

BRISCOE WESTERN ART MUSEUM CHARTS A SEASON OF ART, HERITAGE AND CELEBRATION

**Exhibitions, Festivals, Workshops, Family Programming and More Bring the
American West to Life**

Going to Texas: Five Centuries of Texas Maps Now on View

San Antonio, TX – (October 2025) The Briscoe Western Art Museum is kicking off an exciting fall season filled with new exhibitions, cultural celebrations and hands-on creative experiences for the whole family. From the sweeping history featured in ***Going to Texas: Five Centuries of Texas Maps*** to the powerful photography of ***Contrast: Jay Dusard's Black and White West***, the Briscoe continues to bring the spirit of the American West to life through engaging exhibitions and community-centered programs.

“Fall is always a magical time at the Briscoe,” said Liz Jackson, President and CEO of the Briscoe Western Art Museum. “Our programs not only celebrate the rich cultural traditions of the West but also invite the community to learn, create and connect in meaningful ways. From art workshops to cultural festivals, each experience is designed to inspire and bring people closer to the stories of the West.”

FEATURED EXHIBITIONS

[Going to Texas: Five Centuries of Texas Maps](#)

Through Jan. 19, 2026

This landmark exhibition explores the history and identity of Texas through 66 rare and original maps from the extraordinary Yana and Marty Davis Map Collection paired with more than 25 artworks from private loans and the Briscoe's permanent collection. The map collection, on loan from the Museum of the Big Bend at Sul Ross University in Alpine, Texas, reveals how cartography shaped perceptions of the region across centuries. Spanning nearly 500 years, from 1525 to 2006, the collection is widely regarded as one of the most important Texas cartography collections in existence.

Interactive Experience: Visitors can step into the role of a mapmaker through hands-on and digital activities. Trace the paths of early explorers, compare historic maps with modern-day Texas, and explore the artistry behind mapmaking. Families can also enjoy a special activity that teaches how to use a compass, then navigate to discover artworks tied to the history of the Lone Star State.

Contrast: Jay Dusard's Black and White West

On view through Dec. 31, then March – October 2026

A compelling collection of striking black and white images captured in the mid-1980s, *Contrast* showcases photographer Jay Dusard's vision of the West through portraits, landscapes and abstract compositions. Stripped of color, the images highlight the crisp geometry, stark beauty and living traditions of the cowboy way of life and the underlying geometry and grit of the environments and people who define it – showcasing a West that is alive, authentic and deeply human.

Dusard, who passed away in September at the age of 88, leaves behind a profound legacy as one of the American West's most thoughtful and humane photographers. Born in St. Louis in 1937 and initially trained as an architect, he turned to photography with the belief that each subject's full context mattered, never reducing people to mug shots but instead placing them thoughtfully within their surroundings. Over a lifetime spent capturing the lives of ranchers, cowboys, cattle and the immensity of the western landscape, Dusard cultivated a distinctive aesthetic grounded in natural light, patience and respect, relying instead on soft, revealing light and a commitment to environmental portraiture instead of using artificial lighting or reflectors.

Made possible through the generosity of Keely and Byron Jay Lewis, this transformative exhibition is on view through Dec. 31, with a temporary deinstallation in early 2026 to showcase the museum's newly expanded annual San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo Student Art Exhibition. *Contrast* will then again be on view March – October 2026.

FALL PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

- **Día de los Muertos: Community Ofrenda**

Oct. 9 – Nov. 3, included with admission

The community is invited to participate in the Briscoe's Día de los Muertos community ofrenda honoring influential figures in Western art and the American West. Everyone is welcome to add copies of photos of lost loved ones and personal offerings to help celebrate their lives. The ofrenda is on display in the museum lobby and free Día de los Muertos-themed crafts are available for those who would like to participate. The Briscoe's [Hendler Family Museum Store](#) also has Día de los Muertos items available for those who wish to add to their offerings.

- **[Watercolor Masterclass with Mark Kohler](#)**

Saturday, Oct. 18, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. | \$135, \$100 for museum members

Renowned Western artist Mark Kohler, celebrated for his evocative watercolor portraits of cowboys, ranch life and the American West, shares his expertise in an immersive masterclass. Known for capturing authenticity and spirit in every brushstroke, Kohler's work is featured in prestigious galleries and private collections nationwide. In this all-day workshop, participants will experience a rare opportunity to learn directly from the artist through live demonstrations, guided instruction and hands-on painting time. With all supplies provided, the class is designed for both seasoned painters and beginners eager

to explore watercolor techniques, offering a chance to refine skills while engaging with the timeless subjects that inspire Kohler's celebrated body of work. Space is limited, [register today!](#)

- [**Texas Trails and Whiskey Tales with Andrew Braunberg**](#)

Sunday, Oct. 26 | 2–4 p.m.

Raise a glass to Texas history with author Andrew Braunberg, whose book *Fires, Floods, Explosions and Bloodshed: A History of Texas Whiskey* traces the colorful story of whiskey in the Lone Star State. Guests will enjoy a whiskey tasting, a signature cocktail in a keepsake glass, light bites and the opportunity to purchase signed copies of Braunberg's book. The program is limited to guests 21+ and pre-registration is required. [Tickets](#) are \$50 per person and \$35 for museum members.

- [**Painting with DiZurita: Day of the Dead Alebrije Art**](#)

Thursday, Oct. 30, 6–8 p.m. | \$35, \$20 for museum members

Celebrate Día de los Muertos by creating a vibrant alebrije painting led by energetic and charismatic international artist Gio DiZurita. Brightly colored, fantastical creatures that blend elements of different animals, real and imagined, into one striking form, alebrijes are not only celebrated as a vibrant art form but also hold deep cultural significance, representing imagination, transformation and spiritual guidance. In Mexican folk tradition, some believe alebrijes can serve as spirit guides offering protection and wisdom. While sipping beer and wine, you'll create an acrylic painting on an 11 x 14 canvas in a hands-on session with DiZurita as she guides guests through a take-home work of art. This 21+ event is per person and includes museum admission, with all materials included and beer, wine and light bites provided. Class size is limited, so [register today](#) to secure your spot.

Celebrating Native American Heritage: Films & Festival

To spotlight the importance of Indigenous cultures in the American West, the Briscoe is hosting its Native American Film Series and celebrating its annual Yanaguana Indian Arts Festival this fall. All events include museum admission and are free with pre-registration.

- [**Native American Film Series**](#)

[“Lakota Nation vs. the United States”](#) Saturday, Oct. 11, 1:30 p.m.

[“Thunderheart,”](#) Saturday, Nov. 15, 1:30 p.m.

The Briscoe's Native American Film Series celebrates Indigenous storytelling through the lens of contemporary cinema. The series spotlights films created by Native American filmmakers and artists, offering audiences a unique opportunity to engage with the stories, cultures and histories of Indigenous communities from the American West. All films were directed, written, produced by and/or star Native Americans. Matthew Davila, a member of the Standing Rock Lakota Sioux Tribe, curated the series and will lead a short presentation before each film. The films are free and include museum admission with pre-registration.

- [**Free Community Celebration: Yanaguana Indian Arts Festival**](#)

Saturday, Nov. 8, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., free admission

Highlighting the continued vibrancy and artistic traditions of Native American communities, the family friendly, fun for all ages [Yanaguana Indian Arts Festival](#) features Native American artists, musical performances, dancing, storytelling, artist demonstrations, Native American-inspired food and free museum admission.

Holiday Celebrations: Christmas in the West

- [**Paper Mâché Ornament Painting**](#)

Thursday, Dec. 4, 6–8 p.m. | \$35, \$20 for museum members

Paper mâché Christmas ornaments bring a handmade charm and festive creativity to the holiday season, blending tradition with personal expression. Lightweight yet sturdy, these ornaments can be decorated in countless ways, making each one a unique keepsake. Learn the process of painting paper mâché ornaments and leave with a beautifully personalized ornament to hang on your tree or gift to loved ones. Mija Folk will share their creative process before guiding guests in painting their own paper mache ornaments to take home. All materials and museum admission included. Beer, wine, and light bites provided. [Pre-registration required](#).

- [**Cowboy Christmas: Meet Cowboy Santa at the Briscoe**](#)

Sunday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. | Included with museum admission, free for local residents

Get wrapped up in Western fun and meet Cowboy Santa at the Briscoe's annual [Cowboy Christmas](#). Included with museum admission, Cowboy Christmas is the perfect way to enjoy holiday fun and make memories with your family. The celebration falls on the Briscoe's monthly "Locals Day" so all Bexar County and San Antonio residents receive free admission to enjoy the museum.

Cowboy Christmas features a day of family fun exploring the museum with holiday crafts, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., and visits with Cowboy Santa 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Families are welcome to snap pictures with Cowboy Santa, while a special 12 Days of Christmas scavenger hunt leads you through the Briscoe's fantastic collection. Christmas crafts, including ornament making, will give everyone a bit of the West to take home. And of course, a stroll through the museum's [McNutt Sculpture Garden](#) is the perfect path to enjoy the River Walk and its holiday beauty.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY AND FREE OPPORTUNITIES

The Briscoe is proud to be a family-friendly destination where learning and fun go hand-in-hand. Interactive exhibition elements, creative workshops and free crafts make the museum an inspiring place for visitors of all ages. The museum offers multiple ways for families and individuals to enjoy free admission:

- **Museums on Us:** Bank of America cardholders enjoy free admission on the first full weekend of each month.

- **Locals Day:** San Antonio and Bexar County residents can explore the museum free of charge on the first Sunday of each month. Free programming offered on Locals Days includes:
 - **Full STEAM Ahead** – Dive into this monthly hands-on activity 1 – 3 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month with children and families combining science, technology, engineering, art and math with Western themes. Full STEAM Ahead falls on the Briscoe's monthly Locals Days, giving families an opportunity to explore the museum and enjoy hands-on activities together.
 - [Full STEAM Ahead: Finding Your Way](#)
Sunday, Oct. 5 | 1–3 p.m.
 - [Full STEAM Ahead: Crystallized Feathers](#)
Sunday, Nov. 2 | 1–3 p.m.
 - **Full STEAM Ahead: Salt Maps**
Sunday, Jan. 4 | 1–3 p.m.
 - **Scout the Briscoe** – Hunt and enjoy a fun interactive way to see more of the Briscoe's collection in a free scavenger hunt on the first Sunday of each month. Completing the hunt is a family affair and you can enjoy a 10% discount in the museum's [Hendler Family Museum Store](#) once you finish. Upcoming dates: Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7.
- **Military Deals:** The museum honors military veterans with half-price admission year-round and free museum admission in honor of Veterans Day on Monday, Nov. 10. Veterans may show their military ID to receive the offer and can also enjoy a 10% discount in the [Hendler Family Museum Store](#). The Briscoe offers active duty military members free admission throughout the year, as well as discounted admission for active duty family members and veterans.

Navigate the West at the Briscoe

An oasis of Western beauty just off the River Walk, the Briscoe's McNutt Sculpture Garden and the museum grounds feature 35 sculptures portraying various aspects of Western life. The museum's beautifully restored historic home inside the former San Antonio Public Library building, includes 14 galleries, with special exhibitions, events and the Hendler Family Museum Store, providing art, culture, history and entertainment. 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.*