



## Board Appointment Form

City Clerk's Office

Appointing Office	Representative Josh Acevedo, District 2
Agenda Placement	Consent
Date of Council Meeting	06/11/24
Name of Board	Historic Landmark Commission
Agenda Posting Language	
Appointment of Cynthia Renteria to the Historic Landmark Commission by Representative Josh Acevedo, District 2	
Appointment Type	Regular
Member Qualifications	
Dr. Renteria is a resident of the City of El Paso and holds vast experience in the cultural, social, and economic history of El Paso. She holds a Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Arts in history and has held positions that have supported historic assets and has worked alongside historic preservation organizations. She holds experience in implementing and evaluating programs, policies and procedures relating to historic preservation and heritage tourism.	
Nominee Name	Cynthia Renteria
Nominee Email Address	
Nominee Residential Address	
Nominee Primary Phone Number	
Residing District	District 2
City Employed Relatives	N/A
Board Membership	
N/A	
Real estate owned in El Paso County	
Previous Appointee	Victor Hurtado
Reason for Vacancy	Term Expired
Date of Appointment	06/11/24
Term Begins On	06/11/24
Term Expires On	06/10/26
Term	First Term

## Cynthia T. Renteria

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### Education

- Ph.D. History, University of Texas at El Paso, 2022  
Specialization: Borderlands History  
Dissertation Title: *Reimagining Paso del Norte: Historical Memory in the Borderlands, 1980-2015*
- M.A. History, New Mexico State University, 2011  
Specialization: Public History
- B.A. History, University of Texas at El Paso, 2007

### Professional Experience

- Heritage Tourism Coordinator, El Paso County Jan. 2024- present
- Develops, recommends, implements and evaluates county programs, policies, and procedures related to historic preservation; and heritage tourism
  - Oversees the Hotel Occupancy Tax funds and agreements for both maintenance and operations of county historic assets; to include the Concordia Cemetery and Mission Trail
  - Assists with economic development of the county through its promotion of historic sites and heritage tourism
  - Serves as the main point of contact and support for the operations and maintenance of the historic assets
  - Provides professional judgment in interpreting proposed alterations to historic buildings and apply guidelines that pertain to historic buildings and other historic properties with specific reference to practical application of the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties
  - Translates the goals, objectives and policy of the Commissioners Court into programs, projects and activities
  - Monitors and makes recommendations on threats to historic landmarks
  - Works collaboratively with other City, State, County and national historical commissions and other historic preservation organizations
- Senior Policy Advisor, Office of County Commissioner David Stout Dec. 2022 – Dec. 2023
- Specialized in policy areas related to immigration, public health, binational affairs, heritage tourism, historic preservation, veteran affairs, quality of life, and investment in the workforce
  - Led and facilitates project team meetings to identify and resolve issues impacting project success
  - Provides strategic vision and tactical direction for the effective development, implementation, and attainment of the goals and operations of the precinct 2 office
  - In collaboration with the County Economic Development Department coordinated the heritage program Corazón, Historia, Raíces focused on highlighting hidden histories within precinct 2 and includes a series of guided history tours, pop-up exhibit, and a mural
  - As directed participated in place of the Commissioner as a representative or liaison of the precinct 2 office
  - Developed and sustains relationships with community partners for potential funding opportunities and/or collaborative policy work
  - Drafted and reviewed newsletters, public service announcements, press statements, and scripts for the Commissioner

Public Policy Analyst, Office of County Commissioner David Stout

Dec. 2021 – Dec. 2022

- Researched and gather materials regarding policy development and analysis
- Drafted correspondence and any technical reports, briefs, news releases, white papers
- Attended and participated in professional group meetings as assigned and stays abreast of current trends and innovations specific to policy area specialization and other priorities as identified by the Commissioner
- Assisted with monitoring and ensuring compliance of policies and procedures, maintains office budget, and performs administrative tasks to support daily office operations
- Communicated with constituents and provided exceptional customer service and maintained administrative files, references, and follow up files

Director of Community Development and Cultural Inclusion, El Calvario IAC

Aug. 2021 – Dec. 2021

- Drove the creation of new community development initiatives and recommendations to El Calvario IAC Executive director, board, and leadership team
- Built and maintained community partnerships in order to increase and execute programming
- Identified funding sources and assisted with relevant grant writing and reporting
- Ensured economic development plans promoted cultural competency and inclusion via programming based on history, development of community dialogues, workshops, and art projects
- Documented the El Calvario story, including its connection to the Mesquite Historic District
- Developed El Calvario's social and economic voice and policies as a cultural/historical/economic site with exhibits and displays
- Developed a strategic plan for legal services for immigrants or mixed status families in Southern New Mexico

## **Language Skills**

Fluent in Spanish

## **Honors and Awards**

Frances G. Harper Dissertation Research Award, 2021

Tom Lea Research Fellowship, 2015

New Mexico State University, Hispanic Caucus, Diversity and Leadership Award, 2011

New Mexico State University Hull Scholar, 2009-2010

## **Select Public History Projects**

Public Historian Consultant, La Mujer Obrera

Sept. 2022 – present

- Principal Investigator for the community-based archives from the Mellon Foundation
- Working with the organization to introduce and implement best practices of archival principles
- Collections care, including the acquisition of new materials, physical and digital storage fees, and access and preservation efforts
- Develop a records management and archiving policy
- Provide oral history workshops and technology workshops
- Wrote the grant proposal narrative, budget, cover letter, and continue grant reporting

Bracero Exhibit, UTEP, Centennial Museum

Sept. 2017

- Liaison for the Border Farmworker Center to the Centennial Museum
- Facilitated a temporary loan of the artifacts and documents
- Wrote and contributed two exhibit text panels about the current condition of farmworkers and a call to action that visitors could take to support the farmworker community.
- Ensured the safe return of all artifacts and historic documents to the Border Farmworker Center

Brown v. Board of Education to Ferguson:

Fostering Dialogue on Education, Incarceration and Civil Rights

Oct. 2015 – Oct. 2016

- Funded by the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC) with support by U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services
- Assisted with the development of a new dialogue model on behalf of La Mujer Obrera (LMO), community partner of the UTEP Borderlands Public History Lab
- Facilitated intergenerational community dialogues focused on education equity and the Mexican schools of South El Paso
- Trained youth leaders from the LMO youth group to develop and facilitate dialogues

The Vision and The Legacy of La Mujer Obrera, Museo Maychen

May 2015 – Dec. 2015

- Co-curated an exhibit that focused on bridging the history of the organization from its founding to the present mission post-NAFTA.
- Identified historical photos, documents, wrote exhibit text
- Collaborated with the museum team on exhibit design, and installation
- Developed programming for the exhibit that highlighted the philosophy and practice of the organization
- Networked with outside organizations on dialogue projects and archive projects
- Helped coordinate, plan, and participated in fundraisers and cultural events

National Dialogues on Immigration

Aug. 2013 – Dec. 2014

- Assisted with the development of a dialogue format for the National Immigration Dialogues, funded by the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC) through funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute for Museum and Library Sciences.
- Facilitated dialogues about historical and contemporary topics related to immigration and border culture at community location and at The University of Texas at El Paso
- Set up exhibits that complimented the dialogue topic
- Arranged receptions, catering and/or refreshments

Writing Ourselves into History, Wise Latina International Summit

June 2014

- Co-curated the exhibit *Writing Ourselves into History*, featuring the contributions of Chicana/Latina writers and historians
- Wrote the introduction and text panels
- Designed the exhibit set up for a temporary installation
- Consulted on exhibit installation and design

Chicano Power: The Legacy of the Chicano Movement in El Paso

Jan. 2010- May 2010

- *Chicano Power: The Legacy of the Chicano Movement in El Paso* was a community oral history project and exhibit created in collaboration with community members and La Mujer Obrera
- Conducted Oral Histories, audio and video
- Transcribed oral histories
- Assisted with the exhibit installation
- Added an additional section and developed an exhibit guide in July and August 2012

## **Publications**

“Three Views of a Revolution,” Review of Mario Garcia, *The Chicano Generation: Testimonios of the Movement*, El Paso Times, April 12, 2016

Accessible at <http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/entertainment/books/2016/04/12/book-review-3-views-revolution/82937208/>

“Hardball History: Choosing Sides,” History@Work, National Council on Public History. Accesible at <http://publichistorycommons.org/hardball-history-renteria/> (2015)

Co-author, *Unidos sin fronteras: The Living History of the Border Farmworker Center*, A Museo Urbano Project, 2013

Co-author, *El Segundo Barrio: Una Historia Viviente*. Department of History UTEP: Translating Borders Public History Project, 2006

## **Service**

Board Member, Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON) El Paso, 2022 – 2023

Commissioner, City of El Paso Districting Commission, 2021 – 2022

Board Member, Washington-Delta Neighborhood Association, 2020 – present

Co-chair and member, Heritage Tourism Advisory Committee, Texas State Senator Jose Rodriguez, District 29, 2017-2020

Co-Founder, Association of Applied Border History (AABH), UTEP Student Organization, 2015

Board Member, La Mujer Obrera, 2015

## **Select Conference Presentations**

### **Organized**

Western History Association, virtual, 2021

Panel: “Anti-Mexican Violence, Terrorism, and Attempted Community Destruction”

National Council on Public History, April 2018, Las Vegas, Nevada

Community Viewpoint: “Between Memory and Forgetting: The Bracero Archives of the Border Farmworker Center”

### **Invited**

Western History Association, October 2019, Las Vegas, Nevada

Panel: “Public History of the Borderlands: A Showcase of Recent Projects”

The Labor and Working-Class History Association, June 2017, Seattle Washington

Panel: “Gender Politics and Labor Activism in Mexican American History”

Society for Applied Anthropology, March 2017, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Panel: “Cultural Heritage Tourism in the El Paso del Norte Border Region”

National Council on Public History, April 2016, Baltimore, Maryland

Panel: “Painting Dangerous Memories on Historic Landscapes”

National Council on Public History 2015, Nashville, Tennessee

Panel: “Hardball History: Public Historians on the Edge of Politics, Advocacy, and Activism”

National Council on Public History 2013, Ottawa, Ontario Province

Panel: “The Contestation, Appropriation, and Production of Historical Memory in the Borderlands”