



Stampede, mural, 1940. Oil on canvas, 5.5' x 16 ft. Ellen Noel Museum, Odessa TX. The mural was rescued from the post office in Odessa and installed in the Ellen Noel museum as the result of a conference the Tom Lea Institute held at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., in May 2015.

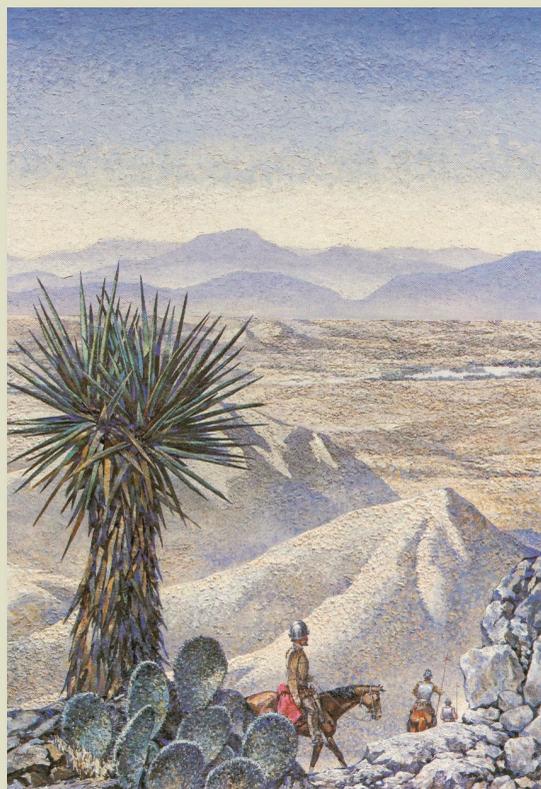
Tom Lea Institute Recognized for Historic Preservation

THE significance of the Tom Lea Institute and its work preserving the legacy of Tom Lea through education has been affirmed several times in recent months. Founder Adair Margo received the DAR Historic Preservation Medal from the Texas State Daughters of the American Revolution in Houston on March 22. She was nominated by the Stoddert-del Norte Chapter of NSDAR, which cited her “years of work to preserve the art and legacy of Tom Lea.”

At the Texas Association of Museums annual meeting in El Paso April 2-5, Margo was presented the Jo Stewart Randel Outstanding Trustee Award for her leadership in endowing the Tom Lea Gallery at the El Paso Museum of Art and for founding the Tom Lea Institute. She was nominated by Mary Bones of the Museum of the Big Bend, which hosted an exhibit of Tom Lea art on loan from the El Paso Museum of Art as part of Tom Lea Month activities in 2015. Our efforts to keep Tom Lea’s work and love for the Southwest alive continues to move in the right direction.



Tom Lea Institute Founder Adair Margo was honored by the Texas Daughters of the American Revolution in March.



Great River of the North Lithograph- 301/2" x 20"

Win Father's Day

UPGRADE your Father's Day gift this year from another tie to a *Great River of the North* lithograph, available now for only \$50. The commemorative edition of the opening of First Financial Plaza lithographs is limited; visit TomLea.com or call us at 915-533-0048 to get yours today.

From a Member

Our members are happy to share their experiences with us. Here's our latest and greatest!

‘WHILE serving in the Marine Reserves, I worked as the communications and public affairs rep for the Silent Wings Museum in Lubbock. It was such an honor to help tell the unique story of our WWII Glider Pilots. This is where I learned about Tom Lea's service (we sold the book *'The Two Thousand Yard Stare'* in the gift shop), his distinctive perspective of the world at war, and devotion to express this story. Unknowingly, at a young age, I remember seeing his sketches and illustrations in my favorite books and grand works hanging in prominence – it was a jolt when the artist of those separate pieces became someone I had admired for most of my life! I truly appreciate the Institute's efforts in keeping a priceless legacy alive for other generations. I cannot wait to visit El Paso to see them in person!"

– JOE ESPARZA

BECOME A MEMBER

Keep up with the latest events and support the Institute.

Membership levels and benefits are listed online.

It's easy to join at TomLea.com.

ONLINE

TomLea.com

Follow the Institute on social media.



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Christy Gonzalez
Marketing & Events
Manager

Patricia Rosas Ladd
Finance Manager

Javier Segovia
Education & Collections
Manager

Arturo Flores
Membership &
Operations Manager

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tom Lea Month 2019

Plans for Tom Lea Month 2019 are well under way! Anchored on the theme of the “75th Anniversary of the Landing on Peleliu,” there will be events along the Tom Lea Trail and in the Borderland region.

Enthusiastic partners are hosting great events: The National Museum of the Pacific War, Fredericksburg; National WWII Museum, New Orleans; Harry Ransom Center, UT Austin; Ellen Noel Museum, Odessa; Universidad Autónoma Ciudad Juárez; and Gerald Peters Gallery, Santa Fe. The signature events for El Paso are an exhibition of Tom Lea’s iconic LIFE Magazine paintings at the El Paso Museum of Art, and a multimedia presentation of Tom’s art synced to music, Dmitri Shostakovich’s *Leningrad Symphony No. 7*, with the El Paso Symphony Orchestra. We are looking for sponsors to underwrite our events – both individuals and companies benefit from extensive publicity and perks! For the past twelve years, the Institute has highlighted the history and culture of Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico through the celebration of Tom Lea Month.

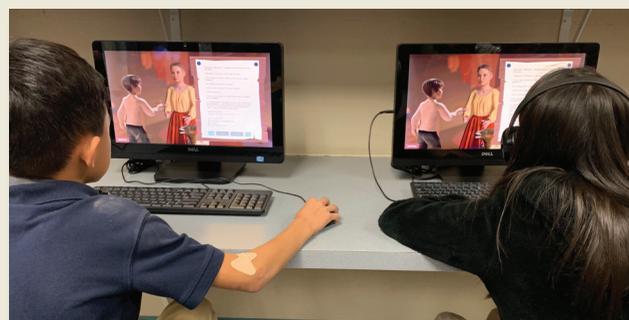


Evolving with the Times

Big changes are in the works at the Tom Lea Institute. As Executive Director, I began by reviewing Institute operations with fresh eyes. As a result, we have recalibrated our focus to increase capacity to provide more innovative programming, education, tours and publications. While some members of staff have moved on, others have joined the team. Christy Gonzalez spearheads marketing and events. With an extensive background from a New York City advertising firm – one of her clients was Rockefeller Center – and experience as a former Sun Princess and reality TV star, Christy is helping us to better connect with our members and the public. Patricia Rosas Ladd, from Cd. Juárez, oversees finances. Her experience as an accountant has made her an invaluable addition. Javier Segovia is a graduate of UTEP with a focus in Borderland history and museum studies. Both degrees are an ideal complement to his role overseeing education and collections. Lyn McKinley, veteran reporter and writer, weaves together narratives in

grants for fund development. Arturo Flores, or “Mr. Personality,” heads up membership and operations. His tenure harkens to when he worked for Adair Margo Gallery and then with Adair to found the Institute back in 2009.

Finally, check out the three-minute video that recaps last year’s festivities, starring Javier and Christy, on our YouTube channel by searching Tom Lea Month 2018.



Third-graders at Borrego Elementary test the new game.

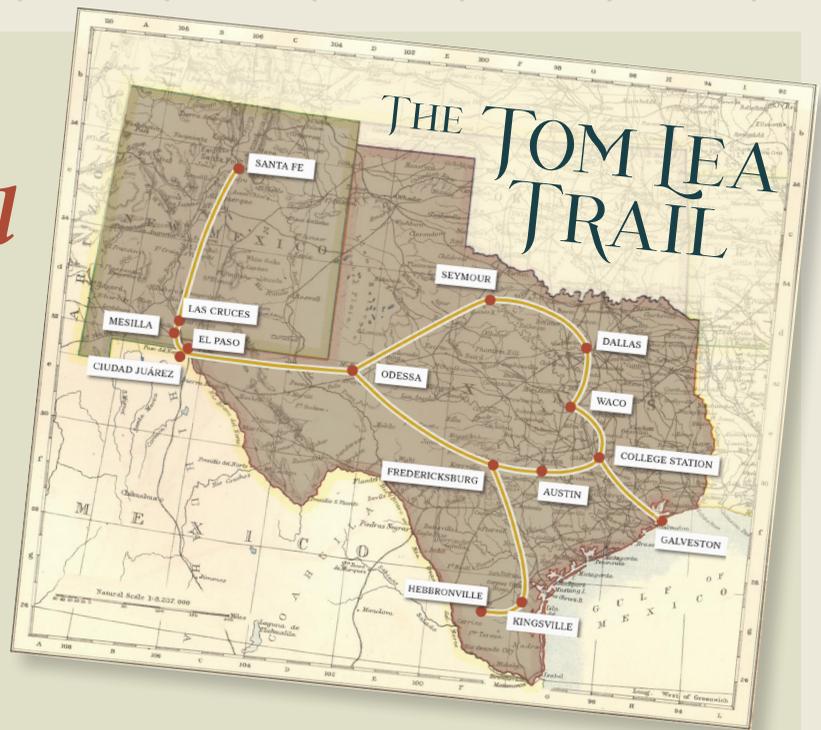
Education

We are constantly seeking ways to engage new generations with the art and writing of Tom Lea. In April we piloted a video game for our third-grade curriculum, *Mighty Horses on El Camino Real*. Students navigate challenges while they travel with the Oate Expedition in 1598. In partnership with XII Travelers, Inc.; the Consulate of Mexico; Sarah Farms; MCAD; and Michael Klein Foundation, the game took over a year to create. Georgina Diaz and Monica Velarde, instructional officers with San Elizario ISD, worked with us to create the classroom curriculum that accompanies the video game. The development team at UTEP Academic Technologies and I descended upon Borrego Elementary to test the video game with third-graders. Questions like: *Will it work? Will they like it? Did they learn?* were at the forefront of our minds. The third-graders rendered their verdict. They loved it! We hope to roll out the curriculum district-wide in 2020 to correspond with the celebration of the First Thanksgiving. The blended ELAR, art and social studies curriculum will be available for other districts, also. Please contact hcobb@tomlea.net.

– Holly Packard Cobb, Executive Director

Events Along the Tom Lea Trail

THIS year during Tom Lea Month, Tom Lea art extends itself far beyond the Southwest region, inviting followers of his work to hit the road and enjoy the show! Events take place in Odessa, Santa Fe, Austin, Fredericksburg, and New Orleans. Don't wait until October, though. Right now, Tom Lea art can be found in San Antonio and Ft Worth. Read on to learn more.



And There He Was, 1970. Oil on Canvas, 34 X 48. Collector unknown.

Cattle Raisers Museum

THE Cattle Raisers Museum in Fort Worth, Texas, is currently holding an exhibition titled *Tom Lea: Western Beef Cattle*, that showcases the work of the legendary Texas artist. On loan from the Dallas Museum of Art, the exhibition is a series of eleven paintings that highlight the artist's admiration of the cattle raising profession.

Commissioned by LIFE Magazine, the paintings present a powerful meditation on the role of cattle in

Texas history. The exhibit opened March 30 and is on display through June 29.



Sarah in the Summertime, 1947, Oil on canvas, 69" x 28", Collection of Catherine Lea Weeks.

Witte Museum

A major exhibition opens at the Witte Museum in San Antonio, Texas, from May 4 through mid-September called *The Art of Texas: 250 Years*. Artists range from 19th century Theodore Gentilz to 20th century Georgia O'Keeffe and, of course, Tom Lea. The more than one hundred art pieces will include a mural by John Biggers, a sculpture by Jesús Moroles, and a painting by Julian Onderdonk, *Chili Queens at the Alamo*, that once graced the Oval Office during President George W. Bush's time in the White House. Tom Lea's *Sarah In the Summertime* is on loan from Catherine Lea Weeks' private collection.

Take a Tour of Ciudad Juárez

A historical tour of Ciudad Juárez lead by El Paso's first lady, Adair Margo, is a unique event we can't wait for you to experience! This walking tour is designed for two audiences – those who frequent our Sister City and those who haven't yet set foot in Mexico. Tom Lea's work is heavily inspired by the history of both sides of the border. He captured that history in the work we see today.

An attendee of the tour said, "We live right on the border neighboring Mexico and everyone should experience this; we had the time of our lives! It's important that people see how beautiful and historical is our sister city Ciudad Juárez."

Learn more about the rich culture and



incredible history of our region. Join us every third Thursday of the month as our founder takes us on a walking tour of historic Juárez. Sign up for our emails, visit our social media pages, or visit TomLea.com for more details and to RSVP for our next tour.



Southwest, 1956, Oil on canvas, 5 ½ x 20 feet, Gift of the artist to the El Paso Public Library, TX.

Mural Unveiled in New Location

SOUTHWEST by Tom and Sarah Lea, which originally hung at the El Paso Public Library, is now proudly displayed at the El Paso History Museum while renovations continue at the public library. The unveiling event on March 21 was hosted by EPMH with hors d'oeuvres, wine, and speeches by Mayor Dee Margo, First Lady Adair Margo, and MCAD Director Tracey Jerome. Make time to go and see this beautiful masterpiece at EPMH; it's been given new life in its temporary home and we'd love for you to experience it!

Research Fellowship

THE Tom Lea Fellowship is available for 2019 liberal arts majors, including education majors, both undergraduate and graduate students and faculty. It was created to support humanities research that deepens scholarship about Tom Lea. Funded by Dee and Adair Margo, it demonstrates their commitment to investing in students and faculty at UTEP. The \$2,500 fellowship is awarded to two individuals to conduct original research about Tom Lea's art. Applicants may reach out to the Office of the Dean in the College of Liberal Arts at UTEP for more information.

Casas Grandes Remembered

ON the evening of May 23, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the El Paso Museum of History, Adair Margo will recount the captivating trip she took with artist Tom Lea; his wife, Sara; former First Lady Laura Bush; and others to Casas Grandes, Mexico, in 1989. Her story will focus on the birthplace of Mata Ortiz pottery and how some of Tom Lea's artwork was inspired by their venture.

INSTITUTE EVENTS



Retired TV reporter Sam Donaldson talks with attendees.

Paint & Ink

ON a bright, sunny April 4, retired ABC news reporter Sam Donaldson packed out the Centennial Museum as he spoke about Tom Lea's WWII experience. During his career, Donaldson covered six presidential elections, Watergate, the war in Vietnam, the First Gulf War, and was the chief White House correspondent during the administrations of Presidents Reagan, Nixon and Clinton. Donaldson shared stories of heroism and sacrifice in the life of a war correspondent in an insightful presentation containing iconic images and accounts surrounding WWII by Founder Adair Margo.

The event concluded with an entertaining Q&A session with Donaldson. Our *Paint & Ink: The Life of a War Correspondent* event was truly one for the books, and we'd like to thank our friends over at WestStar Bank for helping sponsor this incredible event.



Crystal Long, CEO of GECU, was this year's I Love EP speaker.

I Love EP

THE *I Love EP* event is hosted every February. It represents the love Tom and Sara Lea shared for the Sun City and their commitment to sowing good seed into local ground and watching El Paso grow into what it is today. This year, we were thrilled to welcome Crystal Long, CEO of GECU and long-time El Paso advocate, as our speaker. On March 29, members and guests met at the UTEP Graduate Business Center to enjoy lunch and hear Long discuss her love for El Paso and the Tom Lea Institute. Long spoke of her business' mission to focus on community and exceptional work, two efforts she felt Tom Lea incorporated into his life's work very well. Guests left feeling proud to be El Pasoans and encouraged to leave their mark on our growing Sun City. Our *I Love EP* event continues to inspire those who attend and we're already looking forward to next year.

Ciudad Nueva Field Trip

THE Ciudad Nueva after-school program joined us at the Tom Lea Institute to learn more about Tom Lea and Downtown El Paso. More than 35 middle school students learned about El Paso's rich history through the *Pass of the North* mural, where Lea captures giants who once walked this region. Lea was a man ahead of his time and students were filled with excitement to learn how much he loved our community. The middle schoolers left the institute filled with pride for the borderland region. Email jsegovia@tomlea.net to schedule a tour for your group.



Leaders for Ciudad Nueva.

Heritage Tours: Unique Travel Experiences for Members

Belgium & NATO

Board member Trudy Lewis:

TRAVELING the Tom Lea Trail” took on a new meaning in March when members of the Institute and friends flew to Brussels, Belgium, to support the Trail and its European connections.

The 20-plus group were there at the invitation of Kay Bailey Hutchison, former U.S. senator and current U.S. ambassador to NATO. The purpose of the trip was to promote the Trail to European visitors and to enlighten them about Tom Lea’s Italian inspiration and connection.

The highlight of the trip was our visit to NATO headquarters followed by reception and dinner afterward



at Truman Hall, the ambassador’s residence. Kay and her staff provided a tour of the shiny and modern new NATO building and then we drove to her residence in the countryside near Brussels. Claudio Bisogniero, the Italian ambassador, delighted us with his memories of the

U.S. He has visited all 50 states but likes Texas best. After a presentation by an art historian, we enjoyed dinner and discussion with other ambassadors and staff.

All in all, a fascinating and rewarding trip, and one that we feel is sure to encourage European guests to come and enjoy our Tom Lea Trail. Thanks Holly and Adair.

Puebla, Mexico

Board member Cecilia Hager:

Iwould recommend visiting the ancient city of Puebla on your next trip to Mexico. The trip beautifully combined the themes of Baroque architecture and the breeding of Brave Bulls, in homage to Tom Lea’s admiration of them. The group was treated to guided tours of magnificent Baroque churches from the 16th and 17th centuries, each one meticulously carved and ornamented, taking decades for artisans to complete. This tour was followed by a private tour of the Ganaderia Rancho Seco, including a highlight of a small “corrida” that showed matadors in training and a demonstration of the Portuguese tradition of *forcadores*, who grab the bull’s head and wrestle it to submission.

Nightcaps at the fabulous terrace of the Rosewood Puebla hotel refreshed each evening and new friendships were forged. All in all, a most fascinating and enjoyable experience!



Leadership El Paso

The group joined us on a private walking tour of Downtown El Paso with our founder, Adair Margo.

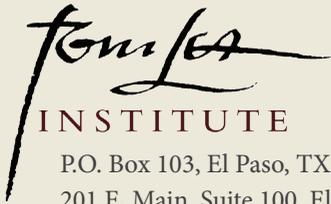
WHAT an awesome and unforgettable experience it was to take part in the Tom Lea Walking Tour. When you have lived in El Paso for a long time or grown up here you start to forget how much wonderful art is all around us and what a huge role Tom Lea played. I had no idea the number of murals and artwork I walk by every day done by this amazing artist. The insight and knowledge I learned on the tour has provided me with a better understanding of the time and effort he put into creating these incredible pieces and enhanced my appreciation of his talent and gifts to our city.”

– Rick Cabrera

“Joining the Tom Lea Walking Tour lead by Adair Margo was an absolute blessing. The tour is an inspirational experience full of invaluable insights on multiple aspects of the works of Tom Lea. Thank you for cultivating the appreciation on the legacy of an extraordinary artist.”

– Alan R. Delhumeau

»» Visit us at TomLea.com to see our Brussels and Puebla trip recaps along with our 2018 Sponsorship video.



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COLLECTIONS

Suitcase and Letter Add Depth to Lea's Story



Tom Lea, right, with Maud Sullivan and J. Frank Dobie, 1939. BELOW: Lea's suitcase.



AN interesting find made its way to the Tom Lea Institute. Alice D. Gunter, who had a suitcase that Tom Lea illustrated in *A Grizzly from the Coral Sea*, reached out to the Institute, informing us of her treasure. This suitcase was not only shown in a painting by Lea, but was actually owned by him and accompanied him throughout his travels in China and the Far East. Alice was kind enough to give us the suitcase, as she believed the Institute would be the best place to preserve and appreciate it.

Along with the suitcase, a letter from Lea was given to the Institute by Kurt Goetting. Lea wrote this sympathy letter on April 16, 1943,

to Kurt Goetting's grandmother and El Paso librarian, Maud Durlin Sullivan, upon the death of her husband. Tom expresses his condolences and shows his admiration for her work.

Donations are preserved properly and placed into our digital library where they are available for study. The over 6,000 images in our ever-growing digital library ensure that the record of art, sketches, and papers are available for use by scholars and publications.

We are interested in collecting and/or cataloguing anything related to Tom Lea. Please contact us at jsegovia@tomlea.net to schedule a tour or view the collection.