

# EL PASO EVERYWHERE

HOMECOMING 2021



*El Paso Everywhere is an event of Progress321*



# 2021 EPE Chairs & Planning Committee

El Paso Everywhere is brought to you by Progressors. A special thank you to this year's committee members.

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## STAY SOCIAL!



### Progress321

- Progress321.org
- @progress\_321
- /progress321
- #P321

### El Paso Everywhere

- EIPasoEverywhere.com
- #EIPasoEverywhere

### One Region One Table

- OneRegionOneTable.com
- #OROT

# Welcome!

SEPTEMBER 2021

## Dear Expats, welcome home!

We are thrilled to host you for our signature Expat Connect initiative: El Paso Everywhere! Progress321 is proud to present this experiential weekend with its partners, including our title sponsors, Microsoft and El Paso Electric. Progress321 was founded in 2014 by a group of “purpose-driven professionals” who saw the potential for our city to evolve by harnessing what makes this community unique.

The idea of “home” took on many new meanings since we last held El Paso Everywhere. Home became a workplace, a school, a gym, and even our vacation destination. But the idea of Home, of El Paso, the place that shapes and welcomes and provides that sense of familiarity endured.

Our City was resilient, moving from one of the hotspots of the global pandemic to one of the highest vaccinated cities in America. As the world discovered the promise our region has to offer to meet global demand, we welcomed new industries and the opening of new businesses like marquee hotels, great restaurants, and redevelopment.

The goal of this weekend is to show you how much the region has transformed in recent years through a carefully curated program with behind-the-curtain access to leaders, innovators and creatives from El Paso, Cd. Juárez and Las Cruces. We want to demonstrate ways that you can meaningfully stay connected with the city that made you in a way that leverages your skills and experience—whether it’s expanding your business here, supporting charitable efforts, starting your own El Paso Network chapter back home, or mentoring startups. There are so many ways to support the progress in the region, and we are excited to explore the possibilities with you!

Enjoy your time back in the region! Make meaningful connections with your fellow expats and locals, and remember to look for ways to harness your talent, expertise, treasure and networks to keep up the momentum in our beautiful home.



**J.J. Childress**  
Microsoft | TechSpark Texas Community Manager  
P321 Board President

# Get the digital skills you need to get back to work



## Helping people impacted by COVID-19 learn the skills for in-demand roles in a more digital economy

### Why digital skills? Why now?

COVID-19 has created a global economic crisis, forcing tens of millions of people around the world out of work. Some of the jobs lost will not come back, or at least not fast enough to meet demand. Those that do come back will look different, requiring more digital skills as companies race to change the way they work to respond to and recover from the pandemic. Other jobs will become more “tech-enabled,” requiring job seekers to have some level of digital fluency to be able to pursue them.

In the post-COVID world, all people—especially those from the hardest hit industries and the most vulnerable communities—will need to learn new skills to rejoin the workforce prepared for technical and tech-enabled roles that will be in even greater demand going forward.

### It’s time to accelerate efforts

Microsoft has been committed to closing the skills gap for decades, but now is the time to accelerate efforts and build partnerships that help job seekers worldwide reskill and rejoin the workforce.

**That’s why Microsoft has committed to help 25 million people worldwide who have lost their job due to COVID-19 to reskill for in-demand roles in a more digital economy.**

Together, we can help people who have lost work gain the skills they need to pursue the jobs of today and tomorrow.

### Get started

Ready to get back to work? Start your journey at [aka.ms/JobSeeker](https://aka.ms/JobSeeker)

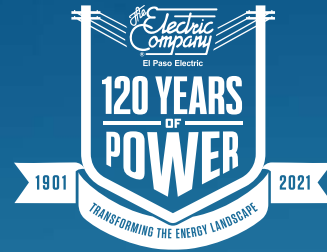


# POWERING GENERATIONS

Over 440,000 regional customers. A service territory that covers 10,000 square miles. **120 years of reliability.** These are more than numbers. They represent an enduring commitment to serve with pride the growing region we call home. Now as we work to transform the energy landscape, we look back on those who have helped light the way as we blaze a new trail illuminated by innovation, communication, and care. We are proud and honored to be the energy provider that you expect and deserve.



epelectric.com



# Itinerary

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

### ALL ABOUT JUÁREZ

Expats will take a tour of emerging sectors in Ciudad Juárez including Tech Hub, La Rodadora Espacio Interactivo, Ardeo. Lunch included. Transportation is included for this event for all attendees.

*\*Please note: Passports are required for the Juárez tour.*

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

### HOTEL HAPPY HOUR HOP WITH REGIONAL LEADERS

Expats will visit four new downtown hotels for an appetizer and tequila cocktail at each. Each hotel will also feature a surprise regional leader host for expats to meet.

- 5:00 PM – Hotel Paso Del Norte, Autograph Collection
- 6:00 PM – The Plaza Hotel Pioneer Park
- 7:00 PM – The Stanton House
- 8:00 PM – Hotel Indigo

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

### EXPAT GIVEBACK

Expats will begin with breakfast with Visit El Paso and The El Paso Community Foundation at Ansonll and hear about opportunities to give back to the community. Following breakfast will be a tour of the Pancho Villa Stash House and the El Paso County's Healing Garden Memorial.

8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

### ART ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EXCURSION

Expats and Progressors will visit Socorro – Plaza Ortiz (featuring food from Casa del Humo and beer from Three Missions Brewery) and attend an artist economic development talk and makers market.

12:00 PM – 3:30 PM

### ONE REGION ONE TABLE EVENT

Downtown El Paso Alfresco multi-course meal featuring an Expat Chef, regional Chefs, and a local art installation.

6:00 PM

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

### BRUNCH IN SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO

Expats and Progressors will attend brunch provided by Around the World Catering at Zin Valle Vineyard and get to meet and greet Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima.

10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

*Brunch starts at 10:30 AM and expats are being picked up at 10:00 AM at Paso Del Norte Hotel.*

We regret any omissions throughout the program. For a full list of participants and partners, please visit [ElPasoEverywhere.com](http://ElPasoEverywhere.com) and [OneRegionOneTable.com](http://OneRegionOneTable.com). Thank you to all our generous supporters!

# Our Goal for the Weekend

We want you to stay connected.

Continuing this program in its second year after experiencing a year like we did in 2020 was not easy. Seeing the resilience of our community encouraged us to adapt a program that would provide a reason for you as an expat to be able to visit your family and see first-hand how progress in this region did not stop. From 2020 until now, we saw artists and entrepreneurs dream a tourist destination in Socorro, the doors open at the Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine, restaurants bounce back, renovated downtown hotels open, and witnessed the commercial race to space in 2021. We had to adapt the conference to a post COVID-19 world, but we hope that it enlightens your spirit and energizes your passion for the region as it has for us. While we would love for all of you to move back, we hope that we provide some ways for you to be able to give back to the community that made you regardless of your current location. As we like to say, El Paso is Everywhere.

**Create an “El Paso in...” Chapter:** The El Paso Community Foundation is ready to support new networks across the country (and world!) to keep El Pasoans connected to each other.

**Launch a new and exciting venture:** Our region has a collaborative approach to entrepreneurship through several types of organizations. From high tech incubators to coworking spaces, we know that growth starts with cultivating a culture of innovation.

**Relocate or expand your business:** Our partners at the Borderplex Alliance, City and County work with companies of any size to find talent, space and incentives. Our network of partners dedicated

to Economic Development have success stories ranging from small startups looking to harness talent to large multinationals expanding to employ over 2,000 people each.

**Collaborate with our Universities:** UTEP, Texas Tech and NMSU produce top-talent that can compete in any market. Talk to our University representatives about ways to connect your company or employer to our talent pipeline and research capabilities.

**Invest in Real Estate:** So many areas of our community are blooming while keeping true to their roots. From the far east side to Canutillo, we are seeing construction for new commercial centers and housing. Revitalization is in the air in historic neighborhoods including Downtown, Sunset Heights, Five Points and the Substation. Inquire with our real estate advisors to learn more about the kinds of opportunities available.

**Consulting or In-Kind Contributions:** Some local organizations and small businesses could use your expertise. Talk to any of our P321 ambassadors to learn more about how you can mentor a startup or help a nonprofit using your experience.



**ANALISA SILVERSTEIN**

Hello Amigo, El Paso Everywhere Co-Chair



**ALEJANDRA MONTALVO**

El Paso Electric, El Paso Everywhere Co-Chair



## OPEN FOR BUSINESSES

### GECU COMMERCIAL LENDING\*

Strong. Determined. Driven. You don't let anything get in your way because there's a fire inside that pushes you forward. You're a business owner and GECU Commercial Lending is here to support you. We have the solutions that you need to start, improve and even grow your business.

GECU Commercial Lending can help you with ...

- Refinancing
- Equipment loans
- Commercial real estate loans
- Small-business loans
- Lines of credit

Learn more at [gecu.com](https://www.gecu.com) or by calling 915.778.9221, toll-free at 1.800.772.4328.

\*All loans are subject to approval. Other conditions apply. Principal business must be located in El Paso County, Hudspeth County or Doña Ana County, not more than 25 miles from our Helen of Troy and Resler location, to be eligible for membership at GECU. Learn how to become a member at [gecu.com](https://www.gecu.com).



# Industry & Development

## HEALTHCARE

### EL PASO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

El Paso opened its first and only not-for-profit dedicated children's hospital in 2012. El Paso Children's Hospital has served over 100,000 unique patients—one in two El Paso children. Specialty care and physician recruitment are on the rise. Children from all over the United States and foreign countries (including and outside of Mexico) now come to El Paso for specialty care.



(MCA Photo: mcamericas.org)

### MEDICAL CENTER OF THE AMERICAS

The Medical Center of the Americas Foundation legally formed in 2006, but its origins trace back to the late 1990s, when El Paso business, civic and government leaders moved forward on a plan to transform the region's economy, which was primarily comprised of low-wage, low-skill jobs.

Understanding a critical need for improved health care in the Paso del Norte region, these leaders envisioned a health care "center of excellence" in the heart of the city—a home to a medical university, teaching hospitals, community clinics, and biotech research parks. This "life sciences hub" would create

high-skill, high-wage jobs, produce highly trained health professionals, and attract investment in biotech to kick-start a major transformation of the region's economy, while improving health care for the region's residents.

Today, this vision has become reality—the MCA now leads the development of a 440-acre medical and biotech campus in South Central El Paso, home to Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso, University Medical Center of El Paso, El Paso Children's Hospital, the Cardwell Collaborative research building, and a number of state, county and city organizations focused on health services. ([mcamericas.org](http://mcamericas.org))

### THE HOSPITALS OF PROVIDENCE (TENET)

The first Providence Hospital opened in El Paso in 1902, and are regional destinations for high-quality care, with offerings that include world-class surgery, heart care, orthopedics, neurology, pediatrics and women's health, just to name a few.

Since, The Hospitals of Providence inception, they have been a leading force in local innovation with many healthcare firsts, including:

- First robotic single-site surgical procedure through da Vinci®
- First minimally invasive MAKOplasty joint replacement
- First heart procedure using the advanced Magellan system
- First state-of-the-art 3D mammography
- First Military Liaison program
- First Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement performed to civilian population
- First Watchman procedure performed
- First Acesa procedure performed



(Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine Rendering: mcamericas.org)

As part of our focus on quality, The Hospitals of Providence recently launched a significant investment in service line expansions, technological advancements, aesthetic remodeling and online tools to enhance the patient experience. ([thehospitalsofprovidence.com](http://thehospitalsofprovidence.com))

### THE PAUL L. FOSTER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER EL PASO

The medical school welcomed its inaugural class of 40 students in 2009. Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso now also includes the Gayle Greve Hunt School of Nursing and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. ([El Paso Inc.](http://El Paso Inc.))

### WILLIAM BEAUMONT ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

After years of delays, the new, \$1.4 billion dollar William Beaumont Army Medical Center officially opened

for patients in July 2021. The new hospital, located at 18511 Highlander Medics Street on Fort Bliss, is visible just off Loop 375. The hospital will have 135 beds, 10 operating rooms and 30 specialty clinics. The hospital is also working to become a Level 2 trauma facility to eventually take some civilian emergency cases. ([elpasoheraldpost.com](http://elpasoheraldpost.com), [kvia.com](http://kvia.com))

### WOODY L. HUNT SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine (WLHSDM), will provide a base of knowledge and experience for students to pursue successful careers in dentistry. These opportunities will include providing oral health care to numerous populations, investigations in biomedical research, leadership, ethics, behavioral sciences and professionalism, along with community engagement. ([elpaso.ttuhs.edu](http://elpaso.ttuhs.edu))

# THE CITY OF EL PASO, TX

## Economic & International Development Department

### Supporting El Paso Businesses

### Proud supporters of Progress 321

123 W. Mills Ave, Ste. 111  
El Paso, TX 79901  
(915) 212-0094  
ED@elpasotexas.gov



## TRANSPORTATION

### BLUE DUCK EXPRESS

Blue Duck Express, another scooter company based in San Antonio, joined the city of El Paso's program back in Nov. 2019. ([kvia.com](#))

### GLIDE

Glide Your City is a locally owned scooter startup which began operations in April 2019 in the Downtown/UTEP area. They have positioned themselves as the "friendly" micro-mobility company, working closely with municipal entities and residents before launching, and incurring extra expenses such as hiring ambassadors to make sure scooters look neat and are put away each night. Glide recently secured investors to expand its enterprise to other markets. ([KVIA, El Paso Inc.](#))

### REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY

**Americas Interchange** - This project included the design and construction of eight direct connectors and other related improvements for the Loop 375 (Joe Battle) and I-10 interchange. ([crrma.org](#))

**Border Highway** - The Loop 375 Border Highway West Extension Project began at US 54 and extends to Racetrack Drive near Doniphan Road. Improvements include construction of a new four-lane controlled access toll facility that connects Loop 375 to US 85. ([txdot.gov](#))

**I-10 Airway Aesthetics** - Aesthetic enhancements to the I-10 overpass at Airway Boulevard, both to the bridge structure, as well as landscaping to areas along the mainlanes. The design is based on a flight-inspired theme. ([crrma.org](#))

**Montana Avenue Freeway** - Montana Avenue in East El Paso will become a six-lane freeway with frontage roads in a two- or three-phase project with an estimated cost of more than \$370 million. The entire freeway will eventually run from Yarbrough/Global Reach drives to Zaragoza Road. But the first phase, which is expected to begin construction in March, will run from Yarbrough/Global Reach to Tierra Este Road. The first phase is expected to be completed in summer 2022. ([elpasotimes.com](#))

**Spur 1966** - This connects Schuster Avenue on UTEP's campus with Paisano Drive via a bridge over I-10. It was in honor of the national champion Texas Western basketball team of 1966. ([crrma.org](#))

**Spur 601** - The \$368 million project is seven miles long and features 12 bridges, including four direct connectors between US 54 and Spur 601, a 6,000-foot viaduct bridge spanning an existing service road and a new entrance to nearby Fort Bliss, and a traffic management system. ([aecom.com](#))

**SunCycle Bike Share** - SunCycle is El Paso's own BCycle program, a next generation bike-sharing program. It is a zero-hassle, zero-emissions way to get around town. ([crrma.org](#))

**The 2008 Comprehensive Mobility Plan** - About \$1 billion of transportation projects: roadways, aesthetic improvements to the I-10 corridor, bus rapid transit, and proposed toll projects. ([crrma.org](#))



(Streetcar Photo: J. Haseler, [urbanrail.net](#))

### STREETCAR

The El Paso streetcar system links the International Bridges, downtown retail areas, convention center, ballpark, Cincinnati Entertainment District, and the University of Texas at El Paso, among other area attractions. Approximately 4.8 miles of track, 27 streetcar stops, street improvements and a vehicle maintenance and storage facility near the existing Sun Metro Downtown Transfer Center. Launched in 2018. ([crrma.org](#))

## MAJOR CONSTRUCTION/ RENOVATION

(Select Projects)

### AMAZON FULFILLMENT CENTER

Amazon announced its plans to open its first fulfillment center in El Paso, Texas in July 2021. The center is expected to be operational in 2021 and will create over 700 new full-time jobs on day one.

Amazon employees will work alongside Amazon robotics to pick, pack and ship small items to customers from the new 625,000 square-foot fulfillment center.

The center is being constructed along Rojas Drive and I-10 near Eastlake in far east El Paso. (kfoxtv.com)



(Healing Garden Memorial Photo: Elpasoinc.com)

### ASCARATE PARK

#### Healing Garden Memorial

Twenty-three names etched in bronze are now an enduring part of the history of El Paso. Struck down two years ago by a racist gunman with an AK-47, these fallen El Pasoans on Tuesday, Aug. 3 2021 were memorialized at Ascarate Park as a testament to the strength of their spirit, their families and of their hometown.

Now open to the public, the Healing Garden will act as a beacon of El Paso's culture, strength, and unity that cannot be weakened by hate, El Paso county officials said during the unveiling and dedication ceremony. (elpasoinc.com)

### Moms On Board All Inclusive Park

MOB, in collaboration with El Paso County, is working to build an All-Abilities playground at Ascarate Park! Their aim is to provide the community with a clean, safe, positive space to play for all ages and abilities. The playground is expected to be 32,670 sq. feet with equipment, shade structures, and a surrounding fence. The design will capture our surrounding borderland landscape of mountains, desert, and Rio Grande river, promoting healthy development of every BODYS physical, social, cognitive, and sensory abilities! The project officially broke ground early September 2021. (mobep.org)

### BLUE FLAME BUILDING

In July 2021, the blue flame atop the former El Paso Natural Gas building in downtown El Paso was shining bright once again. It was a \$36 million project to completely redevelop the iconic 18-story building that first opened in 1954. The building was converted from office space into a mixed-use development that features 120 affordable apartments.

The refurbishing project used both tax incentives for historically designated buildings and affordable-housing tax credits, together with private financing. (kvia.com)

### EL PASO CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

El Paso's new children's museum (for now, called The Children's Museum and Science Center) is being designed and built to spark curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking. It will be for everyone.

El Paso Children's Museum and Science Center will provide S.T.E.A.M.-based visitor experiences with high-impact interactive exhibits and graphics to stimulate imagination, creativity, innovation, and lifelong learning. The new museum will be a portal to career possibilities, a place to dream big and discover anything that is possible: Blue Sky thinking. The goal: to create a world-class destination for both residents and tourists. (epcmuseum.org)



(WestStar Tower at Hunt Plaza Rendering: dudapaine.com)

### HOTEL PASO DEL NORTE

The 107-year-old Hotel Paso del Norte officially re opened in October 2020. The 351-room, Marriott Autograph Collection hotel had been scheduled to reopen in 2018, but the project was delayed by construction problems and COVID-19 business restrictions.

The hotel features the elegant Dome Bar, with its 25-foot-wide, 107-year-old, stained-glass dome, a rooftop pool and bar on its 10th floor, the Sabor Mexican restaurant, the 1700° Steak House, and Dulce bakery cafe, according to a hotel press release. It has 33,000 square feet of ballrooms and other meeting spaces. (elpasotimes.com)

### THE PLAZA HOTEL PIONEER PARK

The Plaza Hotel Pioneer Park, El Paso's iconic 130-room hotel located in the heart of Downtown El Paso announced the formal completion of its property-wide transformation in June 2020. With exception to the original facade, nearly all aspects of the historic Pueblo Deco property underwent renovations as part of a more than \$78M project by owner Mr. Paul Foster.

The hotel features 130 rooms, a stunning ballroom, several high-end restaurants, and a rooftop bar and restaurant. (hospitalitynet.org, kfoxtv.com)

### WESTSTAR TOWER AT HUNT PLAZA

WestStar Tower at Hunt Plaza is the first commercial tower to be built in downtown El Paso in 40 years. Rising to 313 feet, it culminates in a "crest," a unique architectural feature that expresses the optimism and spirit of El Paso and is reflective of our community's diverse culture. On the ground level, the outdoor Hunt Plaza will feature a beautifully landscaped green space with outdoor seating and dining in a park-like atmosphere, which will also serve as a venue for community events.

#### Building Features:

- A LEED® certified "Green Building"
- Class A+ office, retail and parking facilities
- Large common lobby area with "living room"
- Integrated parking garage on floors 2-8
- 850 parking spaces - one of the highest parking ratios in the Central Business District
- 6 passenger elevators and 1 designated freight elevator, with two additional elevators located at Hunt Plaza servicing the parking structure
- Floor to ceiling height of approximately 10 feet
- Building access for tenants: 24 hours, 7 days/week

(weststartower.com)





## ENTERTAINMENT/LIFESTYLE

### DOWNTOWN SPACES

According to officials with Downtown Spaces, the renovated building features 24,000 square feet of co-working space, filling the century-old former farm implement store and showroom with 21st century tech and amenities. Located at 522 West San Francisco Avenue, just across from the Union Depot in El Paso's historic Union Plaza district, the facility is a one-stop-shop for businesses looking for a turn-key solution to their office needs. ([elpasoheraldpost.com](http://elpasoheraldpost.com))

### EL PASO CHIHUAHUAS

The El Paso Chihuahuas are a Minor League Baseball team of the Triple-A West and the Triple-A affiliate of the San Diego Padres. The Chihuahuas play their home games at Southwest University Park, which opened in 2014. They played in the Pacific Coast League (PCL) until the 2021 restructuring of the minor leagues when they

shifted to the Triple-A West. The Chihuahuas won the PCL championship in 2016 and Southwest University was named Baseballparks.com Ballpark of the Year for 2014 and best new ballpark by Ballpark Digest.

### EL PASO LOCOMOTIVE FC

The journey of professional soccer to El Paso started almost twenty years ago. El Paso Locomotive FC is an American professional soccer team. Founded in 2018, the team made its debut in the USL Championship in 2019. Since beginning play in March of 2019, the team has seen great success, reaching the Western Conference Finals in its first two seasons. Locomotive FC plays at Southwest University Park in the heart of downtown El Paso. The USL Championship and El Paso are a perfect fit. The El Paso Locomotive FC will continue to bring people Downtown, and will add to the vibrancy and Downtown revitalization that started with a plan – nearly twenty years ago. ([eplocomotivefc.com](http://eplocomotivefc.com))

### EL PASO MUNICIPAL ROSE GARDEN

On display at the four-acre El Paso Municipal Rose Garden are more than nearly 1,500 rose bushes of more than 430 different rose varieties. The first 200 roses were planted in April 1958 by the City of El Paso and the El Paso Rose Society.

The Rose Garden opened to the public in May 1959. Initially one-and-a-half acres, it was expanded to its present size in 2005–2006 by the City of El Paso. Since 2007, El Paso Master Gardeners have volunteered at the El Paso Municipal Rose Garden as part of an agreement between the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the City of El Paso in cooperation with the El Paso Rose Society. ([txmg.org](http://txmg.org))

### EL PASO RHINOS

The El Paso Rhinos are a junior ice hockey organization based in El Paso, Texas. Their home games are played at the County Events Center located within the El Paso County Coliseum complex. The Rhinos are members of the South Division of the Tier III junior North American 3 Hockey League. In 2020, El Paso Rhinos won the Kraft Heinz Hockeyville USA contest and will get \$150,000 for stadium renovations and host an NHL preseason game. ([elpasorhinos.com](http://elpasorhinos.com))

### EL PASO WATER PARKS

Starting in 2021, El Paso plans to open four water parks throughout the city. Each site is a one-of-a-kind aquatics destination featuring unique themes mixed with spiraling water slides, coasting lazy river current channels, spectacular kiddie playgrounds, refreshing leisure pools, climbing walls, lounge chairs, relaxing private cabanas and much more. Designed with heated pools, spacious plazas, and sound and lighting systems these public spaces are the place for summer fun and year-round celebrations. ([epwaterparks.com](http://epwaterparks.com))

### EL PASO ZOO

Locally recognized as the Best Place to Take the Kiddos, the El Paso Zoo sits on 35 acres of fun and adventure. Bigger and better than ever, the El Paso Zoo is an expansive green space that is home to exotic animals from around the world and features family

attractions such as the African Star Train and the Hunt Family Desert Spring water feature and the Foster Tree House Playground. Accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), the El Paso Zoo celebrates the value of animals and natural resources and creates opportunities for people to rediscover their connection to nature. ([elpasozoo.org](http://elpasozoo.org), [visitelpaso.com](http://visitelpaso.com))

### FUTBOL CLUB JUÁREZ

FC Juárez is a professional soccer team that competes in Liga MX. The team was founded in 2015 by a bi-national group of six families, two from the border city of El Paso, Texas and four from Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, making it one of the few clubs with foreign investors in Mexican football and marking the return of professional sports to Ciudad Juárez for the first time since 2012. FC Juárez play their home matches at the Estadio Olímpico Benito Juárez in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua.

### KEYSTONE HERITAGE PARK AND DESERT BOTANICAL GARDENS

Keystone Heritage Park and the El Paso Desert Botanical Gardens is an archeological site, an archaic wetlands and a botanical garden. The 52-acre park in El Paso's Upper Valley is a City-owned property leased to a volunteer Board of Directors who are charged with preserving and developing the Park. Keystone Wetlands is home to many species of birds and is a stop on a migratory route for even more.

Over 206 species of birds have been spotted there, including 22 species considered rare by the Audubon Society. These archaic wetlands, protected by Federal Law, depict the wetlands/Bosque that once lined the Rio Grande. ([keystoneheritagepark.com](http://keystoneheritagepark.com))

### WORKING CAPITOL

Working Capitol is a shared workplace steps from El Paso's downtown, with a focus on bespoke amenities, integrated technology solutions and a curated design experience to help businesses both in and out of town excel and better focus on their clients as well as grow their professional network. WC operates on the workplace as service model and offers a variety of

flexible workspaces and plans as well as a number of productivity based amenities to help accommodate the different styles of work in today's highly mobile and fast-paced work environment. (*workcapitol.com*)



## ZIN VALLE

Situated in the valley of the Rio Grande, the back road of Highway 28 leads visitors to locally owned and operated Zin Valle Vineyards, El Paso's only vineyard and winery. They offer several different varietals from their estate vineyards as well as wines from California and Europe. Spend the day at Zin Valle and experience their complimentary wine tasting, venture into the barrel room or simply enjoy a glass or bottle of wine on the patio or picnic while looking over the Zinfandel vineyard and the Franklin Mountains.

For a unique experience visit the Vineyard on Sunday afternoons and enjoy the sounds of live music provided by local musicians. Bring a picnic, family and friends and enjoy the day in what was once one of the country's premier wine regions. (*visitelpaso.com*)

## ARTS AND CULTURE

(*Select Projects*)

### CASA ORTIZ

Located in El Paso County's Lower Valley, Casa Ortiz is a new gallery that offers art lovers the opportunity to add to their collections while shopping in a centuries-old former family home on the Mission Trail in Socorro. The architecture exemplifies the simple structures

of locally available materials built on the Spanish Colonial frontier. Reputedly constructed in the late 1700s with adobe walls and roof supports called vigas and latillas, it now houses The Bookery, an independent bookstore.

In the 1840s, the house belonged to Joswé Ortiz, a trader who carted salt from the salt flat at the foot of the Guadalupe Mountains along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, and traded knives, sarapes, and other goods with Native Americans. Now home to a merchant of a different sort, the casa is filled with books—every available surface is piled high with both Spanish and English texts, the majority of which cater to children.

### EL PASO MATTERS

El Paso Matters is a member-supported nonpartisan media organization that uses journalism to expand civic capacity in our region. We inform and engage with people in El Paso, Ciudad Juárez and neighboring communities to create solutions-driven conversations about complex issues shaping our region.

Founded in 2019 by journalist Robert Moore, El Paso Matters focuses on in-depth and investigative reporting about El Paso and the Paso del Norte region. (*elpasomatters.org*)

### GALERÍA LINCOLN

Founded by local artists, Diego "Robot" Martinez and Tino Ortega, Galería Lincoln was opened with the importance of helping local art thrive. The artists wanted to have a place to help up-and-coming artists to have a place to show and display their artwork. Galería Lincoln strives to provide another creative center in the area and frequently showcases local artists as well as hosts workshops led by local artists.

Formerly an abandoned property, built on Concordia in 1943, the founders gave it a complete makeover with two major renovations in a three month time frame. The gallery is located near Lincoln Park which sits underneath what's known as the Spaghetti Bowl, where Interstate 10 and U.S. Highway 54 merge.

### MCAD

The mission of the Museums and Cultural Affairs Department (MCAD) is to assist in developing a world-class arts community in El Paso, Texas. MCAD was formed in 2005, through the consolidation of two previous departments with overlapping cultural missions: the Museums Department and Arts Resources. With combined histories, MCAD has 88 years of experience in providing quality cultural programming for El Pasoans and visitors. (*elpasotexas.gov*)

### TOM LEA INSTITUTE

Founded in 2009 by Adair Margo, the Tom Lea Institute is a non-profit organization dedicated to documenting, presenting, teaching, and exhibiting the works of Tom Lea. Through its digital library, curricula, public programs, exhibitions, and publications, the Institute reaches audiences of all ages and encourages the exploration of regional art, history and culture. (*Tom Lea Institute*)

## INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

(*Select Organizations and Projects*)

### ARROWHEAD CENTER, NMSU

Arrowhead's services cover the spectrum of entrepreneurial learning, business creation and growth, and on-campus intellectual property issues. Arrowhead provides consulting and programs to help innovators and entrepreneurs at all stages of development—from funding to manufacturing.

### FAB LAB

Fab Lab El Paso is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization established in 2013. Located in the international metropolitan area of Paso del Norte, Fab Lab El Paso provides community access to digital fabrication tools and resources for skillset learning, workforce training, creative collaboration, prototype development, and product manufacture. Fab Lab El Paso is the first in the western Texas region of the United States. It is an entirely grassroots organization and has grown organically from support from the community. (*fablabelpaso.org*)



CASA ORTIZ GALLERY OFFERS ART LOVERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADD TO THEIR COLLECTIONS WITH BIWEEKLY EXHIBITS FEATURING LOCAL PROMINENT AND EMERGING ARTISTS AND PERFORMING MUSICIANS FROM AROUND THE CITY. IT IS CURRENTLY RUN BY GABRIEL MARQUEZ OF MYSTIC DESERT STUDIO, DIEGO MARTINEZ OF DIEGO ROBOT GIFTSHOP AND PRINTMAKER MARIO PEREZ. THE ADOBE HOME WAS BUILT IN THE 1800'S IN SOCORRO AND HAS BEEN FULLY RESTORED. IT HAS STARTED TO DRAW IN HERITAGE TOURISTS AND AFICIONADOS OF ADOBE BUILDINGS.

ARTISTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT WORK VIA EMAIL.

## MIRO CSETR TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ACCELERATION PARK (TRIAC)

The University of Texas at El Paso and The County of El Paso collaborated to launch the MIRO cSETR Technology Research and Innovation Acceleration Park (tRIAc) in Fabens, Texas, adjacent to the existing Fabens Airport. The partnership is focused on increasing regional economic prosperity via the new facility, where academic talents from UTEP will meet industry leaders who have been brought to the location to work on tomorrow's innovations and create new jobs for the area to improve the economy of Fabens and El Paso County as a whole. (UTEP)

## PIONEERS 21

Pioneers 21 is a non-profit organization and business incubator based in Downtown El Paso, Texas. It is one of the first and longest running incubators in the region. Founded in 2011, they have been an active participant of the development of El Paso's emerging innovation economy. Their mission is to unleash the creative and economic potential of El Paso and the U.S.-Mexico Border. (pioneers21.org)

## SPACEPORT (NM)

Spaceport America is the first purpose-built commercial spaceport in the world. The FAA-licensed launch complex, situated on 18,000 acres adjacent to the U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range in southern New Mexico, has a rocket friendly environment of 6,000 square miles of restricted airspace, low population density, a 12,000-foot by 200-foot runway, vertical launch complexes, and about 340 days of sunshine and low humidity.

Some of the most respected companies in the commercial space industry are tenants at Spaceport America: Virgin Galactic, HAPS Mobile/ AeroVironment, UP Aerospace, and SpinLaunch. With customers. Boeing, EXOS Aerospace and Swift Engineering regularly using the complex for testing and launches. (spaceportamerica.com)

## UTEP W.M. Keck Center for 3D Innovation

Headquartered at the University of Texas at El Paso, the Keck Center is a lab like no other in the world. The Keck Center features a unique blend of equipment and facilities to perform fundamental and applied research allowing for trailblazing discoveries to be made in limitless arenas of science, including electronics fabrication, materials science, biology, chemistry and many more. The 13,000 square foot, state-of-the-art-on-campus facility houses more than 65 additive manufacturing machines and the second off-campus facility has an additional 17,000 square feet for research, training and economic development. (UTEP)

## MILITARY

Fort Bliss is positioned with the best air, land and space capabilities, unmatched even by national training centers. Fort Bliss is the home of over 34,000 installation soldiers and was designed as the model army base for amenities for our soldiers and their family members. Fort bliss being is in the heart of El Paso where our members live, work, gain education and enjoy amenities within the city.

- Largest forces command installation in the army at 1.2 million acres
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- Largest maneuver training area in the army – 965k acres; includes inter-agency training
- Fort Bliss is the largest joint mobilization station in the department of defense
- Testing the latest technology available to the armed forces, joint modernization command
- Only digital air-ground integration range built to full army specifications
- Most energy efficient homes; front runner in net zero (energy, water, waste program)
- World's largest inland desalination plant



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# 2021 Expats



**ROBERT ARMSTRONG**  
Armstrong Legal Law Firm, PLLC  
(Immigration Law)

Robert's practice, Armstrong Legal Law Firm, is focused exclusively on immigration law. His interest in working with immigrants is rooted in his history as a long-time resident of the El Paso-Juárez borderplex and his own experience as a Panamanian American.

- Served as a child advocate at the Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights
- Worked at the South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project of the American Bar Association
- Selected as one of the first Justice Americorps attorney fellows and served at Catholic Charities of Dallas representing unaccompanied minors in removal proceedings as well as before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
- Graduated from the University of Chicago School of Law in 2013 after earning a Master's Degree in Leadership Studies and a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Communication with a Minor in Legal Reasoning from the University of Texas at El Paso.

*Current City: Plano, TX*



**JIM BALDWIN**  
Creative Director,  
The Richards Group

A Kentucky-born singer-songwriter, Jimmy performs in dusty bars and historic theaters from Austin to Seattle, San Francisco to Nashville and beyond. Raised in El Paso, his sound is rooted in the Texas troubadour tradition. His songs reflect the familiar spirit of country music as it blends with the sounds he grew up on – classic country, rock, border Norteña, and the spontaneous freestyle of the mariachi street musicians of Juárez. Even if you are not familiar with Jimmy Baldwin's music, you have most likely seen his creative work. His Motel 6 commercials with Tom Bodett received numerous awards. As did his sun-baked beach spots for Corona beer. Jimmy Fallon even parodied his Corona "Beeper" spot on Saturday Night Live.

- Americana Music Top-40 artist
- Three-time, first-round Grammy nominee
- Multiple Clio Award Winner
- International Directorial Award from Win Wenders and Dennis Hopper

*Current City: Dallas, TX*



**JOHN CARBAJAL**  
Residential Buyer Specialist,  
Trey Group

John spent 20 years working in food and beverage hospitality on the San Antonio River Walk and has a passion for volunteering. He has served on several boards, including San Antonio River Walk Association, San Antonio Hotel Lodging Association, San Antonio Restaurant Association, University of Houston, SA Advisory Board, Valero Alamo Bowl Committee, St. Phillips Hotel Management Committee & Visit San Antonio. With the Trey Group, John works with investors and developers in residential and commercial real estate.

- Co-owner and presenter of Dos Coas - A Spirit Experience venture created in 2013
- Experience with private barrel selecting from top producers in the tequila and bourbon industry with more than 20 private barrels selecting to-date.

*Current City: San Antonio, TX*



**ANAIS CARMONA**  
Director of Federal Legislative Affairs,  
T-Mobile

Anais represents T-Mobile's federal legislative interest before Members of Congress on issues related to telecommunications and technology. She is President of the Hispanic Lobbyists Association and has served on the Board for four consecutive years where she brings programming, mentorship & networking opportunities tailored to serving the Hispanic professional community in D.C.

- Recognized as part of the Alumni Society's 'Mission-Driven Class of 2019', City Year's '2018 Idealist of the Year Award' and Prospanica's 2018 '40 Under 40'.
- Participated in the Fundación Carolina Hispanic Leaders Program in Spain in 2017
- Selected to participate in Center for American Progress (CAPs) sixth class of the U.S. - Mexico Leaders Initiative

*Current City: Washington, D.C.*



**CHRISTOPHER CORDOVA**  
Vice President, Chase Bank

Graduate of Cathedral High School and St. Edward's University, Chris has previously worked as the Financial

Wellness Coordinator for Foundation Communities and as the Community Engagement Coordinator for United Way. Chris remains committed to the El Paso Community by serving on the Steering Board Committee of the El Paso in Austin Network from 2014-2020. He has contributed by organizing multiple fundraisers for El Paso High School Seniors beginning their college career in the Austin area.

- 2016 Graduate of the Hispanic Austin Leadership Program through the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Co-founded Save Siempre, a bilingual financial education program
- Served as President of the Young Hispanic Professional Association of Austin in 2017 and Board Mentor for 2018
- Recipient of the 2019 Austin Energy - Community Focused Customer Excellence Award
- Enjoys attending Austin FC matches and San Antonio Spurs games along with taking road trips throughout Texas and New Mexico.

*Current City: Austin, TX*



**RAMIRO DIAZ**  
Lead Software Engineer,  
Under Armour

Born and raised in Northeast El Paso, TX, Ramiro is a Lead Software Engineer and Co-Chair of the Under Armour Latino Alliance Employee Resource Group. Ramiro is a proud Leadership Austin Emerge alum and you will find him on the dance floor, or at a concert when he is not working or serving on the board for various organizations

such as Latinitas, an organization whose mission is to Empower all girls to innovate through media and technology.

- Graduate from The University of Texas at Austin with his bachelor's and master's degree in Computer Engineering
- Served on the board of several organizations including The Creative Fund, Un Sabado Gigante in Engineering (USGE), Club Red of The American Red Cross
- Led the local latino organizations of The Society of Professional Engineers (SHPE) student and professional chapters and the Young Hispanic Professional Association of Austin (YHPAA)

*Current City: Austin, TX*



**ANTHONY DOMINGUEZ**  
Software Development Manage,  
Mitrtech

As Software Development Manager at Mitrtech, a global tech company with offices in India, Europe, Australia, and Austin, TX, Anthony leads a team of software engineers in India and the U.S. that support an enterprise workflow software application. He has over 20 years' experience in software engineering and is an advocate for equity and inclusion in the field. Anthony is an avid dog lover and a proud UTEP alumni member who, alongside his wife, contributes to the El Paso in Austin Scholars Program.

## 2021 EXPATS

- Volunteers at Austin Pets Alive every Sunday for the last three years and was named a platinum volunteer for his consistent, ongoing support, and commitment.
- Graduated from Coronado High School and the University of Texas at El Paso, where he earned dual bachelor's degrees in Accounting and Computer Information Systems and an MBA.

Current City: Austin, TX



### SONIA DOMINGUEZ

Chief Program Officer, AVANCE, Inc.

Sonia provides leadership and strategy for two-generation education programming across the state of Texas, drawing on her lived experience and passion to improve opportunities for under-resourced communities through education. Sonia is the first in her family to earn a college degree and through her parent's dedication, learned at a young age

that education was important. Such experiences as taking two buses to school and having to leave the neighborhood to find a better education has pushed her to continue to focus on improving outcomes for families and their children through education.

- Began her career as a middle school math teacher, taught and trained future teachers, and led systems-change efforts in education at a collective impact organization
- Graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso with her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in education

Current City: Austin & San Antonio, TX



### ALEX FRANCO

On Air Personality, Mix 94.7

Since 2014, Alex has been the morning show personality at MIX 947, a radio show that is consistently ranked #1. Raised on the eastside of El Paso, Alexis the proud husband to his wife Andria,

and father of their two kids, Jacob and Alexandria.

- "Radio On-Air Personality of the Year" in 2015, 2017, 2020 and 2021
- 2019 Trailblazer by the El Paso in Austin Network

Current City: Austin, TX



### RAUL GONZALEZ III

Author/Illustrator/Producer

Raul the Third aka Raul Gonzalez III is the three-time Pura Belpre award winning author/illustrator of many books for children. He is currently developing *Vamos!* into an animated television series with Silvergate Media and Mercury Filmworks. He lives in Boston with his wife and artistic collaborator Elaine Bay and their son Raul the Fourth.

- With author Cathy Camper, illustrated *Lowriders in Space*, *Lowriders to the Center of the Earth* and *Lowriders Blast from the*

Past published by Chronicle Books

- Author/Illustrator of *Vamos! Let's go to the Market*, *Vamos! Let's Go Eat*, and *Vamos! Let's Cross the Bridge* with colors by Elaine Bay published by Harper-Collins/Clarion Books
- *Stuntboy*, in the Meantime, his collaboration with New York Times bestselling author Jason Reynolds, will be published by Simon and Schuster this November

Current City: Boston, MA



### JOSE GUERRA

Investment Specialist,  
J.P. Morgan Private Bank

Jose works closely with individuals and families, founders, endowments, foundations, and corporations across Dallas-Fort Worth, West Texas and his hometown of El Paso. He credits his parents, Latino entrepreneurs, with instilling the value of hard work while highlighting the challenges that arise in the absence of skilled financial advice. Previously, Jose held roles at BNP Paribas, Citigroup, and CLS Bank. He enjoys spending time outdoors and volunteering to support educational non-profits.

- "Worked with the Gates Foundation's Financial Services for the Poor team, which seeks to expand access to financial services to the unbanked around the globe.
- Co-chaired the Hispanic American Business Students Association and was an Admissions Fellow and Board Fellow
- Graduated from The University of Texas at El Paso with a B.B.A. in Finance and Accounting and holds an M.B.A. from The University

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of Chicago Booth School of Business. He earned his CFA designation in 2016

Current City: Fort Worth, TX



### MIGUEL ENRIQUE GUILLEN

Director of IT/IS Enterprise Services,  
Travis County Health District  
(Central Health)

Miguel currently serves as a Director of IT/IS Enterprise Services at Travis County Health District (Central Health). In this role, he serves as a liaison between Joint Technology and CommUnityCare. Before working at Central Health, he worked as a Project Manager for Hewlett Packard - Enterprise Services (HP-ES), a multinational enterprise with a global presence and established reputation. Born in El Paso and raised in Ciudad Juárez, Miguel met his wife, Mariel, ten years ago in El Paso and together they have two beautiful kids Oliver

(four) and Ariana (almost two).

- Graduated from the Autonomous University of Ciudad Juárez in 2008 with a Bachelor's degree in Digital Systems and Communication Engineering
- Currently enrolled in the Master of Business Administration program in Lamar University
- Youngest of four siblings, whose parents are from Chihuahua, MX

Current City: Georgetown, TX



### WALLI HALEY

Retired Attorney

In the 1970's, Walli arrived in El Paso and studied Mass Communication at UTEP before serving as a media and public relations professional for the El Paso Convention and Visitor's



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## 2021 EXPATS

Bureau, and later, UTEP's News and Publications Department. Nearing 50, she entered law school, passing the bar in 2007 before finding a dream job as a public defender in Colorado Springs where she spent more than a decade defending children accused of crimes.

- Served on the El Paso's historic landmark commission in the 1980's and founded the El Paso Preservation Alliance, a 501(c)(3) organization
- Graduated UTEP with her BA & MFA
- Worked as a waitress at Kiki's
- Has spent the last 14 years in Colorado Springs, but now retired, is ready to come home to El Paso.

**Current City: Colorado Springs, CO**



### ASHLEY LUNDE

**Project Manager, State of Texas-Economic Development and Tourism**  
Originally from Northeast El Paso, Ashley graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Psychology before completing her MPA. Her current role as project manager at State of Texas- Economic Development and Tourism has allowed her to gain an even better appreciation for the growth and active participation from El Paso's community leaders. Living in Central Texas for 9 years, Ashley currently resides in the Austin region with her husband, Nathan and their two children, Elanor (4) and Elliot (2).

- Graduated from Northeast Christian Academy and continued her studies at EPCC and UTEP

before graduating with her Bachelor's from Park University

- Worked with Visit El Paso; partnering with the City's Economic Development team as well as the Waco Economic Development Corporation

**Current City: Austin, TX**



### CINDY A. MEDINA

**Publicist, History Activist and Genealogist**

Cindy A. Medina is a Publicist, History Activist and Genealogist who works in binational projects both in the U.S. and Mexico. Born and raised in El Paso, Texas, Cindy holds an MBA and MAOM from the Santa Teresa Campus of the University of Phoenix. Cindy is part of a large network of genealogists and historians nationwide and has given several conferences in the U.S. on different topics. She is an ambassador for the genealogy company FamilySearch and works with Ancestry.com leaders. Cindy leads a Facebook group called New Spain and Mexico History and the Mexican Revolution History and Genealogy Facebook group in addition to serving as the main moderator for a Facebook group that teaches Hispanics how to do research on their family history.

- Volunteered as a translator at the Baptist Clinic in downtown El Paso.
- Taught Biology and Conversational English to Medical students in the Liaoning Province, China in 2004 at China Medical University (CMU).
- Founding member of YHPAA in Austin, Texas (Young Hispanic

Professional Austin Association).

- Publicist for the book Abraham " Lincoln and Mexico written by Dr. Michael Hogan, one of the #1 books on the Mexican-American War (U.S. invasion of Mexico)
- To be featured on an episode of the #1 treasure hunting show called BEYOND OAK ISLAND on the History Channel

**Current City: Austin, TX**



### ALEXANDER MONTANO

**Executive Vice President, Yearout Energy**

A native of the Sun City and alum of Burges High School, Alex serves as the Executive Vice President at Yearout Energy where he oversees all business and project development activities company wide. Alex received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering Technology from New Mexico State University.

- Certified Energy Manager (CEM), Renewable Energy Professional (REP), and LEED Accredited Professional (LEED AP)
- Recognized as a 40 under 40 honoree by Albuquerque Business First in 2020
- Chair of the Albuquerque Energy Council & on the National Board of Directors of the Energy services Coalition.

**Current City: Albuquerque, NM**



### ALEJANDRO MUNOZ

**Head of Finance & Growth at Higo**

Alex holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and a BBA in Finance/ Accounting from the University of Texas at El Paso. He stays connected to his hometown of Juárez through Project Paz, a nonprofit that supports at-risk children, and as an active UTEP alumni member.

- Began professional career within JP Morgan's Investment Bank
- Former Deputy Strategy Director at Grupo Mexico Transportes, Sr. Strategy Associate at Bloomberg LP.
- Worked at Mexico's Embassy in Washington D.C., where he aided the negotiation of the USMCA treaty (previously NAFTA)

**Current City: Guadalajara, MX**



### ASHLEY SOTO PANIAGUA

**Disney, TV Writer**

A native of El Paso, TX and a former high school teacher in Mississippi, Ashley currently writes on *The Proud Family: Louder and Prouder* (Disney+) and before that on *Vida* (Starz) and *Fast and Furious: Spy Racers* (Netflix). Additionally, she co-founded #RaisethePercentage, a grassroots initiative that connects working TV writers with emerging Black/ Afrolatinx writers.

# GRAN CORONEL

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## 2021 EXPATS

- Serving as Co-EP, Ashley runs a scripted podcast for Broadway Video and Audible
- Developing Raúl the Third's award-winning VAMOS books into an animated family comedy with Silvergate Media and Mercury Films
- Graduate of Amherst College
- Represented by Circle of Confusion

**Current City: Los Angeles, CA**



### RUBEN LUIS REYES

**Owner/ Self Employed Attorney,  
Law Office of Ruben L. Reyes**

Ruben Reyes is a first generation American on his father's side and was raised by his paternal grandmother who never had any formal schooling. She taught him life's most valuable lessons including humility, patience, compassion, and forgiveness. His life on the El Paso/Juárez border left a strong and lasting impression on issues regarding social justice, migration policy, border policy, right to counsel and due process. He opened his practice in January of 2012. His work in immigration law focuses on family petitions, humanitarian visas, removal defense, BIA appeals, 9th COA and 5th COA representation.

- Volunteers with the Mexican Consulates in Arizona and spent a year under contract with the Guatemalan Consulate for detainee "Know Your Rights" presentations in southern New Mexico detention centers

- Serves as the CEO of DVlegalnetwork.org, a startup nonprofit corporation that seeks to provide pro bono consultations for survivors of domestic violence in the areas of immigration law, family law and criminal law.
- Heavily involved with American Immigration Lawyers Association, "AILA" both nationally and for the Arizona chapter having served for five years as an elected Director to the AILA Board of Governors among other positions

**Current City: Phoenix, AZ**



### JONATHAN TAVAREZ, P.E. Staff Structural Engineer, American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC)

Through the AISC Steel Solutions Center, Jonathan develops conceptual designs for clients and provides technical assistance to engineers and architects related to steel design, fabrication, and erection. Before joining AISC, he delivered structural engineering design solutions for nuclear power plants across the country and also has experience with high-rise building design. Jonathan is currently developing a multimedia ideas platform aimed at inspiring curiosity and innovation across the borderland.

- Oversees committees that develop the ANSI-accredited standards "Specification for Safety-Related Steel Structures for Nuclear Facilities" and the "Code of Standard Practice for Steel Buildings and Bridges"

- Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso
- Master of Science in Structural Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Current City: Chicago, IL**



### JAVIER VALDEZ Executive Director, HealthStart Foundation, Inc.

For the past 25 years, Javier has served as a corporate and nonprofit leader. Javier is currently building on his demonstrated background to grow HealthStart's impact. When Javier is not working, he loves participating in various fitness activities, honing his foodie skills, traveling, and enjoying live music.

- Has led several local and national nonprofits where as an executive director, he mentors his team to develop their potential to contribute fully to the organization's growth.
- Served in executive and senior leadership roles at Oracle, Electronic Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), Cisco Systems, Inc., to name a few.

**Current City: Austin, TX**



### ROBERT WAGNON CEO of Republic State Mortgage

Robert is the founder and CEO of Republic State Mortgage Company. A seventh-generation Texan, Robert enjoys traveling and adventures with his wife, Ellen Weingarten Wagnon and their three sons, Reagor, Joseph and Bennett. Prior to his current career, Robert made his living in the outdoors by backpacking on fire watch and also fished commercially off Kodiak Island, Alaska. Robert spent two years in the Merchant Marine and was a Merchant Marine Staff Officer, serving as purser on the S.S. Independence out of Honolulu, Hawaii.

- Republic State Mortgage was named a top workplace by the Houston Chronicle in 2018, 2019, and 2020 and named a best mortgage company to work for by the National Mortgage News in 2019, 2020, and 2021.
- Fortune named Republic a best workplace in the financial services and insurance sector in 2021
- Robert serves or has served on the board of directors or the advisory board of the following institutions: Texas Mortgage Bankers Association; Houston Mortgage Bankers Association; Entrepreneurs Organization (EO); World Entrepreneurs Organization (WEO); Main Street Theater; Sterling Bank; and the St. Philips Episcopal Church of Uvalde

**Current City: Houston, TX**



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# 2021 Speakers



**M. SCOTT ADKINS**

President and CEO, PyroCom Systems, Inc  
*Progress321 Founder*



**KAREN ÁLAMO**

Directora del Espacio Interactivo La Rodadora



**JIMMY BALDWIN**

Creative Director, Richards Group  
*Expat Progressor, EPE Class I*



**DIEGO "ROBOT" MARTINEZ**

Artist



**GABRIEL MARQUEZ**

Artist



**LINDA MEDINA-LOPEZ**

Co-Founder, El Paso in Austin Network; State & District Partnerships, College Board  
*Expat Progressor, EPE Class I*



**JON BARELA**

Chief Executive Officer, The Borderplex Alliance  
*Progressor*



**JJ CHILDRESS**

Microsoft | TechSpark Texas Community Manager  
*Progressor, P321 Board President*



**JESSICA CHRISTIANSON**

Senior Director of Innovation & Sustainability, El Paso Electric



**MAYOR KEN MIYAGISHIMA & FIRST LADY ROSIE MIYAGISHIMA**

Mayor and First Lady of Las Cruces



**BOB MOORE**

President and CEO, El Paso Matters



**RICARDO MORA**

CEO, Technology Hub Ciudad Juárez



**BRYAN CROWE**

General Manager, Destination El Paso  
*Progressor*



**ERIC DIAZ**

El Paso Leadership Network



**MAYOR OSCAR LEESER**

Mayor of El Paso



**GABE PADILLA**

Food Artist, Casa del Humo



**TESS PASSERO**

Owner, Ottopass  
*EPE Class I, Progressor*



**ERIC PEARSON**

President / CEO, El Paso Community Foundation  
*Progressor*



**2021 SPEAKERS**



**RYAN POULOS**

CAE & Co-Owner, Zin Valle Vineyards  
*Progressor*



**RICARDO RAZO**

Co-Founder, Mission Trail Brewery



**COUNTY JUDGE RICARDO SAMANIEGO**

City of El Paso



**OMAR SAUCEDO**

TechSpark Community Engagement  
Manager Mexico, Microsoft



**EMMA SCHWARTZ**

President, MCA Foundation  
*Progress321 Founder*



**COMMISSIONER DAVID STOUT**

El Paso County Commissioner,  
Precinct 2  
*Progressor*

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915 Day is an initiative of Progress321 to reach out to El Pasoans as a way for them to show pride from where they were born and raised. Progress321 is working with local vendors and artisans to provide items from which El Paso expats can order and get a little piece of home at their doorstep. We are encouraging everyone to show their pride of being an El Pasoan on September 15th which is 915 Day! We hope to make this an annual day of Pride for the City of El Paso!



Show your pride for being an El Pasoan on September 15 with #915day!

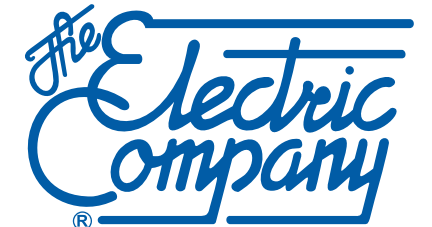


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## ONE REGION *One Table*

Launched in 2017, One Region One Table showcases the unique culinary culture of three states, two countries, and one beautiful region through an elevated, multi-course dinner event complete with a cocktail hour, live entertainment and sommelier's choice wine pairings hosted in a memorable venue.



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# 2021's Talent



### EDGAR OROZCO

Great American Hospitality

Corporate Chef Edgar Orozco could hardly have ended up in any other role. His fascination with food goes back as far as he can remember, when as a child he regularly noted changes to family recipes in his mother's kitchen.

Today, he oversees everything that has to do with food at Great American Hospitality, from purchasing to creating menus and hiring culinary personnel, and takes a hands-on approach to management.

Edgar keeps a close eye on operations, visiting the company's kitchens daily to help solve problems and implement new ideas. A humble respect defines Great American Hospitality's internal culture. Senior figures must do due diligence, and Edgar is no exception.

After returning from the prestigious International Culinary Institute in New York City, which included a fellowship in Cuneo, Italy, he had to work his way up through the ranks before taking his place at the head of culinary operations. It is evident that he loves his work as soon as one sits at any table in the Great American family.



### TARA FREEDMAN

The Culinary Studio

Tara Freedman (*formerly Livingston*) is El Paso native. She began her journey in the food industry at age 13 and is now Proprietor at the newly established concept: The Culinary Studio. The Culinary Studio is primarily a Catering Company but that is not all it will bring to the city; the concept will be a place where the community can come together and learn different culinary and entertaining skills. Tara has been an entrepreneurial asset to El Paso since 2017 when she founded NOSH at Montecillo. After closing NOSH she became Event and Catering Coordinator at Pan Y Agua Restaurant Group. During the pandemic she was forced to bring back her entrepreneurial skillset and re-birth her presence into the El Paso food scene. The Culinary Studio is located in the heart of West El Paso at 1035 Belvedere Suite 104.

I was born in El Paso but grew up mostly in Juárez. Like most of us that were born and raised here, I have a very border-centric palate; very American when we ate out at restaurants and very Mexican when we ate at home. Putting them together in a not exactly Tex-Mex way is how I see a lot of our food at the restaurants. I grew up in a family of restaurateurs so I've been in the biz for as long as I can't remember but when I graduated high school, I decided to formalize my training and moved to Phoenix to attend the Art Institute's culinary program. I later graduated and moved on to study for a degree in hotel restaurant management, that I almost finished, all while working at the best places I could in Phoenix and Scottsdale. I spent ten years away from El Paso and when the opportunity to open up a place of my own came up, we decided it was now or never. My now wife, then girlfriend, Bridgette packed up and moved down and in less than 30 days, Crave Cincinnati was open, and the rest is Pan y Agua history.



### ALAN DELGADO

Expat Chef

Alan Delgado grew up on the Texas-Chihuahua border, splitting time between El Paso and CD. Juárez. After moving to Austin as a teenager, he spent a decade working in some of the city's most notable restaurants—Sway, Launderette, and Carpenters



### RUDY VALDEZ

Pan y Agua Group

Hall, which *Bon Appétit* magazine named one of the 50 best new restaurants in the country in 2019—and he launched a monthly supper club called Tumahye. Before moving to New York, Delgado worked as the sous chef at Comedor, a modern Mexican restaurant recognized by *Esquire* magazine as one of the 10 best new restaurants in America. Previously the director of research and development at Via Halcon Hospitality, Alan oversaw Xilonen and Oxomoco. He looks forward to pushing his unconventional take on Mexican cuisine to the next level and helping to foster the next generation of professional chefs.



**ALEJANDRO CANO**

Podium Finish Sport Boutique & Cafe

Born in El Paso to a Mexican American mother born in Guanajuato, Mexico, Alex grew up in the El Paso-Juárez Borderland and attended culinary arts school at Instituto Superior de Alta Cocina in Ciudad Juárez. Alex is the Sous Chef at Podium Finish Sport Boutique & Café.



**LUIS FERNANDO HERNANDEZ**

Podium Finish Sport Boutique & Cafe

Born in El Paso to Mexican parents, he grew up in El Paso where he started culinary arts school at EPCC while working at Garufa as a dishwasher. During his tenure there, he began his training in the kitchen. A few years later he took a position at Cafe Central from 2012–2017 as a line cook. Presently he is the Executive Chef at Podium Finish Sport Boutique & Cafe since its first day of inception in 2017.



**PABLO RIVERO**

Ardeo  
Returning Chef

A great kitchen, according to Executive Chef Pablo Rivero, contains three elements: a good team, the best ingredients, and the right equipment. When he was brought on to help revamp the company's first acquisition, Great American Steakhouse, he made sure all three were present. He and Corporate Chef Edgar Orozco maintain this standard by traveling regularly to industry shows across the country, researching emerging trends and resources.

The demands of the job suit him just fine. Pablo gained his foundation in gastronomy on the move, learning to cook in the great restaurants and hotels of Italy, France, Great Britain and Vancouver over the course of ten years. As he mastered skills and set his sights on new ones, he changed kitchens, cities, and countries—whatever his appetite required. Pablo's expansive repertoire played a key

role in the development of Ardeo and Muzza, Great American Hospitality's first foray into proprietary concepts, and he looks forward to developing new projects. With ambitious co-collaborators committed to quality and constant improvement, Pablo finds it is an excellent fit.



**MAGGIE ASFAHANI**

Salt + Honey

Maggie Asfahani, owner and creative director of Salt + Honey Bakery Cafe, is a native El Pasoan of Lebanese descent. She has been obsessed with food since she was 10 years old. Maggie holds a BA in Political Science with a minor in Journalism and an MA in Communication Studies from UTEP. She is keenly aware and interested in the way food and food scarcity affect our communities, and is committed to helping find lasting solutions. Maggie believes that food is great way to learn about culture, migration and history, and helps bring people together in the most fundamental way.



**JON MURRAY**

Mano Wine & Spirits  
Returning Sommelier

Ever since my first taste of wine as a child, watered down Pinot Noir at Thanksgiving Dinner with my parents, I was hooked. I began working with Gruet winery, helping with the pressing of grapes, at age 13; and quickly reinforced what my passion was. My next fifteen years was spent learning as much as possible within the restaurant and hotel industry, as well as wine and spirits distribution and importation. And now, together with my brother, we have been given a shot at our dream and cannot wait to work with and give back to our community.



**TAILOR MURRAY**

Mano Wine & Spirits

Our father, Scott Murray, worked in the wine industry, and the spirit and liveliness of the business has always fascinated me. I have worked in various positions within the beverage industry, anywhere from bottling and production at a winery, warehouse management for distribution, and within the restaurant. Opening up a distribution business has always been a dream.

I am here to educate and guide buyers and customers alike on a journey of fine wine and spirits. It is fascinating to learn every detail about our products and share that knowledge so that we can all grow together in this community. This is a business I love and am proud to be a part of.



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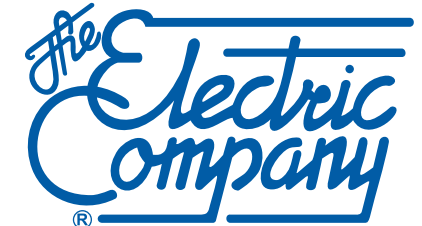
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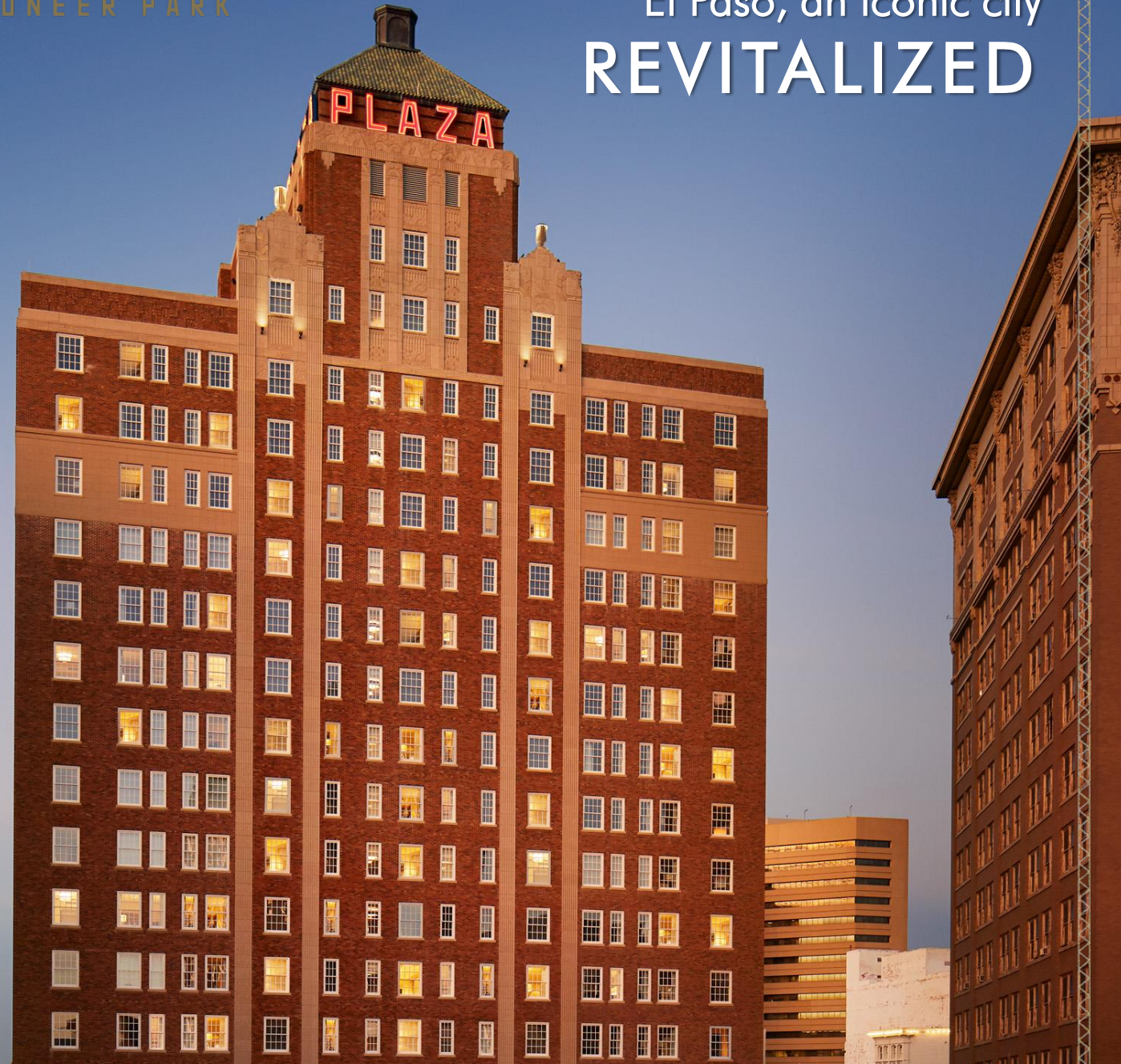
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# All About Progress 321

Scan me!



## Progressing Our Region

Progress321 is a group of purpose-driven professionals dedicated to making the region the best place to live, work, and create. We bring together emerging leaders with established trailblazers and foster meaningful, actionable progress in our region. Progress321 is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and supporting organization of the El Paso Community Foundation.

### Membership Levels:

- 29 & Under Progressor: \$240 annual contribution
- 30 + Progressor: \$500 annual contribution
- Corporate Partner (6 annual memberships): \$2,500 annual contribution



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## Connect. Access. Empower.

We connect Progressors, provide access to influential leaders and organizations, and empower them to make a difference in the region.

### Here are a few ways how:



### P321 ROULETTES

P321 Roulettes allow our Progressors the opportunity to sit down and share a casual meal with a local trailblazer. Each Lunch Roulette has inspired our members to become agents of action and progress. We appreciate our guests sharing their personal and professional journeys in a small, conversational, and no-pressure setting.



### P321 POTPOURRIS

P321 Potpourris are offered exclusively to our members. Take the opportunity to engage with fellow Progressors in a hodgepodge of activities. Registration is always required and space is limited.



### EXCLUSIVE PANELS & EVENTS

We curate panel discussions to allow you to hear from industry experts and connect on important topics, Connect321 mixers for Progressors to get to know each other, and sneak peeks and behind the scenes tours of new development projects around town.



### COFFEE CHAT CONNECT

Coffee Chat Connect is open to P321 current members and prospective members. Join us for coffee and to chat all things P321.

Visit [progress321.org](https://progress321.org), or contact [info@progress321.org](mailto:info@progress321.org), to learn more.

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# Expat Connect

## Progress321's mission to connect Progressors to advance the region does not stop in the Southwest!

We not only want to engage professionals living in the region to advance the Quality of Life, but also those that were born and raised here sharing their talents with the world. Through our Expat Initiative we hope to connect expats and progressors with regional leaders so we can enhance the region through our homegrown talent.

Who is considered an Expat? An expat can be defined as someone who grew up in El Paso, Juárez, or Las Cruces and called the region their home, who now lives and works outside the region. We understand that in a remote world some expats are back home temporarily and they too are considered an expat.

## Become a Progress321 Expat Member

Progress321 has developed a membership level for expats that allows them to network, gain access to leaders and Progressors through remote and in person programming. The Expat Membership is \$125 a year. With this membership you will have access to the following:

- Access to regional community leaders
- Access to network with a progressive group of El Pasoans
- Business networking opportunities
- Mentorship: Connect with Progressors moving or visiting your city or in your profession
- Education on regional topics
- Virtual and in town group sessions
- Access to promote yourself as a speaker
- Behind the scenes tours
- Access to P321 members only events



## Meet Our Expat Membership Chairs



**VALERIE GARCIA**

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso



**JOHN CARBAJAL**

Keller Williams City View Realtor



**ALEX FRANCO**

Austin's MIX 94.7



**TESS PASSERO**

Owner, Ottopass

## Expat Give Back Program

Tess Passero moved her business Ottopass to El Paso after experiencing El Paso Everywhere and saw the opportunity that was here for her professionally and allowed her to be closer to friends and family.

The Expat Give Back program is going to be a collaborative partnership with Progress321 Expats and the El Paso Children's Museum. Expats can share with regional youth about their professional experience that shaped them and provide a unique mentorship opportunity in the Museum's "Challenge It" Zone. Contact us to learn more: Progress321.org.





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