



Volume 18 Number 6  
A Bi-Cultural Publication  
June, 2023

# La Voz

Free  
Gratis



*Solamente el que carga el saco sabe lo que lleva a dentro*

## Adentro de este ejemplar

**Pensamientos**

**TAMACC 2023  
Women of Distinction**

**Remember  
Their Names**

**Austin Hispanic  
Hall of Fame**

**An Eye Witness  
Account at the Battle  
of the Alamo**



**Dr. Alicia Mercado-Castro**  
**TAMACC 2023 Woman of Distinction**



## Alyssa Prado Graduates UT Health San Antonio

**Dr. Alyssa Prado** received her doctorate in **Occupational Therapy** from the **University of Texas Health Science Center** in **San Antonio, Texas**.

*"I wouldn't have made it this far without the love, support, and prayers of my family, friends, and boyfriend. They have stuck by me through 7 years of college and I couldn't be more blessed to have them through this journey. I can't wait to become an Occupational Therapist and impact the lives of my patients for the better!"* Stated **Alyssa**.

**Dr. Prado** graduated from **Uvalde High School** in 2016 and earned her bachelors degree from **Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi** in 2021.



## Olivia S. Tamzarian Marks Five Years at the MACC

**Olivia S. Tamzarian** has been working 5 years with **City of Austin** at the **Emma S. Barrientos Mexican**

**American Cultural Center**. She is a program supervisor.

**Olivia** stated, *"I know it seems like we are on pause since our building is closed, but really the #ESBMACC is using this opportunity to host programs in different neighborhoods, at other sites! I'm really lucky to be doing work I care about- cultural arts education- in the city I love. Also, I've been 17 years in Austin!"*

**Olivia** has worked with **Austin Achieve** and the **Mexic-Arte Museum** as an Education Coordinator. Originally from **Austin, Texas**, **Olivia** studied at **Bard College**, **Smith College** and at the **University of Guanajuato**.



## Al Duarte Joins Saldaña Team

**Saldaña Public Relations** is PROUD to welcome **Al Duarte** to our team as a **Senior Consultant & Collaborator!** **Al Duarte** is a native **Austinite** and grew up with big dreams. As a young entrepreneur in 1999 he opened his own jewelry store and his work has been seen at the **Grammy Awards** through **Los Lonely Boys**.

Following his passion for music, **Al** manages & promotes bands in **Central Texas**. Working with many accomplished clients and businesses, his brand (**Al Duarte Management**) has

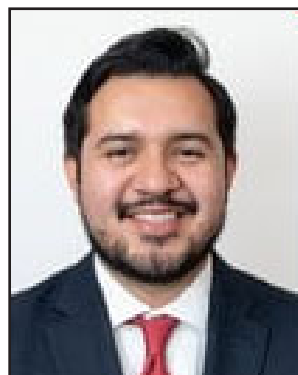
earned him a reputation as being a highly capable and an experienced administrative professional.

From March 2011-2022, **Al** served as an **Advisory Board** member for the **A.B Cantu Pan-American Recreation Center**, serving as a liaison between the city, the recreation center and the neighborhood to properly serve the community.

**Al Duarte** is the CFO and an original founder and co-creator of **Blue Agave Travel** which owns **The Tejanos In Paradise Cruise**. Creating the logo, designs and promotions personally the company has seen much success. **Al's** company has been fortunate to have secured an amazing lineup of legendary Tejano artists.

**Al** was appointed by the **Austin City Council** to **Austin's Music Commission** serving as a **Commissioner** from 2015-2019.

In 2019, **Al** founded and created **Fiesta Austin, LLC**. **Fiesta Austin** presents events that pay tribute to Hispanic history, heritage, music, and cultural traditions in the heart of **East Austin, Texas**.



## James Barragán, New Reporter for the Texas Tribune

**James Barragán** is a politics reporter for **The Texas Tribune** with a focus on accountability reporting. Prior to joining the **Tribune**, **James** worked as a statehouse reporter for **The Dallas Morning News** and had previous stints at the **Austin American-Statesman** and the **Los Angeles Times**. In 2021,

**James** was a finalist for the **Toner Prize for Excellence in Local Reporting** for his coverage of **Texas** politics during the **COVID-19** pandemic. A **Southern California** native, **James** received his bachelor's degree in history from **UCLA**. He is based in **Austin** and is a native Spanish speaker.



## Alejandra de la Torre inducted to MDRT Million Dollar Round Table

**Alejandra de la Torre** earns a seat at the **Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT)**. **MDRT** is the premier association for financial professionals worldwide, boasting a distinguished membership of over 35,000 individuals. These exceptional individuals, comprising less than 1% of the most accomplished life insurance and financial service experts, represent 476 companies across 76 nations and territories. **Alejandra's** induction into this esteemed organization is a testament to her exceptional skills and

achievements in the field. She joins an elite group of professionals who have achieved extraordinary success in their respective careers.



## El Austin ISD celebra el Día de la Liberación

### Desfile del Día de la Liberación

Sábado, 17 de junio de 2023  
10-11:30 a.m.

Estudiantes, personal y comunidad del Austin ISD, ¡acompañennos a marchar en el Desfile Histórico Anual del Ayuntamiento de Austin por el **Día de la Liberación!**

### Participantes del desfile:

Reúnanse a más tardar a las 9 a.m. en la **Iglesia Bautista Rising Star**, 1710 E 20th St, Austin, TX 78722. Caminaremos juntos hasta la entrada al desfile. La longitud del desfile es de aproximadamente 1.2 millas.

### Estacionamiento:

Si estacionan en la **Iglesia Bautista Rising Star**, el autobús los llevará de regreso inmediatamente después del desfile.

Celebración después del desfile en el **Parque de Rosewood y Boggy Creek**, 2300 Rosewood Ave.

Para más información y el mapa del desfile: <http://juneteenthcentraltexas.com/parade>  
Contacto del Austin ISD: [christina.burbank@austinisd.org](mailto:christina.burbank@austinisd.org), coordinadora de proyectos especiales, DCCE



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## PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

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# Pensamientos

Bienvenidos otra vez a **La Voz Newspaper**. Donde comienso mi editorial este mes? Tengo muchas cosas que decir. Primero quiero decir que me da mucha tristeza tener que compartir la noticia de **Leticia Garza-Falcon**. Falleció ya después de pelear la cáncer que le quitó su vida. Ella fue una de las mujeres más interesantes que he conocido en mi vida. Si nunca has visto su libro **Gente Decente**, pues échalo a un lado. No te decepcionará. Puedes leer su obituario en la página 4.

### Cambiando de tema:

En la página 5 encontrarás comentarios sobre la violencia armada por mi buen amigo **Olga Muñoz Rodriguez**. Olga ha sido una activista comunitaria de **Uvalde** y **San Antonio** por más de

50 años. Sus pensamientos y opiniones son respetados en todo el **Southwest Texas**. Ella es también la autora de un libro sobre **Uvalde, Texas** llamado **Texas Town Legends: A Place in History**.

### Cambiando de tema:

En las páginas 6, 7, y 8 hay una entrevista con **Dr. Alicia Mercado-Castro**. Ella es una de las 13 **Women of Distinction** que serán honradas la próxima semana en Austin por la **Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce**. Ella comparte una increíble historia de crecer en **Austin** en los 40s y 50s y su carrera en la educación. Ver la página 9 para más información sobre este evento.

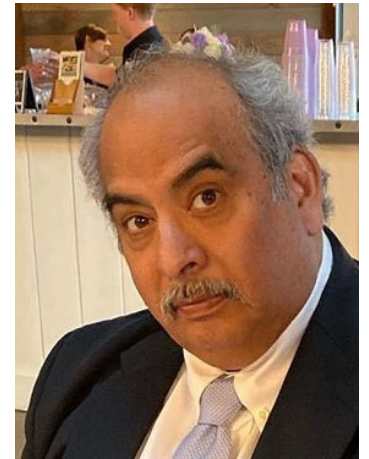
### Cambiando de tema:

En las páginas 10 y 11 te llevamos la **Uvalde** de la tragedia del 24 de mayo de 2022. Esos niños vivirán en los pensamientos y la memoria de muchas personas por años.

En las páginas 14 y 15 encontrarás un relato en primera persona de lo que sucedió dentro del **Alamo** en 1836. Fue tomado de un artículo de 1902 del periódico **San Antonio Light**. Alguien me lo envió y pensé que sería una lectura fabulosa.

En la página 17 está el formulario de nominación para el **Austin Hispanic Hall of Fame**. Este proyecto es un intento de reconocer y recordar a aquellos individuos que han tenido un impacto en la comunidad a lo largo de los años. Algunos ya han fallecido y otros siguen vivos hoy. Tómese un momento para nominar a quien usted cree que merece estar en el **Austin Hispanic Hall of Fame**.

## EDITORIAL



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

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**Welcome Home!**

## Dr. Leticia Garza-Falcon Passaes Away at 68

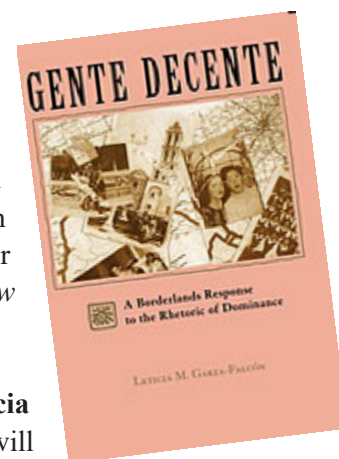
**Dr. Leticia Magda Garza-Falcón**, age 68, educator, writer, and cherished mother, passed away on May 28, 2023 following a five-year battle with cancer. Born in **Port Lavaca, TX** to **Roberto and Alicia Garza**, **Leticia** led a life shaped by her faith and unwavering commitment to education.



**Leticia** inspired many through her research at **The University of Texas at Austin**, her lectures at the **University of Salamanca, Spain**, her directorship of the **Gender & Ethnic Studies** program at Texas State University, and through her work at the **University of Colorado at Denver**. She served tirelessly to illuminate the accurate history of **Mexican Americans** and promote women in leadership. **Dr. Garza-Falcón** was most notably recognized for her publications of "Andalusian Poems", "Gente Decente: A Borderlands Response to the Rhetoric of Dominance" and her introduction in "El Mesquite". **Dr. Garza-Falcón** also founded her Spanish/English Language School in **Mission, TX** where she implemented her own techniques to teach the art of conversational English.

**Leticia** is survived by her 5 children: **Alicia (Jerry) Rivera**, **Laurie (Chris Dufau) Falcón-Dufau**, **Sara Falcón**, **Román (Mariesa) Falcón**, and **Gregorio Sanchez**, as well as 5 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter. Her legacy lives on through her family, students, and the lives inspired by her work and activism. As **Leticia** would say, "*The show must go on*".

Please join us as we celebrate the life of **Dr. Leticia Garza-Falcón** with her loved ones at services that will take place in July 2023. For more information, please visit <https://leticia-garza-falcon.com/>.



**CENTRAL HEALTH**

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1111 East Cesar Chavez Street  
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Solicitud de Calificaciones (RFQ): 2305-001

Servicios de Consultoría de Asuntos Públicos

Fecha de vencimiento: 23 de junio, 2023 a las 2:00 PM CT

Central Health está buscando consultores para apoyar nuestros esfuerzos de asuntos públicos locales, comunicaciones estratégicas y asuntos gubernamentales locales. Central Health desea asociarse con una entidad/individuo(s) que comprenda los problemas de atención médica únicos y complejos que enfrenta el condado de Travis, nuestro sistema de atención médica de red de seguridad y la historia, el estado actual y el futuro del distrito de atención médica del condado de Travis dba Central Health. Instrucciones para realizar pedidos: Todos los paquetes de solicitud se pueden descargar desde:

<http://www.centralhealth.net/finance/purchasing>  
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The 24th of May is a very sad day for all of us from **Uvalde**. We are all reliving an unbelievable tragedy that should not have happened. So many families are now living with not only the loss of their loved ones but are now equally hurt by the lack of action from our local, state, and Congressional legislators. It is the **Republican** party that, in my opinion, is largely to blame for the way we live today, in constant fear of another mass shooting. We are all sitting ducks. The **NRA** rules our country, it has purchased the heart and soul of the **Republican** party.

I think there is also the tragedy of an 18-year-old who was neglected, bullied, and lost from society, and who took out his anger on innocent children and teachers,

on the entire town of **Uvalde**. His story is repeated in the lives of other young men who have lost their way. And the unregulated gun sales give them easy access to the weapon of choice, the assault weapon. The danger will continue in every community. It can happen again in **Uvalde** and in any place, the **Republican** majority in our state legislatures has made it so easy for anyone to obtain assault weapons like the **AR15** that killed our children and two teachers in **Uvalde**. It is now permitted to buy guns without a license, without safety

training, and without background checks in many states. We must turn our sadness into anger and have a greater resolve to vote out these gun-loving **NRA** disciples. It is ironic that **Republicans** are against abortion to save the lives of the unborn and, at the same time, refuse to enact laws that will save our lives. Each day someone dies because of their hypocrisy.

# Gun Violence

by Olga Rodriquez

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# An Interview with Dr. Alicia Mercado-Castro

## One of TAMACC's 2023 Women of Distinction Awardees

The **Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce** has selected its cohort of **Women of Distinction** for 2023. Among the 13 inductees will be **Dr. Alicia Mercado-Castro**. **Dr. Mercado-Castro** is a native of **Austin, Texas** and has lived in different parts of the United States. We are pleased to have had the opportunity to interview **Dr. Mercado-Castro** and hope you find her experiences as interesting as we did.

**La Voz:** **Dr. Mercado-Castro**, share with our readers a little about your early life.

**Dr. Mercado-Castro:** Well, I was born July 8, 1940 in our home on **Red River** and **30th Streets** where **St. David's Hospital** was later built. My father and immigrant mother raised my sister, brother, and me to have a better life. They did not want us to have the experiences they must have had as unskilled laborers. They made sure that we attended **The University of Texas at Austin**, becoming respected professionals in architecture, graphic arts, and education.

I attended **Robert E. Lee Elementary School** in 1946 for grades one through six, **University Jr. High School** grades seven through nine, and **Austin High School** grades 10 through 12, Class of 1958. I received my **Bachelor of Science Degree** from **The University of Texas at Austin**, class of 1962.

I had never referred to myself as "Mexican-American" "Latino" or "Hispanic." Growing up in **Old Austin**, we were Mexicans. At that time, there were only two major groups of people: The Whites and the Negroes (Colored).

I grew up with water fountains which were labeled "White" and "Colored." The schools were segregated. The Negroes (Colored) had their own schools in **East**

**Austin** and their own movie theaters. They were not allowed to sit at the counters of any drug stores such as **Woolworths**. As Mexicans, we were part of the "White" group and we went to the movies at the **Paramount**, and **State**, and sat at all the drug store counters.

In **Old Austin** at that time, there was no emphasize on the Mexican Culture as is today. We were aware of some **Mexican Cultural** events. I remember going to **Zaragoza Park** in East Austin for The "**Fiestas Patrias**," the 16th of September event. I also remember there was the **Coronation** of "The Queen and her Court" perhaps at church, and little girls helped carry the **Queen's** train.

The photo below was taken at a studio with the dress I wore when I was one of the little girls who helped carry the **Queen's** train at



the **Coronation** of "The Queen and her Court".

**La Voz:** Where did your family attend church services?

**Dr. Mercado-Castro:** We went clear across town to Mass in Spanish at **Our Lady of Guadalupe Church** and participated in the **Jamaicas**. We rode the bus from home to **Congress** and **6th Streets** and then transferred to another bus which took us to **East Austin** where our church was located. At that time, there weren't any shopping centers; **Downtown Austin** was the "**Heart of Austin**" — you might say that "all roads led to **Congress** and **6th Streets**."

### *My Quinceañera*

"**My Sweet 15**" — Today, this event is known as a "Quinceañera" for young girls. My Godmother had the big doll on the cake made in **Mexico**. At that time my Godparents owned a hotel by the name of **The Salinas Hotel** somewhere in **East Austin**. She also had a doll made for each of the 15 girls in my Court dressed in the color of the dress each wore. The event took place at **The Club House**, a popular venue on the grounds of **Zilker Park**.



**La Voz:** I read somewhere you were into theater while you attended **The University of Texas at Austin**?

**Dr. Mercado - Castro:** Yes. As an under-



In the photo above, I had to do my own theatrical make-up. While at **UT**, we had make-up artists do our make-up and I learned how to apply stage make-up.

graduate I was an artist, a dancer, and actor. I was in the **Grand Drama Production** of **The King and I** with my friend **Tommy Tune**, who became a well known **Broadway Star**. He was **Simon of Legree** and I was one of **The Royal Wives** to **The King of Siam**.

**Tommy Tune** encouraged me to change my major to **Drama** and then go to **New York** with him to continue my acting career. Of course my parents would not allow me to do so because at that time, "**Good Little Mexican Girls**" could not leave home until they married. I did continue to be in **UT** drama productions such as **Cole Porter's** "**Anything Goes**" for example. Had I gone to **New York** with **Tommy Tune** to be an actor, I would probably not be talking with you — I would be "**Walking The Red Carpet**" receiving **Awards**!



# Un Entrevista con Dra. Alicia Mercado-Castro

Una de las mujeres distinguidas de TAMACC en 2023

## Moving On With Life

After I married Ezekiel (Zeke) Castro in 1962 and living in Columbus, Georgia, I was in The 1963 Columbus Grand Production of The Best of Broadway in several of the acts.

Growing up, I seldom heard any Mexican music in our home on the radio — much less Mariachi music. I became aware of Mariachi music because of my husband Zeke's introduction to Mariachi Music in 1973 when we were living in San Jose, California.

Zeke played his viola in our church choir. After mass one Sunday, an acquaintance approached him regarding a class at the community college. He asked Zeke if he had a violin and would he be interested in learning to play Mariachi music — we looked at each other and our immediate response was, "What is Mariachi music?"

After years of teaching orchestra in the public schools, playing in Symphony Orchestras and Chamber Music Groups in Texas, Georgia, and California, Zeke's interest in Mariachi music became increasingly a part of our lives.

## Career as an Educator

**La Voz:** Share with our readers the trajectory of your educational career?

**Dr. Mercado - Castro:** I implemented the first English as a Second Language Program (ESL) in Sunnyvale, California in 1966. Since the Sunnyvale School District had never implemented an English-as-a-Second Language Program, there wasn't a curriculum in place, teaching strategies, and materials for me. I was responsible for developing all aspects of the new ESL Program as well as teaching English to Non-English Speaking Students from China, Japan, Vietnam, the Azores, Mexico, and Mexican Migrants from South Texas in two schools as a "pull-out" (from



The photo above was taken at the Olga Kohlberg Early Childhood School in a special room which I designated specifically for the parents to meet and for their special events.

their classrooms) program. I became actively involved with my students' parents by going out to the agricultural fields and into the greenhouses where they worked and to their homes since they did not come to the school for parent conferences.

I believe that I may have been the only teacher who went to students' homes and workplaces to speak with parents about their children's progress in school and why my students did not come to school for long periods of time. Most of the time it was difficult to communicate with them since they were non-English or limited English speakers.

In 1969, I implemented the first Bilingual Education Program for the San Jose Unified School District. And again, there was no curriculum or materials. So I had to

build from scratch again! In addition, I had the responsibility to train a new teacher in another school to teach a Bilingual classroom the following year. I encouraged parents to establish a parent organization at the school and gradually it became quite active. Soon after that, I advanced into teacher training and public school administration.

**La Voz:** During those early years of the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Chicano Movement was going full blast in the San Francisco Bay Area.

**Dr. Mercado Castro:** Yes indeed! I supported and was actively involved in The Chicano Movement. Zeke was an orchestra teacher in a Non-Hispanic school district and was not involved in The Chicano Movement at all. He would say

to me, "You don't go to work, you go to War!"

I remember San Jose State was trying to establish The Mexican American Graduate Studies (MAGS) at that time. I was on the inside as a teacher and was supported by the local LULAC, the Brown Berets, and other militant organizations who introduced me to Saul D. Alinsky's book Rules For Radicals to bring about much needed change in our schools for a better education for our Hispanic students. It was at this time that I supported the parents who wanted a better education in the public schools for their children. We did accomplish great changes!

**La Voz:** When did you make the move back to Texas?

**Dr. Mercado - Castro:** Our family moved from San Jose, California to Dallas, Texas in the middle 1970s. I was a supervisor for bilingual teachers in the Dallas ISD; later, an administrator at the Dallas ISD Area IV Teacher Education Center as part of a team responsible for planning professional development sessions for principals, program directors, and teachers. It was there that I worked with my mentor Dr. Nolan Estes the superintendent of Dallas ISD. Dr. Estes made it possible for me to earn my first Masters Degree in liberal arts from Southern Methodist University.

Upon returning to Austin in 1979, I continued my work in the Austin ISD as a Math and Reading Specialist. In 1984, as

# An Interview with Dr. Alicia Mercado-Castro

## One of TAMACC's 2023 Women of Distinction Awardees

an Education Specialist for the Texas Education Agency in the Department of Curriculum Development, I worked with Public School Districts in the 20 Regional Education Service Centers providing workshops for School District Superintendents, Program Directors and Central Office Administrators regarding Early Childhood Education.

While at the Texas Education Agency, I continued my work stressing Research-based Developmentally Appropriate Activities for young children and my *Child-initiated Instructional Program*. I completed my dissertation with Dr. Nolan Estes as my supervising professor.

**La Voz:** So you also enrolled at UT while working at TEA?

**Dr. Mercado - Castro:** Yes. I think everywhere Zeke and I have lived, I took advantage of the educational opportunities that were available. I earned my second Masters Degree in Educational Administration from The University of Texas at Austin in 1989.

**La Voz:** What was the title of your dissertation?

**Dr. Mercado - Castro:** The title of my dissertation was "PERCEPTIONS OF DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE PRACTICE IN PROGRAMS FOR FOUR-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN." After my year-long Internship, a requirement for my Superintendent Certificate, I earned my Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Educational Administration, The University of Texas at Austin in 1990.

**La Voz:** Very impressive! Did you stay at the Texas Education Agency?

**Dr. Mercado - Castro:** No. In 1992, I accepted the position of Principal in the El Paso Independent School District at

the Olga Bernstein Kohlberg Early Childhood School. I provided my teachers staff development for them to implement an instructional program for young children which emphasized related teaching strategies based on research and knowledge of how young children learn.

**La Voz:** How long were you in El Paso?

**Dr. Mercado-Castro:** Only a short while. We returned to Austin and I was given an opportunity at the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL) as a Research Associate, working in the Area of *Leadership for Change*. My responsibilities included providing leadership for membership in the State of Texas Cadre and writing documents and articles for publication. My research has been published in journals such as *The Texas Study of Secondary Education*, *The Elementary Teachers of Texas Journal* and other publications.

I also accepted a position of Adjunct Professor at Concordia University, Austin. I taught in the School of Education and supervised student teachers. I also taught the course *Leadership in Business* in the Adult Degree Program (ADP) in the School of Business.

In the summer and fall of 1997, I taught for La Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas, Centro de Excelencia, Centro Universitario Victoria in Mexico. My students were finishing the last class for their Masters Degree in "*Estrategias Educativas para Adultos*" and would then start their Ph.D. studies. I taught via satellite for six campuses in Ciudad Victoria, Matamoros, and Reynosa, Mexico.

After leaving Concordia University, I was offered the position of a grade two Bilingual teacher in Elgin, Texas for the Elgin ISD in the school where I supervised a student teacher. I was very reluctant to even

consider the position since it had been about three decades since I had been a classroom teacher.

**La Voz:** What made you change your mind?

**Dr. Mercado-Castro:** The principal told me his teacher was resigning in the middle of the school year and he could not find a Certified Bilingual Teacher. I only agreed to accept

the position if the principal would allow me to teach the class in my *updated child-initiated Instructional program* which my teachers at The Olga Bernstein Kohlberg Early Childhood School implemented. My students were incredibly successful directing their own learning.

I taught my grade two Non-English/limited English Spanish speaking students *Stephen Covey's Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* — the same concepts I taught my adult students in The ADP Program at Concordia University. I just adapted the content so my grade two students could comprehend the concepts.

I believe my grade two students understood the concepts when, at one activity, they became so noisy that I told them, "*Stop! Y'all are too loud! You are making me Crazy!*" One student raised his hand and said, "*Dr. Castro, remember we cannot make you Crazy — You are choosing to make yourself Crazy!*"



**ABOVE:** This is a Class Photo of my 1970-1971 Grade 1 & 2 Bilingual Class at Gardner Elementary School in The San Jose Unified School District.

Throughout my career, I was always sensitive to Hispanic parents' concern for a better education for their children. While in El Paso, I was asked to be a guest columnist for the *El Paso Times*. I had a story published titled, "Build education foundation in early childhood" emphasizing research studies which pointed to the great potential of **high-quality early childhood education**, especially for children at risk of failure in school. I was very proud of that piece.

My life has been filled with many opportunities and experiences. Currently, I am retired and am working on a series of children's books. I also continue writing for educational periodicals. When this **Women of Distinction** event came up and I decided to apply, I did so with some reservation. I have never received an award in all my life. When I was informed that I was one of the 13 women who would be recognized, I was very excited. Finally, at the age of 83, I am receiving an Award!





# Women of Distinction

AWARDS

TEXAS WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Friday, June 16, 2023 | 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark | 4140 Governor's Row | Austin, Texas

## Congratulations to 2023 Recipients of the TAMACC Women of Distinction Award



**Dr. Ashley Bose**  
Medical Director  
Ashley Pediatrics and Industrial  
Health Works  
Edinburg



**Evelyn Cano**  
President & Co-Founder  
Disability Chamber of Commerce RGV  
Co-Owner  
Grande Produce  
Pharr



**Laura Lopez Cano**  
Visual Artist  
Laura Lopez Cano Art Studio  
El Lago



**Dr. Michelle Cohen**  
Hays County Commissioner  
Precinct 2  
Kyle



**Deborah L. Cordova**  
Founding Member/Manager  
Walsh McGurk Cordova Nixon, PLLC  
Edinburg



**Marie Salazar Garcia**  
Business Development Representative  
Sames, Inc.  
Edinburg



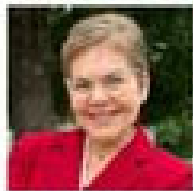
**Luz Lopez Guerrero**  
Director of Growth & Broker Relations  
WellMed Medical Management  
Austin



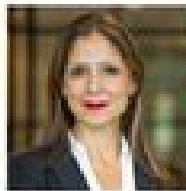
**Dr. Alicia Mercado-Castro**  
Retired Educator  
Pflugerville



**Dr. Luisa Montoya**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Diversity Matters  
Kingwood



**Dr. Rosamaria Murillo**  
Chief Executive Officer  
El Buen Samaritano  
Austin



**Venus V. Pineyro de Hoyos**  
Founder & CEO  
The Inclusion Plus Institute & Vescot U  
Austin



**Yvette Reyna**  
Executive Director  
Boerne Education  
Foundation & Boerne ISD  
Community Partnerships  
San Antonio



**Angelica Rosales**  
Project Director  
Sundt Construction  
El Paso

**Tickets, Tables, & Sponsorships Are Now Available**



Join us for an empowering and inspirational event as we honor a group of extraordinary Texan women. Together, we will pay tribute to these remarkable individuals who have achieved exceptional accomplishments and made significant contributions to our Hispanic community.

Contact TAMACC at (512) 444-5727 or email [president@tamacc.org](mailto:president@tamacc.org) for any inquiries.

# Remember Their Names



**Makenna Lee Elrod**



**Jose Manuel Flores, Jr.**



**Jayce Carmelo Luevanos**



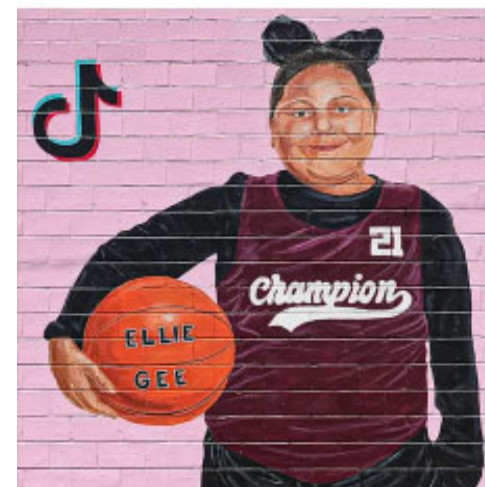
**Nevaeh Alyssa Bravo**



**Rojelio Fernandez Torres**



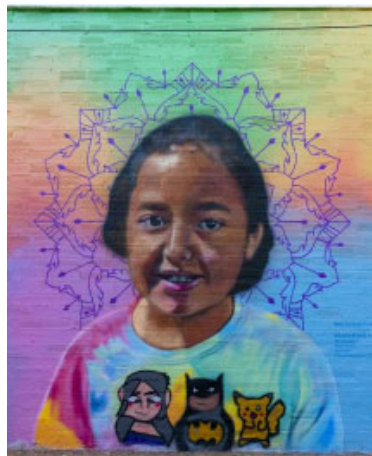
**Layla Salazar**



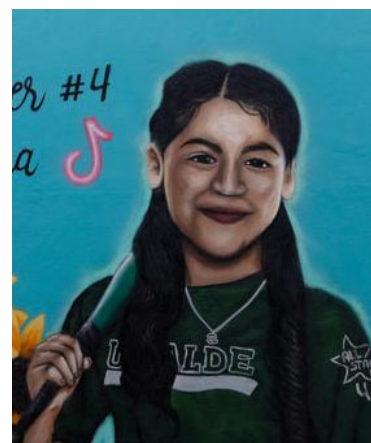
**Eliahna Amyah Garcia**



**Maite Yuleana Rodriguez**



**Alithia Haven Ramirez**



**Eliahna Torres**



**Uziyah Garcia**



# Recuerde sus nombres



**Ameria Jo Garza**



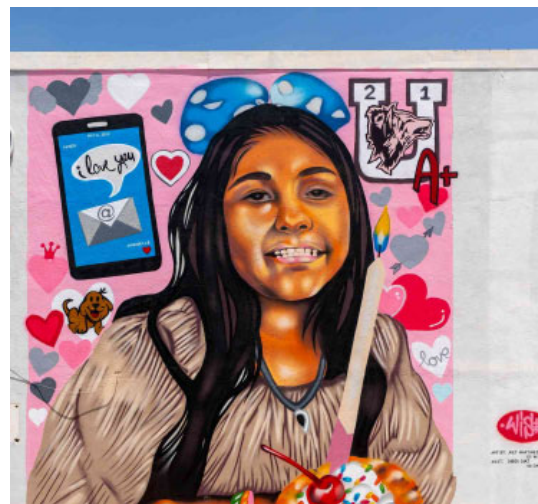
**Xavier James Lopez**



**Eva Mireles**



**Jailah Nicole Silguero**



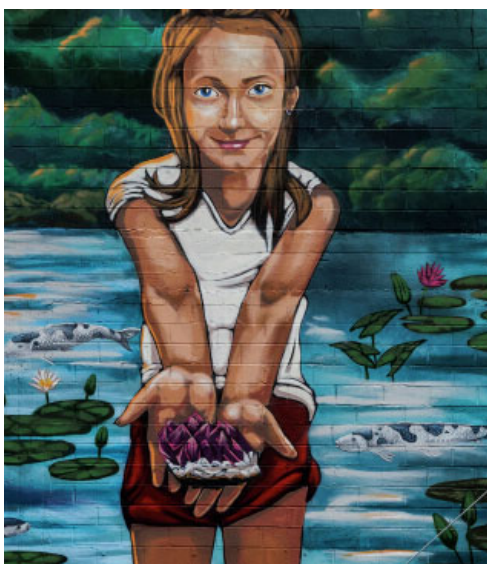
**Annabell Guadalupe Rodriguez**



**Tess Marie Mata**



**Jackie Cazares**



**Maranda Gail Mathis**



**Joe and Irma Garcia**



**Alexandria "Lexi" Aniyah Rubio**





## Dr. Matthew Gutierrez, Named Superintendent of the Year

**Dr. Matthew Gutierrez** will be representing **Educational Service Center Region 20** as the **Superintendent of the Year!** Gutierrez stated, "This is a product of our collective efforts in Seguin ISD. I am so proud of our students, staff, and Board of Trustees. The award is an acknowledgment of all the great things happening in our district as whole. This is "our" award."

## Narciso Martínez Cultural Arts Center Inducted into the Guadalupe Tejano Conjunto Hall of Fame



**ABOVE:** The Narciso Martínez Cultural Arts Center was into the Guadalupe Tejano Conjunto Hall of Fame. This is the first time an organization has been inducted into the hall of fame. From left to right: **Rogelio T. Núñez**, co-founder, **Christina Balli**, Executive Director of the **Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center**, **Dr. Roberto De Leon**, co-founder of the **Narciso Martínez Cultural Arts Center**, **Juan Tejada**, co-founder of the **Tejano Conjunto Festival**, and

## Noel Mendez on his way to Harvard University

**Noel Mendez** just graduated from **Del Valle High School** and is now on his way to **Harvard University** with a full scholarship. How difficult is it to get accepted to **Harvard**? **Harvard's** acceptance rate for the Class of 2026 was 3.2%. The early action acceptance rate was 7.8%. While **Harvard** is test-optional, students who submitted scores, the middle 50% SAT range was 1480-1580 and the middle 50% ACT range was 33-36.

Part of what is remarkable for **Noel Mendez** is that he is the first person in his family to go to college and plans to study computer science and possibly business with a goal of working for a major company.

In addition to the full ride, **Mendez** also received a \$40,000 **Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship** and a \$20,000 scholarship from **Dell Technologies**. **Del Valle ISD** says that **Mendez** has also had an internship with event planning platform **Eventbrite** and another set for this summer with **H-E-B's** software engineering department. The **Amazon** scholarship also comes with a paid internship after his freshman year of college.

Since he was a high school freshman, **Mendez** has been part of the information technology pathway, says **Del Valle ISD**. He has also independently participated in **Code2College**, a multi-year, career prep and college access program. **Mendez** also participated in debate, the **National Honor Society**, **Red Cross**, and various volunteer opportunities, and he is currently the student council president, says the district.



**ABOVE:** **Del Valle HS** senior **Noel Mendez** takes a photo with his mom proudly showing the pendant and scholarship certificate he received from **Amazon**.



# APRENDIZAJE CREATIVO

en el Hogar

Aquí están círculo se encuentra una serie de actividades que se basan en las artes que usted y sus niños pueden hacer juntos. Pueden utilizarlas para divertirse y establecer conexiones entre ustedes. Son fáciles de aprender y requieren poca preparación.

## PISTA DE SONIDO

conectar las ideas con la música

Trate de utilizar la pista de sonido para establecer conexiones al final del día.

1. Seleccione dos canciones diferentes.
2. Escuchen juntos un fragmento de la canción.
3. Tomen turnos para describir la música juntos y comentar lo siguiente.

¿Qué sonidos escuchas en la canción?

¿Cuál es una palabra que usarías para describir la canción?

¿Qué hay en la música que te hace decir eso?

4. Escoja qué canción es una mejor pista de sonido para su día y explique por qué.



¡Ejemplo!

"Al inicio, la canción es muy bulliciosa con muchos instrumentos diferentes. Me recuerda cómo fue mi día porque empezó muy ajetreado. Alguien derramó leche de chocolate afuera de la puerta de nuestro salón de clases".



¡Sugerencias de canciones!



"Bidi Bidi Bom Bom"  
Selena



"Temple"  
That & The Get Down Stay Down



Song suggestions!



"Move on Up"  
Curtis Mayfield



"Cielito Lindo"  
Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán



Encuesta



MINDPOP



Survey



# CREATIVE LEARNING

at Home

Here are a series of arts-based activities you and your kids can do together. You can use them to have fun and to build connections with each other. They are easy to learn and require little preparation.

## SOUNDTRACK

connecting ideas to music

Try using soundtrack to connect at the end of the day.

1. Select two different songs.
2. Listen to a clip of the song together.
3. Take turns describing the music together and discuss the following:

What sounds do you hear in the song?

What is one word that you'd use to describe the song?

What about the music makes you say that?

4. Choose which song is a better soundtrack for your day, and explain why.



Example!

"In the beginning, the song is really busy with a lot of different instruments. It reminds me of how my day was, because it started off really hectic. Someone spilled chocolate milk outside of our classroom door."

# This is Don Enrique Esparza, the last survivor of the 1902, the *San Antonio Light Newspaper* published it is fantastic. Here is the text:

Since the death of **Senora Candelaria Villanueva**, several years ago at the age of 112 there is but one person alive who claims to have been in the siege of the **Alamo**. That person is **Enrique Esparza**, now 74 years old, who, firm-stepped, clear-minded and clear-eyed, bids fair to live to the age of the woman who for so long shared honors with him.

**Enrique Esparza**, who tells one of the most interesting stories ever narrated, works a truck garden on **Nogalitos** street between the **Southern Pacific Railroad** track and the **San Pedro** creek. Here he lives with the family of his son, **Victor Esparza**. Every morning he is up before daybreak and helps load the wagons with garden stuff that is to be taken up town to market. He is a farmer of experience and contributes very materially to the success of the beautiful five acres garden, of which he is the joint proprietor.

While claims of **Enrique Esparza** have been known among those familiar with the historical work done by the **Daughters of the Republic**, an organization which has taken great interest in getting first-hand information of the period of **Texas Independence**, the old man was not available up to about five years ago, for the reason that he resided on his farm in **Atascosa** county. This accounts for the fact that he is not well enough known to be included in the itinerary when **San Antonians** are proudly doing the town with their friends.

**Esparza** tells a straight story. Every syllable he speaks is uttered with confidence and in his tale, he frequently makes digressions, going into details of relationship of early families of **San Antonio** and showing

a tenacious memory. At the time of the fight of the **Alamo** he was 8 years old. His father was a defender, and his father's own brother an assailant of the **Alamo**.

He was a witness of his mother's grief, and had his own grief, at the slaughter in which his father was included. As he narrated to a reporter the events in which he was so deeply concerned, his voice several times choked and he could not proceed for emotion. While he has a fair idea of English, he preferred to talk in Spanish.

***"My father, Gregorio Esparza, belonged to Benavides' company, in the American army,"***

***"My father, Gregorio Esparza, belonged to Benavides' company, in the American army,"*** said **Esparza**, and I think it was in February, 1836, that the company was ordered to **Goliad** when my father was ordered back alone to **San Antonio**, for what I don't know. When he got here there were rumors that **Santa Ana** was on the way here, and many residents sent their families away. One of my father's friends told him that he could have a wagon and team and all necessary provisions for a trip, if he wanted to take his family away. There were six of us besides my father; my mother, whose name was **Anita**, my eldest sister, myself and three younger brothers, one a baby in arms. I was 8 years old.

**"My father decided to take the offer and move the family to San Felipe. Everything was ready, when one morning, Mr. W. Smith, who was godfather to my youngest brother, came to our house on North Flores street, just above where the**

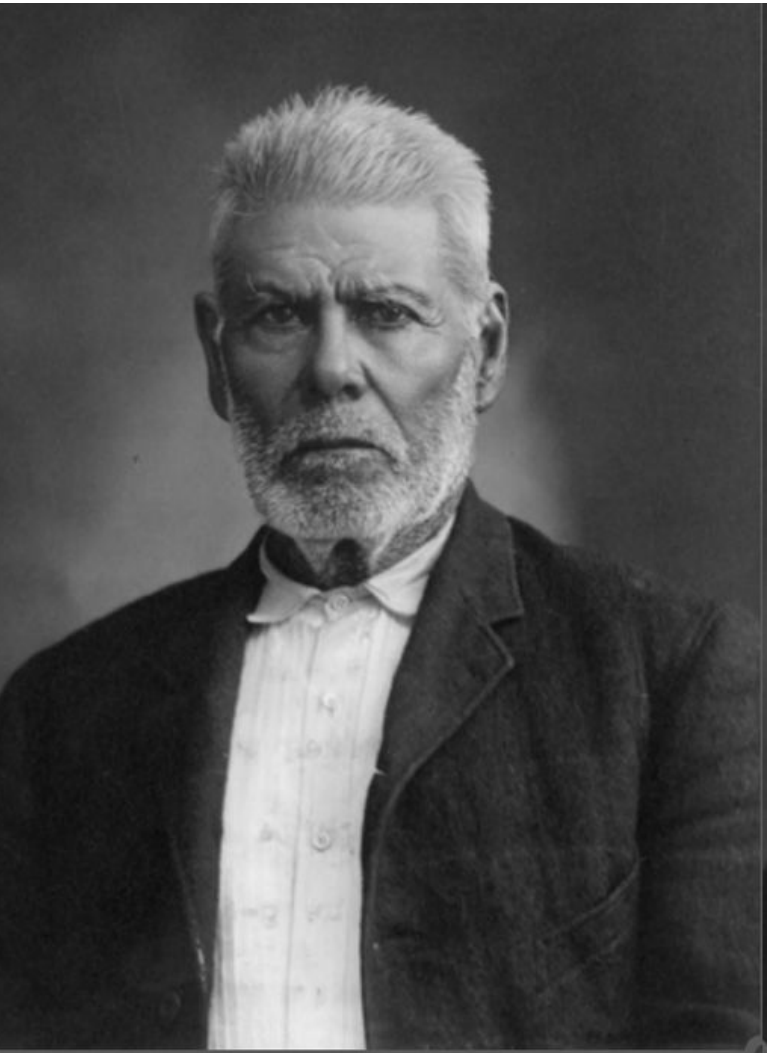
**Presbyterian** church now is, and told my mother to tell my father when he came in that **Santa Ana** had come. (Northeast corner of Houston and N. Flores Streets.)

***"When my father came my mother asked him what he would do. You know the Americans had the Alamo, which had been fortified a few months before by General Cos. "Well, I'm going to the fort" my father said.***

***"Well, if pop goes, I am going along, and the whole family too."*** It took the whole day to move and an hour before sundown we were inside the fort. There was a bridge over the river about where **Commerce** street crosses it, and just as we got to it we could hear **Santa Anna's** drums beating on **Milam Square**, and just as we were crossing the ditch going into the fort **Santa Anna** fired his salute on **Milam Square**.

There were a few other families who had gone in. A **Mrs. Cabury**[?] and her sister, a **Mrs. Victoriana**, and a family of several girls, two of whom I knew afterwards, **Mrs. Dickson**, **Mrs. Juana Melton**, a Mexican woman who had married an American, also a woman named **Concepcion Losoya** and her son, **Juan**, who was a little older than I.

My uncle told me afterwards that **Santa Anna** gave him permission to get my father's body. The first thing I remember after getting inside the fort was seeing **Mrs. Melton** making circles on the ground with an umbrella. I had seen very few umbrellas. While I was walking around about dark I went near a man named **Fuentes** who was talking at a



distance with a soldier. When the latter got near me he said to **Fuentes**: ***"Did you know they had cut the water off?"***

The fort was built around a square. The present **Hugo-Schmeltzer** building is part of it. I remember the main entrance was on the south side of the large enclosure. The quarters were not in the church, but on the south side of the fort, on either side of the entrance, and were part of the convent. There was a ditch of running

water back of the church and another along the west side of **Alamo Plaza**. We couldn't get to the latter ditch as it was under fire and it was the other one that **Santa Anna** cut off. The next morning after we had gotten in the fort I saw the men drawing water from a well that was in the convent yard. The well was located a little south of the center of the square. I don't know whether it is there now or not.

**"On the first night a company of which my father was one went out and**



# Battle of the Alamo, late in his life. In November, the following article about Enrique Esparza and



the Mexicans would be treated as rebels.

During the armistice my father told my mother she had better take the children and go, while she could do so safely. But my mother said: *"No!, if you're going to stay, so am I. If they kill one they can kill us all."* Only one person went out during the armistice, a woman named **Trinidad Saucedo**.

**Don Benito**, or **Crockett**, as the Americans called him, assembled the men on the last day and told them **Santa Anna's** terms, but none of

them believed that any one who surrendered would get out alive, so they all said as they would have to die any how they would fight it out. The fighting began again and continued every day, and nearly every night. One night there was music in the Mexican camp and the Mexican prisoner said it meant that reinforcements had arrived.

We then had another messenger who got through the lines, saying that communication had been cut off and the promised reinforcements could not be sent. "On the last night my father was not out, but he and my mother were sleeping together in headquarters. About 2 o'clock in the morning there was a great shooting and firing at the northwest corner of the fort, and I heard my mother say: *"Gregorio, the soldiers have jumped the wall. The fight's begun."* He got up and picked up his arms and went into the fight. I never saw him again.

**My uncle told me afterwards that Santa Anna gave him permission to get my father's body,**

My uncle told me afterwards that **Santa Anna** gave him permission to get my father's body, and that he found it where the thick of the fight had been.

We could hear the Mexican officers shouting to the men to jump over, and the men were fighting so close that we could hear them strike each other. It was so dark that we couldn't see anything, and the families that were in the quarters just huddled up in the corners. My mother's children were near her. Finally they began shooting through the dark into the room where we were. A boy who was wrapped in a blanket in one corner was hit and killed. The Mexicans fired into the room for at least fifteen minutes. It was a miracle, but none of us children were touched.

By daybreak the firing had almost stopped, and through the window we could see shadows of men moving around inside the fort. The Mexicans went from room to room looking for an American to kill. While it was still dark a man stepped into the room and pointed his bayonet at my mother's breast, demanding: *"Where's the money the Americans had?"* *"If they had any,"* said my mother, *"you may look for it."* Then an officer stepped in and said: *"What are you doing? The women and children are not to be hurt."*

The officer then told my mother to pick out her own family and get her belongings and the other women were given the same instructions. When it was broad day the Mexicans began to remove the dead. There were so many killed that it took several days to carry them away.

The families, with their baggage, were then sent under guard to the house of **Don Ramon Musquiz**, which was located where **Frank**

**Brothers** store now is, on **Main Plaza**. (Southeast corner of **Soledad** and **Commerce Streets**, now a parking lot, 1991). Here we were given coffee and some food, and were told that we would go before the president at 2 o'clock. On our way to the **Musquiz** house we passed up **Commerce** street, and it was crowded as far as **Presa** street with soldiers who did not fire a shot during the battle. **Santa Anna** had many times more troops than he could use.

At 3 o'clock we went before **Santa Anna**. His quarters were in a house which stood where **L. Wolfson's** store now is. (Middle of **Commerce Street**, north side, between **Main Avenue** and **Soledad Street**). He had a great stack of silver money on a table before him, and a pile of blankets. One by one the women were sent into a side room to make their declaration, and on coming out were given \$2 and a blanket. While my mother was waiting her turn **Mrs. Melton**, who had never recognized my mother as an acquaintance, and who was considered an aristocrat, sent her brother, **Juan Losoya**, across the room to my mother to ask the favor that nothing be said to the president about her marriage with an American. My mother told **Juan** to tell her not to be afraid. **Mrs. Dickson** was there, also several other woman.

After the president had given my mother her \$2 and blanket, he told her she was free to go where she liked. We gathered what belongings we could together and went to our cousin's place on **North Flores** street, where we remained several months."

The photo of **Enrique Esparza** is courtesy the **Dolph Briscoe Center for American History** at **UT-Austin**. The **Briscoe Center** is a fantastically interesting repository to visit.

captured some prisoners. One of them was a Mexican soldier, and all through the siege, he interpreted the bugle calls on the Mexican side, and in this way the Americans know about the movements of the enemy.

"After the first day there was fighting. The Mexicans had a cannon somewhere near where **Dwyer** avenue now is, and every fifteen minutes they dropped a shot into the fort.

"The roof of the **Alamo** had been taken off and the south side filled up with dirt almost to the roof on that side so that there was a slanting embankment up which the Americans could run and take positions. During the fight I saw numbers who were shot in the head as soon as they exposed themselves from the roof. There were holes made in the walls of the fort and the Americans continually shot from these also. We also had two cannon, one at the main entrance and one at the northwest corner of the fort near the post office. The cannon were seldom fired.

"I remember **Crockett**. He was a tall, slim man, with black whiskers. He

was always at the head. The Mexicans called him **Don Benito**. The Americans said he was **Crockett**. He would often come to the fire and warm his hands and say a few words to us in the Spanish language. I also remember hearing the names of **Travis** and **Bowie** mentioned, but I never saw either of them that I know of.

**"After the first few days I remember that a messenger came from somewhere with word that help was coming."**

"After the first few days I remember that a messenger came from somewhere with word that help was coming. The Americans celebrated it by beating the drums and playing on the flute. But after about seven days fighting there was an armistice of three days and during this time **Don Benito** had conferences every day with **Santa Anna**. **Badio**, the interpreter, was a close friend of my father, and I heard him tell my father in the quarters that **Santa Anna** had offered to let the Americans go with their lives if they would surrender, but

## MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAMS IN TEXAS

**Mexican American** studies programs in **Texas** universities are an increasingly growing field of research and education that grew out of the civil rights movement of the 1960s. **Mexican American** studies programs are generally interdisciplinary in nature and most often draw upon history, political science, sociology, and economics, as well as literature and education.

The intended goal of **Mexican American** studies programs is to prepare students for professional careers serving one of **Texas's** fastest-growing demographics and strengthen the presence of **Mexican Americans** in professional and intellectual fields. The programs also show an institutional recognition of the importance of **Mexican American** people in the history of the United States.

The civil rights movement, and more specifically the **Chicano** movement of the late 1960s, were instrumental in the adoption of **Mexican American** studies as a formal field. Although early adoption of these programs took place in **California**, the nexus for second generation **Mexican American** civil rights organizations, **Mexican American** studies programs also found support in **Texas**. The **Mexican-American Youth Organization (MAYO)** worked closely with local students to force the adoption of **Mexican American** studies in universities in **Texas** and supported the formation of the **Mexican-American Studies Institute** for the **State of Texas**.

In 1969 the students at the **University of Texas at El Paso**, many of whom were attuned to the reforms in **California**, also successfully influenced the university to create one of the first degrees in **Mexican American** studies, albeit as a minor instead of a major. The **University of Texas at Austin** first attempted to create an "ethnic studies" program, but activists were not satisfied, and in 1970 the university created the **Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS)**, founded by **Américo Paredes** and **George I. Sánchez**. Paredes served as the first director. Other universities, such as the **University of Houston**, quickly followed this example.



# The History of OUR VICTORY

## 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL STATEWIDE SUMMIT ON MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Saturday, June 24 • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Lone Star College-Houston North Fallbrook  
12750 Walters Road • Houston, TX 77014

Join us for a one-day summit to share, celebrate, and implement Mexican American studies in Texas schools.



Four Locations Close to Home.  
Fairbanks Fallbrook Greenspoint Victory



LoneStar.edu/HoustonNorth

RSVP to find out about free books and free curriculum guides for Mexican American Literature.

LSC-HOUSTON  
NORTH  
Latin American  
Student Organization



# Austin Hispanic Hall of Fame

## What is The Austin Hispanic Hall of Fame?

The **Austin Hispanic Hall of Fame** will recognize persons who have over the years made a positive impact on the community.

## Where will The Austin Hispanic Hall of Fame be located?

The **Austin Hispanic Hall of Fame** will have two locations. One will be on the internet with a dedicated website:([www.austinhispanichalloffame.org](http://www.austinhispanichalloffame.org)) The other location (for the time being) will be at **Angies's Mexican Restaurant** at 1307 East 7th Street Austin, Texas. Angie and **La Voz Newspapers** have worked out an arrangement to temporarily use her wall space to display the Hall of Fame inductees with their respective portraits and biographical sketches.

## Why The Austin Hispanic Hall of Fame?

Mostly because of time constraints, we often forget those who have blazed a trail for others to follow. As a consequence, personal contributions have been lost in the stacks of a library or the memory of ones own mind. This small effort is a way to say publicly "Thank You" to all those who have sacrificed and worked tirelessly to improve the Hispanic community over the years.

## Nomination Form for Austin Hispanic Hall of Fame

Name of your nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known this individual? \_\_\_\_\_

What would you say is this individual's biggest contribution to the community? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Use more space if you need)

What years would you say were this nominee's most active period? \_\_\_\_\_

Does your nominee still reside in Austin? \_\_\_\_\_

What are some of the awards or honors your nominee has received throughout their life?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you had to pick a category that your nominee would fit in which one would you pick?

- |                                |                   |                        |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Lifetime Achievement/Legacy | 2) Creatives/Arts | 3) Politics/Government |
| 4) Business                    | 5) Education      | 6) Community Advocacy  |
|                                |                   | 7) Other               |

Are there any video clips or photos of your nominee that we can use to construct an online profile? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your best contact information? \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominations**  
**Austin Hispanic Hall of Fame**  
**P.O. Box 19457**  
**Austin, Texas 78760**



# Caldendar of Events

**June 5th-6th, 2023 - 7th Annual Texas Community Schools Summit.** The Texas Community Schools Summit is sponsored by **Austin Voices, AISD, Texas AFT, TSTA** and the **Texas Community Schools Coalition**. The summit will be held at **Webb Middle School** in **Austin** from 9 am to 4 pm on June 5 and 9 am to 3 pm

**June 5th, 2023 - Go Austin - Vamos Austin** 5th Birthday Celebration Come enjoy a night of community, food, and fundraising with us! Event starts at 6:00pm to 9:00 pm Location **Vuka - Bouldin Creek** 411 West Monroe Street Austin, TX 78704

**June 10th, 2023** - A screening of the film *Un Trip - raul salinas & Poetry of Liberation Time of*  
Event: 6:00pm Location: Austin PBS

**June 10th, 2023 - TEJANOS IN TEXAS, TEJANOS IN AUSTIN - The Tejano Genealogy Society of Austin** (TGSA) is having a symposium highlighting our Tejano history and contributions background. Our aim is to promote our Tejano history, heritage and contributions by highlighting the Tejano monument to make sure the public is aware of it and its meaning and by publicly recognizing the early **Tejanos in Austin** by researching and revealing their genealogy. Event Time: 10:am to 3:30pm Event Location: Austin Community College Riverside Campus Auditorium Building “G” 1020 Grove Blvd/ **Austin, Texas** 78741

**June 10th, 2023 - No Raza Round Table meeting/ We will be back in August. Gracia**

**June 16th, 2023 - Texas Association of Mexican American Chamber of Commerce Distinction Luncheon.** See page 9 for more information.



# 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.

Wallet	Billetera
Change	Cambio
Money	Dinero
Quarter	Cuarto
Dollar	Dólar
Checking Account	Cuenta corriente
Bank	Banco
Poverty	Pobreza
Poor	Pobre
Job	Trabajo
Employment	Empleo
Interest	Interés
Taxes	Impuestos
Bank Account	Cuenta bancaria
Deposit	Depósito


**THE GUADALUPE**  
 CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

*The*

# TEXAS AUTHOR SERIES 2023

At the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center's **LATINO BOOKSTORE**

Every Second Friday of the Month at 6:00 PM



**JUN 09**

Delia Garcia presents *Latino Leadership Lessons* with the Honorable Leticia Van de Putte, Dr. Laura Barberena, Frankie Gonzalez-Wolfe, and Patricia Mejia.





Leticia Van de Putte



Dr. Laura Barberena



Frankie Gonzalez-Wolfe



Patricia Mejia

1300 Guadalupe St. San Antonio, TX 78207





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