



# Museums of Port Isabel

## Press Release

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## **Ladrillos y Mezcla (Brick & Mortar)**

### **The History of Brick and Its Contribution to the Architecture of the Lower Rio Grande Corridor ~ A New Traveling Exhibit produced by MoPI**

*Ladrillos Y Mezcla (Brick & Mortar): The History of Brick and Its Contribution to the Architecture of the Lower Rio Grande Corridor* will open on Friday August 18, 2006 at the Treasures of the Gulf Museum. This traveling exhibit produced by the Museums of Port Isabel (MoPI) will be displayed at the Treasures of the Gulf Museum in Port Isabel from August 18 through September 16 and will travel to the Brownsville Heritage Complex and other venues there after.

Inspired by the research and presentation of the history of brick in the Rio Grande Valley by local businessman, artist, historian and architect Manuel Hinojosa, this exhibit will explore the history of bricks and architecture of the lower Rio Grande Valley corridor through historic photographs, artifacts, and drawings.

The origin of brick making in the lower Rio Grande River borderlands evolved from the Mesoamerican and Spanish Colonial elements of centuries of adobe brick making. Shortages of rock building materials that were abundant in the early colonization of Nuevo Santander, was a major factor in the introduction of a clay-fired brick to the newly formed town site of Matamoros, Mexico. An eclectic architecture was then created when local brick masons incorporated Spanish, New Orleans and later classical elements into building details on both sides of the Rio Grande River. The handmade brick industry continued to manifest during the 1900s, when the new economy was fueled by the creation of new cities by the Anglo-American migrations to the Rio Grande Valley. Entry into exhibit will be included with a general admission ticket.

In conjunction with the exhibition, “*Telling Our Stories*” oral history program will feature Manuel Hinojosa as the guest speaker on Thursday, August 31, at 7:00 p.m. at the Treasures of the Gulf Museum. The topic will be “The History of Bricks in the Rio Grande River Corridor”. The presentation will be free and refreshments will be served.

The exhibit is sponsored and supported by the Museums of Port Isabel, City of Port Isabel, Port Isabel Economic Development Corporation, Laguna Madre Museum Foundation, Manuel Hinojosa, Valerie Bates/Rio Bravo Gallery, and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

The Museums of Port Isabel’s mission is to preserve and promote the art, history and culture of the Laguna Madre area through displays, programs, events, and celebrations. For more information, call the Museums of Port Isabel at (956) 943-7602.

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Museums of Port Isabel • 317 E. Railroad Ave. • Port Isabel • (956) 943-7602

*Thank you for helping us preserve the history of the Laguna Madre area.*

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