



# The Senate of Texas

**CÉSAR J. BLANCO**

TEXAS SENATOR  
DISTRICT 29

**Media Advisory**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Senator César J. Blanco and Representative Joe Moody to Announce the Launch of the Tom Lea Trail Mobile Tour**

**Austin, Texas** – On Wednesday, November 8, 2023, Senator César J. Blanco and Representative Joe Moody will join the Texas Historical Commission and the Tom Lea Institute to announce the Tom Lea Trail Mobile Tour,

The mobile tour is dedicated to the life and work of prolific artist and El Paso native, Tom Lea, and traverses the entire state. Travelers can now visit 12 different communities, including El Paso, Odessa, Dallas, Waco, Austin, College Station, Galveston, and Kingsville, and listen to Lea's recorded oral history as they stand before his depictions of early Texas.

During the 85<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, Senator Blanco and Representative Moody sponsored and helped pass Senate Bill 928, recognizing the Tom Lea Trail.

**What:** Tom Lea Trail Mobile Tour Launch  
**When:** Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 8:30 am CST  
**Where:** Texas State Capitol, Speakers Press Conference Room

### **About Tom Lea:**

Thomas Calloway Lea III was an American muralist, illustrator, artist, war correspondent, novelist, and historian. Born in El Paso in 1907, Lea's work naturally gravitated to depictions of early Texas and Mexico, particularly Native American and ranching histories. Later, his experiences as a war correspondent for LIFE magazine opened a new artistic chapter for Lea, whose illustration of a traumatized soldier in "The Two-Thousand Yard Stare" (1944) would become an iconic image of the trauma experienced by soldiers during wartime.

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