

Dear Artists,

The 7th annual Will'n in Weslaco Shakespeare Festival will take place April 11-25, 2026. Every spring in Weslaco, Texas, we celebrate one work by William Shakespeare. Shakespeare's pastoral comedy *As You Like It* is our next pick! Our community festival will begin with an art exhibition at the Weslaco Museum (our partner in supporting the arts) showcasing the talents of Valley artists.

If you are interested in participating, submissions will be received at the Weslaco Museum from **March 31st through April 3rd**, and artwork will be on display (and for sale!) throughout the month of April. Please see below for guidance on planning your artistic tribute to William Shakespeare's *As You Like It*.

Artists are encouraged to be creative, but submissions *must* celebrate an aspect of this year's play, such as:

- **Themes** like pastoral comedy, love & marriage, wrestling, songs, education, country vs. courtly life, disguise & deception especially in traditional sexual roles...
- **Iconic and unforgettable images and scenes** like:
 - love letters hanging from and carved into trees (III.2)
 - The seven ages of man (II.7)
 - Orlando defeats Charles, the wrestler, but Rosalind silences Orlando (I.2.90-210)
 - The melancholy Jacques grieving and contemplating the wounded stag (II.1.20-69)
 - Orlando saving his brother from first a snake and then a lioness (IV.3)
- **Famous and beautiful lines** such as:
 - All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely players. (II.7)
 - O, how bitter a thing it is to look into happiness through another man's eyes (V.2)
 - Sweet are the uses of adversity
Which like the toad, ugly and venomous
Wears yet a precious jewel in his head
And this our life exempt from public haunt
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything (II.1)
 - ROSALIND Now, tell me how long you would have her after you have possessed her?
ORLANDO For ever and a day. (IV.1)
 - Men have died from time to time—and worms have eaten them—but not for love. (IV.1)

On the exhibition's opening night (April 11th), attendees will be able to vote for their favorite submission (categories will be announced soon).

Please visit www.willninweslaco.org for the latest art exhibition and festival updates.

Kindly,

Crystal Rodriguez
Will'n in Weslaco Art Exhibit Coordinator

Bryan H. Smith
Will'n in Weslaco Founder & Director