

FEI Padaso

Film Festival

SEPT
28-30
2023



WELCOME TO THE FESTIVAL

The El Paso Film Festival is celebrating its 6th anniversary and is among the largest showcases of independently produced short and feature films in west Texas. Our foundational elements serve to inspire, and create economic opportunity for the El Paso community.

VISION

To lead the new faces of filmmaking to their highest potential by becoming an Oscar-qualifying film festival.

MISSION

To support and empower the growing community of filmmakers in our bi-national, tri-state region by building a professional foundation of storytellers and artists from which to learn, network and collaborate.

GOAL

To make El Paso, Texas a destination for independent filmmakers.

EPFF is among the few festivals in the nation that brings the film's directors to the audience they entertain. In our short history, we have attracted a diverse audience of film aficionados, passionate story tellers and filmmaking executives. We love film. So, we support them with resources that go beyond viewing space and applause.

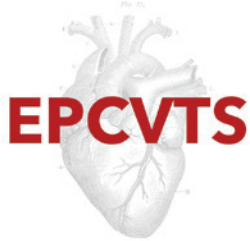
With the philanthropic support of the Paso Del Norte Community Foundation, EPFF and its sponsors award up to \$5,000 in cash prizes to independent filmmakers. We're proud to be one of the few independent film festivals in the country to award the best films with cash prizes.

EPFF elevates the creative voice and vision of all filmmakers as they make their path towards the film and television industry by connecting them with seasoned professionals for mentorship and collaborative opportunities. Our efforts are creating a destination event for the region that can stimulate the economy as well as the arts.

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PREMIERE SPONSORS



SUPPORTING SPONSORS



EPFF SPECIAL GUESTS



ELIZABETH AVELLÁN

Producer

Elizabeth Avellán is a Producer of bold narrative diversified content. She is Co-Owner and Vice President of Troublemaker Studios. In addition to producing family and genre films that have collectively grossed over a billion and a half dollars in box office, she has played a primary role in developing Austin, Texas as a thriving film community.



LANCE LARSON

Filmmaker

Lance Larson is a multi-award winning director, writer and editor. Larson has just completed directing his first feature film, Deadland. He also works as producer/editor for Fox Studios. Previous employment includes director for Synthetic Pictures, Giant Pictures, Stone Core Films, FM Rocks and promo editor for Universal Pictures and Blockbuster Entertainment.



XIMENA ALVAREZ

Producer

Ximena Alvarez is a producer based in Los Angeles, California with experience in both the theatre and film industry. Originally from San Antonio, Texas, Ximena is a 2019 graduate of The University of Texas at Austin with a bachelor's degree in Theater Arts. She currently works for NETFLIX's documentary division in Los Angeles, California.



KATHERINE PROPPER

Filmmaker

Katherine Propper is a writer-director born and raised in Los Angeles and currently based in Austin, TX. Katherine received her MFA in Film Directing from the University of Texas at Austin and a BA in Art History from Georgetown University.



JOSE LUIS SOLIS OLIVARES

Filmmaker

José Luis Solís Olivares is a professor at the School of Education and Humanities in the area of film and creative writing for the degrees of Communication and Hispanic Literature. He is a Film and theater director, screenwriter, and cultural promoter, alongside his academic development in the areas of humanities.



KRYSTALL POPPIN

Rapper & Actress

Hailing from the vibrant border city of El Paso, Texas, Krystall Poppin is the rising Mexican American rapper who's now adding her unique talent to the world of acting. Known for her lyrical prowess and magnetic stage presence, Krystall has captivated audiences in the music industry.



CHELSEA HERNANDEZ

Filmmaker

Chelsea Hernandez is an Emmy-nominated Mexican-American Director and Producer based in Texas. Named as DOC NYC's 2021 40 Under 40 Class, she is a Telly Award Winner for her feature documentary Building TheAmerican Dream, which was also nominated for a National Emmy®.

EPFF SPECIAL GUESTS



THE SLOPPY BOYS

A Party Rock Band

The Sloppy Boys are a party rock band hailing from Los Feliz, California and comprised of Mike Hanford, Jeff Dutton, and Tim Kalpakis from sketch comedy group The Birthday Boys. Hit songs include "Pass that Doobie" and "Here for the Beer." The three members were part of the comedy group The Birthday Boys, whose TV show on IFC was produced by Bob Odenkirk.



JAS SHELTON

Director of Photography

Jas Shelton is an award winning commercial and film cinematographer. In 2019 he was nominated for an EMMY for his work on Season 2 of Amazon Prime's Homecoming. Other mainstream titles he's glassed are Like a Boss starring Salma Hayek, Tiffany Haddish and Rose Byrne-The House starring Will Farrell and Amy Poehler-Keane starring Keegan Michael Key and Jordan Peele.



ROBERT HOLGUIN

Filmmaker & Journalist

Robert Holguin started his career as a reporter for the Associated Press in Seattle, where he covered everything from pro sports to technology. He wrote dozens of articles about the burgeoning music scene in the 1990s that appeared in newspapers across the globe.



HEATHER COURTNEY

Filmmaker

Heather is an Emmy-winning filmmaker, and a Guggenheim, Sundance, and Fulbright fellow. Her film WHERE SOLDIERS COME FROM was broadcast on the PBS series POV, and won an Emmy, an Independent Spirit Award, and a SXSW Jury Award. She co-directed and produced a Ford-funded feature documentary on DACA students, called THE UNAFRAID.



BOB BASTARACHE

Producer & Assistant Director

Bob Bastarache has been working in film and television production for 30 years. His work began in New York City on PBS Television's, multi-Emmy Award Winner Reading Rainbow.



ZACH PASSERO

Director, Editor, & Animator

Zach Passero is an editor, director, and animator best known for his work on Lucky McKee's films, like the notorious 2011 Sundance hit The Woman and the soon to be released Old Man; as well as Sam Elliot cult hit The Man Who Killed Hitler And Then The Bigfoot.

CREATING WAYS GUESTS



LUCKY MCKEE

Award-winning screenwriter, director, and novelist
McKee is best known for the 2002 cult hit *May*, the 2006 schoolgirl chiller *The Woods* and the notorious 2011 Sundance shocker *The Woman* as well as noir-thrillers such as *Blood Money* starring John Cusack, *Kindred Spirits* starring Caitlin Stasey, Thora Birch and Macon Blair. His latest film, *Old Man*, stars the legendary Stephen Lang and more recently, he directed an episode of Peacock's smash hit detective series *POKER FACE*.



JENI ROBINS

Comedian & Actress
Jeni Robins is an actress, comedian, and filmmaker. Native to El Paso, she is currently living in Los Angeles, CA. As a filmmaker, Jeni adorns many hats including director, writer, and producer. As an actress, she is a member of Screen Actors Guild and has appeared on TruTV, HBO, Hulu, Netflix, and others. Jeni studies with the Upright Citizens Brigade, Lesly Kahn, and is a scholarship recipient at The Groundlings.



TIM MOLLOY

MovieMaker Magazine
Tim Molloy is the editor and co-owner of *MovieMaker Magazine*. He also edits *Moviemaker.com* and hosts the *MovieMaker* podcast, which has featured guests from David Fincher to Margot Robbie to Regina King. He's from San Pedro, California and now lives in Massachusetts.



ABRAHAM MARTINEZ

Director of Photography
Born in San Antonio, Texas based in Los Angeles, California, Abraham studied filmmaking at the University of North Texas in Dallas, Texas. After joining the International Cinematographer's Guild in the late 90s, he worked his way up through the ranks. He is currently the DP on *Cobra Kai*, *The Lincoln Lawyer* and *Obliterated* all on Netflix.



REBECA DURÁN

Director of Photography
Rebeca Duran is an Albuquerque/Los Angeles based filmmaker from Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. After receiving her B.F.A. in Film+Television from New York University - Tisch, Rebeca relocated to New Mexico to begin a career in filmmaking. She is an IATSE Local 600 member and has worked on many productions as a cinematographer, camera operator and FAA-licensed UAS pilot.



TYLER RUSSELL

Writer, Director, Producer
Tyler Russell first began his film career as a grip and camera assistant on various short films and shot his debut feature "*Pac-Man: The Movie*" in 2008. After working on TV formats such as "*The Taste*" (2013) in the interim, his first feature film "*Here Comes Rusty*" was released in 2016, followed by his short film war drama "*Shilo*" in 2017.



XALAVIER NELSON JR.

Video Game Studio Director
Xalavier Nelson Jr. is a BAFTA-nominated studio head, narrative director, and writer, with dozens of titles under his belt including *Stranger Things VR*, *Magic: The Gathering*, *Hypnospace Outlaw*, *Space Warlord Organ Trading Simulator*, and *El Paso, Elsewhere*. He also makes strides in a storytelling career outside of games, with releases such as the cult hit comic *Sherlock Holmes Hunts the Moth Man*.



DAKOTA THOMAS

Writer, Director, Producer
Dakota Thomas is a queer writer and director from El Paso, Texas. He has written and directed several short horror films, most notably *Opening Night*, which stars Tuesday Knight (Kristen Parker, *A Nightmare on Elm Street 4: The Dream Master*). His love for film blossomed at the tender age of two after his mother took him to see *Jason Goes To Hell: The Final Friday* in theaters.



VALERIA CONTRERAS

Writer, Director, Producer
Valeria Contreras is a bilingual, Mexican-American writer, director, and producer from El Paso, Texas. An artist at heart, Valeria's love for story began by writing and illustrating bilingual, educational comics for kids. Since then, Valeria has collaborated on a slate of short films including "*Homesick*," a modern-day tale of two star-crossed lovers.



KERRY VALDERRAMA

Filmmaker & Graphic Novelist
Kerry Valderrama is a former airborne infantryman with the 82nd Airborne Division and served as a team leader in Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. He received a B.A. from Methodist University in Political Science and a minor in Spanish. While attending the University of Texas at San Antonio for his Masters degree in International Relations.



ANDREW JARA

Writer & Director
Born and raised in El Paso, TX, Writer/Director Andrew Jara is a Latino filmmaker. Andrew has made three feature films so far and is always interested in pursuing real themes and situations while also bringing more voices to film.



CRAIG CHARTIER

Director of Photography | Cooke Optics
Craig began his career at Gear Rental (Austin, Texas) where he spent 18 years, managing day-to-day operations and leaving as Vice President of Production Services. He also held the role of general operations manager at ARRI Worldwide Rental and worked with Bold Distribution as business development and marketing coordinator.



E.C.-DUKES

Graphic Novel Publisher
Dr. E.C.-Dukes is a writer from Chaparral, New Mexico. She earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Rhetoric and Composition from the University of Texas at El Paso, a Master of Fine Arts degree in Film from Columbia University in the City of New York, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities in Journalism and Chicano Studies and a minor in Theatre Arts.



BILLY TOWNES

Filmmaker
Born in New York City, Townes' earliest experiences with the music came from his piano teacher mother when he was still a toddler in Okinawa, Japan, where his father was stationed in the army.



RYAN ROX

Writer & Director
Ryan Rox is a Non-Binary Trans Femme, Latine Filmmaker and Actor, based in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Rox has written and directed several short films including their latest *SHIPPING THEM*.

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Philanthropy Theatre					
11 AM	11:00-12:00 Creating Ways Video Games, Graphic Novels & Film				
12 PM					
1 PM	Intersected	Meet los Parents	1:00-3:00 MONAH	No Pasa Nada	Powerless
	That Tingling Sensation	The Lone Mariachi	The Mundanes	The Silent Smile	They took Jacob
2 PM					
3 PM					
4 PM	3:30-4:30 Creating Ways The Challenges Of Indie Production				
5 PM	5:00-6:45 Opening Night VIP Party @ Hotel Paso Del Norte				
6 PM					
7 PM					
8 PM	7:00-8:45 Deadland				
9 PM					



**SCAN
TO SEE
SCHEDULE
ONLINE**

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

El Paso Museum of Art						
11 AM	Earthling	Raising the Floor	The Dads	The Southern Front		
12 PM						
1 PM						
2 PM	1:30-3:00 No Ordinary Campaign					
3 PM						
4 PM	Blue Blue Blue Blue Blue Blue	La Cosecha	KINGDOME	On Taphonomy	Rubio	The Announcer

Philanthropy Theatre						
9 AM	9:00-10:00 Creating Ways Chicano Cinema with Chicano Hollywood					
10 AM						
11 AM	10:30-11:30 Creating Ways The Shorter The Better					
12 PM	12:30-2:30					
1 PM	Azizam	Call Me Mommy	Do Over	Hermanita	In Tow	Run Amok
2 PM						
3 PM	3:00-4:45					
3 PM	Cat's Don't Sleep at Night	Comadre	El Gato Feo	Give	The Sidewalk Artist	You Left Me Alone
4 PM						
5 PM	5:00-6:45 VIP & Filmmaker Party @ Aaron & George's Film Cafe					
6 PM						
7 PM	7:00-9:00 Blood, Sweat and Beers: The Making of a Comedy-Rock Classic					
8 PM						
9 PM						
9 PM	9:45-11:45					
10 PM	Dead Enders	Every House is Haunted	Happy On My Own	Scotty's Vag	Stop Dead	
11 PM	The Breakthrough		Unkind Cut	Vibrator Girl	We forgot about the Zombies	
12 PM						

SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

El Paso Convention Center								
9 AM	9:00-10:00 Creating Ways Unveiling Truths Through the Lens							
10 AM	10:00-11:00 Creating Ways The Realities of Indie Distribution							
11 AM	11:00-12:00 Creating Ways Getting Your Vision To The Screen With Cinematography							
12 PM	12:30-2:30							
1 PM	A Brief Silence	Grace	Liz & Karla	Nova	Shipping Them	The Film Café	The Healing Garden	You, Us, & I
2 PM								
3 PM	3:00-4:45							
4 PM	Brenda	Maria	Seams	Supermarket Affairs	The Mosquito Effect	The Student Film	Together Alone	

El Paso Museum of Art	
1 PM	1:00-3:00 Breaking the News
2 PM	
3 PM	
4 PM	3:50-5:00 Hummingbirds
5 PM	

Philanthropy Theatre	
12 PM	12:00-2:00 Little Brother
1 PM	
2 PM	
3 PM	2:30-4:30 The Pool of Nobodies
4 PM	
5 PM	5:00-6:45 VIP & Filmmaker Party @ Hotel Paso Del Norte
6 PM	
7 PM	7:00-9:00 Lost Soulz
8 PM	
9 PM	
10 PM	9:45-11:45 The Weird Kidz
11 PM	

VIP PARTY SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

OPENING NIGHT VIP PARTY

🕒 5:00 PM - 6:45 PM

📍 The Hotel Paso Del Norte
10 Henry Trost Ct, El Paso, TX 79901

Come join us for our opening night VIP and Filmmaker evening reception where you'll get to meet the filmmakers of El Paso Film Festival at the Hotel Paso Del Norte. Enjoy drinks and hors d'oeuvres on us.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

VIP & Filmmaker Party

🕒 5:00 PM - 6:45 PM

📍 Aaron & George's Film Cafe
105 Texas Ave, El Paso, TX 79901

Come join us for our Friday evening VIP and Filmmaker evening reception where you'll get to meet the filmmakers of El Paso Film Festival at Aaron & George's Film Cafe. Enjoy drinks and hors d'oeuvres on us. VIP Badges and Filmmaker Badges required for entry.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

VIP & Filmmaker Party

🕒 5:00 PM - 6:45 PM

📍 The Hotel Paso Del Norte
10 Henry Trost Ct, El Paso, TX 79901

Come join us for our closing night VIP and Filmmaker evening reception where you'll get to meet the filmmakers of El Paso Film Festival at the Hotel Paso Del Norte. Enjoy drinks and hors d'oeuvres on us.





Don't miss our specials on Passes and Badges next year, keep in touch and sign up for our newsletter and follow us on social media!

**SCAN BARCODE FOR
OUR NEWSLETTER
AND SOCIALS.**



FEATURE FILMS



BLOOD, SWEAT, AND BEERS

Dir. Robert Holguin

Friday, September 29 | 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Philanthropy Theatre | 1 hour 27 minutes

Synopsis

From sketch comedy to an acclaimed podcast, The Sloppy Boys are taking their musical aspirations to the next level when they join forces with legendary keyboardist and producer Money Mark at the famed Sonic Ranch Studio in West Texas. They only have five days to make their comedy-rock dreams come true.



BREAKING THE NEWS

Dir. Heather Courtney, Princess A. Hairston, Chelsea Hernandez

Saturday, September 30 | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

El Paso Museum of Art | 1 hr 39 min

Synopsis

As Donald Trump was getting sworn in as President and the Women's March set an angry, outspoken tone for the country's discourse, journalist Emily Ramshaw decided to meet the moment by launching The 19th. Named after the Nineteenth Amendment, The 19th became the first nonprofit, nonpartisan news agency in the United States.



DEADLAND

Dir. Lance Larson

Thursday, September 28 | 7:00 PM - 8:45 PM

Philanthropy Theatre | 1 hr 31 min

Synopsis

U.S. Border agent Angel Waters comes across what would normally be a routine illegal crossing, but it quickly devolves into his worst nightmare. Barely clinging to life, the immigrant utters, “El Paso, por favor”. In a tragic twist of fate the immigrant is killed while being held at a remote border outpost.



LITTLE BROTHER

Dir. Sheridan O'Donnell

Saturday, September 30 | 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Philanthropy Theatre | 1 hr 35 min

Synopsis

After a recent suicide attempt, Jake drives his neurodivergent older brother across the American West while the two reconcile with the traumas of their past in order to forge a new bond.



HUMMINGBIRDS

Dir. Silvia Del Carmen Castaños, Estefanía “Beba” Contreras

Saturday, September 30 | 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

El Paso Museum of Art | 1 hr 18 min

Synopsis

In Texas, on the Mexican border, best friends Silvia and Beba dance through long summer nights. Stuck in the immigration process in a politically divided America, home seems fragile. But their bond is not. The half-light is a space for poetry and dreams.



LOST SOULZ

Dir. Katherine Propper

Saturday, September 30 | 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Philanthropy Theatre | 1 hr 37 min

Synopsis

A young rapper leaves everything behind and embarks on an odyssey of self-discovery, music, and friendship in the heart of Texas.



NO ORDINARY CAMPAIGN

Dir. Chris Burke

Friday, September 29 | 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

El Paso Museum of Art | 1 hr and 28 min

Synopsis

At 37, Brian Wallach was diagnosed with ALS—on the same day he and his wife Sandra brought their second daughter home from the hospital. In an instant, everything changed. They went from being a couple only a few years removed from both working at the White House to not knowing if Brian would live to see his 40th birthday.



THE POOL OF THE NOBODIES

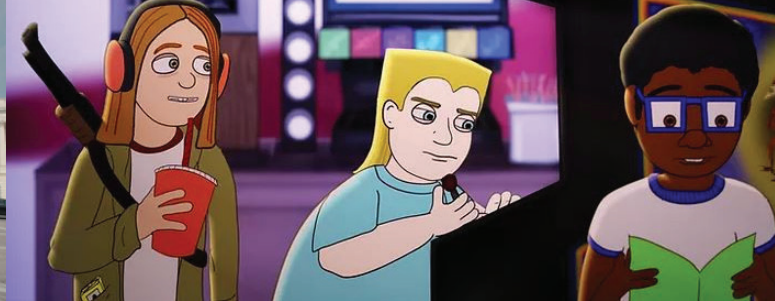
Dir. José Luis Solís Olivares

Saturday, September 30 | 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Philanthropy Theatre | 1 hr 21 min

Synopsis

An indigenous migrant named Alex is put to the ultimate test, forced to enter the criminal underworld just to live another day. Anayeli, another indigenous migrant, struggles to save the life of her unborn son, as well as her own. They will both do unthinkable things to survive The Pool of the Nobodies.



THE WEIRD KIDZ

Dir. Zach Passero

Saturday, September 30 | 9:45 PM - 11:45 PM

Philanthropy Theatre | 1 hr 20 min

Synopsis

A group of kids goes into the desert for an overnight camping trip, where they catch wind of a local monster legend that takes the story to unexpected places.

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TAMMY VASILATOS CPA, LLC
Certified Public Accountant

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

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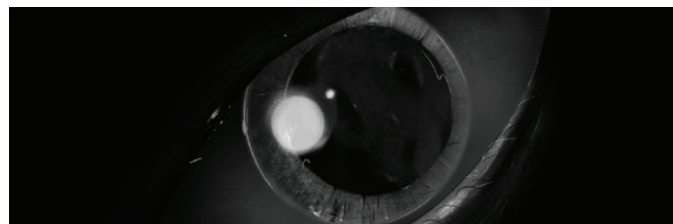
BLUE BLUE BLUE BLUE BLUE BLUE

Dir. Sai Selvarajan

Friday, September 29 @ 3:30 PM | El Paso Museum of Art | 18 Min

Synopsis

Every day, people find solace on a plank of wood and wheels. Whether a solitary pursuit or community bond, skateboarding offers a road to travel, edge to grind, and a challenge that bolsters grit and even, in some cases, saves lives.



EARTHLING

Dir. Sergio Eduardo Munoz Esquer

Friday, September 29 @ 11:30 AM | El Paso Museum of Art | 10 Min

Synopsis

Earthing is a ten-minute animated documentary about Jack Weiner, a grown man whose entire life has been shaped by being abducted by aliens when he was young, a life story nobody believes.



KINGDOME

Dir. Shawn Antoine II

Friday, September 29 @ 3:30 PM | El Paso Museum of Art | 20 Min

Synopsis

"KINGDOME" is a documentary that chronicles the remarkable journey of the legendary basketball tournament in Harlem known as the Kingdome. For 37 years, this tournament has been a symbol of community, resilience, and the transformative power of basketball.



LA COSECHA

Dir. Samuel Díaz Fernández

Friday, September 29 @ 3:30 PM | El Paso Museum of Art | 13 min

Synopsis

Nolvia Castillo immigrated to the United States from a small village in Chiriqui, Guatemala, where she remembers eating fresh fruits and vegetables. In her new home of Austin, Texas, Nolvia finds her independence by learning how to drive and deliver produce to her neighbors as part of a food distribution program by local nonprofits Go Austin/Vamos Austin and Urban Roots Farm.



ON TAPHONOMY

Dir. Ana María Gómez López

Friday, September 29 @ 3:30 PM | El Paso Museum of Art | 9 min

Synopsis

On Taphonomy is a visual essay on death, decomposition, and fossilization, as seen through the camera lens of German paleontologist Johannes Weigelt (1890-1948). A series of black-and-white photographs show decaying animals and fossil specimens alike, captured by Weigelt to glean how traces left by extinct species from the distant past could be studied through recent carcasses he found in his native Germany and along the U.S. Gulf Coast.



RAISING THE FLOOR

Dir. Sabrina Aviles

Friday, September 29 @ 11:30 AM | El Paso Museum of Art | 29 Min

Synopsis

In 2020 a global pandemic sent the majority Latinx city of Chelsea, Massachusetts spiraling into chaos. Frontline workers risked their lives to help others, while City leaders came together in a desperate moment with a simple but inspired idea.



RUBIO

Dir. Ray Santisteban

Friday, September 29 @ 3:30 PM | El Paso Museum of Art | 7 Min

Synopsis

This video features the life and artwork of San Antonio based, Contemporary Chicano Artist, RUBIO. The idea that "Art Saves Lives" is showcased in Rubio's own story; culminating in a near-death experience that forever altered him and inspired his ongoing use of art as a means of sharing folklore.



THE ANNOUNCER

Dir. Bowe Partin

Friday, September 29 @ 3:30 PM | El Paso Museum of Art | 20 Min

Synopsis

An up-and-coming rodeo announcer prepares for the final bull riding event of the season, an important milestone on his journey to join the Professional Bull Riders circuit.



THE DADS

Dir. Luchina Fisher

Friday, September 29 @ 11:30 AM | El Paso Museum of Art | 10 Min

Synopsis

When five fathers of trans kids join Dennis Shepard, the father of slain gay college student Matthew Shepard, for a weekend fishing trip in rural Oklahoma, they find a common purpose across races, generations, and experiences.



THE SOUTHERN FRONT

Dir. Carlos E. Flores, Patricio J. Salinas

Friday, September 29 @ 11:30 AM | 40 min | El Paso Museum of Art

Synopsis

A civic-minded community in Laredo, Texas organize to protest the construction of a border wall.

THE GOOD, THE BAD, & THE INDIE



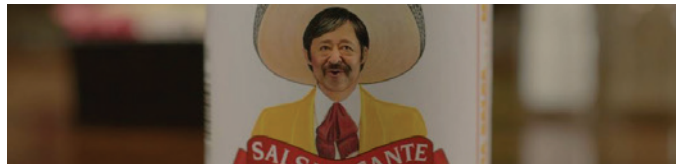
INTERSECTED

Dir. Jamiah Dancil, Taliah Dancil

Thursday, September 28 @ 1:00 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 20 Min

Synopsis

A young woman struggling to adjust after experiencing major life changes finds love, awakening, and adventure when her world is intersected by a man from a parallel Universe.



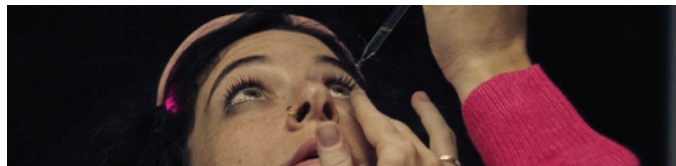
MEET LOS PARENTS

Dir. Joey Medina

Thursday, September 28 @ 1:00 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 4 Min

Synopsis

A caucasian man is nervous to meet his Mexican girlfriend's parents for the first time.



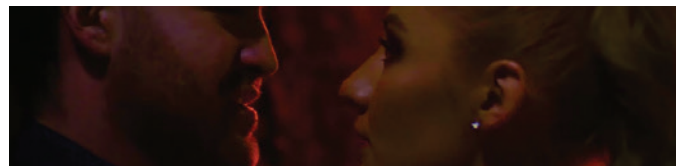
MONAH

Dir. Kim McKean

Thursday, September 28 @ 1:00 PM | Philanthropy Theatre

Synopsis

Mud and Esther get more than they bargained for when a smart device meant to rekindle their relationship proves to have a mind of its own.



NO PASA NADA

Dir. Victoria Naranjos Montoya

Thursday, September 28 @ 1:00 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 8 min

Synopsis

This is Angela's story, a girl who discovers at a very early age that actions don't always have consequences. All human beings live with a good and bad side within themselves. But we can decide to take any direction that we want, only to conclude that still, nothing happens.



POWERLESS

Dir. Chris Hanna

Thursday, September 28 @ 1:00 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 9 min

Synopsis

Two agents investigate a potential super-powered criminal to learn what abilities he may possess.



THAT TINGLYNG SENSATION

Dir. Ryan Rox

Thursday, September 28 @ 1:00 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 15 min

Synopsis

A coming-of-age story of lust, grief, and friendship. After the father of a former friend passes away, Roman is invited to take a 'trip' to the past, while confronting his own lingering prejudices.



THE LONE MARIACHI

Dir. Bryan Alcantar

Thursday, September 28 @ 1:00 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 3 Min

Synopsis

An up-and-coming Mariachi singer, with quite the past, discusses the joys and struggles of his uniquely Latino profession. This mockumentary/documentary will make you laugh; feel sad; then laugh, again.



THE MUNDANES

Dir. Nicole Daddona, Adam Wilder

Thursday, September 28 @ 1:00 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 5 min

Synopsis

Get to know The Mundanes - a faceless suburban family with an unusual appetite.



THE SILENT SMILE

Dir. Adan Chavez

Thursday, September 28 @ 1:00 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 8 min

Synopsis

Set in a big theater, where a white light shines down on MIME. His performance starts, from a fetal position stretching his limbs towards two lights that shines next to him representing his parents, he feels happy, secure, hopeful.



THEY TOOK JACOB

Dir. Lexi Johnson

Thursday, September 28 @ 1:00 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 11 min

Synopsis

When Ellie's husband is taken by a mandatory emergency draft, she turns to her neighbor Turner, who asks her to do the unthinkable to help him avoid the same fate.

NARRATIVE SHORTS



AZIZAM

Dir. Alci Rengifo

Friday, September 29 @ 12:30 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 20 min

Synopsis

Iran in 1971. Two young students from opposite ends of society meet by the sea at a time when revolution hangs in the air. Bijan (Shahrooz Mahmoodi), the son of aristocrats close to the regime of the Shah, prepares to leave for college and feels the pressures of a future already decided by his powerful father.



CALL ME MOMMY

Dir. Haley Alea Erickson, Taylor Washington

Friday, September 29 @ 12:30 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 13 min

Synopsis

A pedantic mother-to-be hires a stranger to role-play as her unborn daughter.



DO OVER

Dir. Leslie Hardy, Jeffrey Wylie

Friday, September 29 @ 12:30 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 16 min

Synopsis

A middle-aged woman with more than a few regrets revisits an important part of her past to try and right a wrong, only to find that not everyone remembers the past the same way.



HERMANITA

Dir. Hisonni Mustafa

Friday, September 29 @ 12:30 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 12 min

Synopsis

Following her release from prison, Daniella discovers that her younger sister has endured abuse at the hands of their stepfather, forcing her to confront the agonizing choice between prioritizing her sister's well-being or keeping her freedom.

TW: Violence, references to sexual abuse.



IN TOW

Dir. Sharon Arteaga

Friday, September 29 @ 12:30 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 21 min

Synopsis

A self-involved teen and her overworked single mom confront their differences as their mobile home is towed away... with them inside of it!



RUN AMOK

Dir. Nitzan Mager

Friday, September 29 @ 12:30 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 13 min

Synopsis

Meg, professional teacher's pet and amateur harpist, decides to stage a full, musical reenactment of the shooting that took place at her high school in honor of the 10 year anniversary.

LATE NIGHT SHORTS



DEAD ENDERS

Dir. Fidel Ruiz-Healy, Tyler Walker

Friday, September 29 @ 9:45 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 12 min

Synopsis

A disaffected, young gas-station clerk on the midnight shift must learn to give a damn about something after malevolent mind-controlling bugs are set loose by irresponsible oil drillers.



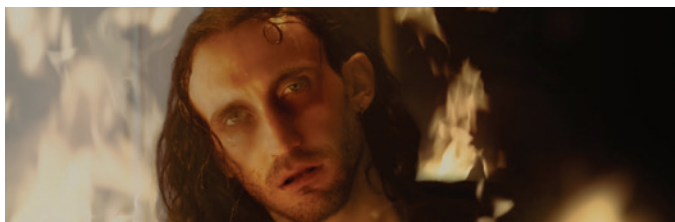
EVERY HOUSE IS HAUNTED

Dir. Bryce McGuire

Friday, September 29 @ 9:45 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 13 min

Synopsis

The realtor told them the house was haunted. That doesn't stop long-time couple, Maya and Danny, from moving in any way. After years of compromise and losing sight of what she wants, Maya finds part of herself that's been missing in the spirits that occupy their new haunted house.



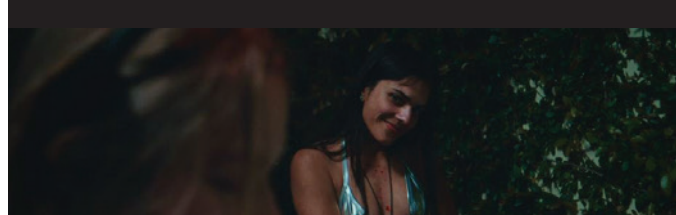
HAPPY ON MY OWN

Dir. Ryan Valdez

Friday, September 29 @ 9:45 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 8 min

Synopsis

A lover is revisited in a distant memory to make peace with their broken relationship, but turns sour as details unfold.



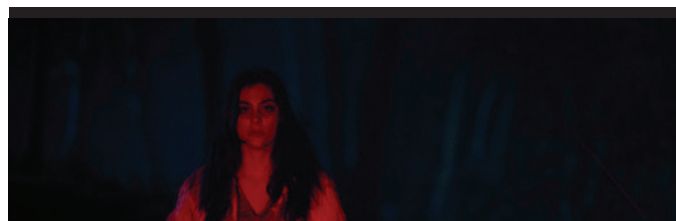
SCOTTY'S VAG

Dir. Chaconne Martin-Berkowicz

Friday, September 29 @ 9:45 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 15 min

Synopsis

A college freshman goes outside her comfort zone to impress the older girl she wants as her sorority "big."



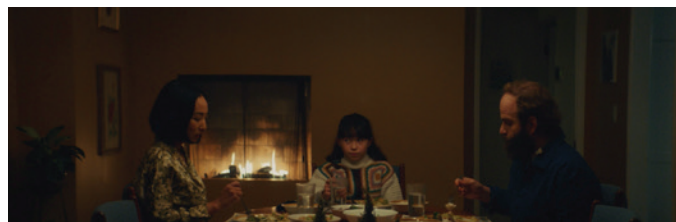
STOP DEAD

Dir. Emily Greenwood

Friday, September 29 @ 9:45 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 8 min

Synopsis

When a workaholic city detective and her laid-back partner try to stop a disheveled girl staggering down the middle of a country road.



THE BREAKTHROUGH

Dir. Daniel Sinclair

Friday, September 29 @ 9:45 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 14 min

Synopsis

Jane and Teddy are on the brink of divorce – but when their marital problems come to a sticking point, they have an unexpected breakthrough.



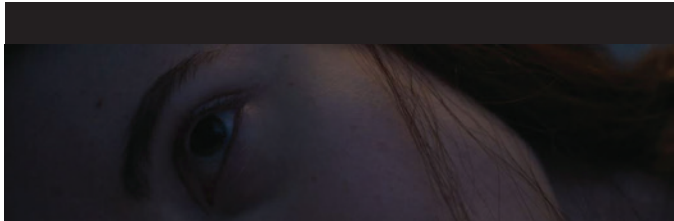
UNKIND CUT

Dir. Marc G Pitre

Friday, September 29 @ 9:45 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 14 min

Synopsis

A vasectomy consultation goes awry as an unsure patient faces a quirky doctor and aggressive medical staff who don't want him to remain intact.



VIBRATOR GIRL

Dir. Kara Strait

Friday, September 29 @ 9:45 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 13 min

Synopsis

A young woman suffers the eerie consequences of her compulsive vibrator use.



WE FORGOT ABOUT THE ZOMBIES

Dir. Chris McInroy

Friday, September 29 @ 9:45 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 4 min

Synopsis

Two dudes think they found the cure for zombie bites.

TEXAS SHORTS



CATS DON'T SLEEP AT NIGHT

Dir. Beibei Xu Champagne

Friday, September 29 @ 3:00 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 14 min

Synopsis

A young woman tries to get through another day with depression while dealing with a sense of detachment from her cat and boyfriend.



GIVE

Dir. Kenya Gillespie

Friday, September 29 @ 3:00 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 15 min

Synopsis

A composer attempts to unravel the memories of his relationship with his classical singer ex-boyfriend.



COMADRE

Dir. Nicole Chi

Friday, September 29 @ 3:00 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 18 min

Synopsis

Marielitos is a Mexican immigrant nanny struggling with the last days of her current nanny job and trying to find a new one.



THE SIDEWALK ARTIST

Dir. Brandon Rivera, David Velez

Friday, September 29 @ 3:00 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 20 min

Synopsis

A documentary film crew follows a man who leaves his mark on concrete sites in Cedar Hill, TX.



EL GATO FEO

Dir. Daniel Fabelo

Friday, September 29 @ 3:00 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 15 min

Synopsis

Fleeing the violence of Pancho Villa's revolution, a widow finds refuge with a unit of female freedom fighters known as soldaderas... only to discover her estranged sister among them.



YOU LEFT ME ALONE

Dir. Lauren Fondrenz

Friday, September 29 @ 3:00 PM | Philanthropy Theatre | 15 min

Synopsis

When a crisis forces Erica home to confront her estranged sibling Marina, she fights to revive their childhood connection, only to find some wounds are too deep to heal.

COMMUNITY SPONSORS



EL PASO SHORTS

FREE ADMISSION!

INDEPENDENT SPONSORS





A BRIEF SILENCE

Dir. Josiah Daniel Solis

Saturday, September 30 @ 12:30 PM | El Paso Convention Center | 8 min

Synopsis

An only son faces a heart-wrenching dilemma when his mother's cancer resurfaces before his college departure. As a First-Gen student, he grapples with sacrificing his dreams to care for her, but she insists otherwise. This emotional journey explores the challenges minority communities endure, balancing school aspirations with unwavering family responsibility.



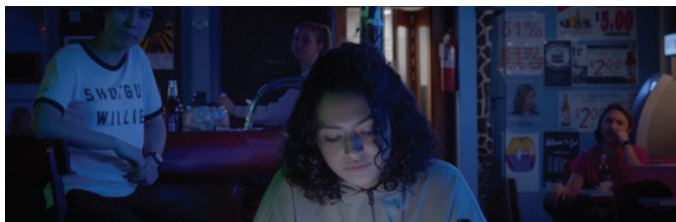
GRACE

Dir. Diego Lopez

Saturday, September 30 @ 12:30 PM | El Paso Convention Center | 14 min

Synopsis

In early 2003, the US is on the brink of war with Iraq. At Fort Bliss, Texas, Quartermaster Corps Food Service Specialist Shoshana Johnson is awaiting her deployment. As she sits in the mess hall joking with her fellow soldiers, little does she know that in a few weeks, she will become the first black female prisoner of war in U.S. military history.



LIZ & KARLA

Dir. Sergio Muñoz Esquer

Saturday, September 30 @ 12:30 PM | El Paso Convention Center | 11 min

Synopsis

Two best friends have to pay their rent on time while mending their relationship.



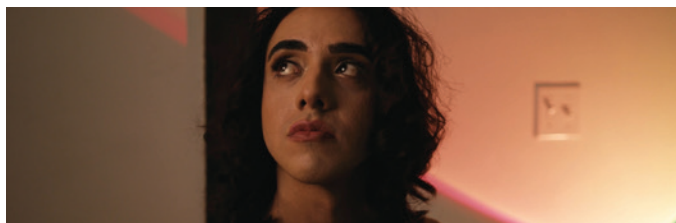
NOVA

Dir. Ralph Gonzalez

Saturday, September 30 @ 12:30 PM | El Paso Convention Center | 10 min

Synopsis

Avi and Sara may look human and live in a human world, but they are not human. They are the newest models of androids to labor for humans. Throughout the day, they go through the physical and mental strain of human life, even though the people who take advantage of them do not realize that.



SHIPPING THEM

Dir. Ryan Rox

Saturday, September 30 @ 12:30 PM | El Paso Convention Center | 15 min

Synopsis

A non-binary daydreamer pines for the life of the girl next door, but soon finds out the grass isn't always greener on the other side.



THE FILM CAFÉ

Dir. Josh Pulido

Saturday, September 30 @ 12:30 PM | El Paso Convention Center | 16 min

Synopsis

Desperate filmmakers Aaron and George, notorious for their past failures, must conjure an ingenious film pitch in one hour to save their careers, delving into a wild brainstorming session at The Film Café, where their ideas materialize as sentient characters sent on a mind-altering journey to help them create the pitch to persuade their boss to grant them one final chance to make their own movie.



THE HEALING GARDEN

Dir. Gilbert Jorgenson

Saturday, September 30 @ 12:30 PM | El Paso Convention Center | 17 min

Synopsis

Located at El Paso County's Ascarate Park, the garden stands as a solemn tribute to the 23 lives lost in the tragic, racially motivated mass shooting at the Cielo Vista Walmart on August 3, 2019. El Paso County Judge Richard Samaniego and El Paso County commissioned the Healing Garden to commemorate the lives lost in the attack and opened it Aug. 3, 2021, the two-year anniversary of the shooting.



YOU, US, & I

Dir. Diego Rico

Saturday, September 30 @ 12:30 PM | El Paso Convention Center | 12 min

Synopsis

In an uncertain world, a mother tries to convince her daughter to come outside and return to normalcy.

STUDENT SHORTS

FREE ADMISSION!



BRENDA

Dir. Hugo Ortiz Clemens

Saturday, September 30 @ 3:00 PM | El Paso Convention Center | 9 min

Synopsis

Mistakenly getting tattooed the name Brenda into his forearm, a lonely, religious college student is convinced his new tattoo is a sign from God to find his long-awaited soulmate.



MARIA

Dir. Sebastian Valdivieso

Saturday, September 30 @ 3:00 PM | El Paso Convention Center | 15 min

Synopsis

When Marianita brings her own son, Ale, to her nanny job for a weekend, she discovers the boundaries of her love for Oli, the boy she's been taking care of as her own during the weekdays.



SEAMS

Dir. Sierra Nutkevitch

Saturday, September 30 @ 3:00 PM | El Paso Convention Center | 13 min

Synopsis

Abril is an undocumented immigrant working as a seamstress out of her cousin's garage. When a bride comes in to have her wedding dress tailored, Abril discovers that the bride is marrying her ex.



SUPERMARKET AFFAIRS

Dir. Hang Luong Nguyen

Saturday, September 30 @ 3:00 PM | El Paso Convention Center | 15 min

Synopsis

While preparing for her husband's second death anniversary, a middle-aged Vietnamese immigrant woman and her Americanized adult daughter butt heads over how to best honor him, and inadvertently drag a handsome stranger at the local Asian market into their messy family dynamic.



THE MOSQUITO EFFECT

Dir. Romano Natale

Saturday, September 30 @ 3:00 PM | El Paso Convention Center | 9 min

Synopsis

After accidentally altering the timeline, two friends must figure out a way to undo their mistake or lose their favorite restaurant forever.



THE STUDENT FILM

Dir. Brandon Herrera

Saturday, September 30 @ 3:00 PM | El Paso Convention Center | 12 min

Synopsis

An insecure writer and a novice filmmaker attempt to write a short film.



TOGETHER, ALONE

Dir. Fumiya Hayakawa

Saturday, September 30 @ 3:00 PM | El Paso Convention Center | 11 min

Synopsis

A young Japanese boy grapples with his changing family dynamic and his identity as he starts living in the USA.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE



CHARLES HORAK

Charles Horak is host of the weekly radio program On Film (KTEP, 88.5 FM, NPR) and is a voting member of the Broadcast Film Critics Association. In 2008 he co-founded the Plaza Classic Film Festival in El Paso, Texas and was the festival's artistic director for its first six years. For over 17 years, he has been the director and host of The Film Salon, an ongoing monthly screening series dedicated to celebrating important and classic films and filmmakers.



FELIPA SOLIS

Felipa Solis is a voting member of the Broadcast Film Critics Association and a graduate of The University of Texas at El Paso with a bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts. She volunteers with organizations throughout the community including the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, the Plaza Classic Film Festival and the El Paso Humane Society.



DREW MAYER-OAKES

Drew Mayer-Oakes serves as film commissioner at the El Paso, Texas Film & Creative Industries Commission, after eleven years as director at the San Antonio Film Commission.

While his travel to film industry events in the U.S. and abroad has given him a global perspective on the changing landscape of film incentives, film production and film distribution, he still finds time to make a short film or two every year.



CRISTINA CORRAL

Cristina Corral is a collaborative leader with a versatile background in finance, client relations, marketing, and media. She earned her Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing from the University of Texas at El Paso in 2010 and was the recipient of the Outstanding Graduate in Marketing Award. She later attained her Master of Business Administration in Finance from the University of Texas at El Paso in 2014. Through her experiences, Cristina has developed into a resourceful professional with strong proficiency in bilingual communication and analytics.



TERESITA GONZALEZ CORRAL

Teresita Gonzalez Corral has been among the most visible and influential proponents of the arts while nurturing the philanthropic side of numerous donors throughout the region. Teresita has achieved the great distinction as ambassador and advocate for the arts by receiving the "Papen Family Award" in 2016 from the Dona Ana Arts Council and by being on the cover of El Paso Magazine in 2007 (Polo With A Purpose) for recognition of her efforts and dedication to the advancement of the arts in our region.



MIRIAM M. ROSAS

Miriam M. Rosas is a Mexican-born, screen junkie and a gamer by heart. With more than 17 years of experience in identity, print, web, and mobile layout design, Miriam holds a Graphic Design Bachelor Degree from the University of Texas at El Paso.

She graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso with a Bachelor's in Graphic Design and moved to Los Angeles to hone her User Experience and User Interface design skills while working with various tech startups.

MEDIA PARTNERS





CARLOS CORRAL

Artistic Director | Founder

Carlos F. Corral is a Texas filmmaker with true grit. With more than 16 years of experience working on a variety of high-profile television, documentary and feature film productions, he is among the most prolific personalities in the Texas film

scene. Known mostly as a location sound mixer, his credits include producer, director and editor — just to name a few.

Through his company, MindWarp Films, Carlos realizes his own story-telling passion by producing and participating in documentaries and narratives that tackle issues such as immigration, domestic abuse and politics.

In his latest venture, Carlos is the Artistic Director of the El Paso Film Festival. With the support of the El Paso Filmmakers organization, the Paso Del Norte Community Foundation and his company MindWarp Films, the festival will give movie lovers a chance to see original films by regional filmmakers on the rise.

Carlos' most recent body of work includes *At The Ready*, directed by Maisie Crow, where he served as one of the Location Sound Mixers. The film had its world premiere at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival.

Other works include *Running with Beto*, directed by David Modigliani, which had its world premiere at the 2019 SXSW Film Festival, and *Home + Away*, directed by Matt Ogens, which had its world premiere at the 2018 Tribeca Film Festival.

Nacido De Nuevo — for which Carlos produced and sound mixed — was recognized as among the best short-films at the Las Cruces International Film Festival for 2018. He co-produced the 2011 short film, *Child of the Desert*, starring Dale Dickey, winner of the Best Narrative Short at the USA Film Festival and was eligible for an Oscar Nomination in the Short Film Category.

More than 3,000 visitors visit his blog each month and he is the source for out-of-town production companies looking to connect with professional crew members here in El Paso, Texas.

Carlos is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin Film School, is an Associate Member of the Cinema Audio Society (CAS), and is a Visiting Assistant Professor for editing and sound mixing at New Mexico State University's Creative Media Institute.



ANDREA CALLEROS

Executive Director

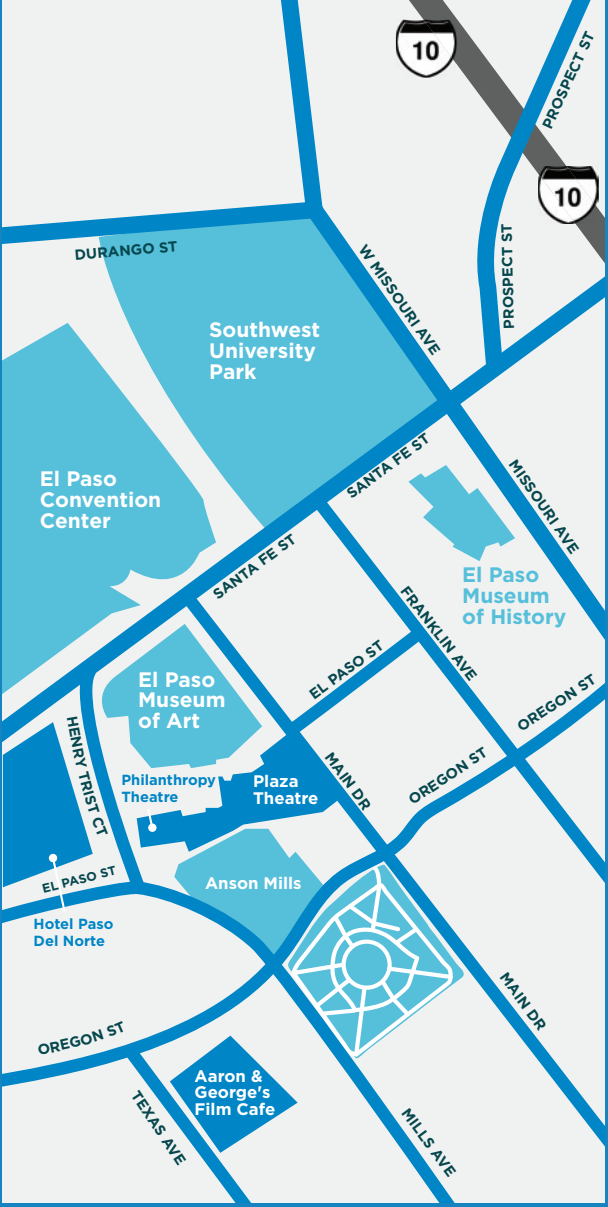
Andrea Calleros is a marketing professional with years of experience as director and co-founder of Flor de Barro Gallery. She is now the Executive Director of the El Paso Film Festival.

Andrea Calleros is a marketing professional with years of experience as director and co-founder of Flor de Barro Gallery. Her art gallery promotes the appreciation and preservation of Mexican folk and contemporary art. Andrea first joined El Paso Film Festival in its first running year in 2018 as assistant to the Director and volunteer coordinator. She is now the Executive Director of the El Paso Film Festival.

Andrea was born in Chihuahua, Mexico, but has called El Paso home since 2004. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Media Advertising and a minor in Business Marketing from the University of Texas at El Paso. She is currently working on her degree in Art History. At UTEP, she was involved with the Restore Sacred Heart project. Andrea's love for history and the local culture is well reflected in her professional experience; she served as Executive Director of the Los Portales Museum and Old County Jail in San Elizario, Texas, in 2021.

Her involvement and love for film came about in 2015 when she began working with the local production company DoubleScope Films. During her time with DoubleScope, she immersed herself in the world of film as she worked as a behind-the-scenes photographer, casting coordinator, assistant producer, and makeup artist.

As she steps into her role as Executive Director, Andrea hopes to keep working and expanding the cultural reach of the El Paso-Juarez borderland.



elpasofilmfestival.org