



2026

About the Conference

**"Bridging Borders and Harvesting Opportunities:
Food Systems & Economic Impact"**

Laredo, Texas | Feb 19-21st, 2026

Let's Meet in Laredo!

Join us for our first 2026 Texas Lyceum Quarterly Meeting "**Bridging Borders and Harvesting Opportunities: Food Systems & Economic Impact**" a unique gathering set against the vibrant backdrop of **Laredo, Texas**, and its sister city, **Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas** from Feb 19 to 21st.

Bridging Borders and Harvesting Opportunities: Food Systems & Economic Impact

This conference promises to be an enlightening exploration of the intricate connections between food systems, economic development, and environmental sustainability.

Laredo's strategic location as a major trade hub enhances its appeal for our conference focused on food systems as Laredo is the number one port in the United States, specifically the busiest inland port for international trade. Therefore, it is a key point of entry for goods into the United States making it a significant player in the food industry.

Laredo offers a warm and welcoming atmosphere that reflects the hospitality of its residents. The city's vibrant cultural scene, with its festivals, music, and art, provides an enriching experience for conference attendees, making it more than just a professional gathering but a cultural immersion.

Our key topics will be:

1 - Crossroads of Trade: Laredo's Role in the Food Supply Chain

This session will highlight Laredo's strategic position as a key trade hub for food systems. Discussion will focus on how the port's operations influence regional and statewide economies, emphasizing its role in connecting producers, distributors, and consumers across borders. At the crossroads of North American commerce, the Port of Laredo is far more than a conduit for goods—it is the vital heart of a binational food system. This session will dissect Laredo's indispensable role as the premier gateway for the flow of nourishment, from produce and grains to proteins, connecting Mexican farms and producers to American dining tables and beyond. We will move beyond the statistics to explore the real-world economic impact: how the port's operations generate jobs, stabilize prices, and fuel the economic vitality of both Texas and Mexico. Our expert panel will discuss the intricate dance of logistics, policy, and innovation required to keep this system resilient, secure, and efficient. Join us for a critical conversation on how this bustling border hub bridges borders to harvest opportunity, ensuring that the food on our plates powers not just people, but entire economies.

2- Food Security is National Security

The U.S. boasts a strong and productive agricultural sector, with Texas ranking as the third largest agricultural state. Yet, food imports remain significant. This session will examine why the U.S. still imports food, what we grow, import, and export, and the economic implications of these dynamics on national food security. The discussion will focus on the economic and security benefits of strengthening local production—that create a robust first line of defense against widespread food insecurity. This discussion challenges the status quo, focusing on how the importance build self-reliant, equitable food economies. This is a critical examination of how building stronger, more equitable local and cross-border food networks directly harvests economic resilience and nourishes healthier communities.

3- Feeding Resilience: Building Healthier, Self-Reliant Communities

This discussion will explore the intersections between diet, health, economic opportunity, and community strength. We will consider how to create a food system where access to healthy food is a right, not a privilege. Topics include community-based food initiatives, urban farming, and the importance of local production and bolstering resilience against food insecurity. We will move beyond the concept of "access" focusing on how to build a food system where wellness and nourishment are guaranteed for all. What if our local food system was the engine of community health and economic prosperity? We'll highlight models that create jobs, keep capital within the community, and strengthen resilience against food insecurity. This session will also delve into the powerful connection between what we eat, how it's grown, and the economic vitality of our communities.



THE TEXAS LYCEUM

The Texas Lyceum is the premier non-profit, non-partisan, statewide leadership organization focused on identifying the next generation of top Texas leaders. We have 96 active Directors from around the state, and our alumni go on to serve our communities, state, and nation in significant ways. Texas Lyceum alumni have served as President of the United States, White House Staff, U.S. Senators & House Members, Ambassadors, the Governor's Mansion, the Texas Legislature, and leading corporations. Throughout our 42-year history, we have explored topics ranging from education to energy, and criminal justice to banking. Our goal is to inform, engage, and spark debate among Texans about the important issues facing our state.

Sponsorship and speaking opportunities are available. Information on sponsorship levels and benefits is on the following pages. Please contact one of our conference co-chairs or the Texas Lyceum Administrator for additional information.

JR TREVIÑO
2026 President

SANDRA MARTINEZ
Conference Co-chair

MARISSA MARQUEZ
Conference Co-chair

JOSH WINEGARNER
Conference Co-chair



THE TEXAS LYCEUM

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

ALL SPONSORS

- Logo placement on the Conference program and Conference signage
- Logo and link recognition in pre- and post-event promotional and informational emails
- Logo placement on event page of Texas Lyceum website
- Social media recognition as an event sponsor

PRESENTING SPONSOR - \$20,000

- Invitation for eight (8) attendees to the Thursday evening welcome event and all Friday conference sessions
- Eight (8) reserved seats at the Fireside Chat & Dinner featuring a VIP speaker
- Opportunity to include company/organization materials for attendees of meetings
- Opportunity to address guests at Thursday evening welcome event
- Prominent logo placement on conference program, signage, pre- and post-event promotional and informational emails, and Texas Lyceum event webpage

PLATINUM SPONSOR - \$10,000

- Invitation for six (6) attendees to the Thursday evening welcome event and all Friday conference sessions
- Six (6) reserved seats at the Fireside Chat & Dinner featuring a VIP speaker
- Opportunity to include company/organization materials for attendees of meetings
- Opportunity to introduce a speaker or make opening remarks for a panel
- Prominent logo placement on the conference program, signage, pre- and post-event promotional and informational emails, and Texas Lyceum event webpage

GOLD SPONSOR - \$5,000

- Invitation for four (4) attendees to the Thursday evening welcome event and all Friday conference sessions
- Four (4) reserved seats at the Fireside Chat & Dinner featuring a VIP speaker
- Opportunity to include company/organization materials for attendees of meetings
- Opportunity to introduce a speaker or make opening remarks for a panel

SILVER SPONSOR - \$2,500

- Invitation for two (2) attendees to the Thursday evening welcome event and all Friday conference sessions
- Two (2) reserved seats at the Fireside Chat & Dinner featuring a VIP speaker
- Opportunity to include company/organization materials for attendees of meetings

BRONZE SPONSOR - \$1,500

- Invitation for one (1) attendee to the Thursday evening welcome event and all Friday conference sessions
- One (1) reserved seat at the Fireside Chat & Dinner featuring a VIP speaker



THE TEXAS LYCEUM SPONSORSHIP FORM

The deadline for recognition in meeting programs and signage is **January 23rd, 2026**.

Select your sponsorship level, create your invoice and/or process to payment through the form:

SUBMIT
FORM

Contact info@texaslyceum.org for mailing address if you desire to remit by check.
Make check payable to: The Texas Lyceum.

The Texas Lyceum is a 501(c)(3) organization.