



**FESTIBA 2018: Transcending Borders  
Building Bridges Through the Arts**  
<http://www.utrgv.edu/festiba/>

**IMPACT REPORT**

**FESTIBA 2018 By the Numbers**

**Over 100 events were held during the 2018 FESTIBA Week:**

- Academic presentations
- Artistic presentations/Exhibits
- Workshops/competitions
- Author/poet talks
- Musical concerts

**Over 12,000 students and community members participated and/or attended:**

- 500 students from the UTRGV GEAR UP program participated.
- 120 librarians and teachers attended the Librarians and Educators Day.
- International guest artists included Flamenco Dancer and Guitarist – Niurca Marquez and Jose Luis de la Paz; Big Read Keynote Speaker – Alejandro Zambra; and Mariachi Sol de Mexico de Jose Hernandez from L.A.. Total number of guest authors/artists was 40.
- Recognition by Office of Global Engagement of University of Veracruz, visiting VP
- 700 students competed in the annual Mariachi Competition. Competing students traveled from all over South Texas.
- Over 2,000 community members attended the Community Day Festival.
- 200 students were recognized as *FESTIBA Top Readers*.
- Thousands of books were distributed to over 2,500 children at five public schools in Edinburg, Donna, Alton, Mission and Brownsville as part of the *Reading Rock Stars program*.
- Over 3,000 books were distributed at the Community Day Festival.

### FESTIBA 2018 Impact: Narrative

As one of UTRGV's legacy signature programs, The Festival of International Books and Arts (*FESTIBA*) was established by UT Pan American in 2006 to promote the importance of literacy and the cultural arts to students, parents, educators and community members. With this year's theme: *Transcending Borders: Building Bridges through the Arts*, FESTIBA 2018 focused on the potential for the arts to be a unifying force across the globe that transcends all borders. Our marketing pieces featured the dandelions in the wind floating over the river, associating the dandelion with hopes and dreams coming true.



FESTIBA 2018 made a huge impact on the UTRGV campuses and communities of the Rio Grande Valley. Over 100 FESTIBA events were held throughout the week and across the Rio Grande Valley, with over 12,000 students and community in attendance. Events included academic presentations, workshops/competitions, presentations and book signings by authors and poets, artistic presentations, and musical concerts. Many UTRGV faculty took the opportunity to engage their students in a variety of different research topics.

FESTIBA partnered with the UTRGV GEAR UP program in 2018. GEAR UP Days at FESTIBA hosted close to 500 middle school students in Edinburg and Brownsville, and the students attended inspirational presentations designed to empower them to achieve their goals, seek higher education, and consider careers in the arts. Keynote speakers included award-winning author Alejandro Zambra, award-winning children's author Angela Cervantes, and guest faculty who focused on the arts as a source of inspiration for creativity and developing skills of literacy and self-expression. Faculty presented sessions on music, dance, creative writing, and theater.



During Librarians and Educators Day, close to 100 librarians, teachers, and childhood literacy stakeholders attended a Literacy Panel of distinguished speakers who provided information on promoting the arts to inspire connections between people and countries and across time, helping students and people of all ages to develop the creativity, literacy, and life skills needed to express themselves and to achieve success in all fields. The Panel consisted of Alejandro Zambra, award winning author of this year's NEA Big Read book selection, *Ways of Going Home* and whose books have been translated into more than ten

languages and received several international prizes; Alan Earhart, Director for International Programs and Partnerships, Office of Global Engagement; Dr. Silvia Lazo, Assistant Professor, Ethnomusicology at UTRGV; Felipe Peña III, Executive Director of the Children's Museum of Brownsville; and Dr. Ida Acuña-Garza, Chief Executive Officer of the South Texas Literacy Coalition. The afternoon keynote was Angela Cervantes, award-winning children's author of *Coco: The Junior Novelization*.

**The Tocker Foundation** based out of Austin, TX has been a partner of the FESTIBA program for many years, providing financial support for general operating expenses. This support has been and continues to be instrumental to the growth of the FESTIBA program and its ability to provide opportunities and resources to students throughout the Rio Grande Valley. An additional collaboration resulting from the current partnership, UTRGV was grateful to support the Tocker Foundation by providing a space for the Tocker Foundation to present to eligible librarians about funding opportunities with the foundation, after the conclusion of Librarians and Educators Day.



One of the highlights of FESTIBA 2018 was the **“FOLD”** Exhibit. Raheleh Filsoofi, a UTRGV assistant professor of ceramics, was the curator of the exhibit that unified 13 female artists, philosophers and scholars to develop the concept of folding and explore a conceptual metaphor in terms of feminism, immigration, and interdisciplinary studies. The exhibition, held in conjunction with FESTIBA, focused on the theme of borders in a way that offers opportunities to compare theoretical constructs with concrete realities. The exhibition, with its speakers and the panel discussions, provided a unique opportunity to engage with the many voices and perspectives of notable contemporary artists, and demonstrated that art can offer inspirational insight into current societal issues and trends.

In keeping with our mission to promote early childhood reading, FESTIBA 2018 was proud to continue the “Reading Rock Stars” program in partnership with the Texas Book Festival. This program is a popular mainstay of FESTIBA, to the delight of children and families in the RGV, who receive a signed book by a children’s author of national repute. The program illustrates the value of partnerships between the university and non-profits like the Texas Book Festival and extends the impact of FESTIBA beyond the classroom and into the community. Many of the books presented in this program are culturally relevant, bilingual books that students and families can read together to promote a culture of learning and literacy in the home and school. The assessment of this program has primarily been through follow-up surveys with the school librarians, who report that students become more avid readers and more frequent users of the school libraries. Parents report a very high satisfaction with the program and become more committed to a culture of literacy in the home. It is evident that first hand-contact with an author makes a significant impact on the family and the community.



Over 3,000 free books were distributed during FESTIBA 2018. Visiting authors included Juana Martinez Neal, Duncan Tonatiuh, Anna Meriano, Ying Chang Compestine, Angela Cervantes, Ana Aranda, René Colato Laínez, and Xavier Garza.

FESTIBA 2018 hosted numerous visiting musicians with performances by: Dan Cavanaugh, a composer and pianist who has garnered numerous awards in both areas; Canadian flutist Laurel Swinden, who embraces a multi-faceted career as a recitalist, orchestral musician, pedagogue, clinician and music scholar; Niurca Marquez flamenco dance artist; Jose Luis de la Paz, award-winning guitarist; and José Hernández, considered the mariachi leader in the United States, both musically as well as in mariachi education. Also presenting a great show was *Artrageous, Interactive Art and Music Event*, which incorporated different art forms on the stage, blending popular music, dance, artists painting huge canvases on stage, in a rambunctious presentation that delighted the audience.

The Ethnomusicology Graduate Program presented a keynote address during the Mariachi Workshop by a distinguished scholar in the field of ethnomusicology, Michael Austin, Assistant Professor of Media, Journalism, and Film at Howard University in Washington, D.C. His presentation was: *Mariachi Mario: Translating Video Game Music Transculturally in Online Cover Videos*. Also presenting at the mariachi workshop to over 750 in attendance was



Jonathan Clark, mariachi historian and researcher who has interviewed seminal mariachi musicians and collected testimonies and documents relating to the history of mariachi music.

Mariachi Sol de México de Jose Hernandez, from Los Angeles, California, were the guests clinicians at the Mariachi Workshop which included over 700 students who attended sessions on mariachi history, style, repertoire, and performance practices. The FESTIBA Competition included student mariachis from all over South Texas. The guest artists at the Mariachi Grand Concert, Mariachi Sol de México de Jose Hernandez were very well received in a sold out concert that filled every seat in the Performing Arts Complex. The University of Veracruz was recognized for their contributions to the development of the harp and the promotion of the regional music of Veracruz in the mariachi music in the United States, through the work of Ivan Velasco, frequent guest harp player with Mariachi Aztlán. Recognized at the Grand Concert by Dr. Dennis Hart of the Office of Global Engagement was Doctor Alberto de Rosa, Director y Fundador del grupo Tlen Huicani and Lic. Rodolfo Mendoza, Director General de Difucion Cultural de la Universidad de Veracruz.

FESTIBA 2018 partnered again with the City of Edinburg to present the Community Festival at the City Hall which attracted over 2,000 community participants (including a large percentage of children). Four elementary schools from throughout South Texas were honored for their Top Readers, and the school librarians and principals were recognized for their excellent leadership in promoting literacy. Over 200 children were recognized and received Top Reader T-shirts. The South Texas Literacy Coalition, another FESTIBA partner and champion for literacy in South Texas, distributed over 3,000 books at the Community Festival.



The Community Festival featured author book signings, musical performances, children's activity tents, book displays, book distributions, local and international artists, and a variety of art and food vendors. UTRGV's Public Relations presented "UTRGV #subculture: Urban Art Experience @FESTIBA Community Festival" where UTRGV's artists, musicians and all creative walks of life came together to showcase their work and create an interactive environment. The Office of Global Engagement had a strong presence at FESTIBA 2018 with presentations of international food, a Korean Dragon Dance, and Chinese dancers, among other cultural celebrations.

## **FESTIBA In The News**

### **Public News Media Coverage for FESTIBA 2018**

#### **A total of 9 news outlets**

##### **TV & Radio:**

KRGV Channel 5 – Inside the Valley  
City of Edinburg Channel 12  
UTRGV Student Media (Radio, TV)

##### **Print:**

The Monitor  
Brownsville Herald  
El Mercurio  
UTRGV Rider Newspaper

## FESTIBA SPONSORS/PARTNERS

UTRGV GEAR UP Program  
The Tocker Foundation  
The Texas Book Festival and the Reading Rock Stars  
The South Texas Literacy Coalition  
Dustin Michael Sekula Library  
The City of Edinburg  
Holiday Inn Express  
Melhart's Music Store (trophies for competition)  
National Endowment for the Arts Big Read (Arts Midwest)  
Palm Valley Sleep Clinic  
MetroPCS  
The College of Fine Arts  
The Office of Global Engagement  
The School of Music, Patron of the Arts Program  
The Mariachi Connection (\$500 first place Vocal Winner)  
Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza (\$500 first place Vocal Winner)  
The International Museum of Arts and Sciences  
The Children's Museum of Brownsville  
The Monitor

## [Inside The Valley - KRGV.com](#)

Articles highlighting FESTIBA (*click photo to view article*)

### More than 70 FESTIBA events planned campuses

DAHLIA GUERRA | SPECIAL TO THE MONITOR Feb 23, 2018 (0)



FESTIBA 2018

f t i s

FESTIBA is The Festival of International Books and Arts. It was established in 2006 to promote the importance of literacy, culture and the arts to students, parents, educators and community members throughout the Rio Grande Valley.

The theme for FESTIBA 2018 is Transcending Borders: Building Bridges Through the Arts. We invite the

## THE MONITOR

### FESTIBA 2018: Building Bridges Through

DANYA PEREZHERNANDEZ | STAFF WRITER Feb 26, 2018 (1)



Fernando dancer Yousa Mercedes performs during the Fernando as part of the Festiba Distinguished Performers Series at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley on Monday, Feb. 26, 2018 in Edinburg.

Joel Martinez | jmartinez@themonitor.com

f t i s

EDINBURG — The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is kicking off the 2018 Festival of International Books and Arts this week with events focused on this year's theme, "Transcending Borders: Building Bridges Through the Arts."

"Through FESTIBA, we celebrate the arts as a humanizing force that has great potential to build bridges throughout the world between cultures and communities," said Dahlia Guerra, associate vice president for public art. "This year's FESTIBA theme focuses on how the arts can transcend any borders."

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## PERSONAL CONNECTION

### Reading Rock Stars return to Morningside Elementary

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Miguel Roberts

Jose Garcia demonstrates her favorite book in the South Texas Capitalist and the Children by Mark Tyler Holliman during Reading Rock Stars at Morningside Elementary.

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Published Monday, March 13, 2018 10:01 pm  
By GARY LONG / Staff Writer

The students knew they came in for a treat one recent morning in the library at Morningside Elementary School: the Reading Rock Stars were back in town.

Morningside is in the first year of a three-year Reading Rock Stars grant from the Texas Book Festival. The grant has brought notable children's book authors, and the year an illustrator, to the school to read their books to the children and then give them each a signed copy.

"Our goal is to make sure every child receives a book," said Jose Hernandez, library director of the Texas Book Festival, who added that the moment when the author hands the book to the child often remains with the young readers for a lifetime.

The Texas Book Festival sponsored events earlier the week at Morningside at authors in Udon and Edinburg during FESTIBA, the Festival of International Books and Art at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Reading Rock Stars events are also being placed at elementary schools in Austin, Corpus Christi and Houston.

Morningside librarian Angela Pitts said when the Texas Book Festival offered a Reading Rock Stars grant to Morningside, the school's director Jose Martinez was "in" because it is an awesome program. She said the program is perfect for Morningside, where many of the students lack books at home.

"The kids are very appreciative of the books, they know when the author is here. It's a big deal," she said.

In children's books, the illustrator often is as important as the author, said Ana Arendt, the illustrator for the book. "The children like the characters. Angela read the book and talked to students about the illustration process before giving them signed copies."

## Big Read keynote Alejandro Zambra discusses culturally charged literature



Celebrated Chilean author Alejandro Zambra was at UTRGV's Edinburg Campus on March 1 to participate in FESTIBA 2018, the university's annual celebration of letters. His novel, 'Ways of Going Home,' was selected as this year's NEA Big Read book for discussion during the festival's NEA Big Read open panel discussion, led by UTRGV's Dr. Steven Schneider. Zambra discussed the elements of prose and genre, as well as his cultural, political and literary influences, during an open panel discussion in the Shary Room of the UTRGV Edinburg Library. (UTRGV Photo by Paul Chouy)

### PHOTO GALLERY

Password: bigread (case sensitive)

By Amanda A. Taylor

**EDINBURG, TEXAS – MARCH 1, 2018** – For Chilean author Alejandro Zambra, there are multiple ways to get home. The feeling of "home" is up to the interpreter – the reader.

"Literature gives you the possibility of talking about many different things at the same time," Zambra said. "That idea of facing the past – it's not that you will solve it by writing a book. A book is about what happens when you try to write a book."

Zambra's latest book, *Ways of Going Home*, is a self-reflexive vehicle about dealing with the past.

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## Author urges students to pursue their dreams

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Posted: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 10:10 pm  
By GARY LONG Staff Writer

An award-winning Latina children's author shared her passion for writing with students in the age group she writes for Wednesday morning at the Texas Southmost College Arts Center.

Some 200 students in the GEAR UP program in Brownsville schools attended a keynote address by Angela Cervantes that turned into a hands-on workshop about her newest book, 'Me, Frida and the secret of the Peacock Ring.'

Cervantes' appearance was part of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley's annual Festival of International Books & Arts.



Miguel Roberts

## Authors get rock star treatment at Brownsville elementary school during FESTIBA



VIDEO by Malena Hernandez:

PHOTO GALLERY by David Pike: <https://utrgv-umc.photoshelter.com/gallery/C00005VpyHfz6R6c/G00007cz9AxJSNF8/20180301-Reading-Rock-Stars-BC-DP>  
Password: reading (case sensitive)

**RIO GRANDE VALLEY, TEXAS – MARCH 1, 2018** – Students at Brownsville Independent School District's Morningside Elementary heard about the epic battle between the Donkey Lady and *La Llorona* from author Xavier Garza, who visited the campus as part of the Reading Rock Stars program during UTRGV's FESTIBA, the Festival of International Books and Art.

The UTRGV legacy alum, who is the author of "The Donkey Lady Fights La Llorona and Other Stories," was one of three authors promoting literacy at the school as part of Reading Rock Stars. Through the program, the Texas Book Festival sent authors to Morningside Elementary and four other Rio Grande Valley elementary schools, including Mission and Edinburg.

## "FORMAS DE VOLVER A CASA":

Encuentro cultural en Texas  
en torno a libro de Zambra

"Trascendiendo fronteras. Construyendo puentes con las artes" es el concepto que este año tiene el Festival de Libros Internacionales y Artes, Festiba, encuentro anual organizado por el Fondo Nacional para las Artes de EE.UU. en la Universidad de Texas Valle del Río Grande. Este año, la novela de Alejandro Zambra "Formas de volver a casa" es el punto de partida de la discusión que busca generar el festival, que termina hoy. "Muchos de nuestros estudiantes

hablan español, así es que estamos emocionados de tener a un famoso escritor de América Latina con nosotros. Su novela construye un puente entre Chile y una universidad como la de nosotros, ubicada en la frontera con México", señala el doctor y profesor de literatura inglesa Steven Schneider, organizador del evento. La participación del escritor chileno incluye un encuentro con niñas y niños de 12 años, una conversación con estudiantes de la universidad y su presencia en dos paneles de debate sobre la inmigración y las fronteras. Además, serán repartidas 200 copias de su libro entre los estudiantes y serán exhibidas las películas "La batalla de Chile" y "Neruda".



Alejandro Zambra participa como invitado especial en el encuentro texano.

## A LOS 78 AÑOS:

Muere el director de  
orquesta español  
Jesús López Cobos

Sucedió la madrugada de ayer en Berlín, a causa del cáncer que lo aquejaba. Jesús López Cobos fue director general de la Ópera de Berlín (1981-1990), director de la Orquesta Nacional de España (1986-2000) y director musical del Teatro Real de Madrid (2003-2010), entre otros importantes cargos. Es el padre del director asociado de la Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Chile, François López-Ferrer.



López Cobos será enterrado en su natal Toro, España.

## THE MONITOR

FESTIBA panels illustrate comics as literature  
UTRGV books and arts festival continues through Saturday

ROCÍO VILLALOBOS | STAFF WRITER Feb 27, 2018



Jean Brailhewalt, associate professor of creative writing, is seen today her presentation on comics as literature during FESTIBA on Tuesday at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in Edinburg.

Rocio Villalobos

EDINBURG — When one thinks of resources to improve literacy, comics might not immediately come to mind. There is more to literacy, however, than classic novels. The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is on to that.

On day two of the 12th annual FESTIBA celebration, six academic sessions discussing comics as literature and art were hosted inside the Shary Room in the University Library on the Edinburg campus.

Jean Brailhewalt, an associate professor of creative writing, presented a Powerpoint presentation titled "Sneak Preview of Jean's groundbreaking research," during the fifth forum of the day on "Point of View in Comics."

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## PERSONAL CONNECTION

Reading Rock Stars return to  
Morningside Elementary

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Miguel Roberson

Ana Jordana demonstrates her illustrations in the book 'The Cupcake Store' by Tyler Hobbsman during Reading Rock Stars at Morningside Elementary.



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The Texas Book Festival sponsored events similar the one at Morningside at schools in Mission and Edinburg during FESTIBA, the Festival of International Books and Arts at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Reading Rock Stars events are also taking place at elementary schools in Austin, Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston.

Morningside librarian Angelica Pitt said when the Texas Book Festival offered a Reading Rock Stars grant to Morningside, her advice to Principal Jose Martinez was "to get it because it's an awesome program." She said the program is perfect for Morningside, where many of the students lack books at home.

"The kids are very appreciative of the books, they know when the author is here. It's a big deal," she said.

In children's books, the illustrator often is as important as the author, said Ana Jordana, the illustrator for the tentatively named 'The Cupcake Store' by Tyler Hobbsman. Jordana read the book and talked to students about the illustration process before giving them personal signed copies.



## Invited Keynote Speakers, Performers, and Authors

### Jonathan Clark

Shortly after California native **JONATHAN CLARK** heard mariachi music for the first time as a student at San José State University in 1975, he began accompanying a local ballet folklórico. In 1977, his desire to learn this music led him to Mexico City, where he received invitations to play with groups in Plaza Garibaldi. After Natividad de Santiago, guitarronist with Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, became his mentor, he decided to move to Mexico indefinitely. The next decisive event in Clark's life occurred in 1979, when he met Silvestre Vargas, retired leader of Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán. After that encounter, he became an intuitive mariachi historian and researcher, interviewing seminal mariachi musicians and collecting testimonies and documents relating to the history of this music. He spent the next 12 years working as a guitarrón player in Plaza Garibaldi and researching mariachi history. In 1991, Clark returned to California, where he organized the San José State University Mariachi Workshop, which he directed for 8 years. He later spent two years directing the mariachi program at Stanford University. He frequently publishes articles and gives lectures on different aspects of mariachi history. In 2013, the State of Jalisco granted him the Vicente T. Mendoza award, the highest distinction the Mexican government confers upon researchers for the documentation and analysis of traditional mariachi music.



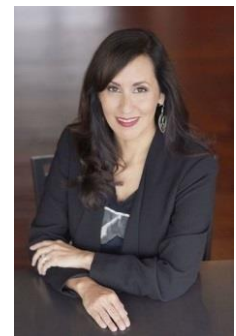
### Alejandro Zambra

**ALEJANDRO ZAMBRA** is the author of *My Documents*, which was a finalist for the Frank O'Connor International short Story Award, and three previous novels: *Ways of Going Home*, *The Private Lives of Tress*, and *Bonsai*. His books have been translated into more than ten languages and have received several international prizes. His stories have appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *Paris Review*, *Harper's*, *Tin House*, and *McSweeney's*, among others. In 2010, he was named one of *Granta's* Best Young Spanish-Language Novelists, and he is a 2015-2016 Cullman Center fellow at the New York Public Library. He teaches literature at Diego Portales University, in Santiago, Chile.



### Angela Cervantes

**ANGELA CERVANTES** is an award-winning author whose debut book, *Gaby, Lost and Found*, was named Best Youth Chapter book by the International Latino Book Awards and a Bank Street College of Education's Best Books of 2014. Angela's second middle grade novel, *Allie, First At Last*, was released by Scholastic in Spring 2016 and received a starred-review from *Kirkus*. Angela also authored the junior novelization for Disney/Pixar's animated-film, *Coco*. Angela's next novel, *Me, Frida and the Secret of the Peacock Ring*, will be released by Scholastic Press on March 27, 2018. She writes from her home in Kansas City and is presently working on her next middle grade novel to be released by Scholastic in 2019.



## TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL READING ROCK STARS

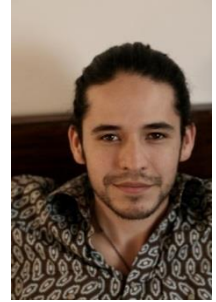
**JUANA MARTINEZZ-NEAL** is a mixed media, traditional artist born in Lima, the capital of Peru. *Alma and How She Got Her Name/Alma y cómo obtuvo su nombre* is her debut picture book as an author/illustrator, will be published by Candlewick Press in April of 2018. Juana is also the illustrator of *La Madre Goose* (Putnam), *La Princesa and the Pea* (Putnam), and *Swashby and the Sea* (forthcoming Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). She was named to the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) Illustration Honor list in 2014, and was awarded the SCBWI Portfolio Showcase Grand Prize in 2012. She lives in Scottsdale, Arizona with her family. **Presenting on: *La Princesa and the Pea*.**





### Duncan Tonatiuh's

**DUNCAN TONATIUN**'s books have won numerous awards: Diego Rivera won the Pura Belpré Illustration Award; Pancho Rabbit won two Pura Belpré Honor awards, for illustration and narrative; Separate Is Never Equal won the prestigious Sibert Honor Award; and Funny Bones won the Sibert Award. Esquivell!: Space-Age Sound Artist and The Princess and the Warrior: A Tale of Two Volcanoes were named Pura Belpré Illustrator Honor Books. He lives in Mexico. **Presenting on Danza! Amalia Hernandez and El Ballet Folklórico.**



### Anna Meriano

**ANNA MERIANO** grew up in Houston with an older brother and a younger brother, but (tragically) no sisters. She graduated from Rice University with a degree in English and earned her MFA in creative writing with an emphasis on writing for children from the New School in New York. She has taught creative writing and high school English and works as a writing tutor. Anna likes reading, knitting, playing full-contact quidditch, and singing along to songs in English, Spanish, and ASL. Anna still lives in Houston with her dog, Cisco. Her favorite baked goods are the kind that don't fly away before you eat them. **Presenting on: Love Sugar Magic**



### Ying Chang Compesine

**YING CHANG COMPESTINE** grew up in China and now lives in California. She is a popular author of children's books, cook books and novels. **Presenting on: The Chinese Emperor's New Clothes.**



### Ana Aranda

**ANA ARANDA** was born and raised in Mexico City, where she studied design. From there, she moved to France, where she completed her undergraduate studies in illustration. She now lives in San Francisco, where she obtained her MFA in Illustration. Ana's work has been featured in galleries and museums in the United States, France, Mexico, and Italy. In San Francisco, she has painted murals in the Mission District, for the Consulate General of Mexico, and for the prestigious de Young Museum. Her illustrations can be found in picture books published in France and Italy. Ana's US debut picture book The Chupacabra Ate the Candelabra (written by Marc Tyler Nobleman, Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin) was released March 2018. **Presenting on: The Chupacabra Ate the Candelabra**



### Rene Colato Lainez

**RENÉ COLATO LAÍNEZ**, the author of three bilingual picture books for children, was born in El Salvador, but moved to the United States in 1985. He was inspired to be a writer by his great uncle, Jorge Buenaventura Láinez, at whose house he first learned the word "escritor." He began writing as a child, putting in to words stories about his toys and school. As he grew older, civil war broke out in El Salvador and his family was forced to leave the country. On their difficult road to the United States, Colato Láinez wrote about his dreams, desires, and adventures. René is a graduate of the Vermont College MFA program in Writing for Children & Young Adults and a bilingual elementary teacher at Fernangeles Elementary School in the Los Angeles Unified School District. René is a children's literature columnist for LA BLOGA, the blog for Latino literature; LOS BLOGUITOS, the blog for children who are learning to speak Spanish; and Revista Iguana, a Spanish-language children's magazine. He was named one of the "Top Ten New Latino Authors to Watch (and Read)" by latinostories.com. His website is [www.renecolatolainez.com](http://www.renecolatolainez.com). **Presenting on: I am René the Boy/Soy René el niño**



### Xavier Garza

Born and raised in the Rio Grande Valley, **XAVIER GARZA** is a prolific author, artist and storyteller whose work focuses primarily on his experiences growing up in the small border town of Rio Grande City. He graduated from the University of Texas – Pan American in 1994 with a BFA. Xavier Garza's stories and illustrations have appeared in such magazines and newspapers as *El Mañana*, *The Monitor*, *TABE*, *The Mesquite Review*, *The Corpus Christi Caller Times*, and *The Milwaukee Spanish Journal*. He has been included in the anthologies *Aztlanahuac Project: Cantos al Sexto Sol* (Wings Press, 2002), *Penn English: Chicano Writings* (Penn State, 2001) and *Once Upon a Cuento* (Curbstone Press, 2003). **Presenting on: *The Donkey Lady Fights La Llorona and Other Stories***



## ETHNOMUSICOLOGY PRESENTATION

### Michael Austin

**MICHAEL AUSTIN** is an Assistant Professor of Media, Journalism, and Film at Howard University in Washington, D.C. where he serves as coordinator of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program in the Cathy Hughes School of Communications. He holds an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Humanities - Aesthetic Studies (now offered as a Ph.D. in Arts and Technology) from the University of Texas at Dallas and music degrees from UT-Austin and UT-San Antonio. Austin is editor of the anthology *Music Video Games: Performance, Politics, and Play*, and his research focuses on music and sound in interactive, emerging, and social media. He is currently co-Editor-and-Chief of the philosophy journal *Evental Aesthetics*, and he serves on the editorial boards of the College Music Society's journal *College Music Symposium* (book reviews) and its *Cultural Expressions in Music* book series. He also serves as founding secretary of the international Society for the Study of Sound and Music in Games.



**Presenting on: Mariachi Mario: Translating Video Game Music Transculturally in Online Cover Videos**

## FESTIBA PERFORMANCES

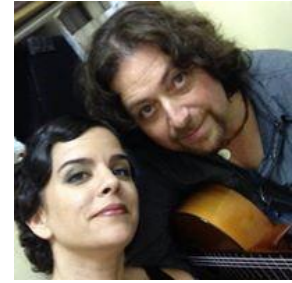


### Artrageous, The Interactive Art & Music Experience

Get ready to experience art and music gone wild with the interactive troupe Artrageous! Artrageous blends popular music, dance, onstage performance, art, theater, and a rollicking spirit that will delight the audience! Artists on stage create giant portraits at lighting speed using their hands and brushes. (Purchase tickets at [patron.utrgv.edu](http://patron.utrgv.edu); call 956-665-3881 for more information).

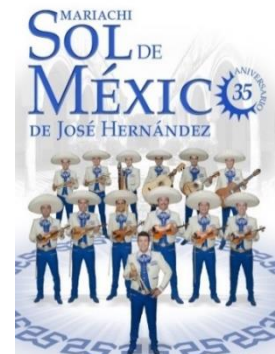
### NU Flamenco Dance & Guitar Concert

**NIURCA MARQUEZ** has an extremely wide range, as a creator and performer in flamenco and other contemporary dance forms. **JOSE LUIS DE LA PAZ** is an award-winning guitarist, recognized in all the disciplines of the Flamenco Art. (Purchase tickets at [patron.utrgv.edu](http://patron.utrgv.edu); call 956-665-3881 for more information).



### José Hernández

**JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ** is the founder of Mariachi Sol de México and Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles. He is considered the mariachi leader in the United States, has worked with many famous musicians in Latin music, and is recognized internationally as an innovative force behind mariachi music in the last thirty years, both musically as well as in mariachi education. With Mariachi Sol de México, José Hernández tours and performs throughout Europe, Asia, and Latin America. He has recorded with the most respected and recognized names in the industry, including Selena, Vicente Fernandez, Luis Miguel, Bryan Adams, and the Beach Boys, and has received four Grammy nominations.



### Dan Cavanaugh

**DAN CAVANAUGH** is a composer and pianist who has garnered numerous awards in both areas. He received a 2009 gold medal prize from the National Academy of Music's International Music Prize for Excellence in Composition. His jazz piano trio was a finalist in the 2013 Bucharest International Jazz Competition.

### Laurel Swinden

Canadian flutist **LAUREL SWINDEN** has been praised for her "sweet and distinct tone...breathtaking in colour" (Whole Note). Dr. Swinden embraces a multi-faceted career as a recitalist, orchestral musician, pedagogue, clinician and music scholar.



### FESTIBA FEATURED ARTISTS

#### FOLD

Exhibition 3 Location: Visitors Center at UTRGV

Misoo Filan, Gulia Huber, Sibel Kocabaşı, and Golnar Shahyar