



TEXAS IN ART, FILM, AND MUSIC
San Marcos • April 25, 2024

HUMANITIES TEXAS TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

The Witliff Collections • 7th Floor, 7th floor, Albert B. Alkek Library • Texas State University

8:30–9:00 am:	Check-in and Coffee
9:00–9:15 am:	Welcome and Opening Remarks
9:15–10:00 am:	Why Texas Film Matters Alison Macor, author and film historian
10:00–10:45 am:	Teaching Texas Music Bavu Blakes, musician and educator
10:45–11:00 am:	Break and Group Photo
11:00–11:10 am:	Humanities Texas Educational Resources
11:10–11:55 am:	Texas Art is Texas History Jessica Fuentes, art educator
11:55 am–12:40 pm:	Deep in the Heart: Texas Music as History Jason Mellard, Texas State University
12:40 –1:30 pm:	Lunch
1:30 –3:45 pm:	Afternoon Seminars
3:45–4:00 pm:	Final Announcements

Image: Tom Lea, *Rio Grande*, 1954, oil on canvas, 22 x 32. From the collection of the El Paso Museum of Art. Gift of Robert and Maureen Decherd in memory of Isabelle Thomason Decherd and Ben Decherd.

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FACULTY

BAVU BLAKES is a scholar emcee at the forefront of merging hip hop, education, and spirituality. As an award-winning middle school humanities instructor and founder of the *Hip Hop Grew Up* educational agency, he crafts keynote speeches, interactive learning sessions, and multimedia projects. With a decade of experience designing and delivering professional learning experiences, Bavu is renowned for his innovative incorporation of theatrical, musical, and lyrical elements into teaching. His academic research on humanities instruction and student-driven assemblies has been recognized at national conferences and published by prestigious presses.

JESSICA FUENTES is an author, artist, and educator. She has taught in public schools, higher education, and museums. From 2021 to 2023, Ms. Fuentes served as the founding director of Kinfolk House, a collaborative art space established by Fort Worth-based, internationally renowned artists Sedrick and Letitia Huckaby. Currently, she is the news editor for Glasstire, an online magazine covering Texas art. In 2023, she participated in the U.S. Latinx Art Forum's Artist Mentor Program and was named a recipient of The Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant. Ms. Fuentes holds an MA in art education from the University of North Texas and a BA in art and performance from the University of Texas at Dallas.

ALISON MACOR holds a PhD in film history and taught for more than twenty years at The University of Texas at Austin and Texas State University, among other institutions and programs. She received a Public Scholars grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to write her latest book, *Making The Best Years of Our Lives: The Hollywood Classic That Inspired a Nation* (University of Texas Press, 2022), about the making of the 1946 blockbuster. She's also the author of *Rewrite Man: The Life and Career of Screenwriter Warren Skaaren* (UT Press, 2017) and *Chainsaws, Slackers, and Spy Kids: Thirty Years of Filmmaking in Austin, Texas* (UT Press, 2010).

JASON MELLARD is the director of the Center for Texas Music History at Texas State University. He is the author of *Progressive Country: How the 1970s Transformed the Texan in Popular Culture*, contributor to *Pickers & Poets: The Ruthlessly Poetic Singer-Songwriters of Texas* and *It Can Be This Way Always: Images from the Kerroville Folk Festival*, and co-editor of *The Journal of Texas Music History*. He teaches a range of popular music and Texas history courses at Texas State, including a rock history study abroad program in England. He has also recently revived the series of radio shorts *This Week in Texas Music History* for KUTX in Austin, where he resides.