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TOM LEA CELEBRATION GIVING CIRCLE

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XII TRAVELERS \$100,000+ Contributors

Established by the Tom Lea Institute in 2011, the Society of the XII Travelers is comprised of the first twelve \$100,000 contributors to the Tom Lea Institute. The 1.25-million-dollar endowment will provide a percentage of the annual operating costs for the Tom Lea Institute.



Tom Lea INSTITUTE
P.O. Box 103, El Paso, TX 79941
513 W. San Antonio Ave., Suite C, 79901

TOM LEA CELEBRATION 2023-24
THE TOM LEA TRAIL TO GO
In partnership with **TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**
TomLea.com

Our program is brought to you with the support of:
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS
Texas Commission on the Arts
Texas Commission on the Arts



EVENTS:
View and RSVP here

COVER PAINTING: Lea, T. *Medicine Eagle* [oil on canvas] 50.8 x 50.8 cm. Collection of HRRHC, U.T. Austin. © Catherine Lea Weeks



TOM LEA CELEBRATION | 2023-24



THE TOM LEA TRAIL: TO GO

INSIDE: **EVENTS CELEBRATING OUR NEW MOBILE WEBSITE**

"I do know and state what my pictures are intended to be: not exercises in aesthetics or performances for the sake of technique, but records and representations of experience in life. I wish they could express my thanksgiving at morning when I open my eyes and another day stands waiting."

— Lea, T. (1968). *A Picture Gallery: Paintings and Drawings*. Little Brown & Company.

EXPLORE THE LEGACY OF A GREAT AMERICAN ARTIST

THE TOM LEA TRAIL ... in the palm of your hand

Join us in celebrating the launch of the Tom Lea Trail Mobile Website in partnership with the Texas Historical Commission. This year, we are thrilled to present the most inclusive collection of events along the Trail, bringing you an opportunity to discover the beauty of Texas through the eyes of the renowned artist Tom Lea. Through his art, Tom Lea captures the essence of the Southwest and invites you to experience life beyond the mundane.

Our partners have gone above and beyond to make this celebration truly unforgettable. The town of Seymour, for instance, will host the Tom Lea Trail & Heritage Tradeshaw, a day-long extravaganza. Additionally, the Bush Presidential Library will extend its extraordinary hospitality by hosting an open house event in conjunction with the Tom Lea Trail. Universities like UTEP and Texas Tech will also join in the festivities, offering distinguished talks, walking tours, and delightful small bites, all centered around Tom Lea's exceptional art. Immerse yourself in the stories behind his masterpieces and gain a deeper understanding of their significance. For those seeking a taste of authentic Texas ranching culture, the Hebronville Celebration Old Jail Museum Exhibit, Activities, and Ranch Tour will provide an unmatched experience.

Access our mobile website to learn more about the sites along the trail. You can see it by scanning the QR code provided below. Additionally, an electronic copy of the events brochure is available at TomLea.com for your convenience. We encourage you to mark your calendars and register for the events that interest you. Invite your friends and family to join you. Together, let's celebrate Tom Lea's legacy and the Southwest's vibrant spirit.

Warmly,

Holly Cobb

Holly Packard Cobb, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



SEE the mobile site in action

TOM LEA CELEBRATION | 2023-24

EVENTS ALONG The Tom Lea Trail

RSVP TO ALL EVENTS ➔ TomLea.com

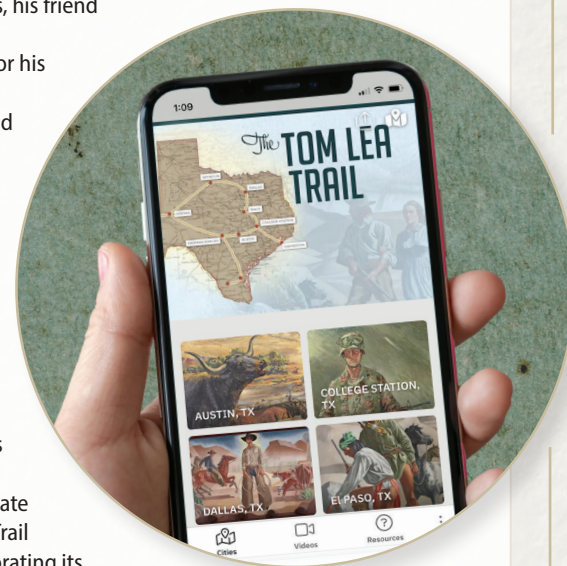
INTRODUCING THE

Tom Lea Trail Mobile Website

DATE/TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED

When John Connally was governor of Texas, his friend C.R. Smith, founder of American Airlines, commissioned Tom Lea to paint a picture for his office. The subject Tom Lea chose was two Texas Rangers – Captain James B. Gillett and George W. Baylor (Gillett's father-in-law). Gillette described in his book *Six Years with the Texas Rangers, 1875 to 1881*, as riding in the "wonderful country." This created the inspiration for Tom's 1952 novel *The Wonderful Country*. Tom Lea painted *Ranger Escort West of the Pecos* as a way to capture the southwest. The painting hung in the offices of Governors William Clements and George W. Bush and is currently displayed in the Governor's Business Office. Join distinguished guests at an official announcement in the Texas State Capitol launching the innovative Tom Lea Trail mobile website and a reception commemorating its contribution to heritage tourism.

TEXAS STATE CAPITOL • 1100 Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701



JAN
11
THURSDAY
5 PM

GEORGE W. BUSH PRESIDENTIAL MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE

Step into the Oval Office to see Tom Lea's *Rio Grande* – the painting President George W. Bush pointed to when quoting the artist about living on the "sunrise side of the mountain." Learn how a painting about far West Texas belonging to Dallasites Robert and Maureen Decherd came to be displayed in the most powerful place in the world – the Oval Office, a room President Bush wanted to be filled with light and optimism. Join Adair Margo, founder of the Tom Lea Institute, who served President Bush as chairman of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, as she shares deeper meanings to be found in Tom Lea's work. Enjoy the warm hospitality of the Bush Center after hours while celebrating its inclusion on the Tom Lea Trail.

GEORGE W. BUSH PRESIDENTIAL MUSEUM
2943 SMU Boulevard, Dallas, TX 75205

JAN
21
SUNDAY
2 PM

HALL OF STATE PRESENTATION AND RECEPTION

The spectacular Hall of State, built for the Texas Centennial in 1936, boasts two Tom Lea murals in its West Texas Room, now the Dealey Library. One mural shows a pioneer family coming to settle the land, and the other depicts a lanky cowboy with the lasso in hand, possessing an unpretentious grandeur. Luciano Cheles, an Italian Renaissance scholar, commented that they are almost "holy." Might it be that the arcs over the family in the covered wagon reference the vaulted ceiling of a church? Or could it be that the light surrounding the cowboy alludes to a halo? Join a young champion roper, along with David Lee, curator and Kaitlyn Price, education, from The Hall of State for an afternoon of inspiration and fun with wine and charcuterie.

HALL OF STATE • 3939 Grand Ave., Dallas, TX 75210

FEB
8
THURSDAY
5:30 PM

I LOVE EL PASO

In 1968, Tom Lea described in *A Picture Gallery* how fortunate he was to be born on the border "where two nations and two peoples meet, where more than one mode of life and one mode of thought are in constant confrontation to test and to broaden and to deepen one's view of the world." For this year's I Love El Paso event, we'll hear from a couple at the center of bi-national relationships – the Consul General of Mexico in El Paso, Mauricio Ibarra Ponce de León, and his wife, Kathy Towle. Holly Cobb, Executive Director of the Tom Lea Institute, will interview them and gain up-close and personal insights about how this extraordinary and beloved couple navigates marriage, family, and a high-pressure career. Join us for a fun, informative evening with wine, traditional Mexican light bites, and music.

CONSULATE OF MEXICO
910 E. San Antonio Ave., El Paso, TX 79901



MAR
23
SATURDAY
10 AM

TEXAS RANGER HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum is the proud owner of three original Tom Lea works. The paintings are: *A Little Shady, Yonder's Fort Fisher*, and *Here's a Recruit*, the drawing for Captain James B. Gillett. The drawing is from his *Ranger Escort West of the Pecos* painting, found in the Texas State Capitol. One of the books in Tom Lea's father's den was *Six Years with the Texas Rangers, 1875 to 1881*, by "Ex-Sergeant" Captain Gillett, from *Company "A," Frontier Battalion*, which was the influence for his bestselling novel *The Wonderful Country*. The museum brings the lives of the Texas Rangers to life through its large collection of badges, firearms, tack, and personal gear, some items dating back to the 1850s. Join Bob Alexander, the award-winning author of more than 18 books, for an illuminating talk about the inspiration for the paintings and a western-themed reception.

TEXAS RANGER HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM • 100 Texas Ranger Trail, Waco, TX 76706



ART CREDITS
SEPT. 28 IMAGE: Lea, T. (1985) *View of UTEP* (Casein Tempera) 15" x 20". Collection of C.L. Sonnenhisen Special Collections Department, UTEP Library.
OCT. 12 IMAGE: Lea, T. (1965) *The First Recorded Surgical Operation in North America: Cabeza de Vaca 1535* (chinese ink) 20" x 28". Collection of Moody Medical Library, U.T. Medical Branch, Galveston, TX.
OCT. 20 IMAGE: Lea, T. (1974) *The Original Press logo* [ink]. Courtesy of Texas A&M Press
OCT. 26 IMAGE: Lea, T. (1960) *Pasaron Por Aqui* [Granite lintel over Brown Street door] Collection of the International Museum of Art, El Paso, TX.
NOV. 14 IMAGE: Lea, T. (1940) *Stampede* [oil on canvas] 5 1/2" x 16". Post Office, Odessa, TX, on loan to Ellen Noel Museum.
MARCH 23 IMAGE: Lea, T. (1965) *Ranger Escort West of the Pecos* [oil on canvas] 36" x 52". Collection of FHRHC, U.T. Austin.
APRIL 13 IMAGE: Lea, T. (1942) *Comanches*, mural, [oil on canvas] 5' x 13' 17". Post Office, Seymour, TX.
© Catherine Lea Weeks.

SEPT
28
THURSDAY
5:30 PM

TOM LEA AND FRIENDS WALKING TOUR AND RECEPTION

In 1918, when Tom Lea was an 11-year-old boy, the Texas School of Mines and Metallurgy (UTEP) was constructed in the Bhutanese style. He grew to love the thick-walled campus of UTEP and commemorated some of its significant milestones with his art in 1936, 1965, and 1984. While in Providence Memorial Hospital for heart trouble, he sketched UTEP's layout, giving the sketch to his cardiologist as a memento. Today the finished casein tempera is displayed in the office of UTEP President Heather Wilson and will be on view in the Centennial Museum as part of this tour. Be captivated by Lea's work alongside other artists such as Peter Hurd, Sebastian, Salvador Lopez, Diego Medina, José Cisneros, Urbici Soler, and Carl Hertzog. The tour will end on the balcony of the Library's Special Collections, where we'll enjoy spectacular sunset views of *Paso del Norte* with the Juárez Mountains and Mount Cristo Rey sharp against the sky.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO COLLEGE OF EDUCATION BUILDING
500 W. University Ave., El Paso, TX 79968



OCT
20
FRIDAY
2-5 PM

THE LAND, SPACE, AND SEA

Tom Lea designed the logo for Texas A&M Press in 1974 at the request of press founder Frank Wardlaw. Influenced by his time in China during World War II, Tom Lea designed a pictogram for Texas A&M Press that communicates its beginnings as a land-grant (1876) and sea-grant (1971) university. Today the university holds the triple designation of a land-grant, sea-grant, and space-grant university, one of 24 in the nation. The press is the primary publisher of books about Tom Lea, including *The Art of Tom Lea* and *Tom Lea's World War II*. While visiting Texas A&M Press, visitors will see the Frank Wardlaw collection of art and original Tom Lea drawings. Dr. Jay Dew, director at Texas A&M University Press, will offer remarks on the relationship between Lea and Texas A&M Press while we enjoy refreshments.

TEXAS A&M PRESS OPEN HOUSE
4354 Lewis St., College Station, TX 77843

NOV
9
FRIDAY
5:30 PM

MUSIC THROUGHOUT THE DECADES

Experience different decades of music and art at the El Paso Museum of History. Dr. Nayeli Dousa, professor of music at UTEP and another Tom Lea Fellow recipient, has paired the music of three different eras with Tom Lea's artworks, capturing something of each era. Tom Lea's art is renowned for its connection to the American Southwest and includes his *Pass of the North* mural (1938); *Sarah in the Summertime* (1947), and *Southwest* mural (1956). While playing the piano, Dr. Dousa will be accompanied by vocalist José Mario Sanchez Soledad. Join a festive reception afterward.

EL PASO MUSEUM OF HISTORY
510 N. Santa Fe St., El Paso, TX 79901



OCT
5
THURSDAY
5:30 PM

NEW DEAL, NEW FRIENDSHIP

A captivating presentation that explores the relationship between Tom Lea and fellow artist José Aceves, who also entered the New Deal competition for the El Paso Federal Courthouse mural that Tom Lea won in 1937. Though Aceves lost the competition, he persevered and worked hard, helping Tom Lea adhere the canvas to the wall where Lea painted his *Pass of the North* mural. Dr. Miguel Juárez, UTEP History, Humanities and Women's Studies lecturer, delves into Aceves' contributions to the arts in the Southwest and sheds light on his association with Tom Lea. A Mexican celebration with *ballet folklorico* will follow.

UTEP CENTENNIAL MUSEUM
500 W. University Ave., El Paso, TX 79968



OCT
26
THURSDAY
5:30 PM

PASARON POR AQUI

The architectural firm Carroll and Daeuble designed new wings for the Turney Mansion, which accommodated the Kress Collection for the El Paso Museum of Art in 1960. The east wing provided a lower, outside entrance to art classrooms and a theater for children. Tom Lea designed a lintel for the stairwell door. For his design he chose three types of headdresses and the words "PASARON POR AQUI." The words are similar to his *Pass of the North* mural which represents the diverse cultures that came through El Paso. Join us for a presentation by The Ysleta del Sur Pueblo (Tigua Natives) about the significance of the warbonnet and a traditional dance by the Social Dance Group.

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART • 1211 Montana Ave., El Paso, TX 79902

NOV
14
TUESDAY
5:30 PM

NEW DEAL MURALS

Tom Lea's 1940 *Stampede* mural is a masterpiece of the New Deal era, a time when art lifted the spirits of the American people during difficult times. Originally installed high over the stamp windows at the Odessa Post Office, Tom based the scene on the cowboy poem *Little Joe the Wrangler*, bringing regional history to life. After the mural was moved to a wall in a 24-hour facility and was severely damaged, Odessans came together to save it. They struck a deal with the U.S. Postal Service in 2014 to restore the painting and move it into the Ellen Noel Museum. Join Phillip Parisi, author of *Texas Post Office Murals*, on a journey around the state. He will discuss the themes and significance of WPA murals and how fortunate communities are to have them. Light bites and conversation follow the presentation.

MUSEUM OF THE SOUTHWEST, MIDLAND
1705 W. Missouri Ave., Midland, TX 79701

DEC
7
THURSDAY
5:30 PM

TOM LEA FELLOW PRESENTATIONS

Established by Dee and Adair Margo in 2013 to advance the understanding of Tom Lea's art and writing, the Tom Lea fellowship is offered annually to UTEP students and faculty. After studying Tom Lea's paintings and murals of authentic southwestern characters and landscapes, MFA candidate Zazil Collins will present *Tom Lea, an Eco-poetic Vision* in prose and poetry. Eric Chavez, a Ph.D. candidate conducting research in the National Archives, will follow by sharing his observations. He will discuss how Tom Lea's murals relate culturally and politically to different waves of muralism. After the presentations, join the speakers for a lively discussion and reception.

THE RUBIN CENTER
500 W. University Ave., El Paso, TX 79968

OCT
12
THURSDAY
5:30 PM

THE EVOLUTION THE SAGITTECTOMY

Join us in learning about the *First Recorded Surgical Operation in North America* at the first medical school on the US/Mexican border. Dr. Alan Tyroch, founding chair of surgery and trauma medical director, will explore *Cabeza de Vaca's Journey* as recorded in *La Relación*. Cabeza de Vaca was one of Tom Lea's recurring characters. For the 50th anniversary of the Texas Surgical Society in 1965, he created a sketch that can be found in the lobby of Medical Sciences Building II on the TTUHSC El Paso campus, gifted by El Paso plastic surgeon Ronald Gum and his wife, Mary Ann. The ink wash painting is on display at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, and the drawing at the Medical Sciences Building II. Dean Jeanne Novotney believed in the nobility and determination of Lea's historic heroes, which helps inspire nursing students today. See the archetypes of El Paso history from Tom's 1938 *Pass of the North* mural in the lobby of the Nursing Building on the TTUHSC El Paso campus. Dean Stephanie Woods and President Rick Lange will join us for wine and Native American light bites afterward, celebrating TTUHSC El Paso's inclusion on the Tom Lea Trail.

WOODY L. HUNT SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE AT TTUHSC EL PASO • 137 Rick Francis St., El Paso, TX 79905



MAR
2
SATURDAY
10 AM-4 PM

SOUTHWEST EXPERIENCE

Deep in the brush country of South Texas lie the ruins of the old horse ranch called Rancho Randado, where splendid Spanish horses were once bred. Tom Lea's visit to the 1767 site with J. Frank Dobie stirred feelings he knew could not be reached by paint on canvas, but had to be expressed in words. All that remained in 1940 were a handful of residents, the bodega, the beautiful historic San Rafael Chapel, the cemetery, and the owner's ranch house. Tom had his glimpse into the joys and sorrows of trying to speak from the heart on a piece of paper. The Jim Hogg County Old Jail Museum will open "Tom Lea's Randado," a site along the Tom Lea Trail, where guests will enjoy honored speakers, South Texas refreshments, and a rare guided tour of Rancho Randado by its owner.

JIM HOGG COUNTY OLD JAIL MUSEUM
105 E. Santa Clara St., Hebbbronville, TX 78361



APR
13
SATURDAY
10 AM

TOM LEA TRAIL & HERITAGE TRADESHOW

Seymour, Texas, is yet another place where visitors can immerse themselves in the captivating world of Tom Lea. Feel inspired by the bustling streets of historic towns and see the awe-inspiring landscapes he painted. The Heritage Tradeshow will present skills and artistry such as blacksmithing, woodworking, weaving, and more. Engage with the artisans, learn their stories, and witness first-hand the magic that goes into creating timeless

masterpieces. Janice Thornhill, director of Baylor County Museum, will tell the story of before the Red River Revolt. The time is represented in Lea's mural *Comanches*, which was painted for the Seymour Post Office in 1941. Learn about the lives of the Comanches through the musical sounds of drumbeats and Native dancers.

U.S. POST OFFICE
210 N. Washington St., Seymour, TX 76380

