

International Museum of Art & Science

FY24 ANNUAL REPORT

OCTOBER 1, 2023 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2024





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IMAS mission



The International Museum of Art & Science (IMAS) located in the Rio Grande Valley inspires audiences of all ages to explore art and science through its permanent collections, exhibits, programs, and partnerships by empowering learners to discover their interests and pursue their passions.



IMAS vision

The International Museum of Art & Science will be a destination for accessible, innovative, awe-inspiring learning through diverse art and science experiences that prepare our community for the future.



Night of Ideas



In the spirit of true international collaboration, Villa Albertine, Instituto Francés de América Latina, the French Consulates in Houston and Monterrey, the McAllen Public Library, and the International Museum of Art & Science (IMAS) held McAllen's 2024 Night of Ideas on Saturday, March 2, 2024. This event was part of Villa Albertine's annual marathon of philosophical debates, performances, and readings held across 20 U.S. cities, inviting the public to engage in discussions on major global issues.

The 2024 theme, "Outside the Lines," focused on urban life, climate change, new technologies, gentrification, and social and cultural activism. Centering on the theme "Borderlands" highlighted the complexities and strengths of border communities.

Key questions explored included the stories beneath the surface of the border, how individuals navigate cultural intersections, and how arts and sports foster community bonding. The program featured talks, art exhibits, and performances such as poetry readings, dance, music, virtual reality, and drawing. Discussions covered dual identities, Mexican cultural reappropriation, and the influence of iconic figures like Selena and Jesus "Chuy" Guerra, along with scientific explorations of geology and space, urban development, and border literature.

McAllen Mayor Javier Villalobos expressed pride in hosting this international event, celebrating and understanding the unique aspects of the McAllen community.

Hate Ends Now

IMAS collaborated with the City of McAllen, Temple Emanuel and the **Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio (HMMSA)**, to bring a traveling Holocaust education exhibit, *Hate Ends Now: The Cattle Car Exhibit*, to museum grounds. "It is a privilege to be invited by Temple Emmanuel and the City of McAllen to host this traveling exhibition for our community," said IMAS Executive Director Ann Fortescue. "We are delighted to work with our museum colleagues from the HMMSA to provide a safe space for immersive museum learning." This unique 360-degree video exhibit brings history to life, teaching visitors about the devastating consequences of intolerance, bigotry, and hate, an immersive, multimedia presentation that takes place inside an exact replica of a cattle car used to transport Jews and other targeted groups to concentration camps during World War II.

"The Holocaust has shaped our lives as Jews and the entire course of human civilization over the past 90 years. If we held one minute of silence today for each Jewish victim of the Holocaust, we would not speak again until 2035," said Rabbi Nathan Farb, Temple Emanuel. "It is impossible to understand the lives of Jewish families or the present-day politics of the Middle East or Europe without understanding the realities of the Holocaust. This *Cattle Car Exhibit* ensures that those who survived can share their stories with the next generations and that we can all learn from the terrible tragedy."



The City of McAllen is proud to help bring this powerful exhibit to our community as it is a stark reminder of what can happen when hate is allowed to flourish. Through this exhibit, we will see just a glimpse of the horror and brutality that Jews and other people suffered on their way to the concentration camps. May this exhibit encourage us all to let peace, love and tolerance be our guide always."

— Javier Villalobos
McAllen Mayor



Resilience – A Sansei Sense of Legacy

August 30, 2023–January 14, 2024

Told from the point of view of Sansei (third generation) Japanese Americans, *Resilience—A Sansei Sense of Legacy* featured eight artists whose work reflects on the effect of Executive Order 9066 as it resonated across generations. Co-curated by artist Jerry Takigawa and Gail Enns, *Resilience* served as a catalyst to cultivate social dialogue and change around the issues of racism, hysteria, and economic exploitation still alive in America today. The eight artists featured were selected because of their personal connection to the subject matter, their work is well respected within the Japanese American community as well as within the art world, and due to their activism on the subject of incarceration camps.

IMAS received support from the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of McAllen to bring this moving exhibition to McAllen and the region. Museum visitors noted the significance of celebrating and learning from other cultures while also finding commonalities and parallels in their struggles.

This exhibit was supported by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of McAllen, which consists of 16 sister companies.



Ella

August 17, 2024–January 12, 2025

Ella examined the personal connections each individual has to a woman. Be it their mother, grandmother, sister, cousin, friend, or significant other, every person has a special woman in their life. Through her series of sculptures Nour Kuri explores connection, perception, and emotion we have to the women in our lives. This exhibition not only challenged the viewer to think about these connections in their own lives but is also a celebration of the achievements of women in all aspects of life.

SUPPORTED BY



AAM Reaccreditation



Congratulations on achieving AAM accreditation. IMAS's ongoing [50 year] accreditation is an astonishing achievement."

— Marise McDermott
Chair of the AAM
Accreditation Commission

The American Alliance of Museums (AAM) has announced the latest accreditations granted by the Accreditation Commission in its October 2023 meeting. The International Museum of Art & Science (IMAS), alongside 40 other museums, received reaccreditation honors. Currently, out of the estimated 33,000 museums across the nation, **1,106 hold accreditation status**, including 48 museums in Texas.

IMAS underwent a rigorous evaluation process, including self-assessment and peer review. Their accreditation signifies their adherence to established standards and best practices, demonstrating their role as responsible stewards of public trust through their educational endeavors and management of collections and resources.

AAM accreditation, acknowledged as the pinnacle of museum excellence, was established in 1970, and IMAS was among the **first museums nationally to be granted initial accreditation** in 1972. AAM Accreditation serves as a mark of quality and credibility within the museum community, to governmental bodies, external agencies, and the wider public audience. The Accreditation Program serves to safeguard the integrity and accessibility of museum collections, reinforces museums' roles in education and public service, and fosters good governance and ethical conduct within the field.



"Retaining AAM Accreditation for over 50 years is a remarkable accomplishment for any museum and an especially significant one for IMAS," states Ann Fortescue, Executive Director at IMAS. "It signals to the community, the national and international museum field, donors and stakeholders that IMAS operates at the highest level of museum standards and practices, instilling pride and trust in the staff and Board of Trustees to carry out the museum's mission, and its cultural stewardship and educational roles."

Shining South Texas Smithsonian Affiliate

As the only Smithsonian Affiliate south of San Antonio, IMAS takes great pride in making Smithsonian-related opportunities and educational resources available to our community. This year IMAS is privileged to have been chosen for **three Smithsonian Awards** from the National Museum of American History, NASA's Universe of Learning program, and the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH).

IMAS received an award from NASA's Universe of Learning (UoL) to offer free admission STEM learning experiences focused on astronomy. "Mysterious Cosmos Family Fun Nights" was created in collaboration with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley through their Center of Excellence in STEM Education (C-STEM) department. This after-hours evening program took advantage of the early sunset from November through February with telescopes to view the night sky, courtesy of UTRGV C-STEM.

IMAS was one of four Smithsonian Affiliate museums selected nationally to participate in Youth Leadership Team (YLT), a new program created by the Smithsonian National Museum of American History (NMAH). YLT engaged small groups of high school students from across the nation to work together on improving the Smithsonian Institution's National Youth Summit and engage teens more effectively. Together students discussed key issues and helped determine the 2024 National Youth Summit theme, Elections and Politics. The included a weeklong educational experience in Washington D.C. and culminated with the local summit at IMAS.

For the third consecutive year, IMAS hosted a Smithsonian Young Ambassador for the National Museum of the American Latino. Intern Amaya Alvarez was immersed in a month-long internship at IMAS with the education department after an introductory week in Washington D.C.

"Mysterious Cosmos Family Fun Nights" engage community youth and their families with after-hours learning in partnership with UTRGV Center of Excellence in STEM Education (C-STEM)



Cultural District Project

The IMAS was the first organization in McAllen to receive a Cultural District Project grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts for **Destination McAllen: Art, Culture, IMAS**. The IMAS partnered with the McAllen Chamber of Commerce and Decibel Communications to promote the McAllen Cultural District across the state of Texas. The project included a public art component aimed at enhancing community engagement and cultural expression. Artists Cheryll Anderson and Edgar Cortez were selected to participate in this initiative.



Any time that we are really able to celebrate the community in its authenticity, in its culture, in its backgrounds, its traditions, all of that gives to us a healthier community, a healthier mindset. That's important in establishing who we are."

— Elizabeth Suarez
Executive Director,
McAllen Chamber of Commerce

Diving Deep Into the Collection

IMAS reached a midpoint in the two-year IMLS-supported project **Folk Art Facts**. In collaboration with project advisors Jill Vexler Ph.D. and Servando Hinojosa Ph.D., IMAS kicked off the project by diving deep into the collections vault to identify pieces of significance and cultural value and interest. Dr. Vexler examined the textile and sculptural collection while Dr. Hinojosa assessed the mask collection, providing direction to Curator Marcelo Ramirez Garcia-Rojas on which pieces to document first, adding context for the pieces and their details, and identifying those needing further study and documentation, narrowing the scope to focus on each project advisor's area of expertise.



PROJECT YEAR ONE

Project funding enabled the collaboration between IMAS and UTRGV Department of Anthropology to provide two Summer 2024 interns course credit towards their degree and as well as compensation for their work. Additionally, Dr. Hinojosa and Marcelo Ramirez collaborated with Dr. Katherine McAllen, Associate Professor/ Marialice Shary Shivers Chair in Fine Arts and Director, Center for Latin American Arts, and UTRGV Main Library Director Paul Sharpe to host an exhibition, *Sus Historias*, curated by interns Alejandra Amezcua and Linda Esquivel featuring folk-art from the IMAS permanent collection, enabling a more immersive approach to curatorial work in a museum environment and the opportunity to share the project with an academic community. The grant also funded upgrading the museum's permanent collections database software to a new cloud-based program. Catalog It enables staff to use hand-held devices throughout the museum to access and update collections records, and website access allows audiences around the world to search the IMAS folk-art collections.



IMAS staff visit the UTRGV Main Campus Library to view *Sus Historias*, curated by project interns.



IMAS ¡Hay más! Highlights from the Vault

February 10–May 19, 2024

For over 50 years the International Museum of Art & Science (IMAS) has collected works of art, natural specimens, objects from around the world, adding to our collection of over 14,000 objects. *IMAS ¡Hay más! Highlights from the Vault*, curated by Marcelo Ramirez, presented selected artworks and natural specimens from the museum's collections, featuring artwork from several world-renowned artists and natural specimens whose history spans millions of years. The museum carries out its mission by creating exhibitions that include these works of art and natural specimens to educate the community about fine art and concepts of science.

This exhibition was supported in part by an Arts Create grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.



Screen Printing Workshop and Exhibit Opens Doors for Local Youth

Screen It: Youth Identity Through Art brought students from Buell Central Discipline Alternative Education Program and local screen-printers Palo Santo Prints together at the IMAS to learn the creative and technical processes of screen printing, equipping students with important skills utilized in the field of printmaking. *Screen It* enabled these artists to work directly with at-risk students from Buell in a 3-day workshop series to produce prints, featured in an exhibition at IMAS.

Screen It provided a safe space for students to be creative, open, and expressive through personalization of screen print designs. Through hands on STEAM education programs focused on sustainable energy, Buell Central has helped many students return to their home campuses with newfound skills and a passion for learning. This program provided a productive space for students during their winter break which often lacks structure and supervision of school. They interacted with their peers, learned from professional artists, and saw the inner workings of an accredited museum.

Screen It: Youth Identity Through Art was made possible by a grant from Texas Commission on the Arts and is supported, in part, by a grant from Texas Women for the Arts, a program of the Texas Cultural Trust.



Water/Ways

June 1–August 11, 2024

Water/Ways dives into water – an essential component of life on our planet, environmentally, culturally, and historically. In societies across the globe, water serves as a source of peace and contemplation. Many faiths revere water as a sacred symbol. Authors and artists are inspired by the complex character of water – a substance that is seemingly soft and graceful, and yet a powerful and nearly unstoppable force. *Water/Ways* was developed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and inspired by an exhibition developed by the American Museum of Natural History, New York.



LOCALLY SPONSORED BY



Educational exhibits exploring art and science support the IMAS Mission to empower learners to discover their interests and pursue their passions. *Water/Ways* was made possible by a grant from McAllen Public Utility.

Microscope

May 11–August 25, 2024

Our known world stretches far beyond what we can see with the unaided eye. Microscopes, magnifying glasses, and virtual imaging techniques reveal a world of great beauty and complexity. That world contains the smallest particles, tiniest organisms, smallest landscape, natural details, and provides us with an abundance of artistic inspiration. Artists in this exhibition were encouraged to explore the corner of the world at high magnification, capturing tiny wonders at the microscopic level, or by zooming in on a larger object to show its smaller details.

This exhibition was created by Studio Art Quilt Associates, Inc. and was supported in part by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.



Corning Connects Student Learning at IMAS

IMAS received funding from the South Texas Chapter of the Corning Incorporated Foundation to start its "Corning Connects" program, providing impactful, hands-on educational experiences for underserved schools in South Texas. Through Corning Connects, schools can visit IMAS at no cost for field experiences, enabling students to engage with science, art, and cultural content through guided, interactive sessions led by museum educators.

"IMAS is dedicated to fostering a lifelong love of learning and curiosity," said Ann Fortescue, Executive Director at IMAS. "Thanks to the Corning Incorporated Foundation, we can offer these experiences at no cost to schools, ensuring financial barriers don't prevent students from experiencing the educational richness of the museum," said Veronica Cortez, Director of Education at IMAS. The Corning Connects program is open to eligible schools, including public K-12 schools that have not visited IMAS in three or more years.



Seeing my students light up with excitement and wonder reaffirmed the importance of access to cultural institutions for all learners, regardless of background or economic status."

— Harlingen ISD Teacher

6 public schools visited imas on corning connects field experiences

5 schools visited for the first time in at least 3 years

1 school visited for the first time ever in its school history



364 individuals visited through corning connects



First-time visitors to IMAS through the Corning Connects grant wrap up their visit with a stop by Stuart Kraft's Dactyl, an IMAS icon.

Audience

By the Numbers

50,938

visitors to the museum

IMAS educators provided
guided tours to more than

6K **visitors**
including
54 schools

13,600+

**visitors gained access to IMAS
through grant-funded free
admission and other discounts**
(including educator, veteran, military,
ASTC Passport, Blue Star, Museums
for All, and first responder discounts)



The membership program
experienced tremendous
growth with

911

**memberships
sold this year
peaking at**

1198

**active households
at end of the
membership year**

7,668

**community members
served on museum outreach**



74 memberships granted by
the Pay It Forward program
for families in need in 2024

21 exhibits opened during the 2023–2024 fiscal year

EXHIBITS

Natural Expressions: Collected Landscapes from the IMAS Vault

June 17, 2023–April 14, 2025

Resilience: A Sansei Sense of Legacy

August 30, 2023–January 14, 2024

3rd Annual Members' Juried Art Show 2023

September 30, 2023–January 28, 2024

Mexican and Latin American Folk Art

October 1, 2023–July 7, 2024

Ancient Landscapes of South Texas

January 6–March 31, 2024

Aligned Mind

January 20–February 25, 2024

Screen It: Youth Identity Through Art

January 21–February 25, 2024

Mexico: Crisis & Uprising

February 3–April 28, 2024

IMAS !Hay más!

February 10–May 19, 2024

Mission CISD F.A.R.M.E.R.S.

April 20–May 19, 2024

ECISD Celebrates Visual Arts

April 20–May 26, 2024

Behind the Curtains: Palm Awards

April 27–June 9, 2024

Microscope

May 11–August 25, 2024

Water/Ways

June 1–August 11, 2024

Cross Connections 2024

June 1–September 8, 2024

Operation Imagination Visual Artists

August 2–August 25, 2024

GeT Art 2024

August 3–September 8, 2024

Sus Historias

August 10–December 12, 2024

Ella

August 17, 2024–February 9, 2025

El Estudio / The Studio

August 31, 2024–Ongoing

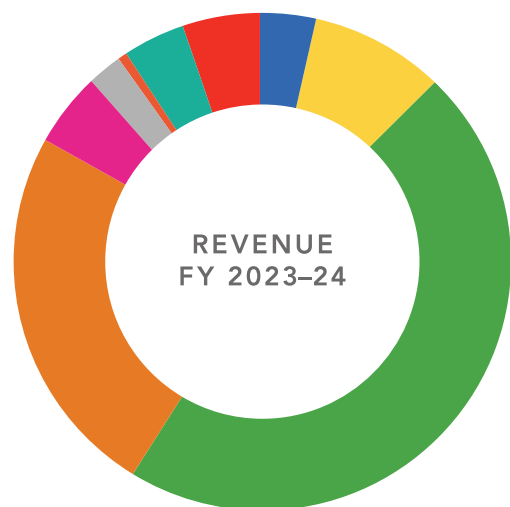
Rompiendo el cielo

September 18, 2024–January 19, 2025



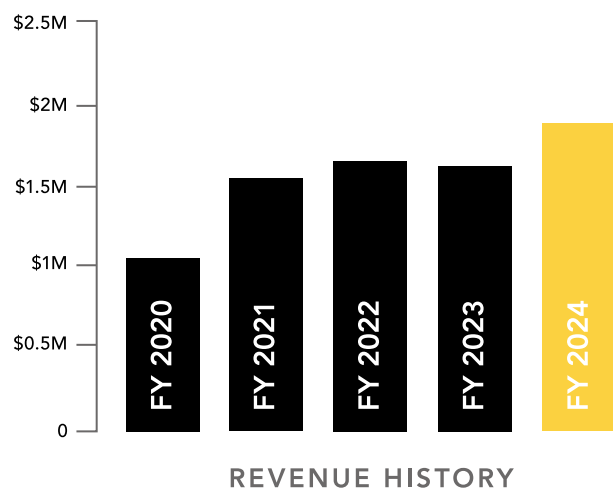
Financial Statements

In 2023–2024, IMAS had total **operating revenues of \$1,897,452**, including **\$286,984** of **earned revenues**. Gifts and grants represent 54% of the total operating revenue while earned revenues represent 17%. Fundraising events contributed 29% of the budget totaling \$471,103 to the Museum’s overall operating income.



	FY 2022–23	FY 2023–24
Individual / Business Contributions	\$33,223	\$69,538
Grants	\$75,618	\$162,743
City of McAllen	\$779,000	\$879,000
Fundraising Events	\$481,909	\$471,103
Educational Programs & Tours	\$70,831	\$87,182
Memberships	\$29,445	\$45,382
Miscellaneous	\$24,298	\$6,353
Admissions	\$79,826	\$79,347
Gift Shop Sales	\$82,582	\$96,801

**The overall budget reflects a total of \$2,309,362 with the inclusion of \$411,910 of in kind revenue. Revenue graphs and tables exclude in kind.*



IMAS maintains a balanced budget and has seen **15%** overall growth in revenues in FY2024

DONATIONS FOR FY 2023–24

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The operation of the International Museum of Art & Science is made possible with funding from the City of McAllen, foundations, corporations, public and private donors. The listed organizations and individuals have provided support from **October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024.** Donors are listed according to gift acknowledgement.

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† Deceased



IMAS Thanks Guild for Enhancing Visitor Experience

The IMAS is extremely grateful for the Guild's generous donation of ten new all-weather picnic tables for the courtyard. This contribution will provide the thousands of school children, summer campers, and families that attend the museum throughout the year with a safe and clean place to rest and eat outside.



A Message from the Executive Director & Board President



The past fiscal year (October 2023-September 2024) was truly a remarkable year of growth and accomplishments from being selected to participate in the Smithsonian's National Youth Leadership program to receiving an Inspire grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to increasing the IMAS membership by **over 700%** since 2021 to over 1,400 households.

Among the many standout moments from the past year, two capture the results of the creativity and expertise of museum staff, Trustees, community partners and volunteers working together to achieve reaccreditation from the American Alliance of Museums and to launch the Campaign for Children with the opening of the new interactive exhibit *El Estudio/The Studio*.

IMAS received reaccreditation in late 2023 after a year's worth of preparation and a rigorous on-site review. We celebrated this important milestone in February 2024 with a public presentation from AAM Accreditation Commission Chair, Marise McDermott. The museum has been accredited by the American Alliance of Museums since 1972. Only 3% of the nation's estimated 33,000 museums are currently accredited. Accreditation increases a museum's credibility and value to funders, policy makers, community, and peers. It is an honor and privilege for IMAS to earn this distinction and uphold the highest standards of museum practice and bring that recognition of excellence to McAllen and the Rio Grande Valley.

It's been over 25 years since the museum raised significant funds to improve the facility and exhibits. IMAS has been well-loved by over one million visitors since 2000 when the new addition featuring the Welcome and Discovery pavilions opened. **The Campaign for Children** launched in 2024 with a goal of \$35 million to transform the museum with a new entrance and interactive exhibits bringing art and science together using the museum's permanent collections and harnessing the proven expertise of Tom Rockwell and his colleagues from The Exploratorium in San Francisco and children's museum exhibit developers Siete Colores in Mexico City. Campaign for Children co-Chairs Dr. John Gerling and Suzy Y. Lee led the ribbon cutting for the opening of *El Estudio/The Studio*, the inaugural exhibit in this transformative work.

We hope you find this year in review highlighting IMAS' remarkable accomplishments uplifting. We are grateful for the support and collaboration that enables the museum to serve the community and fulfill its mission inspiring audiences of all ages to explore art and science.



Ann Fortescue
IMAS Executive Director



Cassandra Moreno
IMAS Board President



Science & Art Merge in *The Studio*

The museum's newest permanent exhibit, *El Estudio / The Studio* debuted in late-August with special guests from the Exploratorium (San Francisco) and Sietecolores (Mexico City) including Tom Rockwell, Maribel Ibarra, and Set Solis. *The Studio* interactive gallery explores the fundamentals of art and science through light, color, sound, shape, and motion. Visitors can play with light, experiment with sound, design unique patterns, and more. *The Studio* is a new space where symmetry, geometry, pattern, and composition come together with color, light, movement and sound. *The Studio* ignites your creativity and sparks a love for artistic and scientific exploration!

Unique to this exhibit is the pairing of interactive exhibits with colorful, geometric, and visually stimulating artwork from the museum's permanent collection with featured artwork by Lee Krasner, Roy Lichtenstein, Josef Albers, Ellsworth Kelly, and Frank Manuella.





BEHIND THE SCENES

In 1998 as part of its millennial project, IMAS contracted with The Painted Universe Studio, an independent design firm in upstate New York owned and run by Tom Rockwell. Tom came to McAllen to design and lead a community-build project creating an interactive outdoor playground, RioScape. Fast-forward 23 years to 2021, IMAS discovered Tom's drawings from 1999 for the Children's Discovery Pavilion interactive exhibits, a project that was never completed. We found Tom at the Exploratorium in San Francisco, and he enthusiastically accepted the invitation to work with us again, this time as one of the Exploratorium's Global Projects. With our location on the U.S.-Mexico border, the Exploratorium brought Mexico City exhibit development partners Sietecolores to the project team.

IMAS launched the project in May 2022 by bringing together Master Plan architect, Laura Nassri Warren of The Warren Group with exhibit developers from the Exploratorium and Sietecolores. Over the next year, the exhibit designers and architects worked in tandem to ensure the physical spaces and exhibits work harmoniously and with universal accessibility.

The Warren Group created a master plan for transforming the existing museum buildings and a recently acquired building adjacent to the museum campus into more exhibit spaces, a vault for the permanent collections, adequate staff workspaces, a meeting room, and a dramatic, eye-catching new entrance that takes advantage of the busy Nolana and Bicentennial intersection.



The most important predictor for whether someone pursues a career in science or art is not how well they do, it's not what their test scores are, it's actually are they interested."

— Tom Rockwell
Chief Creative Officer, Exploratorium

Exploratorium and Sietecolores created an exhibit plan, grounded in object-based learning and education best practices. **Three interactive galleries** – The Studio, The Plaza, and The World – will use the museum's permanent collection alongside new interactive exhibits enabling visitors of all ages, but especially children, to explore and discover the intersections and distinctions of art and science that shape our natural world and human experiences.

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