

MIKAELA SELLEY

Archivist, Curator, Consultant

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SUMMARY

Archivist, curator, and consultant for cultural heritage projects. Over ten years of experience in archival processing, community engagement programming, oral history, and exhibit design. Project management skills with experience managing digitization projects and exhibit installation efforts. Subject matter specialist in Houston Hispanic history and knowledgeable of the various local Hispanic heritage efforts at the community and institutional levels.

EDUCATION

University of North Texas

Graduate Certificate in Archival Management
2020 - 2022

University of Houston

M.A., Public History
2010 - 2013

University of Houston

B.A., Communications | Minor in History
2005 - 2009

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Archival Processing
- Collections Care & Handling
- Digitization
- Exhibition Planning & Design
- Oral History Projects
- Public History Programming
- Research in Archives
- Training Materials Design & Instruction

CERTIFICATIONS

Academy of Certified Archivists

Certified Archivist
2016, renewed in 2023

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Curator/Consultant

Mikaela Selley Consulting
2021 - Present

- Research, strategic planning, and archival records processing for personal, business, and cultural heritage projects.
- Exhibition planning and design
- Speaker for archives and local history subjects

Archivist, Program Manager

Recovering the US Hispanic Literary Heritage, Arte Público Press 2021 - present (part-time)

- Oversees the Periodicals in the US-Mexico Border Region, a grant-funded project to digitize 200 newspapers.
- Aids in the Archival Infrastructure Plan, a grant-funded effort to assess and restructure the digital archival collections preservation strategy.
- Supervises a team of Research Assistants in the processing and digitization of archival collections
- Responsible for the creation and implementation of collections care policy and workflows
- Project Lead for plans to re-organize the Archival Storage Room
- Project Lead for community engagement efforts and special projects

Hispanic Collections Archivist

Houston History Research Center, Houston Public Library
2013 - 2021

- Responsible for the processing, preservation, and promotion of the Hispanic Archival Collections.
- Added 101.6 linear feet, 265 born-digital donations, and 60 oral histories to the collection
- Curated 4 large-scale exhibits with supplemental programming.
- Assisted in the creation of a new webpage dedicated to Hispanic and Latino history databases and resources, a first for the library homepage.
- Led the design of the first webpage on the Houston Public Library Digital Archive (HPLDA) dedicated to the Hispanic Archival Collections.

EXHIBITS

Inspiring Generations of Service: A Tribute to the Fraga Family

November 2023 | Permanent Installation
Baker Ripley, Ripley House (Houston, TX)

A Civil Rights Milestone: President Kennedy's Visit with LULAC in Houston

September 15, 2023 – January 15, 2024
The Heritage Society (Houston, TX)

Música! A History of Hispanic Sounds in Houston

August 24 – November 9, 2019
Julia Ideson Building (Houston, TX)

Remembering World War II: Houston's Latino Veterans

September – November 2015
Julia Ideson Building (Houston, TX)

When Camelot Came to Houston: John F. Kennedy and the League of United Latin American Citizens

November 2013 – March 2014
Julia Ideson Building (Houston, TX)

ORAL HISTORY

Houston Latina/o Leaders Oral History Project

August 2022 – present | Interviewer/Consultant

HPL Memory Project "Pandemic & Protest"

February 2021– June 2021 | Project Co-lead/Interviewer

Música Oral History Project

2019 | Project Lead

Latino/Latina Veterans of WWII Oral History Project

2015 | Project Co-Lead/Interviewer

Stories of the Northside Project

2015 | Project Co-Lead/Interviewer

JFK 50th Anniversary Oral History Project

2013 | Project Assistant

RESEARCH

Microsoft Hispanic Heritage Virtual Exhibit

Mexican American Civil Rights Institute
April – May 2022
Researcher/Content Writer

Book "Latinx Radical Youth Movements"

August 2021 – December 2022
Consulting Archivist/Researcher

ARCHIVAL RECORDS & DIGITIZATION

Periodicals in the US-Mexico Border Region

Project Manager | November 2021 – present
Oversees the digitization of 200 periodicals and content for the forthcoming research portal. Provides training and supervision of interns and collaborates with the web developer and IT department.
<https://latinonewspapers.uh.edu/>

City of Houston Artifacts Inventory

Consulting Archivist | October 2023 – December 2023
Lead the assessment, arrangement, and inventory for 100+ artifacts currently in the 11th Floor Storage Room. Supervised two Museum Studies interns.

Preservation of the LULAC National Office Records

Consulting Archivist | October 2023 – present
Leads the assessment, arrangement, and inventory for archival records of the LULAC National Office. Provides remote training and supervision of volunteers/interns onsite at the DC office.

C 60 Inc. Historic Clubhouse Records

Consulting Archivist | March 2023 – present
Leads the assessment, arrangement, and inventory for 27 boxes of archival records previously housed in the historic LULAC Clubhouse.

PUBLICATIONS

Book chapters

Forthcoming. "Old Timers, Hawks, and Gold Medals: Stories from the Latin American Tournament in Houston" National Latino Baseball History Project

"Houston" Mexican American Baseball in Houston and Southeast Texas, 2017 Arcadia

"Houston's Northside Archival Records Reveal a Unique History" Borderlines Volume 3, Fall 2015–Spring 2016. Voices Breaking Boundaries

Articles

"Research Portal for Border Newspapers to Launch Summer 2023!" [Southwestern Archivist, May 2023, Volume 46, Number 2](#)

"HMRC Announces Online Resource for Hispanic Archival Collections" [Southwestern Archivist, August 2018, Volume 41, Issue 3](#)

"Houston Metropolitan Research Center's High School Internship Program" [Southwestern Archivist, August 2016, Volume 39, Issue 3](#)

"Houston Public Library's Exhibit Celebrates a Mexican American Community" [Southwestern Archivist, November 2014, Volume 37, Issue 4](#)

["House Special: Mexican Food & Houston Politics"](#) Houston History Magazine, Fall 2011.

"Express Processing: Students Making Access a Priority" Collections! A Journal for Museum and Archives Professionals, Spring 2010.

"Express Processing" [Southwestern Archivist, Fall 2009](#).

PRESENTATIONS/SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

2020 - 2024

Presenter. "Periodicals in the US-Mexico Border Region" Recovering the US Hispanic Literary Heritage Conference. UHD, Houston, Texas [April 27, 2024]

Presenter. "[JFK LULAC Dinner Commemorative Exhibit](#)" Mexican American Civil Rights Institute (MACRI). Virtual. [November 14, 2023]

Co-presenter. "Periodicals in the US-Mexico Border Region" Association for Computers and the Humanities Conference. Virtual [June 29, 2023]

Co-facilitator. "Maintenance Culture Workshop" The Menil Collection. Houston, Texas [June 21-22, 2023]

Guest Speaker. "Picturing Youth Activism in the Chicano Movement" Lone Star College – University Park, Houston, Texas [March 1, 2023]

Presenter. "Periodicals in the US-Mexico Border Region" Real Places Conference, Austin, Texas [February 2, 2023]

Panelist. "Latino cARTographies" Center for Public History, Houston History Magazine. Heritage Society. Houston, Texas [October 27, 2022]

Co-presenter. "Providing access to Spanish language resources online" Society of Southwest Archivists Conference, Houston, Texas [May 20, 2022]

Co-panelist. "[Democratizing and Documenting Latinx Heritage](#)" Latinos in Heritage Conservation Conference, Denver, Colorado [April 29, 2022]

Co-presenter. "Periodicals in the US-Mexico Border Region" Recovering the US Hispanic Literary Heritage Conference. Virtual [April 9, 2022]

Guest Speaker. "Where Are the Archives?" Trinity University Archives Student Advocates (TUASA), Trinity University. Virtual. [November 17, 2021]

Guest Speaker. "The Archivist: A Creative Career" Dept. of English, Speaker Series: Literature Culture, Careers, University of Houston Downtown. Virtual. [November 4, 2021]

2014 - 2019

Co-presenter. "Managing a Local History Museum or Multicultural Special Collection" Texas Library Association Conference, Austin, Texas [April 16, 2019]

Presenter. "Selling Mexican Culture in Houston: A History of La Nacional Tortilla Factory" Houston Eats! Texas Gulf Coast Food in the Past, Present, and Future, Houston, Texas [February 2-3, 2018]

Presenter. "Preserving and Promoting Houston's Latina/o History at HMRC" Texas State Historical Association Conference, Houston, Texas [March 4, 2017]

Co-presenter. "Making Spanish-Language Oral Histories Accessible through Translation and Linguistic Studies." Recovering the US Hispanic Literary Heritage, 25th Anniversary Conference, Writing/Righting History, Houston, Texas [February 10, 2017]

Panelist. "Developing a National Platform – Part II: Institutions and Latin@ Preservation" Latinos in Heritage Conservation Conference, Houston, Texas [November 19, 2016]

Presenter. "Exhibits and Programming at Your Library" Texas Libraries Association Conference, Houston, Texas [April 19, 2016]

Presenter. "Research in the Archive" 2016 Annual Texas Libraries Association Conference, Houston, Texas [April 20, 2016]

Presenter. "Outreach, Awareness, and Collaboration – Hispanic Collections at HMRC" Society of Southwest Archivists Conference, Arlington, Texas [May 22, 2015]

Presenter. "Special Collections for Students: Helping Your Scholars Get the Most Out of Archives" Texas Libraries Association Conference, Austin, Texas [April 17, 2015]

Presenter. "History is Not Boring: Putting Houston Students in the Archives" 2015 National Association for Chicano/a Studies – Tejas FOCO, Houston, Texas [February 27, 2015]

Presenter. "Hispanic Archival Collections" 2nd Annual Raza Youth Conference, Houston, Texas, [November 22, 2014]

Presenter. "Resources from HMRC" 7th Annual Region IV Social Studies Conference, Houston, Texas, [January 18, 2014]