



# THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS

Leadership  
•  
Education  
•  
Success

**UTRGV**  
Center for  
Latin American Arts

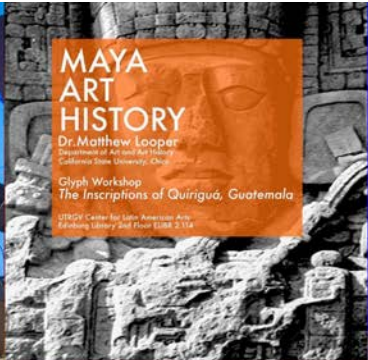
Dr. Steven Block  
Dean of the College of Fine Arts

Dr. Katherine Moore McAllen  
Director of the Center for Latin American Arts

## University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Project Overview 2019–2020





## Sending Our Appreciation and Thank You

The Center for Latin American Arts advances scholarship, performances, and the exhibition of Latin American arts in the popular, folk, and academic traditions from the United States and Spanish and Portuguese speaking worlds. 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, Texas, 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. Situated in a border region next to Latin America, UTRGV seeks to become a global leader in the study of Latin American and Iberian arts.

The Center for Latin American Arts has served more than more than 2,169 students of all disciplines from the fine arts, medicine, education, and engineering. Over 500 public school students have benefited from the free dance, theatre, and music clinics provided by the Center and its UTRGV faculty and students. Scholars, playwrights, artists, dancers, and music performers have presented their talents and research to members of our community in the past year. The Raul Tijerina, Jr. Foundation recently recognized the Center's dedication to community engagement projects for students in 2019, and in 2020 we were nominated for the Ed Excelencia award for Latino student success. The Center achieved all of these goals because of your generosity to help our students. We are forever thankful for your support, and we hope you enjoy this overview of our events this year in 2019-2020.





# EVENTS 2019-2020



## Student Financial Aid and Scholarship Workshops

Here at the Center for Latin American Arts, we create events that help students grow academically through unique learning opportunities with visiting scholars and artists. By bringing artists and scholars from Latin America and the U.S., we help students succeed in their research and creative work.

The Center for Latin American Arts also helps students learn how to apply for financial aid, scholarships, and study abroad to support them personally and professionally. The Center also hosts many workshops to provide student support for registering for classes and receiving funding to stay enrolled.

In November, the Center organized a Registration Social for all students and majors, including undergraduates and graduate students. These photos detail these events with Director Katherine McAllen and staff welcoming students to the Center. The Center also hosted a Financial Aid and Scholarship workshop in January as well as a Study Abroad workshop in February 2020.

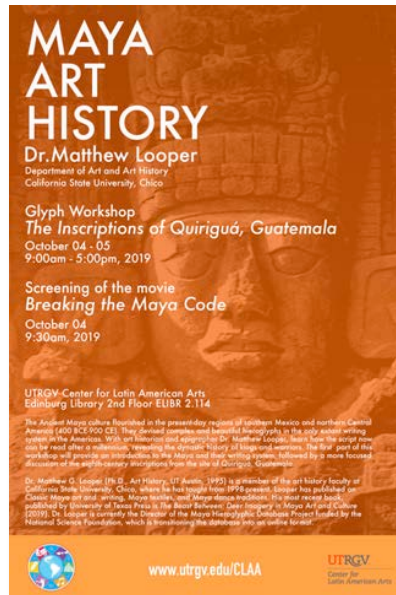






# VISITING ARTISTS AND SCHOLARS

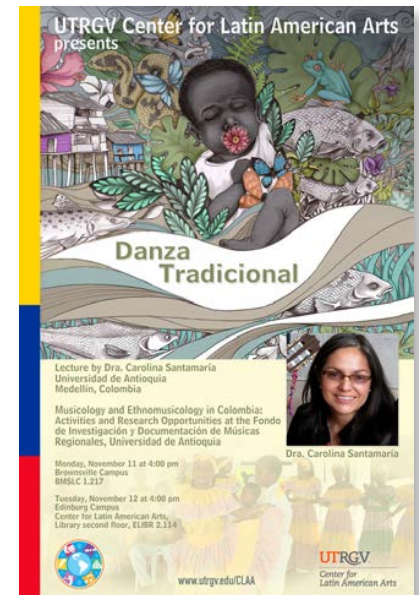
The Center has invited scholars from the United States and Latin America to help UTRGV students expand their research interests to topics relevant to current scholarship



Dr. Robert Bradley worked with the CLAA to organize a Maya Glyph Workshop on October 4-5, 2019. With art historian and epigrapher Dr. Matthew Looper from California State Chico, students and community members learned how to read Ancient Maya hieroglyphs revealing the dynastic history of kings and warriors. 15 students and community members attended the Maya workshop, and more than 200 viewers attended the live stream of the event.



Dr. Eric Wiley helped invite Colombian playwright Mario Lamo Jiménez from Bogotá for his lecture "Latin America Through the Eyes of a Playwright." Latin American realities are varied and complex and have been reflected in the works of many authors, including Gabriel García Márquez, who popularized "magical realism" through his work. 40 students and community members attended Jiménez's lecture, and more than 100 students attended his play Little Big Top Circus of Illusions that UTRGV theatre students performed on campus.



Dr. Andrés Amado helped host Dr. Carolina Santamaría's visit to UTRGV from the Universidad de Antioquia in Medellín, Colombia. Dr. Santamaría presented her research on Colombian soundscapes, including danza tradicional, música regional, and recordings of Andean, Caribbean, and Afro-Colombian music she compiled with the Músicas Regionales group at her university. More than 100 students attended Dr. Santamaría's lectures and graduate seminars on both campuses in Edinburg and Brownsville.







## STUDENT LIFE AT THE CENTER

The Center for Latin American Arts works to create festive and welcoming environments for all students. The Día de los Muertos event in October 2019 provided students and faculty with traditional Mexican pastries, foods, and hot chocolate. More than 510 students took part in the event that was a collaboration with the Special Collections Department in the library with 10 faculty and 25 staff members.

The Center hosted lotería games for students, providing a great opportunity for them to meet new people and network with professors. The papel picado activity gave students the chance to make their own papel picado with the help of volunteers at the Center for Latin American Arts. The Latino Theatre Initiatives group from the Theatre Department brought their giant mojigangas and other theatre pieces for visual display including impersonations of Frida Kahlo and Tejano Queen Selena Quintanilla.

The Center's dedication to collaborations such as these help our UTRGV students enjoy learning and have opportunities to expand their connections with faculty and student's campus-wide and create a sense of community.





# BALLET FOLKLÓRICO DE LA UNIVERSIDAD VERACRUZANA



The Ballet Folklórico de la Universidad Veracruzana was invited by the Center for Latin American Arts to visit the United States and perform with UTRGV dancers in Edinburg and Brownsville in December 2019. The Center for Latin American Arts also hosted workshops to teach Ballet Folklórico with the performers from the Universidad Veracruzana at twelve public schools in the Rio Grande Valley in December. Our community engagement committee made this concert more successful than any other event with more than 550 visitors in attendance.

Miguel Peña, Director of the UTRGV Ballet Folklórico program, and his teacher assistants traveled to elementary, middle, and high schools in the Rio Grande Valley to offer workshops and clinics to teach Mexican folklórico dance to students and dance teachers. These three-hour classes were composed of theory presentation, practical sessions, and dance with traditional costumes and props provided by UTRGV Ballet Folklórico members.

The Ballet Folklórico program consists of 32 students who are pursuing degrees in a variety of disciplines. The Ballet Folklórico travels to national and international venues and competitions including the John F. Kennedy Center for Performance Arts in Washington D.C and venues in France, Italy, and Mexico. The Center for Latin American Arts helps boost popularity and provide opportunities for the Ballet Folklórico company to help its dancers make a greater educational and creative impact in our community and beyond.





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE SUCCESS



The following photographs include the members of our community engagement committee at the pre-launch party for the Ballet Folklórico de la Universidad Veracruzana concert in December 2019. The involvement of the Community Engagement Committee has made the Ballet Folklórico de la Universidad Veracruzana concert the most successful of all our events.

The committee consists of community members who help provide funding that benefits outreach workshops, scholarships, performances, field trips, lectures, guest speakers, and other events for students. The committee is a vital source of support for the Center, which promotes the elevation, education, promotion, and production of the arts and creative events. Students on and off campus are thriving from this professional exposure and these resources that help them pursue their education in the arts.







# UTRGV FLAMENCO AND BALLET ESPAÑOL

The Flamenco concert series organized by Sonia Chapa and supported by the Center for Latin American Arts showcased the Spanish dance techniques of the UTRGV dance students. Ballet Español provides students the opportunity to study the art of Spanish dance with styles representing different regions of Spain, such as Flamenco, the art of the gypsies and its "palos" including Alegrías, Tangos, Solea, Bulerías, Siguiriyas. Our student performers also study Escuela Bolera, a style of classical dance and music from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries where classical ballet principles combine with typical Spanish arm movements, castanets, and Flamenco footwork with folkloric steps to create classical Spanish dance.

The Center for Latin American Arts supported Sonia Chapa to travel to San Antonio with her student dancers and perform the Spanish Nights concert series in January 2020 AT UTRGV with formal public performances for our community. Public and private school students in Edinburg, McAllen, and throughout the Rio Grande Valley engaged with Director Chapa and the student dancers to learn more about the Ballet Español program, which served more than 120 students.







# THE RAUL TIJERINA, JR. FOUNDATION GRANT



THE  
RAUL TIJERINA JR.  
FOUNDATION

The Center for Latin American Arts has been awarded \$20,000 from the Raul Tijerina, Jr. Foundation in recognition of its successful mission to remain dedicated to community outreach projects that educate students and K-12 teachers about Latin American art through music, dance, theatre, and art instruction and production.

By focusing our innovative programs in the creative disciplines that young people of the Rio Grande Valley know and love, we aim to support today's students to involve them in meaningful creative activities that connect to and resonate with their communities and culture. With the Tijerina grant, the CLAA completed dance workshops with 12 public schools teaching free dance clinics under the leadership of Miguel Peña and the UTRGV Ballet Folklórico in collaboration with the Ballet Folklórico de la Universidad Veracruzana. The Tijerina grant is allowing the Center to teach 6 more free UTRGV Ballet Folklórico dance clinics at McAllen Independent School District high schools in 2020.

The Center's community outreach programs also extend to music workshops led by CLAA faculty affiliate Dr. Virginia Davis. The Little Kids Rock education program in

partnership with the Berkeley College of Music teaches students to create music by writing and performing their own songs and help connect with the music of their communities. This program led by Dr. Davis provides free instruments and intensive teacher-training workshops for local public-school music teachers to familiarize them with best practices in using vernacular music in the classroom. Two guest clinicians from New York and Boston, who are experts in modern band and teacher education, have also been invited to teach new methods to engage students in active music making, composition, and improvisation to help sustain the Valley's rich cultural heritage.

These teacher-training workshops that expand Modern Band music and Ballet Folklórico dance to thousands of public-school students in the Rio Grande Valley helps connect our students to the music of our communities and reinforce the value of art in a well-rounded education. When students feel acknowledged, supported, and involved in their creative programs, they become lifelong learners and are more likely to be academically successful, finish school, and enter college.







# CLAA & UTRGV MEDICAL SCHOOL COVID-19 WORKSHOP



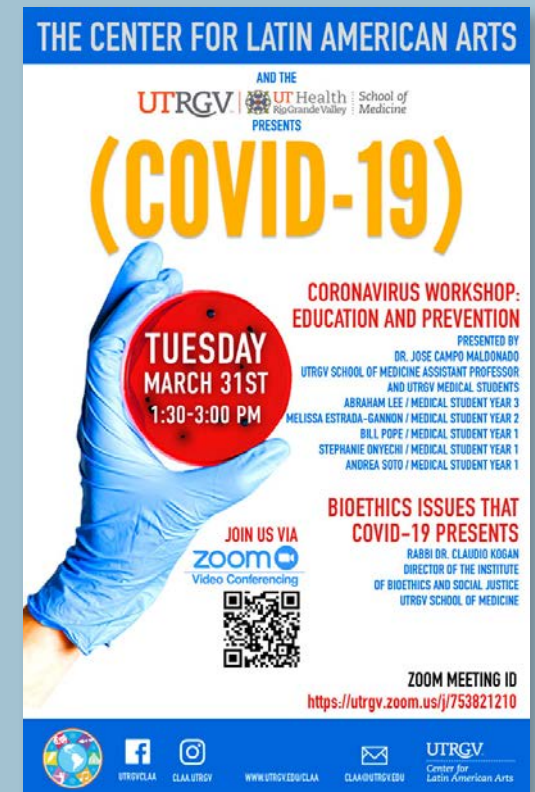
The School of Medicine and the Center for Latin American Arts conducted a virtual workshop to raise awareness about COVID-19 prevention on March 31, 2020. This workshop was organized by Director Katherine McAllen, School of Medicine Professors Dr. José Campo Maldonado, Dr. Claudio Kogan, and medical students Abraham Lee, Melissa Estrada-Gannon, Bill Pope, Stephanie Onyechi, and Andrea Soto.

In its efforts to encourage community support among our family of followers, the Center welcomed 150 visitors to this event that included students, faculty, and other members of our community on a local, state, national, and international level. Dr. José Campo Maldonado and his medical students answered questions from a student-led community survey and presented information to learn more about the virus, its transmission, and measures to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Dr. Claudio Kogan, Director of the Institute of Bioethics and Social Justice at the School of Medicine, also presented his lecture "Bioethics Issues Related to COVID-19." This presentation addressed topics such as ethics in medical care, the effects of social distancing on

human relationships, and how bioethics can intersect with the arts in creating apps, designing hospital robes and masks, and using art to heal and adjust emotionally to this pandemic.

The recorded Zoom workshop with safety information and helpful tips is posted on the CLAA website, [www.utrgv.edu/claa](http://www.utrgv.edu/claa).







# PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT SUPPORT THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES AT BREWSTER SCHOOL

The Center for Latin American Arts was honored to present the play by Colombian playwright Mario Lamo Jiménez to the students at Brewster school in the Edinburg School District. This musical play, *El Pequeño Gran Circo de Ilusiones*, was performed in Spanish to more than 225 public school students and their families to promote bilingual study and an appreciation for Latin American arts in our community.

## CAST

Director:	Dr. Eric Wiley
Student Director:	Daniel Amaya
Stage Manager:	Santos Reyna
Assistant Stage Manager:	Karla Soto
Set Designer:	Mike Salazar
Costume Designer:	Kassandra Rodriguez
Sound Designer:	Valerie Prince
Choreographer:	Maria Alvarado
Movement Specialist:	Valerie Prince
Poster Backdrop Artist:	Yaya Hernandez

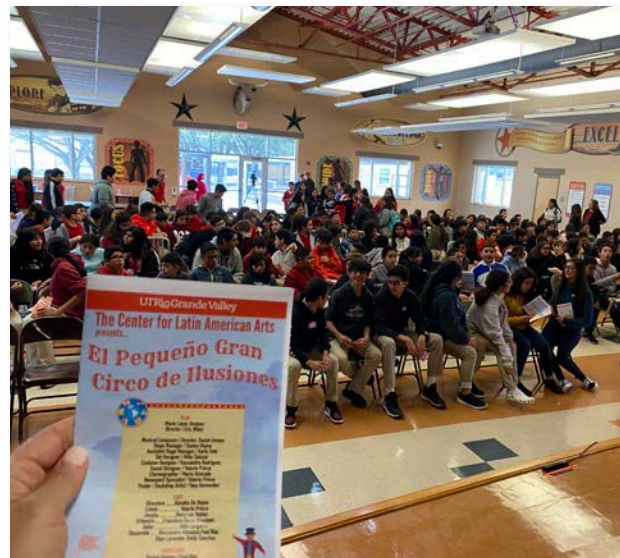
## STUDENT CAST

Directora:	Alondra De Hoyos
Cateto:	Valerie Prince
Amalia:	Mary Lou Valdez
Artemiro:	Francisco Garza
Rincones	
Autor:	Aldo Longoria

## STUDENT ENSEMBLE:

Alesadra Almanza  
Paul Diaz  
Olga Larumbe  
Emily Sanchez  
Daniel Amaya  
Paul Diaz

## STUDENT MUSICIANS:







# STUDENT SUPPORT



## Regina Pérez

Pérez is an Art History Graduate Student, UTRGV Presidential Graduate Assistantship winner, and University of Texas System Archer Center Graduate fellow for 2020. She specializes in Art History with a focus on Mexican textiles.

Regina will be completing her master's degree that explores nineteenth-century Mexican art to examine the decolonization process through a female perspective. She has completed research in the collections of museum institutions such as the Museo Nacional de Historia, the Museo Franz Mayer and the Colegio de Vizcaínas in Mexico City, as well as the Museo de la Historia Mexicana in Monterrey, México. Through her summer research and support from the Center, she has established invaluable connections and mentoring opportunities with Mexican scholars and museum professionals. Pérez also attended Peruvian textile workshops held by scholars Elena Phipps and Andrew Hamilton at the Art Institute of Chicago.



Regina Perez



Josie del Castillo

## Josie del Castillo

Del Castillo, a graduate student in the School of Art, was a finalist for the 2019 AXA Art Prize. She was one of forty artists nationwide to receive this award.

### AXA Art Prize

Josie del Castillo's artwork *Don't Touch Me, I am Sensitive* features the artist herself standing boldly against a blood orange sky, tears falling gently down her cheeks and cactus spines sprouting from her silhouette. Her art earned her a position as a finalist in the AXA Art Prize, a prestigious student art exhibition that travels the nation curated by institutions such as the Whitney Museum, the MoMA, the New Museum, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The exhibition will also travel to San Francisco, Chicago, and New York.

Josie had the amazing opportunity to represent UTRGV and its School of Art in New York. She was the only recipient from Texas, which made this recognition representing UTRGV even more special for her. The Center for Latin American Arts funded her travel, so she could attend the show opening and awards. It was important for her that the Center showed support for her recognition at the AXA Art Exhibition to help inspire other graduate students.







# STUDENT SUPPORT



## ABSTRACT NARRATIVES THROUGH THE GLASS by Angela Scardigno

The Center for Latin American Arts provided financial support for the exhibition, Abstract Narratives through the Glass, a series of small digital collages that reference Edward Hopper's paintings. This experience exposed Scardigno to new and exciting projects that can be added to her portfolio of digital and mixed media. As Scardigno expands her creative production by designing digital works and web content, the Center will continue to promote her new creative works through exhibitions.



Dreamlike cityscapes by Angela V. Scardigno, MFA  
February 24 - March 31, 2020

OPENING NIGHT  
Monday, February 24, 2020 6:30 pm  
Library Foyer, ELIBR  
1201 W. University Dr.  
Edinburg, TX 78539



For special accommodations contact  
The Center for Latin American Arts (956) 665-7234

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## STOIC STATES by Carlos Limas

The Center for Latin American Arts supports Carlos Limas as the Chief Coordinator of Media and Graphic Design to create the Center's digital platforms in multiple design disciplines: media design for special events, web graphics, photography, and video. Limas has also continuously created new bodies of work to add to his portfolio while working on new projects and creating professional connections. The Center has supported Limas' exhibition of new creative works in photography at venues locally and internationally, including his exhibitions Stoic States and Destino Sur.

Limas, from Matamoros, Mexico, is a 2019 MFA graduate from the UTRGV School of Art with one degree in Graphic Design and another in Studio Art from l'Academie Royale des Beaux-Arts de la Ville de Bruxelles in Belgium.



# TESTIMONIALS FROM STUDENTS

The following testimonies from students are the most important evidence of the Center's success:

## **Josie del Castillo:**

"With the help of Dr. McAllen and the Center of Latin American Arts, I was able to attend the AXA Art Prize at the New York Academy of Art. If it weren't for the Center's financial help, I am not sure if I would have had the funds to attend this opportunity. I hope CLAA continues to help students in their future successes."

## **Alondra De Hoyos:**

"As a Latina student I can't help but to feel as a minority. Thankfully, the Center for Latin American Arts supports activities that celebrate our Latin culture. We presented a play at the Brewster School sponsored by the Center for Latin American Arts. We presented the play in Spanish. As a daughter of immigrants, I remember telling my parents to go see something with me, or to go see me participate in something and they were always hesitant because they were afraid to go and not understand anything because of the language barrier. The Center for Latin American Arts helps students to understand where they come from, and once we learn the beauty of our culture it makes us feel proud of where we come from, and it allows us to celebrate diversity."

## **Olga Alanis:**

"I am an MFA student, and I would like to express my gratitude to the Center for Latin American Arts (CLAA) and its Director Dr. Katherine McAllen for the great beneficial impact that the CLAA has had on me as a student and an art educator. The CLAA has inspired me to create an illustrated book for young audiences. The lives of the historical Latin American artists included in these mini biographies, all set an example of

achievement in the arts and overcoming adversity. With this book, I will make a positive impact by teaching about the contributions of Latin American artists in our culture and for humanity."

## **Regina Pérez Kamel:**

"The most concrete and immediate way the CLAA has given me success is through funding opportunities. With the support of the CLAA I was able to travel to Perú to assist in the organization of the Congreso de Arte Virreinal held in Lima and conduct research in the archives at the Universidad Nacional de San Antonio de Abad in Cusco. I believe the CLAA will continue to benefit me even beyond my time as a student at UTRGV. The CLAA will ultimately benefit me in paving the way for more professional opportunities in my field of study, allowing me to remain in my community while utilizing my qualifications as artist and art educator."

## **Priscylla Guzman:**

"The Center for Latin American Arts at UTRGV has been immensely helpful to the community at UTRGV. It has enriched us with many cultural activities as well as spreading Latin arts on campus. The Day of the Dead Parade was a collaboration we had with the Center for Latin American Arts in which we were able to spread some Latin culture around campus with representations of important Latin figures. This is one of the many projects we have embarked on with their help!"

## **Beatriz Chavez:**

"I found the music projects described by visiting professor Dr. Carolina Santamaría from Medellín impact not only the natives of Colombia, but also other people interested in the music here."

## **Aldo Longoria:**

"The Center for Latin American Arts (CLAA) and the Latino Theatre Initiatives (LTI) organization, have greatly enhanced my experience as a student at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. LTI and CLAA allowed me to indulge in memorable events, such as being a part of El Primer Festival Internacional Latino del Valle de Texas. This one-day event granted me association and connection with multiple Mexican artists with whom I still keep in touch. It allowed me to view another perspective of the art and the artists who create it. It is always gratifying to do children's theatre and make a positive effect on the students, Latino Theatre Initiatives and the Center for Latin American Arts offered me a lot more than I ever expected. I am incredibly grateful and have determined to keep engaging in such organizations in my upcoming years as a student at UTRGV."

## **Carolina Perez:**

"Thanks to the Center, the Latino Theater Initiatives was able to organize a Día de Los Muertos parade in October. For this event I was in charge of building the costumes for the puppets, and I also performed at the Museum of South Texas History in Edinburg. These experiences gave me the chance to not only further develop my sewing skills but also to learn more about my culture."

## **Santos Reyna:**

"When Mario Lamo visited for his lecture, we got to speak about his passion and how theatre in Colombia has impacted him and how he felt motivated to create his own play. His play was able to make an impact on the kids who were not fortunate enough to know about the art. I felt excited and inspired to make a change



in my community. Not only were we able to entertain and introduce theatre arts into our community by performing and inspiring kids to follow their dreams but to also be fortunate enough to have our very own festival that supported and brought more attention to the Latin side of theatre in our community."

#### **Serena Barajas:**

"Dr. Santamaría Delgado's lecture was entertaining, interesting and informative. It really opened my eyes to the culture, music, and the programs/opportunities abroad at the Universidad de Antioquía in Colombia (...) I would very much like to attend more lectures to perhaps learn more about other cultures' music."

#### **Jacqueline Cavazos:**

"The Center's presentation was very informative. If I wasn't going into the nursing field and were studying music, I would want to go to this university [Universidad de Antioquía] to do my studies."

#### **Myrka Chapa:**

"Dr. Carolina Santamaria's visit to the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley was culturally awakening, and very educational. Learning about Colombia's background, the research Músicas Regionales has done, and the different lines of research this group focuses on has helped me understand musicology and ethnomusicology in Colombia."

#### **Cynthia Ramos:**

"One part of (Dr. Santamaria's) presentation that stood out to me was a video on the research done by Alejandro Tobón in 2013. This research can continue to help the world remember local roots, and for some, get through certain experiences they have gone through in life. Through this presentation, I have found a new respect for the schools that help music students continue to

grow as musicians but also help preserve the history and future of music."

#### **Angela Scardigno:**

"The Center for Latin American Arts has allowed me to establish closer professional ties with different disciplines such as music, dance, art history, etc. Personally, the Center has supported me in the presentation of my recent digital collage work called Abstract Narratives through the Glass, abstract visual works that replicate the urban landscapes inspired by Edward Hopper's work."

#### **Carlos Limas:**

"The Center for Latin American Arts has been a great help to accomplish my professional goals when I was pursuing my Master's in Fine Arts at the UTRGV School of Arts I can honestly say that the Center for Latin American Arts has shown a genuine interest in supporting students like me in our journey to excellence, all I can say is Thank You."

#### **Elizabeth Stamatio Hernandez:**

"Having the opportunity to share the stage with the Ballet de la Universidad Veracruzana was an experience that I will never forget. To be able to have this experience definitely gave me a look inside what my life could be if I was to go professional. I got the opportunity to talk to some of the dancers and they shared their experiences with me, and I got to share my experience with them."

#### **Andrea Garza:**

"The Center of Latin American Arts is known as a gathering place for collaboration and the promotion of the arts in Latin America through teaching, scholarship, performance, and creative works in different forms of media to share knowledge and connect with traditions that are important to the communities in the Rio Grande

Valley and more. As a UTRGV student, I personally believe that the opportunities given from the Center of Latin American Arts has had a huge positive impact to the dance program providing us dancers with many learning experiences to broaden our studies."

#### **Elsa Vasquez:**

"Having the Ballet Folklórico de la Universidad Veracruzana visit has been so refreshing because they brought their rich dance, musical wealth, traditions, and values that the Mexican culture possesses through a show that was breathtaking. Forming part of and being able to perform in the concert that the Universidad Veracruzana showcased, was such an unforgettable experience. Watching them perform their enriched culture through colorful sceneries, costumes and vibrant energy persuaded me to investigate more about their culture, who they are and what their beautiful state of Veracruz represents."

#### **Leila Banda:**

"As part of the Hispanic culture in the lower Rio Grande Valley having the Ballet Folklórico of the University of Veracruz was an amazing learning experience. Being taught by a very well-known director was a privilege let alone being taught firsthand some of their personal work that I have admired during my dance career. Having the opportunity to have the BFUV at the UTRGV was a plus for some that are unable to make it out to, Veracruz, the universities home state and experience their shows firsthand."

#### **Monica Lugo:**

"The Latin American arts Center offers a great opportunity for students to showcase their work. I recently attended Angela Scardigno's Abstract Narratives through the Glass, and as a graduate student in graphic design concentration, it was so encouraging and exciting to

see an inclusive space that any art student can be a part of. I believe this space will benefit many students and their different concentrations by showcasing work that celebrates culture and visual communication."

**Tania Viveros:**

"Angela Scardigno's exhibition, Abstract Narratives Through the Glass, sponsored by The Center for Latin American Arts, was elegant and visually informative. This exhibition inspired me to view her sculpture work in a minimalist form. It allowed me to explore my artistic creative options, as I too create sculptural work. Her role as an artist encourages me to push through arts life's unexpected hurdles and strive for success. I also wanted to thank the Center for Latin American Arts for giving Latino artists the possibility of expression and for supporting the arts in the Rio Grande Valley."

**Carol Lopez:**

"After graduating and returning from my internship in the Smithsonian, the Center for Latin American Arts hired me as administrative coordinator. This is providing me with the experience I need to apply for art museums in Los Angeles."

**Daniel Ymbong:**

"I am grateful for the Center for full time employment with benefits. This job has given me invaluable experience and networks for the betterment of my career."

**Jennifer Jimenez:**

"I want to thank the CLAA for the experience of traveling to perform Flamenco. Aside from the American College Dance Association yearly travel, most of us do not get the chance to perform outside of the Edinburg campus. Going to San Antonio to perform in a new community made me feel that I am capable as a student to continue performance."

**Jennifer M. Ledezma:**

"The San Antonio Flamenco [Performance that the CLAA gave me] was an experience of traveling to perform for an audience outside the Rio Grande Valley. This experience led us to perform with live musicians and soloist, and that is something I would to continue to experience because having prerecorded music differs, as a future dance educator and moments like these are







## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Center has enthusiastically sought the involvement of local patrons and community leaders to be involved as active participants in supporting education at the Center for Latin American Arts. These members of the Community Engagement Committee include Celeste Cantu, Bill Ruppert, Hector Guerra, Debbie Sakulenzki, Luis Heffner, Andrew Heffner, Dru La Mantilla, Tita Longoria, Enrique Guerra, Jim Garza, Alice East, Tuleta White, Myfe Moore, and Sister Norma Pimentel.

The Center has fostered lasting relationships with these supporters and other friends of the CLAA, who are involved in Center events, historical preservation projects, and initiatives that support the promotion of the arts. It is through these lasting relationships that the Center can realize its mission to be a place of gathering to inspire a collective involvement of the community in the arts. The CLAA is achieving its goal of engaging with the community to bring together museum leaders, business owners, students, and residents of South Texas and Northern Mexico to better understand and appreciate the cultural heritage of Latin American Arts. Thank you for your support!







# FACULTY LEADERSHIP

## DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS

Dr. Katherine Moore McAllen is the Director of CLAA and an Assistant Professor of Art History in the School of Art. She was awarded the Marilyn Thoma Post-doctoral Fellowship for Spanish Colonial Art in 2019-2020. This \$60,000 fellowship has supported Dr. McAllen's research with the goal of creating new publications highlighting how Spanish, native, and indigenous landowners in viceregal Mexico and Peru helped play an active role in the creation of new forms of art and architecture in their communities and cities. "My research is a comparative study that sheds light into how winemaking and land ownership funded the movement of artworks from major urban centers to the colonial missions, and this circulation of art extended into borderlands like the Rio Grande Valley and northern Mexico, including present day San Antonio."

As Director of the CLAA, Dr. McAllen has been able to incorporate her networks as a Marilyn Thoma post-doctoral fellow and contribute to the success of the Center for Latin American Arts to build its reputation as a leader in scholarly artistic contributions in this border region of the Rio Grande Valley.

In July 2019, for example, the CLAA was a sponsor for the conference Congreso de Arte Virreinal: El Futuro del Arte del Pasado in Lima, Perú with the Carl & Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation. Thirty-five scholars participated in representing universities from Latin America, the U.S., Asia, and Europe. This international symposium transcended all expectations by uniting some of the most important researchers and scholars in the world from Harvard University, the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in Mexico City, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, and the University of Texas among other institutions. This experience, which set a precedent for future events to advance research and publications in the field of Latin American art history, was available around the world via the CLAA's Livestream services, and more than 400 followers watched the conference live.







## CENTER LEADERSHIP



**Dr. Steven Block**  
Dean of the College of Fine Arts



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



Dr. Block is currently Dean of the College of Fine Arts at UTRGV after having served as Chair of the Department of Music at the University of New Mexico for 17 years. Block has appeared in various roles as composer, music theorist, music critic, pianist, and both classical radio and disco D.J. His compositions have been performed worldwide in Cuba, Australia, France, and Poland. His articles as a music theorist and music critic have appeared in such journals and magazines as *Perspectives of New Music*, *Integrales*, *Music Theory Spectrum*, the *Journal of Music Theory*, the *Annual Review of Jazz Studies*, *Music Library Notes*, and *High Fidelity*.

As a Marilyn Thoma fellow and Fulbright-Hays recipient, Dr. McAllen's research examines art production and cultural exchange between the viceroyalties of New Spain, Peru, and Early Modern Europe as well as the history of art and architecture of northern New Spain. Dr. McAllen's recent publications appeared in 2019 in the *Journal of Jesuit Studies*, in 2018 in the exhibition catalogue *San Antonio 1718* published by Trinity University press, and in 2017 in *The New World in Early Modern Italy, 1492-1750* published by Cambridge University Press.



# FACULTY LEADERSHIP AND CLAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**Dr. Andres Amado**  
Executive Committee  
Associate Professor School of Music



**Dr. Robert Bradley**  
Professor School of Art



**Sonia Chapa** Lecturer  
Lecturer Department of Dance



**Dr. Eric Wiley** Professor  
Executive Committee  
Professor Department of Theatre



**Raheleh Filsoofi**  
Executive Committee  
Assistant Professor School of Art



**Celeste de Luna**  
Executive Committee  
Lecturer School of Art



**Miguel Peña**  
Executive Committee  
Lecturer Department of Dance



**Dr. Virginia Davis**  
Professor School of Music





## FACULTY SUPPORT

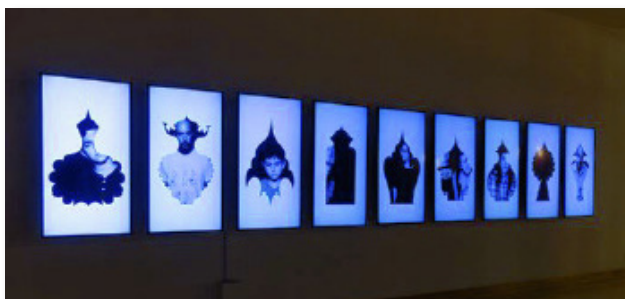


**Raheleh Filsoofi is an Assistant Professor in ceramics at the UTRGV School of Art and a member of the Executive Committee at the Center of Latin American Arts**

Raheleh Filsoofi's work synthesizes socio-political statements as a point of departure and further challenges these fundamental arguments by incorporating ancient and contemporary media such as ceramics, poetry, ambient sound, and video; aiming for a holistic sensory experience. Her interdisciplinary practices act as interplay between the literal and figurative contexts of border, immigration, and inter-cultural communications.

The Center for Latin American Arts has supported art exhibitions by Professor Filsoofi in Florida, Georgia, and New York to increase the visibility of artists working in the Rio Grande Valley and exhibiting in national and international venues. Her recent works engaging with ideas related to immigration, including the installation titled *Imagined Boundaries*, ask the questions: "What is a limit? What is a border? How far can the eye see? We know most of all what we see with our own eyes, more than what we are told, more than what we read. How can we see beyond our own physical limits? The purpose of this project *Imagined Boundaries* is to build a culture of communication through visual art. People from many different places are asked to look into a video camera

-- a device that is capable of extending our vision world-wide -- and project themselves beyond the boundaries imposed by physical space, political divisions, and even social norms. The focus of this project is to look beyond the current political rhetoric and posturing that puts individuals, groups, nations at loggerheads, to see the simple fact that we are all people living in a single world in this moment. Each side sees the other in direct, if even silent, communication. What are we thinking when we are being recorded by the camera? What were those that we see thinking when they were recorded? Is it the same? Is it somehow different? In essence, in the face of current political confrontations, the project is a call for communication."



"Imagined Boundaries" by Raheleh Filsoofi



Dr. Carolina Santamaría's visit to UTRGV from the Universidad de Antioquia in Medellín, Colombia



**Dr. Andrés Amado is an Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology at the UTRGV School of Music and a member of the Executive Committee at the Center of Latin American Arts**

Dr. Andrés Amado has played an important leadership role at the Center for Latin American Arts by inviting and facilitating a guest lecture event featuring Colombian scholar Dr. Carolina Santamaría for both the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses. Dr. Carolina Santamaría presented her research on Colombian soundscapes including danza tradicional, música regional, and recordings of Andean, Caribbean, and Afro-Colombian music compiled the Músicas Regionales group at the Universidad de Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia. Both Dr. Amado and Dr. Santamaría actively engaged with graduate students in Dr. Amado's seminars in Edinburg and Brownsville, working together to create future research opportunities in Colombia.

Dr. Amado is currently organizing a formal alliance between UTRGV and the Universidad de Antioquia in Medellín through an official international Memorandum of Understanding between the two universities. Dr. Amado also has integrated the Center's music programming into his graduate and undergraduate teaching that includes music history, world music, research methods, ethnomusicology, and courses cross-listed with the department of anthropology, the Mexican American Studies Program, and the Center for Gender and Women Studies.



**Sonia Chapa is a professional Flamenco dancer, choreographer, Lecturer in the Department of Dance, and Director of the Ballet Español program at UTRGV**

The Center for Latin American Arts has collaborated with Director Sonia Chapa in endorsing and marketing the celebrated Spanish Nights Flamenco concert series. The Center for Latin American Arts assisted in creating and disseminating marketing materials for this event in both print and digital platforms. In addition, the Center has actively supported the Spanish Nights Flamenco concert series by inviting public school and private school students to these performances. These concerts have created active engagement between students and community members, especially students and young audiences, to provide exclusive one-on-one learning opportunities with Sonia Chapa and the Ballet Español dance company at UTRGV.

Sonia Chapa has had the opportunity to work with many major flamenco artists such as Cristobal Reyes, Timo Lozano, Matilde Coral, Antonio el Pipa, and Concha Jareno to name a few. She has worked with major artists in ballet, bellydance, modern dance, and ballroom including ballet master Augusto de Varona of Cuba, Farida Meguid of Egypt, and Bill Evans and Fred Astaire teachers in the U.S.



Dr. McAllen and Director Chapa and Flamenco dancers at a performance in San Antonio



**Miguel Peña is a professional dancer, choreographer, Lecturer in the Department of Dance, and Director of the UTRGV Ballet Folklórico program, as well as a member of the Executive Committee**

The Center has supported Miguel Peña and his students in the Ballet Folklórico dance company to host workshops and dance clinics at more than 20 public elementary, middle and high schools. These outreach programs in public school help students dedicate their future to higher education while also learning about dance theory presentation, practical dance techniques, and the aesthetic value of performing in intricate traditional costumes with elaborate props.

Miguel Peña also played an important leadership role at the Center for Latin American Arts inviting the internationally acclaimed Ballet Folklórico de

la Universidad Veracruzana to UTRGV to perform in Edinburg and Brownsville in December 2019. The Center for Latin American Arts also supported hosting more dance workshops in public schools to teach ballet folklórico with the performers from the Universidad Veracruzana at twelve public schools in the Rio Grande Valley in December 2019. In addition, the Center for Latin American Arts has provided support for Miguel Peña's performances of the Alegría 50th anniversary concert series with the UTRGV Ballet Folklórico dance company. The Center's associates also assisted in disseminating posters throughout campus and on social media platforms.

The Ballet Folklórico program consists of 32 students who are pursuing degrees in a variety of dance and music disciplines led by Director Peña. The Ballet Folklórico dance company travels to national and international competitions to perform, including the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington D.C and venues in France, Italy, and Mexico. The Center for Latin American Arts helps promote and support the Ballet Folklórico company to provide its dancers opportunities to make a greater educational and creative impact in our community and beyond.



The Ballet Folklórico de la Universidad Veracruzana





# PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS 2019-2020

**MAYA ART HISTORY**  
Dr. Matthew Looper  
Department of Art and Art History  
California State University, Chico

**Glyph Workshop**  
*The Inscriptions of Quiriguá, Guatemala*  
October 04 - 05  
9:00am - 5:00pm, 2019

**Screening of the movie**  
*Breaking the Maya Code*  
October 04  
9:30am, 2019

UTRGV-Center for Latin American Arts  
Edinburg Library 2nd Floor ELIBR 2.114

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

**UTRGV Center for Latin American Arts**  
Lecture by Mario Lamo-Jiménez  
**Latin America Through the Eyes of a Playwright**

Thursday, October 24  
at 5:00 pm  
Center for Latin American Arts  
Library Building  
ELIBR 2.114

**"The Little Big-Top Circus of Illusions"**  
Play by Mario Lamo-Jiménez  
October 25 at 7:00 pm  
Jeffers Theatre  
ELABS 106, Edinburg

October 26 at 2:00 pm  
Jeffers Theatre  
ELABS 106, Edinburg

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

Play Lotería & Win Prizes!!!  
**DIA DE LOS MUERTOS**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2019  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

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

The University of Texas  
Rio Grande Valley  
University Library  
Special Collections & Archives

UTRGV  
Center for Latin American Arts

UTRGV Center for Latin American Arts  
presents

**Danza Tradicional**

Lecture by Dra. Carolina Santamaría  
Universidad de Antioquia  
Medellín, Colombia

Musicality and Ethnomusicology in Colombia:  
Activities and Research Opportunities at the Fondo  
de Investigación y Documentación de Músicas  
Regionales, Universidad de Antioquia

Monday, November 11 at 4:00 pm  
Brownsville Campus  
BMSLC 1.217

Tuesday, November 12 at 4:00 pm  
Edinburg Campus  
Center for Latin American Arts,  
Library second floor, ELIBR 2.114

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

**THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS**

**Pre-Thanksgiving Registration Social**

MONDAY / NOV 18TH / FROM 12:00-01:30PM

THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS  
EDINBURG LIBRARY  
SECOND FLOOR, ELIBR 2.114

\*\*\*Lunch will be served\*\*\*

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

**UTRGV Center for Latin American Arts**  
presents an evening with the  
**Ballet Folklórico de la Universidad Veracruzana**

DECEMBER 7, 2019 AT 7:00 PM  
PERFORMING ARTS COMPLEX  
EDINBURG

DECEMBER 8, 2019 AT 7:00 PM  
TSC PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
BROWNSVILLE

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

**THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS**  
COME JOIN US AT  
**THE FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHOP**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21ST, 2020  
12PM-1PM

UTRGV CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS  
EDINBURG LIBRARY, 2ND FLOOR, ELIBR 2.114

UTRGV  
Center for Latin American Arts

**THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS**

**Flamenco**

Join the Ballet Español at UTRGV for the 2020  
Flamenco concert series Spanish Nights

January 23 at 7:30 pm  
January 24 at 10:00 am for public schools  
January 25 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm

Performing Arts Complex,  
1201 West University Drive,  
Edinburg, TX 78539

Purchase tickets at  
the Box Office or  
contact: (956) 665-2230  
[www.utrgv.edu/claa](http://www.utrgv.edu/claa)





**THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS**  
presents the

**LOW FREQUENCY TRIO**  
Tuesday, January 28, 2020 / 7:00PM  
Performing Arts Complex  
1201 W University Dr. Edinburg, TX

About the Low-Frequency Trio  
The Low-Frequency Trio is formed by Antonio Rosales (bass clarinet), Juan José García Hernández, and José Luis Martínez (guitar). As a trio, they have performed and have residencies at the Centro Mexicano para la Música y las Artes Sonoras, Centro de las Artes in San Luis Potosí, Conservatorio de las Artes in Monterrey, Festival Internacional Cervantino, the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City, the Universidad Nacional de Salta and the Conservatorio Manuel de Falla in Argentina, as well as the University of New Mexico in the United States. The members of the LFT in part to be discovered among many audiences, and its musical repertoire has, until now, been practically nonexistent.

To purchase tickets online, go to [www.utrgv.edu/claa](http://www.utrgv.edu/claa)  
Or call the Box Office at (361) 465-2881

UTRGV School of Music  
UTRGV Center for Latin American Arts

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

**CLAA STUDY ABROAD SOCIAL**  
**COME JOIN US!**  
Wednesday Feb 19th  
at 12:30 - 1:30pm  
THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS  
Edinburg Library, The Plaza, EL PASO, TX 79901

**PERÚ**  
from Coastal Origins to  
Highland Expansion

**UTRGV**  
Center for Latin American Arts



**ABSTRACT NARRATIVES**  
*through the glass*


Dreamlike cityscapes by Angela V. Scardigno, MFA  
February 24 - March 31, 2020

**OPENING NIGHT**  
Monday, February 24, 2020 6:30 pm  
Library Foyer, ELIBR  
1201 W. University Dr.  
Edinburg, TX 78539

For special accommodations contact:  
The Center for Latin American Arts (956) 465-7234

UTRGV Center for Latin American Arts

**MEXIHCAH AZTEC**  
Photographs from the Wesley Billingslea Collection  
Curated by Daniel Ymbong and Carol Lopez



Exhibition open through  
March 13th, 2020

UTRGV University Library  
Second Floor, adjacent to  
The Center for Latin American Arts  
Edinburg Campus

UTRGV Center for Latin American Arts

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

**EXPANDING ACCESS  
TO MUSIC EDUCATION  
THROUGH MODERN BAND**

Dr. Bryan Powell  
Municipal State University

Dr. Sarah Dylan Smith  
Eastern University

**APPEARANCES:**  
RGV Gift Chapter  
Teacher Workshop  
Saturday, March 28  
Los Fresnos Elementary  
9:30-3:30 pm

Modern Band in the Secondary Schools  
Monday, March 30 / 9:30-10:45 am  
Edinburg Music Building EPACB 1.128

Inclusive Music Education  
through Modern Band  
Monday, March 30 / 11:00-12:15 pm  
Edinburg Music Building EPACB 1.128

UTRGV School of Music  
UTRGV Center for Latin American Arts

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

Iniciativas de Teatro Latino  
presenta

**Primer Festival Internacional de  
Teatro Latino del Valle de Texas**

UNIVERSIDAD DE TEXAS DEL  
VALLE DEL RIO GRANDE  
Todos los eventos se realizarán  
en el Studio Theatre (ELABS 107)  
1201 W. University Dr.  
Edinburg, TX 78539

**Teatro en Vivo!**

**CALENDARIO DE ACTIVIDADES  
SABADO 7 DE MARZO, 2020**

1:00 - 2:00pm Recepción de Bienvenido  
2:00 - 3:00pm Músicas de la Guerra  
Comparsa de Teatro Tomás Urbánzabegui  
Reynosa, MX

3:30 - 4:45pm Panel de Discusión: Teatro Latino  
en el RGV y Comunidades Mexicanas Cercanas  
Cala y Pan Dulce  
Cortina Tamarindo, Casa Teatro, Reynosa, MX

4:45 - 5:15pm Cena y Música en Vivo  
Celebración del Distrito Telemariquero de LTI  
7:00 - 8:30pm La Raíz de las Delicias, Gorgos Teatro  
Monterrey, MX

9:00 - 10:00pm Cierre del Festival

**Todos los Eventos son Gratuitos!**

Para más información favor de contactar a Eric Wiley  
[eric.wiley@utrgv.edu](mailto:eric.wiley@utrgv.edu)  
(956) 465-2881

UTRGV Center for Latin American Arts

UTRGV Productions Presents A New Play Commissioned by  
UTRGV Latino Theatre Initiatives

**El Pequeño Gran  
Circo de Ilusiones**

A MUSICAL PLAY FOR  
YOUNG AUDIENCES  
BY MARIO LAMO-JIMENEZ  
FROM BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

**MARCH 12, 2020  
AT 5:30PM**

BRUNSWICK  
SCHOOL OF  
CLAYTONIA  
8550 EL PASO  
EDINBURG, TX 78541

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE UTRGV  
CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS

**FREE ADMISSION**  
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL  
(956) 289-2334

UTRGV Center for Latin American Arts

**THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS**  
AND THE  
UTRGV UT Health | School of Medicine  
Rigoberto Yañez PRESENTS

**(COVID-19)**

**CORONAVIRUS WORKSHOP:  
EDUCATION AND PREVENTION**

PRESENTED BY  
DR. JOSE CAMPO MALDONADO  
UTRGV SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
AND UTRGV MEDICAL STUDENTS

**TUESDAY  
MARCH 31ST  
1:30-3:00 PM**

ABRAHAM LEE / MEDICAL STUDENT YEAR 3  
MELISSA ESTRADA-GARCIA / MEDICAL STUDENT YEAR 2  
BILL POPE / MEDICAL STUDENT YEAR 1  
STEPHANIE ONYCH / MEDICAL STUDENT YEAR 1  
ANDREA SOTO / MEDICAL STUDENT YEAR 1

**BIOETHICS ISSUES THAT  
COVID-19 PRESENTS**

RABBI DR. CLAUDIO KOGAN  
DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE  
OF BIOETHICS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE  
UTRGV SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

JOIN US VIA  
**zoom**  
Video Conferencing

**ZOOM MEETING ID**  
<https://utrgv.zoom.us/j/753821210>

UTRGV School of Medicine  
UTRGV Center for Latin American Arts

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



# CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS

## Who we are

The Center is led by:

Dr. Steven Block, Dean-College of Fine Arts

Dr. Katherine Moore McAllen, Director-Center for Latin American Arts

Executive Committee:

Dr. Andrés Amado, Celeste de Luna, Raheleh Filsoofi, Miguel Peña,  
and Dr. Eric Wiley.

CLAA Staff:

Carlos Limas, MFA: Chief Coordinator of Media and Graphic Design

Carol Lopez, MA: Administrative Coordinator

Angela Scardigno, MFA: Assistant Coordinator of Media Design and  
Communications

Daniel Ymbong, MA: Special Events Coordinator / Social Media  
Associate





## Where we are

The Center for Latin American Arts is located at:  
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
1201 W University Drive, Edinburg, Texas 78541

In the Edinburg Library on the 2nd Floor: ELIBR 2.114

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

## 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)

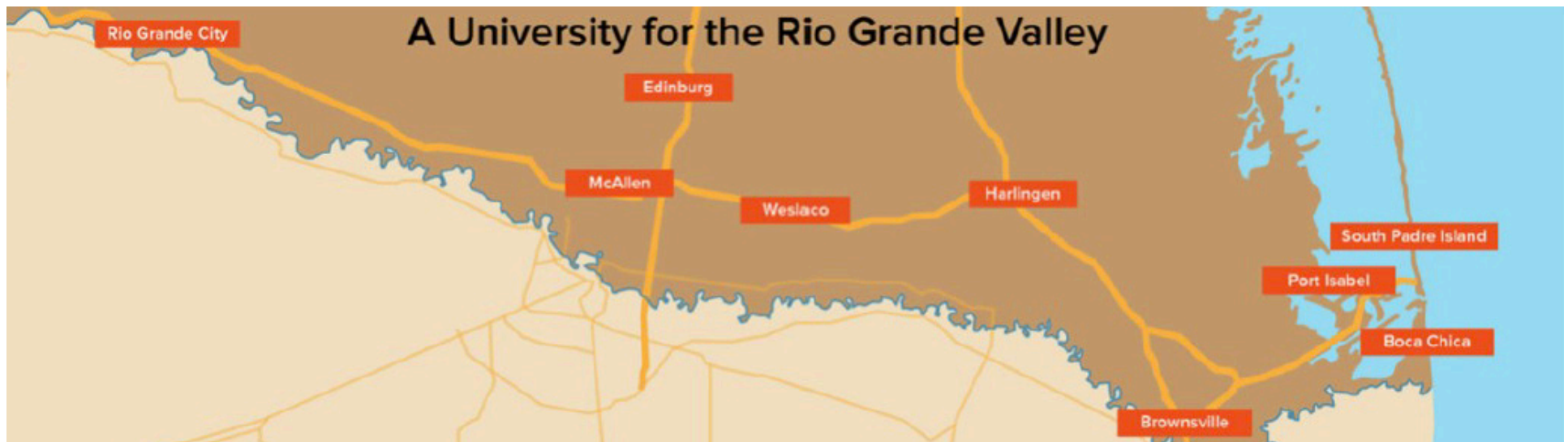
Email  
[claa@utrgv.edu](mailto:claa@utrgv.edu)  
[katherine.mcallen@utrgv.edu](mailto:katherine.mcallen@utrgv.edu)  
[steven.block@utrgv.edu](mailto:steven.block@utrgv.edu)

Phone (956) 665-7234

Phone (956) 665-2175

Fax (956) 665-2177

**UTRGV**  
.....  
Center for  
Latin American Arts







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Dean's Office College of Fine Arts  
1201 West University Drive  
ELABS 334  
Edinburg, Texas 78539  
(956) 665 2175

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