

## **CATCH A WAVE OF WESTERN FUN AT THE BRISCOE**

### **Exhibition and Programs Showcase How Mexican Vaqueros Shaped Hawaiian Cowboy Traditions**

#### ***Aloha Vaqueros* Opens June 13 – Showcase Your Hawaiian Style and Save!**

#### **Summer Film Series Serves up Spaghetti Westerns and Kicks off with Whiskey and Free Admission for Dads**

**San Antonio, TX – (June 2025)** From island-inspired cowboys to iconic Western films, the Briscoe Western Art Museum is the place to cool off and immerse yourself in the stories of the American West this summer. With special exhibitions, film screenings, hands-on workshops and community celebrations, the Briscoe offers exciting experiences for all ages, bringing the islands to life in the heart of downtown San Antonio.

This summer's featured exhibition, [\*Aloha Vaqueros\*](#), explores the unexpected and compelling story of Hawaii's paniolo — the Hawaiian cowboys whose rich ranching traditions date back to the early 1800s. On view June 13 – Sept. 1, *Aloha Vaqueros* celebrates the influence of the vaquero on Hawaiian cowboys and ranching traditions through vivid artworks, historical artifacts and personal stories. *Aloha Vaqueros* brings a fresh and vibrant perspective to the West, showcasing how traditions from two distant regions merge to create a legacy as rich as any on the mainland.

In honor of the *Aloha Vaqueros* exhibition, anyone who visits the museum wearing a Hawaiian shirt or a lei will receive \$2 off general admission from June 13 through Sept. 1. It's the perfect way to show your paniolo pride and get into the island spirit while exploring the incredible story of Hawaiian cowboys. So, grab your brightest aloha wear and head to the Briscoe for a summer filled with art, culture and tropical fun!

The aloha spirit and exhibition kick off with an opening night preview party on June 12 and will be celebrated with lively programming throughout the summer, including the museum's annual National Day of the Cowboy Celebration (July 26) and a finale celebration, the Hawaiian Hoedown: The Paniolos' Last Ride (August 28), featuring island-inspired food, cocktails, music and performances.

#### **From Surf to Saddles – Aloha Vaqueros: June 13 – Sept. 1**

Presented in conjunction with Museo del Vaquero de las Californias (MUVACA), *Aloha Vaqueros* illustrates the far-reaching influence of Mexican vaqueros and the deep, abiding traditions they imparted on the American West. Sailing the Pacific in 1832, at the

request of King Kamehameha to help tame Hawaii's wild cattle, the vaqueros brought ranching traditions to the Hawaiian Islands, giving rise to Hawaii's paniolo culture. These island cowboys blended the horsemanship, dress and tools of the vaquero with the unique culture and environment of Hawaii, creating a distinct cowboy identity that still thrives today. Through art, artifacts and storytelling, **Aloha Vaqueros** explores the shared legacy of the American West and the Pacific, revealing how ranching and cowboy culture took root in unexpected places – and how the vaquero spirit continues to ride on.

The exhibition is a summertime adventure perfect for all ages. Kids and adults alike can get hands-on with cowboy culture by trying their hand at leather braiding, learning paniolo lingo in both Hawaiian and Spanish, and diving into the colorful world of Western wear. A special photo area lets visitors imagine themselves riding the range across sun-soaked Hawaiian pastures. Whether you're young or young at heart, **Aloha Vaqueros** invites everyone to connect with the vaquero legacy in a new and exciting way.

Be the first to explore the exhibition and help the Briscoe kick off a summer of island spirit with Liz Jackson, President and CEO of the Briscoe. The event includes complimentary valet, beer, wine, specialty cocktails and light bites. Tickets are \$25 for museum members and Contributing and President's Society membership tiers receive two tickets.

- **Aloha Vaqueros Exclusive Preview Party**  
Thursday, June 12, 6 – 8 p.m.

Museum members may upgrade their membership by calling 210.299.4499. Nonmembers may purchase tickets for \$45. Tickets are [available online](#).

Other exhibition programming includes:

- **Film Screening and Performance – Paniolo O Hawai'i: Cowboys of the Far West**  
Thursday, June 26, 6 p.m., included with museum admission, free for members

Enjoy the acclaimed documentary "Paniolo O Hawai'i: Cowboys of the Far West," a captivating look into the origins and enduring spirit of Hawaii's paniolo. Narrated by Willie Nelson, this award-winning film traces how Mexican vaqueros introduced ranching traditions to the Hawaiian Islands, leading to the development of a unique cowboy culture that blends Western techniques with Hawaiian values and landscapes. Through rare archival footage, personal stories and musical performances, the film honors the paniolo's contributions to both Hawaiian heritage and the broader narrative of the American West. Paired with performances before and after the film by local Pacific Islander Heritage Group [Nā Mamo](#), the screening is an opportunity to celebrate the Paniolo culture.

- **Painting Workshop: Bison & Brushes**  
A hands-on session for all skill levels with artist Matt Tumlinson  
Thursday, July 10, 6 – 8 p.m., \$20 for members, \$35 for nonmembers

Join artist Matt Tumlinson to celebrate National Bison Month with an oil painting class! A multidisciplinary artist raised in Early, Texas, and currently residing in San Antonio, Tumlinson's work focuses on his ongoing upbringing in a rapidly changing rural American West. Within the images on canvas and public murals he captures a fleeting glimpse of tradition and comments on the reality of a Texas in transition. The workshop is for all skill levels and all skill levels and oil paints; brushes and canvas are included. [Pre-registration is required.](#)

- **Hawaiian Hoedown – The Paniolos Last Ride**

Thursday, Aug. 28, 6 – 8 p.m., \$35 for members, \$50 for nonmembers

Cap off the ***Aloha Vaqueros*** exhibition with an unforgettable evening of island-inspired celebration. Enjoy vibrant performances that blend Hawaiian and Western traditions, delicious island-style food and tropical cocktails crafted to bring the flavors of the Pacific to the River Walk. With music, dancing and festive flair, the Hawaiian Hoedown is the perfect way to toast the spirit of the paniolo while soaking in the art and culture that define this unique East-meets-West exhibition.

**Summer Film Series: Spaghetti Westerns Ride Again**

Take a break from the heat with the Briscoe's Summer Film Series, bringing the gritty charm of Spaghetti Westerns to the big screen with Sergio Leone's legendary "Man with No Name" trilogy, starring Clint Eastwood. Screenings take place on the third Sunday of each month at 1:30 p.m. and are included with museum admission.

- June 15 – [A Fistful of Dollars](#)
- July 20 – [For a Few Dollars More](#)
- August 17 – [The Good, the Bad and the Ugly](#)

Dads receive free admission on Father's Day and everyone 21 and older can enjoy a whiskey tasting before the movie courtesy of Ranger Creek Distillery. Guests 21 and older can enjoy complimentary beer from Ranger Creek Brewing during each screening.

**Aloha and Howdy! Free Cowboy Fun: National Day of the Cowboy Celebration**

Tippin' its hat and celebrating the legacy of the cowboy, cowgirl and vaquero, the Briscoe presents its annual National Day of the Cowboy celebration on Saturday, July 26, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The free community event, which includes free admission to the museum, features indoor and outdoor activities across the museum's River Walk campus for cowpokes of all ages to enjoy and explore the west. This year's celebration includes a salute to the paniolos of Hawaii, island cowboys who learned their skills and traditions thanks to Mexican vaqueros, a history shared in the museum's ***Aloha Vaqueros*** exhibition. [Register for free](#), saddle up with your family and head west for a free day of fun you won't forget!

**Extended Hours and Free Programming Add to Summer Fun**

The Briscoe offers extended hours on Thursdays, staying open until 8 p.m. to provide more opportunities for everyone to explore its renowned collection. The museum also offers a weekly free tour at 2 p.m. every Thursday, showcasing highlights of its permanent collection.

The Briscoe engages the community with a variety of family-friendly and educational programs. The [full calendar](#) is available online and monthly highlights include:

- **Locals Day** – A monthly opportunity for San Antonio residents to enjoy the museum for free on the first Sunday. Bring your San Antonio family and friends to explore the West!
- **Scout the Briscoe** – A free scavenger hunt held on the first Sunday of each month, offering visitors an interactive way to explore the museum's exhibits. Complete the hunt and receive 10% off in the museum's [Hendler Family Museum Store](#).
- **Full STEAM Ahead** – A monthly hands-on activity for children combining science, technology, engineering, art and math with Western themes, held 1 – 3 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month. The summer series includes:
  - **July 6:** What's Your Brand, Pardner?  
Learn how and why cowboys brand their animals, then create your own brand.
  - **Aug. 3:** Tortillas, Anyone?  
Learn how food can be an important part of our culture, then make and eat your own tortillas!

### **The West Starts Here at the Briscoe**

Showcasing the purely American art form of Western art, the Briscoe Western Art Museum celebrates the past, present and future of the storied genre. The museum is open Thursday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., Friday through Monday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and closed to the public on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Admission is free for children 12 and under and for active duty military members, while retired military receive discounted admission. The museum proudly participates in Museums For All, Blue Star Museums and Bank of America Museums on Us. Located on the south end of the River Walk near the Arneson River Theatre and La Villita, convenient parking is available at the Riverbend Garage directly adjacent to the museum or one of many downtown surface lots. [Museum hours](#), [parking](#) and admission details are available online.

**About [The Briscoe Western Art Museum](#):** *Preserving and presenting the art, history and culture of the American West through engaging exhibitions, educational programs and public events reflective of the region's rich traditions and shared heritage, the Briscoe Western Art Museum is located on the San Antonio River Walk at 210 W. Market Street in the beautifully restored 1930s former San Antonio Public Library building. Named in honor of the late Texas Gov. Dolph Briscoe Jr. and his wife, Janey Slaughter Briscoe, the museum includes the three-story Jack Guenther Pavilion, used for event rentals and programs, and the outdoor McNutt Sculpture Garden. Follow the Briscoe on social media, @BriscoeMuseum.*