

# SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

*A Member of the Texas State University System*

**SRSU Policy Name: Museum of the Big Bend**  
**SRSU Policy ID: FH 3.10**  
**Policy Reviewed by: Executive Vice President and Provost**  
**Approval Authority: President of the University**  
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**Next Review Date: March 7, 2028**

The Museum of the Big Bend contains approximately 125,000 historical objects, artifacts, photographs, and documents that relate to life and culture in the Big Bend region from the prehistoric to the modern era. Archaeological holdings include collections in stone, ceramic, bone, fiber, and wood that detail Big Bend prehistory from 7,000 B.P. to 1500 A.D. Historical collections consist of Native American, Spanish, Colonial, Mexican, and Anglo American materials from the sixteenth century to the twenty-first century. Natural history collections consist of rare mineral and fossil specimens from the Big Bend region, including a wing reproduction of the Texas Pterosaur, *Quetzalcoatlus northropi*, the world's largest flying reptile, discovered in 1971. In association with the wing is a half-sized, to-scale replica of the pterosaur in flight. Art and ethnology collections reveal the strong, creative character of regional paintings and artifacts.

Academic interest is directed toward the study of Big Bend cultures from prehistory to the present. Broad research interests in collections support publications from an international to a local level. A professional reference library of over 2,000 volumes is available for use by students for study in Big Bend history, American material culture, and museum science. Primary historical documents, archaeological field notes, maps, and photographs are also available for research. Housed in a special map-study room is the Yana and Marty Davis Map Collection, one of the largest and most historically significant map collections in the state of Texas.

Activities include guided tours, special lectures, educational programs for public school, undergraduate, and graduate students, and a program of changing exhibits.