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# Before Plymouth: El Paso Public Libraries Spotlight the Untold Story of America's First Thanksgiving

## The Forgotten Histories of the First Thanksgiving

**EL PASO, Texas**—The El Paso Public Libraries invites the community to explore a powerful, often-overlooked chapter of history at *The Forgotten Histories of the First Thanksgiving*, from 12 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sunday, April 19 at the Main Library, 501 N. Oregon.

This free, family-friendly event brings El Paso's deep cultural roots to life through interactive experiences, live performances, educational programming, and local flavors. Guests can enjoy hands-on activities with the Magoffin Home, including traditional brick making and corn husk doll crafting.

Local vendors will also be featured, including Bodega Loya, offering fresh, locally grown produce, and Café Piro, a 2026 James Beard Award finalist, serving seasonal dishes inspired by ancestral traditions.

The program highlights El Paso's historic First Thanksgiving on April 30, 1598, more than two decades before Plymouth, when the Manso people and Spanish explorer Don Juan de Oñate gathered near the Rio Grande. The moment marked not only a shared meal, but also an early cultural exchange that helped shape the region.

The event also creates space for reflection by honoring Indigenous voices and perspectives while exploring the lasting impact of this history on the identity of the American Southwest. Recognized by the Texas House of Representatives in 1990, this significant chapter continues to resonate today.

For more information about *The Forgotten Histories of the First Thanksgiving* or other El Paso Public Libraries programs, call (915) 212-3217 or visit [EIPasoLibrary.org](http://EIPasoLibrary.org).

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**  
Among All Members of the Community

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