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La Voz

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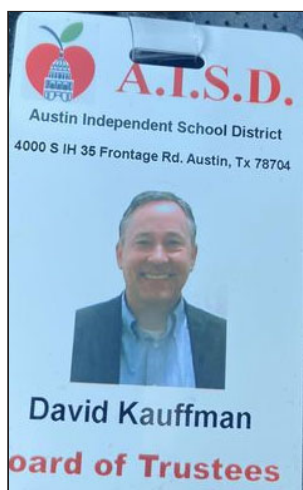
Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow . . . Yesterday's Gone

Austin City Councilmembers Come Out in Support



December 13th Run-Off Election Day

People in the News



David Kaufman Sworn in as New AISD Trustee

I first met **Dr. David Kauffman** many years ago when he was the principal at **L.Cpl. Nicholas S. Perez Elementary** in the **Dove Springs** neighborhood.

He was and continues to be a shining start in education in **Austin, Texas**. Now as a newly elected school board member in of the **Austin Independent School District** we look forward to benefiting from his wisdom and expertise as an educator.

The voters of **District 7** made an excellent choice in bringing **Dr. Kauffman** to trustees' table.

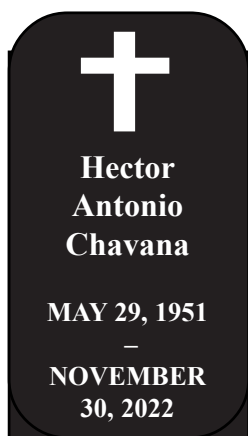


Hector Chavana - Long Time Chicano Activist and Attorney Passes Away

Hector Chavna, long time Chicano activist and attorney passed away on November 30, 2022 at his Northside home in **Houston, Texas**.

During the late 1960s and 1970s, **Hector** got into the **Chicano Movement** and even ran for elective office under the banner of **La Raza Unida Party** while still a student at **Southwest Texas State University** in San Marcos.

Adrian Chavana writes that his father instilled in me and my siblings the value of a dollar, a solid work ethic, and the value of education. **Hector** was 71 years old.



Pedro Rodriguez Former Director of the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center Dies

It is with great sadness that the **Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center** shares the news that legendary **GCAC Director Pedro Rodriguez** passed away in **San Antonio**.

Pedro built the **Guadalupe** with fierce determination to be the internationally recognized institution it is today. He presented many artists, many programs, and developed many great **Chicanx** arts administrators.

He directed the **Guadalupe** between 1983 and 1998, then advocated for Latinx arts nationally being one of the founding members of the **National Association of Latino Arts & Culture**.

Pedro worked and advocated all his life. Que en paz descanse **Pedro Rodriguez**. (1936-2022)



Andrew Gonzales won his bid for AISD District 6

Former bilingual school teacher **Andrew Gonzales** was sworn in as the new **District 6 Austin Independent School Board School Trustee** earlier this month.

After graduating from **Akins High**, **Andrew** attended **UT Austin** where he graduated with four degrees in Government, History,

International Relations, and Latin American Studies. He then followed in his Mom's footsteps and worked as a History teacher at **Travis High** and **Lively Middle**, where he played an integral role in the design of **AISD's** first **Ethnic Studies** curriculum.

While teaching, **Andrew** continued his advocacy by training others in inclusive, groundbreaking teaching practices by serving as a member and presenter at the **National Council for the Social Studies**, a Co-operating Student Teacher Supervisor for both **Huston-Tillotson University** and the **University of Texas**, and as a sponsor for numerous student clubs and organizations.

For his service, **Andrew** was awarded **Teacher Change Maker of the Year**, **Greater Austin Area** by **Generation Citizen** in 2018, **Ally of the Year** by the **Young Women's Christian Association** in 2019, and **Travis Early College High School Teacher of the Year** in 2020. We can expect many good things from **Andrew Gonzales** in the coming years as a member of the school board.



Rebecca Guerrero to serve as County Clerk for the 5th largest county in the State

Rebecca Guerrero to serve as **County Clerk** for the 5th largest county in the **State of Texas** with a population of over 1.3 million citizens. She is the first Hispanic woman to be appointed by **Commissioners' Court** in **Travis County** to serve in this role.

Rebecca was born in **Nederland, Texas**, but has called **Austin** home for the past 35 years. She began her tenure as a **Recording Specialist I** with the Recording Division, was promoted to **Court Services Management Administrative Coordinator**, and has served as the **Division Director** for the **Recording Division** since 2015.

During her two decades of civil service, she has remained steadfast at digitizing land records to make them more accessible to the public.

Rebecca is a very active participant in the **Travis County** community. She has volunteered for **Brown Santa**, **Coats for Kids drive**, **AIDS Services of Austin**, and **Safe Alliance**. She is dedicated to continuing to be a consistent and prominent community leader.

It is the mission of the **Travis County Clerk's** office to provide effective, high quality, and affordable services to all citizens. As **County Clerk**, **Rebecca** is committed to continuing to improve county government services for all her constituents through improvements in new technology, increasing access to public information, and maintaining quality customer experience.



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Pensamientos

As this year comes to a close I look back on what has transpired in my life. First of all, I turned 70 years of age. I didn't think I would make it this far because my father died at the age of 31. This was in 1958, I was six years old.

For many years I did not like to fill out school forms because when it came to listing my father, I did not want to write in the space the word "dead." So I discovered the word "deceased." For some reason it sounded better.

As I learned to live without a father, I substituted my paternal grandparents names with whom I lived with for many years in Stockton, California.

In Between the Tears

In my 30s I was back in Texas and it was during a telephone call from my grandmother to tell us that my uncle John had died in Stockton that I heard her tell my mother in between the tears that the reason she took me in was because she and my grandfather had felt so guilty that my father had died and left a widow and three small children. They believed they could help ease the economic hardship that would lay ahead for my mother.

My grandparents were born at the turn of the 20th century. My paternal grandfather was actually born in 1886 and my grandmother was born in 1907/

My grandfather retired from the sheep shearing business in Stockton. With him at the house all the time, I would hear him tell stories. He was a good story teller.

The Uvalde/Stockton Connection

On the weekends my grandparents would receive visitors and spend hours out on the patio visiting. It was only later that I learned that many of these visitors were actually people who had come to Stockton with my grandfather in the 1940s to work in the canneries.

It was during World War II that my grandfather used his trucksw to bring 400 people from Uvalde, Texas to Stockton, California to work. Some settled in Stockton and others returned to Uvalde after the war. It was those who stayed that would come over to visit on the weedens.

My grandmother was a great cook and I would often see her in the kitchen making tamales, buñuelos at Christmas time or carne guisada with home made flour tortillas. During the summers my grandmother worked at a Del Monte cannery as a floor lady. This was like a supervisor.

Running Away From Myself

As I grew up I knew I was different from the other kids in the neighborhood. In fact, I was the only Mexican kid and I didn't like it. Oh, I ate my grandmother's Mexican food, but I didn't like being brown. I spent years running away from myself and I didn't know why.

When I came back to Texas in 1965 for a "summer visit," my mother informed me that I would not be returning to California.

At first I was furious. All my friends were back in Stockton. My mother explained that she was having a new house built out on Ft. Clark Road and that she wanted all her family to be together again.

So I began a new chapter in my life and began to learn Spanish. (Actually it was street Spanish and slang) I joined the Boy Scouts and when I got into high school, I played football.

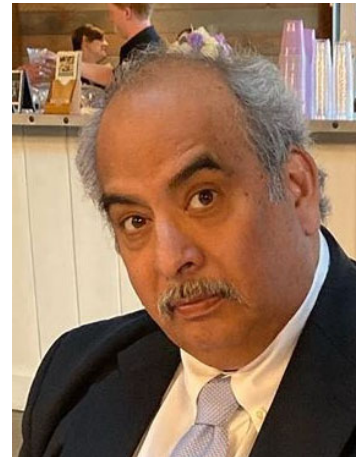
The Chicano Movement

When the Chicano Movement came to Uvalde in 1968, I joined MAYO (Mexican American Youth Organization) It was during the weekly meetings that I began to understand why I didn't like myself. It was also during these meetings that I began to learn the history of where I came from.

For some reason my mother or grandparents never told me these stories. Certainly I did not learn anything about my background in school.

I returned to California in 1970 and got into college. After graduating from the University of California Berkeley in 1974, I went to work for Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers.

After many jobs over the years including school teacher, program administrator and taxi driver, I now find myself sitting on the side of the bed at 70 years of age, I never thought I would make it this far.



Alfredo Santos c/s
Editor and Publisher
of La Voz Newspapers

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Welcome Home!



Juan Perez Shares His Latest Work

Thank You
to those who stuck with me when I
decided not to call myself "Hispanic"

Thank You
to those who stuck with me when I
decided not to call myself "Latino"

Thank You
to those who stuck with me when I
declared myself "Indigenous"

Thank You
to those who stuck with me when I
declared myself just "Chicano"

Yet because of it, you have excluded
me from your lists of importance to
your societies

I mean you can call me all these
things if it helps you to identify,
perhaps ease your mind

For after all, I am all that you are
I just want to break away from
colonizer lies

For our people were here way
before anybody else came and called
us "immigrants"

JMP 2022



Blandina Cardenas Flores Shares Some Family History on Adelita

Lately there have been numerous posts about
ADELITA VELARDE who is the object of the
most beloved song of the **MEXICAN REVOLU-**
LUTION of 1910.

Adelita is buried in the **Cardenas** family plot
in the old **San Felipe Cemetery** in **Del Rio**. She
was real. **El Coronel** who respected her was my
Tio Alfredo Villegas, who with my Dad's old-
est sister, **Griselda**, raised Daddy, age 3, my
Tio Oscar, a newborn and **Tia Hortencia**, age 6
after their Mother died in the 1918 pandemic.

It was not **Adelita's** beauty that captured men's
hearts, but her idealism, strength of character and
self dignity. She spoke forcefully, "*sin pelos en
la lengua*". She always made clear that she was
an "*enfermera*" y no "*soldadera*". She and Tio
traveled to **Europe** and to many US communi-
ties where some of Tio's men were involved with
community organizations that hosted and recog-
nized them. In **France** **Adelita** was recognized
by the **French** government. I believe some of
her medals are in the historical museum in **Del
Rio**. Tio gave me one of her bracelets after I
explained the importance of the term **CHICANO**
and how my work sprung from the values I had
learned listening to family discussions of the ide-
als of the **Mexican Revolution**. **Adelita** is not a
mythical figure, She was real!

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Reflejos de Blandina Cardenas Flores

We accepted, we did not ask, we did not bargain, we did not imagine that it could be different. We allowed ourselves to be seduced, scared or satisfied by politics of messaging rather than results.

SO GREG ABBOTT had his election night watch and celebration at QUINTA MAZATLAN in McAllen and declared that the REPUBLICANS had planted their flag in South Texas. This DEMOCRAT believes that does not have to be a bad thing if the leadership of South Texas is SMART and not SPOOKED.

For almost 200 years the counties South of a line from El Paso to Corpus have gotten crumbs from whatever party held absolute rule in the state. For a long time they were called Democrats. Their notion of democracy was rooted in Confederate concepts and reinforced by the 200,000 members of the KKK in Texas during the 1920s. When change was finally forced in the Democratic party, most of those elements left the Dems and went REPUBLICAN.

The result was the same, we kept getting as little as 30 percent of the state and federal investment north of the brown line. K-12, HIGHER EDUCATION, ROADS, INTERSTATES, FLOOD PREVENTION, CAPITAL INVESTMENT, all amounted to left overs. South Texas supplied revenue from natural resources and got little benefit. We accepted, we did not ask, we did not bargain, we did not imagine that it could be different. We allowed ourselves to be seduced, scared or satisfied by politics of messaging rather than results.

Well, all politics is about competition for benefits and resources. If Republicans want to play in South Texas, let's be SMART about it. Let's envision the physical and human infrastructure that we need and make the price of political success in our region either party's determination to come through for South Texas parity with the rest of the state. For starters we need the full range of professional schools. The Governor appointed HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD should be a facilitating advocate and not a brick wall to developing the range of programs that will build the human capital for the region. And local elected and community leaders should do the ASK, just as Ruben Hinojosa asked Bill Clinton and got buckets of education resources that really made a difference. And don't let the DEMOCRATS off the hook.

How are we doing on infrastructure and with all deliberate speed. Finally, the immigration issue is not bottle necked at the bridge. It is bottle necked between the two political parties that respond more to defamation of a whole population group in order to scare voters into supporting them. If we are smart, we can lead both parties to a just and humane approach to this issue if we tell both that we want them to get off the dime and do something that reframes solutions with our unique border circumstances in mind.

Local leaders need to vision and lead and push from the ground UP. When political outcomes are decided by razor thin margins it is time to be astute, not romantic about who we will support and how we negotiate that support



Latina Candidates in the December 13th Run-Off Election

Celia Israel Mayor of Austin

I was a young, gay Latina stepping out into the world for the very first time. I graduated from the **University of Texas**, served in the **Ann Richards** administration, met the love of my life, became a realtor, and later, a member of the **Texas House of Representatives**.

This city forged me into who I am today. I find energy in **Austin** and power in its people. Diversity is our strength. We share ideas and fight injustice through our activism. We are always ready to lend a hand to our neighbors in need. Our city vibrates with opportunity and excitement as each one of us blazes our own path.

That path feels increasingly out of reach for the people who make **Austin** unique. Our city deserves a mayor who works for the people who live here and who build the city around us: our teachers, construction workers, students, public service workers, artists, musicians, technologists, developers, and so many more.

We can't be a city that attracts billionaires while simultaneously pushing working people to **Bastrop** and **Buda**. We need a city that invests in the people who live and work here. We have this opportunity to break up the status quo and accomplish our shared vision for this great city. We can make housing more affordable, so the people who drive our economy can put down roots in the community they serve. We can make our community safer and healthier by strengthening our safety nets and investing in our people. We can make it easier to get around town by building a world-class public transportation system.

As your next mayor, I pledge to be a Mayor for ALL of **Austin**. Everyday Austinites should lead the future of our great city. Together, we can build a better city for the people who build this city.

Daniela Silva Austin City Council District 3

Daniela Silva was born in **Houston, Texas** on January 4th, 1992 to a strong **Colombian** woman who epitomized the American Dream, starting at the bottom and working her way solidly into the middle class with the help of government resources like **WIC** and **CHIP**. However, **Daniela** noticed that there seemed to be a dark underbelly to the American Dream when she witnessed the constant racism her mother faced throughout her youth while working hard to provide for the two of them.

Daniela went on to study at **Texas A&M University**, earning a **Bachelor of Science** in 2015. During college, **Daniela** applied and was hired as an intern legislative aide for a state senator. It was in this experience that she discovered the wide range of issues she could have a positive impact on through policy. Upon graduating, **Daniela** was hired as an intern at the **National Farmers Union** in **Washington DC**, which deepened her interest and furthered her experience in transformative legislative policy.

During her graduate studies in international development, **Daniela** spent two years in **Togo, West Africa**, serving as a **Peace Corps** volunteer. After graduating with a **Masters** from her alma mater, **Texas A&M**, she moved to **Austin**. and began volunteering with **Austin Justice Coalition**, **El Buen Samaritano**, and **Community First! Village**. She joined groups for fellow yoga practitioners and those living sustainably, and continued her journey with spiritual inquiry at **Life In the City** and **Mantra Austin**. **Daniela** found work at the **Texas Farmers' Market**, **Farmshare Austin**, at several yoga studios, and as a dog sitter, earning promotions and developing strong connections in the **Austin** community.

Stephanie Bazan Austin City Council District 5

Stephanie Bazan is a long-time community leader and local marketing and communications executive who is a candidate for a seat on the **Austin City Council** in District 5.

As a working mom she says she is running because she wants to focus on inequities and manage growth in the city. *"I'm running for **Austin City Council District 5** because I care deeply about the future of our city, and I want to create inclusive solutions to ensure that, as our city continues to grow, it remains a place for everyone. I want to amplify the voices of South Austinites and address affordability, so families can remain in this vibrant city, and ALL our neighbors can thrive."*

Bazan and her husband **Matt Abbott**, an educator, and their two children, has a deep understanding of the issues and opportunities facing the City of **Austin** and her neighbors. She currently works as the Chief Communications Officer for the law firm **Schulman, Lopez, Hoffer & Adelstein**,

She previously served as the Director of Communications & Programs for the **Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**, where she advocated for small and minority owned businesses and positively impacted the lives of many leaders through her elevation of the nationally ranked **Hispanic Austin Leadership** program.

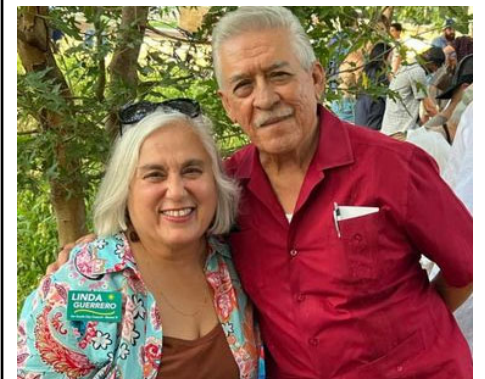
Bazan is a first-generation college student and earned an undergraduate degree from **St. Edward's University** and a master's degree from the **University of Leeds** in the **United Kingdom**. In 2021, she graduated from the **LBJ Women's Campaign School** at the **University of Texas School of Public Affairs**.

Linda Guerrero Austin City Council District 9

Linda Guerrero, 67, is running for the **District 9** seat on the **Austin City Council**. She is a life-long resident of the district and has experience working on **Austin** boards and commissions such as the **Austin Parks** board, **I-35 Coalition** and the **Austin Environmental Commission**. **Guerrero** was also a teacher in the **Austin Independent School District** for nearly 30 years.

Her priorities, according to her website, include transportation, protecting parks and natural spaces, climate change and affordability. *"I would like to see more land trusts available. I would also like to see the **AISD** use some of their schools that have been permanently closed to house teachers. I'm a teacher myself and so I would like to see that be utilized for housing,"* she responded.

In a news release, **Guerrero** said, *"My goal has always been to bring people together to find sensible, practical solutions that equitably serve the whole city. Our growth is explosive. In some ways, of course that's good, but it's creating huge problems, in affordability, transportation, public health, rising property taxes, and our quality of life. Dealing with those problems is the central task of the City Council in the years ahead."*





I came to Austin in the Summer of 1982. I was all of 17 years old. Far from home, far from friends, far from family; I was excited to be here, but scared at the same time.



Celia
A MAYOR
FOR ALL OF
AUSTIN

Celia
A MAYOR
FOR ALL OF
AUSTIN

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A MAYOR
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A MAYOR
FOR ALL OF
AUSTIN

An Interview Candidate for Austin

Good morning Daniela. Thank you for taking the time to participate in this interview with La Voz de Austin. And congratulations for making it into the run-off election for the Austin City Council District 3 seat. Let's start by introducing you to our readers.

La Voz: Share with us where you were born and the early years of your life.

Daniela: I was born in **Houston, Texas** to a strong single mother who immigrated from **Colombia** as a teenager. With very little means and support from family, my mother worked various jobs until eventually saving enough money to move us to the suburb of **Sugar Land**. It was there that I had the diverse, multicultural upbringing that comes with living in a community with various other immigrants from around the world.

Within our household, my mother shared **Colombian** culture with me through food, music, and language. Outside of the house, I attended public school with friends whose parents were from all across **Texas, Mexico, China, Honduras, Vietnam, India, Angola**, amongst other countries.

La Voz: When you were in high school, were you thinking about which college you would like to attend? And how did you finally decide?

Daniela: Absolutely. Ever since I was young, my mom encouraged me to pursue higher education, travel, and work to achieve financial independence. I always had a deep love for animals and decided from early on that I would pursue veterinary medicine. Due to that pursuit, the only university I was interested in attending was **Texas A&M**.

Even after changing paths following the discovery of love for policy during an internship with the **Texas Senate**, I remained at **Texas A&M University** throughout the remainder of my undergraduate studies and continued on to pursue a Master's degree.

La Voz: When you look back on your collegiate experience, what would you have done differently?

Daniela: While I wouldn't have done anything differently for my journey because it led me to where I am today, I do always encourage young people to consider taking a gap year between high school and college. Whether it is to travel, work, or pursue other interests, it is beneficial to have some time outside of an academic setting to really explore self discovery, find out what is important and uncover authentic interests. This can help students better decide

what academic path to pursue and what tools they hope to gain from entering higher education.

Actually, one thing I would have done differently is to complete required readings before lectures, rather than afterwards. I began doing this my senior year of college and quickly realized how much easier I comprehended content in lectures when I did the readings ahead of time, and wished I had developed this habit sooner!

La Voz: Everybody has a story about how they got to **Austin, Texas**. Did **Austin** pick you or did you pick **Austin**?

Daniela: I like to think it was mutual. One of my first memories of visiting **Austin** was in elementary school when we took a field trip to the **Capitol** and the **Bob Bullock Museum**. I was so excited when I learned my aunt and uncle would be moving to **Austin** for school (she attended **Texas State University** and he attended the **University of Texas**), which meant my mom and I would be spending many weekends and school breaks with them. My childhood best friend and I still



have very vivid memories of swimming at **Barton Springs** and the colorful collection of people at the Pool. **Austin** drew me in when I was a child, and again in college when I moved here to intern at the **State Senate**, planting the seed and creating the pathway for me to put roots down as an adult.

La Voz: Deciding to run for public office takes a lot of courage. What would you say drives you? Was it a difficult decision to make?

Daniela: It was not a difficult decision, but definitely a scary one. I am motivated by justice and service, always feeling impulsed to stand up for what I believe is right. I love this city and this state with my whole heart, and thus feel like it is my duty to work with others to make it a place where anyone and everyone can thrive - this is not the case at present.

Working class families, artists, service industry workers, City employees - among many

with Daniela Silva

City Council - District 3

others - have increasingly been unable to afford living in the city that, oftentimes, they were born and raised in. Members of the **LGBT** community are afraid of being attacked by the **Texas Legislature** simply for existing. Communities of color are increasingly disenfranchised from the electoral process. Teachers are underpaid and poorly resourced. Infrastructure is crumbling under the weight of rapid growth.

Having worked for an elected official before, I know how much power there is to make an impact on all of these things and that so many of the decisions behind policy are made behind closed doors outside of public view.

This means it is absolutely vital that the people who are making those decisions behind closed doors be folks who not only have the ability to comprehend policy placed in front of them, but strong moral conviction to stand up for what they think is right. I know that I have both of those things, so I am taking the steps that I see are necessary to be the change I want to see in the world by running for City Council.

La Voz: What did you think were going to be some of the biggest obstacles in your race for city council?

Daniela: To be completely honest, I thought the biggest obstacle would be personal attacks and attempts to ruin my reputation and credibility. Everyone warned me about it. When I first decided to run, people told me to prepare myself, to work on growing a thicker skin, because people would look for every tiny flaw and blast them for the world to see. Fortunately, our race has been a fairly clean and respectful one overall, and the ugliness that I was anticipating never came to fruition (or at least I never heard any of it).

La Voz: In your view, what are the top three issues that you would like to focus on if you were to become an Austin City Council member?

Daniela: Housing affordability, equitable access to healthcare, and strengthening climate resilience. My overall goal as **City Council Member** would



be to create equal opportunities for anyone to have a great quality of life in **Austin**, whatever that means to them. Not only can this be achieved via policy, but also by opening a two-way channel of communication between community members and our office.

The people of **District 3** have felt unseen and unheard by City Council for the past eight years. Rebuilding trust with the community will be one of my top priorities upon being elected.

La Voz: When people ask you why should I vote for you, how do you respond?

Daniela: I tell them there are four reasons: policy experience, professional background, how my campaign has been run, and who I am as a person.

As a city commissioner and community organizer, I am well-

researched on policies impacting this city. I am the only candidate who has released detailed policy platforms on affordability, healthcare, and climate resilience on my website and on social media. Additionally, I have been working boots on the ground in the food justice and social justice movements, in a district that includes food deserts and in some parts has as many as a quarter of folks on food assistance programs. That's something we must change, and I have the knowledge and skills to do that. As for the third reason, I've staffed my campaign with a broad array of people who come to this work earnestly, rather than spending tens of thousands of voters' dollars on expensive political consultants. The diversity of my campaign is representative of the diversity I will have in my city council office.

Finally, I am the average **District 3** resident - 30 years old, working class, a renter, and Latine. I firmly believe that those most impacted by policies should be the ones writing it, and as someone with various intersectionalities, I am uniquely qualified to represent the vast diversity of **D3** neighbors. I hope voters will see and hear that I have the values, the experience, and the skills to serve as their city council member. I'll be knocking on doors and talking with as many voters as possible, and hope to earn their support again on December 13.

La Voz: Since making it into the run-off election, what has surprised you the most?

Daniela: I've been pleasantly surprised by the amount of support that has rallied around our campaign, even more than during the **General Election**. It's been such a beautiful experience and gives me hope that a City Government based on collaboration, communication, and abundance is possible!

La Voz: Thank you for participating in this interview.

Daniela: Thank you for inviting me to participate in this opportunity to share my thought with your readers.



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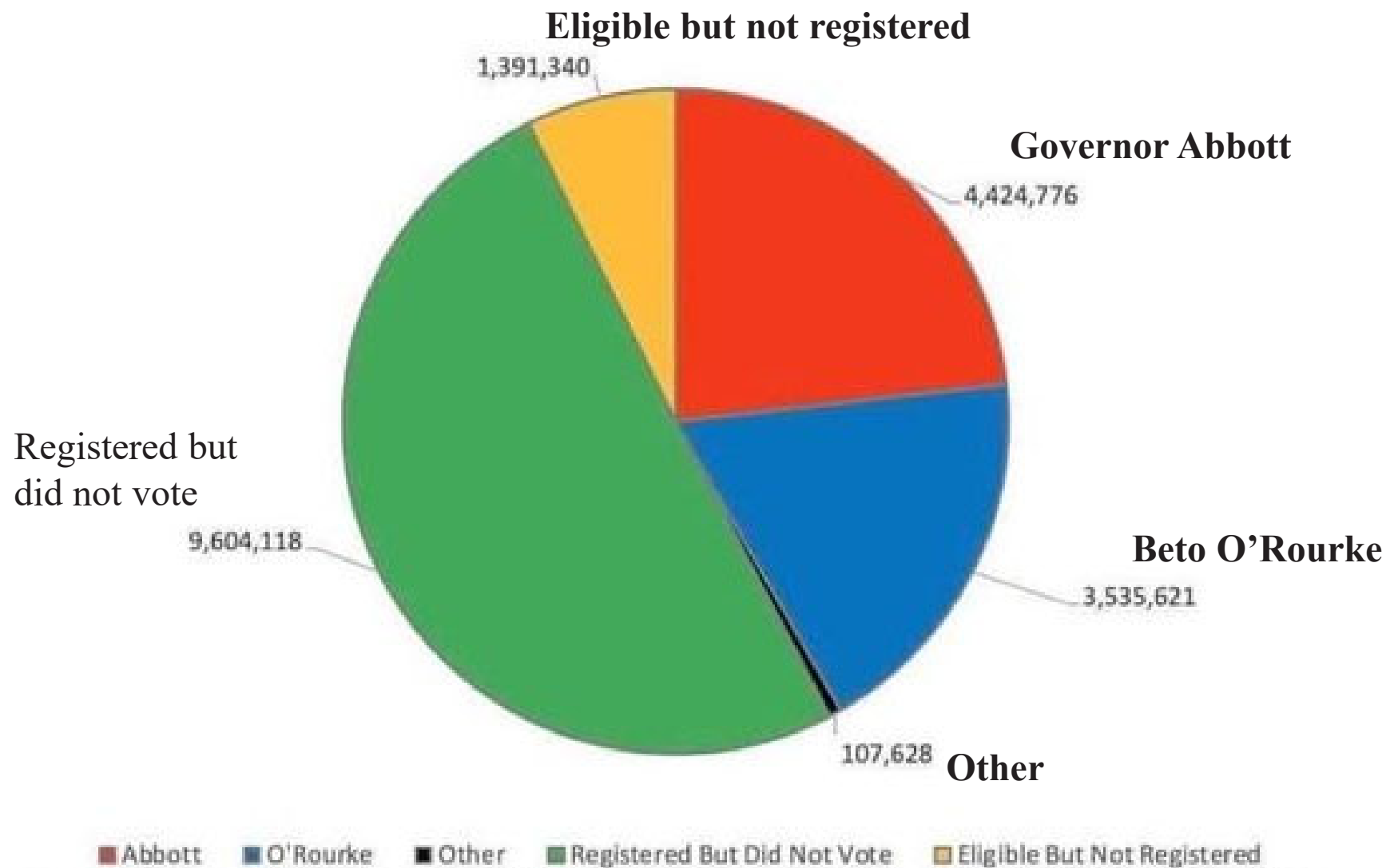
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Who Voted (and Who Didn't) in Texas in 2022



Source: Texas Secretary of State based on returns as of 11/09/22. Unregistered voters calculated using data from the United States Elections Project.
Chart prepared by Michael U, Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law.

With This Amount of **Apathy** Who Needs Voter Suppression?

Honors student's project reveals past Chicano activism at San Antonio College

A San Antonio College student's class project turned into a deep dive into [past student activism](#) on campus – and likely helped her earn admission to UT Austin.

When Honors Academy student Nati Roman took an Intro to Mexican-American Studies class at SAC, she learned about the Chicano movement of the late 1960s and 1970s, a nationwide push for civil rights and empowerment for Americans of Mexican descent.

She began to wonder: what was going on at SAC back then?

“SAC was around during the civil rights movement and the Chicano movement. I knew there had to have been activity,” Roman said.

Roman found little mention of SAC in accounts of the local movement, so she began conducting her own research. In addition to sources including *The Ranger* student newspaper, she tracked down students from the early 1970s and interviewed them to collect oral histories of their experiences at SAC.

She also interviewed Alamo Colleges District Chancellor Mike Flores about his father Ruben, who became a dean at SAC in 1986 and served the campus for 28 years. The elder Flores, a pioneering advocate for Mexican-Americans, played a role in bringing more Latinx faculty to SAC.

Roman discovered that politically active student groups were on campus and that several SAC faculty members advocated for classes that were more culturally relevant to students. She learned that the first Mexican American history class at SAC was offered in 1970 by history professor Johnny McCain, an advocate for Mexican American students on campus (one SAC publication announced the news with the headline “Gringo’ teaches Mexican-American history.”)

She found and interviewed Jose Luis Rodriguez, a former SAC student who produced an underground Chicano newspaper on campus. Rodriguez later went on to publish *The Chicano Times*, which was one of the



leading local Latino newspapers in the 1970s and eventually circulated throughout the state from the city's West Side.

“This is what we call history from the bottom up, by looking at everyday people and highlighting how their lives matter in making history,” said Dr. Marianne Bueno, co-coordinator of SAC’s history program, coordinator of Mexican American studies and Roman’s professor in her Mexican American studies class. “It’s not just politicians, civic leaders, business leaders and military leaders who make history. It’s everyday people who also make history and Nati is especially attuned to their experiences.”

Roman’s original research also adds to the historical record, Bueno said. “Nati’s research not only fills a gap in San Antonio College history, but it fills a gap in San Antonio’s role in the larger Chicano movement,” Bueno said. *“She’s putting SAC in conversation with the larger Chicano movement that was happening here regionally and in Texas, but also nationally across the country.”*

Roman presented her findings [online](#), adding historical photos, newspaper clips and other graphics to tell the story in a visually appealing way.

Her own activism as a SAC student drove her interest in the project.

Soon after enrolling, Roman joined *Somos La Gente*, a Chicax, Latinx and Indigenous student group. She found a community of like-minded students and became active in efforts to remove the Ranger as the SAC mascot. She was the group’s president when the campaign to change the mascot succeeded.

While at SAC, Roman was part of the SAC Honors Academy,

a free program that provides opportunity, resources and support to high-achieving students. She graduated from SAC in May as an honors student and a distinguished graduate in Mexican American studies.

She included the project in her successful application to UT Austin, where she’s currently a junior majoring in Mexican American studies. She’s also studying digital humanities to present history in a way that’s accessible to modern audiences.

For Roman, the project isn’t done yet. She’s continuing to develop it at UT and plans to pursue graduate studies to help younger generations understand the past.

“I’m really interested in the way that history is presented and what kind of history is presented,” Roman said. “My goal is to keep doing research on my community, telling under-told stories. My end goal is to create interesting, engaging, interactive websites for other people to learn some of this history.”

Why most people dying from COVID-19 have been vaccinated and the continued protection of the vaccine

Rogelio Sáenz



For the first time since vaccinations became available during the pandemic, most people now dying from **COVID-19** were vaccinated. This, according to a recent report by **McKenzie Beard**, who writes for the **Washington Post's The Health 2022**. For many, this is a surprising finding and the kind of information that anti-vaxxers will undoubtedly spread through social media and other sources.

people who are the most vulnerable to dying from **COVID-19** are the most likely to be inoculated.

The reality, as **Beard** outlines, is that this finding reflects the fact that a growing majority of people are vaccinated. Overall, according to the **Kaiser Family Foundation's (KFF) COVID Vaccine Monitor**, as of mid to late September 2022, 77 percent of people in the country had received at least one vaccination and people who are the most vulnerable to dying from **COVID-19** are the most likely to be inoculated.

Indeed, 88 percent of persons 65 and older have been vaccinated. It naturally follows, then, that when there are more than 3 persons who have been vaccinated in the country for every 1 not vaccinated, eventually the share of all **COVID-19** deaths among the vaccinated would widen. This is particularly the case among persons 65 and older, the most at risk of dying from the pandemic, where more than 7 older persons have been vaccinated to every 1 who has not.

Furthermore, as is widely known, while the vaccination increases considerably our odds of not contracting the virus and our chances of having milder symptoms if we do get infected, its effectiveness diminishes with time. Even persons who are fully boosted will be susceptible to the virus with the passage of time.

This reality is consistent with the observation of public health specialists that we will not eliminate **COVID-19** in the near future, but will likely have to be vaccinated annually. To complicate matters, new variants and subvariants of **COVID-19** keep emerging, the latest being the BQ.1 and BQ.1.1 subvariants, which may get around the defense of the vaccine.

Ultimately, however, the bottom line is that the vaccine is our best protection. **Beard**, in her report, provides statistics based on deaths occurring in August 2022, illustrating the protection that the vaccine provides.

- Persons 6 months and older who have never been vaccinated were 6 times more likely to die from **COVID-19** compared to people who have received their initial primary dose(s).
- Unvaccinated people 6 years of age and older were 8 times more likely to die from **COVID-19**

compared to persons who had received one booster shot.

- People 50 and older who have not been vaccinated were 12 times more likely to die from **COVID-19** compared to persons of the same ages who have received two or more boosters.

These statistics clearly demonstrate the protection that the **COVID-19** vaccine offers. Even though I, myself, had two vaccinations along with one booster, I contracted the coronavirus infection this past summer. Fortunately, even though I suffered from a variety of **COVID-19** symptoms, I benefitted from the protection that the vaccines and booster offered me to keep me from having to seek medical attention or hospitalization. I count my blessings that I did not get **COVID-19** at the time that vaccines were not available.

As we are in the winter season and congregate indoors more frequently, especially during the holiday season, it is important that if you have not yet been fully vaccinated or still have not received the booster(s) that you are eligible for, you do

so to protect yourself, your family, and your community.

In the Latino community, even though we disproportionately died from **COVID-19** in 2020 and for much of 2021, my own analysis shows that Latino **COVID-19** deaths over the course of 2022 have risen at a slower pace compared to other racial and ethnic groups. Between January 15, 2022 and November 19, **COVID-19** deaths rose by 16.6 percent among Latinos compared to 22 percent for Indigenous Peoples and Asians, 23 percent for Blacks, and 30 percent for whites. This more favorable outcome for Latinos has been due, at least partly, to many Latinos getting vaccinated. Nonetheless, there are still many who have not done so. If you are not vaccinated, please do so now.

Rogelio Sáenz is professor in the Department of Demography at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

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I Had a Mother That Read to Me

By Josñ Onofre Gonzalez



It was a beautiful Monday morning in **Idaho**-clear blue skies, accompanied by a soothing breeze. The seemingly endless expanse of long green rows of tender beet sprouts was nature at her best. But my friend **Monterrey** was neither a romantic nor fond of Monday mornings. He smiled to himself and shook his head pensively, as we thinned our beet plants. *'Esa sonrisita'* [that faint smile] on his face told me there was a tale to be told today.

*"As long as you don't start talking to yourself, **Monterrey**, smiling to yourself is no offense,"* I jested.

Monterrey nodded and continued to smile. *"I tell you, **Lare**,"* [He called me **Lare**] he said, *"we were involved in a barroom free-for-all last night,. Both **Campeche** and **Tabasco** are natural troublemakers, man. **Tabasco's** belligerence and rowdiness increase in proportion to his drinking. Last night he wanted to stir things- buscando tres pies al gato, sabiendo que tiene cuatro."* [making out a cat as three-legged, knowing it has four]

*"That's **Tabasco** for you, **Monterrey**. El que nace testarudo, testarudo se queda."* [He who is born hard-headed stays hard-headed.] Or as you have said: *arbol que nace torcido, jamas su tronco endereza."* [A tree that starts crooked will never grow an upright trunk.] *"To add flame to the fire, **Lare**... **Campeche** accused the bartender of short-changing him on the beers. The bartender, who had friends, denied it. One word led to another. Then cue sticks and punches started flying.*

*"It's like a death wish with these guys, **Lare**. They genuinely love violence, confrontation, and fireworks. Ven la tempestad y no se hincan. [They see the squall but pay no heed.] Insane. "I've tried to tell them it's a losing game, because always, pa' unos hay otros. [to the crafty a crafty-and-a-half] They don't know that there's nothing wrong with running sometimes. As the saying goes: patas pa' que son!"* [What are feet for!]

*"Well, **Monterrey**, providencia procura por sus tontos y bribones. [Providence provides for her fools and rascals.] Who knows, but that's how the saying goes." You're right, **Lare**. You might have providence on your side sometimes, but it's my deep belief that el que busca encuentra [He who looks, finds.] Like I said, I've tried talking, but I can only go so far. No la hagas de redentor o saldras crucificado. [Do not play Redeemer, or you'll end up crucified.] Just stay away from those kind, **Lare**. You'll live longer."*

It was now my turn to smile...and reminisce. *"I know all about that, **Monterrey**. I had a mother that read to me."* *"Can you explain one thing to me, **Lare**," **Monterrey** asked, with an confused glance. "What does beer, bar fights, and broken cue sticks have to do with a mother that read to you?" "It has everything to do with it, **Monterrey**. I was a child of four years of age, when she created a plan to educate me. It'd be nap time. She would open the daily paper- *The Tamaulipas Mail*- and begin reading, page by page. She would dwell on the stabbings, the bludgeonings, and the gangland killings. The pictures were gory enough, but she had to specify the motive, illustrate the consequence, and attach a moral. Soon enough, I turned seven and entered the first grade. With much gusto, I brought my first book home for Mom and me to read...which led to the shock of my life. Mom could not read or write."*

Monterrey stood up from his hoeing. He studied me with a curious smile, that turned into a burst of laughter. *"You didn't have a mother that read to you, **Lare**. You had a mother that lied to you."*

*"She fooled me all right, **Monterrey**, and gave me a mild case of paranoia too. But her made-up stories, for the most part, have kept me out of trouble. And they'll also get me out of the beet fields before long. For that, I offer up a prayer of Thanksgiving...every single day of my life."*

Thank God for a mother that 'lied' to me!

Jose Onofre Gonzalez
November 2022



8 DEADLIEST MASS SHOOTINGS IN TEXAS THAT SHOCKED USA

Unfortunately, Texas is home to more than 4,000 gun deaths per year and mass shootings. It is estimated that, at least 37% of Texans own guns. The Centers for Disease Control reported that, Texas had the highest firearm mortality rate, of any state in 2020. Nearly 4,164 people in Texas, lost their lives to firearms in that year. Let's find out about, 10 deadliest mass shootings and killings, that shocked the Texas State in recent years.

2017 Sutherland Springs Church Shooting :

The Sutherland Springs church shooting, occurred on November 5, 2017, when Devin Patrick Kelley, of New Braunfels, Texas, perpetrated a mass shooting at the First Baptist Church, in Sutherland Springs, Texas. Kelley killed 26 people, including an unborn child, wounded 22 others, and killed himself. The attack is the deadliest mass shooting in Texas history, and the fifth-deadliest in the United States. It was the deadliest shooting in an American place of worship, surpassing the Charleston church shooting of 2015 and the Waddell Buddhist temple shooting of 1991.

2019 El Paso Shooting :

On August 3, 2019, a mass shooting occurred at a Walmart store in El Paso, Texas, United States. In the terrorist attack, a far-right individual killed 23 people and injured 23 others. The attack was a hate crime targeting Hispanic immigration and was influenced by the Christchurch mosque shootings in New Zealand. Patrick Wood Crusius, a 21-year-old from Allen, Texas, was arrested and charged with capital murder in connection with the shooting.

Police believe a manifesto with white nationalist and anti-immigrant themes, posted on the online message board 8chan shortly before the attack and was written by Crusius.

2022 Robb Elementary School Shooting, Uvalde :

On May 24, 2022, a mass shooting occurred at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, United States, where 18-year-old Salvador Ramos, a former student at the school, fatally shot nineteen students and two teachers, and wounded seventeen others. He fired shots for approximately five minutes outside the school, before entering unobstructed with an AR-15 style rifle through an unlocked side entrance door. He then shut himself inside two adjoining classrooms, killed the victims, and remained in the school for more than an hour before police officers at the scene shot him. No one was able to stop the gunman from carrying out the third deadliest school shooting in Texas history, in part because of "systemic failures and egregious poor decision making" by police officers.

2009 Fort Hood Shooting :

On November 5, 2009, a mass shooting took place at Fort Hood, near Killeen, Texas. Nidal Hasan, a U.S. Army major and psychiatrist, fatally shot 13 people and injured more than 30 others. It was the deadliest mass shooting on an American military base. Hasan was found guilty on 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder on August 23, 2013, and was sentenced to death on August 28, 2013.

2018 Santa Fe High School Shooting :

On May 18, 2018, a school shooting occurred at Santa Fe High School in Santa Fe, Texas, United States, in the Houston metropolitan area. Ten people – eight students and two teachers – were fatally shot, and thirteen others were wounded. The gunman began firing a weapon into an art class at the school at 7:32 a.m. CDT. The suspected shooter was identified by police as Dimitrios Pagourtzis, a 17-year-old student at the school. He is charged with capital murder of multiple people and held in custody without bail. Pagourtzis was ordered by a judge to remain at a mental health facility as doctors attempt to restore his competency to stand trial.

2017 Plano Shooting :

On September 10, 2017, a mass shooting occurred at a home in Plano, Texas. A gunman killed eight people in the home before being killed by police. A man shot and killed eight people at a Dallas-area home where people had gathered to watch a Dallas Cowboys football game. The gunman was Spencer James Hight, according to the Plano Police Department.

2015 Waco Shootout :

On May 17, 2015, in Waco, Texas, United States, a shootout erupted at a Twin Peaks restaurant where more than 200 persons, including members from motorcycle clubs that included the Bandidos, Cossacks, and allies, had gathered for a meeting about political rights for motorcyclists. Law enforcement, which included 18 members of the Waco police and four state troopers, had gathered to monitor the restaurant and meeting from outside. Members of the clubs and police were both involved in the gunfire. Nine bikers were killed, 18 others wounded or injured, and 177 individuals were ultimately arrested and initially detained in connection with the shootout, most for alleged participation in organized crime.

2019 Midland–Odessa Shooting :

On August 31, 2019, a spree shooting occurred in the West Texas cities of Midland and Odessa, involving a gunman shooting multiple people from a vehicle. Eight people were killed, including the perpetrator, and twenty-five people were injured, including three police officers. Authorities identified the shooter as 36-year-old Seth Aaron Ator from Lorena, Texas, a man who had been fired from his job the morning of the shooting spree. He was later shot and killed by police outside a movie theater in Odessa.



San Antonio 1943

Stocking up to make tamales for the holidays, **Maria Moreno** stopped by a **San Antonio** shop to buy corn husks on Nov. 18, 1943.

Nowadays it's not unusual to see tamales with ingredients like cream cheese or black beans, but traditional tamales are simply a layer of corn masa wrapped around a meat filling and steamed in a husk.

Tamales have been a diet staple since ancient times. Archeologists believe Mesoamericans ate tamale-type dishes as long as 8,000 years ago—about the same era that people in **Mexico** began transforming native teosinte grass into the corn plant as we know it.

Making tamales has always been laborious, which is why friends and family often come together in social gatherings called tamaladas to share the work. *"No West Side housewife would be caught Christmas week without a batch of tamales,"* **Moreno** told the **"San Antonio Light"** on that autumn day.

From **Texas Highways Magazine** Courtesy "San Antonio Light," University of Texas at San Antonio Libraries Special Collections

Professor Takes Helm of Major Latinx Literary Journal

by Jeffrey Day

Maceo Montoya is a UC Davis professor, writer, artist and scholar, and recently made his first film. He's also added editor to his many titles, leading the highly regarded **Huizache: The Magazine of a New America**. Montoya recently piloted the relaunch of the journal with a new issue coming out this month.

"Huizache serves as an exciting dialogue between generations and also provides a point of continuity across them," said Montoya, a professor in the the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies and the Department of English Creative Writing Program *"Being published in it can be an important validation, especially for emerging writers. It's a place where writers who are now well known were first published."*

The publication is a place for pioneers, prominent contemporary voices and new unpublished writers from diverse backgrounds working in many styles. Although the word "magazine" is in its name, at 275 pages and 45 writers and artists in the upcoming issue, **Huizache** would be more properly called a "book." Previously called **Huizache: The Magazine of Latino Literature**, the annual journal was founded in 2011 and has been on hiatus since 2018 as a new editor and hosting institution were located.

A relaunch event will take place Dec. 2 at 6 p.m. at **Taller Arte Del Nuevo Amanecer** (TANA) with readings by six writers. TANA is the artmaking outpost of the Chicana and Chicano studies department at 1224 Lemen Ave., **Woodland, California**.

A huizache is a wild acacia tree native to **Mexico** whose reach is South and East **Texas**, where it irritates landowning farmers. No matter what they do to be rid of it, the resilient, beautiful tree grows and flourishes." — from **"Huizache"**

Montoya met **Huizache** founding editor **Dagoberto Gilb** in 2008 through his late uncle **José Montoya**, a poet and visual artist and a founding member of the **Sacramento-based art activist group The Royal Chicano Air Force**. Montoya is part of a prominent family of artists and writers that also includes his father, the artist and UC Davis art professor emeritus **Malaquis Montoya**, and his late brother, poet **Andrés Montoya**. *"I think that shared history was one of the reasons he trusted me with the journal,"* Montoya said.

One reason Montoya agreed to lead **Huizache** is that he recalls how fantastic it felt when he was first published in the journal alongside his literary heroes and peers. *"I kept thinking back to what it was like to hold the first issues of Huizache in my hands, that mixture of pride and admiration, and I wanted others to know that feeling too,"* he said.

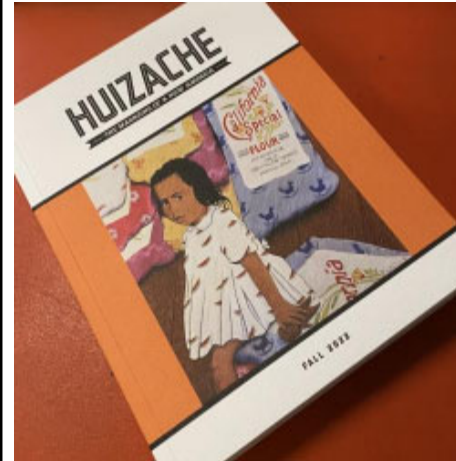
An important and unique outlet

The journal has long been a place that welcomes risk-taking, said **Emmy Perez**, a former **Texas Poet Laureate** who has had previous work published in the journal and has a poem in the new issue.

"Journals like Huizache showcase some of our very best work because some of us may feel more comfortable submitting certain pieces there than to other literary spaces," she said. *"The long poem of mine in the next issue feels more at home there than in most other journals. I was encouraged to keep adding to the poem, knowing it had a chance to be published in Huizache."*

'A beautiful object'

Nearly all the poems, stories and essays in the forthcoming issue were recent submissions with a few solicited from more established writers. This issue also includes a dozen works from visual artists living in the **U.S.-Mexico** border region. The journal



always has a cover image created by a noted artist.

While the publication celebrates Latinx literature, it also strives, Montoya said, *"to take risks, challenge our own expectations and point in new directions."* The new subtitle, **The Magazine of a New America**, also reflects that. *"What binds the writers we publish is not their ethnic identity, but that their writing pushes a new definition of what it means to live in the Americas,"* he said.

The forthcoming issue

The forthcoming issue contains work by well-known writers, including **Juan Felipe Herrera**, former **U.S. Poet Laureate**; **Willie Perdomo**, **State Poet of New York**; and **Luis Valdez**, founder of theatre company **El Teatro Campesino**, writer of the play **Zoot Suit** and winner of a **Presidential Medal of Freedom**. Cover artist **Ester Hernandez's** art is in the collections of the **National Museum of American Art – Smithsonian Institution**; the **Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco**; **Museo Casa Estudio Diego Rivera y Frida Kahlo, Mexico City**; and the **Victoria and Albert Museum, London**.

"From the start, Huizache was something that looked and felt different and was a beautiful object," Montoya said. *"There is very much this aesthetic awareness in every aspect — the cover, text, design, paper, even*



the ads. People recognize the importance of Huizache and I got so much positive feedback when people learned it was back in operation. They've missed it."

About Maceo Montoya

Maceo Montoya's books include **The Scoundrel and the Optimist**, **The Deportation of Wopper Barraza**, **You Must Fight Them: A Novella and Stories** and **Preparatory Notes for Future Masterpieces**.

His artwork — drawings, paintings and prints — have been shown internationally. He has collaborated with other writers on several visual-textual projects, most recently **Arturo Mantecon's** 2018 translation of Mexican poet **Mario Santiago Papatzi's** Poetry Comes Out of My Mouth and in 2021's **American Quasar** with poet **David Campos**.

Montoya holds a master of fine arts degree (in art) from **Columbia University** and was a double major in history and ethnicity, race and migration at **Yale University**.

— Jeffrey Day, content strategist in the UC Davis College of Letters and Science

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Fear	Miedo
Safety	Seguridad
Worry	Preocupación
For one's Family	para la familia de uno
Too much	Hay mucho
Violence	Violencia
Too many	Hay demasiados
Shootings	Tiroteos
What is	Qué esta
Becoming of our	Pasando con nuestra
Society	Sociedad
We need to stand	Tenemos que poner nos pie
up and do something	y hacer algo
Time for us to wake up	Es tiempo que nos despertamos

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La Ciudad de Austin está creando un plan estratégico para proteger los arroyos y las comunidades de Austin, y queremos conocer su opinión! El Departamento de Protección de Cuencas protege las vidas, las propiedades y el medio ambiente reduciendo el impacto de las inundaciones, la erosión y la contaminación del agua. Sus comentarios nos ayudarán a establecer prioridades en nuestro trabajo y a guiar nuestro proceso de toma de decisiones para atender retos urgentes, tales como el cambio climático y las inequidades raciales.



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