

Director

Gaspar Enriquez Cultural Center · San Elizario, Texas

Full-time independent contractor (1099) · On-site · Grant-funded three-year term · Anticipated start: November 1, 2026

About the Center

The Gaspar Enriquez Cultural Center (GECC) is an emerging community-based cultural institution in San Elizario, Texas, housed in Mi Casa Gallery — a historic adobe complex spanning an entire city block that artist Gaspar Enriquez has restored over the past thirty years. A renowned Chicano painter and longtime educator at Bowie High School in El Paso, Enriquez has built a legacy rooted as deeply in teaching and community as in his studio practice.

The GECC brings together artists, students, and community members through artist-led practices, environmental engagement, and the preservation of regional history. Originally developed under the Rubin Center for the Visual Arts at UTEP, the project has transitioned into an independent initiative with direct partnerships with the San Elizario Independent School District (SEISD). The Center operates under the fiscal sponsorship of the Paso del Norte Community Foundation and is working toward independent 501(c)(3) status.

Three thematic areas guide all programming:

- Artist-led practices
- Land, agriculture, and environment
- History of place

GECC is one of the only institutions in the region dedicated to the legacy of Chicano art as it has developed in the El Paso–Ciudad Juárez borderlands.

The Opportunity

This is a founding role. Supported by a three-year grant from the Mellon Foundation, the Director will be the Center's first full-time leader, responsible for implementing its vision, managing operations, coordinating programming, and building partnerships. The role is structured as an independent contractor engagement; see Engagement and Compensation below.

The position is designed as a meaningful leadership opportunity for an emerging or early-career arts professional from the region. The Director will not be building alone: they will work closely with an actively engaged board of directors and advisors with both local and national experience, and will be mentored by Gaspar Enriquez himself, who continues to steward Mi Casa Gallery and brings a perspective that cannot be replicated — the lived experience of building this space and the relationships with neighbors, artists, and institutions that have sustained it. That mentorship is understood as a central element of the Director's professional development.

Key Responsibilities

Programming

- Develop and produce artist-led projects and exhibitions in collaboration with community members
- Ensure programming is grounded in the Center's three thematic areas and in the history, ecology, and cultural life of San Elizario
- Plan community-based events and initiatives aligned with local cultural and historical contexts

Partnerships and education

- Build and sustain partnerships with SEISD and other regional school districts, connecting students with artists through workshops and curriculum-based engagement
- Maintain collaborations with UTEP providing hands-on learning in studio art, museum studies, public history, art education, and environmental humanities
- Represent GECC with regional organizations and within national conversations on Chicano art

Operations and organizational development

- Manage day-to-day operations, budgeting, and grant reporting in coordination with the fiscal sponsor
- Support the board and advisory board: meeting logistics, materials, and follow-through on governance work

- Lead fundraising and visibility efforts, growing the Center's base of support
- Support the transition toward independent 501(c)(3) status over the grant period
- Work alongside Gaspar Enriquez in the ongoing care and stewardship of the Mi Casa Gallery site

Who We're Looking For

This is a founding position at a young organization; the right candidate will be energized rather than daunted by that. We are less interested in a conventional résumé than in evidence that you can do this work and want to do it here, and we encourage applicants who meet many, though not necessarily all, of the following:

- Demonstrated commitment to community-engaged arts, cultural work, or public humanities — through professional, academic, volunteer, or lived experience
- Experience working collaboratively with artists, students, and community members
- Strong organizational skills across the range of a small organization: programming, budgets, logistics, correspondence
- Excellent written and verbal communication; professional fluency in Spanish and English required
- Knowledge of, or genuine curiosity about, Chicano art and the history of the El Paso–Ciudad Juárez borderlands
- Roots in or sustained connection to the border region
- Comfort with ambiguity and the willingness to build systems where none yet exist
- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience in arts administration, museum studies, art history, education, public history, or a related field

Engagement and Compensation

- This is an independent contractor engagement, not an employment position. The Director will work under a written agreement with the Paso del Norte Community Foundation as fiscal sponsor and will be issued a Form 1099.
- Compensation: \$77,500 per year, invoiced bi-monthly. This is a gross contract amount. The contractor is responsible for their own federal and self-employment taxes and for securing their own health insurance. The Center does not withhold taxes or provide benefits, paid leave, or insurance.
- The engagement is funded through June 30, 2029, with the intent of building the organizational capacity to sustain the role — and to establish it as an employed staff position — beyond that term.
- Based in San Elizario, Texas, with regular travel within the El Paso region.
- This role requires consistent on-site presence in San Elizario to support community outreach and partnership building, with particularly close engagement expected during the first year as the director builds local relationships.
- Some evening and weekend work for programs and community events.
- Reports to the GECC board of directors.

We want to be transparent about what this structure means. GECC is a young organization operating under fiscal sponsorship and does not yet have the infrastructure to carry payroll and benefits. The contract rate has been set with that in mind — it is higher than an equivalent salaried figure would be, to account for self-employment tax and the cost of individual health coverage. Establishing GECC as a direct employer is part of the three-year organizational plan.

To Apply

Please send a résumé and a brief letter — no more than two pages — describing your interest in this work and what you would bring to it, to gasparenriquezculturalcenter@gmail.com. Applications will be accepted through **Thursday, September 10th**. We anticipate a November 1, 2026 start date.

The Gaspar Enriquez Cultural Center is committed to building an organization that reflects the community it serves. We welcome applicants of all backgrounds and strongly encourage candidates from San Elizario and the greater El Paso–Ciudad Juárez region to apply.