

BRISCOE WESTERN ART MUSEUM EMBARKS ON TRANSFORMATIONAL RENOVATION AND EXPANDED STORYTELLING EXPERIENCE

Bexar County-supported Renovation Includes Immersive Gallery Experiences and Reimagined Gallery Space

Museum Remains Open During Construction, Debuting Landmark Exhibition *Tejano Legacy: Another American Origin Story* July 24

San Antonio, TX – (June 2026) The Briscoe Western Art Museum is entering a transformative new chapter, marked by significant renovations to its historic River Walk campus, the creation of the immersive Valerie Urschel Guenther Four Pillars Gallery and the launch of one of the most ambitious exhibition seasons in the museum’s history.

Supported through funding from Bexar County and philanthropic investment from longtime supporters of the museum, the renovation project will enhance the visitor experience, strengthen exhibition capabilities and expand the Briscoe’s ability to share the diverse stories, cultures and traditions that define the American West.

Construction is currently underway and is anticipated to continue until Fall 2026. The museum will remain open throughout the renovation process, continuing to welcome visitors to exhibitions, educational programming and public events.

“This is a transformational year for the Briscoe,” said Liz Jackson. “We are investing in the future of the museum while expanding the stories we can tell and the ways visitors experience them. From the creation of the Valerie Urschel Guenther Four Pillars Gallery to the launch of *Tejano Legacy*, these projects reflect our commitment to preserving and presenting the art, history and culture of the American West in dynamic and meaningful new ways.”

Enhancing How Visitors Experience the West

Portions of the museum’s first floor – including the Stagecoach Gallery and Women of the West Gallery – are temporarily closed as renovations move forward. As part of the project, the museum’s iconic stagecoach, a longtime visitor favorite, has been carefully relocated as the gallery space is reimagined to support new interpretive storytelling opportunities and visitor engagement.

The renovation will improve visitor flow, update gallery presentations and introduce enhanced interpretive elements designed to deepen connections to the museum’s collection and exhibitions. The project also supports the museum’s long-term sustainability and strengthens its role as a cultural and tourism destination in downtown San Antonio.

Bexar County’s support has been instrumental not only in advancing this transformational renovation, but also in helping establish the Briscoe – and Bexar County – as a destination to experience Western Art and the story of the American West. Located in the city’s former historic public library building along the River Walk, the Briscoe opened in 2013 through a collaborative vision to create a museum dedicated to preserving and sharing the art, history and culture of the American West.

“Bexar County has believed in the Briscoe from the very beginning and has been an essential partner in helping the museum grow into one of San Antonio’s leading cultural institutions,” said Liz Jackson. “Their continued support reflects a shared commitment to preserving the art, history and cultures of the American West while ensuring the Briscoe continues serving future generations through innovative storytelling, world-class exhibitions and meaningful cultural experiences for San Antonio and visitors from around the world.”

Valerie Urschel Guenther Gallery Creates a New Gateway to the American West

At the heart of the renovation is the creation of the Valerie Urschel Guenther Four Pillars Gallery, opening in Fall 2026.

Named in honor of Valerie Urschel Guenther through a meaningful gift from her husband, Jack Guenther, and the Jack and Valerie Guenther Foundation, the gallery will celebrate the four pillars of Western Art that define the Briscoe’s mission and collection: Wildlife and the Land; Native People of the Americas; Tejanos, Vaqueros and Spanish Heritage; and Cowboys and the American Frontier.

Designed as an immersive and interactive digital experience, the gallery will bring the stories, cultures and traditions of the West to life through innovative multimedia storytelling and engaging interpretation designed to inspire visitors of all ages.

“Jack and Valerie Guenther have been instrumental in the founding, growth and continued success of the Briscoe Western Art Museum,” said Liz Jackson. “Valerie’s love for the arts and the Guenther’s shared vision for preserving and sharing the stories of the American West helped shape the Briscoe into the institution it is today. The Valerie Urschel Guenther Four Pillars Gallery honors that extraordinary legacy while bringing the art, cultures and traditions of the West to life in a new and inspiring way for every visitor who walks through our doors.”

Landmark Tejano Legacy Exhibition Debuts During Transformational Year

Adding to the museum’s transformational year, the Briscoe will debut [*Tejano Legacy: Another American Origin Story*](#), a landmark bilingual exhibition on view July 24, 2026, through Jan. 18, 2027, exploring nearly 400 years of Tejano history, culture and identity and the enduring influence of Tejanos and vaqueros on Texas and the American West.

In celebration of America’s 250th anniversary and the most expansive exhibition in the museum’s history, *Tejano Legacy* will feature rare art, artifacts and immersive storytelling drawn from private collections and major institutions across the United States and Mexico, including several works that will be seen in the United States for the first time. Accompanied by a bilingual catalog, the exhibition will explore the traditions, artistry and resilience that continue to shape South Texas and the American West today.

Supporting the development of *Tejano Legacy*, the Briscoe received a prestigious 2025 Institute of Museum and Library Services Museums for America award — the fourth-largest Museums for America grant awarded in the country and one of only two awarded to museums in Texas. The nationally competitive grant underscores the exhibition’s cultural significance and supports exhibition development, interpretation and the creation of the accompanying bilingual catalog.

To accompany *Tejano Legacy* and further showcase Tejano cultural influence, the Briscoe is also presenting [*Selena Forever / Siempre Selena*](#), featuring monumental photographs of Selena Quintanilla-Pérez captured by acclaimed San Antonio photographer John Dyer during the singer’s rise to international stardom in the early 1990s. The exhibition is on display through January 4, 2027.

The West Starts Here – and Remains Open During Construction

Throughout construction, the Briscoe will continue presenting exhibitions, family programming, educational events and community celebrations while carefully working to minimize disruptions to the visitor experience.

Visitors can continue exploring the museum’s permanent collection, exhibitions and the McNutt Sculpture Garden while experiencing the evolution of the museum as it prepares for a new generation of storytelling and engagement. Updates on renovation progress, exhibitions and upcoming programs are available [online](#).

A Summer Filled with Western Art and Culture

Located on the River Walk near La Villita in downtown San Antonio, the Briscoe preserves and presents the art, history and culture of the American West through exhibitions and programming exploring Wildlife and the Land; Native People of the Americas; Tejanos, Vaqueros and Spanish heritage; and Cowboys and the American Frontier. The museum’s campus includes the McNutt Sculpture Garden and features 35 sculptures portraying various aspects of Western life in the garden and around the museum’s beautifully restored historic building that once housed the San Antonio Public Library. 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. The Briscoe is located on the south end of the River Walk, near the Arneson River Theatre and La Villita, with convenient parking 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.*

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