

MISSION HISTORICAL museum

Mr. Valde Guerra
Commissioners Court Executive Officer
2815 Bus Hwy 281
Edinburg, Tx 78539

February 10, 2015

Dear Mr. Guerra,

In 2013/2014, the Mission Historical Museum was approved by the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court to receive \$30,000 in 12 monthly contributions to help the Museum improve our services to the children and citizens of Western Hidalgo County.

The Mission Historical Museum is a (501 C 3) non-profit organization. The mission is to collect, preserve, exhibit and promote the history and cultural heritage of the local and neighboring communities. The vision is to instill in the citizens of Western Hidalgo County pride and appreciation for their history and culture.

Over the last decade, the Mission Historical Museum has grown into an integral component within the community. Since it's opening in 2000, it has strived to remain a unique and effective channel of history and cultural education resource for visitors, tourists, and community members.

The last two years have brought an unusual array of programs and events. All which have had a profound positive response from the community. Last year, short-term exhibits such as *La Epoca de Oro/ Films of the Golden Age* and *Castilian Roses in December/Rosas de Castilla en Diciembre* proved to stir and attract a diverse demographic. While one exhibit commemorated a cultural past-time that today still celebrates Mexican Cinema in the Rio Grande Valley, the other, and through the vision from local artists depicting La Virgen de Guadalupe, highlighted the history of La Lomita's first established mission in 1899: Our Lady of the Mission, today known as Our Lady of Guadalupe. Other exhibits included: *Dia de los Muertos Altars*, *Christmas Santas and the Needlepoint Talents of Celeste McMahon* (Mission resident), *The 8th Annual Mission Quilt Show*, *The History of the Texas Citrus Fiesta*, and *Western Scene: The Work of Fredrick Remington and Charles Russell*. Long-Range exhibits still include: Early Home Life, Schools, Pioneer Families, Military, Sports, and Commerce.

Accompanying programs and events included: *Films of the Golden Age: Saturday Matinees and Songs from the Golden Age of Mexican Cinema by Rumbo al'Anacua*, a historical lecture and musical presentation inspired by cultural experiences; *Dia de los Muertos Calavera Writing and Sugar Skull Decorating workshops*; *Dia de los Muertos Family Festival*; *Halloween Mysteries at the BOO!seum Family Festival*; *Guadalupe Community Veterans Day Program*; *History of the Texas Citrus Fiesta Book Release Luncheon*; *Pioneer Family Program honored Edward Downey-Davis and Lino & Jovita Lopez*; *A Poetry Writing Workshop and Poetry Night Open-Mic & Music Event* (partnered with South Texas College, Mission CISD, and Sharyland ISD); *Tardeada Zapateada Folklorico and Mariachi Festival*, *ACE Club Memorial Day Program*, the Children's Summer Programming: *Preserve the*

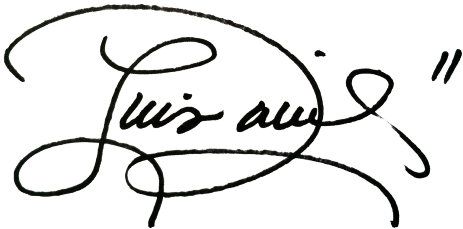
Past/Protect the Future, ARTifact, and MHM Pioneer Days; Family Movie Night on the Lawn, the Mission Community Sunset Concert, which featured Mariachi Joya de Mexico from Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; and the 8th Annual MHM Dinner Banquet honoring five distinguished pillars of the Mission community who have contributed to the city's history.

The additional funding that the County of Hidalgo provides helps in providing, not just an additional number of programs and exhibits, but also ones of higher quality.

We kindly request continued funding in the amount of \$30,000 for fiscal year 2014/2015.

We appreciate the consideration of our Hidalgo County Judge Ramon Garcia and Hidalgo County Commissioners Court for supporting the Mission Historical Museum once again and we are most grateful for your attention. Please contact our office for any information you may need at 956-580-8646. Our office hours are: Monday thru Friday 8:00am-5:00pm and Saturday 10:00am-2:00pm. The Mission Historical Museum is located at 900 Doherty, Mission Texas.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luis Contreras, II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "L" and a double quote at the end.

Luis Contreras, II
Director
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