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IMAS Presents WASTELAND & WILD TONGUES: A Day Celebrating Rio Grande Valley Music, Art, and Culture

McAllen, TX — The International Museum of Art & Science (IMAS) invites the community to explore the creative voices, sounds, and stories of the Rio Grande Valley during WASTELAND & WILD TONGUES, a full day of programming on Saturday, December 12, 2026. Bringing together literature, visual art, and independent music, the day will feature a discussion panel, a one-day pop-up exhibition, and an evening celebration of the region's underground music scene in collaboration with WASTELAND DIY Archive and Zine.

The day's programming begins with *Wild Tongue: A Borderland Mixtape*, a discussion panel taking place from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the museum's Science On a Sphere® theatre. Featuring author and musician Jonathan Leal and additional speakers, the discussion will reflect on themes from the "Flooded" chapter of *Wild Tongue*, exploring how music and storytelling transform scenes of crisis into instances of creativity. With particular attention to cultural memory, border ballads, and the broader borderlands context, the conversation will conclude with an audience question-and-answer session.

Throughout the day, visitors can also experience *B0KA_GRAND3*, a special one-day pop-up exhibition by Alicia Garza, visual artist for *Wild Tongue*. Located in the IMAS Welcome Pavilion, the exhibition expands the book's visual language into a multimedia experience featuring regional iconography, musical instruments, and the natural environment.

The celebration continues that evening with **IMAS After Dark: RGV Wasteland**, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Presented in collaboration with WASTELAND DIY Archive and Zine, the after-hours experience for adults brings the Rio Grande Valley's underground music scene into the museum.

The RGV Wasteland pop-up exhibition will feature community archives, photographs, and music from local bands Fantastico and Twineater, highlighting the independent artists, sounds, and creative communities that have helped shape the region's cultural identity. This special after-hours program is exclusively for guests ages 21 and older.

Together, these experiences offer an opportunity to explore the Rio Grande Valley's creative landscape through the intersection of music, literature, visual art, and community storytelling. From the cultural histories explored in *Wild Tongue* to the independent music archives preserved by WASTELAND, the programming celebrates the voices and creative movements that make the borderlands unique.

Also taking place at IMAS on December 12, visitors are invited to attend the opening reception for *Popol Vuh: The Sacred Book of the Quiché through Illustration*, offering another opportunity to experience art and cultural storytelling at the museum from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

All-Day Special Admission Pass: $15 for non-members and $5 for IMAS Members. The all-day pass includes general admission to the museum and access to all December 12 programming, including the *Wild Tongue* discussion panel, *B0KA_GRAND3* pop-up exhibition, *Popol Vuh: The Sacred Book of the Quiché through Illustration* Opening Reception and IMAS After Dark: RGV Wasteland. Guests attending After Dark must be 21 or older and present valid identification.

About the International Museum of Art & Science (IMAS)
Located in the Rio Grande Valley, the International Museum of Art & Science (IMAS) inspires visitors of all ages to explore the world of art and science. Through its diverse exhibitions, collections, and educational programs, IMAS empowers learners to pursue their passions and discover new interests. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and a Smithsonian Affiliate, IMAS is located at 1900 W. Nolana Avenue in McAllen, Texas. The museum is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information on admission, events, and programs, visit theimasonline.org or call (956) 681-2800.

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Promotional flyer for *RGV Wasteland & Wild Tongues*, a day of art, literature, music, and cultural programming at IMAS on December 12, 2026.