



**GALVESTON  
RAILROAD MUSEUM**



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***Forgotten Gateway: Coming to America Through Galveston Island***  
***Kathleen Maca to Speak - May 31***

**GALVESTON, TX** – Galveston based historian and author, Kathleen Maca will speak Friday, May 31, 3 pm, for the preview opening of the exhibit *Forgotten Gateway: Coming to American Through Galveston Island*, sponsored by Humanities Texas and Bullock Texas State History Museum, at the Galveston Railroad Museum, 2602 Santa Fe Place.

Kathleen Maca, freelance writer, photographer, historian, and author has researched and explored all facets of the island's history. Once located on Pelican Island, the Quarantine Station remains in many Galvestonian's memories.

As a major gateway for immigration, Galveston Island was the port of entry for hundreds of thousands of people coming to America from 1845 to 1924. *Forgotten Gateway* considers the importance of place in the immigrant experience tracing the history of Galveston Island as it changed from a small harborage for sailing vessels, to a major cosmopolitan steamship and railroad hub, and back to a nearly abandoned immigrant station—and explores universal themes of immigration including leaving home, encountering danger, confronting discrimination, and navigating bureaucracy.

Maca's presentation *Galveston's Immigration & Quarantine Station - Harbor of Hope*, will provide insight into the experiences and value of the once upon a time entry to a new life for immigrants; many who chose to settle on the island and whose families remain generations later. The presentation will be in the museum's auditorium located in the exhibit building adjacent to the Train Depot. A question-and-answer session will take place following the presentation.

*Forgotten Gateway: Coming to American Through Galveston Island* will be on exhibit at the museum from June 1 to August 31, 10 am – 5 pm daily. For more information about the exhibit or to arrange group visits, contact David Robertson, Executive Director at (409) 765-5700 or [david@galvestonrrmuseum.org](mailto:david@galvestonrrmuseum.org).

The Galveston Railroad Museum is dedicated to the restoration, observation, and re-use of its historic facilities and equipment for the development of educational and interactive programs, which support railroading and transportation initiatives serving our regional community. The museum provides an immersive learning experience by way of exhibits beginning in the fully restored 1931 Train Depot, and visual and tactile exhibits that include a post office railcar, dining cars, sleep cars, baggage cars, model trains, 100 year old Steam locomotive, Other exhibits now on display include: *The Orphan Train, Dining in Style: Railroad Porcelain China and Silver, “Traveling on a City at Sea: The Story of the Battleship Texas”*, Santa Fe Calendars Collection of Harry Briscoe, and Santa Fe Travel Posters for the 1950 and 1960’s. Harborside Express Train rides are available weekly weather permitting.

The Galveston Railroad Museum, a nonprofit organization, is supported by grants, contributions, membership, admission, and special events. Members enjoy benefits year-round, including free museum admission, discounts, programs, newsletter, and early ticket purchasing privileges for **THE POLAR EXPRESS™** Train Ride. Join online at [www.galvestonRRmuseum.org/membership](http://www.galvestonRRmuseum.org/membership).

The museum is open daily 10 – 5. Admission is Adults, \$12, Seniors, \$9, Kids 3 – 12 yrs., \$6, 2 & Under Free. Parking is complimentary with museum admission at 2602 Santa Fe Place. Admission is Members Free; Adults, \$12, Seniors, \$9, Kids 3 – 12 yrs. \$6; 2 & Under Free. Train Rides are \$8 per person. For group rates, please contact the museum. [www.GalvestonRRmusuem.org](http://www.GalvestonRRmusuem.org) (409) 765-5700