



Brownsville Historical Association

1947 - 2022

Banner Newsletter

Brownsville Historical Association

Volume 8, Issue 1

January 2022

Cheers To 75 Years!

It's hard to imagine that the Brownsville Historical Association celebrates its diamond jubilee this year. The Association has grown and expanded its mission and services over the years and we would like to share some milestones from our 75-year journey with you through our newsletters and social media platforms this year. The success we have experienced over the years came to us through countless hours dedicated by volunteers, board members, interns and staff, gifts from foundations and donors as well as support from the school district and city government.

Anniversaries are a great time to reflect on where we came from as well as make plans to navigate through the challenges of present day and explore new ideas for the future. It was the vision of the first board members, Brownsville's city government and Stillman family members that spearheaded the movement to preserve our history. Since then, the business of museums and non-profits has evolved and changed over time and in turn the BHA staff learned to adopt best practices in the museum field, fundraise, network, address the needs of our membership, plan programs and execute museum projects.

I got to know the BHA in the early 2000s by attending programs and book signings at the Heritage Museum. Meeting members of the Association, visiting with local historians and learning about Brownsville's rich history peaked my interest and kept me coming back. Around that time, I was invited to serve on the Board of Directors and I began to learn the business of museums and non-profits. I was inspired by those who donated selflessly of their time and money to preserve historic buildings and improve our small museums.



BHA Staff (L-R): Lydia Avila, Esther Ramirez, David Parsons, Marissa Casas, Tara Putegnat, Aubrey Nielsen, Juan Duran, Victor Ramirez, Eric Gonzales, Noelia Garcia

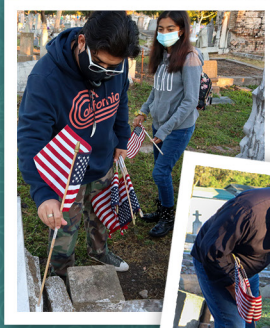
Today as Executive Director, I see firsthand the time and dedication it takes to raise funds, the good work accomplished with professional staff and the support needed operate our museums and serve the public. I am proud to know that we are the oldest non-profit in the Rio Grande Valley founded with a mission to preserve and protect our local heritage. The BHA is also the only non-profit in the Valley that manages and operates several museums, historic sites, a research center and a historic cemetery.

My work from volunteer to Executive Director, at the BHA has strengthened my commitment to Brownsville, to local preservation efforts and to all of you, whose support makes our work meaningful. Staff and I are excited to celebrate this year with you – thank you for being part of the journey.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY BHA!

Tara Putegnat, Executive Director

Historical Happenings



Shades of Haunted History Tour

Veterans Day flag placement at Old City Cemetery

Murder, Mystery, Mayhem Tour



Water Talk: Brownsville Resaca Restoration Tour with Rene Mariscal, Water Resource Manager at BPUB

Sponsorships help make this newsletter possible!

Please call us at 956-372-1515, to inquire about newsletter sponsorship opportunities, or visit our website at www.brownvillehistory.org for more information.

BROWNSVILLE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

1325 E. Washington Street, Brownsville, Texas 78520
956.541.5560 Fax: 956.435.0028
www.brownvillehistory.org

Welcome! NEW BHA MEMBERS

Arlene Binder

Jeff & Amber Brown

Billie de Luna

Mary Jean Garcia

Tony Garcia

Mr. Guillermo Gomez

Paula & Paul Hecht

Elsa & Hector Hernandez

Pat McGrath-Avery &

Everett Avery

Steven & Sandra Morfitt

Carlos Arturo Palomares

Barbara Perez

Leanne Tattersfield

BHA Timeline



Photo credit: Brownsville Historical Association

The Brownsville Historical Association at the Fort Brown Chapel

On June 26, 1946, a group of Brownsville residents, interested in preserving and promoting the history of Brownsville joined to create the Brownsville Historical Association (BHA). The BHA was officially chartered by the State of Texas as a non-profit on January 28, 1947. In 1951, the City of Brownsville granted the BHA the use of the Chapel at Fort Brown for 50 years to be rehabilitated and repurposed as a museum.

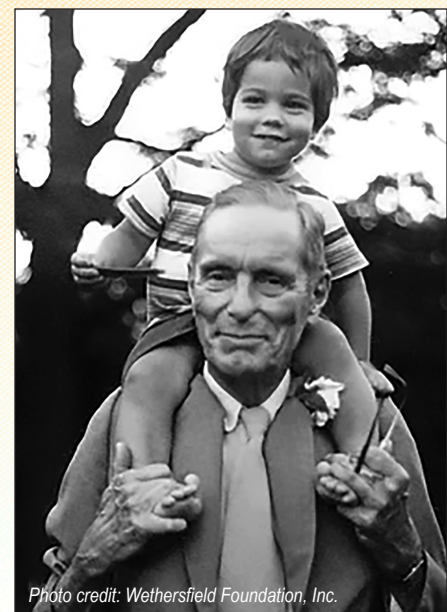


Photo credit: Wethersfield Foundation, Inc.

UPCOMING WALKING TOURS

Winter Walking Tour: Historic Downtown Brownsville

When: Friday, January 14, 2022

Time: 11 a.m.

Where: Meet at the Brownsville Heritage Museum
1325 E. Washington Street

Cost: \$10 for BHA members and \$15 for non-members.
Sorry, no refunds. Rain or shine. RSVP by calling:
(956) 541-5560

Winter Walking Tour: Fort Brown

When: Saturday, January 22, 2022

Time: 11 a.m.

Where: Meet at the Brownsville Heritage Museum
1325 E. Washington Street

Cost: \$10 for BHA members and \$15 for non-members.
Sorry, no refunds. Rain or shine. RSVP by calling:
(956) 541-5560

Winter Walking Tour: Mitte Cultural District

When: Friday, January 28, 2022

Time: 11 a.m.

Where: Meet at the Historic Brownsville Museum
641 E. Madison Street

Cost: \$10 for BHA members and \$15 for non-members.
Sorry, no refunds. Rain or shine. RSVP by calling:
(956) 548-1313

Winter Walking Tour: Old City Cemetery

When: Saturday, February 5, 2022

Time: 11 a.m.

Where: Meet at the Historic Brownsville Museum
641 E. Madison Street

Cost: \$10 for BHA members and \$15 for non-members. Sorry,
no refunds. Rain or shine. RSVP by calling: (956) 548-1313

Winter Walking Tour: St. Charles District

When: Friday, February 18, 2022

Time: 11 a.m.

Where: Meet at the Historic Brownsville Museum
641 E. Madison Street

Cost: \$10 for BHA members and \$15 for non-members.
Sorry, no refunds. Rain or shine. RSVP by calling:
(956) 548-1313

With Much Gratitude, We Thank You



Photo credit: Brownsville Historical Association

Concepcion "Kino" Camarillo

March 25, 1918 - December 18, 2010

Concepcion "Kino" Camarillo is fondly remembered for his many years of devoted service to the Brownsville Historical Association. Born in Cuero, Texas, in 1918, Kino's family soon moved to the Rio Grande Valley. Although Kino engaged in the shoe repair business in Brownsville, he found himself drafted into the army in 1942.

At the end of World War II, Kino returned home to marry his sweetheart, Cipriana, and operate a shoe shop at the rear of what would become known as the Stillman House. When the building was acquired for use as a house museum, Kino was hired as caretaker. His role soon evolved into greeter and curator, becoming a great favorite of visitors. Kino also worked at the Camille Lightner Playhouse. He retired in 2005.

Kino was honored on numerous occasions by the City of Brownsville and local organizations. The Brownsville Historical Association awards its highest annual recognition—the Kino Camarillo Award (known as the "Kino")—in his honor.

Chauncey Stillman

In the early 1950s, H.L. Stokley, mayor of Brownsville and president of the Brownsville Historical Association, led the movement for the BHA's relocation to the former home of Charles Stillman. Chauncey Stillman, great-grandson of Charles Stillman, purchased the home from the Trevino family for \$50,000.00. On January 13, 1958, the BHA formally accepted the deed of gift from Chauncey Stillman's attorney.



Photo credit: Brownsville Historical Association

Stillman House Restoration

The restoration of the Stillman House began in 1959 and was estimated to cost \$40,000.00.

Pictured to the left is grandson Peter Budnik (top) and Chauncey Stillman (bottom)



Photo credit: Brownsville Historical Association

Stillman House Museum Opens

The Stillman House- Public Historical Museum was formally opened on January 16, 1961. In 1961, general museum admission was 25 cents for adults and 15 cents for students! Hours of operation were 10:00am-12 noon, 2:00pm-5:00pm Monday – Friday.

Brownsville Historical Association
1325 E. Washington Street
Brownsville, Texas 78520

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage

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Permit No. 47
Brownsville, TX

For tickets and sponsorship information, please call 956.548.1313
www.brownsvillehistory.org

Featuring Don Strange Catering
Laureles Ranch House Museum
1501 E. 7th Street in Linear Park, 6 PM
Brownsville, Texas

Taste of Texas

10TH ANNUAL

The Brownsville Historical Association
Presents The

SAVE THE DATE
03.19.22