

This is our speakers list as of March 26. Please come back for exciting updates.

Sebastián (Enrique Carbajal)

Mathematics and Art

Join Sebastian, a Mexican Sculptor and creator of the Juárez “X”, in a mesmerizing exploration of the intricate dance between art and mathematics. Through captivating visuals and engaging storytelling, discover the hidden connections that intertwine these seemingly disparate worlds, offering insights for the curious scientist and non-scientist audience.

Gerardo Herrera, PhD. Physics

The mysterious and fascinating Black Holes / Los misteriosos y fascinantes Agujeros Negros

Prepare for an awe-inspiring expedition into the enigmatic realm of black holes! Together, we will unravel the mysteries of these cosmic giants, unlocking secrets of the universe in a captivating exploration.

El Vengador Cuántico

A brief history of the Universe

The luchador and nuclear physicist, El Vengador Cuántico, whose identity remains a mystery, will condense 13,700,000,000 years of history into one hour. He will relate, in a captivating story, how the universe started smaller than the size of a subatomic particle and exploded into the giant we see today. Explore mysteries like the enigmatic dark matter and contemplate how it might end.

Antonio Rodríguez, Entrepreneur

How to get a date using AI? What life will look like in a world with Artificial Intelligence all around us

Delve into AI's essence and its transformative potential on every aspect of our life. Discover how AI's evolution promises to reshape industries, societies, and the very fabric of our society.

Héctor Noriega

Exoplanets: Three Decades of Remote Worlds

In the 1990's science confirmed for the first time the existence of planets beyond our solar system. To date (2024) some 5600 exoplanets have been discovered. In this talk, Dr. Noriega will provide an overview of the fantastic search of three decades to find the first truly Earth-like habitable planet beyond ours, as well as the local ParMagnus Observatory's participation in this international quest.

Luis Basurto, Ph.D. UTEP

Shadows in the Sun: El Paso's April 8 Solar Eclipse Adventure

Dr. Basurto will lead an enthralling exploration into the science behind the April 8 eclipse, partly visible in El Paso. Discover the reasons and mechanisms driving these phenomena, followed by an engaging Q&A session.

Leo Bañuelos, Ph.D. UTEP

Growing up to become a Scientist

UTEP's Physics Professor will tell you why you should let your child grow up to be a scientist.

Texas Book Festival Panel

Pixels and Pages: Exploring Digital Design in Children's Literature

Featuring three celebrated children's author-illustrators, **Pedro Martín**, **Andrea Cáceres**, and **Mirelle Ortega**, this panel explores the ways they engage digital design tools to illustrate their captivating books.

Pedro Martín is the Newbery Honor Award, Pura Belpre Author and Illustrator award-winning creator of the graphic memoir *Mexikid*, based off his online comic series of the same name. *Mexikid* has landed on many end of the year best-of lists, including The New York Times Book Review, NPR, Kirkus Reviews, Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal, and Booklist. Pedro is a former Hallmark artist who lives with his wife in Kansas City.

Andrea Cáceres is an illustrator and art director based in NYC. Andrea's debut picture book, *My Dog Just Speaks Spanish* was published in 2023.

Mirelle Ortega is an award-winning Mexican artist and writer for kidlit and animation based in Los Angeles. She is the author-illustrator of *River of Mariposas* and *Magic: Once Upon a Faraway Land*, for which she received a 2023 Pura Belpré Award Honor for illustration and an International Latino Book Awards medal.

The UTEP Aerospace Center

Space for Opportunity: How UTEP's Aerospace Center Benefits Students and Small Businesses

Panel: *Susie Byrd, Executive Director and Dr. Joel Quintana, Director of Aeronautics and Defense Division and Assistant Professor, Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering*

Aerospace Center is a premiere research center that produces nationally recognized research in space exploration technology, aerospace, and clean energy. The Aerospace Center—with its community partners—recently won economic development grants that will bring a quarter of a billion dollars of federal investment to the El Paso region in the next ten years to stimulate the region's burgeoning aerospace and defense advanced manufacturing sector. Learn how small businesses and students of all ages—from kindergarten to high school to workers looking to upskill into lucrative new careers to college students—can leverage those investments to create economic opportunity for themselves.