



## IMPACT REPORT

### *Building Resilience Through Arts and Literacy*

With the transformative power of the arts and their ability to foster resilience, FESTIBA 2021 examined and highlighted the use of the creative process to find comfort during times of struggle and promote a sense of emotional and psychological well-being. With the safety of all students, performers, staff, and the community in mind, FESTIBA 2021 consisted of virtual programming and presentations.

Over 55 FESTIBA events were held throughout the week and across the Rio Grande Valley, with more than 10,000 students and community participating in or viewing the events. Events included a regional literacy symposium, virtual academic presentations, workshops/competitions, presentations and book readings by authors and poets, artistic presentations, and music and dance concerts. Many UTRGV faculty took the opportunity to engage their students in a variety of different research topics. In collaboration with the South Texas Literacy Coalition, a book drive through at the Bert Ogden Arena distributed 8,000 free books to the community. New partnerships included presentations from the Museum of South Texas History and virtual art exhibits from the Center for Latin American Arts.

<http://www.utrgv.edu/festiba/>

## FESTIBA 2021 By the Numbers

**Over 55 virtual events were held during the 2021 FESTIBA Week:**

- Academic Presentations
- Artistic Presentations/Exhibits
- Workshops/Competitions
- Author/Poet Talks
- Musical Concerts
- South Texas Literacy Symposium
- FESTIBA Book Distribution – in person drive through at Bert Ogden Arena

**Over 10,000 students and community members participated and/or attended:**

- 500 Students from Region One and UTRGV Gear Up programs participated in two days of virtual events, including recruiting for UTRGV during the welcome address.
- 75 attended the virtual South Texas Literacy Symposium/Librarians Day

- National and international guests included over 40 authors, artists, nationally renowned artists, scholars, and community leaders
- Thousands of books were distributed to over 4,000 children at six public schools in Edinburg, Pharr, Mission and Weslaco as part of the Texas Book Festival *Reading Rock Stars* program.

#### **Schools and Authors:**

Hurla Midkiff Elementary (Mission) and E. B. Guerra Elementary (Edinburg): Rebecca Gomez, Elisa Chavarri, David Bowles Bryan Elementary (Mission) and César Chávez Elementary (Pharr): Isabel Quintero, Zeke Peña, Jon Scieszka, Steven Weinberg Guillermo Flores Elementary (Mission) and Dr. R.E. Margo Elementary (Weslaco) Michael Genhart, Raúl The Third

- 400 students competed in the annual Mariachi Workshop, Vocal Competition and Showcase Concert. Students participated from all over Texas, California, Arizona, and Oregon. The event began with recruitment information describing music programs and process to apply.
- Over 900 watched the FESTIBA 2021 Grand Concert (a virtual concert by the Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan) and over 2,500 have viewed the FESTIBA 2021 Mariachi Showcase and Vocal Competition
- Over 2,000 community members participated in the drive through book distribution
- Over 8,000 free books were distributed at the drive through book distribution on March 5

### **VIRTUAL GEAR UPS DAYS at FESTIBA 2021**

FESTIBA partnered with the UTRGV and Region One GEAR UP programs for the fifteenth year in a row and hosted close to 500 high school students by Zoom on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The students attended inspirational presentations with host speakers who stressed *Building Resilience Through Arts and Literacy*. The Gear UP speakers examined and highlighted the use of the creative process to find comfort during times of struggle to promote a sense of emotional and psychological well-being. The students were also inspired to discover the power of creativity, develop skills of literacy and self-expression for life success, and become college-ready.

Keynote speakers included Lizzie Velasquez, global motivational speaker, YouTube personality, and anti-bullying activist; author Dr. Carmen Tafolla, poet, storyteller, performance artist, motivational speaker, and university professor; Fabiola Torralba, a cultural arts dancer and community organizer in San Antonio; Dr. Diana Seitz, internationally acclaimed violinist from the former Soviet Union; and cellist Esther Seitz, who has performed all over the United States and in Mexico as a soloist, chamber, and orchestral musician.

### **SOUTH TEXAS VIRTUAL LITERACY SYMPOSIUM at FESTIBA 2021**

FESTIBA's Librarians and Educators Day collaborated with Texas Literacy, Metroplex Literacy, and South Texas Literacy Coalition to present the South Texas Literacy Symposium, a professional development conference for local literacy providers. This free conference, sponsored by Literacy Texas, included information on various topics including workforce readiness, financial literacy, volunteer management, teaching strategies to reach low-literacy audiences, family literacy, health literacy, management techniques for literacy administrators including grant writing tips and program evaluation.

Close to 75 librarians, teachers, and childhood-literacy stakeholders attended the regional literacy conference that hosted many distinguished community experts and speakers.

#### Guest Conference Presenters:

Katie Snow, TRAIN PD@TCALL; Sabrina Walker-Hernandez, Consultant for Nonprofits; Martin Loa, TRAIN PD@TCALL; Jennifer McNabb, TRAIN PD@TCALL; Carlos Carpizo, Literacy Texas Board Member; Maria Cristela Gonzalez, Region Education Service Center; Dr. Ida Acuña-Garza, CEO South Texas Literacy Coalition; Robert Obregon, Texas Senior Medicare Patrol; Sonia Gonzalez, Wells Fargo Bank; Jasmine Hernandez & Ricky Rendon, Workforce Solutions; Geneva Scott, Workforce Solutions; David Ortega, Workforce Solutions; Elizabeth Meza, Workforce Solutions; Gracie Avila, Region One Migrant Program; Katie Welch, TRAIN PD@TCALL; Deborah Tomai, RGV Downs Syndrome Association; and Viviana Caballero, Sekula Memorial Library

#### THE MUSEUM OF SOUTH TEXAS HISTORY at FESTIBA 2021

A great new collaboration with MOST made possible several important presentations to our community and included:

BEARING WITNESS: HEALING THROUGH STORY TELLING

THE ART OF PRESERVATION AND PRESENTATION, THE STORY OF THE 1910 JAIL

LEARNING LANGUAGE WITH MUSEUM TEXT LABELS

VIRTUAL SCHOOL TOURS IN THE TIME OF COVID

#### READING ROCK STARS



In keeping with our mission to promote early childhood reading, FESTIBA 2021 was proud to continue the “Reading Rock Stars” program in a virtual format 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. For safety reasons, all author visits were virtual, but the books were delivered to the students.

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 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 3,600 free books were distributed during FESTIBA 2021. Schools and Authors:

Hurla Midkiff Elementary (Mission) and E. B. Guerra Elementary (Edinburg): Rebecca Gomez, Elisa Chavarri, David Bowles Bryan Elementary (Mission) and César Chávez Elementary (Pharr): Isabel Quintero, Zeke Peña, Jon Scieszka, Steven Weinberg Guillermo Flores Elementary (Mission) and Dr. R.E. Margo Elementary (Weslaco) Michael Genhart, Raúl The Third

### COMMUNITY BOOK DISTRIBUTION

FESTIBA 2021 partnered again with the City of Edinburg, the South Texas Literacy Coalition, and Bert Ogden Arena to present the Community Book Distribution Drive By event at the Bert Ogden Arena which attracted over 2,000 community participants of parents with children. The South Texas Literacy Coalition, FESTIBA partner and champion for literacy in South Texas, distributed over 8,000 books at the Community Book Distribution drive by.

### DISTINGUISHED PERFORMERS CONCERT

FESTIBA 2021 presented nationally renowned pianists Shoko and Brendan Kinsella performing two-piano and solo piano music, featuring repertoire ranging from Brahms' passionate Hungarian Dances to nostalgic solo works by Godowsky and Barber to Piazzola's groovin' 'Le Grand Tango', heard in Mark Ramirez's stunning arrangement for two pianos and percussion. UTRGV Faculty Artists: Shoko and Brendan Kinsella, Pianists, and Mark Ramirez on Percussion

## FESTIBA 2021 - Guests, Authors and Artists

### CAROLYN DEE FLORES



**CAROLYN DEE FLORES** is the illustrator of several books, including *A Surprise for Teresita / Una sorpresa para Teresita* (Piñata Books, 2016); *Dale, dale, dale: Una fiesta de números / Hit It, Hit It, Hit It: A Fiesta of Numbers* (Piñata Books, 2014) and *Canta, Rana, canta / Sing, Froggie, Sing* (Piñata Books, 2013). A member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, she lives in San Antonio, Texas.

## NAIBE REYNOSO



Multiple-Emmy and AP Award-winning Journalist Naibe Reynoso, has been working in front of and behind the camera for more than 20 years. She has worked and contributed to various regional, national and international networks including KTLA, France 24, Univision Network, Reelz Channel, CNN en Español, the Biography Channel, Fox News Latino, Larry King's ORA TV, and has even filled in as a co-host on ABC's "The View". In 2018 she created Con Todo Press, a publishing company that creates books to amplify the voices of underrepresented communities. Her first children's book, "Be Bold, Be Brave: 11 Latinas who made U.S. History," highlights 11 women who excelled in medicine, science, sports, the arts, journalism and politics. She lives in her native Los Angeles with her husband, her daughter and son.

## SHARON ROBINSON

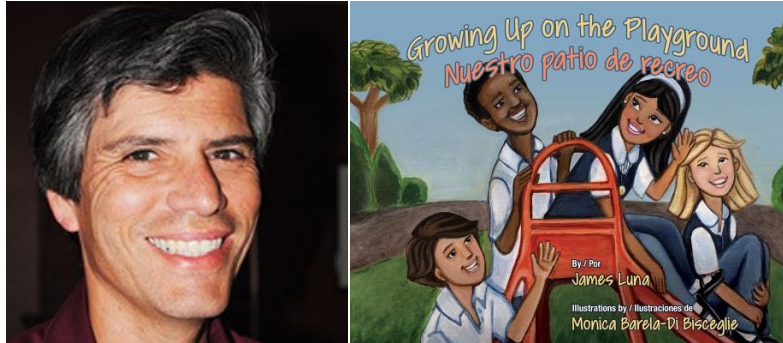


In January 1963, Sharon Robinson turns thirteen the night before George Wallace declares on national television "segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever" in his inauguration speech as governor of Alabama. It is the beginning of a year that will change the course of American history. As the daughter of baseball legend Jackie Robinson, Sharon has opportunities that most people would never dream of experiencing. Her family hosts multiple fund-raisers at their home in Connecticut for the work that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is doing. Sharon sees her first concert after going backstage at the Apollo Theater. And her whole family attends the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. But things don't always feel easy for Sharon. She is one of the only Black children in her wealthy Connecticut neighborhood. Her older brother, Jackie Robinson Jr., is having a hard time trying to live up to his father's famous name, causing some rifts in the family. And Sharon feels isolated—struggling to find her role in the civil rights movement that is taking place across the country.

This is the story of how one girl finds her voice in the fight for justice and equality.



## JAMES LUNA



JAMES LUNA is an elementary school teacher in Riverside, California. He is the author of a short, bilingual novel for intermediate readers, *A Mummy in Her Backpack / Una momia en su mochila* (Piñata Books, 2012), and two picture books, *The Place Where You Live / El lugar donde vives* (Piñata Books, 2015) and *The Runaway Piggy / El cochinito fugitivo* (Piñata Books, 2010), which was selected by Texas schoolchildren as their favorite book on the *Tejas Star Reading List*.

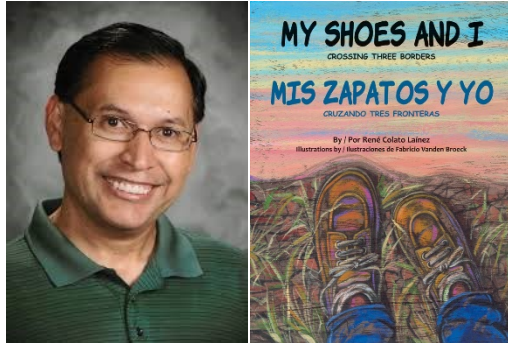
## ANNA MERIANO



Anna Meriano grew up in Houston, Texas, 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 in 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 translating English song lyrics into Spanish and vice-versa. Her favorite baked goods are the kind that don't fly away before you eat them.

Debut author Anna Meriano brings us the first book in a delightful new series filled to the brim with amor, azúcar, y magia.

## RENÉ COLATO LAÍNEZ



RENÉ COLATO LAÍNEZ is the author of numerous picture books for children, including *Mamá the Alien / Mamá la extraterrestre* (Lee & Low Books, 2016), *From North to South / Del norte al sur* (Children's Book Press, 2013), *René Has Two Last Names / René tiene dos apellidos* (Arte Público Press, 2009) and *I Am René, the Boy / Soy René, el niño* (Arte Público Press, 2005). He is an elementary school teacher in Los Angeles, California.

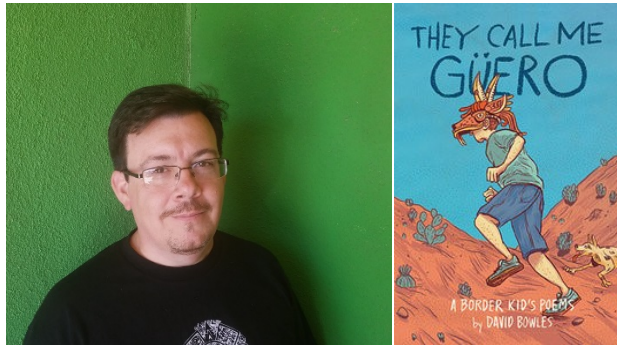
## BETHANY HEGEDUS



BETHANY HEGEDUS is an award-winning author of picture books and middle-grade novels, including *Grandfather Gandhi* and *Alabama Spitfire*. A former educator, she teaches widely and enjoys mentoring young writers. Hegedus is owner and creative director of the Writing Barn, a writing workshop and retreat center. She lives with her family in Austin, Texas.

Writer, activist, trolley car conductor, dancer, mother, and humanitarian--Maya Angelou's life was marked by transformation and perseverance. In this comprehensive picture-book biography geared towards older readers, Bethany Hegedus lyrically traces Maya's life from her early days in Stamps, Arkansas, through her work as a freedom fighter to her triumphant rise as a poet of the people.

## DAVID BOWLES



**DAVID BOWLES** grew up and lives in the Río Grande Valley of South Texas. A many-faceted writer and scholar, he's the author of *Feathered Serpent*, *Dark Heart of Sky: Myths of Mexico*. His middle-grade fantasy *The Smoking Mirror* was selected as a 2016 Pura Belpré Author Honor by the American Library Association.

## RAQUEL M. ORTIZ



**RAQUEL M. ORTIZ** was born and raised in Lorain, Ohio. She is the author of two other bilingual picture books: *Sofi and the Magic, Musical Mural / Sofi y el mágico mural musical* (Arte Público Press, 2015) and *Sofi Paints Her Dreams / Sofi pinta sus sueños* (Piñata Books, 2019). She has worked at The Brooklyn Museum, the Allen Memorial Art Museum and El Museo del Barrio. Currently, she creates educational material for the Puerto Rican Heritage Cultural Ambassadors Program at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College in New York City.

## FESTIBA 2021 GEAR UP DISTINGUISHED PRESENTERS





## ELIZABETH "LIZZIE" VELASQUEZ

**Lizzie Velasquez**, 30, is a global motivational speaker, YouTube personality, anti-bullying activist and author. In December 2013, she took the stage at the inaugural TEDxAustinWomen event and gave a talk titled "How Do You Define Yourself?" that has garnered over 13 million views across the Web. Her story has been featured on Katie Couric, *The Today Show*, *The View*, *Huffington Post*, *Associated Press*, AOL, MSN and Yahoo!, among many other national and international media. She is an Executive Producer of the award-winning documentary based on her life, *A BRAVE HEART: The Lizzie Velasquez Story*, which chronicles her journey from cyber-bullying victim to global anti-bullying activist. The film was released by Cinedigm in the U.S. in Fall 2015 and began its international release in 2016. Her latest book *DARE TO BE KIND* was released in June 2017.



## CARMEN TAFOLLA

Loved throughout the world for her moving performances and poetry readings, Dr. Carmen Tafolla is a poet, storyteller, performance artist, motivational speaker, and university professor. The author of more than 30 books, her work appears internationally in high school and university textbooks, newspapers, journals and magazines, and elementary school readers. Named State Poet Laureate of Texas in 2015, she is currently the President of the Texas Institute of Letters. Tafolla had also served from 2012-2014 as the first City Poet Laureate of San Antonio and presented at more than 300 schools, universities, professional conferences, and community arts centers in her two-year tenure.



## FABIOLA TORRALBA

FABIOLA TORRALBA is an immigrant born in Guerrero, Mexico who was raised among Mexican Americans in the historical Westside of San Antonio, Texas. After several years of community organizing and cultural work in San Antonio, two bachelor's degrees, and some ethnographic fieldwork, she decides to return to her first love. Fabiola then trained under Erica Wilson-Perkins at Palo Alto College receiving an Associates of Arts in Dance with additional study from the Urban Bush

Women and the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange among others. Fabiola has been an instructor for inner city youth under the City of San Antonio's Parks and Recreation Dance Program and the Senior Citizens Program at Ella Austin Community Center under the San Antonio Dance Umbrella.



## DR. DIANA SEITZ

**DR. DIANA SEITZ**, violinist, is *"a fresh and passionate presence"* on the contemporary classical music scene. Born into a family of professional singers, Diana grew up backstage, traveling with her parents' popular band all over the former Soviet Union. She made her debut at the age of nine as a soloist with a Chamber Orchestra in Moscow, Russia. As a teenager, she went on to become a laureate of Azerbaijan National Young Musician's Competition, performing Paganini's Violin Concerto no.1 with the Azerbaijan State Philharmonic Orchestra, including a fiendishly difficult Cadenza by E. Sauret. A refugee, forced to leave her Homeland after severe ethnic persecution, Diana stepped off an airplane onto US soil in 1993 and never looked back.



## ESTHER SEITZ

Praised for her "singing tone" by the Kansas City Star, Cellist Esther Seitz has performed all over the United States and in Mexico as a soloist, chamber, and orchestral musician. She has had the pleasure of performing at venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Manhattan School of Music where she has held the position of Principal Cello in the MSM Symphony Orchestra, the Meadowmount School of Music, the Kauffman Center for Performing Arts, the Kansas City Ballet's Todd Bolender Center, and the Teatro de la Reforma in Matamoros, Mexico. Esther is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music (MM Classical Cello) and also holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance (BM Cello Performance). Notable teachers include Julia Lichten, Michael Mermagen, Mark Gibbs, and Carter Enyeart. She has been chosen to participate in chamber coachings, festivals, and master classes with artists such as Hans Jørgen Jensen, David Geber, Josephine Knight, Daniel Avshalomov, and John Sharp, among others. When Esther is not playing cello, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, cooking and eating great food, drawing, and traveling.

# FESTIBA 2021 LITERACY SYMPOSIUM

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER – MACARENA HERNÁNDEZ



**MACARENA HERNÁNDEZ** is a United States academic and journalist from La Joya, Texas. She has written about Latino issues such as immigration and education. Hernández has a B.A. in English Professional Writing and Journalism from Baylor University, and a Masters in Journalism from University of California, Berkeley. While in college, Hernandez interned at **The New York Times**, and following graduation, became the Rio Grande Valley Bureau Chief for the *San Antonio Express-News*. In 2003, a *New York Times* reporter who had interned alongside her, Jayson Blair, was caught plagiarizing a newspaper article she had written for the *Express-News*. The revelation uncovered dozens of other stories that Blair had plagiarized or fabricated for *The Times*, setting off a national media story. Hernández joined the staff of *The Dallas Morning News* in August 2005. Soon after, she penned a column discussing the

frequency with which illegal immigrants are the victims of crime in the United States, citing a Georgia case in which six Mexicans were murdered. When Fox's Bill O'Reilly expressed outrage that the Mexican flag was flown as a show of sorrow, Hernández accused O'Reilly of preaching hate. In retaliation, O'Reilly called for a boycott of the *Dallas Morning News*.

Hernandez later became the Victoria Advocate Endowed Professor in Humanities and taught in the Communications Department at the University of Houston–Victoria, where she was co-founder and managing director of Centro Victoria, creating resources for Latino literature in the United States. She is now the Fred Hartman Distinguished Professor of Journalism at her alma mater, Baylor University.

In 2003, *Latina* named her one of their Women of the Year, and *Hispanic Magazine* named her one of 2004's Trendsetters. In 2006, the Los Angeles Times called her a "Media Face to Watch." In 2016 Hernandez was the recipient of a Creative Capital Award. (Wikipedia)

## Other Speakers:

Katie Snow, TRAIN PD@TCALL; Sabrina Walker-Hernandez, Consultant for Nonprofits; Martin Loa, TRAIN PD@TCALL; Jennifer McNabb, TRAIN PD@TCALL; Carlos Carpizo, Literacy Texas Board Member; Maria Cristela Gonzalez, Region Education Service Center; Dr. Ida Acuña-Garza, CEO South Texas Literacy Coalition; Robert Obregon, Texas Senior Medicare Patrol; Sonia Gonzalez, Wells Fargo Bank; Jasmine Hernandez & Ricky Rendon, Workforce Solutions; Geneva Scott, Workforce Solutions; David Ortega, Workforce Solutions; Elizabeth Meza, Workforce Solutions; Gracie Avila, Region One Migrant Program; Katie Welch, TRAIN PD@TCALL; Deborah Tomai, RGV Downs Syndrome Association; and Viviana Caballero, Sekula Memorial Library

# FESTIBA 2021 DISTINGUISHED ARTISTS

## UTRGV School of Music Faculty



### SHOKO NAKAMURA KINSELLA

Pianist **Shoko Nakamura Kinsella** enjoys her diverse career as performing artist and teacher. She has extensively performed as a recitalist, concerto soloist, and chamber musician throughout the United States, Italy, and Japan.

She received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City (2010), both Master's (2006) and Bachelor's (2004, *magna cum laude*) degrees in Piano Performance from University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music where she was nominated for the Excellence in Teaching Award. Dr. Shoko has been on the piano faculty at University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley since 2010. Born in Chiba, Japan, she currently resides in McAllen, TX, with her husband, Brendan, and her son, Andrew.



### BRENDAN KINSELLA

**"An amazing pianist."**  
**- *The Houston Chronicle***

A dedicated teacher, Dr. Kinsella presently serves as Associate Professor of Piano and Piano Area Coordinator at the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, where he teaches applied piano, chamber music, piano pedagogy, and piano literature. Members of his select studio of graduate and undergraduate pianists regularly participate in prestigious national and international summer festivals, perform in master classes for distinguished artists (such as Jerome Lowenthal, David Korevaar, and Sean Chen), present their scholarly research at professional conferences, and gain admittance to prestigious master's and doctoral programs nationwide.





## MARK JOSEPH RAMÍREZ

As a dedicated scholar and educator, Mark has received invitations to present and perform at the International Conference on Caribbean Studies, the Southwestern Conference on Latin American Studies, the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, and the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education. Dr. Ramírez is a native of Brownsville, Texas and currently serves as Professor of Percussion and Area Coordinator at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Associate Director of the School of Music, and is the Founder and Executive Director of the International Percussion Institute.

## FESTIBA 2021 & CENTER FOR MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES present GUEST POET ARIANA BROWN



Ariana Brown is a Black Mexican American poet from the Southside of San Antonio, Texas. Ariana holds a B.A. in African Diaspora Studies and Mexican American Studies from UT Austin as well as an MFA in Poetry from the University of Pittsburgh. She is the recipient of two Academy of American Poets Prizes and a 2014 national collegiate poetry slam champion. She has been writing, performing, and teaching poetry for ten years.

Ariana's work investigates queer Black personhood, affirmation and care for Black gender marginalized people, and loneliness. In January 2020, Ariana released Sana Sana, her debut poetry chapbook from Game Over Books. She has also recorded a digital EP titled LET US BE ENOUGH, available on Bandcamp.

Ariana has performed her work and led writing workshops across the country at venues such as the Killeen Natural Hair and Health Expo, Harvard University, Tucson Poetry Festival, and the San Francisco Opera Theatre. When she is not onstage, she is probably eating an avocado, listening to Brandy, or validating Black girl rage in all its miraculous forms. Follow Ariana on Twitter and Instagram @arianathepoet.

# FESTIBA 2021 VIRTUAL ART EXHIBITS

## PERFORMING ARTS COMPLEX EXHIBIT HALL



### BRIAN WEDGWORTH

#### "THE CONTINUAL JOURNEY - ARTICULATIONS IN STEEL"

"The Continual Journey - Articulations in Steel" explores the artist's tireless fascination with the geometric forms. Brian Wedgworth is best known for his oxidized welded steel sculptures. The selected works, created within the last 25 years, celebrate Wedgworth's studio process, which incorporates found and fabricated steel forms. Working with balance and repetition, he uses electrode welding to accentuate the seams. This process gives the work a scarred or stitched effect, much like the process of learning and growing from an experience. "This exhibition includes pieces from different milestones through my life's journey."

### CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS – Dr. Katherine McAllen, director



### The Virgin Mary: Art, Materiality, and Piety By Daniel Ymbong

The establishment of the Spanish vicerealties ushered new popular devotions and art production depicting the Virgin Mary in the Americas in the Early Modern period. The great demand for Marian images beginning in the sixteenth century led to the establishment of artists' guilds, workshops, and schools, which produced artworks to adorn public and private spaces. Marian art and devotion became part of many visual cultures in Latin America, informing the daily lives of diverse populations in the viceroyalty, so much so that the devotion to Mary would inspire revolution and continue to permeate in present day spirituality and identity in Latin America. This miniature exhibition explores the origins, diaspora, and transformation of Marian iconography and devotions from the IMAS Permanent Collection that are available to be experienced here in the Rio Grande Valley.

# STILLNESS



Carlos Limas

This photographic series documents the frequently unnoticed urban and rural architecture in the Rio Grande Valley. Through these images, I reflect on the motifs and attributes of many abandoned houses and commercial buildings and their own unique esthetic, as well as what they represent to me as a visual artist while I contemplate their stoic presence. In my work, I follow a traditional Deadpan style, which is very popular in medium format film photography and is emulated in this series by a full-frame digital camera. Careful attention is given to perspective, symmetry, and negative space, and I look for compositional possibilities through the attributes of light and color. My intention is to create a collection of large format images where the viewer feels compelled to step into each image, giving him or her a chance to visually explore a more personal and intimate experience by the stillness of space and time. Stillness is the act of contemplation, and contemplation transcends into visual silence.



## Pedazos de Ayer

**By Angela V. Scardigno**

Pedazos de Ayer, is inspired by the landscapes of the Rio Grande Valley. In south Texas, it is not uncommon to find large abandoned and forgotten properties in our immediate vicinity, and these spaces randomly appear or are part of a temporal past that linger like ghost towns. Pedazos de Ayer is a series of wooden collages that represent a condensed summary of my vision of the Rio Grande Valley. They are pieces of physical places, mixed with memories and unknown stories. I believe that my work somehow challenges oblivion by making these objects that seem to be forgotten and dying out important for our visual memory. These works bring us face-to-face with the unique beauty of aged matter, worn objects, and colors altered by the vagaries of the weather. They challenge us to contemplate the state of forgetting by elevating found objects as works of art to preserve ideas that might have otherwise passed into oblivion.



## Santas: The Feminine Divine

The Christian faith's importance expanded due to the Spanish and Portuguese Viceroyalty, much of the art was influenced by Spanish, Italian, and Flemish Renaissance and Baroque paintings, prints, and sculptures. Throughout Christianity, female saints became models of holiness, emotional and spiritual solidarity. Saints such as St. Theresa, St. Katherine, St. Barbara, St. Lucy, St. Anne, and St. Veronica were popular during the colonial times, which produced varying hybrid and new artworks and devotions throughout the colonies. Latin America's first female saint was St. Rosa de Lima, a Creole (European born in the viceroyalty), is remembered for her piety, chastity, and iconography of crowned thorn roses. This devotion to female saints and Catholicism as a whole, greatly impacted the daily lives and art production of all the inhabitants in the Spanish and Portuguese viceroyalties, up to revolution to the modern-day. This virtual exhibition explores the cultural, political, social, material, and artistic significance and female sainthood in Latin America from the permanent collection of the International Museum of Science.

## FESTIBA Mariachi Festival 2021

			
Steve Carillo Mariachi Cobre	José Hernández Mariachi Sol de Mexico	Jesús Guzmán Mariachi los Camperos	Carlos Martínez Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán



Our virtual mariachi festival attracted over 400 middle school and high school participants who attended 24 workshop sessions in mariachi history, style and repertoire. Our virtual guests and clinicians of the *FESTIBA 2021* Mariachi Festival included the internationally renowned Maestro José Hernández, considered the mariachi leader in the United States and innovative force behind mariachi music and mariachi education, as the founder/director of the Mariachi Sol de Mexico de José Hernández.

Also on our fabulous lineup of mariachi educators was Jesús “Chuy” Guzmán. He leads Mariachi Los Camperos, continuing Nati Cano’s legacy and tradition of excellence and providing the leadership and vision for Grammy award winning performances in high-profile venues.

World class singer and trumpet player Esteban “Steve” Carrillo represented Mariachi Cobre, one of the best known mariachi bands in the United States, performing for millions of visitors at Epcot Center, Disney World in Orlando, Florida since 1982.

We also welcomed members of the acclaimed and world-renowned Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, including Carlos Martínez, musical director, vocalist/violinist, Gilberto Aguirre, vihuela, Augustín Sandoval, trumpet, and Jonathan Palomar, guitar/voice. These great musicians presented talks and tutorials for directors and students in their respective fields.

We were also honored to welcome back Jonathan Clark, foremost mariachi historian, Maestro Jorge Iván Velasco, world renowned folk harpist, Josue (Eddy) López, mariachi musician and arranger, Mónica Fogelquist, mariachi musician and director of the UT Mariachi program, Adolfo Estrada, mariachi musician and PhD candidate at Texas Tech University, and UTRGV Aztlán alumni – Fernando Mendoza on voice, Nathan Garcia on guitarrón and Orlando de León on violin. We were assisted by members of the UTRGV Mariachi Aztlán.

THE FESTIBA 2021 final virtual concerts included a Mariachi Vocal Competition and a Showcase Concert of outstanding middle and high school mariachi ensembles from Utah, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The Grand Concert was a fabulous presentation by Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán from the city of Tequila, Jalisco, Mexico. Close to 1,000 viewed the concert.





<https://youtu.be/wG6Gpq3Kw-I>



<https://youtu.be/1RRzA40EPaY>

## FESTIBA 2021 IN THE NEWS

MARIACHI MUSIC.COM

EVENTS VIDEO SHOWCASE RESOURCES BLOG ABOUT

Blog author: Dr. Dahlia Guerra

Greetings, mariachi friends!

We hope that you all are healthy and safe, and we hope your year is off to a great start!!

These continue to be unusual times, to say the least, and we are told that the Spring of 2021 continues in like fashion. But FESTIBA 2021 must go on, so let's plan for a virtual festival!

The literary and performing arts have seen the world through many times of crisis. As we adjust to new realities during the ongoing pandemic, FESTIBA 2021, in general, will focus on Building Resilience Through Arts and Literacy. With the transformative power of the arts and their ability to foster resilience, FESTIBA 2021 will examine and highlight the use of the creative process to find comfort during times of struggle and promote a sense of emotional and psychological well-being. Many of the events and presentations during the week will explore creative opportunities for the students in our community to cope with the recent educational and emotional challenges of the pandemic

Our FESTIBA 2021 Mariachi Festival will be unique this year and we are striving to make it memorable and

ARCHIVES

Select Month

CATEGORIES

Mariachi Extravaganza

Mariachi Music

Mariachi Vargas

Other Mariachi Events

Uncategorized

<https://mariachimusic.com/blog/2021/01/festibas-mariachi-festival-will-go-virtual-on-feb-26-27/>

« All Events

This event has passed.

## Festiba 2021 – The Art of Preservation and Presentation: 1910 Jail and its Backyard

February 24 @ 9:00 am – 10:00 am

This presentation narrates the story of the 1910 Hidalgo County Jail and its environment. Museum CEO Francisco Guajardo discusses the preservation and presentation of the jail, a structure on the National Register of Historic Places, while museum landscape architect shares the story of the grounds that surround the jail.

<https://mosthistory.org/events/festiba-2021-the-art-of-preservation-and-presentation-the-story-of-the-1910-jail-and-its-backyard/>



Winter  
Texan **TIMES**

*Serving Winter Texans From Mission To South Padre Island Since 1987*

## FESTIBA 2021 events planned



The Festival of International Books and Arts (FESTIBA) promotes the importance of literacy, culture, and the arts to students, parents, educators, and community members throughout the Rio Grande Valley.

The literary and performing arts have seen the world through many times of crisis. As we adjust to new realities during the ongoing pandemic, FESTIBA 2021 will focus on *Building Resilience Through Arts and Literacy*.

<https://www.wintertexantimes.com/news/around-town/3151-festiba-2021-events-planned.html>