

## Edinburg's SaludArte Celebration Promotes Arts, Wellness, and Belonging

*EDINBURG* – The City of Edinburg's Library & Cultural Arts Divisions presents *SaludArte* a celebration of arts and wellness on Saturday, September 30, 9 a.m. -12 p.m. in the City Hall Courtyard, 415 W. University Dr. This family-friendly event is free and open to all.

The celebration begins with a yoga session followed by a 'Move with the Mayor' walk led by members of the UTRGV Drumline at 9:20 a.m. After, participants can explore the various art exhibitions and demonstrations, enjoy the live performances, and join in!

Participate in mindfulness exercises, dancing, a drumming circle, and learning from demonstrating artists. Interact with unique art installations that encourage audience participation.

If attending with children, visit the family-friendly children's activities booths, or visit the local artisans and local vendors, and some of the event's health partners; UTRGV Health Disparities Projects, Health In Harmony, UTRGV Hub of Prosperity, Driscoll Health Plan, and more.

"Working with local artists and health partners, the City of Edinburg is planning projects and programs that will celebrate the community's resilience, color, and artistic richness while showcasing the proven benefits of art participation and community engagement," said Letty Leija, Director of Library & Cultural Arts. "SaludArte is the kick-off event for the coming year, during which Edinburg will highlight how art can be a powerful tool for promoting well-being. Our plans include public mural projects, arts and wellness-based classes and workshops, and growing the artistic workforce to promote wellness, and prosperity through the arts."

These art programs will set a foundation for the programming at the City's Art, Culture, and Event Center (ACE) scheduled to open in the Spring of 2024. Participants joining the September 30<sup>th</sup> walk will see the progress of the ACE building, which will be in the heart of the City's festival grounds.

*SaludArte* brings together the City's commitments to health, arts, and belonging, aligning with their participation in the One Nation One Project (ONOP) and National League of Cities (NLC) "Arts For Every Body" campaign. Edinburg is one of 18 cities, and the only city in Texas, to be selected to participate. The ONOP and NLC are using the arts to create unity in communities. On July 27, 2024, all 18 cities will host an arts and wellness event in their community. In addition to the Edinburg Library & Cultural Arts, other community partners in the project include the Hidalgo County Health Department, UTRGV, ECISD, STC, and local artists and citizens.

For more information contact the Cultural Arts Division at 956.383.6246 or visit <u>www.edinburgarts.com</u>.