



## **FESTIBA 2023 IMPACT REPORT**

### *Festival of International Books and Arts*

Feb. 24 – March 5 [UTRGV FESTIBA 2023 | UTRGV](#)

*FESTIBA* 2023 explored the theme “Transforming Our World Through Arts and Literacy” to celebrate the transformative power of the arts to touch and move the emotions, and to engage in the arts as a great source of inspiration to bring people together and transform communities. The imagery of *FESTIBA* 2022-2023 included the Monarch Butterfly, considered to be the most beautiful of all butterflies in the world, representing strength, endurance, spirituality, trust, transformation and evolution. *FESTIBA* 2023 aspired to be such a transformative event with the hope of uplifting, uniting and inspiring the entire Valley community through cultural arts events.

*FESTIBA* 2023 was a bold and broad event designed to showcase our UTRGV students and faculty to the community, and to bring outstanding artists, musicians, authors, poets, other creatives and experts in their fields to UTRGV. It was a unique festival that brought national and international talent in a variety of music, art and literary fields to the RGV, to inspire our students and engage our community.

### **FESTIBA 2023 By the Numbers**

**Over 55 in person and virtual events were held during FESTIBA 2023:**

- Academic Presentations
- Artistic Presentations/Exhibits
- Workshops/Competitions
- Author/Poet Talks
- Musical Concerts
- South Texas Literacy Symposium
- Community Festival
- Gear Up Day
- University Theatre Productions
- Dance Adjudication Festival

**Over 9,000 students and community members participated and/or attended:**

- 400 Students from Region One and UTRGV Gear Up programs participated in two days of virtual events, including recruiting for UTRGV during the welcome address.
- 80 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 3,000 children at six public schools in Edinburg, Hidalgo, Mission, Alamo, and Weslaco as part of the Texas Book Festival *Reading Rock Stars program*.
- 600 students competed in the FESTIBA Mariachi Workshop, Group and Vocal Competition, and Grand Concert. Students participated from all over Texas. The event includes recruitment information describing music programs and process to apply.
- Close to 1,000 attended the FESTIBA 2023 Grand Concert and over 1,500 attended the FESTIBA 2023 Mariachi Group and Vocal Competitions
- Over 2,000 community members participated in the Community Festival at the Dustin M. Sekula Memorial Library in Edinburg and over 1,000 free books were distributed.

## **HIGHLIGHTS: ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY**

### **FESTIBA 2023 COMMUNITY FESTIVAL**

#### **Friday, Feb. 24**

This entertaining community event featured family-friendly events including a variety of author presentations and book signings, musical performances, children's activities, book and art displays, and food trucks. 1,000 free books were distributed by the South Texas Literacy Association. The following Top Reader schools were honored with City Mayor recognition and plaques: Canterbury Elementary School; Anita Villarreal Elementary School; Arnolando Cantu Elementary; Mission Jr. High; Dr. William Long Elementary; Bryan Elementary. Over 1,500 community attended.

### **SOUTH TEXAS LITERACY SYMPOSIUM at FESTIBA 2023**

#### **Saturday, Feb. 25**

In collaboration with Texas Literacy, and South Texas Literacy Coalition, this free, professional development conference was designed for local literacy providers. The conference was sponsored by Literacy Texas and *FESTIBA*, and included a panel on the theme "Connecting the Dots in Adult Literacy: The Role of Authors and Teachers of Literacy and the Arts." The panel featured CoFA Dean Jeffrey Ward, author Katylann Renteria, Daniel Garcia Ordaz, McAllen Poet Laureate 2023, and Letty Leija, librarian and director of cultural arts in Edinburg. Information on various topics during breakout sessions including workforce readiness, financial literacy, volunteer management, family literacy, health literacy, grant writing tips and more.

**Location:** Edinburg Campus, Ballroom

**Times:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information and registration visit: [2023 South Texas Literacy Symposium - Literacy Texas](#)

## **REGION ONE GEAR UP DAY at FESTIBA 2023**

400 students visited UTRGV for a full day of activities and inspiring presentations designed to inspire creativity and self-expression. Presenters included Daniel Garcia Ordaz, McAllen Poet Laureate 2023, Joana Carolhas, a multi-style improviser and violinist actively performing and teaching in Germany, Portugal and United Kingdom, and graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland; Margie Longoria, author and editor- *LIVING BEYOND BORDERS: GROWING UP MEXICAN IN AMERICA*, a mixed-media collection of short stories, personal essays, poetry, and comics, that is a hopeful love letter from the Mexican American community to today's young readers. The UTRGV Spanish Ballet troupe topped of the day with a delightful performance. All 400 students received a t-shirt, bag, a copy of the book, and Chic-file lunch. The presentations were very successful, and the students were engaged and responsive to the Q & A's.

**Tuesday, February 28**

**Locations:** Edinburg Campus, PAC, Student Union Theater, Ballroom

**Time:** 9 a.m.– 2:30 p.m.

## **READING ROCK STARS**

**In collaboration with FESTIBA and the Texas Book Festival**

**Public Schools Visits with Book Distributions**

Every child in these schools, over 3,000, received a free book and author reading.

I personally visited Canterbury Elementary. The children were very excited and engaged with the author and delighted to receive the books.

**2023 Reading Rock Stars Schools:** PFC Mario Ybarra Elementary, Hidalgo; Cesar Chavez Elementary, Pharr; Canterbury Elementary, Edinburg; Bryan Elementary, Mission; Dr. RE Margo Elementary, Weslaco; Guerra Elementary, Alamo

**Authors:** Xavier Garza, Erika Said, Marcelo Verdad, Karla A. Valenti, David Bowles, Ana Siqueira, Carmen Tafolla, Zara Gonzalez Hoang

## **MUSEUM OF SOUTH TEXAS HISTORY at FESTIBA**

**Very interesting, impactful, and intriguing presentations by the MOST CEO and staff.**

**THE FREDDY GONZALEZ' LETTERS PROJECT: BUILDING MIDDLE SCHOOL WRITING SKILLS WITH AN EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP**

**Presenters:** ECISD teachers and Dr. Francisco Guajardo, CEO, Museum of South Texas History

**Monday, February 27**

**Location:** MOSTHistory's Facebook @mosthistory

**Time:** 10 a.m.

## **STORYTELLING WITH ARTIFACTS**

**Presenter:** Melissa Peña, Exhibits & Collections Coordinator at MOSTHistory

**Tuesday, February 28**

**Location:** MOSTHistory's Facebook @mosthistory

**Time:** 11 a.m.

## THE ART & DESIGN OF A WINDMILL

Presenter: Johnny Gonzales,  
Facilities & Security at MOSTHistory

**Thursday, March 2**

**Location:** MOSTHistory's Facebook @mosthistory

**Time:** 10 a.m.

## **THE GELMAN STAINED GLASS MUSEUM at FESTIBA 2023 A TALE OF A COMMUNITY'S TRANSFORMATION THROUGH STAINED GLASS WINDOWS: THE GILDED AGE IN ALBANY, NEW YORK**

With David Fisher, Historian and Luz Rodriguez, Historian/Archivist Intern at the Gelman Stained Glass Museum

**Monday, February 27**

**Location:** Edinburg Campus/Liberal Arts Building South Room 255

**Time:** 5-5:45 p.m.

## **THE CULTURAL CORRIDOR** with Diane Milliken Garza, Texas Commission on the Arts

**Thursday, March 2**

*The Cultural Corridor* is an initiative to provide artists and merchants safe spaces on the U.S. Mexico border for creative work and businesses. The Texas Commission on the Arts presented a photo exhibit, featuring works by Chico Sanchez and Enrique Guerra, with special musical guests Mariachi Herencia Mexicana from Creative Arts Studio and Ballet Folklórico Mitotéltzli (Instituto Reynosense Para la Cultura y Los Artes) at the Historic Hidalgo Pump House Museum. A gathering of at least 100 interested community from both sides of the border attended.

**Location:** Old Hidalgo Pump House, Hidalgo, Texas

**Cultural Exhibit, Champagne & Presentation:** 6 p.m.

## **200 AÑOS DE RELACIONES DIPLOMÁTICAS MÉXICO-ESTADOS UNIDOS - CONSULADO DE MEXICO EN MCALLEN**

A Commemoration of the Past, Present and Future of U.S.-Mexico Diplomatic Relations with a Reception, Panel Discussion, Poetry (Cesar L. De Leon), Art Exhibit and FESTIBA Mariachi Concert. Artists: Rigoberto A. Gonzalez, Carlos Limas, Ruben Lozano, Nydia Salinas, and Angela V. Scardigno. Welcome by Dean Walter Diaz and Froylan Yesecas Dedillo, Mexican Consul.

Panelists: Montserrat Garibay, Hugo Rene Oliva Romero, Erika Rendon Ramos, Francisco Samuel Martinez, Jacob Stevens. Moderator – Stephanie Alvarez.

Followed by FESTIBA Concert with competition winners, Mariachi Aztlan and Mariachi Sol de Mexico

**Location:** Edinburg Campus, Ballroom and PAC

## **FESTIBA 2023 MARIACHI FESTIVAL**

**Friday & Saturday, March 3 & 4: Masterclasses, Vocal and Group Competitions**

Close to 600 mariachi musicians from Middle and High Schools from throughout Texas competed in Vocal and Group Competitions and attended Masterclasses by:

**Maestro José Hernández**, founder and director of Mariachi Sol de México and Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles; recognized internationally as an innovative force behind mariachi music, both musically as well as in mariachi education.

**Mariachi Sol de México**, internationally recognized mariachi, renowned for their innovation

and fusion of different styles of music, with a distinguished history of performances for five US Presidents, and tours throughout Europe, Asia and Latin America.

**Dr. Diana Seitz**, Associate Professor of strings and violin at the UTRGV School of Music, College of Fine Arts, is recognized nationally and internationally as a pedagogue, soloist, chamber, and orchestral musician.

**Josué “Eddy” López**, professional mariachi performer and arranger, Director of Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy’s high school mariachi program.

**Dr. Adolfo Estrada**, professional mariachi performer and guitarist, Assistant Professor in the School of Music and Director of Latin Music Studies at Texas State University.

**Charlie Borrego**, eight-time Emmy Award winner, Video and Audio Engineer, TV Production, Musical Producer, professional installation and sound design.

### **Saturday, March 4 – Grand Concert**

Sold out Grand Concert: Featuring Middle School and High School Vocal Competition winners, winners of Middle School and High School Group Competition, Mariachi Juvenil Aztlán, Mariachi Aztlán, and Mariachi Sol de México de José Hernández.

**Location:** Edinburg Campus, UTRGV Performing Arts Complex Lobby

**Time** 7:30 p.m.

## **SHOWCASING THE COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS**

### **THE SCHOOL OF ART & DESIGN FESTIBA 2023 ART EXHIBITS**

**NANCY MOYER, Professor Emerita of Art**

***EARTH CLOUDS***

Spring and Fall 2023

**Opening Reception:** Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 6 p.m.

**Location:** Edinburg Campus, UTRGV Performing Arts Complex Exhibit Hall

**KAYLEE HERNANDEZ, MFA Exhibit**

***SINCE I WAS A GIRL***

March 6-10

**Opening Reception:** Friday, Mar. 3, 6-8 p.m.

**Location:** Edinburg Campus, Visual Arts Building (EVABL)

**JUAN DE DIOS MORA, Guest Artist**

***MARGEN DE LA FRONTERA***

February 6-28

**Closing Reception & Artist Talk:** Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 6-9 p.m.

**Location:** Edinburg Campus, Charles & Dorothy Clark Gallery  
Liberal Arts Building South (ELABS)

**ART- MAKING AND SHARING WORKSHOP: *THE ARTIST-MOTHER***

With Lizzete Rendon UTRGV Alumni/ Graduate student.

**Friday, March 3**

**Location:** UTRGV Visual Arts Building: Student workroom

**Time:** 10 a.m. – 1 p.m

## **THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS**

### **EXHIBITS:**

**ANGELA V. SCARDIGNO, *CIRCA: CONJETURAS EN PAPEL***

**Date:** Feb. 15 – Mar. 5th

**Location:** Edinburg Campus, Library First Floor, behind the elevators

**CARLOS LIMAS, *INTANGIBLE***

Feb. 20 – March 8<sup>th</sup>

**Opening Reception:** Thursday, Feb. 23, 6 p.m

**Location:** Brownsville Campus, Rusteberg Art Gallery

## **THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC EVENTS:**

**UTRGV WIND ORCHESTRA AND UTRGV SYMPHONIC WINDS**

**with Saul Torres**

**Monday, February 27**

**Location:** Edinburg Campus, UTRGV Performing Arts Complex

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 1**

**Location:** Brownsville Campus, TSC Fine Arts Center

**Time:** 7 p.m.

## **ROBERT SATTERLEE, INTERNATIONALLY RENOWN PIANIST**

Pianist **Robert Satterlee** has developed a reputation as an accomplished and versatile solo recitalist and chamber musician, playing regularly throughout the United States. He has completed many tours of China, and has played concerts at the Romanian-American Festival in Romania, the World Piano Conference in Serbia, the Piano Plus Festival and the Corfu Festival in Greece and has also performed in Sweden, Holland, Germany and Kenya.

He performed three Scarlatti Sonatas, the Sonata no. 7, Op. 64 (“White Mass”) by Scriabin and a Schuman Fantasy in C Major. Satterlee was invited by Brendan Kinsella and sponsored by FESTIBA. In addition to the regular audience coming to enjoy the recital, visitors to Nancy Moyer’s opening exhibit of *EARTH CLOUDS* were invited to stay for this recital. There were over 50 in attendance.

**Tuesday, February 28**

**Location:** Edinburg Campus, UTRGV Performing Arts Complex

**Time:** 7 p.m.

## **REIMAGING THE ROLE OF THE AUDIENCE: AN INTERACTIVE PERFORMANCE BY THE UTRGV NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE with ANTHONY T. MARASCO**

I attended this presentation. It was entertaining and engaging with a very different method of performance and audience participation, showcasing Anthony Marasco’s research in the technical and digital musical realm. Students performed holding lap top computers which dictated their responses and direction as they walked around the PAC lobby to computers generated musical sounds.

**Thursday, March 2**

**Location:** Edinburg Campus, Performing Arts Center Lobby

**Class Discussion:** 2- 3:15 p.m.

**IMPACT OF CREATIVE PERFORMANCE OF MUSIC RELEVANT ON CULTURE  
with Liudmila Varlamova and class piano students**

**Thursday, March 2**

**Location:** Edinburg Campus, EPAC B1.131

**Time:** 9:30-10:30; Zoom link email: [liudmila.varlamova@utrgv.edu](mailto:liudmila.varlamova@utrgv.edu)

**LA FRONTERA INTERNATIONAL PIANO CONFERENCE:  
EL PIANO LATINOAMERICANO with Juan Andrade**

**Thursday & Friday, March 2 & 3rd**

A piano conference which focused on promoting piano repertoire in the lower RGV, featuring 15 pianists from the USA, México, Brazil, Poland, Bolivia, Columbia, Costa Rica, and Korea.

**CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM: VISITING POETS & PERFORMERS & CLASS  
PRESENTATIONS**

**WRITING WORKSHOP WITH ANDREA “VOCAB” SANDERSON,  
SAN ANTONIO POET LAUREATE 2020-2023**

**Monday, February 27**

**Location:** Edinburg Campus, Borderlands Room, EEDUC 3.204

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**GRIS MUÑOZ, Frontera Storyteller, Poet, & Biographer with Emmy Perez**

**Tuesday, February 28**

**Location:** Edinburg Campus, Borderlands Room, EEDUC 3.204

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**ANDREA “VOCAB” SANDERSON & GRIS MUÑOZ, POETS with Emmy Perez**

**Tuesday, February 28**

**Location:** Edinburg Campus, Borderlands Room, EEDUC 3.204

**Time:** 12:30 p.m.

**A CELEBRATION OF ECO-WRITING by UTRGV STUDENTS with Steven Schneider**

Dr. Schneider describes as “a great event with 28 participants on Zoom, undergraduate creative writing students, graduate MFA students, and several guests. Students read both eco-poems and essays addressing climate change. Very positive response!”

**Wednesday, March 1**

**Zoom Presentation: 5-7 p.m.**

**FERNANDO FLORES with Robert Moriera**

**Wednesday, March 1**

**Location:** Brownsville Campus: Rusteberg Art Gallery

**Time:** 3 to 4 p.m.

**Thursday, March 2**

**Location:** Edinburg Campus: Visual Arts Building

**Time:** 7 - 8 p.m.

## **A READING AND DISCUSSION WITH THOMAS RAY GARCIA AND ROBERT PAUL MOREIRA**

**Friday March 3**

**Location** Borderlands Room, EEDUC 3.204

**Time:** 7-9 p.m.

## **REVIEW OF CREATIVE WRITING EVENTS BY EMMY PEREZ:**

### **Monday:**

Andrea Sanderson workshop - we had about 12-15 students attending in-person and via Zoom. Students wrote works in response to the prompts shared by Sanderson and all of them shared them out loud. They wrote some amazing work. One student in Mexican American Studies and mariachi (Jennifer) also sang a song at the end of the workshop. She said she hadn't written poetry before or thought to incorporate singing and spoken word as Andrea does. She came to the next day's events too. This event was co-sponsored by Department of Creative Writing, FESTIBA, and Gallery Magazine

### **Tuesday:**

Gris's Muñoz's plática - we had about 35 people joining in person and via Zoom. It was a dynamic event, where Muñoz provided her testimonio about becoming a writer in El Paso where she was born and raised and shared one of her short stories. Students were eager to get books signed by her and ask questions. In talking to some a few days later, many said how excited they were by her talk, and how inspired they were to tell more of their own stories. This event was sponsored by the department of Creative Writing with funds from my Dr. Robert S. Nelsen Professorship in Mexican American Studies

Andrea Vocab Sanderson's and Gris Muñoz's performances. We had about 45 people in attendance. It was a beautiful event. Andrea had a guitarist accompany her in her performance which was a combination of song and spoken word poetry. Muñoz performed her poetry and is a powerful performer as well. The two complimented one another and the whole audience was engaged from beginning to end, asking great questions as well. Many clamored to speak to them at the end, taking pictures with them and asking them to sign books (I ordered their books from the bookstore which were sold on site). Students raved about their events in the days afterwards, saying how inspired they were by it all. I have some recordings of their performances.

### **Thursday:**

Myriam Gurba and David Bowles (private) Zoom with students. We had about 12 folks show up for this private Zoom with students. It was a fantastic discussion where Gurba and Bowles talked about publishing and the Dignidad Literaria movement they are part of to raise awareness with big publishing houses in NYC to publish more writers of color.

Myriam Gurba's reading and presentation Webinar was amazing! She is a brilliant, humorous, and profound writer and speaker. She shared excerpts from her creative nonfiction work *MEAN* and she discussed her latest book which is forthcoming in Fall 2023. She answered all the questions asked with insight and grace. We faculty asked our graduate teaching assistant Jo



Reyes-Boitel to moderate and she did great! I don't have the list yet of attendees via Webinar but it may have been around 40 from what I recall seeing. We recorded the event.

**Friday:**

Thomas Ray Garcia and Robert Moreira - I was unable to attend this event, but I hear that it went great! The two fiction writers shared their work and engaged in discussion about writing and more. Sponsored by the Department of Creative Writing

**Saturday:**

The Department of Creative Writing was one of the sponsors of the 200 Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the U.S. and Mexico event, which had close to 100 folks in attendance. I organized the poetry reading by our alum César L. de León, which was a fantastic reading in English and Spanish.

**UNIVERSITY PRODUCTIONS**

*Picasso at the Lapin Agile* by Steve Martin.

March 3, 7:30 p.m.

March 4, 7:30 p.m.

March 5, 2 p.m.

**Location: Edinburg Campus, Albert L. Jeffers Theatre (ELABS)**

**UTRGV DANCE PROGRAM**

**Sunday, March 5**

**DANCE ADJUDICATION FESTIVAL GALA CONCERT.**

UTRGV Dance Program hosted the Dance Adjudication Festival Gala Concert. The objective of this Gala concert was to present the most outstanding performers/groups from the Dance Adjudication Festival at the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex auditorium.

**Location:** Edinburg Campus, Performing Arts Complex

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS**

**DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURES AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

**NUCLEAR COLONIALISM AND THE IMPORTANCE OF LITERACY**

Dr. Myrriah Gómez, University of New Mexico Honors College and Dr. Noreen Rivera, Associate Professor, UTRGV, presented a zoom discussion on how illiteracy plays a role in the displacement of ethnic minorities per Dr. Gomez' research and book *Nuclear Nuevo México: Colonialism and the Effects of the Nuclear Industrial Complex on Nuevomexicanos*.

Dr. Rivera reports that it was a good event and that it had a mix of undergraduate and graduate students from two UT System universities. Dr. Myrriah Gómez presented for about an hour and had a 15 minute dialogue with the students.

**Monday, February 27**

**Time:** 1 -2:15 p.m. CST

## **COMMUNITY HISTORICAL ARCHEALOGY PROJECT WITH SCHOOLS**

### **TERRA PRETA: A PORCIÓN OF EDINBURG with Roseann Bacha-Garza**

UTRGV's CHAPS Program has presented at FESTIBA for the past ten years to showcase their ongoing research. This year, the CHAPS Program class "Discovering the Rio Grande Valley" recorded the history of a family and its land in Edinburg through archaeological, biological, and geological survey, and in oral and documentary history. The presentation detailed the findings of this project in anticipation of the publication of the final report later this year which will cover a new direction for this course as they studied the Raygoza family of Edinburg that engages in organic, urban, and sustainable farming.

**Monday, February 27**

**Location:** Edinburg Campus: ESTAC 1.112

**Time:** 12:30 - 1:30 pm

## **JORNADAS LITERARIAS LIBRO ABIERTO: MUJERES Y ESCRITURA, DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH:**

**Tuesday, Feb. 28**

**A CONVERSATION WITH CARMEN POSADAS**, Award-winning Uruguayan-Spanish writer. With Dr. Elvia Ardalani-University of Texas Rio Grande Valley; Dr. Rodrigo Pereyra-Southeastern Louisiana University

**Time:** 10 a.m. (CT); **Contact** [elvia.ardalani@utrgv.edu](mailto:elvia.ardalani@utrgv.edu)

**Wednesday, March 1**

**A CONVERSATION WITH SILVIA MOLINA**, Award-winning Mexican writer  
With Dr. Elvia Ardalani-University of Texas Rio Grande Valley; Dr. Rodrigo Pereyra-Southeastern Louisiana University

**Time:** 10 a.m. (CT); **Contact** [elvia.ardalani@utrgv.edu](mailto:elvia.ardalani@utrgv.edu)

**Wednesday, March 1**

**A CONVERSATION WITH ELVIA ARDALANI**, Professor at UTRGV  
With Dr. Rodrigo Pereyra-Southeastern Louisiana University

**Time:** 1 p.m. (CT); **Contact** [elvia.ardalani@utrgv.edu](mailto:elvia.ardalani@utrgv.edu)

**Thursday, March 2**

**LAS POSIBILIDADES ESCÉNICAS DE LA VIDA COTIDIANA: TEATRO Y SOCIEDAD EN EL SIGLO XIX**, featuring Yolanda Bache, Professor at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México; With Dr. Elvia Ardalani-University of Texas Rio Grande Valley; Dr. Rodrigo Pereyra-Southeastern Louisiana University

**Time:** 12 p.m. (CT); **Contact** [elvia.ardalani@utrgv.edu](mailto:elvia.ardalani@utrgv.edu)

**Friday, March 3**

**A CONVERSATION WITH ALICIA GIMÉNEZ BARTLETT**, Award-winning Spanish writer. With Dr. Elvia Ardalani-University of Texas Rio Grande Valley; Dr. Rodrigo Pereyra-Southeastern Louisiana University

**Time:** 10 a.m. (CT); **Contact** [elvia.ardalani@utrgv.edu](mailto:elvia.ardalani@utrgv.edu)

**Friday, March 3**

**LA REVOLUCIÓN MEXICANA: UNA REVOLUCIÓN NOVELADA**

Featuring Dr. Herminia Alemañy, Professor at Universidad de Puerto Rico-Aguadilla.

With Dr. Elvia Ardalani-University of Texas Rio Grande Valley; Dr. Rodrigo Pereyra-Southeastern Louisiana University

**Time:** 12 p.m. (CT); **Contact** [elvia.ardalani@utrgv.edu](mailto:elvia.ardalani@utrgv.edu)

**REVIEW BY DR. ELVIA ARDALANI:**

First of all I wanted to thank you for Festiba, your project is so wonderful for the university and beyond. Jornadas Literarias *Libro Abierto: Mujeres y Escritura*, was a success. We had 8 speakers (counting me), from Spain, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the US. Out of those 8 speakers, 6 were writers and 3 were academics (from National Autonomous University of Mexico, UNAM and University of Puerto Rico). Every session was attended by students, exstudents, colleagues, our community and some viewers from Spain, Mexico and Italy. Southeastern Louisiana University, through Dr. Rodrigo Pereyra, helped out in the organization of the events. Every speaker had a strong curriculum, but the 3 most well known were Carmen Posadas, Silvia Molina and Alicia Giménez Bartlett (I am including a brief bio of each one of them, in case you need that info). We also had a writer from the border, Elpidia Garcia, from Ciudad Juarez (a fiction writer), and María José Mielgo Busturia, a writer and editor from Bilbao, Spain. In my session we presented my new novel, *Pelo de Gato* and I talked to students of Creative Writing.

**Partners and sponsors:**

Tocker Foundation

South Texas Literacy Coalition

Literacy Texas

Texas Book Festival

City of Edinburg

Dustin M. Sekula Library

Dr. Robert S. Nelsen Endowed Professorship in Mexican American Studies

Department of Creative Writing

Museum of South Texas History

Center for Mexican American Studies

The Gallery Magazine

UTRGV Art Galleries

College of Fine Arts

College of Liberal Arts

Center for Latin American Arts

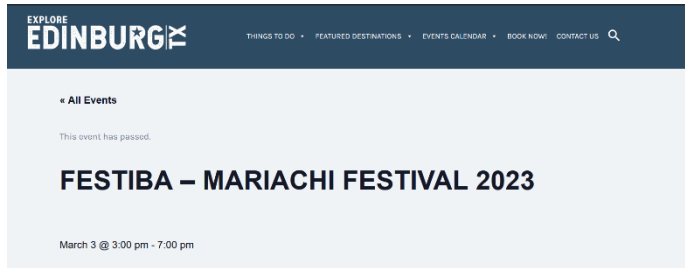
B3 Institute

Mexican Consulate in McAllen

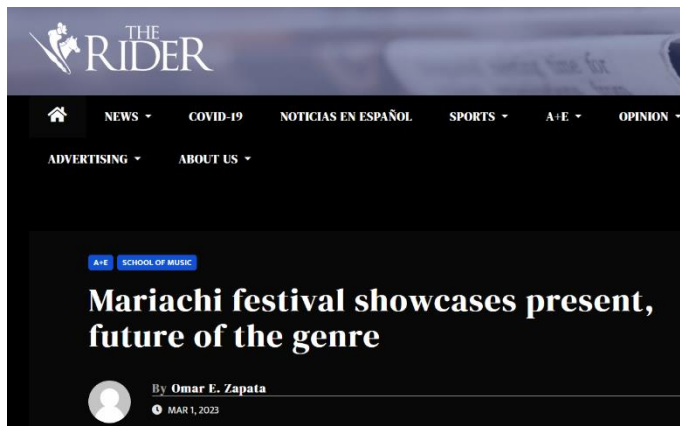
Department of Spanish

Texas Commission on the Arts

## FESTIBA 2023 in the News:



[FESTIBA - Mariachi Festival 2023 - Edinburg ETX \(exploreetx.com\)](https://www.exploreetx.com/events/festiba-mariachi-festival-2023)



<https://www.utrgvrider.com/mariachi-festival-showcases-present-future-of-the-genre/>



<https://myrgv.com/local-news/2023/03/08/photo-gallery-festiba-mariachi-festival/>

[Photo Gallery: FESTIBA Mariachi Festival | MyRGV.com](https://myrgv.com/local-news/2023/03/08/photo-gallery-festiba-mariachi-festival/)

## FESTIBA RETURNS TO UTRGV

<https://utgrvradio.com/index.php/2023/03/06/festiba-returns-to-utrgv/>



The Newsroom at UTRGV

March 2 · 🌐

The UTRGV Festiba Gear Up Day included presentations from a poet, an author, a musician and UTRGV College of Fine Arts Ballet Espanol on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023 in Edinburg, Texas.  
UTRGV Photos by Paul Chouy



<https://www.facebook.com/203600207068140/posts/pfbid06yyEsl6cGgzsUcr4max5imcQVyqvmsDz5gNbubYWHmtvhm2J2GzQDB6DRwkzqzSJI/?sfnsn=mo&mibextid=RUbZ1f>



The Newsroom at UTRGV added 14 new photos to the album: FESTIBA Mariachi

Festival 2023

March 6 at 4:22 PM · 🌐

The UTRGV Festival of International Books and Arts (UTRGV Festiba) Mariachi Festival had guest presenters and competitions on Friday, March 3, 2023 at the Performing Arts Complex in Edinburg, Texas.  
UTRGV Photos by Paul Chouy



<https://www.facebook.com/203600207068140/posts/pfbid02jXrAm2v8nBSHofiTMzUy1qKYR2GMLKof9EbXeSepNaUCDjG8bPxJqiSoZXFq2zYl/?sfnsn=mo&mibextid=RUbZ1f>

## FESTIBA 2023 - DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

### FESTIBA 2023 GEAR UP PRESENTERS

#### JOANA CARVALHAS



Joana Carvalhas is a multi-style improviser violinist actively performing and teaching in Germany, Portugal and United Kingdom, recently graduated by the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (UK). She constantly explores new musical styles and new concepts in order to approach innovative sounds and textures on the violin. More than a violinist, she describes herself as a whole musician using the violin to express and enjoy her music. Despite her classical music education, Joana also started to develop her improvisation and jazz skills and even a solo unique project where she plays with loop and effect pedals.

#### MARGARITA LONGORIA, AUTHOR



Margie is a lifelong bookworm, book blogger, and an award-winning high school librarian in South Texas. She is the founder of Border Book Bash: Celebrating Teens and Tweens of the Rio Grande Valley and served on state reading committees for the Texas Library Association. She is the editor of *LIVING BEYOND BORDERS: GROWING UP MEXICAN IN AMERICA*, a mixed-media collection of short stories, personal essays, poetry, and comics, that is a hopeful love letter from the Mexican American community to today's young readers. She holds a BA and an MA in English and an MLS in Library Science. She is passionate about diverse books, her two sons, coffee, and Mr. Darcy. She grew up in Edinburg, Texas, and lives with her family in the Rio Grande Valley.

## BALLET ESPAÑOL



**Ballet Español** was established at UTRGV to provide our students the opportunity to study the art of Spanish Dance. This dance genre encompasses a great range of styles of bailes folkloricos representing different regions in Spain, including Flamenco, the art of the gypsies of Spain, Alegrias, Tangos, Solea, Bulerías, and Siguiriyas. Other dances include the Escuela Bolera, a style of classical dance and music from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries where ballet principles of turnout combine typical Spanish arm movements, with castanets and flamenco footwork and folkloric steps. The Ballet Español consists of dance majors fulfilling their BFA

in Dance Performance credits while acquiring the knowledge of producing a full length concert, stage presence and performance experience. Artistic Director of Ballet Español is Sonia Chapa Gómez MA, MFA, Lecturer II.

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## ART EXHIBITS BY FACULTY, STUDENTS AND GUESTS

### EARTH CLOUDS



**Nancy Moyer, Professor Emerita of Art**

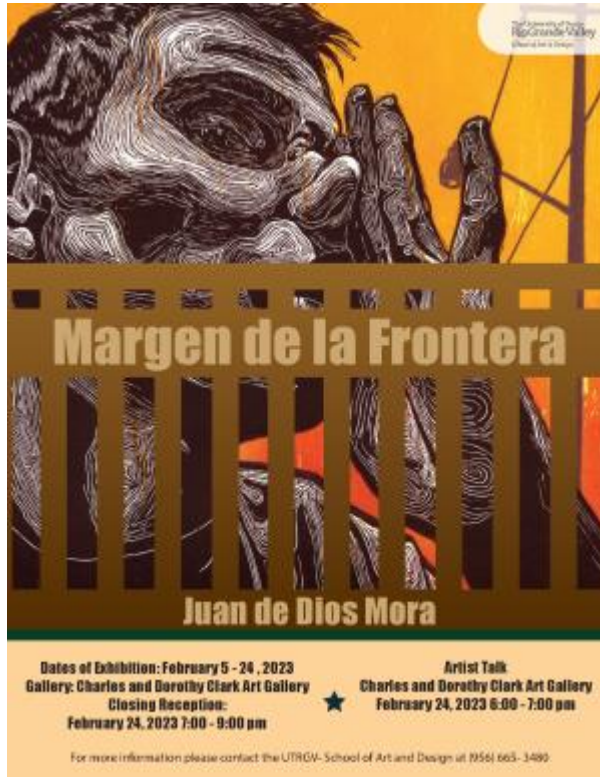
#### *Artist's Statement*

Art has always been a phenomenon of allusion through illusion. The *Earthcloud* series talks about that. I have built a visual dialogue with illusion alluding to the projected endgame of mass production. It is ironic that it has resulted in actual objects. *Earthclouds* are rags that because of excessive mass production and waste have attained quantum consciousness. Everything is energy, and with enough complex mass, can have a quantum

consciousness. I saw the enormous piles of fabrics at the Ropas as potentially having this quality, which allowed my rags to rise from the piles of discard into a separate dimension. My photographs show them seeking primordial organization where only newly conscious, man-made, entities exist.



## JUAN DE DIOS MORA, GUEST ARTIST



Juan de Dios Mora has lived in border towns where different cultures clash and yet expressions and emotions coalesce. However here in the US, it's traditions, racism, and stereotypes have introduced him to the reality of being an immigrant in a different country.

Mora blends his hybrid Mexican culture and American experiences into a single entity and focuses on the economic, social, and cultural issues of life on the border. Mora portrays characters interacting with customized devices and vehicles that are created to facilitate the daily life, duties, responsibilities, obligations, and entertaining events of the operators.

Working representationally and sometimes with the surreal, he portray images of the typical Mexican/American's life, iconography, and beliefs. His objective is to bring people together, with sentimental, satirical, sarcastic, and comical themes. He hopes to evoke self-awareness and then to

superimpose that awareness on the experiences of life.

## SINCE I WAS A GIRL



**By Kaylee Hernandez**

An MFA graduate exhibition by Kaylee Hernandez.

# THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN ARTS EXHIBITIONS



## CIRCA: CONJETURAS EN PAPEL

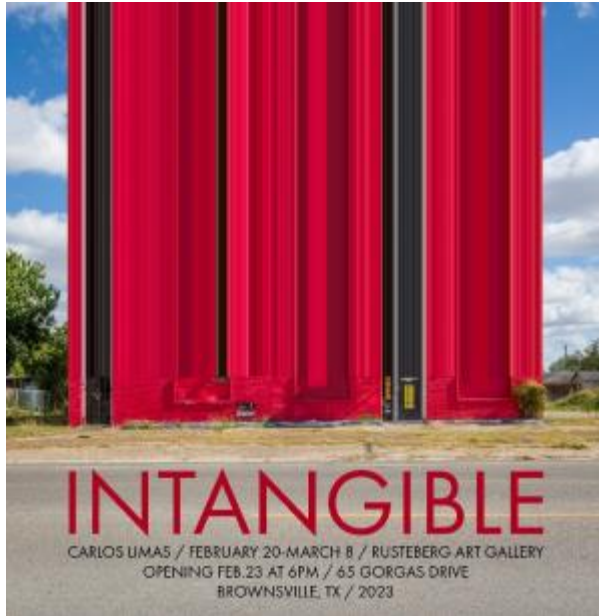


By **Angela V. Scardigno**

"Circa is a project that aims to keep memories alive through collage. A photo, a scene expresses an endless number of possibilities, a continuous presentation of stories, which can be reassembled, re-narrated, and consequently can remain current. Circa is a word that comes up recurrently in any archival search, demonstrating that our findings, although imprecise but true, are only the surface of a reality, a reality so complex that we can generally only reach it superficially through conjecture. In this project/experiment the old scenarios are mutilated, distorted, and intervened to open a dialectic between the figurative and the abstract, the narrative and the formal."

Angela V. Scardigno graduated as a Graphic Designer from the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2006. While she attended the University, she took classes in several art workshops taught by masters such as Lautaro Fiszman, Aníbal Cedrón, and Carlos Terribili. Later she moved to the United States, where she completed a Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in 2019. Scardigno has exhibited throughout the Rio Grande Valley, Argentina, and México, and her work was published in Studio Visit Magazine in 2018. She currently works at the UTRGV Center for Latin American Arts as Coordinator of Media Design and Communications. Scardigno lives and works in McAllen, Texas.

## INTANGIBLE



**By Carlos Limas**

“INTANGIBLE is a photography exhibition by artist Carlos Limas, who has been documenting the backroads of the Rio Grande Valley since 2017. These explorations have led him to rethink the rural and urban landscapes, envisioning the possibilities of the imaginary.”

Carlos Limas, Mexico (b.1970) holds an MFA from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in Edinburg, a BA in Studio Art from l’Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts de Bruxelles in Belgium, and a BA in Graphic Design from the Instituto Profesional de Arte y Diseño in Monterrey, México. Limas currently teaches Photography at the UTRGV School of Art and Design, and he is the Chief Coordinator of

Media and Graphic Design at the Center for Latin American Arts.

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## MUSEUM OF SOUTH TEXAS HISTORY

### GUEST PRESENTERS

#### FRANCISCO GUAJARDO



**THE FREDDY GONZALEZ’ LETTERS PROJECT: BUILDING MIDDLE SCHOOL WRITING SKILLS WITH AN EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP**

**Francisco Guajardo** is the Chief Executive Officer of the Museum of South Texas History in Edinburg, Texas. A child of the South Texas and northeastern Mexico borderland, he was raised on both sides of the border, attended public schools in the rural community of Edcouch-Elsa in the Rio Grande Valley, and became an educator. He earned a B.A. in English, an M.A. in History and an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in History, Curriculum & Instruction, and Educational Administration from University of Texas at Austin.

## MELISSA PEÑA



### STORYTELLING WITH ARTIFACTS

Behind every museum exhibition is hours-long research into an artifact and its provenance. Crafting the major theme of exhibit requires storytelling techniques and choosing other artifacts to supplement. MOSTHistory's Exhibits & Collections Coordinator Melissa Peña will share details on building spotlight exhibits.

## JOHNNY GONZALES



### The Art & Design of a Windmill

Windmills are a South Texas tradition. Many ranches still use windmills to pump water, which can be utilized to irrigate land or provide to cattle. At the Museum of South Texas History, a towering windmill was placed in the Will Looney Legacy Park to honor the cowmen and ranch-hands in South Texas. Facilities & Security supervisor Johnny Gonzales will share the history of this windmill and its importance to the museum.



## READING ROCK STARS

### Visits to Public Schools with Book Distributions

In keeping with our mission to promote early childhood reading, FESTIBA is proud to present the "Reading Rock Stars" program in partnership with the *Texas Book Festival*. This program is a popular mainstay of FESTIBA, and children receive a signed book by an author of national repute.

## 2023 Reading Rock Stars Schools and Authors:

**Dates:** Thursday & Friday, March 2 & 3

**Location Schools:** Hurla Midkiff, Mission; Bryan Elementary, Mission; Guillermo Flores Elementary, La Joya; EB Guerra Elementary, Edinburg; Cesar Chavez Elementary, Pharr; Dr. RE Margo Elementary, Weslaco.

### 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.

### ZARA GONZALEZ HOANG



**ZARA GONZÁLEZ HOANG** is a picture book author and illustrator. She grew up in a little bungalow in the frozen tundra of Minnesota. Surrounded by snow she spent her days dreaming, doodling and listening to the colorful stories of her Dad's life growing up in Puerto Rico while trying to figure out where she fit in as a mixed-race Latina Jew in a sea of Scandinavians. These days, she lives outside of DC in a magical suburban forest with her Mad Man husband, human-shaped demons and curly-coated corgi. She still spends her days dreaming and doodling, but now instead of listening to stories, she's starting to tell some of her own.

## ANA SIQUEIRA



Ana Siqueira is from Rio, Brasil, where she is an award-winning published author. In 1992, she moved to the United States where she teaches Spanish to elementary children. She has published a Spanish book for the educational market, *El Pato Quiere Uvas*, published by Teacher's Discovery. Ana is also an Abuela and she loves playing with her grandkids, reading, writing, and cooking. She has never learned how to bake...yet. She lives in Florida with her husband and with her college-aged son. She has four kids and five grandkids. Her favorite things in life are family, books, and chocolate. Her debut book, *Bella's Recipe for Success*, tells the story of a Latina bilingual girl who tries to learn how to bake with Abuela and discovers the value of making mistakes and trying again. Publication by Beaming Books is planned for Spring 2021.

## KARLA VALENTI



Karla Valenti is the author of the bestselling and highly-acclaimed middle grade novel, *LOTERIA*, as well as various picture books, chapter books, and middle grade novels. Her storytelling is seeded in Mexican culture and mythology, and heavily influenced by the cultural profile of the many countries where I have put down roots throughout my life, including France, Japan, Germany, and the United States.

Her stories are often explorations of various philosophical and identity-based themes (inspiring the mind) while also taking readers on riveting magical realist adventures (inspiring the heart). She currently lives in the Chicagoland area with her husband, three kids, and two very lazy cats.

## 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. Called by Roots author Alex Haley a “world-class writer”, Tafolla has received numerous awards, including the prestigious Americas Award, presented to her at the Library of Congress in 2010, five International Latino Book Awards, two Tomas Rivera Book Awards, three ALA Notable Books, a Charlotte Zolotow Award, the Art of Peace Award, Top Ten Books for Babies, and has been recognized by the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies for work which “gives voice to the peoples and cultures of this land.”

## MARCELO VERDAD



Marcelo Verdad is an author and illustrator from México who likes to tell stories from unconventional perspectives. He graduated from ArtCenter College of Design, where he came upon the Children’s Book Illustration class and immediately fell in love with kids’ books. He is a member of SCBWI and was one of the recipients of the Mentorship Award at SCBWI’s 2019 Summer Conference. *The Worst Teddy Ever* is his picture book debut. He lives in Los Angeles, California.

## XAVIER GARZA



Xavier Garza was born in Rio Grande City in Texas's [Lower Rio Grande Valley](#) in 1968. Growing up along the border in a Mexican-American family, he became intensely interested in both the spooky local folklore and the sport of [lucha libre](#) or Mexican wrestling. After receiving his BFA in art from the University of Texas Pan American in 1994, he became an art teacher. During the late 1990s and early 2000s, he began to exhibit his work in venues such as Talento Bilingue de Houston, Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center in San Antonio, Nuestra Palabra de Houston and various Mexican Consulates in the Rio Grande Valley and El Paso. Garza's art has also been displayed in The Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio, Mexic-Arte in Austin, Gallista Gallery in San Antonio, Coronado Studios in Austin, and The Ice House in Dallas, among many others. After contributing to several anthologies in the early 2000s, Garza penned and illustrated his first children's book, *Creepy Creatures and other Cucuys*, which was published

by [Arte Público Press](#) in 2004. Over the next decade, he went on to craft many other award-winning titles. His stories have also appeared in many periodicals, including *El Mañana*, *The Monitor*, *TABE*, *The Corpus Christi Caller Times*, *Mesquite Review* and the *Milwaukee Spanish Journal*. In 2007, Xavier Garza received his MA in Art History and Criticism from the University of Texas at San Antonio. He presently resides in that city with his wife and son.

## FESTIBA GUEST ARTISTS

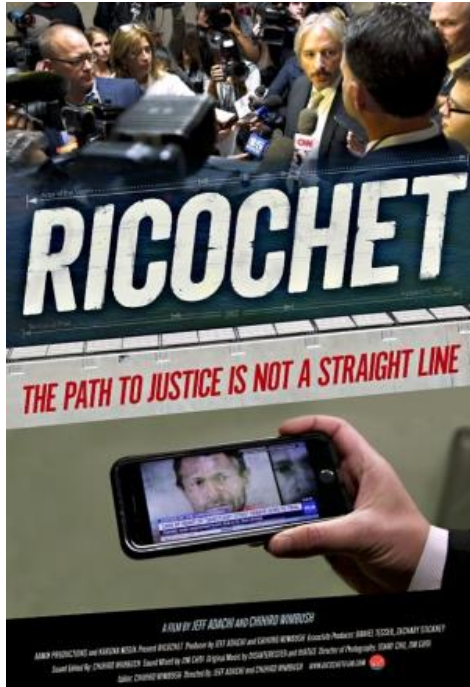
### ROBERT SATTERLEE, PIANIST



Pianist Robert Satterlee has developed a reputation as an accomplished and versatile solo recitalist and chamber musician, playing regularly throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. He teaches a studio of students from all over the United States and abroad in his position as Professor of Piano at Bowling Green State University. A recent CD of his was selected by the New York Times as one of the outstanding classical recordings of 2014.

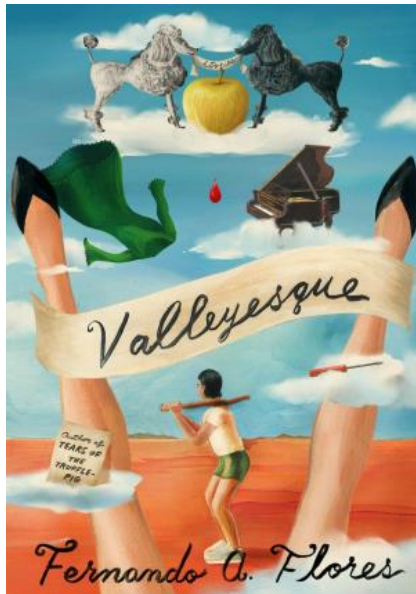


## RICOCHET DOCUMENTARY SCREENING with MATT GONZALEZ, SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC DEFENDER



Matt Gonzalez was 1983 Senior Class President at McAllen's Memorial High School. Since then he rose to prominence as a U.S. Vice Presidential and a San Francisco Mayorial candidate. Never afraid to take a hard stand as a politician and always eager to bring the Fine Arts to his workplace, he shows courage in *RICOCHET* in defending a Mexican migrant in a State case where the odds seemed stacked against him as the Trump campaign tries to use the case for its own political gain. Matt Gonzalez will introduce the film and conduct a Q&A

## VALLEYESQUE



**By Fernando Flores**

Fernando Flores grew up in the RGV and is now a rising young fiction writer. His second collection of short fiction (2022) *Valleyesque*—yes, *our* Valley—has recently been favorably reviewed in the **New York Times**.

A previous near-future science fiction novel (set in a version of the RGV) also received critical acclaim (it was long-listed for the Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize).

**Texas Monthly** mentions Flores's name in comparison with Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Kurt Vonnegut, and Gloria Anzaldua.

<https://www.texasmonthly.com/arts-entertainment/author-fernando-a-flores-reinventing-texas-borderlands/>.

**Presenters:** Through collaboration with the Creative Writing Department and the School of Art and Design at UTRGV, Fernando Flores will perform readings of his work in the galleries of both Visual Art Buildings in Brownsville and in Edinburg.

## VISITING POETS & PERFORMERS HOSTED BY CREATIVE WRITING: GRIS MUÑOZ & ANDREA "VOCAB" SANDERSON

### GRIS MUÑOZ



**Gris Muñoz** is a frontera poet and storyteller, described as “a rock and roll curandera” by Luis Urrea. She is the author of the bilingual poetry and short story collection, *Coatlicue Girl* (FlowerSong Press), named a finalist for the John A. Robertson Award for Best First Book of Poetry by the Texas Institute of Letters. Muñoz is currently commissioned to write a biography of acclaimed L.A. artist Fabian Debora. She is also the co-founder of the digital map and storytelling project, GeoTestimonios Transfronterizxs, which aims to record the experiences of women living on the El Paso/Juarez border. Muñoz is Xicana of Apache descent. This visit is made possible by UTRGV’s Dr. Robert S. Nelsen Professorship in Mexican American Studies.

### ANDREA SANDERSON



**Andrea Sanderson**, San Antonio Poet Laureate 2020-2023, performs as “Vocab” in her hometown San Antonio. “Watching her perform, the word ‘hero’ comes to mind. And not ‘hero’ for the sake of just skill, but for her work in her community: Sanderson teaches poetry workshops, mentors, builds up and encourages artists to pursue their art, and gives them platforms to showcase their talent. Sanderson’s interest in other people’s art and artistic development became a passion of hers, and she started curating her own shows and creating platforms for other artists to hone their craft by hosting open mics.” (From *The San Antonio Current*, Jan. 16, 2018.)

Her poetry is published in, *The Texas Observer*, *Pariah Anthology* SFA Press, and *Sycorax’s Daughters*, and other publications. Her debut book entitled: *She Lives In Music*, published on FlowerSong Press, was released on Valentine’s Day 2020. Her album *She Tastes Like Music*, is available on all music streaming platforms.

## VISITING AUTHORS FROM JORNADAS LITERARIAS LIBRO ABIERTO: MUJERES Y EXCRITURA, DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH

**Carmen Posadas** was born in Montevideo, Uruguay and lived there until she was 12 years old. In 1965 she moved to Madrid with her family. She has also lived in Moscow, Buenos Aires and London. She is the author of more than 15 children's books as well as five novels, two biographies, and several film and television scripts. In 1998 she won the Planeta Prize, her work has been translated into 30 languages and in 2003 Newsweek magazine named her one of the most relevant authors of her generation.

**Silvia Molina** is a Mexican author, playwright, editor, and essayist. She has written numerous novels, including *La mañana debe seguir gris*, which won a Xavier Villaurrutia Award in 1977, and *El amor que me juraste*, which earned a Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz Prize in 1998. She has written 10 novels, 6 short-story collections, and 32 children's books. She is a member of the Mexican Academy of Language.

**Alicia Giménez Bartlett** is a Spanish writer particularly known for her series of detective novels with protagonist Petra Delicado. The Petra Delicado novels have been published in various languages and are very popular in Germany and Italy. In 1999 Petra Delicado appeared as the protagonist of a television series. Four of her novels have been used for an Italian TV four-part series: *Petra*, first broadcast in September 2020.<sup>[2]</sup> In 2011 Bartlett won the Nadal Prize for *Donde nadie te encuentre*. She has written more than 22 novels and has been translated to several languages.

# MARIACHI FESTIVAL GUEST ARTISTS

Friday & Saturday, March 3 & 4



FESTIBA 2023 MARIACHI FESTIVAL

**Masterclasses, Competitions & Concert featuring Mariachi Sol de México de José Hernández**

## **SPECIAL GUESTS:**

**Maestro José Hernández**, founder and director of Mariachi Sol de México and Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles; recognized internationally as an innovative force behind mariachi music, both musically as well as in mariachi education.

**Mariachi Sol de México**, internationally recognized mariachi, renowned for their innovation and fusion of different styles of music, with a distinguished history of performances for five US Presidents, and tours throughout Europe, Asia and Latin America.

**Dr. Diana Seitz**, Associate Professor of strings and violin at the UTRGV School of Music, College of Fine Arts, is recognized nationally and internationally as a pedagogue, soloist, chamber, and orchestral musician.

**Josué “Eddy” López**, professional mariachi performer and arranger, Director of Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy’s high school mariachi program.

**Dr. Adolfo Estrada**, professional mariachi performer and guitarist, Assistant Professor in the School of Music and Director of Latin Music Studies at Texas State University.

## FALL FESTIBA

FESTIBA 2022-2023 included a new element - *FALL FESTIBA* - which took place November 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>. This event featured two outstanding women: **Ada Limón, poet and Aída Cuevas**, Mexican singer and a visit by 600 students from Vanguard Fine Arts Schools.

**Ada Limón** became the 24th Poet Laureate of the United States in July of 2022. Limón is the author of the poetry collections *The Hurting Kind* (2022, Milkweed Editions); *The Carrying* (2018, Milkweed Editions), which won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry; *Bright Dead Things* (2015, Milkweed Editions), a finalist for the National Book Award, the National Books Critics Circle Award, and the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award; *Sharks in the Rivers* (2010, Milkweed Editions); *Lucky Wreck* (2005, Autumn House Press, reissued 2021); and *This Big Fake World* (2005, Pearl Editions).

Limón earned an MFA from New York University and is the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the New York Foundation for the Arts, the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center, and the Kentucky Foundation for Women. Her work has appeared in numerous publications including the *New Yorker*, *Harvard Review*, *Pleiades*, and *Barrow Street*. The College of Fine Arts Creative Writing Program will present Ada Limon (virtually) on November 9<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Student Union Theater, Edinburg campus.

**Aída Cuevas**, dubbed as “The Queen of Mariachi,” is an esteemed figure in Mexico, beloved for her unswerving devotion to traditional mariachi music and for her mastery of its demanding vocal forms. Aída Cuevas, with a 45-year career and 41 album releases to her credit, represents one of the most important careers in traditional Mexican music with Grammy and Latin Grammy Awards, and eleven nominations, becoming the first female singer in the mariachi genre to ever win these awards. FALL FESTIBA presented her concert: *45th Anniversary – Yo Creo Que Es Tiempo*, an unforgettable and emotional concert celebrating a long-lasting career as Mexico’s most important female voice. She was joined by renowned UTRGV Mariachi Aztlán. Concerts took place on November 9<sup>th</sup> in Brownsville, TSC PAC (7:30 pm), and in Edinburg, UTRGV PAC (7:30pm). The concerts were very well attended, and the Edinburg event was sold out.

The Creative Writing Program presented the event with Aida Limon, in collaboration with the Center for Mexican American Studies, Center for Bilingual Studies, and other campus departments (see poster) and included Texas Poet Laureate – Lupe Mendez. The presentations were very well attended by University students.

Vanguard Schools visited the campus and enjoyed presentations from local author, Katelyn Renteria, artist Jessica Monroe, and a concert by the Ballet Folklórico UTRGV and Mariachi Juvenil Aztlán.



*Save the Date!*  
**WEDNESDAY, NOV 9, 2022**  
**LOCATED AT UTRGV EDINBURG CAMPUS**

**11:20-11:50AM BALLROOM  
TACOS AND REFRESHMENTS**

**12:00-12:25PM STUDENT UNION THEATER READING BY**  
*Texas Poet Laureate Lupe Mendez*

**12:30-1:30PM STUDENT UNION THEATER  
WEBINAR READING AND Q&A WITH**  
*U.S. Poet Laureate Ada Limón*

**1:45PM BALLROOM  
POETRY WRITING & PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP WITH**  
*Lupe Mendez*



**SCAN FOR WEBINAR LINK!**

**UTRGV**

Creative Writing | College of Fine Arts | Center for Mexican American Studies | Center for Bilingual Studies  
Center for Latin American Arts | Center for Diversity & Inclusion | Department of Literature & Cultural Studies

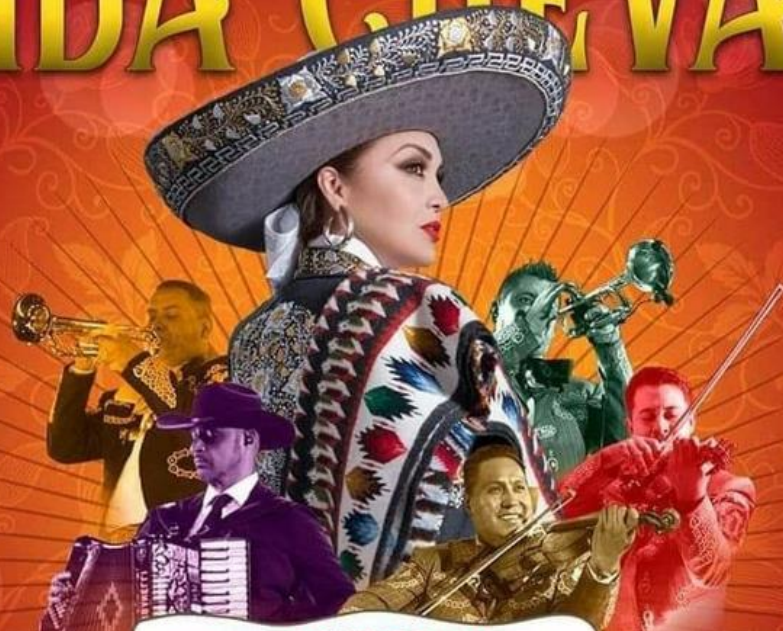


**FOR QUESTIONS/ACCOMMODATIONS  
CONTACT:**

**samantha.j.lopez01@utrgv.edu  
or emmy.perez@utrgv.edu**

LA MÁXIMA EXPONENTE DE LA MÚSICA RANCHERA

# AIDA CUEVAS



YO CREO QUE ES TIEMPO

TOUR USA 2022

.....  
**09 NOVIEMBRE**  
**TSC PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**  
**BROWNSVILLE, TX**  
.....