

**YOLANDA CHÁVEZ LEYVA, PhD.**

Director of the Institute of Oral History

Professor/ Department of History

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**EDUCATION**

University of Arizona, Ph.D. in U.S. History, 1999

University of Texas at El Paso, MA in Borderlands History, 1989

University of Texas at Austin, BBA in Management, 1977

**ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

2024- Present	Professor of History, Department of History, UTEP
2016- Present	Director, Institute of Oral History
2017- 2019	Co-Director/ Interim Director Liberal Arts Honors Program
2015	Interim director, the Institute of Oral History
2010- 2015	Chair, Department of History, UTEP
2006- 2024	Associate Professor of History, Department of History, UTEP.
2001-2006	Assistant Professor of History, Department of History, UTEP 1
997- 2001	Assistant Professor of History, Division of Behavioral and Cultural Sciences, University of Texas at San Antonio.

**SELECT ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS**

- “Grounded in Community: Four decades of an academic journey” in *Changing Paths of Academic Lives: Revising How We Understand Higher Education/Universities, 1960s to 2020s and Beyond*. WAC Clearinghouse and University Press of Colorado. In press. 2025.
- “Cotton’s Paradise: Coerced Labor during the Great Depression in El Paso, Texas.” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* special issue on coerced labor edited by John McKiernan Gonzalez and Jessica Philey. Accepted.
- “Voices from *La Frontera*: Tracing the History of the Border Patrol through Oral Narratives.” *California History* Vol. 101, Issue 4. Winter 2024. Co-authored with Kimberly Sumano Ortega.
- “Pathways in Oral History: Yolanda Chávez Leyva,” *U.S. Latina and Latino Oral History Journal*. 2023.
- “Crossing the Border with Oral History,” *Words and Silences, Journal of the International Oral History Association*. 2022. <https://www.ioha.org/journal/articles/crossing-the-border-with-oral-history/>
- “Years of Desperation, Years of Hope: The New Deal on the Border,” *Teaching the New Deal (1932-1941)*, edited by Jenice View and Andrea Guida Pittman. Peter Lang Publishers, 2021.
- “A More Inclusive History of El Paso,” in *Forum Journal*. Vol. 30, no. 4. (Summer 2016), pp. 19-28. (Note: This is an influential publication for historic preservationists and is published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.)

**SELECT GRANTS**

- Mellon Foundation, “Ultraviole(n)t Exposures,” 2024-26. Co-PI.
- Mellon Foundation, “Humanities Collaborative at EPPC/UTEP,” 2023-25. PI.
- Mellon Foundation, Bracero History Museum, 2022-2023. Lead Historian.

## **SELECT MUSEUM EXHIBITS**

- Bracero History Museum, Rio Vista, Socorro, Texas. (Lead historian.) 2022-23.
- “¡Presente! A Latino History of the United States,” Smithsonian Latino Center (curatorial advisor), 2023.
- “Uncaged Art Tornillo Detention Center,” Co-curator, Centennial Museum, UTEP 2019 (Co-curator)
- “La Frontera: A Century of Division and Resistance, supervised students, Centennial Museum, UTEP 2017 (Co-curator)
- “Through a Child’s Eyes: Growing up in El Paso, 1880-1950,” El Paso Museum of History,” 2016. (Contributor)
- “Viva la Causa,” Centennial Museum, UTEP 2014. (Co-curator)
- “Encuentro con los Antepasados: Traditional Medicine in the Borderlands,” La Mujer Obrera, 2013 (Curator)
- “Walking with the Ancestors: From Mesoamerica to the Southwest,” El Paso Archaeology Museum, 2012-2013. (Co-curator)
- “El Paso: The Other Side of the Mexican Revolution,” El Paso History Museum 2010. (Researcher)

## **AWARDS**

- McDonald’s Triunfadores Hispanos award, 2024
- Field of Stars honoree, mobile history exhibit that commemorates the world of leaders who put fairness first in their professional lives, 2022.
- The Borderland Rainbow Center and Diversity and Resiliency Institute of El Paso “Border Heroes” for Texas, 2022.
- Texas Digital Libraries Outreach Award, 2021.
- The Borderland Rainbow Center and Diversity and Resiliency Institute of El Paso “Border Heroes” for El Paso/ Ciudad Juárez, 2021
- Council of American Jewish Museums Conference Fellow, 2020
- Mellon Faculty Fellow for the EPCC-UTEP Humanities Collaborative, 2019-2020.
- Inaugural Scholar in Residence, Latinx Studies, University of Houston-Downtown, 2019.
- The inaugural Legacy Award, Borderlands Rainbow Center, El Paso, 2019.
- President’s Community Engaged Scholarship Award Finalist, UTEP, 2018.
- Outstanding Faculty Award, College of Liberal Arts, 2017.
- Herbert Feis Award for Distinguished Contributions to Public History from the American Historical Association, 2017.
- Museo Urbano selected by the Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum as a featured museum in “By the People: Designing a Better America.” exhibit, New York City (2016-17).
- Outstanding Public History Project from the National Council on Public History, 2013.
- Distinguished Service to Students and the University Award, 2013.
- La Mujer Obrera Award for promoting and uplifting the rights of women on the border, 2012.

## **CONSULTING WORK**

- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- The Smithsonian Latino Center
- Latinos in Heritage Conservation
- National Park Service