

International Museum of Art & Science

FY25 ANNUAL REPORT

OCTOBER 1, 2024 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2025





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A Latin American Year

Supported by an Arts Respond grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts, A Latin American Year at IMAS showcased a diverse set of exhibitions centered around the art, culture, and traditional practices that can be found in the Americas. The breadth of exhibits included *Rompiendo el cielo*, *Ceremonies of the Americas: The Engravings of Bernard Picart*, *Paintings from Spanish America (1600-1800)* from the Thoma Foundation, and *Destino Sur*.



Rompiendo el cielo by artist Uriel Landeros captured audiences of all ages with heroic-sized portraits of Latin American icons that explored themes of identity and cultural heritage. From the IMAS permanent collection, a selection of seventeenth-century engravings by the renowned French engraver, Bernard Picart, were featured in *Ceremonies of the Americas: The Engravings of Bernard Picart*.



Paintings from Spanish America (1600-1800) from the Thoma Foundation showcased 16 works from the Foundation's viceregal art collection, one of the most important private collections in the world for scholarship and research. Over 150 guests gathered for an art history roundtable discussion moderated by Katherine Moore McAllen, Ph.D., Associate Professor, College of Fine Arts, Director of the Center for Latin American Arts, UTRGV, and Verónica Muñoz Nájar, Ph.D. Curator of Art of the Spanish Americas, Thoma Foundation, with scholars from Harvard University, San Antonio Museum of Art, Blanton Museum of Art, University San Francisco de Quito, and South Texas College. Scholars discussed their personal research and how it relates to the works in the exhibition. Scholar and School of Art department chair at STC, Carlos Limas exhibited *Destino Sur* a body of work from his travels in Peru that document the mix of cultures found in contemporary Peru, noting the influence that both pre- and post-Columbian cultures have had on the country.

GUIDED EXPERIENCE

Additional programming featured docent led tours of the *Paintings from Spanish America (1600-1800) from the Thoma Foundation* exhibition and a lecture by IMAS Curator, Marcelo Ramirez, about the Olmec Civilization and its influence on subsequent Mesoamerican societies during "Exploring the Olmecs at IMAS," a celebration commemorating the donation of the replica of Olmec Head 8 to the City of McAllen by the Governor of Veracruz in 2005.

THOMA
FOUNDATION

UTRGV
Center for
Latin American Arts



International Ties and Cultural Exploration



Exploring the Olmecs

In recognition of the fifteenth anniversary of the Olmec Colossal head's installation at the IMAS, a museum-wide celebration connected visitors with a deep dive into Olmec and Mesoamerican civilizations. Highlights of the event included hands-on weaving and ceramics along with a lecture and walking tour by IMAS Curator Marcelo Ramirez Garcia-Rojas.



Welcoming Wednesdays

In partnership with the City of McAllen and then consulates of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico, the IMAS celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month Welcoming Days at the museum, bringing Central America and Mexico to the forefront as essential players in our community. IMAS dedicated one day to recognize each partner country by hosting the Consuls, diplomatic staff, and their diasporas, honoring the friendship and contributions to our city.



Celebrating Culture

The 13th Annual Lunar New Year Festival, supported by H-E-B Helping Here, brought the community together to celebrate culture. Most significantly, this festival included a vast array of community partners including Chamsarang Korean Presbyterian Church of McAllen, Chinese American Association – UTRGV College of Liberal Arts, Asian Studies Minor, UTRGV College of Liberal Arts – Department of Literature and Cultural Studies, UTRGV Department of Teaching and Learning – Educational Research, UTRGV College of Liberal Arts – Department of Writing and Language – Korean, UTRGV School of Art & Design – Graphic Design, UTRGV School of Music – Piano, and UTRGV Korean International Student Society.

Museum Professionals Making Strides

IMAS staff engaged with the community as museum professionals, locally, nationally, and internationally.

The McAllen Chamber of Commerce recognized Executive Director Ann Fortescue as **Legendary Woman** for the impact she has made in McAllen as IMAS Executive Director and Director of Development Anastasia Perez as a **Woman Breaking Barriers**.



Director of Education Roni Cortez presented with three other museums on "Creating a Sense of Belonging for the Communities We Serve" in the the Association of Children's Museums Interactivity conference in Albuquerque, NM, in May 2025.

Folk Art Facts: Stewardship, Access, and Education was presented by IMAS Curator Marcelo Ramirez at the 2025 Texas Association of Museum's conference in Austin, Texas as a part of the session "Inspired: Small Museums Share Impacts of IMLS Inspire grants." The presentation

shared how, as a small museum, IMAS has been able to effectively use the funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services to increase access to the IMAS Mexican and Latin American Folk Art collection through internships for college students, bilingual exhibitions, and publishing the collection online.

Ramirez also travelled to Zacatecas to strengthen the museum's connection to Mexican institutions and artists. As part of the *Desaparecidos* exhibition hosted at IMAS, the Fondo Cultural de Zacatecas donated ten works featured in the exhibition to the museum's permanent collection.



Increasing Community Access

The IMAS staff are eager to make the museum accessible for everyone. In addition to the reduced admission and membership programs, the national Museums for All and IMAS Membership for All, staff seek underwriting for admission free days and work closely with organizations that can fund bringing more underserved audiences to the museum.

IMAS was awarded a grant from the **Hidalgo County Economic Development Division Prosperity Task Force** to expand access to educational museum experiences through museum memberships for families participating in the County's Housing Authority programs, reinforcing the museum's commitment to inclusive learning, community engagement, and removing financial barriers for museum experiences and art-based educational programs.

Earlier this year, IMAS partnered with the McAllen Housing Authority (MHA) to host a Teen Council meeting, which drew an enthusiastic response and a larger audience than expected, signaling the power of inclusive outreach.



Thanks to Hidalgo County's Prosperity Task Force, we're able to share the transformative power of art and science with more families in our community. Together, we're helping to shape a future of pride and opportunity for Hidalgo County's youth and families."

— Ann Fortescue
IMAS Executive Director

Our Membership for All program is truly reflective of our community's needs

27% ≈ 30%

of Hidalgo County households are living at or below the Federal poverty level

of all active IMAS members on average are Membership for All members



Membership Program Updates

Membership and Events Coordinator Celina Michel led a comprehensive cross-department assessment of the membership program to identify areas of need and introduced new membership levels to serve the community. New levels include the Student, Duo, Exploration Crew, Founders, and Corporate memberships now available to our audiences.

Sensory-Friendly Resources

This year **Team MARIO** collaborated with IMAS to train staff on understanding autism and exploring ways to make the museum more accessible for audiences with autism. With Team MARIO's help, IMAS developed **Sensory-Friendly Explorer backpacks** and resources for visitors. This project was supported in part by donations from Wonderful employees.

UTRGV concert series draws music-lovers

Sunday afternoons at the IMAS sounded a little sweeter as the UTRGV Concert Series at IMAS drew music lovers for musical afternoons in the galleries in partnership with the College of Fine Arts.

PERFORMANCES

Dr. Brendan Kinsella (piano) in "Frédéric Chopin: Poet of the Piano," Diane Walters (soprano and Michael Ensign (piano) in "Come to My Garden," and "An Afternoon of Jazz" featuring Carlos Hernandez (alto saxophone/flute), Isaac Mancillas (piano), Ulysses De Leon (guitar/bass), and Chris Razo (drums) with direction by Marco Guerra. "The Voice Area Student Recital" included Zachary Ramsey, Katia Dowling, Antonio Ballesteros, Michael Banda, Marianne Bosita, Gabriel Banda, Elissia Razo, Christian Briones, Joshua Parra, Miranda Gamez, Jesse Guevara, Jacob Leal, Dr. Kenneth Saxon, Melodee Rodriguez, Alijah Adame, Adam Garcia, and Francisco Rocafuerte as piano accompanist. In June, Dr. Francis Favis performed "Metallurgy – Solo Percussion Recital."



4th Annual Members' Juried Art Show

October 5, 2024–January 5, 2025

This year's show, supported by the Rotary Club of Edinburg, was juried by Jon Joanis, a Canadian artist and musician with a diverse background in fine arts, design, and jazz performance. The *Members' Juried Art Show* recognized outstanding talent with awards presented to the following artists:

Robert Mirza received Best in Show for his piece "The Boxer." Ken Foltz earned second place for "Lamentation Before the First Morning Ciggy (Nude in Wire Chair)," and Alan Hollander won third place with "Borrowed Shadow." Honorable mentions were awarded to Jacqueline Garza for "La lucha de la mujer," Ninnette Palomo for "Manifest Migration II," and Luis Zuniga for "Hen After Rain."



Pilgrimage of Light

**September 11, 2024–
January 25, 2025**

In an elegant union of art and science, National Geographic featured photographer Mark Chen's explores the conceptual link between the geological age of landscapes and distances of galaxies in *Pilgrimage of Light* which debuted at the Annual Collage Gala. The artist gave a dynamic presentation and gallery tour at the opening with more plans for engaging talks and experiences during the exhibition at the IMAS.



GeT Art Contest

August 30–October 5, 2025

Hosted annually by the Guadalupe el Torrero Foundation (GeT) which promotes the arts and education along the borderland of South Texas and Mexico, the *GeT Art* exhibition at IMAS featured art contest submissions from students of Brewster and San Isidro Schools for the fourth year in a row. The *GeT Art Contest* awards support education and advancing the creative works of students, artists, and their teachers working on studies related to the arts and sciences.



Art Collectors Share Works Symbolizing the American West

Visions of the West: Highlights from the Lewis Collection offered a glimpse into the heart of the American West, as seen through the eyes of the artists in the collection of Byron Jay and Keely Lewis. This exhibition presented a curated selection of works by iconic Western artists, including Ed Mell, Lon Megargee, Marjorie Reed, Tom Lea, and more. Spanning decades of transformation and change, these artworks presented the region's rugged beauty and rich history. *Visions of the West: Highlights from the Lewis Collection* invited viewers to explore artistic interpretations of the West, its enduring landscapes, and transformative legacy.

Visions of the West: Highlights from the Lewis Collection was organized by the International Museum of Art & Science from the collection of Byron Jay and Keely Lewis.

Collectors Byron Jay and Keely Lewis had the opportunity to provide additional programming for *Visions of the West: Highlights from the Lewis Collection* through the IMAS series *Visions of the West: Stories behind the Art*, which gave a unique look into the personal relationships they fostered with the gallerists, framers, and artists in their collection.



Outreach Exhibition at UTRGV

Sus Historias, an outreach exhibit of Mexican and Latin American folk art from the IMAS permanent collection, was on exhibit at the Center for Latin American Arts (CLAA) and the Main Library at UTRGV in the fall of 2024. IMAS Trustee, UTRGV School of Fine Arts faculty and CLAA Director, Dr. Katherine McAllen hosted a reception for this exhibit on October 15th at the CLAA. *Sus Historias* is one of the outcomes of the Institute of Museum and Library Services grant to increase knowledge of and access to the Mexican and Latin American folk-art collection. Project interns Alejandra Isaguirre and Linda Esquivel, undergraduate anthropology majors at UTRGV, curated this exhibit as the culminating activity for their paid internship/independent study course with the IMAS curatorial department.



The IMAS Folk Art Collection is an excellent representation of cultural expressions. From a tiny feather-adorned box to an oversized, elaborately carved wooden mask, each object represents aspects of the human condition and creativity. Each piece tells a story – sometimes obvious, other times subtle or esoteric known only to those who dig and explore meanings imbued in objects."

— Jill Vexler, PhD
Project Advisor

Water, Water Everywhere

A grant from McAllen Public Utility supported expanded water education and sustainability with the installation of a rainwater harvesting cistern near the MPU BioZone and renovation of legacy exhibit *Water Journey* with exhibit designers *Sietecolores*. This educational exhibit encourages children to learn about and engage with water's journey from its origin to the different cleaning stages, distribution, personal consumption, and the necessary actions for its conservation, and it includes spotlights on STEM professionals and fully bilingual text. IMAS collaborated with MPU staff for content and Decibel Communications for exhibit marketing.



Working with IMAS to educate the public about our area's critical water needs has been very important as we work to achieve water security for future generations."

— Ernie Williams
Vice Chairman Accreditation,
McAllen Public Utility Board



Macrophotography Mindmeld



Insecta: Small Wonders of the World offered a unique perspective into the intricate lives of insects, revealing their beauty, diversity, and crucial ecological roles through the captivating art of macrophotography by artist and citizen-scientist Gabriel Rodriguez. Visitors explored how insects, from their unique physical characteristics to their roles as pollinators, decomposers, and food sources, are indispensable to the health of our planet.

This exhibit project, supported by an Arts Respond grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) funded cross-departmental collaboration to plan and create all exhibition materials. Working with artist Gabriel Rodriguez, the Education and Curatorial departments identified topic areas for the exhibition that met TEKS learning objectives for field trip content, including insect anatomy and ecosystems. The team researched and collaborated with the artist to select photos and develop content and thematic panels. The Marketing department completed the full design, production, and fabrication, taking the final exhibit from concept to reality in a larger than life exhibit of insect macrophotography.



International Ties and Cultural Exploration



Young Adventurers and Growing Up Great

This year the IMAS was named a Grow Up Great partner with PNC Bank and provided special engaging programs to support early childhood learning and literacy. Museum experiences for learners of all ages include PNC Adventure Day, an exciting day of play during Spring Break for our youngest visitors ages five and under.

The PNC Young Adventurers program served **225 young learners and their families** through early childhood workshops this year. In addition, **over 685 visitors** explored the Mobile Learning Adventure for the third year in a row during PNC Adventure Day.



Making Connections

Corning Connects STEM Learning Day engaged learners of all ages through exhibits, tours, presentations and hands-on activities on Memorial Day weekend at the museum. This event was a culmination of the Corning Connects project, supported by a grant from Corning, which enabled **372 students from underserved schools** to visit the museum at no cost and **over 400 participants** in Corning Connects STEM Learning Day. The program, now in its third year, serves schools that had not visited the IMAS in at least three years.

CORNING



Exploring the Cosmos

The IMAS kicked off the return of star-gazing nights at the museum with Mysterious Cosmos Family Fun Nights. Partnering with the UTRGV Center of Excellence in STEM Education, IMAS led space-centric activities around the museum including SOS presentations, labs, and telescopes on the lawn to view the cosmos. This free event series was supported by NASA's Universe of Learning.

The University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley
Center of Excellence in STEM Education



Audience

75

memberships
granted by the
Pay It Forward
program for
families in need
in its third year



8,395

visitors gained access to IMAS
through grant-funded free
admission and other discounts
(including educators, veterans, military,
ASTC Passport, Blue Star Museums,
Museums for All, and first responders)

47,530

visitors to the museum

IMAS educators
provided guided
tours to

4,000+

school-aged children from 89 visiting
groups representing 50 schools from
17 public and 9 private and charter
school districts

10,467
community members
served on outreach



1.1K museum
visitors
participated
in 65 classes, camps and
workshops throughout the year

The membership program
experienced engagement and
growth with

908

memberships
sold this year
peaking at

1,380

active households
at end of the
membership year

16 exhibits opened during the 2024–2025 fiscal year

EXHIBITS

***Rompiendo el cielo* by Uriel Landeros**
September 18, 2024–January 19, 2025

4th Annual Members' Juried Art Show
October 5, 2024–January 5, 2025

Dinosaurs Among Us
November 16, 2024–April 27, 2025

***Ceremonies of the Americas:
The Engravings of Bernard Picart***
January 25–June 1, 2025

***Paintings from Spanish America
(1600-1800) from the Thoma Collection***
February 8–May 25, 2025

***Destino Sur* by Carlos Limas**
February 22–August 17, 2025

17th Annual McAllen ISD Young at Art
February 23–April 19, 2025

Cellphone: Unseen Connections
March 12–December 30, 2025

Water Journey
May 10, 2025–Ongoing

***Visions of the West:
Highlights from the Lewis Collection***
June 21–October 5, 2025

***2024 Congressional Artwork Winner
- A Rancher's Life 1977***
July 28–August 17, 2025

***Insecta: Small Wonders of the World*
by Gabriel Rodriguez**
August 9, 2025–May 31, 2026

***Mujeres Innovadoras:
Cultural Artistry Over Time***
August 9–December 18, 2025

***2025 Guadalupe el Torreo
(GeT) Foundation Art Contest***
August 30–October 5, 2025

***2025 Operation Imagination
Summer Camp Art***
August 2–September 12, 2025

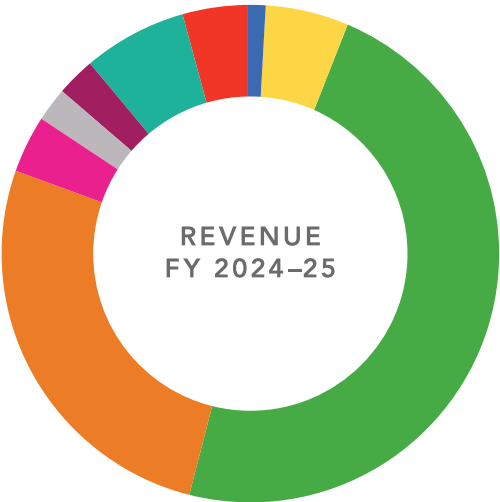
***Pilgrimage of Light* by Mark Chen**
September 11, 2025–January 25, 2026

Desaparacidos
September 27–October 12, 2025



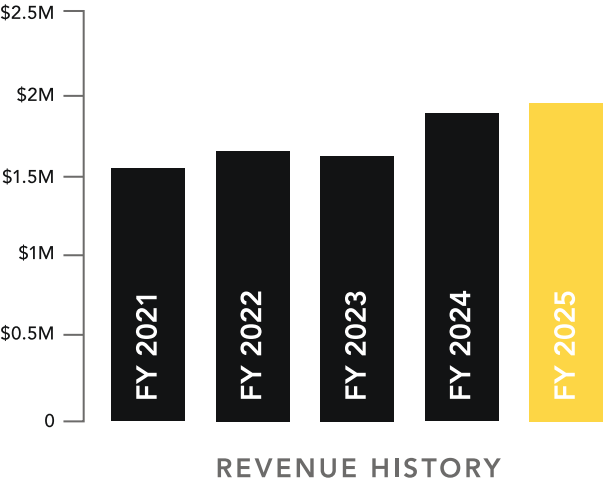
Financial Statements

In 2024-2025, IMAS had total **operating revenues of \$2,334,000**, including **\$375,000** of **earned revenues**. Gifts and grants represent 64% of the total operating revenue while earned revenues represent 16%. Fundraising events contributed 20% of the budget with an excess of \$8,000 to the Museum’s budget.



	FY 2024-25
Individual / Business Contributions	\$20,901
Grants	\$102,775
City of McAllen	\$911,400
Fundraising Events	\$506,003
Educational Programs & Tours	\$71,795
Memberships	\$42,399
Miscellaneous	\$48,821
Admissions	\$125,673
Gift Shop Sales	\$86,242

**The overall budget reflects a total of \$2,331,086 with the inclusion of \$414,000 of in kind revenue. Revenue graphs and tables exclude in kind.*



IMAS maintains a balanced budget

DONATIONS FOR FY 2024–25

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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, 2024, through September 30, 2025**. Donors are listed according to gift acknowledgement.

† Deceased

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Linda Garza	Mary Villareal
Mariella Gorena	Edite Virkus
Chiqui Guerra	Tina Ziegler
Christine Kulikamp	

“

Each year during Congenital Heart Awareness Month, we look for meaningful ways to celebrate our patients and give them a chance to connect with the community. For about ten years, we have hosted our celebration at IMAS, treating our kids and their families to a special day at the museum. With something for everyone, IMAS provides a space where kids can play, explore, and connect with one another, while family members enjoy the exhibits. It's a wonderful opportunity to see our patients simply as kids—and for families to build connections with each other.”

— Dr. Ngozi Agu
Pediatric Cardiology, Driscoll Children's Hospital

A Message from the Executive Director & Board President



The past year offered opportunities to rethink existing practices, redefine job responsibilities, and redistribute available resources for maximum impact. The Curatorial, Education, Development & Marketing, and Facilities departments welcomed new staff members and current staff into new positions. This infusion of ideas, perspectives, and experiences contributed significantly to increasing overall staff capacity and camaraderie which resulted in better museum experiences for IMAS visitors.

IMAS membership is steadily growing, and museum members are taking advantage of their benefits, especially the summer and winter Members' Nights when there are programs and activities just for IMAS members. Educators create museum experiences related to the museum's permanent collections, like the Olmec Day celebration that started in 2025 and has become an annual program due to the overwhelming response from visitors. The museum shop is bursting with art and science related merchandise; many are one of a kind hand-crafted items featuring traditional decorative practices and work by women artisans. Behind the scenes, caring for the museum's 14,000+ objects in the permanent collections requires specialized skills and adhering to museum standards. Keeping the museum buildings and grounds in working order often goes unnoticed, however with a full complement of staff the Facilities team now has time for planned maintenance and repairs.

An IMAS Trustee recently praised the museum staff's efforts by saying the museum was now operating like "a well-oiled machine." These comments recognize the accomplishments of the staff in working collaboratively and across departments to achieve ambitious revenue and attendance goals, presenting unique, high-quality exhibitions and educational programs, and broadening participation through social media, membership, and fundraising events.

The Board of Trustees amended the Bylaws to increase their numbers from a capacity of 18 to 25. This enables greater participation from across sectors, including artists and scientists alongside business and civic leaders. Over the past year, the Standing Committees of the Board were purposeful and productive, especially around governance. The Governance Committee stewarded a Board Self-Assessment to measure the Board's strengths and needs for Board development and formalized the process for nominating and electing new and returning Trustees. The Board is ready to begin 2026 with well-articulated goals, expectations, and measures of success to ensure the staff has the appropriate resources to carry out the mission of the museum.

We couldn't share the accomplishments detailed in the preceding pages without the steadfast participation from our community and the strong partnerships we are so fortunate to have in helping us fulfill the museum's mission to inspire audiences of all ages to explore art and science. We are truly grateful for your support in helping to move IMAS from high functioning to flourishing.



Ann Fortescue
IMAS Executive Director



Cassandra Moreno
IMAS Board President



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International Museum of Art & Science

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McAllen, TX 78504

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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.

