

# La Voz

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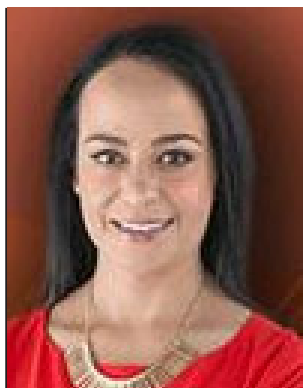
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## Cecilia Ballí Hired to Advance Museum of the Future

by Germaine Age Williams

**Cecilia Ballí** has been hired to advance the **Institute of Texan Cultures** in **San Antonio, Texas**. Since 1968, the **University of Texas at San Antonio Institute of Texan Cultures (ITC)** has provided a forum for the stories of **Texas** and **Texans** through educational and public programming, special events and exhibitions.

In 2021, **UTSA** embarked on a robust community engagement process, **ITC Centennial 2068: Community Stakeholder Visioning**, to envision the next 50 years of the **ITC** and its continued place as a cultural resource for all **Texans**. **Cecilia Ballí**, cultural anthropologist and journalist, will help advance the strategic planning and creative visioning for the institute and lay the groundwork during the national search for a new associate vice provost (AVP) who will lead the **ITC**.

As a part of her charge, **Dr. Ballí** will develop a conceptual framework to help position the **ITC** as a leader in statewide discussions on issues of the cultures of **Texas**, including a concept statement and programming vision, a storytelling and communication plan, a competitive analysis and a community engagement report. Additionally, she will identify future-oriented opportunities for changing how the public uses, thinks and talks about the institute.

*"Using an ethnographic approach, I will spend most of my time on the ground, observing, asking questions and listening deeply to ITC stakeholders, from scholars and students to community members to allies and potential partners," she said. "Culture is one of Texas' biggest assets and where the most dynamic exchanges and dialogues are happening. It's a very exciting time to help the ITC and UTSA harness these opportunities to develop a world-class institute."*

**Ballí** is also appointed as a professor of practice in the **UTSA College of Liberal and Fine Arts**. She is the founder and principal of **Culture Concepts**, a research and communications consultancy focused on ethnographic and qualitative research, cultural analysis, storytelling and narrative change. She holds a B.A. in **American Studies** and **Spanish** from **Stanford University** and a doctorate in cultural anthropology from **Rice University**.

As a cultural anthropologist, she most recently served as a visiting scholar at the **University of Houston's Center for Mexican American Studies**, where she taught qualitative research methods. She was previously an assistant professor of anthropology in the **U.S.-Mexico Borderlands Program** at the **University of Texas at Austin**.

She has written about Latinos and the **U.S.-Mexico** border region as a narrative journalist for over 20 years. She has published stories in **The New York Times Magazine**, **Harper's Magazine**, **Texas Monthly** and the **Columbia Journalism Review**. She began her reporting career at the **San Antonio Express-News**.



# People in the News



## Councilwoman Vanessa Fuentes Leads Effort to Improve Accessto Childcare in Austin

**Austin City Councilmember District 2, Vanessa Fuentes** is happy her first item on the city council agenda regarding some of the barriers to providing childcare was passed by the city council. This childcare item breaks down barriers that make it difficult to build new and expand existing childcare facilities. Fuentes stated after it passed, *"I'm so excited to continue working with the new Council. Thank you Mayor Watson and Councilmembers Harper-Madison, Velásquez, Qadri, & Alison Alter for cosponsoring this item!"*

### ABOUT Councilwoman Fuentes

*"I'm a proud Southeast Austinite and an experienced community leader on education, health equity, and transportation. I was raised by a Mexican immigrant mother and Military Veteran father from El Paso. My mom and dad taught me and my siblings the importance of education as an opportunity equalizer and raised me with the values of hard work and service to the community. At every opportunity, I've championed, invested, and advocated for social justice issues in Austin spanning the range of criminal justice, public education, community, transportation, and women's empowerment. From the state capitol to city hall to the boardroom, I've always stood on the side of the underrepresented and most vulnerable communities in the fight for equity. I'm committed to amplifying the voices of my community in this critical moment of change in Austin."*

**Fuentes** was elected to the **Austin City Council** on November 3rd, 2020 and proudly represents **District 2** on the **Austin City Council**, which includes the diverse neighborhoods of **Dove Springs, Del Valle, Pleasant Hill, Dittmar, Easton Park** and **Goodnight Ranch**. It also encompasses **Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, Circuit of the Americas** and **McKinney Falls State Park**.

Since taking office in 2021 amid the pandemic, **Vanessa** has fought for improved health and livability by championing issues around COVID-19 response and recovery, climate resilience, transit, creative arts survival and quality of life issues. In addition to tackling these community challenges, she has taken a stand for health equity as vice-chair of the **Public Health Committee** by sponsoring legislation on community health workers, vaccine distribution justice, mental health services and healthy food access.



## Dr. Jeanette Ball Named Lone Finalist for Superintendent of Southwest ISD

The **Southwest Independent School District Board of Trustees** has named **Dr. Ball** as their superintendent at their January 17th meeting. By law, the Board must now wait 21 days before voting to hire **Dr. Ball** to be the new superintendent for **Southwest ISD**.

**Dr. Ball** is slated to replace the outgoing superintendent, **Dr. Lloyd Verstuyft**. The Board has followed a lengthy process in determining the finalist and in October, they hired the **Texas Association of School Boards** to direct their search. The Board is scheduled to vote to offer a contract to **Dr. Ball** on February 7th.

Prior to being named the finalist, she served as the superintendent of **Judson Independent School District**, teacher, principal and district administrator. And prior to joining the **Judson ISD**, she was the superintendent of the **Uvalde** school district from 2013 to 2018.

In 2021, **Dr. Ball** was named **Superintendent of the Year for Education Service Center, Region 20 (ESC-20)**. She was chosen for her strong leadership skills, dedication to improving educational quality in her district, and commitment to public involvement in education. **Dr. Ball** is originally from **Del Rio, Texas** and earned her doctorate from the **University of Texas at San Antonio** in 1999.



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# Pensamientos

*Otra vez aqui estamos con La Voz newspaper.* In this issue we are highlighting the **Chicano Poet Nephtali De Leon** who currently lives in **San Antonio, Texas**. For more than 50 **Nephtali** has been sharing his spoken words and insight into the **Chicano Movement**. I last saw him at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of **La Raza Unida Party** at **UTSA** in **San Antonio** where he delivered a magnificent poem at the conclusion of the reunion. He recently completed a book of poetry that centers on the tragedy in **Uvalde, Texas**. More information is forthcoming.

## Cambiando de tema

In our **People in the News** section we continue to follow the unfolding career of **Dr. Cecilia Ballí**. She has signed on to a new position with the **Institute of Texan Cultures** and discusses some of the challenges of this new position. Also on in our **People in the News** section we spotlight **Austin City Council member Vanessa Fuentes** as she works to improve what the city can do to remove barriers to people who would like to provide child care facilities out of their homes. **Vanessa** is one of the hardest working city council members.

On page 4 we share the sad news of the passing of **Albert Almanza** at the age of 86. **Mr. Almanza** was a basketball standout at **The University of Texas at Austin** in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Read about his spectacular career on the 40 acres. We also are sharing with our readers the passing of the **Rev. Chris Hartmire** in **California**. **Chris Hartmire** was one of many who answered the call of **Cesar Chavez** to help him organize farm workers. **Chris** made his way to **California** and was instrumental in providing support for the grape and later the lettuce boycott. **Chris** has a lot of connections and helped to place farm workers in key cities across the **United States** that resulted in bringing the growers to the bargaining table. Without the countless volunteers like **Rev. Chris Hartmire**, the effort to unionize farm workers would have been a much longer fight.

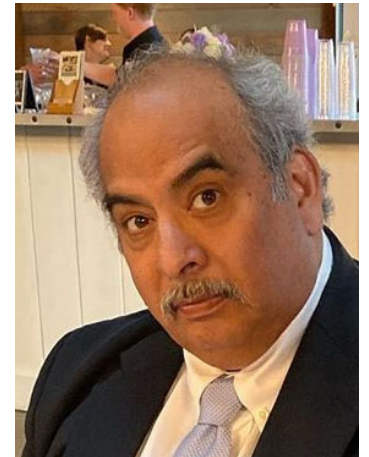
## Cambiando de tema

**Olga Campos Benz** provides a great story of how the restaurant **Fonda San Miguel** and **Austin Community College** are going to be working together to train chefs in the culinary arts of Mexican food preparation. While most people think of Mexican food at tacos and enchiladas, the folks of **Fonda San Miguel** have gone way into the interior of **Mexico** and bring to **Austin** a whole new meaning of what food can taste like. And they do it in a setting that is filled with art and atmosphere.

On page 13, **Paul Saldaña** and **Anita Quintanilla** provide insight on the efforts to transform the old **Palm School** into a community space and possibly heritage center. Both of these individuals have worked tirelessly over the years to bring improvements to **Austin, Texas**.

On pages 16 and 17 we look at authors and their work. Read about their books and the drive behind their efforts to get on paper topics that they hold dear to their hearts. In the coming months we hope to highlight more **Austin** authors who have written books.

## EDITORIAL



**Alfredo Santos c/s**  
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## Adios Albert Almanza

**Albert Almanza**, age 86, passed peacefully on January 28, 2023, blanketed in the love of his family. A memorial service was held at 11 am on Saturday, February 4, 2023, at **Tarrytown United Methodist Church**.



**Albert** was born on May 1, 1936, in **Chihuahua, Mexico**, the 6th of 7 children of **Manuel** and **Herminia Almanza**. Sent to **El Paso** to receive an education at **Jefferson High School**, **Albert** was discovered by **The University of Texas** basketball coaches who with the blessing of his father, recruited **Albert** to attend **The University at Austin** on a full scholarship.

After graduating from high school in 1957, **Albert** enrolled at **The University** where he became a 3-year letter winner and starting forward, earning 2nd team **All Southwest Conference** awards in 1959 & 1960 and first team **All-Southwest Conference Team** in 1961. In 1961, the team advanced to the **NCAA Tournament** round of 16 where **Albert** earned 2nd team all-tournament team honors.

Following his career at **UT**, **Albert** was a 7th round NBA draft choice of the **Los Angeles Lakers**. Also, he was a member of the **Mexican National Team** at the **Pan American Games** in 1959 and 1963 during which he was the team's leading scorer. He had the distinct honor of representing **Mexico** in the **1960 Olympics** in **Rome** and the **1964 Olympics** in **Tokyo** during which he was the leading scorer.

**Albert** was inducted in the **Laredo Hispanic Hall of Honor**, the **San Antonio Hispanic Hall of Honor**, the **Latin American International Sports Hall of Fame** and received the ultimate honor from **The University** in 2004 when he was inducted in the **Longhorn Hall of Honor**.

More momentous than his basketball career, **Albert** met the love of his life, **Helen Plummer**, on the 40 Acres. They married in 1961. After obtaining their degrees from **UT**, they devoted their collective lives to their family.

After teaching and coaching at "**Jeff**" in **El Paso**, **Jourdanton High School** and **AISD**, **Albert** started a career at **New York Life** which spanned 50 years. **Albert** was a lifetime member of the **Million Dollar Round Table**, the **Texas Lead-**

**ers Round Table** and received numerous national sales achievement awards as a life underwriter.

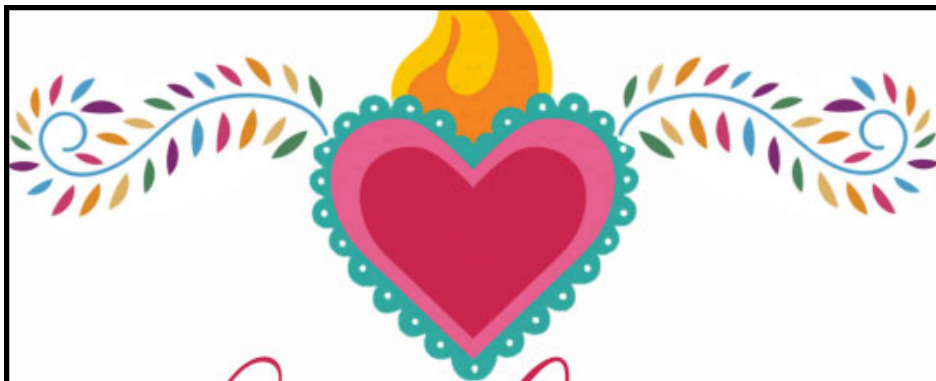
While raising his children with **Helen** and coaching his children and others in every youth sport imaginable, **Albert** was a board member of the **West Austin Optimist Club** (precursor to **WAYA**), the **Pan American Recreation Center**, **South Austin Recreation Center** and the **Laguna Gloria Art Guild**.

He also co-founded the **Capitol City Youth Basketball Association**, the first city wide youth basketball program, and was a mentor for **Big Brothers & Big Sisters**, **AISD's Adopt-A-School Program** and the **Seedling Mentor Program**. **Albert** also served as President of **AISD's Vocational Education** board, Chairman of the **Education Service Center Region XIII** board and as a member of the **MHMR** board. In the early 1980's, **Albert** served as the regional director of the **Selective Service System** and had the honor of serving as the Foreman of the **Travis County Grand Jury** in 1982 and 2002.

Knowing hardship himself, **Albert** believed he had a duty to help the less fortunate and devoted his time, talents and treasures to those in need. **Albert's** devotion to this ideal led to his involvement with the **River City Youth Foundation** where he was instrumental in the early success of the Foundation's efforts to empower the youth and families of southeast **Austin's Dove Springs** to lives afe, healthy and productive lives.

Having arrived in **Austin** with the limited ability to speak English, **Albert** taught English to immigrants through several programs in the **Travis County** area, including **Lifeworks**. **Albert** was active at **Tarrytown United Methodist Church** from his early days in **Austin** as a youth sponsor. He also participated in numerous mission activities in the **Austin** area, **New Mexico**, **Honduras** and **Matamoros, Mexico**. For his extensive community work, **Albert** received the **Five Who Care Community Service Award** in 2003 and was a **Bank of America Local Leader Award** winner in 2009.

**Albert** was blessed with an abundant loving family both in the **US** and **Mexico** who loved him dearly and will miss his guidance, wisdom and encouragement.



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# Remembering Rev. Chris Hartmire

A Religious leader who helped establish United Farm Workers, dies at 90

BY PRISCELLA VEGA

It was 1965 and throngs of Filipinos and Mexican workers walked out from their jobs in the grape fields of **Delano**, protesting unfair wages and unjust treatment and demanding the right to unionize. The strike sparked a yearslong battle that would ripple throughout the state.

Growers tried to crush all organizing efforts, zeroing in on the **National Farm Workers Association** and its charismatic leader, **Cesar Chavez**, whom they tried to paint as a communist. Workers were at first reluctant to follow **Chavez's** call to action, afraid of what the repercussions could bring. The fight even spilled into church pews, where workers and growers prayed together but clergy largely stayed silent. Into this chasm stepped the **Rev. Wayne "Chris" Hartmire Jr.**

He was the director of the **California Migrant Ministry**, a longstanding program that assisted farmworkers. They were among the first religious organizations to publicly back what would become the **UFW**, arguing its work was the epitome of **Jesus's** call to help those who needed it. **Hartmire** invited clergyman across the country to witness the **Delano** strike firsthand.

*"Believe me, you being here it's just a whole lot more powerful than you realize," Hartmire recalled in an interview telling anyone who took up his invitation. "Your presence here is more supportive of the work that the church actually deserves. Somehow, Jesus comes through, regardless of where our institutions are, and workers feel like, 'This is a good thing we're doing.'"*

Whether in the **Central Valley** fields, **Sacramento's** homeless scene or his retirement community, **Hartmire** rallied behind people to fight for basic human rights and preserve their dignity. *"They were the starting point in getting church people from all over the country involved with us. They were the instrument for interpreting us to people," Chavez said of Hartmire's involvement with the California Migrant Ministry in an 1977 interview with Sojourners Magazine. "Chris and his gang went up and down the country interpreting what we were doing in the light of the controversy that existed. And it split church committees wide open. People were taking sides. We didn't win all of them, but we won a lot."*

Even after splitting with the famed union at a time when he felt it had lost its way, **Hartmire** remained dedicated to a life of service. He died Sunday of congestive heart failure in **Claremont**, said his son, **John**. He was 90. *"If you were involved in unions or in the church community, you knew who he was," John said. "If you didn't, you certainly knew who Cesar Chavez was. But if you dug in and got to know more intricate details, [Hartmire] pops up everywhere."*



ABOVE: Cesar Chavez and Rev. Chris Hartmire, Jr.

Hartmire was on a different trajectory before becoming a key leader in the farmworkers movement. He earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from **Princeton University**, and later served in the **Philadelphia Naval** shipyard in the mid-1950s. The work came naturally but he longed for something more fulfilling. He enrolled in **Union Theological Seminary** in **New York City** where writings by the German theologian **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** —who denounced **Hitler's Nazi** regime —galvanized his passion for social justice. After receiving his **Master of Divinity** and becoming an ordained Presbyterian minister, he worked with youth at the East Harlem Presbyterian Church. The experience convinced Hartmire to focus his work on helping the oppressed. "A servant gets into the lives of the people, washes their feet, and serves them," Hartmire would go on to say, according to a **UFW** tribute honoring his life. "A servant joins with farmworkers to be of service to them rather than bringing them services such as food or toys."

**Hartmire** also joined the Freedom Rides to challenge segregated interstate buses — his first of many run-ins with the law in the name of social justice. By 1961, he had moved to **Southern California** with his wife, **Jane "Pudge"** and their three children after he was recruited to oversee the **California Migrant Ministry**, a charity-oriented organization that offered vacation bible schools, food giveaways and health clinics.

In 1966, as the **Delano** strike was underway, **Hartmire** told the **Los Angeles Times** the ministry had long helped farmworkers with resources but had failed to "attack root causes" of their suffering. *"We must exist because churches in general have excluded the poor,"* he said. *"It reflects a sickness in the church."* Internal firestorms brewed within religious organizations over

the ministry's role in the strike. Longtime friends lauded **Hartmire's** ability to weave his community into social justice causes without coming across as holier-than-thou. Under his tenure, the **National Farm Worker Ministry**, which is still active today, was founded in 1971.

**Rev. Gene Boutilier**, a founding board member of the **National Farm Worker Ministry**, described his longtime friend as a "modern Christian revolutionary." *"Good organizers do a lot of listening and help people recognize the strength within themselves," Boutilier said. "Instead of saying, 'I'm strong and I'm going to help you be strong,' a good organizer enables what was already there and people being assisted with it."*

**Hartmire** ended his relationship with the **UFW** in 1987 when **Chavez** turned on him when he questioned the labor leader, much like he had with other early union members over the years. Despite being fully dedicated to "la causa," **Hartmire** reluctantly left but continued the selfless work

with a new endeavor. **LeRoy Chatfield**, a **Chavez** confidante who first met **Hartmire** when the **Delano** grape strike began, recruited **Hartmire** to join his **Sacramento-based** nonprofit **Loaves and Fishes**. He joined the board and helped organized a nonviolent fast and sit-in outside the offices of **Sacramento County** supervisors in 2002 to pressure officials to open a year-round shelter for homeless women and children. The action was anticipated to last a year, but supervisors caved within five months, **Chatfield** said. *"He lived a life in service to the poor. He loved it, he did it and he was good at it. People loved him and yet, there's not much public credit. I'm not saying there should be, but it's just the way it is," Chatfield said.*

*"The most important thing I think we provide is that we welcome people and we accept everybody," Hartmire told CNN in 1994, "no matter who they are, no matter how they look or how they smell." Hartmire viewed his time with Loaves and Fishes as the most fulfilling work of his life, according to his son and Chatfield, because it allowed him to develop bonds and understand complicated dynamics often surrounding the homeless community. He officially retired from the nonprofit in 2002.*

Even in retirement, **Hartmire** and his wife helped the lowest paid employees within the senior community demand compensation "well above" minimum wage, said **Boutilier**, who also lived in **Pilgrim Place** in **Claremont**. **Hartmire** passed on his love of baseball to his family.

**Hartmire** is survived by his four children, nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren. A celebration of life, which will be open to the public, was held in January. **Hartmire's** wife died in 2017.

# Roberto Alonzo

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# Nephtali De Leon



## ¿Quién es Nephtali De Leon?

Poet, Author, Playwright, Muralist Painter  
Full time Artist, former Migrant Worker. Author of several books, published in USA, Mexico, Spain, China and France. Writes for Grown-Ups and Children. Illustrates his own works. His poetry has been translated into 12 languages: Russian, Chinese, Arabic, Catalan... Author of Chicano Popcorn (Poetry), and La Llorona, A Spirit Unable to Rest ( a Screenplay for film). Creator of the visual art, "La Virgen de Guadalupe," and many more such as his Giant mural, "El Molcajete Cosmico," and "Adelita Esta Solita." In Poetry he is author of "Hey, Mr. President Man!", "Love entre Gorditos," "Coca Cola Dream", "Tortilla Valentine," and the Chicano prayer, "Nuestro Jefito." Nuestro Jefito que cantoneas alla arriba...

## Chicano Poets

© Nephtali De León

the first Chicano poets came into the world late 1960's, early 1970's, the word Chicano had not yet been born, that is, accepted as a term to proudly call a people who were torn away from everything cast out, -- forlorn...

of course the word was old left over by Mexica clans but who knew that? no one made up the word it was as old as quests and pyramids upon our lands those early poets... there musta been more than a few of them in every city, every town, every alley, every migrant road, but some made waves a loud national noise they all became speedy gonzalez enchilada wonders of Aztlan giving our people a local habitation and a name the ones I knew were awesome like

Ricardo Sánchez,  
Abelardo, Tigre,  
Magdaleno Avila,  
Raúl Salinas, Corky,  
and Javier Pacheco,  
Carmen, Lorna Dee,  
Angela de Hoyos,  
and Ricardo Mora,  
Alurista, Alexandro,  
and Roberto Vargas,  
Victor Hernández Cruz,  
José Montoya and later  
el José Montalvo,  
Flaco Jesús,  
Juan Felipe Herrera,  
crazy gypsy Omar Salinas,  
José Antonio Burciaga,  
el Tino Villanueva,  
Reyes Cárdenas...

I'm sure I've missed a few such as the later Carlos Cumpián...

Ah! Such distinct rebel sounds renegades of everything that threatened to destroy them like the colonial shackles they shook off they shook the nation to its core

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# Fonda San Miguel Restaurant and Austin Community College District Sign First-Ever Career Scholar Agreement Honoring the Late Diana Kennedy & the Late Chef Miguel Ravago

by Olga Campos Benz

Sixty-two years is well past the age of most **Austin Community College** students and likely some if not many of **ACC's** instructors. So, it's worth noting that long before most **ACC** students and faculty were born - 62 years ago to be exact - true authentic Mexican food was first introduced to **Austin** and **Central Texas** by the late Executive Chef and co-founder of **Fonda San Miguel** restaurant, **Miguel Ravago**.

Now, in his honor, the first-ever **Miguel Ravago Career Scholarship** is being awarded to a student of the **Culinary Arts Department** of the **Austin Community College District (ACC)**.

**Fonda San Miguel** is also establishing a second **Career Scholarship** named in honor of the late **Diana Kennedy**, a world-famous authority and cookbook author of Mexican cuisine who died at her home in **Mexico** on July 24, 2022, at the age of 99. **Sra. Kennedy** was a good friend of **Chef Ravago** and his friend and the restaurant's founder, **Tom Gilliland**. **Kennedy** visited the duo often at **Fonda San Miguel** where she assisted in developing many of the restaurant's signature dishes from the various regions of **Mexico**.

## Two Scholarships

The two scholarships will open new pathways of opportunity for **ACC Culinary Arts** students by allowing them to gain vital on-the-job skills while simultaneously working at the popular **Austin** restaurant and attending **ACC** classes.

These first-ever scholarships honor two world-recognized legends of authentic Mexican cuisine. **Tom Gilliland** says, "Miguel was the first chef to introduce true interior Mexican food to Austin when he arrived here in 1962. Naming the scholarships after both **Diana** and **Miguel**

will continue their lifetime legacies of sharing knowledge and elevating true Mexican food to its deserved place at the top of culinary achievements." He adds, "This is just the start of our collaboration with **ACC** students to become future leaders in the culinary world and to build **Austin's** continued reputation as a national culinary destination."

Students enrolled in the **ACC Culinary Arts Program** were among those present as **FSM's** owner **Tom Gilliland** presented a \$10,000 check to **ACC Foundation Executive Director Amy Bawcom**.

Others attending the announcement of the scholarships included **Chef Stephanie Herrington**, **Chef** and **ACC Culinary Arts Department Chair**; **Dr. Nora Comstock** former **ACC Trustee** and current member of the **ACC Foundation**, **Carlos Monroy** and **Blanca Zesati**, Co-chefs, **Fonda San Miguel Restaurant**; and **Delfina Castillo Tzab** and **Elide Castillo**, Sisters and Visiting Chefs from the **Yucatan** región of **Mexico**.

The Spring Semester at **Austin Community College** officially began on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, and applications for these career scholarships are now being accepted from students enrolled in the culinary, pastry, or the entrepreneurial program which includes the recently added



ABOUT: Tom Gilliland and Chef Miguel Ravago

category of sustainable farming. Scholarship recipients will work no more than 20 hours per week at **Fonda San Miguel** and will receive on-site instruction and mentoring from **FSM's** co-chefs, **Carlos Monroy** and **Blanca Zesati**.



## About Fonda San Miguel

Here's additional background information about **Fonda San Miguel** restaurants that newcomers to **Austin** may not know. It was founded in **Austin, TX** by **Tom Gilliland** and **Miguel Ravago** in 1975. It was the first restaurant in **Texas** to focus exclusively on authentic regional cuisine from **Mexico's** interior culinary epicenters: **Oaxaca**, **Puebla**, **Veracruz**, and **Yucatan**.

The restaurant features **Gilliland's** carefully curated collection of museum-quality artwork, exotic plants, and international decor. With the dual focus of food and art, **Fonda San Miguel** continues to flourish with its long-range impact on Mexican food in **Texas** and the United States has garnered national and international acclaim. The restaurant is already looking ahead to its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2025.

Those interested in pursuing a culinary career, might be interested to know **Austin Community College** is a nationally recognized two-year college serving more than 7,000 square miles in **Central Texas** and provides reduce, indistrict tuition to students in more than 25 area public school districts. **ACC** is focused on student success and providing affordable, flexible pathways to help students reach their education goals, learn new job skills, or advance their career.

**ACC's Culinary Arts** program is led by a faculty of expert chefs. The college offers an **Associate of Applied Science: Baking and Pastry** and **Associate of Applied Science: Culinary Arts** at the **ACC Highland Campus**. It will soon be adding curriculum that covers entrepreneurial enterprises such as sustainable farming.







**Art by Cris Escobar:  
A Fundraiser to Support his  
daughter Krystina Pacheco**

**Saturday, February 11 \* 5:30-8 pm  
Palacio de Palomas \* 603 S San Joaquin**

Cris Escobar is a renown artist from **Del Rio, Texas** whose works are valued by collectors around the country. All funds raised from art sold at this event will go to support his daughter **Krystina E. Escobar Pacheco** who developed **Toxic Shock Syndrome** after delivering a healthy baby girl in late October. She has undergone many procedures and surgeries and has been hospitalized since late October. The funds will help offset her family's many unexpected obstacles including, but not limited to hospital bills! Please come prepared to pay via cash, check, or paypal and take art with you after purchase. Cris will be in attendance and can be paid directly. #art #fundraiser #chicanoart



McAllen, TX — Brother duo Abraham and Rogelio Ybarra, both born and raised in McAllen, Texas, are known as The Ybarra Boyz and have garnered thousands of views for their TikTok videos sharing a passion for Tejano and Conjunto music.

## "Tacos of Texas" podcast wins two Signal Awards



Congratulations to the "Tacos of Texas" podcast on winning the "Listener's Choice" and "Bronze" Signal Awards from the same people who brought us the internet-focused Webby Awards.

Recognition went specifically to the episode "Austin's Taco Mile" – about **Austin's** unsung "Taco Mile" on **Rundberg Lane**, which serves up some of the most authentic tacos in the area. In the episode, host **Mando Rayo** examines how this hidden gem of a taco scene reflects **Austin's** segregationist history, changing demographics, and the plight of immigrants in **Austin**. **Former Austin City Council** member and newly sworn-in U.S. Representative Greg Casar is featured in the episode, which originally dropped Dec. 6, 2021.

The **Signal Awards** received nearly 1,700 entries for its dozens of awards, which were divided across four categories: individual episodes, limited series and specials, shows and branded shows and advertising. Winners were announced Jan. 10.

*"The **Signal Awards** were created to lift up and showcase the podcast industry's diversity and depth, while also helping the community of listeners and fans find new shows and celebrate the existing ones they love,"* **Deondric Royster**, the managing director of the **Signal Awards**, said. *"We congratulate the winners on their success and also thank the podcast-listening public for enthusiastically engaging in the very first year of our awards."*







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Texans' civil rights and basic freedoms are under assault and those in power must be held accountable. This fight is not new to the **Texas Civil Rights Project**. Today, **Rochelle Garza** will be its next President. The **Texas Civil Rights Project** is based in **Austin, Texas**. It was started by the **Rev. Jim Harrington** in 1990. An attorney and advocate, **Harrington** was inspired by and involved with the **United Farm Workers'** movement in the **Rio Grande Valley**. He directed **TCRP** for twenty-five years, fighting for the rights of Texans with disabilities, immigrants, workers in need of fair labor conditions, and more.



## Meet José “Chito” Vela

**José “Chito” Vela** is the **Austin City Council Member** for **District 4** which is located in the North Central part of the city.

He was born in **Laredo, Texas** and moved to **Austin** to attend **The University of Texas** where earned a degree in history in 1995. **Vela** then went on to earn a Masters degree from the **Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs** in 1999 and a law degree from **The University of Texas School of Law** in 2004.

Before his election to the **Austin City Council**, he worked as an immigration and criminal defense lawyer at **Walker Gates Vela**, a law firm in District 4. **Vela** stated, “*My passion has always been defending the residents of Texas from forces that seek to marginalize them, and I am very proud of my record on immigration and criminal justice reform. This includes my legal experience as well as my time as President of the Board of the Worker’s Defense Project.*” Prior to his private law experience, he was **General Counsel** to Texas State Rep. **Solomon Ortiz, Jr. (D)**.

Locally, **Vela** have extensive experience in both the political and social worlds of **District 4**. He served as President of the **Blanton Elementary PTA** for several years and was a member of **Greg Casar’s Planning Commission**. He has lived in **Windsor Park** neighborhood for almost 20 years where he is raising his three children – **Josue, Perla, and Camilo** – alongside his wife, **Fabiola**.

**Vela** says, “*Austin has been a welcoming and neighborly home for me, and I am working to ensure that it is the same for everyone who wants to make a home here. Above all, Austin must be a safe and thriving home for the working class, not a playground for the wealthy.*”

### Contact Info

Phone 512-978-2104

Physical Address  
City Hall  
301 W 2nd St  
Austin, TX 78701

Mailing Address  
P.O. Box 1088  
Austin, TX 78767





# Palm School Update

From KVOU.com == Travis County leaders are revisiting the future of the historic **Palm School** in **Downtown Austin**. This last week, County leaders discussed preserving the space while making it profitable at the same time. County members have made plans to preserve the building since 2019, but halted during the pandemic. Those with connections to the **Palm School** explain that there's a great deal of history that needs to be remembered. *"Palm School was probably one of the first, if not the first, public schools made available to Mexican-Americans here in Austin and there's a great deal of history with the presence of Mexican-Americans in and what we know now as the downtown area,"* **Paul Saldaña** said.



**Saldaña's** father was a student at **Palm School** and explained the experiences his father had while attending the school. In the days before Interstate 35 existed throughout Austin, the building wouldn't have electricity or air conditioning. *"There was a lot of great deal of unpleasantness to remember as well too,"* **Saldaña** said. *"It's important for us to preserve that, how our community, the Mexican-American poor community, how resilient they were."*

**Anita Quintanilla** grew up on **Rainy Street** and went to **Palm School** for six years. *"This was sacred grounds, this was our school, our culture, our community, we knew everybody,"* **Quintanilla** said. A coalition has been formed 47 years after the **Palm School's** closure as a way to preserve the school for the community. The coalition is determined to convert the school and park into an art gallery, museum or community space.



Since the pandemic put a pause on the preservation project, most of the staff that had worked on the original project left the county. One county commissioner doesn't want to start over and instead reactivate the original **Palm School** preservation project. *"I feel like the community has spoken, we value this as a cultural asset, and I don't know why we're not starting from there,"* **Travis County Commissioner Ann Howard** said.

Outside of the **Palm School** lies all kinds of developments reflecting a city that's changed by leaps and bounds - and that's motivation for **Saldaña** and **Quintanilla** who are eager for historic and cultural preservation. *"People are partying and drinking on Rainey Street, they don't have an idea of the history of it,"* **Quintanilla** said. *"In order for our city to know where we're going, we have to acknowledge our past,"* **Saldaña** said. *"The Commissioners Court is looking at creating a steering committee made of stakeholders that will oversee future development."*



## 2023 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

- PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE CHAIR
- CAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIR
- AUDIT & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER
- MOBILITY COMMITTEE MEMBER
- CAMPO TRANSIT POLICY BOARD MEMBER



**VANESSA FUENTES**  
AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2



## 2023 COUNCIL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

- Austin Water Oversight Committee
- City of Austin / AISD / Travis County Joint Committee
- Public Health Committee
- Housing and Planning Committee
- Regional Affordability Committee

**COUNCIL MEMBER JOSÉ VELÁSQUEZ**  
DISTRICT 3

CITY OF AUSTIN



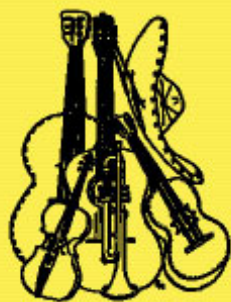
TEATRO DE ARTES DE JUAN SEGUIN'S  
 38TH ANNUAL  
**NOCHE DE GALA**  
**COMPETENCIA DE VOCALISTAS**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2023 7PM**  
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ADMISSION**  
**\$10**



**RESERVED  
SEATING**  
**\$15**



**ACCOMPANIED BY MARIACHI LAS ALTEÑAS**  
**20 CONTESTANTS**  
**5 MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION**  
**7 HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION**  
**8 UNIVERSITY/COMMUNITY DIVISION**

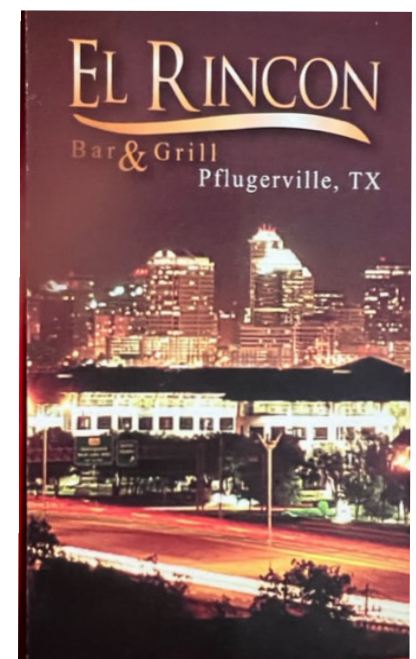


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 FOR MORE INFO CALL 830-401-0232

**Prayers for  
Humberto Beto  
Ramon**



We need prayers for Tejano music composer songwriter Humberto Beto Ramon. He received bad news from his Dr's in San Antonio. They have confirmed that he's got cancer in his kidneys. Dr's do not recommend surgery in removing his cancer because of high risks. They will try other methods in the meantime to see if something else can be done. Beto will be making several trips to San Antonio to see Dr's and other medical appointments. I am trying to put together a fundraiser to help Beto with his medical expense trips and lodging. If anyone out there can please help me in organizing this fundraiser please contact me Noe Lerma @ 361-549-5269. We will be needing music groups that are willing to donate a little of their time. We are also looking for someone that will be willing to start a Go Fund Me account for Beto Ramon as well.



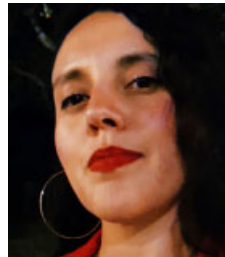




## Meet Maribel Falcón, Librarian for U.S. Latino/a/x Studies at the Benson Latin American Collection

**Tell us about yourself in 100 words or less**

I was born in **Pecos, Texas** and grew up in the small towns around **West Texas**. I somehow made it to **UT-Austin** where I got my BA in Sociology and Latin American Studies. After college, I moved to **NYC** and started an art collective with my friends called **Colectiva Cósmica**. I came back to **Texas** and worked at the **San Antonio Public Library**, then the **Harry Ransom Center**. I loved working in the archives, so I decided to go to the **iSchool** at **UT**. Just graduated in May and now am at the **Benson Latin American Collection**!



**What should people know about your role as the new Librarian for U.S. Latino/a/x Studies at the Benson?**

As the new librarian for U.S. Latino/a/x Studies, I want people to know that the Benson Latin American Collection is open and available for research for anyone. My role involves showcasing our special collections to students. Please know I am available to do this! I love finding materials in our collections to highlight and contextualize the coursework. I'm also very happy to help anyone in their quest for finding information.

**What is your favorite collection at the Benson?**

I am still learning the vast range of collections we have available, there are so many! So far, I have enjoyed finding materials and learning about the fight for education in the **George I. Sanchez Papers**, extensive border research in the **Julian Samora Papers**, and the achievements of women in the **Acosta-Winegarten Collection on Tejana History**. The most requested collection by classes this semester has been the **Carmen Lomas Garza Papers and Artworks**. To see these artworks up close is very special, especially seeing the trajectory of her art through several prints at once. An opportunity usually only seen in museum exhibitions or, of course, at the **Benson Latin American Collection**.

**What are you currently reading or binging?**

I'm currently re-reading **Seed to Harvest** by **Octavia Butler**. I love all her work and need some comfort reading as the weather cools down. As for binging, I have to admit I just started the **House of Dragon**. I saw all of **Game of Thrones** and was tired of seeing **Tik Toks** and missing the references!

**What do you like to do on your free time?**

Aside from work, I am involved in several projects. I love to watch films and go to concerts. I am also the curator of music videos for **Cine Las Americas International Film Festival**. I enjoy attending art shows and events, museum exhibitions, todo! I myself love to make art, mostly collages so I like to stay a part of the creative community. On the weekends, I may be around town spinning records with **Chulita Vinyl Club**.

**Is there anything else you would like to add?**

Yes, please visit us at the **Benson**! We are quite literally the best institution in the world for materials on **Latin America**, U.S. Latino/a/x studies and **Indigenous of the Americas**. Our collection is a treasure right here on campus and our resources are available to students of any major, any interests. Also be on the lookout! We are having an event in the Spring called **¡A Viva Voz! Celebrating Tejana Artists**

# Esquina Legal

**IMPORTANT information to get your affairs in order**  
**Make sure all bank accounts have direct beneficiaries.**  
**The beneficiary need only go to the bank with your death certificate and an ID of their own.**

**TOD** = Transfer On Death deed if you own a home. Completing this document and filing it with your county saves your heirs THOUSANDS. This document allows you to transfer ownership of your home to your designee. All they need to do is take their ID and your death certificate to the county building and the deed is signed over. Doing this will avoid the home having to go through probate.

**Living Will:** Allows one to put in writing exactly what you want done in the event you cannot speak for yourself when it comes to healthcare decisions as well as other final decisions.

**Durable Power of Attorney:** Allows one to designate a person to make legal decisions if you are no longer competent to do so.

**Power of Attorney for Healthcare:** This document allows one to designate someone to make healthcare decisions for them.

**Last Will and Testament:** Designates to whom personal belongings will go to.

**Funeral Planning Declaration:** Allows one to say exactly one's wishes as far as disposition of the body and the services.

If the above documents are done, you can AVOID probate.

If all the above is not done, you have to open an estate account at the bank. All money that doesn't have direct beneficiaries goes into this account. You have to have an attorney to open the estate account. The attorney also has to publicize your passing in the newspaper or post publication at the county courthouse, to allow anyone to make a claim on your property. Make a list of all banks and account numbers, all investment institutions with account numbers, lists of credit cards, utility accounts, etc. Leave clear instructions as to how and when these things are paid. Make sure heirs know where life insurance policies are located. Make 100% sure SOMEONE knows your Apple ID, bank ID account logins and passwords! Make sure you have titles for all vehicles, campers, etc!

Set up a TRUST for intended beneficiaries, especially those that are too young, and appoint a trustee of said trust. MOST IMPORTANTLY!!!! - Talk with those closest to you and make all your wishes KNOWN. Talk to those whom you've designated, as well as those close to you whom you did not designate. - Do this to explain why your decisions were made and to avoid any lingering questions or hurt feelings.

Hope this helps! ??Hope this lights a spark to encourage all your friends and family to take care of these things to make it easier for those we all leave behind!



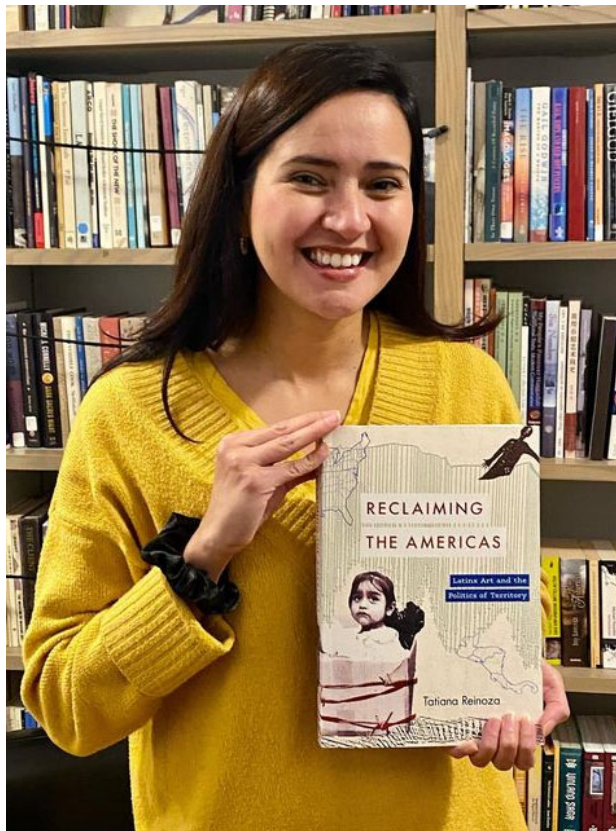
# Authors and their Work

## Tatiana Reinoza

During Professor Tatiana Reinoza's undergraduate years in Sacramento, CA, she had the opportunity to study with an art collective known as the Royal Chicano Air Force (RCAF).

Reinoza, now an assistant professor in Notre Dame's Department of Art, Art History & Design, had immigrated with her family from El Salvador during the country's civil war. Reinoza says that her time working with the RCAF, which had been active in creating propaganda for Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers Movement through posters and murals, inspired her future doctoral studies.

*"That's what got me into this politically active, sort of social justice-themed art," she says. "My dissertation was titled Latino Print Cultures in the United States, and it looked at how this movement evolved and how socially-oriented it was at first, serving organizations like United Farm Workers."*



Reinoza completed her master's and Ph.D in art history at the University of Texas at Austin, and went on to complete a postdoctoral fellowship at Dartmouth. She then made the move to Notre Dame, where she had made previous connections with faculty in the Institute for Latino Studies.

In 2015, Reinoza curated an exhibition for the Snite Museum of Art on campus, and was recruited as a faculty member a few years later. Among other courses at Notre Dame, Reinoza teaches one called Borderlands Art and Theory, which looks at contemporary art practices in relation to borders, and more specifically, the U.S.-Mexico border. Students are interested in the contemporary issues studied in the course, which also provides a historic context.

*"I think part of the draw for students to this class is the Catholic mission of the University, to stand in solidarity with marginalized members of society," she says. "The Central American refugee crisis has been in the news a lot, and the opportunity to delve into that through art appeals to our students. The issues we're studying are happening right now."*

Reinoza also teaches the Latinx Art & Activism course, in which students are able to use the Snite's extensive collection of Latino art as primary sources for their studies. The class focuses on radical print media, including comics, posters, prints, and zines, and how artists adopt these to mobilize people around social justice issues. Students in this class make prints themselves, which Reinoza says they don't necessarily expect from an art history course. Reinoza is currently working on a book about the history of graphic arts in Latino communities and the use of the printmaking medium as a decolonial tool.

## JG Mayberry

I wrote 3 Game Warden children's books! A few years back I was asked to do a school career day program for elementary kids and told to bring a book about my profession.

That's when I discovered there are children's books about police officers, park rangers, forest rangers, but no game warden or wildlife conservation officer children's books.

So I thought, I can write them! But I couldn't decide which topic to discuss in my book, so I wrote three, a hunting, fishing and boating book. I named the warden in the series after the county where I have served my 19-year game warden career, Caldwell County.



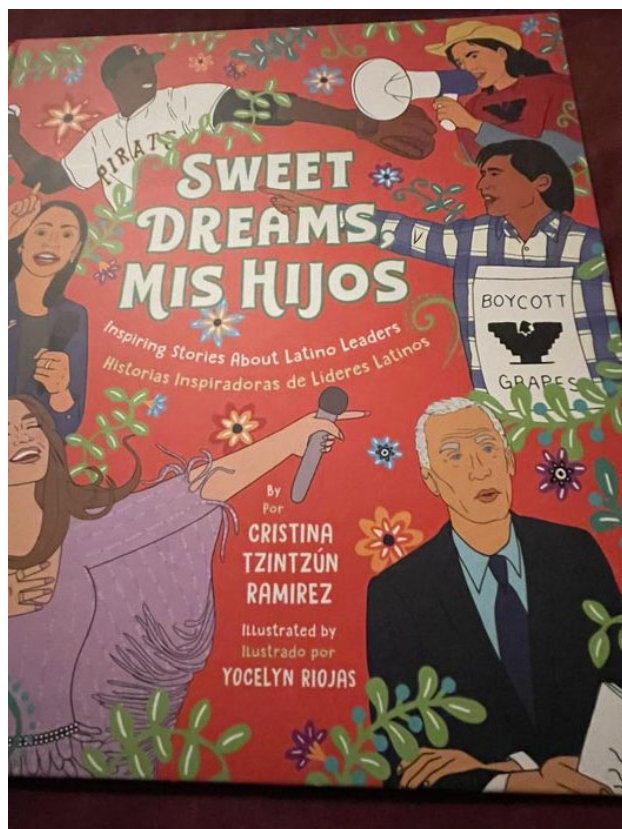
I'm proud to have these books out to educate youth about the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Officer profession and to teach them about hunting, fishing and boating safety. They are written for readers ages 6-9, but spark great conversation for younger non-readers. The "Warden Caldwell, Wildlife Conservation Officer" book series is now available on paperback and eBook at Amazon and Barnes & Noble websites.

Book release events scheduled for public libraries in Luling and Lockhart on Friday, February 17, 2023 (school holiday). FB invite coming out at the end of the week. Feel free to share. Enjoy! Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/s?k=joann%20garza-mayberry...> Barnes & Noble: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/s/joann%20garza%20mayberry>





# Libros para el invierno

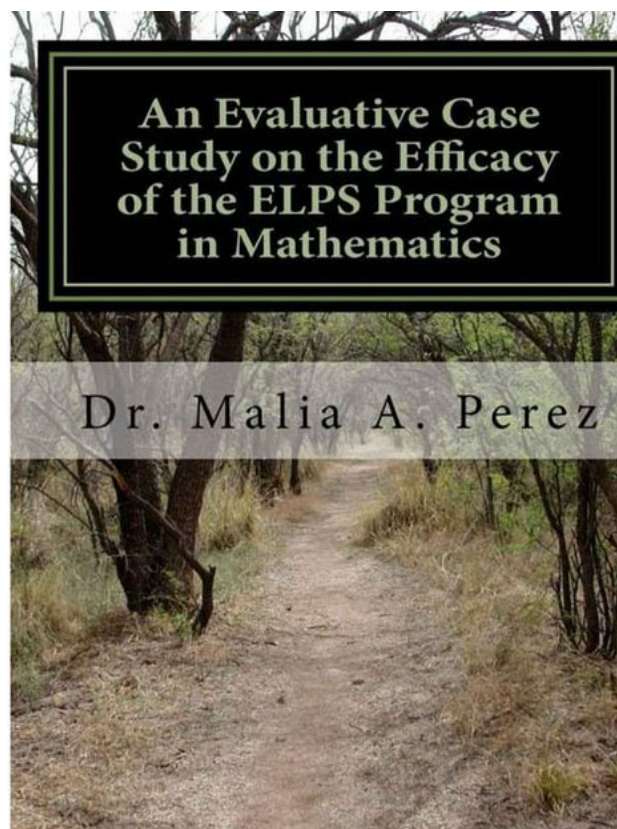


**Sweet Dreams, Mis Hijos: Inspiring Bedtime Stories About Latino Leaders** Hardcover – Picture Book, November 1, 2022 by **Cristina Tzintzún Ramirez** (Author), Yocelyn Riojas (Illustrator)

Bilingual mini biographies (in English and Spanish) introduce young readers to groundbreaking Latino leaders—from **Roberto Clemente** and **Cesar Chavez** to **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** and **Sonia Sotomayor**.

Thoroughly engaging stories about amazing trailblazers include contemporary figures in many fields, from science and business to journalism and visual arts. Five-minute biographies provide an interesting window into each person's origins and accomplishments, as well as describing the way their heritage factored into their lives. Curious readers will discover:

- \*which Supreme Court justice was called Aji (hot pepper) by her family when she was a girl
- \*how Julián and Joaquin Castro's mother set the stage for her twin boys to go into politics
- \*why Jorge Ramos never stops asking "why?"
- \*Desi Arnaz's secret to making sitcom history on TV
- \*and many more insights into these, and other, amazing lives

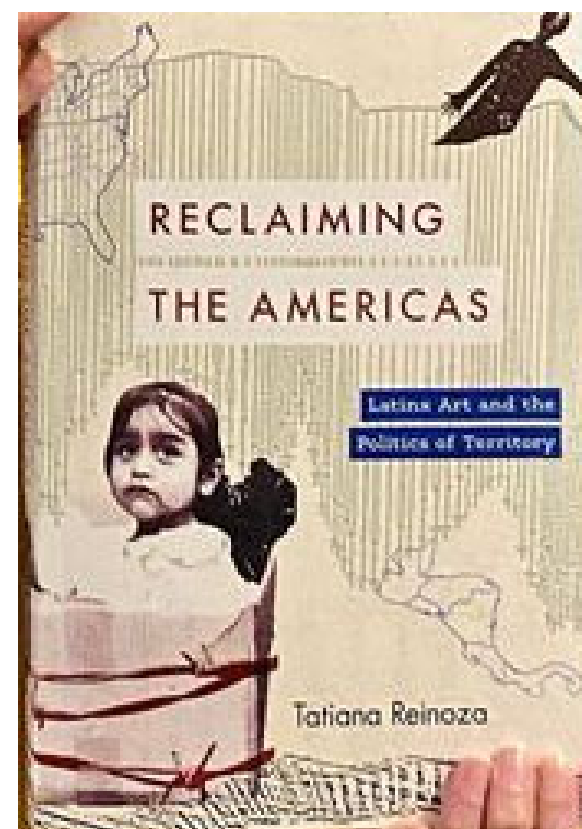


**An Evaluative Case Study on the Efficacy of the ELPS Program in Mathematics** Kindle Edition by **Malia Perez**

The **English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS)** program was developed to address the need to effectively integrate second language acquisition with quality content area instruction. English language learners (ELLs) have struggled on standardized tests and there has been little empirical evidence regarding the impact of the **ELPS** program on student achievement.

This mixed methods case study determined the efficacy of the **ELPS** program for ELL students in mathematics achievement at a **South Texas** elementary school. The theoretical framework was based on **Krashen's** theory of cognitive development. Data were collected through state assessment results, teacher interviews, and teacher lesson plans. Math ELL student achievement scores in Grades 3 through 6 were compared to the assessment results of students in the same grades throughout **Texas**. T tests were used to compare standardized test results.

While 55% of ELLs passed the **Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS)** mathematics test, they were behind their non-ELL peers ( $t(4) = -3.060$ ;  $p = 0.055$ ). Lesson plans and interviews of elementary teachers of ELL students helped determine the actual use of the **ELPS** program. A line-by-line qualitative analysis of participants' responses was conducted to reveal themes regarding program efficacy.



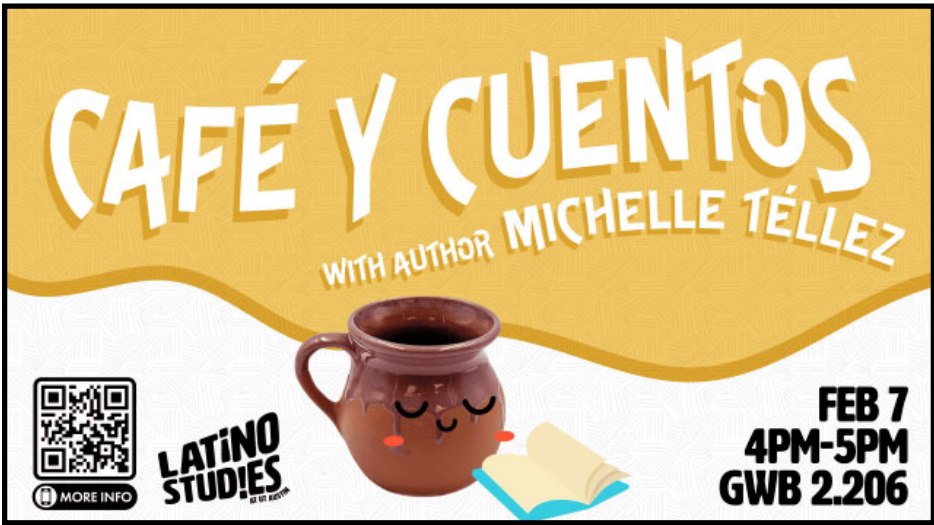
**Reclaiming the Americas: Latinx Art and the Politics of Territory** (Latinx: The Future Is Now) Paperback – April 18, 2023 by **Tatiana Reinoza** (Author)

How Latinx artists around the US adopted the medium of printmaking to reclaim the lands of the Americas.

Printmakers have conspired, historically, to illustrate the maps created by European colonizers that were used to chart and claim their expanding territories. Over the last three decades, **Latinx** artists and print studios have reclaimed this printed art form for their own spatial discourse. This book examines the limited editions produced at four art studios around the US that span everything from sly critiques of Manifest Destiny to printed portraits of Dreamers in **Texas**.

**Reclaiming the Americas** is the visual history of **Latinx** printmaking in the US. **Tatiana Reinoza** employs a pan-ethnic comparative model for this interdisciplinary study of graphic art, drawing on art history, **Latinx** studies, and geography in her discussions. The book contests printmaking's historical complicity in the logics of colonization and restores the art form and the lands it once illustrated to the Indigenous, migrant, mestiza/o, and Afro-descendant people of the Americas.

# Calendar of Events



**February 11th, 2023** - Valentine’s Dance in Seguin, Texas at the KC Hall with Los Enmascarados from 8:00pm to midnight. Entrance: \$10.00

**February 11th, 2023** - Fundraiser for Krystina Pacheco See page 10 for details. Gracias.

**February 14th, 2023** - Romantic Love Is Killing Us: A Conversation and Reading with **Caleb Luna** **Time:** 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM **Location:** Gordon White Building (GWB 2.206) Join us for an afternoon with artist, public scholar, theorist of the body, and **UT alum Caleb Luna** to deconstruct the idea of love. **Caleb** will read from their best-selling multigenre poetry collection **REVENGE BODY** and will join us in a collaborative conversation based around ideas from their widely-read essays "Romantic Love Is Killing Us" and "4 Hidden Problems with All of This 'Love Your Body' Talk." If who and how we love is political, can we imagine a world where love and care are more equally distributed? Can we imagine it together? Come reimagine love with us!

**February 23rd, 2023** - Film Screening "Daughter of the Sea" Screening + film discussion Time: 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM **Location:** Gordon-White Building (GWB 2.206) Join us for a screening of “Daughters of the Sea” followed by a discussion with producer of the film, **Selina Morales**. About the film: After the death of her grandfather, a young woman experiences a spiritual awakening when she is called by Yemaya, the orisha Goddess of the Sea.



# Word Power

## En las palabras hay poder

No one can ever argue in the name of education, that it is better to know less than it is to know more. Being bilingual or trilingual or multilingual is about being educated in the 21st century. We look forward to bringing our readers various word lists in each issue of *La Voz*.

Nadie puede averiguar en el nombre de la educación que es mejor saber menos que saber más. Siendo bilingüe o trilingüe es parte de ser educado en el siglo 21. Esperamos traer cada mes a nuestros lectores de *La Voz* una lista de palabras en español con sus equivalentes en inglés.

Spirit	Espíritu
Soul	Alma
Heart	Corazón
Scary	Asustadizo
Vengeance	Venganza
Lost	Perdido
Believer	Creyente
Unbelievable	Increíble
Ghost	Fantasma
Death	Muerte
Life	Vida
Church	Iglesia
Cry	Llorar
Scream	Gritar
Cold	Frío





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# ATX Appreciation Day



Paco y Lola say

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For information on the City of Austin's Minority/  
Women-Owned Procurement Program please contact  
the Small & Minority Business Resources at 512-974-  
7600 or visit [www.austintexas.gov/smb](http://www.austintexas.gov/smb).



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February, 2023

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