

Progress321 

# EL PASO EVERYWHERE

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**STAY  
SOCIAL!**



### Progress321

 Progress321.org

 @progress\_321

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 #P321

### El Paso Everywhere

 ElPasoEverywhere.com

 #ElPasoEverywhere

### One Region One Table

 OneRegionOneTable.com

 #OROT

### 915 Week

 915Week.com

 #915Week

# All About Progress321

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. We are three cities joining forces to promote the progress and synergy of El Paso, TX, Ciudad Juárez, Chih. and Las Cruces, NM. Progress321 is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and supporting organization of the El Paso Community Foundation.

### Progress321 is committed to its mission of:

- **Connecting** visionaries who share a passion for developing the potential of our region
- Gaining **Access** to leaders and innovators who have regional, national, and global influence
- **Empowering** Progressors to make our region the best place to live, work, and create

### PROGRESS321 STAFF

**Maya Sanchez, Interim Executive Director**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Gabe Gonzalez, President**  
Broaddus & Associates

**Daniel Vasquez, Interim Vice President**  
GECU

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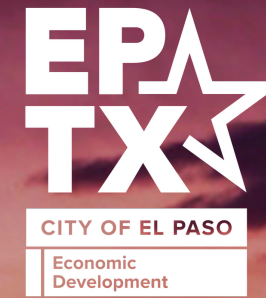
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**Taylor Moreno, El Paso Children's Foundation**

**David Panko, El Paso International Airport**

**Mario Porras, El Paso Community Foundation**

**Olivia Troye, The Troye Group LLC**



**¡BIENVENIDOS!**  
INSPIRING  
ECONOMIC  
TRANSFORMATION

# SUPPORTING EL PASO BUSINESSES

## Proud Supporters of Progress 321

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



# P321 Programming



## EXCLUSIVE PANELS

Progress321 curates panel discussions to allow you to hear from industry experts and connect on important topics. Industry leaders dig deep into topics driving our region's economic development and quality of life.



## POWHER HOUR

PowHER Hour offers a unique and empowering opportunity for Progressors to come together and establish meaningful connections with influential female leaders who have made a significant impact in our region.



## 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.



## CHANGE MAKERS

Change Makers is a collaborative event presented by Progress321 and El Paso Matters, dedicated to the celebration and appreciation of remarkable women across various industries in commemoration of Women's History Month. Our inaugural Change Makers event took place on Friday, March 31, 2023 at the El Paso Convention Center and was centered around acknowledging the trailblazing accomplishments of El Paso's female elected officials across the spectrum of governance.

# Membership

Learn More



## Progress321 Membership Levels:

- 29 & Under Progressor: \$240 annual contribution
- 30 + Progressor: \$500 annual contribution
- Expat Memberships: \$150 annual contribution
- Corporate Partner (6 annual memberships): \$2,500 annual contribution

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

# YOUR AUDIENCE IS LISTENING

## CONSULTING + MARKETING SERVICES

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GHOSTLIGHT  
CREATIVE

# President's Welcome

**Dear Expats, welcome home!**

On behalf of Progress321 and the Paso del Norte community, I am thrilled to welcome each of our Class IV expats back to our region to experience a weekend full of insight, networking, and inspiration.

Now in our 4th year of this annual initiative, Progress321 is determined to once again provide a platform for each of you to observe, learn, and directly engage with the most high-profile developments and initiatives in our region.

This year, we are thrilled to focus our attention on our region's next great achievement: the aerospace industry. Our local aerospace industry involves both legacy institutions and global industry leaders that collectively intend to utilize our region's resources, including the environment, education, and economic capacity, to further develop their strategic goals while also supporting the continuous growth of our region, which over 2.5 million people call home.

Sharing the spotlight are the ongoing Quality of Life projects led by the City of El Paso. These initiatives include park and recreation renovations, museum development, airport improvements, and zoo enhancements. Through conceptualization and planning efforts, our region's leaders have listened and transformed the citizens' needs into actionable projects to ensure that our region continues to strengthen and maintains a high standard of being the best place to live, work, and create.

Over the course of the weekend events, you will witness amazing efforts and investments made by key stakeholders in several industries. They not only believe in but actively advance our region through their professional expertise and commitment.

The intended outcome is simple: to learn, appreciate, and share the excitement surrounding the ongoing efforts in our region, not just with your friends and family but also with your colleagues, business partners, clients, and everyone in your professional network. With your shared passion and commitment, Progress321 will continue to strive to make our region the best place to live, work, and create.



*Gabe Gonzalez*

**GABE GONZALEZ**  
Progress321 Board President  
Broaddus & Associates



# El Paso Everywhere

**Dedicated to Celebrating our Community**

El Paso Everywhere (EPE) is a three-day conference whose events are held at significant locations throughout El Paso, Texas, Ciudad Juárez Chihuahua, Mexico, and Las Cruces, New Mexico.

We proudly invite El Pasoans, Las Cruceans, and Juárezenses abroad to come back and experience the people and projects actively transforming our region. Launched in 2019, El Paso Everywhere showcases the unique culture of three states, two countries, and one beautiful region.

Scan me!





# ¡Bienvenidos a Casa!

**Class IV, Welcome to the fourth installment of El Paso Everywhere!**

This annual initiative has grown to be one of our most successful forms of connecting our expats back to the region they've once called home. The excitement to showcase all the incredible things El Paso, Las Cruces and Cd. Juárez offers is positively overwhelming. As we all have had to adapt to our new normal atmosphere and ever-changing world, we can confidently say our region has thrived and acclimated to our current standard. The post-pandemic environment we are currently navigating has truly shown the resilience of our home: The Borderplex.

Our local leaders, Progressors, entrepreneurs, and citizens have achieved many accomplishments. To name a few: the expansion of the UTEP Aerospace Center, Spaceport America, revitalization of Downtown El Paso, Spaceport America, quality of life investments, and the TechHUB in Ciudad Juárez.

Our region is at the forefront of innovation and global investment with the City of El Paso and UTEP's latest \$40 million dollar grant for the 250 Acre Advanced Manufacturing District now known as the Innovation Factory, and Microsoft's introduction of the program "TEALS" (Technology Education and Literacy in Schools) making Ciudad Juárez its first city to host the program outside of the U.S. and launching it to the rest of the world. The binational cross pollination of industries in the aerospace, automotive, biomedical, culinary, and computing fields have propelled our region to the forefront of global recognition, accentuating the rich, vast capabilities of our people, our leaders, and our culture.

The air is filled with excitement, passion, and desire to elevate our region even further, with an array of projects that are well underway. We hope during your visit, you will hear first-hand of these developments and get to meet some of the people behind them. We are extremely honored to welcome you all back home and cannot wait for you to see what we have in store. ¡Bienvenidos a casa!

## 2023 EPE Chairs & Planning Committee

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

### 2023 CHAIRS

**Claudia De la Rosa, Co-Chair**  
Strategic Wealth

**Shane Griffith, Co-Chair**  
Desert Imaging

### 2023 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Alex Muñoz Mendieta, No Border Ventures
- Araceli Barnard, El Paso Foreign Trade Zone
- David Panko, El Paso Foreign Trade Zone
- Larissa Garcia, El Paso International Airport
- Louis Edwards, Rhizome Workshop & Architecture
- Melissa Babina, Ghostlight Creative
- Ray Sanchez, Ghostlight Creative
- Sandy Provencio, City of El Paso



*Claudia De la Rosa*  
**CLAUDIA DE LA ROSA**  
2023 Co-Chair  
Strategic Wealth



*Shane Griffith*  
**SHANE GRIFFITH**  
2023 Co-Chair  
Desert Imaging

# Itinerary

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

EL PASO / NEW MEXICO

### WELCOME BREAKFAST

UTEP Aerospace Center

- Ice breaker
- Progress321 Introduction
- Presentation UTEP Aerospace Center:
  - **Dr. Ahsan Choudhuri** – Chairman and Professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering, UTEP
  - **Dr. Ryan Wicker** – Executive Director of the W.M. Keck Center and Professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering, UTEP
  - **Eddie Seyffert** – Senior Engineer, Lunar Permanence, Blue Origin
- Campus Tour

8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

### BOARD BUS AND DEPART TO SPACEPORT

Boxed lunch provided

11:00 AM

### SPACEPORT TOUR

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

### DEPART SPACEPORT TO OLD MESILLA

Snacks/water provided

4:00 PM

### DINNER AT RIO GRANDE WINERY

Dinner, wine, and presentations

5:00 PM – 7:30 PM

### DEPART WINERY TO RETURN TO EL PASO

7:30 PM

### ARRIVE IN DOWNTOWN EL PASO

8:00 PM

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

JUÁREZ / EL PASO

### BUS/SHUTTLE DEPARTS HOTEL

Boxed breakfast provided

9:00 AM

### TECHNOLOGY HUB TOUR

- Welcome remarks, pan dulce, and coffee
- Facility tour with **Ricardo Mora** – Technology HUB, CEO & Co-Founder
- 1st Panel Discussion: Juárez Updates
- 2nd Panel Discussion: Aerospace

9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

### LUNCH AT LOS ARCOS

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

### MERCADO / CATEDRAL

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

### KENTUCKY BAR

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

### DEPART JUÁREZ TO RETURN TO EL PASO

5:00 PM

### FIESTA NIGHT

#### AT THE ARTS FESTIVAL PLAZA

Live music, dinner, and drinks:

- **The Honorable Ricardo Samaniego** – County Judge of the County of El Paso

7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

EL PASO

### SATURDAY AT THE ZOO!

#### Zebra Pavilion

- Buffet Breakfast
- Quality of Life and El Paso Updates:
  - **Elizabeth Triggs** – Director of Economic and International Development, City of El Paso
  - **The Honorable Oscar Leeser** – Mayor, City of El Paso
  - **Natalie Eckberg** – Vice President of Development & Stakeholder Relations, La Nube
  - **Joe Montisano** – Director, El Paso Zoo
- Tour of Zoo to follow

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

### ONE REGION ONE TABLE

El Paso Convention Center

Savor a divine multi-course gastronomic adventure, expertly accompanied by the finest wine pairings, promising an unforgettable dining experience.

5:30 PM – 12:00 AM

## SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

### BRUNCH FOR EXPATS AT ANSONII

11:00 AM



# Industry & Development

## HEALTHCARE

### THE BURRELL COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

The Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine utilizes the latest technologies and learning methods to ensure success in the classroom and future professional practice. Led by highly experienced professionals from osteopathic, allopathic and general higher education, the College is committed to impacting the workforce needs and access to quality medical services in the region. (*bcomnm.org*)

### 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.



(The El Paso Veterans Wellness Center, *endeavors.org*)

### ENDEAVORS VETERANS WELLNESS CENTER

Coming soon to El Paso: The El Paso Veterans Wellness Center (VWC) will offer comprehensive and integrated mental and physical health services to support the daily

wellness needs of any-era Veteran and their families. The VWC is based on a suicide prevention model and provides telehealth and in-person mental and physical health services, support groups, professional development training, a large state-of-the-art fitness center, group fitness classes, case management, and more. (*endeavors.org*)

### THE HOSPITALS OF PROVIDENCE

The Hospitals of Providence has been caring for El Paso since 1902, with a strong presence in the city. With 5,300 employees and over 900 partnering physicians, they provide comprehensive healthcare to the entire region, including East, West, and Central El Paso, Southern New Mexico, and West Texas. Their area hospitals offer top-notch services such as surgery, heart care, orthopedics, neurology, pediatrics, and women's health.

In February 2023, the healthcare group announced the acquisition of 30 acres of land at 12951 Eastlake Boulevard, near quickly growing Horizon City. The plan is to develop a medical office building complex and recruit new providers to the Far East. (*thehospitalsofprovidence.com, elpasoinc.com*)

### LAS PALMAS DEL SOL HEALTHCARE

Las Palmas Del Sol Healthcare's full-service acute care hospitals encompass a wide range of medical specialties, ensuring accessible and comprehensive healthcare for all. As a part of HCA, the world's largest hospital chain, they bring unparalleled healthcare resources to El Paso. Their medical teams include some of the nation's finest physicians, and they maintain ongoing recruitment efforts to address the needs of the growing population in the region. (*laspalmasdelsolhealthcare.com*)

### MEDICAL CENTER OF THE AMERICAS

The Medical Center of the Americas Foundation is tasked with developing a growing hub of innovation for the Paso del Norte region's health care and biomedical industries.



(William Beaumont Army Medical Center, *hdrinc.com*)

They're best known for the 440-acre Medical Center of the Americas campus in the heart of El Paso, Texas, but their reach and partnerships extend across cities, states, and international borders. (*mcamericas.org*)

### TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER-EL PASO

The mission of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso is to improve the lives of people in our State and our community by focusing on the unique health care needs of socially and culturally diverse border populations through excellence in integrated education, research, and patient care. The campus includes the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, the Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine, and the Gayle Greve Hunt School of Nursing.

Recently, The Fox family announced a \$25 million gift towards the construction of the Steve and Nancy Fox Cancer Center, a future comprehensive cancer center constructed on the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso campus. The gift will support clinical trials, research, and recruitment of world-class physicians, nurses, and researchers. (*elpaso.ttuhs.edu, ttuhscepimpact.org*)

### UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER OF EL PASO

The El Paso County Hospital District's Healthcare System includes the following entities: University Medical Center of El Paso, an acute care teaching hospital, UMC

Outpatient Clinics, which are primary care centers, El Paso Children's Hospital, the district's pediatric specialized care focused hospital, El Paso Health, the district's wholly owned subsidiary HMO, the University Medical Center Foundation, and the El Paso Children's Foundation.

UMC El Paso recently purchased the former Legent Hospital in east El Paso. The facility will become a new surgical hospital, offering services that could range from endoscopic to orthopedic procedures. It will also include 40 beds, a two-bay emergency department, and will have the capacity to perform medical imaging. (*umcelpaso.org, kfoxtv.com*)

### WILLIAM BEAUMONT ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

William Beaumont Army Medical Center (WBAMC), formerly the William Beaumont General Hospital (WBGH), is located on the east side of Fort Bliss, adjacent to the Spur 601 and Loop 375 connection. Its previous location was northwest of Fort Bliss' main cantonment area, between Fred Wilson Road and Hayes Avenue. The hospital made the move to the new facility on July 11, 2021.

The new facility campus contains a Level III Trauma Center. It has 135 beds, 10 operating rooms, and 30 primary/specialty clinics with 269 exam rooms. (*william-beaumont.tricare.mil*)





(El Paso Streetcar, facebook.com/elpasostreetcar)

## TRANSPORTATION

### 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. (KVIA, El Paso Inc.)

### STREETCAR

The Streetcar travels a 4.8-mile route in two loops through El Paso’s uptown and downtown areas. Both loops interconnect an international bridge, an array of businesses and restaurants, a baseball park, government buildings, historic neighborhoods, hospitals, and higher education institutions like the University of Texas at El Paso amongst many other prominent locations. (visitelpaso.com)

### SUNCYCLE BIKE SHARE

SunCycle is El Paso’s own B-cycle program, a next generation bike-sharing program. It is a zero-hassle, zero-emissions way to get around town. This program meets the transportation, health, and environmental needs of our communities. (crma.org)

### TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Below is a short list of El Paso Projects. Before a project is built, a study must be done to determine if it will fill a transportation need, will not negatively impact the surrounding area and fits the department’s overall plan. During the study phase, potential projects are analyzed to determine if they are cost-effective while also efficiently improving mobility. Some of these projects have moved beyond the study phase and are under construction. (txdot.gov)

**Borderland Expressway** – Proposed construction would complete a route around the northeast side of El Paso.

**Downtown 10** – Downtown 10 From Executive Center Boulevard to Loop 478 (Copia Street). The proposed

project entails the I-10 reconstruction and widening the existing main lanes, providing continuous frontage roads with pedestrian and bicycle amenities, constructing retaining walls, bridges, and ramps, and reconfiguring cross streets.

**FM 1281 Horizon** – Develop a corridor master plan for 9.4-mile section of Horizon Boulevard (FM 1281) from Alameda Avenue (SH 20) to Ascension Street.

**I-10 Connect** – Improve access from I-10 to Loop 375 (Border Highway) and provide access to Bridge of the Americas Port of Entry.

**I-10 from Antonio to Mesa** – The proposed project entails the reconstruction and widening of the existing roadway to improve capacity, operation, circulation, and safety on I-10.

**Loop 375 – Transmountain West** – Improvements from I-10 to east of the Franklin Mountains State Park Entrance.

**SH 20 Doniphan Drive** – Develop a corridor plan for 15 miles of Doniphan Drive between the Texas and New Mexico state line and Racetrack Drive.

**Spur 1966** – A new connection between Schuster Avenue on the UTEP campus and Paisano Drive via a bridge over I-10.

**US 67** – Develop a corridor plan for 142 miles of US 67, from I-10 west of Fort Stockton to the Presidio/Ojinaga Port of Entry on the US/Mexico border.

## MAJOR CONSTRUCTION/RENOVATION

(Select Projects)

### AMAZON FULFILLMENT CENTER

Amazon’s huge, El Paso distribution center is even larger than the company previously reported. The five-story fulfillment center, where hundreds of workers fill orders for Amazon.com customers, has 2.6 million square feet of space. That makes it the largest industrial building in the El Paso area. It’s one of the largest Amazon fulfillment centers in the United States, said Daniel Martin, an Amazon spokesperson. The facility, opened in late 2021, is located

at 12101 Emerald Pass Drive, near Eastlake Boulevard and Interstate 10, in a booming area of far East El Paso County. (elpasotimes.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, August 3, 2021 were memorialized at Ascarate Park as a testament to the strength of their spirit, their families and of their hometown. 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 (MOB) All-Inclusive Park

After working successfully with City Council, MOB turned its efforts towards a partnership with the County to bring an All-Inclusive Park to Ascarate Park. County leaders approved the project and the building of two additional all-inclusive playgrounds at Gallegos Park and Risinger Park. MOB has completed its fundraising, and the County is in the process of completing the three all-abilities playground construction. (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 ANIMAL SERVICES EXPANSION

El Paso Animal Services will undergo an expansion project that promises to add 400 new kennels, more medical facilities and create more visibility for the shelter’s adoptable pets. (ktsm.com)

## ELP INNOVATION FACTORY

El Paso took a step toward becoming the country's hub for aerospace, defense, and advanced manufacturing on July 19, 2023, with the grand opening of the ELP Innovation Factory. The 30,000-square-foot facility, funded by a \$40 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Build Back Better Regional Challenge, is a collaborative effort between the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and the City of El Paso. Manufacturers housed within the ELP Innovation Factory are selected based on their potential to have significant impact on expanded manufacturing capacity in El Paso and attract high-paying jobs. Once part of the ELP Innovation Factory, manufacturers receive technology innovation support and other services from UTEP's Aerospace Center and the W.M. Keck Center for 3D innovation. ([utep.edu](http://utep.edu))



(Rendering of El Paso Water headquarters, El Paso Water)

## EL PASO WATER HEADQUARTERS

El Paso Water broke ground on a \$47 million project in early 2023 to build a new headquarters in East-Central El Paso. The structure will nearly double the size of the utility company's current 40,000 SF HQ which it has occupied for the last 30 years. The project is expected to be completed in late 2024. ([cbs4local.com](http://cbs4local.com), [elpasotimes.com](http://elpasotimes.com))

## HOTEL PASO DEL NORTE

The 351-room, Marriott Autograph Collection hotel officially re opened in October 2020. The reinvented hotel introduces innovative new guest rooms, a vibrant rooftop pool and bar, world-class dining, re-imagined event spaces, and a century-old Dome Bar with its

stunning 25 foot Tiffany-style stained glass dome. It has 33,000 square feet of ballrooms and other meeting spaces. ([hotelpdn.com](http://hotelpdn.com))

## LA NUBE

La Nube, opening 2024, will be a space where imagination, like the clouds above, can take any shape. El Paso's new hands-on center of imagination, exploration, and creativity was designed for children and adults to embrace their natural curiosity and learn through play. With nine themed learning experiences spread across four stories and 70,000 square feet of space, there are endless opportunities for you to discover something new. ([la-nube.org](http://la-nube.org))

## MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

The Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC) will provide residents and visitors with a dynamic space for the creation, exhibition and celebration of Mexican American art and culture. The MACC will be co-located at the El Paso Main Library in the heart of the El Paso Downtown Arts District and in close proximity to existing tourist and cultural amenities. ([elpasotexas.gov](http://elpasotexas.gov))

## 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. The hotel features 130 rooms, a stunning ballroom, several high-end restaurants, and a rooftop bar and restaurant. ([hospitalitynet.org](http://hospitalitynet.org))

## SOCORRO ISD STUDENT ACTIVITY COMPLEX

As part of the 2017 Socorro ISD Bond Program, SAC II began construction in Spring 2022 for a second Student Activity Complex. The facility, designed to accommodate 6,500 people, will host a range of athletic and special events for students and staff district-wide. The project, with a budget of \$58.9 million, is slated for completion in 2024. ([kfoxtv.com](http://kfoxtv.com))

## STARLIGHT EVENT CENTER

Education Service Center Region-19's new Starlight Event Center in east El Paso was completed in January 2022 after 2 years of construction. The Starlight Event



(Rendering of Mexican American Cultural Center, [exigoarch.com](http://exigoarch.com))

Center will mainly be used for educational training, but the space will be rented out to the public. The six-story building is located along Airway Blvd. and Boeing Dr. near the El Paso International Airport. ([kfoxtv.com](http://kfoxtv.com))

## USDA REGIONAL FOOD BUSINESS CENTER

The USDA is backing a five-year project led by Texas A&M AgriLife in El Paso to diversify food sources in the Texas and New Mexico border counties. This initiative, called a Regional Food Business Center, involves partnerships with nonprofits, academic institutions, and local governments to boost small food businesses in the region. By offering technical and financial support, the project aims to strengthen the entire food supply chain, including transportation, refrigerated warehousing, and food processing, recognizing their vital role, as highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic. ([elpasomatters.org](http://elpasomatters.org))

## UTEP'S ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND AEROSPACE CENTER

In late-2022, UTEP started construction on its new \$80 million Advanced Manufacturing and Aerospace Center. The new 98,000 SF building will provide research and education space for UTEP's College of Engineering. The new facility will serve and estimated 600 students. UTEP worked with NASA, U.S. DoD, and the National Science

Foundation on research and project development. The project is expected to be completed by late 2025. ([elpasotimes.com](http://elpasotimes.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. ([weststartower.com](http://weststartower.com))

## YSLETA DEL SUR PUEBLO HEALTH CLINIC

The Pueblo is currently constructing a state-of-the-art Healthcare Facility. Spanning over 78,000 square feet, the clinic will house more than 100 healthcare professionals and offer a wide range of services, including primary care, mental health, dental, optometry, pharmacy, and public health. Equipped with 17 exam rooms, 10 dental operatories, a commercial kitchen, robotic pharmacy dispensing, and an auditorium, the state-of-the-art facility aims to address health disparities experienced by American Indians and Alaska Natives. ([kfoxtv.com](http://kfoxtv.com) [ysletadelsurpueblo.org](http://ysletadelsurpueblo.org))

## QUALITY OF LIFE

### EL PASO CHIHUAHUAS

The El Paso Chihuahuas are El Paso's minor league baseball team in the Pacific Coast League. They are the Triple-A affiliate for the San Diego Padres. The team plays its home games at Southwest University Park.

### EL PASO LOCOMOTIVE FC

El Paso Locomotive FC is an American professional soccer team. Founded in 2018, the team made its debut in the USL Championship in 2019. Locomotive FC plays at Southwest University Park. ([elp locomotivefc.com](http://elp locomotivefc.com))



(El Paso Municipal Rose Garden, [tripadvisor.com](http://tripadvisor.com))

### EL PASO MUNICIPAL ROSE GARDEN

On display at the more than four-acre El Paso Municipal Rose Garden are approximately 1,200 rose bushes with over 300 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. ([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. ([elpasorhinos.com](http://elpasorhinos.com))

### EL PASO WATER PARKS

Introducing Oasis, Camp Cohen, Lost Kingdom, and Chapoteo! Each site is a unique 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 & BOTANICAL GARDENS

Locally recognized as the Best Place to Take the Kiddos, the El Paso Zoo sits on 35 acres of fun and adventure. The El Paso Zoo is home to exotic animals from around the world and features family attractions such as the African Star Train, 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))

### FARMERS MARKETS

The region is known for friendly markets full of local food trucks, artisans, and farmers – Upper Valley Artist and Farmers Market, Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market, El Paso Downtown Artist & Farmers Market, and Country Club Farmers Market to name a few.

### FUTBOL CLUB JUÁREZ

Futbol Club 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.

### HIKING

El Paso has become the undisputed mecca for some of the regions best mountain bike trails by virtue of its rocky terrain, views that go on for days and trails that range from beginner to advanced and suit all riding abilities. ([visitelpaso.com](http://visitelpaso.com))

### To name a few:

- Franklin Mountain State Park
- Hueco Tanks State Park & Historic Site
- Rio Bosque Wetlands Park
- Chuck Heinrich Memorial Park
- Lost Dog Trails
- McKelligon Canyon
- Tin Mines Trail

### KEYSTONE HERITAGE PARK AND DESERT BOTANICAL GARDENS

Keystone Heritage Park and the El Paso Desert Botanical Gardens is a 52-acre archaeological site, an archaic wetlands, and a botanical garden in El Paso's Upper Valley. ([keystoneheritagepark.com](http://keystoneheritagepark.com))

### MIGHTY MUJER TRIATHLON EL PASO

Mighty Mujer Triathlon El Paso is an all-female event with in-person and virtual options. In 2012, the first Mighty Mujer Triathlon hosted 350 participants in El Paso. Since then, the event has grown, and Mighty Mujer Triathlon has introduced thousands of women into the sport. For many, the race has become a rite of passage and their gateway to active lifestyles and a renewed sense of community. ([ktsm.com](http://ktsm.com))

## ARTS AND CULTURE

(Select Projects)

### ARTS FESTIVAL PLAZA

Arts Festival Plaza is located between the El Paso Museum of Art and the Plaza Theatre and is home to some of Downtown's most popular events. It has also been used as a music venue for the annual Downtown Street Festival, an outdoor movie theater for films during the Plaza Classic Film Festival and for public art gatherings. ([ktsm.com](http://ktsm.com))

### CASA ORTIZ

Casa Ortiz, located on the El Paso Camino Real, serves as an art gallery/gift shop that showcases various artists' work in the Socorro and El Paso area. Since its opening, the gallery has hosted many shows and even art markets that feature local vendors as well. ([ktsm.com](http://ktsm.com))



## OPEN FOR BUSINESSES

### GECU COMMERCIAL LENDING\*

Strong. Determined. Driven. You're a business owner and GECU Commercial Lending is here to support you with competitively low rates and quick decisions that are backed by our business services professionals. Plus, there are no prepayment penalties when paying off your loan! We have the solutions that you need to improve and grow your business.

GECU Commercial Lending can help you with ...

- Real estate owner-occupied loans
- Investment property loans
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- Equipment loans
- Refinancing
- Working capital lines of credit

Learn more at [gecu.com](http://gecu.com)!



[gecu.com](http://gecu.com)

\*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](http://gecu.com).

## EL PASO MATTERS

El Paso Matters is a member-supported nonpartisan media organization that uses journalism to expand civic capacity in our region. They 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](http://elpasomatters.org))



([El Paso Museum of Art, epmcad.org](http://El Paso Museum of Art, epmcad.org))

## EL PASO MUSEUMS

El Paso offers a variety of museums and cultural centers for you to visit, including:

- El Paso Holocaust Museum & Study Center
- El Paso Museum of Archaeology Wilderness Park
- El Paso Museum of Art
- El Paso Museum of History
- Fort Bliss & Old Ironside Museum
- International Museum of Art
- Los Portales Museum and Information Center
- National Border Patrol Museum
- Tigua Indian Cultural Center
- War Eagles Air Museum

## EL PASO OPERA

El Paso Opera began in 1992 as Opera a la Carte offering excerpts of classical opera. After overwhelming support indicated a desire for fully-staged, complete operatic productions, the organization expanded into a full

company in 1994. El Paso Opera is proud to be known as the first opera company in the United States to display dual supertitle translations in both English and Spanish. ([epopera.org.org](http://epopera.org.org))

## EL PASO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The mission of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra Association is to assure that superior concert music is made available to entertain and educate the multicultural community of the greater El Paso region. Over 200 people work to produce each concert, of which 80 are musicians that are employed year round from all over the region. ([epsso.org](http://epsso.org))

## FILM RELEASES

**Cassandra** - In the early 1980s, gay wrestler Saúl Armendáriz lives in El Paso, Texas, and regularly crosses the border to Ciudad Juárez in Mexico to participate in lucha libre wrestling matches. He wrestles as El Topo until he meets a new trainer, Sabrina, who suggests he should compete as an exótico, leading to his new identity and increasing success as Cassandra. ([wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org))

**Blue Beetle** - The new live-action superhero movie "Blue Beetle" is based on the original comic character from El Paso, Texas. The Warner Brothers even reached out to a local El Paso artist, Jose Alvarado, to create an exclusive mural for the 915 on the front of Cinemark in East El Paso. ([ktsm.com](http://ktsm.com))

**Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe** - Aitch Alberto wrote and directed a romantic coming-of-age drama film, adapting Benjamin Alire Sáenz's 2012 novel of the same name. Set in 1987 El Paso, Texas, the story revolves around two Mexican-American teenage boys who forge a profound connection. The title characters are portrayed by Max Pelayo and Reese Gonzales, with Verónica Falcón, Kevin Alejandro, Eva Longoria, and Eugenio Derbez rounding out the cast. ([wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org))

## LAS CRUCES SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra, under the baton Offer an innovative ecosystem with office spaces, technology training and meeting rooms for events. Connecting customers, business partners and collaborators to contribute to their well-being and economic development. ([lascrucessymphony.com](http://lascrucessymphony.com))



## MCAD

The Museum and Cultural Affairs Division is tasked to assist in developing a world-class arts community in El Paso, Texas. To accomplish this, the department established the Museums Division and the Cultural Affairs Division. The Museums Division is comprised of the El Paso Museum of Art, the El Paso Museum of Archaeology and the El Paso Museum of History, each dedicated to providing exhibitions and educational activities that recognize the region's multi-cultural heritage. ([epmcad.org](http://epmcad.org))

## PLAZA CLASSIC FILM FESTIVAL

Produced by the El Paso Community Foundation, the Plaza Classic Film Festival is the world's largest classic film festival. It features between 90 and 100 films over 11 days, film lectures, special guests, private receptions and more. ([filmfreeway.com](http://filmfreeway.com))

## PLAZA THEATRE

Built in 1930 and restored to its original atmospheric theater splendor in 2006, the Plaza Theatre Performing Arts Center is conveniently located in downtown. In addition to the 2,050-seat Kendall Kidd Performance Hall, the Plaza Theatre features the 200-seat Philanthropy Theatre and

the Alcantar Sky Garden, a delightful rental venue for private receptions, business parties and family gathering. ([elpasolive.com](http://elpasolive.com))

## RODERICK ARTSPACE LOFTS

In partnership with the El Paso Community Foundation and the City of El Paso, Artspace transformed a vacant lot downtown into an arts destination animated by artists and creative businesses, helping to rejuvenate a challenged neighborhood. This beautiful new building blends 51 affordable live/work units for artists and their families with 5,000 square feet of multi-purpose nonprofit commercial space and a large community room. ([artspace.org](http://artspace.org))

## 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](http://Tom Lea Institute))



(Blue Origin's New Shepard suborbital vehicle, Blue Origin via Twitter)

## INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

(Select Organizations and Projects)

### ARROWHEAD CENTER, NMSU

Arrowhead Center'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.

### BLUE ORIGIN LAUNCH SITE ONE

Two hours east of El Paso, Launch Site One sits on the historic Figure 2 Ranch near Van Horn, Texas. Named for Alan Shepard, the first U.S. astronaut, New Shepard launches from the high West Texas desert. On an 11-minute flight, passengers travel over 3X the speed of sound to pass the Kármán Line at 100 km (62 mi), float weightless for several minutes, and witness life-changing views of Earth before descending gently under parachutes. ([blueorigin.com](http://blueorigin.com))

### FAB LAB

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](http://fablabelpaso.org))

### INNOVATION FACTORY

The Innovation Factory is a groundbreaking initiative poised to transform the landscape of early-stage manufacturing technology-based businesses in El Paso. Created through a collaborative effort between the City of El Paso, UTEP, the National Center for Defense Manufacturing and Machining (NCDMM), and the El Paso Chamber of Commerce, this visionary project is set to drive innovation, economic growth, and job creation in the region. ([business.elpasointernationalairport.com](http://business.elpasointernationalairport.com))

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

UTEP 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](http://UTEP))

### PIONEERS 21

Pioneers 21 is one of the first and longest running incubators in the region. Since 2011, P21 has housed and supported over 162 companies. P21 is a participant in the development of our emerging economy by encouraging startups to innovate and launch ideas into self-sustaining businesses. ([pioneers21.org](http://pioneers21.org))

### SPACEPORT AMERICA

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. Boeing, EXOS Aerospace, and Swift Engineering regularly use the complex for testing and launches. ([spaceportamerica.com](http://spaceportamerica.com))

### TECHNOLOGY HUB

Technology Hub's mission is to offer an innovative ecosystem with office spaces, technology training and meeting rooms for events. Connecting customers, business partners and collaborators to contribute to their well-being and economic development. ([t-hub.mx](http://t-hub.mx))

### UTEP W.M. KECK CENTER FOR 3D INNOVATION

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](http://UTEP))

## MILITARY

Fort Bliss is home to the 1st Armored Division, which returned to US soil in 2011, after 40 years in Germany. Fort Bliss is comprised of approximately 1.12 million acres of land in Texas and New Mexico. Fort Bliss trained thousands of U.S. Soldiers during the Cold War. As the United States gradually came to master the art of building and operating missiles, Fort Bliss became more and more important to the country, and expanded accordingly. 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.



(M1 Abrams battle tank, U.S. Army photo by Spc. Matthew J. Marcellus)

- Largest forces command installation in the army at 1.2 million acres
- White sands and Fort Bliss combined consist of 3.3 million contiguous training acres
- Largest maneuver training area in the army – 965k acres; includes inter-agency training
- 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

# 2023 Class IV Expats



**ALEJANDRO MUÑOZ  
MENDIETA**

Managing Director,  
No Border Ventures

Alejandro is an experienced Executive and is currently Managing Director of No Border Ventures, a VC fund based in El Paso, Texas looking to change the face of entrepreneurship through diverse and ethical investing. His Previous roles include being the CFO of the start-up Higo/Sammy, Deputy Strategy Director at Grupo Mexico Transportes, Sr. Strategy Associate at Bloomberg L.P., and Analyst in JP Morgan's Investment Bank.

Alejandro holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and a BBA in Fin/Acct from University of Texas at El Paso.

*Current City: San Francisco, CA*



**ANDY WHARTON**

Co-General Partner,  
No Border Ventures

Andy is Co-General Partner of No Border Ventures, a Texas-based venture capital firm that invests in FinTech companies. He is an MBA candidate at The Wharton School - University of Pennsylvania and a Bel Air High alumni. He has a deep passion for helping founders realize their ideas, sharing financial literacy advice, and forming lifelong relationships.

Andy has 8+ years of experience in venture capital, strategy, mergers & acquisitions, capital markets, operations, and commodity trading. His previous employers are Roble Ventures, Laconia Capital Group, Mission One Capital, Amazon.com, Marathon Petroleum Corporation, and UBS Investment Bank. During his time in Seattle, he founded a non-profit called the Pacific Boys Rowing Co., which helped serve underrepresented children in the Seattle area with scholarships and clothing. He received his BBA from St. Mary's University and graduated with the highest honors.

During his free time, he enjoys teaching yoga, rowing, the outdoors, soccer and traveling.

*Current City: San Francisco, CA*



**CLARISSA JAIME**

Software Engineering Instructor

Clarissa Jaime, is a passionate Software Engineering Instructor in Austin, Texas, and a proud University of Texas at El Paso alumni. She dedicates herself to empowering tech learners and promoting diversity in the industry.

*Current City: Austin, TX*



**DIANA BRUCE**

CEO & Founder,  
Diana Bruce & Associates LLC

Diana Bruce (she/her/hers) is a nationally recognized school health leader, speaker, and trainer with over 25 years of experience in advocating for child and adolescent health, school health, reproductive health, HIV/STI prevention, sexuality education, and LGBTQ advocacy through policy and program development at various levels of government. Known for her unique

approach, she combines radical empathy with sound public policy to engage communities in creating "student-centered solutions."

Diana operates her consulting practice, specializing in empathy-based, student-centered policy development and training for schools and organizations. She is an expert in navigating Title IX, FERPA, HIPAA, and Section 504 to ensure academic access for young people and has been involved in court cases supporting transgender students. Diana also advises K-12 schools on COVID-19-related challenges and works to create inclusive policies for transgender students.

Raised on the U.S./Mexico border, Diana earned her Bachelor's in Journalism from the University of Texas at El Paso and holds a Master of Public Policy and Administration from Columbia University, with a concentration in Gender and Public Policy. Beyond her consultancy, she teaches yoga with an equity focus and serves on the Board of Directors of Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington.

*Current City: Washington, D.C.*



**MONA CHAVEZ**

Fitness Instructor, Inspiraethos

Mona Chavez is a world traveler, sociologist, consultant, and fitness instructor at Inspiraethos. She enjoys writing on the topics of wellness and building communities. Raised in El Paso, she relocated throughout the USA/ England, and now resides in Dallas.

*Current City: Dallas, TX*



# Expats 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, Juarez, or Las Cruces and called the region their home, who now lives and works outside the region.

## 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. 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



*Leyla Zeidan Safa*  
**LEYLA ZEIDAN SAFA**  
 Co-Chair  
 El Paso Children's Garden



*Olivia Troye*  
**OLIVIA TROYE**  
 Co-Chair  
 The Troye Group LLC



# Expats Give Back Projects



Below are some projects initiated by Expats after attending Progress321's El Paso Everywhere event.

### The Espiritu Bridge Jimmy Baldwin

Jimmy plans to build an art installation with structures on both sides of the Rio Grande River connected by light beams.

### Borderland Big Ideas Jonathan Tavaréz

Jonathan organizes transformative conversations important to the borderland region.

### Home for the Holidays Jennifer Sanchez

Jennifer created an annual gathering of Expats connecting over the December holidays.

### Texas Food & Wine Alliance Wine & Dine Series John Carbajal, Rico Torres, and André Natara

All three expats collaborated to donate back a significant amount to the 915 Region by hosting a Dinner Series organized by TFWA in Central Texas.

### The El Paso in Austin Network Linda Medina-Lopez

In 2007, Linda co-founded the El Paso in Austin Network, an organization that connects and recognizes fellow El Pasoans in Austin through the Annual Trailblazer Awards and provides college scholarships for deserving El Paso seniors going to Austin to study.



# New skills for a new way of working

Empowering people with AI skills for today and tomorrow



## The challenge

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is advancing faster than ever and is expected to impact all aspects of society, changing the way people learn, work, and connect. AI offers tremendous potential to empower workers around the world – but only if everyone, everywhere has the skills to use it.

According to Microsoft’s recent Work Trend Index, AI is uniquely poised to create a whole new way of working just as the pace of information work is outpacing our ability to keep up. According to the Index, 62% of survey respondents said they struggle with too much time spent searching for information in their workday. And while 49% of people say they’re worried AI will replace their jobs, even more —70%—would delegate as much work as possible to AI to lessen their workloads

Though there is natural apprehension about what the rising technology will mean for jobs, we believe that AI-enabled innovation will generate economic and societal opportunities for the communities we serve. To take full advantage of its many benefits, jobseekers and employed professionals alike need to develop their skills in working with AI.

## Our approach

To help address this challenge, Microsoft launched a new AI Skills initiative to help people and communities around the world learn how to harness the power of AI. As part of our Microsoft Skills for Jobs program, the initiative includes new, free coursework developed with LinkedIn; a new open global challenge in coordination with data.org to uncover new ways of training workers of today and tomorrow on generative AI; and greater access to free digital learning events and resources for everyone to improve their AI fluency.

Microsoft’s mission is to empower every person and every organization on the planet to achieve more. Together with our dedicated partners, we have helped more than over 80 million people access digital and foundational skills since 2020. The AI skills initiative aims to help workers stay ahead of emerging skills gaps and succeed in an ever-changing digital economy.

## 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.



*Stephanie Hernandez*

**STEPHANIE HERNANDEZ**

Co-Chair  
Casa Hernandez De Ciudad Juárez



*Carlos Ibrahim Sanchez*

**CARLOS IBRAHIM SANCHEZ**

Co-Chair  
Lola Rose

### 2023 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Carlos A Hernandez**, City of El Paso, El Paso International Airport, Foreign Trade Zone

**Elizabeth Sifuentes-Ballenger**, MillionAir El Paso

**Gabe Gonzalez**, Broaddus and Associates

**Melissa Babina**, Ghostlight Creative

**Michelle Emtre Hollis**, Restaurant Revenue Strategist

**Tommy Gabriel**, WestStar Bank

**Tricetan Wesley**, Glide Slope Mortgages By NEXA



# 2023's Talent



## CHEF BRIANA PAREDES

Hotel Paso Del Norte

Briana Paredes serves as the Executive Pastry Chef at the renowned Hotel Paso Del Norte. With a passion for creating delectable desserts that blend Mexican and American flavors, Briana leads a talented culinary team, ensuring the hotel's restaurants and catered events offer an exquisite array of sweet delights.

From a young age, Briana displayed a profound affection for art, chemistry, math, and, of course, food. These diverse interests are all part of her culinary journey, where she has found the perfect canvas to channel her creativity and expertise. Briana's unwavering dedication to her craft led her to pursue an Associate of Arts degree in Pastry from El Paso Community College.

In April 2022, her culinary journey reached new heights when she was appointed as the Executive Pastry Chef at Hotel Paso Del Norte.

Known for her imaginative and innovative desserts, Briana's most prized creations have included a whimsical life-sized gingerbread house and a decadent dessert, tailor-made for chocolate lovers. This dessert features a flourless chocolate cake layered with milk chocolate mousse, caramelized chocolate ganache, and sea salt.

Briana's deep-seated connection to her El Paso heritage fuels her commitment to introducing new culinary experiences to her beloved hometown.



## CHEF CARLOS CASTILLO

Great American Hospitality:  
Ardeo / La Morin

Emerging from Ciudad Juárez, Chef Castillo's passion for cooking propelled him on a global culinary adventure. He honed his skills in renowned locations, earning a respected reputation in the culinary world.

Starting in Mexico, he delved into the essence of Mexican cuisine in Oaxaca, mastering its rich flavors and timeless traditions. His journey then took him to France, where he spent five years refining his craft in three Michelin-starred kitchens: Grand Vefour, Nicolas Lebeq, and Le Petit Nice.

Later, in San Francisco, he made his mark in the kitchens of two Michelin-starred eateries, 5th Floor and Michael Mina, amassing a devoted following over five years. Returning to El Paso, he brought his vision to life with Lekuria in Ciudad Juarez.

Now, in partnership with the renowned Great American Steakhouse, Chef Castillo is poised to redefine El Paso's culinary scene with a downtown venture opening in fall 2024. Anticipate an artful fusion of flavors, textures,

and techniques, promising an unparalleled dining experience that seamlessly blends tradition with modernity.



## CHEF CARLOS SOLIS

Destination El Paso

Executive Chef Carlos Solis with Destination El Paso is a creative chef who builds menus, analyzes recipes, and determines pricing structures for all of its managed venues and off-site events. With 12 years of experience at the Mirage, Hard Rock Hotel, and Wynn hotels in Las Vegas, as well as Tosca Stone Oven Pizzeria in El Paso, Solis is a graduate of Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Las Vegas.

Solis has gone on to open his own catering business, Carlitos Catering, where he prepares meals for various members of the local community. Chef Carlos's specialty lies not only in cooking for 3,000 people at once but also in providing a fine dining experience in a mass production kitchen.

Solis's plans are to bring more creative culinary experiences to the Sun City and to offer everyone the opportunity to savor a flavorful future.



## CHEF ENRIQUE LOZANO

El Charlatán

Traditional Mexican cuisine has always been in Enrique's blood. After gaining experience at Zino's Greek & Mediterranean Cuisine, Enrique embarked on a culinary journey to a Michelin-rated Chicago-based restaurant called Next before returning home. Inspired by his time at Next, Enrique launched Nishi in Downtown El Paso, where he furthered his love for Ramen.

Nishi is where Enrique meticulously crafted each bowl of ramen hecho a mano, using the finest Asian ingredients, before closing its doors in 2019. Enrique's desire to reconnect with his roots in traditional Mexican food, with a nuanced twist, grew stronger. Subsequently, he introduced El Charlatán, a unique blend of ramen and refined tacos, showcasing his culinary innovation. As a James Beard Award semi-finalist for "Best Chef in Texas," Chef Enrique invites you to savor the fusion of flavors in each dish, perfect for sharing with loved ones.



## CHEF ERICK ROCHA

Taft Diaz

Erick Rocha, a culinary professional with nearly 13 years of experience,

began his culinary journey at EPCC for Culinary and furthered his expertise at the French Pastry School in Chicago. During his career, he had the privilege of working at renowned establishments, including Blackbird in Chicago, a Michelin 1-star restaurant, for three years. He also completed a 6-month internship at Martin Berasategui in Spain, a 3 Michelin-star restaurant. Additionally, he served as the head of the chocolate department at Encore Boston Harbor, a prestigious Las Vegas-based resort awarded 5 Stars by Forbes and 5 Diamonds by AAA from 2018 to 2020.

Chef Erick's culinary style combines a Modern American influence with a love for Asian and French flavors. Since April 2021, he has held the position of Executive Chef at Taft Diaz, where he has curated a menu featuring dishes that have become favorites throughout El Paso.



## CHEF JAIME VILLANUEVA

Bowie High School

Jaime Villanueva, a Chef from "La Frontera," possesses a profound passion for culinary arts. He has developed a unique style by merging Mexican street foods, traditional Mexican dishes, and desserts.

Two years ago, he embarked on a new journey as a culinary instructor at Bowie High School, where he encountered challenges and valuable learning experiences. Through this role, he ignited a passion for cooking in high school students from the Segundo Barrio Community, realizing the potential of "los fronterisos."

Returning to One Region One Table for the second consecutive year has underscored the importance of making a positive impact on the community. Together with his culinary students, Jaime aims to showcase the limitless possibilities that emerge when passion and education intersect in our region.



## CHEF JOHN DELGADO

Al Passo

Born and raised in segundo barrio, Chef John Delgado got his start through David I. Carrasco Job Corps and EPCC with their culinary program. After some failed starts, he was given an opportunity at Toro burger where he learned how to be more efficient.

He subsequently relocated to the Pacific Northwest, immersing himself in Seattle's culinary scene, where he gained invaluable experiences in seafood, vegan cooking, and coffee. His time in Seattle included a position under James Beard-winning Chef Renee Erickson, who led a small restaurant group comprised of ambitious chefs eager to learn from her experienced staff.

Now back in his hometown, he shares his culinary talents through private dinners and events, introducing a fresh take on country French cooking.



**CHEF JORGE ORTIZ**

**El Tiger Taqueria EPTX / Polarosa Cd Juárez Chih.**

Born in El Paso and raised in Ciudad Juárez, Jorge, also known as "Monstro" to many of his colleagues, is a typical border town enthusiast with a deep love for his region and an obsession for exceptional cuisine.

His culinary journey has led him to work in some of the world's finest kitchens, including Atelier Crenn in San Francisco, Pujol in Mexico City, and Criollo in Oaxaca, Mexico, among others.

At El Tiger Taqueria in El Paso and his new restaurant, "POLAROSA," in Ciudad Juárez, Jorge aims to capture the essence of time and place. He focuses on utilizing regional products and cuisine to pioneer the evolution of North Mexican cuisine.



**CHEF MARCO OLIVARES**

**Lola Rose / Madre Rosa**

Marco Olivares is a Hispanic chef born and raised in El Paso, Texas. He discovered his passion for cooking while attending the Culinary Vocational Program at Riverside

High School. Marco then pursued a degree at The Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York, where he graduated with honors in 2014. His culinary prowess has led him to compete in prestigious culinary competitions, earning 3 gold and 2 silver medals at the Culinary Olympics held in Germany.

In New York City, Marco honed his skills in some of the finest restaurants, ultimately serving as the Executive Chef at The Crow's Nest in The Hamptons, where he catered to dignitaries and celebrities. He has since returned to El Paso to open his own restaurant, sharing his culinary adventures with the community. Marco's cuisine is characterized by its focus on simple, seasonal ingredients with a touch of the region's flavors.



**CHEF MICHAEL GRAHAM**

**1700° Steakhouse**

Chef Michael Graham serves as the Chef de Cuisine at Hotel Paso Del Norte's esteemed fine dining establishment, 1700° Steakhouse. His role encompasses the oversight of all aspects of this renowned steakhouse, with a specialization in Texas Wagyu and fresh seafood. Chef Graham's expertise extends to in-house butchering, ensuring the restaurant serves the freshest cuts for its dishes.

Within his capacity at 1700°, he also manages day-to-day operations, curates the menu, trains staff, and maintains service standards. Chef Graham takes particular delight in the realms of food science, fermentation, and molecular gastronomy.

Chef Michael Graham's culinary journey has been an inspiring tale of perseverance and creativity, taking him from restaurants in California to Alabama before arriving in El Paso. His contributions at 1700° have played a pivotal role in transforming El Paso's culinary scene, setting a new standard for fine dining. His vision includes bringing the culinary experiences typically found in larger cities to El Paso and establishing a premier training ground for aspiring culinary students.



**CHEF OSCAR DANIEL LOPEZ**

**Lola Rose / Madre Rosa**

Oscar Lopez, born in Juárez and raised in El Paso, embarked on his culinary journey at Eastlake High School while working as a dishwasher at a restaurant when he was 16. He continued his culinary education in Austin, Texas, at Auguste Escoffier, enrolling in the advanced program and graduating in just over a year.

His career led him to Orlando, Florida, for an internship at Walt Disney World's fine dining establishment, the Brown Berdy restaurant. Oscar then ventured to New York, where he worked at prestigious restaurants including Eleven Madison Park, Per Se, and The Nomad Hotel, which are akin to Michelin-starred venues.

In 2021, he returned to Texas, opening a fine dining Greek restaurant in his college hometown of Austin.

Subsequently, he moved back to New York City, securing an executive position at All & Sundry, located near Columbus Circle in Central

Park. Recently, he returned home to collaborate with his mentor and launch Lola Rose, with plans underway for Madre Rosa.



**CHEF PABLO RIVERO**

**Great American Hospitality: Ardeo / La Morin**

According to Corporate Chef Pablo Rivero, a successful kitchen comprises three essential elements: a proficient team, the finest ingredients, and appropriate equipment. When he joined to enhance the company's inaugural acquisition, Great American Steakhouse, he ensured these elements were in place. Together with Corporate Chef Edgar Orozco, they uphold this standard by regularly attending industry shows nationwide and researching emerging trends and resources.

Pablo's culinary journey began on the move, where he learned the art of cooking in renowned restaurants and hotels across Great Britain, Italy, and France, spanning a decade. As he honed his skills and pursued new horizons, he transitioned kitchens, cities, and countries as needed for his knowledge and projects.

Pablo's diverse expertise played a pivotal role in the creation of Ardeo, Muzza, and Yoko, Great American Hospitality's initial ventures into proprietary concepts. He eagerly anticipates developing new projects alongside dedicated collaborators committed to quality and continuous improvement, finding it to be an excellent fit.



**CHEF RICO TORRES**

**Mixtil / FAMILY MEAL**

El Paso native Rico Torres discovered his deep connection to food early in the family kitchen. Although he initially pursued a career in TV and film after relocating to San Antonio in 2000, Rico's journey eventually led him to the culinary world. In 2003, he founded Rico Caters and soon made a city-wide impact with innovative menus and unwavering commitment to quality.

In 2011, Rico met Diego Galicia, his future business partner, during pop-up dinners with local chefs. Together, they launched Mixtli, a 12-seat tasting menu restaurant, in 2013, focusing on Mexican gastronomy and traditions. Their success garnered accolades like "2017 Food and Wine Best New Chefs" and multiple James Beard semi-finalist nominations.

Mixtli received consistent local and national recognition, including appearances on shows like Andrew Zimmern's Bizarre Foods. Rico also featured in Hulu's 'Taste the Nation.' In 2019, Rico united with fellow El Paso native chefs to create FAMILY MEAL, now in its 5th season, raising charitable donations for migrant families on the border.



**CHEF ROBERT GARAY**

**US Foods**

For 27 years, Chef Robert Garay dedicated his life to kitchens across the country. It all began at Café Central when he was just 16. Leaving his hometown, he pursued knowledge and education, ultimately earning a bachelor's degree from The Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY. Following that, he completed his externship at The PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, FL, and later spent 2 years working on a Norwegian cruise ship. An opportunity then led him to Minneapolis, MN, where he worked as a Sous Chef for the Marquette Hotel for several years. Afterward, he moved to Houston, TX, where he served as the Executive Chef for Crave Sushi and subsequently opened Kita Japanese Cuisine in Woodlands, TX.

After 12 years away from home, he returned to El Paso and contributed to the opening of several restaurants in the Sun City, including Tabla, Koi Japanese Fusion, The Brunch Club, and the Little Café at the Plaza de Los Largartos, among others. In 2014, he established Bogart's Steak House and received a James Beard award nomination. In 2016, he became the Executive Chef at The El Paso Country Club. In April of 2022, he decided to temporarily retire his chef's coat and joined US Foods as a Territory Manager, where he is dedicated to helping others reach their goals and dreams, offering assistance whenever possible. His passion for food remains strong, and he believes the best is yet to come.



**CHEF RODRIGO MORENO**

Taft Diaz

Chef Rodrigo Moreno embarked on his culinary journey at the tender age of 16. With over 12 years of experience in the industry and 8 years as a professional chef, his passion for cooking was kindled in Ciudad Juárez while preparing meals for his family.

His culinary adventures have taken him to various restaurants, including Black Ocean in Tampa, FL. Upon returning to El Paso, he assumed the role of head

chef at Park Tavern. For more than two years, he has been a dedicated Sous Chef at Taft Diaz, showcasing his culinary prowess.



**CHEF SAMANTHA BENCOMO**

Fig+Brie

Fig+Brie was born from the creative minds of cousins Samantha and Lynda. Their vision was to share the meticulously designed and thoughtfully curated charcuterie spreads that had been a highlight of their family gatherings. In 2020,

after some experimentation, Fig+Brie became a reality, initially produced in Samantha's cozy kitchen.

Throughout most of 2020, Fig+Brie experienced growth, thanks to the pandemic, as they provided safe and contactless deliveries of their enticing spreads, actively showcased on their social media platforms. Today, Fig+Brie operates from a dedicated brick-and-mortar location in El Paso, Texas, with an exciting new franchise in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Scan me!



# 915 Week

**Dedicated to Celebrating our Community**

Scan me!



915 Week is an initiative by Progress321 to reach out to El Pasoans to encourage them to show their pride for our community. Join us September 11-17, 2023 to celebrate with various events throughout the region!

For the third year in a row, Progress321 is excited to partner with Destination El Paso, Visit El Paso, El Paso Downtown Management District, El Paso Chamber, and Chuco Relic for 915 Week. From September 11 to 17, join us for a week of events across El Paso, connecting with Progressors, emerging leaders, and purpose-driven professionals. Highlights include the 915 Day Fiesta Night on September 15 at downtown El Paso's Arts Festival Plaza from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

Our mission is to spotlight the remarkable individuals, businesses, and organizations in our region, highlighting our city's tremendous progress.

Last year, our efforts led to an official proclamation from the El Paso City Council, designating September 12th to 18th as the official citywide celebration week. We can't wait to join the festivities and celebrate our exceptional community during this momentous occasion. Embrace the spirit of 915 Week!

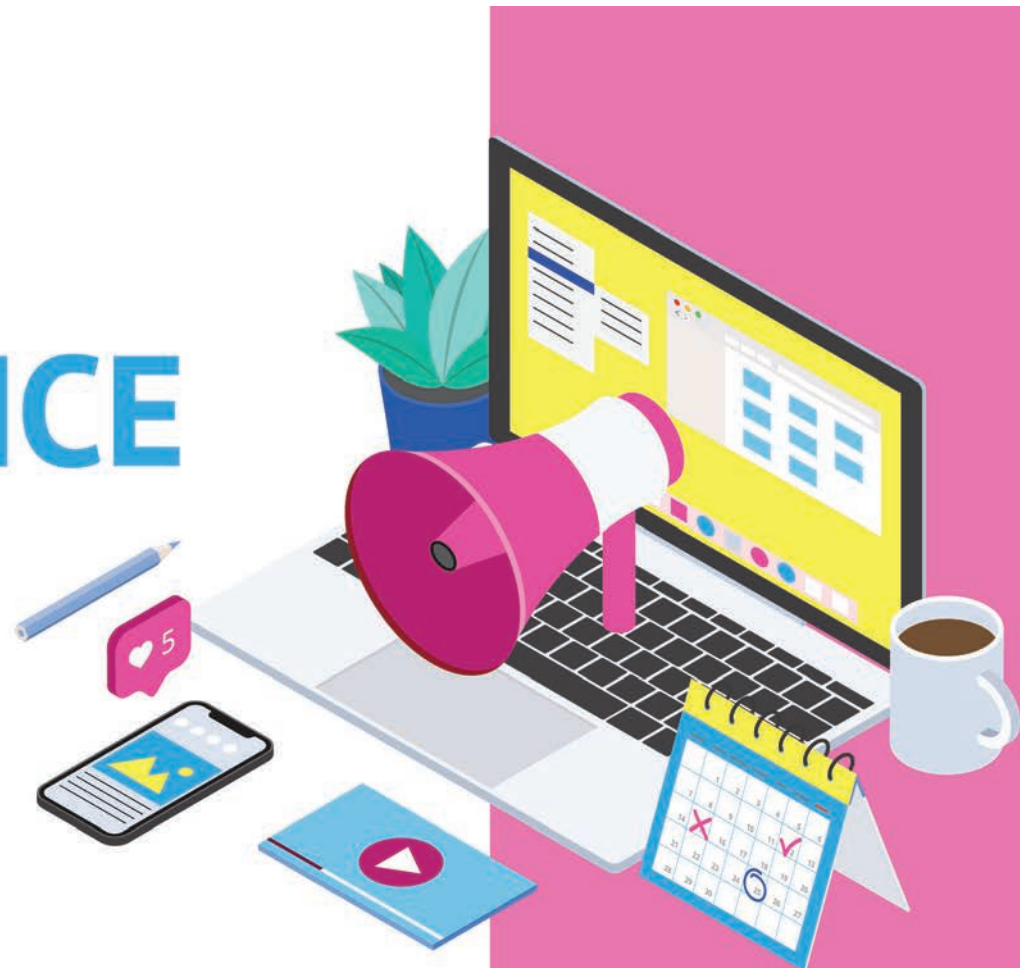


*Analisa Cordova Silverstein*

**ANALISA CORDOVA SILVERSTEIN**

2023 Chair  
Hospice El Paso

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A special thank you to this year's One Region One Table Participating Restaurants and Vendors. We appreciate your support!



We regret any omissions throughout the program. For a full list of participants and partners, please visit our event websites: 915Week.com, ElPasoEverywhere.com, and OneRegionOneTable.com. Thank you to all our generous supporters!



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