION IN PUERTO RICO

UTRGV & PONCE, PUERTO RICO, APRIL & MAY 2024

In the Department of Theatre and Dance, the Shary Shivers Chair supported significant advancements in theatre research with Latin American theatre experts. The CLAA invited visiting performers and artists under the leadership of Dr. Eric Wiley. The Department of Theatre and the Latino Theatre Initiatives led by Dr. Wiley invited international performer Karla Gomez Perez to the 5th Annual Festival Internacional de Teatro Latino at UTRGV on April 24, 2024. Ms. Perez shared her contemporary theatre practices from México with our students and our community. Her performances and post-performance discussions inspired new research in experimental and "post-dramatic" theatre among our students and faculty, and her visit profoundly impacted the community and campus audiences when she performed.

The Shary Shivers Chair also supported a pivotal theatre trip to Puerto Rico with Dr. Wiley to allow students and faculty the opportunity to present a UTRGV production internationally in Puerto Rican theatre venues in May 2024. This research opportunity allowed UTRGV to establish connections with local theatre companies working in Latin America. These projects, funded by the Shary Shivers Endowment and the Center for Latin American Arts, have been instrumental in forming vital networks with institutions in México and Puerto Rico, fostering continued opportunities for performances and research collaborations in the future.











## STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

I am beyond grateful for CLAA and Sonia Chapa's contribution in giving me the opportunity to study Flamenco in Madrid, Spain. Knowing we were taking classes every day from the best world-renowned Spanish dance artists such as Concha Jareño, Daniel Caballero, Nerea Carrasco, and Yoel Vargas was an experience at its own level. All while being able to bring back choreography to perform at our UTRGV dance concerts.

-- Daniel Alejandro Garcia --  
Dance Student

The support that the CLAA provided when my colleagues and I got accepted to the CAA conference was significant. Their financial support allowed this to be a successful trip to Chicago. During our stay, we got the opportunity to network with professors, curators and fellow artists. As well as attending insightful panels and beautifully curated art exhibitions. The result of participating in the CAA conference, besides contributing to my CV, was that it opened doors to further dialogue and connection with other people in the field. Without CLAA's financial support, the trip wouldn't have gone as smoothly and stress free as it was.

-- Michel Flores Tavizón --  
MFA Arts Student

I have been working on my thesis, specifically on my chapter that analyzes art by Tejana and Chicana artists illustrating food and curanderismo (also known as folk healing). I presented my research in our CAA panel, and I received great questions, comments, and feedback in the Q&A section. This new information was helpful in expanding my research and being more focused. My colleagues and I also attended several panels, and I was introduced to new scholars, theories, methodologies, and artists.

My colleagues and I also had the opportunity to visit the National Museum of Mexican Art and The Art Institute of Chicago. I saw a multitude of art and learned about the artists, their inspiration and story behind their work, showing me a new perspective to view and interpret art.

After presenting in CAA, I continued shaping my research with this newfound knowledge and recently submitted a short essay for publication with Dra. Christen Sperry-García and other colleagues. I am truly grateful to CLAA for funding my colleagues and I the opportunity to present in CAA, I was fortunate to be among so many scholars and learn from them.

-- Kimberly Grimaldo --  
MFA Art Student

Dear CLAA team and Dr. McAllen,

I am writing to extend my deepest gratitude for all the support you have provided for my project, "60% Our Connection to Water." Your guidance and encouragement have been invaluable in bringing this vision to life, and I truly appreciate the time and resources you have dedicated to ensuring its success.

Additionally, I am profoundly grateful for the grant you have awarded me, as it has allowed me to be a part of the artist residency. This experience has enabled me to explore and expand my creative potential in ways I had never imagined. Your faith in my abilities and the chance to grow as an artist in such a nurturing environment mean more to me than words can express. Thank you once again for your unwavering support and for fostering such a positive space for artistic development.

-- Regina Cerna Matamoros --  
Art & Design Student



Dear College of Fine Arts and CLAA,

My artistic work is based on pláticas with my grandmother living in Mexico and extended family members who still live in La Huasteca Hidalguense. Focusing on our connection to the Nahuatl language and the family history in the region. My close connection with my grandmother has allowed me to explore our shared roots even through phone calls or video chats. Reflecting on the presentation we gave, I received amazing feedback about this work that I took to heart and have utilized to better perspectives.

Thanks to the incredible opportunities the CLAA provided, we attended several museums that had work resonating with ours. The National Museum of Mexican Art was my personal favorite. I am extremely grateful to the CLAA organization and how their funding enabled my colleagues and me to stay in Chicago and present at the CAA 2024 conference.

-- Laia Vite--  
MFA Art Student

Dear College of Fine Arts & CLAA,

Thank you so much for your continued support and dedication to expanding the reach of our student body. I believe it is critically important to maintain this support specifically because of the vast opportunities of attending a conference like NCECA. I am fortunate to have experienced it for the second time and I look forward to continuing to build my knowledge base to share my findings with my community.

The most beneficial thing I did during my trip to Richmond, VA, was to have a student critique with a visiting professor or professional artist who reviews a portfolio of my work, assesses my direction, and discusses my professional goals. This has been especially important on my trip as I near the end of my academic career and take on more serious artistic roles, I want to gather as much feedback and expand my range of expertise. I am constantly reminded of how special and prolific it is to reach beyond what is set out, being a first-generation student and artist is a gift and voice that comes with responsibility. As a mestiza artist, I don't get many opportunities to share my story, however, each time I've shared my work as a collective, I'm begged for something a little bit louder. I am appreciative and cognizant of the fact that I didn't get there alone. I owe much of my success to others who have paved a path and I intend to pave many of my own, NCECA being a tool for doing just that. This is an incredibly important time in my artistic growth, and because of your funding, I gathered insight and enough research through this experience, to make decisions in my work.

As I approach my next, and final semester in the Fall, I want to remind this organization that many of us art students in the Valley don't dream beyond what we know, this kind of opportunity provides a massive expanse to that notion. I look forward to working with you again in the Spring of 2025, as I know many other students do. New members have expressed interest in our new knowledge base and artistic reinvigoration, it is inspiring and also an edge many other universities don't get to take part in. As a larger group of art students from Texas, NCECA isn't exactly commonplace for us, however, we get to make our mark and create growth opportunities both on campus and in our professional and academic journey. I for one, am extremely proud to represent UTRGV at NCECA. What I found, was that they're searching for community as well, so please know that this support has a more profound effect than we alone can let on. Some of our Ceramics Club organization students had never been on a plane before this trip. We appreciate you, Thank you.

-- Samantha Proa --  
Art Student





## FACULTY TESTIMONIALS

Dear College of Fine Arts,

It is my magnificent pleasure to show appreciation to Dr. Katherine McAllen for funding the travel to Spain for the second consecutive year!! I have known Dr. Katherine McAllen for over 5 years, during which we have worked together on several successful projects.

I have been consistently impressed with Dr. Katherine McAllen's undeniable support for the creative arts including all genres of art; art, music, dance, theatre, and creative writing. Her drive to find new artists and produce projects and venues to display their work to as many people possible is admirable.

Dr. Katherine McAllen is very highly motivated and consistent in producing educational artistic projects that benefit all involved. I was co-coordinator with McAllen on the recent Flamenco series of performances and workshops.

The premiere flamenco dance presentation was called "A La Musica." Mcallen invited professional flamenco dance artists Daniel Caballero and Nerea Carrasco from Madrid, Spain. After the school performance the students K-12 had the opportunity to take a master class with the performers. The Alice Kleberg Reynolds grant was used to produce this project which resulted in an amazing collaboration of artists, UTRGV faculty, staff, its students, community engagement with K-12, workshops, and performances from beginning to end. The AKR grant and McAllen also gave me and our students the opportunity to take our flamenco students (Ballet Espanol) to Spain to study flamenco, Spanish art, and culture back in August 2023.

This year, the Shary Shivers and Dr. McAllen will provide a second consecutive trip to Madrid Spain this coming August 2024. These opportunities and support are not given often to our students, and they would probably never have the means to take a trip of this magnitude. Our dance majors will be taking an intensive annual workshop called "Veranos Flamencos" at the one and only Spanish Dance Institute "Amor de Dios". Dr. McAllen and the CLAA continue to establish productive relationships with artists of all genres on a global stage including collaborative works with UTRGV Faculty, staff and its students. Her connection and inclusivity with our RGV community is also commendable and am proud to have worked with her on many of these projects and serve on the committee for the Center for Latin American Arts.

-- Sonia Chapa Gómez --  
Department of Dance



Dear Center for Latin American Arts,

Personally, I am an active researcher and performer of the Latin-American repertoire for flute, and of the uses of flutes (modern and ethnic instruments) in the music of the region, cultivated and ethnic. This concert entailed research on Latin-American music genres that use diverse flutes, and it entailed researching and experimenting on how to reproduce their effect on the modern flute.

The support of the group of guest artists (all of them researchers and performers of those traditions) has been crucial to experimenting the crossing of our modern and educated music making with that of the traditions we conveyed in the program, in order to offer a curated, yet historically and stylistically informed performance. This includes not only the flute aspect, but the entire instrumentation as well as selected, the repertoire presented (22 pieces selected from a pool of over 50).

The performance itself is a product/presentation of our ongoing research and artistic collaboration, which we aim to publish it, possibly as a recording, as we progress in the project, which we all agreed to sustain for future performances, based not only on the Latin-American Christmas tradition, but also centering on different topics (e.g. cantos de trabajo).

Most students in our school and university are of Hispanic ascent. This project is a call to ignite their curiosity through identity. An invitation to know the music of their region of origin, embrace it and see it as a well of research, performance, and experiential possibilities.

Students in the Brownsville flute studio—as well as in most instrumental studios in the School of Music—are encouraged to know and perform works by Latin-American composers, which includes music based on traditional genres. Both the workshop and the concerts offered to our campus community opened a space for participation, discussion, and experiencing some of the music at the root of many of the works they will be performing in their careers (at UTRGV and through a lifetime of music-making).

Dr. Hurley-Glowa's World Music class participated in the workshop. The lecture-Recital/workshop opened new avenues for collaboration between courses and brought up a number of potential new research topics for both faculty and students, within our UTRGV community, and with the support of guest artists.

-- Professor Nicalius Rodriguez --  
School of Music



# CLAA 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

## NAVIDAD Latinoamericana en Concierto



**Dec 2** 5 pm | Edinburg TX  
UTRGV  
Performing Arts  
Center

**Dec 3** 4 pm | Brownsville TX  
BISD Administration  
Building Auditorium

**ARTISTS**  
 Francy Acosta (voice)  
 Jose Luis Posada (guitar)  
 Javier Saume (percussion)  
 Miguel González (bass)  
 Ney Alliey (guitar/cuatro)  
 Nicaulis Alliey-Escalona (flute)

**Free Admission**

UTRGV | School of Music | The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley | UTRGV Center for Latin American Arts

## UTRGV ALEGRÍA

2024 UTRGV BALLET FOLKLÓRICO



**PERFORMANCES**  
 UTRGV PERFORMING ARTS COMPLEX  
 1201 W. University Dr, Edinburg, TX 78539  
 FEBRUARY 2, 3, 9, 10 | 7:30 PM  
 FEBRUARY 4 & 11 | 2:00 PM  
 TSC PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
 90 Taylor Ave, Brownsville, TX 78520  
 MARCH 9 | 7:30 PM

**PUBLIC CONCERT TICKETS**  
 ADULTS | \$15  
 SENIOR CITIZENS | \$10  
 STUDENTS | \$10  
 CHILDREN | \$5  
 TICKETS: SHOWPASS UTRGV ARTS  
 on [UTRGV.EDU/ARTS](https://UTRGV.EDU/ARTS)

## UTRGV

CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS

### SOUNDING MEXICAN AMERICAN LIFE, MUSIC AND ART

A RESEARCH WORKSHOP  
 with Dr. Nadine Hubbs  
 University of Michigan

UTRGV Edinburg Library Foyer and  
 the Center for Latin American Arts



UTRGV.EDU/CLAA

CELEBRATING NATIONAL  
HISPANIC HERITAGE  
MONTH  
2023

UTRGV  
Center for  
Mexican American  
Studies

UTRGV  
Center for  
Latin American Arts

## UTRGV

CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS

### SOUNDING MEXICAN AMERICAN LIFE, MUSIC AND ART

A RESEARCH WORKSHOP  
 with Dr. Nadine Hubbs  
 University of Michigan  
 Guest Panelists  
 Dr. Christen García  
 and Dr. Teresita Lozano

Go Watch On  YouTube



CELEBRATING NATIONAL  
HISPANIC HERITAGE  
MONTH  
2023

UTRGV  
Center for  
Mexican American  
Studies

UTRGV  
Center for  
Latin American Arts

## Festiba

INSPIRING HOPE & PROSPERITY THROUGH  
ARTS & LITERACY

The Center for Latin American Arts  
 and the School of Music Present

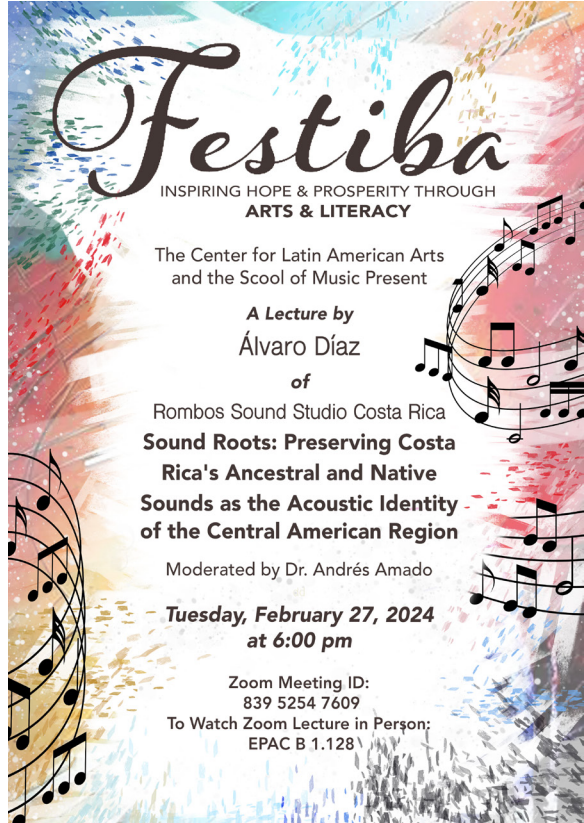
A Lecture by  
 Álvaro Díaz  
 of  
 Rombos Sound Studio Costa Rica

### Sound Roots: Preserving Costa Rica's Ancestral and Native Sounds as the Acoustic Identity of the Central American Region

Moderated by Dr. Andrés Amado

Tuesday, February 27, 2024  
 at 6:00 pm

Zoom Meeting ID:  
 839 5254 7609  
 To Watch Zoom Lecture in Person:  
 EPAC B 1.128



UTRGV  
Center for  
Latin American Arts

RAMBOS  
SOUND  
STUDIO

UTRGV  
School of Music

[www.utrgv.edu/claa](https://www.utrgv.edu/claa)



## Making Connections:

Building A Career Through Art History  
and the Studio Practice

by **Cristina Correa, MFA**

UTRGV Alumna School of Art and Design  
Young Alumnus Merit Award

4:00pm

May 1, 2024

at The Center for Latin American Arts  
Library, 2nd Floor, ELIBR 2.114

Join us to celebrate our UTRGV Alumni and all the recipients of  
the College of Fine Arts Awards Ceremony



utrgv.edu/claa

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UTRGV  
School of Art  
& Design

UTRGV  
School of Art  
& Design



## Cecilia Ballí AND RGV MARIACHI

Wednesday, March 20, 2024  
11:00am-1:00pm



Cecilia Ballí is a writer, journalist, and cultural anthropologist as well as a contributor to Texas Monthly, Harper's Weekly, and the New York Times. She began her journalism career as a high school senior writing for her hometown newspaper, The Brownsville Herald. Please join us for a presentation on her current book project on high school mariachis on the Texas border.

Photo Credit: Benjamin



Following the presentation, Dr. Dahlia Guerra and Eloy Garza will join Ballí on stage for a moderated panel discussion on Mariachi and its connection to the RGV. The event will conclude with a performance by Mariachi Nuevo Santander from Roma High School.

UTRGV STUDENT UNION THEATRE  
(EDINBURG CAMPUS)

UTRGV  
Creative Writing

UTRGV  
Center for  
Latin American Arts

The University of Texas  
Rio Grande Valley  
Department of History

The University of Texas  
Rio Grande Valley  
Center for Mexican American Studies

The University of Texas  
Rio Grande Valley  
Center for Bilingual Studies

For more info and accommodations please contact:  
george.diaz@utrgv.edu

## From La Reina del Tex-Mex to the MQueen of Queer Nightlife: Performing Selena in Hostile Terrain

**Dr. Christina Baker**

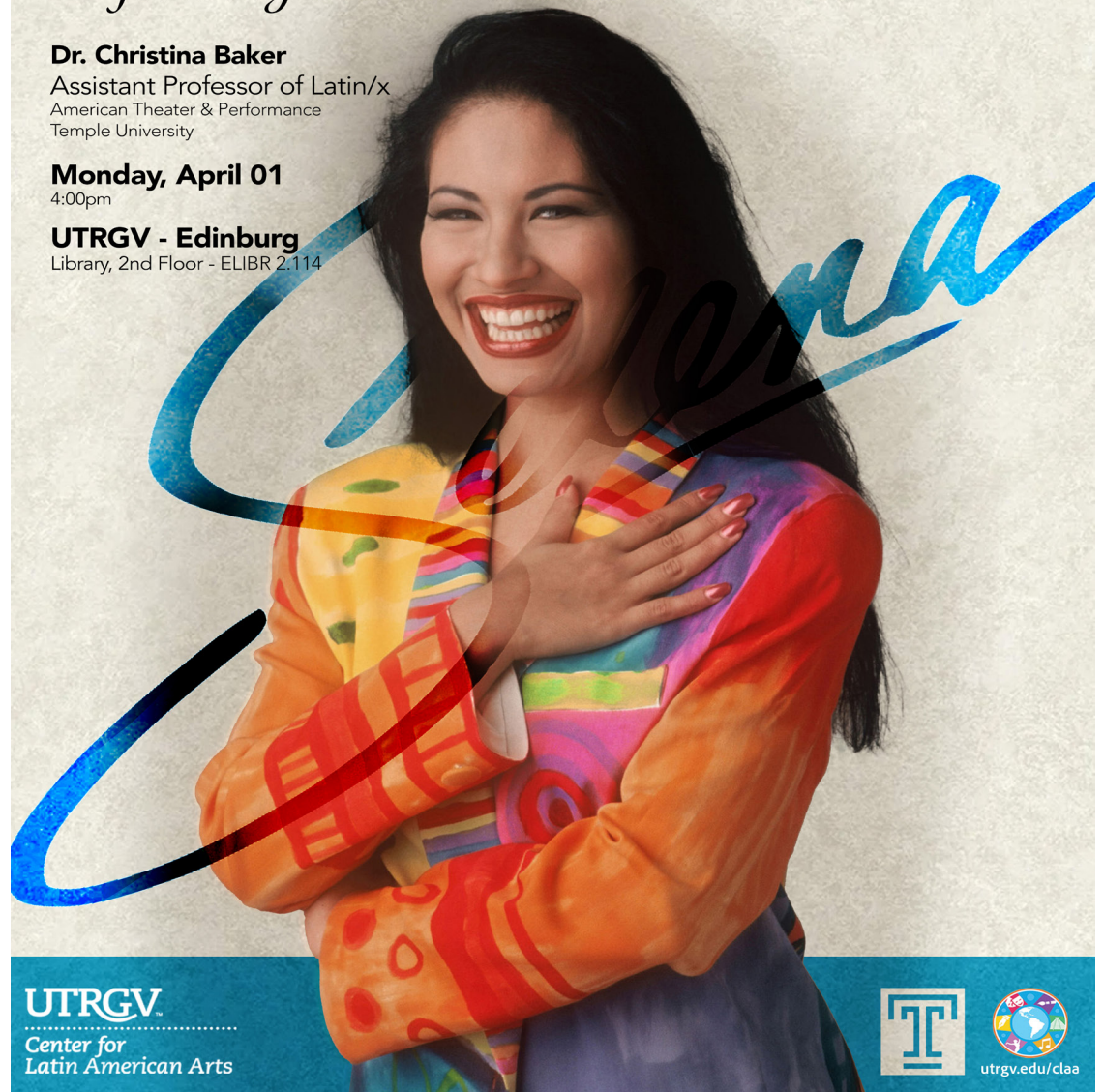
Assistant Professor of Latin/x  
American Theater & Performance  
Temple University

**Monday, April 01**

4:00pm

**UTRGV - Edinburg**

Library, 2nd Floor - ELIBR 2.114



UTRGV  
Center for  
Latin American Arts



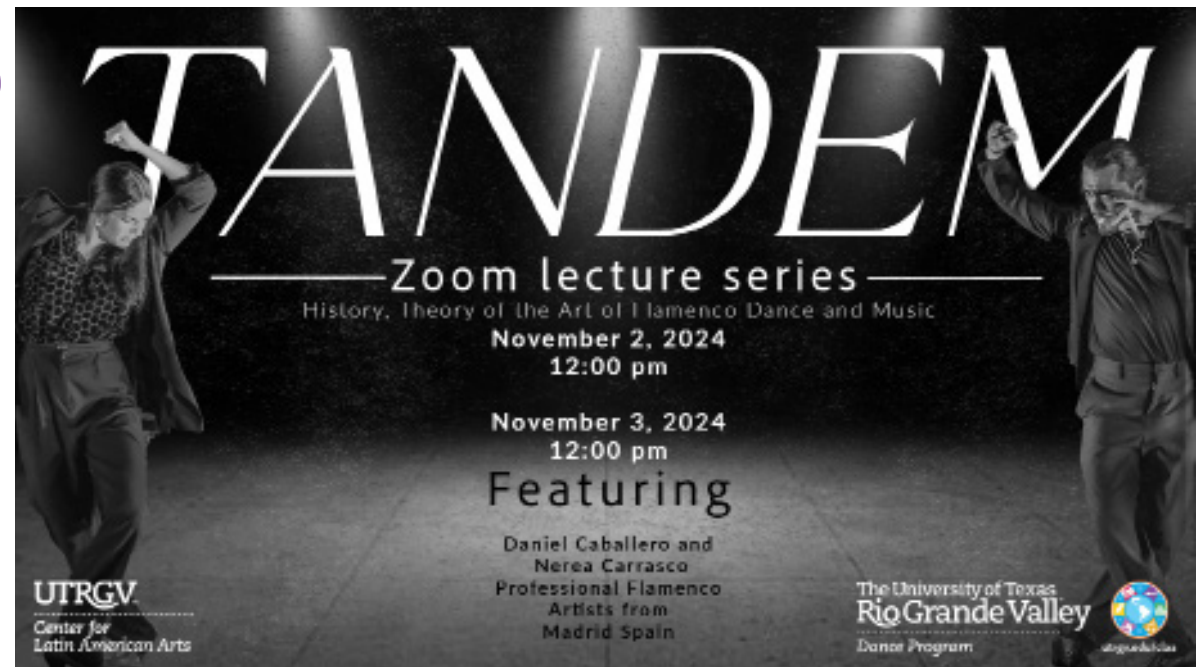
utrgv.edu/claa



# UPCOMING EVENTS 2024-2025

The CLAA will be hosting a Flamenco dance concert and workshop in collaboration with Sonia Chapa Gomez in The Department of Dance on Friday November 8th. *Tándem* will be a concert featuring Flamenco artists Daniel Caballero and Nerea Carrasco from Madrid, Spain.

This free event will be a community collaboration with the City of Edinburg and will be held at the Edinburg Municipal Auditorium presenting the vibrant art of Flamenco. This event will include dance workshops taught by Caballero and Carrasco for UTRGV Dance majors and K-12 students in the ECISD and PSJA public school districts. These two rising stars from the Madrid *tablaos* will help give back to our community through these teaching events organized through the CLAA that include dance clinics at the Edinburg auditorium and an online lecture series on the history of Flamenco. The culmination of this dance research and performance will conclude with the stunning concert *Tándem* on November 8th in collaboration with accompanying UTRGV dance students.



**TANDEM**  
— Zoom lecture series —  
History, Theory of the Art of Flamenco Dance and Music

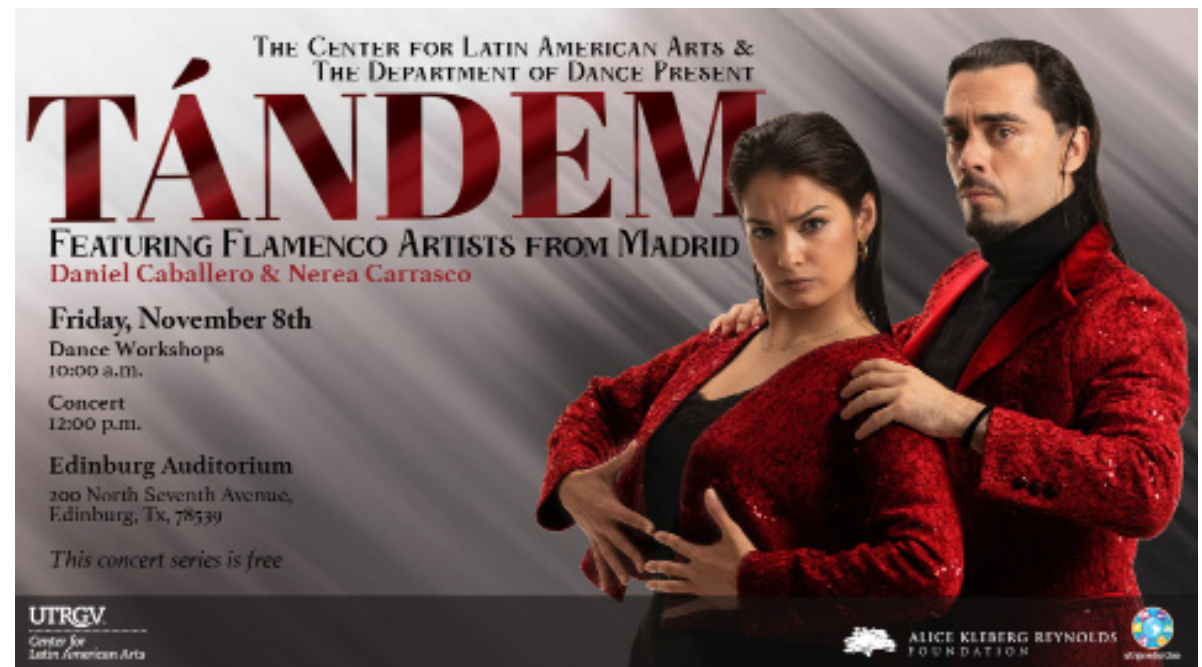
**November 2, 2024**  
12:00 pm

**November 3, 2024**  
12:00 pm

**Featuring**  
Daniel Caballero and  
Nerea Carrasco  
Professional Flamenco  
Artists from  
Madrid Spain

UTRGV  
Center for  
Latin American Arts

The University of Texas  
**Rio Grande Valley**  
Dance Program



THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS &  
THE DEPARTMENT OF DANCE PRESENT

**TÁNDEM**  
FEATURING FLAMENCO ARTISTS FROM MADRID  
Daniel Caballero & Nerea Carrasco

**Friday, November 8th**  
Dance Workshops  
10:00 a.m.  
Concert  
12:00 p.m.

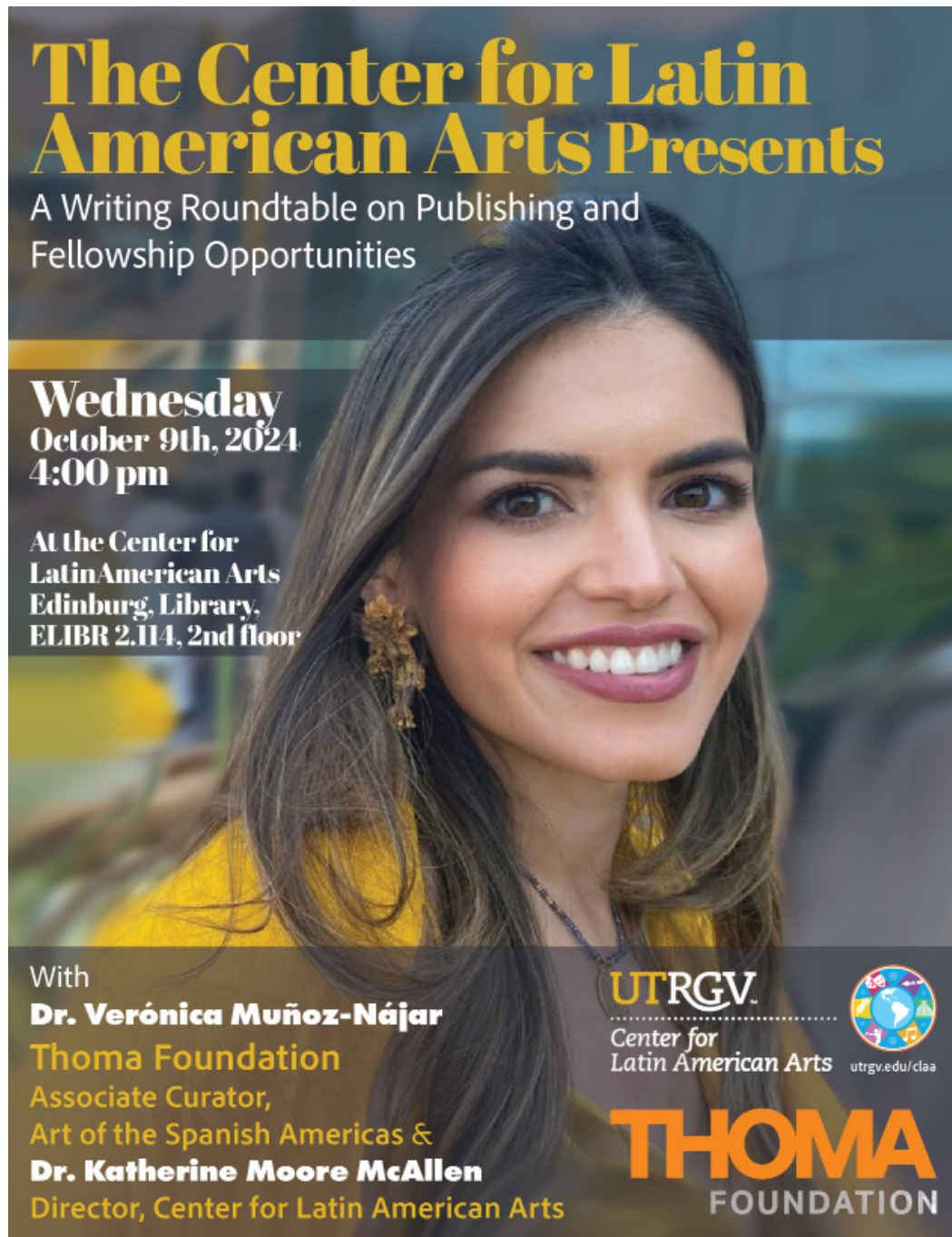
**Edinburg Auditorium**  
200 North Seventh Avenue,  
Edinburg, Tx, 78539

*This concert series is free*

UTRGV  
Center for  
Latin American Arts

ALICE KLEBERG REYNOLDS  
FOUNDATION





# The Center for Latin American Arts Presents

## A Writing Roundtable on Publishing and Fellowship Opportunities

**Wednesday**  
**October 9th, 2024**  
**4:00 pm**

At the Center for Latin American Arts  
 Edinburg, Library,  
 ELIBR 2.114, 2nd floor

With  
**Dr. Verónica Muñoz-Nájjar**  
 Thoma Foundation  
 Associate Curator,  
 Art of the Spanish Americas &  
**Dr. Katherine Moore McAllen**  
 Director, Center for Latin American Arts

**UTRGV**  
 Center for Latin American Arts  
 utrgv.edu/claa

**THOMA**  
 FOUNDATION

The CLAA will host a roundtable titled *Research, Publishing, and Fellowship opportunities with the Thoma Foundation* on October 9th with Dr. Veronica Muñoz-Nájjar, curator of the Art of the Spanish Americas. Dr. Muñoz-Nájjar is a specialist in Latin American art history and has conducted research and published on artistic production in Perú, Colombia, Bolivia, Spain, and Italy from the Early Modern to Contemporary periods.

Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month, Dr. Muñoz-Nájjar will be at UTRGV to share her research and curatorial knowledge on Latin American Art and discuss the importance of writing and publishing to advance the fields of academic scholarship. Dr. Muñoz-Nájjar will also present information about fellowship opportunities with the Thoma Foundation for students and faculty researching, publishing, and exhibiting in the fields of Latin American Art and Contemporary Art and to share more information about the Thoma Foundation's collection.



# NAVIDAD

## Latinoamericana en Concierto

Free Admission

<b>Dec 7</b> <b>3 pm</b>	Edinburg TX UTRGV Performing Arts Center	<b>Dec 8</b> <b>3 pm</b>	Brownsville Saint Luke Catholic Church Featuring MARIACHI Roca Diamante
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**ARTISTS**

Francy Acosta (voice)	Miguel González (bass)
Jose Luis Posada (guitar)	Ney Alliey (guitar/cuatro)
Raúl Fernández (percussion)	Nicaulis Alliey-Escalona (flute)

On December 7th and 8th, the CLAA will sponsor the concert *Navidad Latinoamericana en Concierto* featuring Latin American music for the holidays from Mexico to Argentina. These events in Brownsville and Edinburg will be led by Assistant Professor Nicaulis Alliey Rodriguez of the School of Music and performed by invited musicians from the Music of the Americas Project.



# THOMA EXHIBITION AND ROUNDTABLE

ART OF THE SPANISH AMERICAS FEBRUARY - MAY 2025

## paintings from SPANISH

ART HISTORY AND ART ROUNDTABLE

**Tom Cummins,**

Director of Dumbarton Oaks and  
Professor, Harvard University

**Kristopher Driggers,**

Curator of Latin American Art, San  
Antonio Museum of Art

**Carmen**

**Fernández-Salvador,**

Professor, Universidad San  
Francisco de Quito, Ecuador

**Rosario Granados,**

Marilynn Thoma Curator, Blanton  
Museum of Art, The University of  
Texas at Austin

**Carlos Limas,**

Department Chair, South Texas  
College

Moderated by

**Katherine Moore McAllen**

Director of the Center for  
Latin American Arts, UTRGV

**Verónica Muñoz Nájara**

Curator, Art of the Spanish  
Americas, Thoma Foundation

SUPPORTED BY



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Center for  
Latin American Arts



IMAS

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956,681.2800 | THEIMASONLINE.ORG

SCAN ME TO LEARN MORE



**FREE ADMISSION**  
with a UTRGV ID  
for the entire show

## AMERICA

(1600-1800) FROM THE THOMA COLLECTION

AT THE

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART & SCIENCE



Unidentified artist. Angel with Baton. Oil on canvas, 18th century.

ON EXHIBIT | FEB 8, 2025 — MAY 25, 2025

### MUSEUM EVENTS

FEB 6 | 5-7 PM: Member Preview Reception at the IMAS

FEB 21 | 11AM: Student Research Roundtable and Workshop at UTRGV:  
The Center for Latin American Arts, University Library, Edinburg ELIBR 2.114

FEB 21 | 3-5 PM: Art History and Art Roundtable at the IMAS:  
Dialogues of Collecting and Display: Art of the Spanish Americas at the IMAS  
museum in the Rio Grande Valley

APR 26: Community Day at the IMAS:  
Exploring and Celebrating the Cultures of Spanish America

## Dialogues of Collecting and Display: Art of the Spanish Americas in the Rio Grande Valley

The CLAA will host an Art and Art History Roundtable titled *Dialogues of Collecting and Display: Art of the Spanish Americas in the Rio Grande Valley* at the IMAS as part of the CLAA's efforts to organize UTRGV-led community art events.

This event will be organized in conjunction with the exhibition *Paintings from Spanish America (1600-1800) from the Thoma Collection*. This roundtable will be held the day before the photography exhibition *Destino Sur* in an effort to create collaborations with South Texas College and UTRGV. The Thoma exhibition will include viceregal artworks from colonial Venezuela, Colombia, Perú, Bolivia, and Cuba as well as contemporary artworks by digital Latin American artists from the Thoma Foundation collection including Daniel Canogar and Rafael Lozano Hemmer.

For more on this exhibition, visit <https://theimasonline.org/paintings-from-spanish-america-thoma-collection/>.

There will also be a student-led research roundtable and workshop on February 21, 2025 at The Center for Latin American Arts in the UTRGV Edinburg Library.

### The visiting scholars and artists for both events include:

Tom Cummins, Director of Dumbarton Oaks Professor, Harvard University  
Kristopher Driggers, Curator of Latin American Art, San Antonio Museum of Art  
Carmen Fernández-Salvador, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador  
Rosario Granados, Marilyn Thoma Curator of Latin American Art,  
Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin  
Carlos Limas, Photographer and Department Chair, South Texas College

### Moderators:

Veronica Muñoz Nájara, Curator at The Thoma Foundation  
Katherine Moore McAllen, Director of the UTRGV Center for Latin American Arts





### TOM CUMMINS

Thomas B. F. Cummins is the Dumbarton Oaks Professor of the History of Pre-Columbian and Colonial Art at Harvard University. He received his PhD from UCLA, and his research and teaching focuses on pre-Columbian and Latin American colonial art. He has published over one hundred fifty essays and eleven books, most recently *Global Gold: Aesthetics, Material Desires, Economies in the Late Medieval and Early Modern World* (I Tatti, 2024) and *Sacred Matters: Animism and Authority in the Pre-Columbian Americas* co-edited with Steve Koisiba and John Janusek (Dumbarton Oaks, 2020). He is the Editor in Chief of the Grove Encyclopedia of Latin American Art with Oxford University Press and the co-director of the Getty Foundation Connecting Art History Grant, *Afro-Latin American Art: Building the Field 2022-2026*.



### KRISTOPHER DRIGGERS

Kristopher Driggers is the Associate Curator of Latin American Art at the San Antonio Museum of Art. He holds a PhD in Art History from the University of Chicago and a BA from Yale University. His research and exhibitions have explored a wide range of Indigenous arts from the Americas, including textiles of the Andes, the sixteenth-century K'iche Maya story Popol Vuh, narrative arts in Mexico, and the contemporary resonances of ancient American art. He is currently working on an exhibition *Maya Blue*, an Indigenous innovation with enduring resonances.



### CARMEN FERNÁNDEZ-SALVADOR

Carmen Fernández-Salvador has published various books and studies on colonial art and the historiography of Ecuadorian art including her recent book, *Encuentros y desencuentros con la frontera imperial: la iglesia de la Compañía de Jesús de Quito y la misión en el Amazonas, siglo XVII* (Madrid, Iberoamericana Vervuert, 2018). She received her PhD at the University of Chicago and is currently a professor in Quito, Ecuador. She collaborates on projects for the study of early-modern Jesuit art and is coordinating the project "The Amazon basin as a connecting borderland: examining cultural and artistic fluidities in the early modern period" which is being sponsored by the Getty Foundation.



### CARLOS LIMAS

Carlos Limas has a background in Graphic Design from the Instituto Profesional de Arte y Diseño in Monterrey, México, as well as a Bachelor in Studio Art from l'Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts in Bruxelles, Belgium. He also holds a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. His primary media are photography, painting, and video. Limas currently serves as the Chair of the Art Department at South Texas College.



### ROSARIO GRANADOS

Rosario I. Granados is the Marilynn Thoma Curator of the Art of the Spanish Americas at the Blanton Museum of Art. She holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University, an M.A. from the Courtauld Institute of Art, and a B.A. from Universidad Iberoamericana in México. In addition to seven thematic rotations of the permanent galleries, she has organized the exhibitions *Mapping Memory: Space and History in 16th-Century Mexico* in 2019, and *Painted Cloth: Ritual and Fashion in Colonial Latin America* in 2022. She is currently developing two new projects: *The Scholar's Gaze: Modernist Portraits of 16th Century Mexican Architecture and Legacies of Belonging: Icons in Colonial Latin American and Latino Art*.



# CENTER LEADERSHIP



**Dr. Jeffrey Ward** is the Dean of the College of Fine Arts at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV). The College, made up of the School of Art and Design, School of Music, Department of Theatre, Department of Dance, and Department of Creative Writing, is committed to connecting the students of the Rio Grande Valley and beyond to high-quality teaching, research, and creative activity; partnerships with Arts organizations and Industry; and global citizenship rooted in improving communities.

Prior to his role at UTRGV, Dr. Ward served as the Director of the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, and Professor of Music Education at Kansas State University and as the Associate Dean in the College of Fine Arts and Communication and the Associate Director of the School of Music at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC. Dr. Ward received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Music Education (Conducting) from Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, VA; his Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from East Carolina University; and his Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Rollins College in Winter Park, FL.

Dr. Ward's research focuses on assessment, community music, and music teacher education. Dr. Ward is Past Chair of the Assessment Special Research Interest Group of the National Association for Music Education and a reviewer for the International Symposium for Assessment in Music Education. As a conductor, Dr. Ward has served as the Artistic Director of the Manhattan (KS) Masterworks Chorale and the Greenville (NC) Choral Society, as well as in conducting positions at First United Methodist Church of Manhattan, St. James United Methodist Church of Greenville, and Monumental United Methodist Church of Portsmouth (VA).



**Dr. Jeffrey Ward**  
Dean, College of Fine Arts



# CENTER LEADERSHIP

**Dr. Katherine Moore McAllen** has been the Director of the Center for Latin American Arts since 2019, and she is an Associate Professor of Art History in the School of Art & Design at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. She received her PhD in from Harvard University, her M.A. from the University of Texas, Austin and her B.A from Trinity University. Her research has been supported by the Fulbright and the Carl and Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation as the 2019-2020 Marilyn Thoma Post-Doctoral Fellow. Her work at the UTRGV Center for Latin American Arts has been supported by the Raul Tijerina, Jr. Foundation, the Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation, the Rea Charitable Trust, and the Brown Foundation.

Her publications on the history of art and architecture and cultural exchange in colonial Perú and México include essays in the anthology *The New World in Early Modern Italy, 1492-1750* (Cambridge University Press, 2017), an essay in *Circa 1718* from Trinity University Press (2018), an essay in the *Journal of Jesuit Studies* (2019), three essays in the *Latin American and Latinx Visual Culture* journal (2021 and 2022), and a recent essay in the *Colonial Latin American Review* (2024). Together with Verónica Muñoz-Nájara, she also co-edited a two-volume publication with a collection of essays in Spanish and English titled *The Thoma Dialogues* in the *Latin American and Latinx Visual Culture* journal (volume 3.3 and 3.4). As guest editors, Katherine and Verónica published two essays together and edited twelve other essays by leading scholars in the field examining the visual culture of Latin America and museum studies from the colonial to the contemporary periods. Her most recent curatorial work as Director of the Center for Latin American Arts includes organizing the exhibition *Uncovered Spaces* with artists such as Maria Magdalena Campos Pons, Margarita Cabrera, and Wendy Red Star in a collaboration with Raheleh Filsoofi of Vanderbilt University. All the CLAA events can be seen on the CLAA website and the CLAA YouTube channel. She is currently the Maryalice Shary Shivers Endowed Chair of Fine Arts at UTRGV.



**Dr. Katherine Moore McAllen**  
Director, Center for Latin American Arts and  
Associate Professor of Art History



# FACULTY LEADERSHIP

## AND CLAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**Dr. Andrés Amado** is an Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology in the School of Music, as well as a member of the CLAA Executive Committee.



**Rigoberto Gonzalez** is a Lecturer at the School of Art & Design, as well as a member of the CLAA Executive Committee.



**Sonia Chapa** is a Lecturer in the Department of Dance, Director of the UTRGV Ballet Español, as well as a member of the CLAA Executive Committee.



**Dr. Eric Wiley** is a Professor in the Department of Theatre, the Director of the Latino Theatre Initiatives, as well as a member of the CLAA Executive Committee.



**Miguel Peña** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Dance, Director of the UTRGV Ballet Folklórico program, as well as a member of the CLAA Executive Committee.



**Dr. Virginia Davis** is a Professor of Music Education in the School of Music, as well as a member of the CLAA Executive Committee.



## CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS STAFF



**Jessica Chavarria**

Undergraduate, Researcher, and  
Assistant to the Director  
of Center for Latin American Arts

**Jessica Chavarria** An undergraduate with a minor in Business Administration, Jessica is currently immersed in her Fine Arts studies at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Her passion lies in Graphic Design, where she explores creativity and visual communication. Originally hailing from The Texas Rio Grande Valley, Jessica brings a unique perspective to her work. As she nears the completion of her undergraduate studies, she harbors aspirations of pursuing a Master's degree in Design Communication, aiming to further refine her skills and contribute to the world of visual aesthetics.



**Mandy Wilson**

Graduate MFA Intern  
College of Fine Arts

**Mandy Wilson** holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Communication Design and a Texas EC-12 Art Teacher Certification from Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. Originally from Louisiana, she was immersed in creative influences from a young age, cultivating her passion for art and is currently working towards a Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

## OFFICE OF THE DEAN SUPPORT



**Jessica Lorenzo Treviño**

Administrative Coordinator,  
Office of the Dean,  
College of Fine Arts

**Jessica Treviño** is the Administrative Coordinator to the Dean's Office at the College of Fine Arts at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Originally from McAllen, Texas, Jessica graduated with a degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Computer Information Systems from the University of Texas Pan American. She brings years of business experience in purchasing, accounting, project management, coordination, finance, analytics, social media, and technology. With excellent communication and leadership abilities, Jessica thrives in cross-functional teams, coordinating resources and ensuring seamless collaboration. Known for problem-solving skills, and ability to mitigate risks, Jessica consistently drive successful project outcomes.



# CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS

## WHO WE ARE



## THE CENTER IS LED BY:

### Dr. Katherine Moore McAllen

Associate Professor of Art History  
Director of the Center for Latin American Arts

### Dr. Jeffrey Ward

Dean of the College of Fine Arts

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

### Dr. Andrés Amado

Associate Professor of  
Ethnomusicology

### Sonia Chapa

Lecturer of Dance  
Director of the UTRGV Ballet Español

### Dr. Virginia Davis

Professor of Music Education

### Miguel Peña

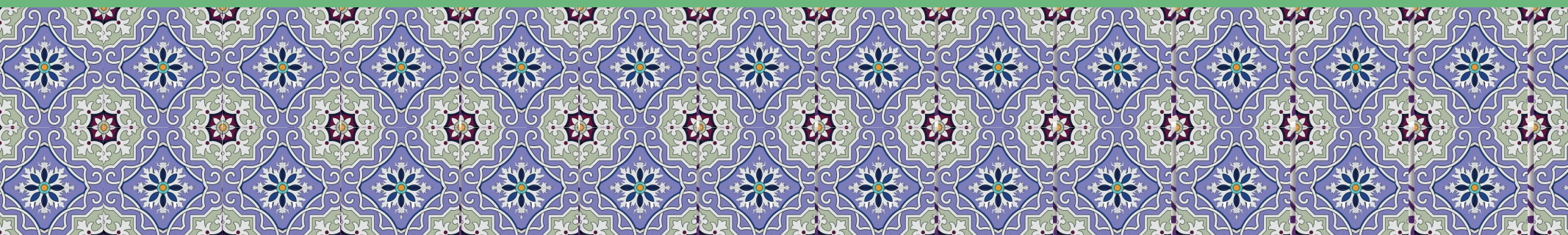
Assistant Professor of Dance  
Director of the UTRGV Ballet Folklórico

### Dr. Eric Wiley

Professor of Theatre  
Director of the Latino Theatre Initiatives

### Rigoberto Gonzalez

Lecturer of Studio Art with an emphasis  
on Painting







Center for  
Latin American Arts



## WHERE WE ARE

### The Center for Latin American Arts

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
1201 W University Drive  
Edinburg, Texas 78541

Edinburg Library on the 2nd Floor: ELIBR 2.114

Brownsville in the UTRGV Music, Science & Learning Center: BMSLC 2.210



[utrgv.edu/claa](http://utrgv.edu/claa)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

### Facebook

[www.facebook.com/UTRGVCLAA](http://www.facebook.com/UTRGVCLAA)

### Instagram

[www.instagram.com/claa.utrgv](http://www.instagram.com/claa.utrgv)

### YouTube

Center for Latin American Arts

## CONTACT

### Web

[www.utrgv.edu/claa](http://www.utrgv.edu/claa)

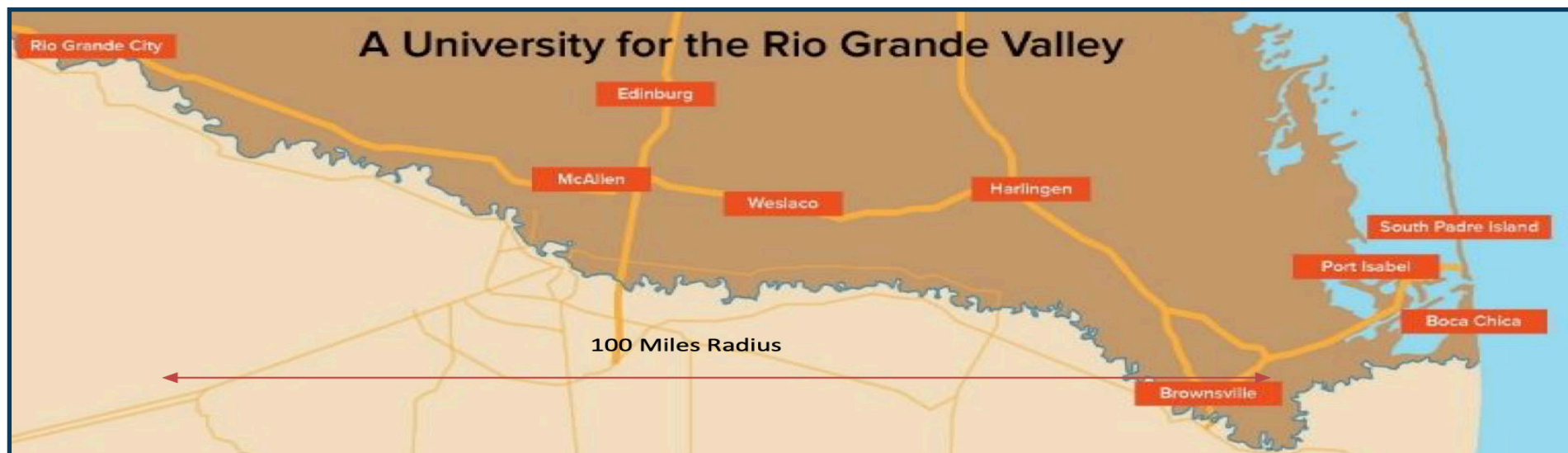
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Edinburg Library on the  
2nd Floor: ELIBR 2.114



Detail of **ALEGRÍA Feb 2, 2024**  
by Jose Garcia - "Memories Film Makers"  
Alegría concerts led by Miguel Peña,  
Director of the UTRGV Ballet Folklórico program