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People n the News



Helena Moreno Elected Mayor of New Orleans

Helena Moreno, an at-large **New Orleans City Council** member won the mayoral race on October 11th, 2025 with 55% of the vote. She will assume office in January 2026.

Moreno began her career in **New Orleans, Louisiana** as an award-winning investigative reporter for **NBC** affiliate, **WD-SU-TV**. She was part of a team awarded an **Emmy** for outstanding coverage during **Hurricane Katrina**.

In May of 2010, she was elected to the **Louisiana House of Representatives**. While a Legislator, **Helena** was honored as a champion for women by various organizations. Helena has also been recognized for her past work in criminal justice reform, public safety, drug policy, health care, early childhood education and care for the elderly.

Moreno was born in **Xalapa, Mexico** and lived there until she was eight years old when her father **Felix** moved the family to the **United States** in search of better opportunities. Her mother **Nancy** pushed **Helena** to do extra reading and writing in English after school - of which Helena was no fan - but caught her up to speed quickly in learning English. **Helena** remains fluent in Spanish and has family living throughout **Mexico**.

Upon her election to the **New Orleans City Council**, she has worked to support and uplift the Latino population in **New Orleans**, which has historically been ignored and underrepresented.

Helena holds a degree in Journalism from **Southern Methodist University** in **Dallas**. She lives uptown with her husband **Chris Meeks**.



Bianca Garcia Receives 2025 Estrella Award

The **Hispanic Women's Network of Texas - Austin Chapter** has selected the **Honorable Bianca Garcia** as its **2025 Estrella Award Recipient!**

The **Estrella Award** honors women who demonstrate exceptional leadership, make a significant impact in their communities, and embody the mission of **HWNT**. **Judge Garcia**, who serves as the **County Court at Law #3 Judge**, represents the leadership, impact and community spirit celebrated by **HWNT**.

A native to **Austin**, **Judge Garcia** has dedicated her legal career to public service advocating for children, strengthening diversion programs and ensuring equitable access to justice. She earned a bachelor's and masters degree from **George Washington University** and her law degree from **The University of Texas School of Law** in 2012.

Beyond her professional achievements, **Judge Garcia** leads by example through annual backpack drives, serving on multiple boards, and volunteering with organizations that uplift this community. Her leadership continues to inspire and guide the next generation of Latina leaders across **Texas**.



Montserrat Garibay is a candidate for Texas House District 49

As a dedicated former **AISD Pre-K** teacher, passionate union leader, student and immigrants' rights organizer, and former **Assistant Deputy Secretary** at the **US Department of Education**, I am ready to use my grassroots skills and National experience to get elected. **Montserrat** stated in her announcement for the seat currently held by **Gina Hinojosa**.

Montserrat Garibay is a 25-year veteran of public education and labor rights, whose personal journey from undocumented child to U.S. citizen profoundly informs her powerful advocacy. Her federal service includes impactful roles as **Assistant Deputy Secretary** and **Director for the Office of English Language Acquisition**, and as a **Senior Advisor for Labor Relations** at the U.S. **Department of Education** under the **Biden** and **Harris** Administration.

A **National Board Certified Teacher** and **University of Texas at Austin** alumna, **Garibay's** career began in the classroom, teaching bilingual pre-kindergarten for eight years. She quickly became a leading voice in labor, serving as **Vice President for Certified Employees with Education Austin** and **Secretary Treasurer at the Texas AFL-CIO**. Her unwavering commitment to justice is further evidenced by her pivotal role in promoting the **Texas DREAM Act** and comprehensive immigration reform.



Mari Hernandez Appointed President and CEO of NALAC

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, October 20, 2025 – The **National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures (NALAC)** announces the appointment of **Mari Hernandez** as **NALAC CEO and President**.

Mari Hernandez joined the organization in 2022, previously served as the **NALAC Program Manager of Leadership Institutes & Convenings**, and was promoted to **Deputy Director** in 2024. She succeeds **María López De León**, who led the organization for over twenty-five years and retired at the end of 2023.

"I am excited and deeply honored to lead the organization from this new position. I look forward to working with our staff and partners to continue and strengthen NALAC's legacy of investing in the critical work of Latinx/e artists and organizations," Hernandez said. "The arts and culture landscape is in a pivotal moment. Together, we will navigate the complexities facing us and continue to advance our collective impact across this country to build a more just and vibrant arts ecosystem."

Prior to joining **NALAC**, **Hernandez** served as the Education Manager for the Contemporary at **Blue Star**, where she developed and provided strategic oversight for the education department. As the Program Manager at **San Anto Cultural Arts**, she directed programs to promote human and community growth through the arts. As a practicing artist, **Hernandez** was a finalist in the 2022 **National Portrait Gallery's Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition** and has shown her work locally, nationally, and internationally.



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Pensamientos

Bienvenidos a *La Voz Newspaper*. In this issue of **La Voz** you will find a number of interesting articles. But we want to start our commentary by calling to your attention the 100th birthday acknowledgement of **Mrs. Nena Ramirez**. She is originally from **Uvalde, Texas** and remains a life long friend of my family.

In 1951, she was my mother's bridesmaid and I, along with my brother and sister, went to school with her children in **Uvalde**. While my mother passed away a few years ago at the age of 93, **Mrs. Ramirez** and her family will always remain our friends until the end.

You will also find in this issue of **La Voz** a tribute to **Maria Esther Campos** written by her daughter **Olga Campos Benz**. **Esther** was a trailblazer in **Houston** and an member of **Tejano Democrats**. She was breaking barriers in the **Mexican American** community before others even thought it was possible. **Mrs. Campos** will always be remembered for her willingness to take the first step forward while others had their reservations.

Also in this issue is a recap of the celebration of those who attended **Johnston High School** in **Austin, Texas**. By all accounts, over 500 people bought tickets and attended the celebration. Many of them came from out of town and had not seen each other in years.

This month of November we have the **Texas Book Festival** in town. Because of space limitations, we were able to feature some of the writers who are participating in this event. Visit the **Texas Book Festival** on line for more information.

Last but not least we want to call to your attention a new book by **Dr. Linda Quintanilla** titled **Warriors for Social Justice** which tells the story of **Maria Jimenez** from **Houston, Texas** and her life long story of activism. I knew **Maria** when I lived in **Houston** in the 1980s and 90s and can attest to the fact that she was a dedicated activist who also was not afraid to stand up and call attention to injustice.

EDITORIAL



**Alfredo Santos c/s
Editor & Publisher**



**Holy Family
American Catholic Church**
An Inclusive &
Compassionate
CATHOLIC community

Re. Dr. Jayme Mathias
M.A., M.B. A., M.Div., M.S., Ph.D
Senior Pastor



9:00 a.m. English Mass at the Church
10:00 a.m. Breakfast in the Parish Hall
10:30 a.m. English Mass in the Chapel
12:00 p.m. Misa en español en la iglesia

9322 FM 812 Austin, Texas 78719
From Highway 183 going South, turn left onto FM 812

For more information: (512) 826-0280
Welcome Home!

ABOUT: Father Jayme

Father Jayme jokes that he comes “from the corn fields of *Ohio*, to the corn tortillas of *Texas*.” Since studying Spanish in *Mexico* at age 19, he has served Spanish-speaking communities in **Missouri**, **California** and **Washington, D.C.** As a young seminarian in 1995, he was assigned to **Cristo Rey Catholic Church** in **East Austin**, where he returned for eight years of priestly ministry. As pastor of that community, **Father Jayme** grew Sunday Mass attendance from some 2,300 people to over 5,000 people every Sunday, making **Cristo Rey** the largest Spanish-speaking **Roman Catholic** faith community in **Central Texas**. He says, “For me, it is the most invigorating feeling in the world to lead the People of God in prayer. There is nothing more humbling than to celebrate the sacraments of the Church with God’s People!”

Father Jayme is passionate about education. He was the valedictorian of his high school class. He possesses two undergraduate degrees, four graduate degrees, and a doctorate in leadership studies. During his years in **Austin**, he served as President of **San Juan Diego Catholic High School** “The School that Works,” he helped to launch three adult learning centers in **East Austin**, he founded the **Cristo Rey Institute of Spirituality, Theology & Organizational Leadership** at **Cristo Rey Catholic Church**, and in 2013 he brought to birth the **Holy Family Theological Institute**.

In 2012, **Father Jayme** was elected **Secretary & District 2 Trustee** of the **Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees**. For eight years, he was responsible for helping oversee 85,000 students and 11,000 employees in **Austin’s** 130 public schools. He shares, “**Stephen Covey** is famous for admonishing others to ‘live, love and leave a legacy.’ As part of my legacy in this world, I hope to cultivate and empower leaders through education!”

In March 2012, **Father Jayme** was incardinated into the **American Catholic Church** in the United States by **Presiding Archbishop Lawrence J. Harms**. He was subsequently named pastor of **Holy Family Catholic Church** in **Austin**. He concludes, “We all yearn for that special feeling of being ‘at home.’ That’s how I feel here at Holy Family, and I pray that others might continue to find a home and a Family here, too!”

Happy Birthday Mrs. Nena Ramirez! 100 Years Young!



ABOVE: Mrs. Nena Ramirez, originally from **Uvalde, Texas**, now living in **San Antonio, Texas**. With her children from right to left: **Romelia**, **Margot** and **J.B.** Mrs. Ramirez was long time educator in **Uvalde** and **San Antonio, Texas**.

A Tribute to María Esther Campos

by Olga Campos Benz

The East End in **Houston, Texas** is a predominantly Latino barrio in where mourners gathered recently to pay their last respects to my mother, **María “Esther” Estrada Campos**.

Mom was a trailblazer in the field of public education and a true public servant who worked to positively impact the lives of students, parents, school employees, community leaders, elected officials, and her fellow educators throughout her lengthy and successful career.

Her professional journey began eleven years after graduation from **Houston’s Jeff Davis High School**. A young wife and mother, she enrolled in the **University of Houston College of Education** in 1959. She earned her **Bachelor of Arts** and **Master of Arts** degrees while juggling work, marriage, and four young children. At that time, it was virtually unheard of for a 25-year-old, Latina from **Houston’s East End** to pursue education the way she did!

In 1962, she became one of the first bilingual instructors hired by the **Houston Independent School District** and continued climbing **HISD’s** professional ladder as a **Counselor** and an **Assistant Principal**. She dedicated her life to improving the educational opportunities for all students and in 1993, she retired early from **HISD** to run for **School Trustee** in **District VIII**. Mom won that election and proudly served for a decade and is recognized for bringing about positive change to the largest school district in the state and one of the ten largest in the nation.

My mother also held various leadership positions in numerous community organizations. She served as a board member of **Harris County Children’s Protective Services** and of **Hope Housing**; a delegate to the **Democratic National Convention**; a founding member of the **Tejano Democrats** (formerly the **Mexican American Democrats**).

She was a member of the **National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO)** and as an **American Leadership Fellow, Class XIII**. Mom was also a member of the **J.S. and Lillie Abercrombie Society** and has bequeathed that many of her more than 150 hand-stitched quilts she created over her lifetime be sold with the proceeds benefitting **Texas Children’s Hospital**.



ABOVE: Maria Esther Campos receiving her honorary doctorate at the **University of Houston**. To her left is University of Houston, Chancellor and President **Renu Khator**



ABOVE: Family photo taken in the early 1960s.

Yet despite all her accomplishments and community contributions, mom found herself forced to make a major sacrifice common to other working mothers: putting family ahead of professional goals.

In 1977, serious family challenges forced

her to stop working on her Ph.D even after completing the required course work and receiving approval of her dissertation proposal entitled, “A Study of the Relationship of School Behavior of Junior High Mexican American Students and Their Teachers’ Level of Cultural Understanding” (April 22, 1977).

Her dissertation was going to examine how could a teacher find success if they didn’t understand the culture of a child. She said it was a difficult time when schools were being integrated, placing Hispanic children in predominantly White schools with teachers who had no understanding of how to teach them culturally. Mom stated, “I felt a responsibility to help our children.”

In support for her nomination to receive an Honorary Ph.D from the **University of Houston**, many letters of support were submitted by elected officials and other community members including the **Honorable Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia**, the **Honorable State Senator Carol Alvarado** and the **Mayor of Houston, John Whitmire**. On May 2021 at the age of 91, **Maria Esther Campos** was awarded the **University of Houston’s** degree of **Doctor of Humane Letters honoris causa**, thus obtaining her educational goals at last.

In an interview with **La Politiquera** a newspaper published in **Houston** in the 1990’s by **Alfredo Santos c/s**, mom recalled:

“There were those who said out loud, Esther, tu no puedes. What are you doing? How can you go to college and leave your children? You can’t do that.”

Mom said she bowed her head in reflection for a moment and when she looked up, she said:

“You know, people have been telling me all my life what I can’t do. If Jesse (her late husband) and I were to have listened to all those people over the years we wouldn’t have gotten any-

Mourners who paid final respects to mom included a member of Congress, former and current State Senators, a current State House member, the Honorable Mayor of Houston, a former City Councilmember, former and current judges, and a Harris County Commissioner, who proclaimed **October 8th Esther Campos Day in Harris County**. Also present were former neighbors, fellow educators, community volunteers and political activists who worked alongside her to improve the lives of others.

María Esther Estrada Campos will be remembered as a role model for the current and future racially diverse population of her beloved **East End** community and her hometown of **Houston, Texas**.

Book Review

Dionisio Salazar

Pillars of Creation, *A Quest for the Great Name in a Nietzschean World:* A Novel by Carlos Nicolás Flores

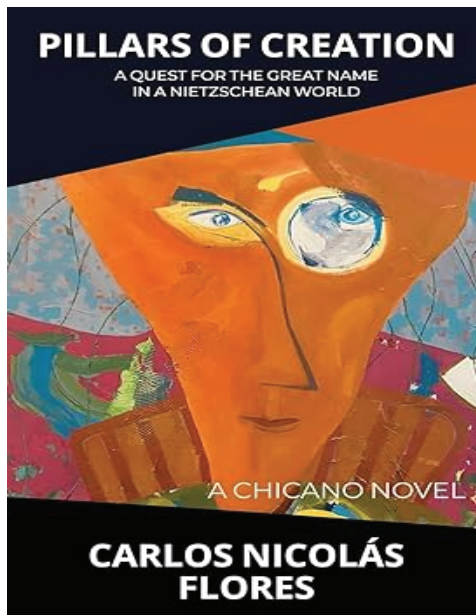
Carlos Flores', *The Pillars of Creation, A Quest for the Great Name in a Nietzschean World*, is a significant contribution to **Chicano** literature. The novel captures the struggles, challenges and contradictions of surviving as a **Chicano** in the **south Texas-Mexico** borderland region. Long neglected and marginalized, **Chicanos** are a people who remain outside the consciousness and imaginary of mainstream America. The novel offers a realistic portrayal of border life of **Chicanos** and **Mexicanos** who endure endless violence, poverty, boredom, hopelessness and fear. The characters, places, dramas and situations are complicated, nuanced and beautiful. The scenes are brutally honest, gritty and impassioned.

The story is about the adventures and spiritual journey of **Yoltic Cortez**. **Yoltic** is a twenty-four-year-old young **Chicano** who aspires to be a writer. He thinks, reads and knows a lot. He was encouraged to write by the **Failed Poet**, an indigenous professor who once taught at **Harvard University**. **Yoltic** struggles to start and finish his great America novel. He lives in tough and bleak conditions in a border colonia named Cuatro Vientos. It is located on the northlands of the **Rio Grande River**. **Yoltic** wants to write his novel and "get the hell out of hell." **Flores** describes this hell as "... *dirty streets... junk cars parked on broken sidewalks... homeless people with cardboard signs, illegal aliens, mojados, gangs smuggling dope, shootouts with the military, ... people gunned down in their house, journalists decapitated in Acapulco.*"

Yoltic is caught in an in-between world of

south Texas and Mexico, **pochos** and **Mexicanos**, poverty and survival, faith and doubt, self-loathing and hope. Throughout the novel, he contends with a dying father, a beautiful disappearing girlfriend, a dead-end job and a lack of self-worth. He ponders the existence of God amidst the chaos and violence of drug wars, cartel killings, massacred immigrants, impoverished colonias, and dead-end jobs.

Yoltic copes with his reality by using a hallucinogenic drug known as **Tezca**. He searches for meaning by studying the works of existentialist writers and philosophers such as **Nietzsche** and **Kierkegaard**. **Nietzsche** is most famous for his statement that "God is dead." **Yoltic** looks toward European thinkers rather than his own indigenous, **Mexican** and **Latin American** people. He seeks out Eurocentric ideas and writings rather than the wisdom of his own community. These influ-



ences all contribute to his sense of angst and despair. **Yoltic's** knowledge of literature, science, existential philosophy and the Bible are sources of both inspiration and anguish. When **Yoltic's** mother died, he turned to philosophy while his father turned to religion. This sets the backdrop for many interesting exchanges between **Yoltic** and his father who quotes Biblical scriptures to advise his agnostic son.

Yoltic manages to find hope and joy in a distant heavenly formation in the **Milky Way** known as the **Pillars of Creation**. The pillars are located 6.5 to 7 million light years away from earth. They consist of three massive columns of gas and dust that are 5 thousand light years tall. **Yoltic** contemplates this formation as he struggles with his life situation and the seeming absence of God in a place of chaos and desperation. He reasons with himself, "How can there not be a God? What more proof do we want?" **Yoltic** gets a break

in life when he meets **Marfil Quintanilla** at a local taqueria. **Marfil** is a blond, blue-eyed "regiamontana" from **Monterrey, Mexico**. She has fled her family rancho to avoid the narcotraficos. She brings **Yoltic** happiness but also mystery and worry. The couple tries to make a life for themselves. **Marfil** has her own problems back home. She disappears from **Yoltic** at all the wrong times.

The *Pillars of Creation* is a captivating read for understanding border life. It provides rich and vivid descriptions of ranchos, restaurants, local foods, plazas and cartel members. One can almost taste the "tamales and frijoles borrachos, guacamole and freshly made tortillas de harina" as well as "... warm tortillas, fleshy pig's **fee**, hominy, oregano, sliced onions, chile serrano and ice-cold **Mexico Coke**." It delves into deep topics that are well worth considering. **Flores** challenges us to look deeper into the **Chicano** reality. He encourages readers to consider the bigger picture that includes both struggles and possibilities.

Dionisio Salazar is a writer, cultural critic and political theorist. He writes on political, social and religious and topics. He is the author of "*American Dirt and Cultural Hegemony*", included in *Our Creative Realidades, A Nonfiction Anthology*. He studied politics at **Southern Methodist University** and the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**. His master's thesis at MIT was titled, "*The Mexican Revolution and the Influence of Capital on Rural Class Conflict in Morelos and Chihuahua*." He studied religion at the **Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary**. He is originally from **San Antonio, Tx**.



El que sabe. . . sabe. Y el que no sabe . . pos . . .

by Andrew “Andy” Hernandez

In a year from now, on November 3, 2026, control of Congress will be up for grabs. Right now, **President Trump’s** and the **Republican’s** control of the White House, The U.S. Senate and the **U.S. House of Representatives** has given the President to do whatever comes into his mind to do.

However, **Trump’s** and the **Republican** party’s hold on almost unchecked power is on shaky grounds going into the 2026 midterms. **Republicans** hold a mere three seat majority going into an election where the party in power usually loses anywhere from 10-15 congressional seats. This would give **Democrats** control of the House and thus be able to put a check on and reign in **President Trump**. He knows this and so has settled on a strategy to rig the 2026 midterm elections in their favor. **Texas** has become ground zero for **Trump’s** national strategy to retain unchecked power.

President Trump ordered **Texas** governor **Abbott**, as well as other **Republican** governors in red states to redraw current congressional districts that currently elect **Democrats** to those that will elect **Republicans** by diluting Hispanic and Black voters while putting rural white conservative voters in those districts. This strategy is simple and straight forward-water down the Hispanic and Black vote who tend to vote for **Democrats** and flood them with white conservative voters who tend to vote **Republican**. And **Texas** did just that. **Republicans** who control the state redrew five congressional in south and west **Texas** in such a way that they believe will flip these districts in their favor.

Here is the rub; however, four of the five newly drawn districts have solid Hispanic majorities. In the newly redrawn 28th and 34th districts Hispanics make up 90% and 77%, respectively. To win these and the other three districts’ **Republicans** are going to win over a good number of Hispanic voters.

Trump and the **Republican Party** are hoping that **Trump’s** increased support among Hispanic voters in **Texas**—where he received 46% to 48% of the Hispanic vote in the 2024 presidential election—will continue into the 2026 Midterm elections and benefit other **Republican** candidates on the ballot. This may be wishful thinking.

Recent polling suggests that Hispanic voters have soured on **Trump**. A **New York Times/Siena Poll** in early October found 69% of the Hispanics disapproved of the **Mr. Trump** is handling his job as President and 58% believed he has made the economy worst. Another poll by **Equis Research** found that 25% of the respondents who have voted for **Trump** regretted doing so. This indicates that the “**Trump effect**” may harm **Republican** congressional candidates rather than benefit them.

Whether **Trump** and **Republicans** can flip these five districts will be determined who and for what Hispanics choose to vote. It will be in their hands.

ABOUT:

Andrew “Andy” Hernandez has over 50 years of electoral campaign experience in and with the Latino community positioning him as one of the most experienced and respected experts on the Latino vote in the nation.

Early Career and Founding Contributions

Mr. Hernandez began his career in 1974 as one of the founding staff members of the Southwest Voter Registration and Educa-

tion Project (SVREP). This pivotal organization was established to empower the Latino community through voter registration and civic engagement.

Leadership Roles and Advocacy

In 1988, **Mr. Hernandez** succeeded **SVREP’s** founder, **Willie Velasquez**, and took on the role of **President** of **SVREP** and the **Southwest Voter Registration Institute** (SVRI). During his tenure, which lasted until 1994, he continued to build on the foundation laid by **Velasquez**, expanding the reach and effectiveness of both organizations.

Political Campaigns and Field Directorship

Mr. Hernandez’s expertise in political campaigns was showcased in 1980 when he served as the **Southwest Field Director** for the **Ted Kennedy for President Campaign**. His strategic planning and grassroots mobilization efforts were instrumental in voter turnout and support for **Kennedy**. In 1996, he led the effort to turn out the Latino vote for **President Clinton’s** reelection campaign as the **Democratic National Committee’s Director of Base Vote**. His efforts were vital in ensuring a significant Latino presence in the electorate, contributing to **Clinton’s** successful reelection.

Award-Winning Leadership

Throughout his career, **Mr. Hernandez** has been recognized for his exceptional contributions to the community and his unwavering commitment to advocacy. In 1990, he was named one of **Hispanic Business Magazine’s 100 Most Influential Hispanics** and received **The National Council of La Raza’s Hero Award**. His lifetime achievements were further acknowledged in 1994 with **The Willie C. Velasquez Institute’s Lifetime Achievement Award**. In 2004, he was honored with **The United States Hispanic Leadership Institute’s Lifetime Achievement Award**.

Recent Acknowledgments

Mr. Hernandez’s legacy continues to be celebrated with recent awards such as the **San Antonio Spurs Hispanic Leaders and Legacies Award** in 2023. In 2024, he received the **Southwest Voter Registration and Education’s Champion of Democracy Award** and the **Mexican American Legal Defense Fund’s Excellence in Community Service Lifetime Achievement Award**.



Johnston High School



ABOVE: From left to right: **Vera Rodriguez**, unidentified, **Carrie Serrano**

The **Johnston Ram 65th Anniversary Committee** would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in our meet and greet functions, as well as to our followers who attended our events leading up to the main celebration. We are also deeply grateful to those who purchased **Johnston Ram** memorabilia, as your support was instrumental in making our event a resounding success.

Thank you for your phone calls and for sharing your wonderful experiences with us. We are thrilled to hear that so many attendees had a fantastic time at our grand event. Below, please find a list of our committee members.



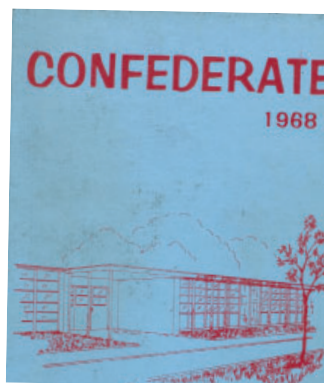
ABOVE: From left to right, **Linda Gonzalez**, former **Johnston Rams** cheerleader, **Ernest Serrano** and **Maricela Benites**



65th Celebration



ABOVE: Tony Castillo and Maricela Peña Benites



JOHNSTON HIGH 65TH
ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE
INVITES

— ★ ★ ★ —

ALL JOHNSTON *Veterans*

TO COME SOCIALIZE WITH
FELLOW JOHNSTON ALUMNI.
AS ALWAYS, WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SERVICES.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Tickets for the 65th anniversary
celebration and RAM merchandise will
be sold!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

SATURDAY
AUGUST 23RD
4PM - 8PM

—  —

LA PALAPA RESTAURANT
6640 E HWY 290

— ★ ★ ★ —

Johnston High School



ABOVE: Daniel Valadez, Yolanda Diaz and Mary Jane Coy.



ABOVE: Chris Sanchez and Liz Rendon and friend.



ABOVE: Christina Gonzales is with George Morales III. Future commissioner George Morales, and Elizabeth Lopez at the Johnston Ram Anniversary. Everybody had a great time.



ABOVE: Marie Scalza an early teacher at Johnston High School.

Congratulations to all the Johnston High Svchool Alumni



Paid political announse,emt by thye candidate

65th Celebration



Texas Book Festival

The **Texas Book Festival** is one of the nation's premier annual literary events. Hosted every fall in downtown **Austin**, TBF features over 250 authors of the year's best books and attracts 40,000 book lovers. Here is a sampling of some of the 64 Latino/a authors slated to be participating in the **Texas Book Festival**.



Olivia Abtahi

A proud Iranian-Argentinian American. Her debut novel, ***Perfectly Parvin***, was published in 2021, receiving the **SCBWI Golden Kite Honor**, **YALSA Odyssey Honor**, and numerous starred reviews. Her sophomore novel, ***Azar on Fire***, was published in August 2022 and is a **LJG** pick. **Olivia's** third novel, ***Twin Flames***, is a **New Visions Award** winner and published in August 2024. **The Interpreter** is her first picture book, receiving five starred reviews. She currently lives in **Denver, Colorado**, with her husband and children.



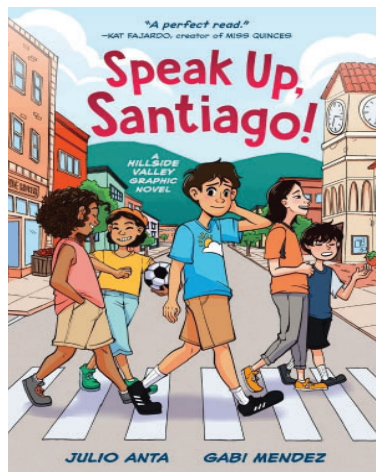
Gloria Amescua

Award-winning author **Gloria Amescua's** latest book, ***Abuelita's Song***, is a "bilingual story celebrating family and the music that connects us all." Her picture book biography, ***Child of the Flower-song People: Luz Jiménez, Daughter of the Nahuá***, received a **Pura Belpré Author Honor**, an **Américas Award**, **ILA** awards, **ALA Notable Books** and was cited in various Best of Nonfiction lists. ***Niña del pueblo de floricanto: Luz Jiménez, hija de los nahuas*** (Spanish edition) publishes Nov. 2025.



Julio Anta

Julio Anta is a Cuban and Colombian American author from **Miami, Florida**. He currently resides in **New York City** where he works to tell stories about diverse Latinx characters for readers of all ages. He is best known for his comic book series **HOME**, and his work at **Marvel** and **DC Comics**. **Julio** is making his middle grade debut with **Speak Up, Santiago**.



Norma E. Cantú

Norma E. Cantú is the **Norine R. and T. Frank Murchison Distinguished Professor in Humanities** at **Trinity University**. She has authored or edited multiple books, including co-editing **Entre Guadalupe y Malinche: Tejanas in Literature and Art**.



Angela Cervantes

Angela Cervantes is the Mexican American author of popular children's novels like ***Lety Out Loud***, which was a **2020 Pura Belpré Honor Book**. Her other books include **Maritza: Lead with Your Heart** (American Girls book); **Me, Frida**, and the **Secret of the Peacock Ring**; **Gaby, Lost and Found**; and **Allie, First at Last**. **Angela's** latest novel, ***The Cursed Moon***, is the author's first book in the children's horror genre. In addition to her original novels, **Angela** authored the junior novelizations for **Disney/Pixar's** animated film **Coco** and **Disney's** animated film **Encanto**. **Angela** is a daughter of a retired elementary-school teacher who instilled in her a love for reading and storytelling.



Fernando Flores, Jr.

Explora la frontera de la ficción especulativa con los autores latinx **Ruben Reyes Jr.** y **Fernando Flores**. En **Brother Brontë**, Flores imagina un **Texas** distópico de un futuro cercano, donde un alcalde autoritario prohíbe la lectura —lo que lleva a dos amigos y a un variopinto grupo de aliados a levantarse para recuperar su hogar y su literatura. En **Archive of Unknown Universes**, **Reyes Jr.** entretiene una narrativa que desafía los géneros y cruza múltiples líneas temporales, ambientada en la guerra civil salvadoreña, siguiendo a dos familias que descubren el pasado y las posibilidades de un futuro alternativo. Ambos autores presentan una narrativa inventiva y transgresora, que combina la reflexión histórica con audaces reimaginaciones de los mundos que creemos conocer.



Adrianna Cuevas

Adrianna Cuevas is the author of **Pura Belpré Honor** book ***The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez*** and **Edgar Award Winner** ***The Ghosts of Rancho Espanito***. She is a first-generation **Cuban-American** originally from **Miami, Florida**. After teaching Spanish and ESOL for sixteen

in Austin, Texas 2025

years, she decided to pursue her passion for storytelling. **Adrianna** currently resides outside of **Austin, TX** with her husband and son where they enjoy hiking, traveling, and cooking lots of Cuban food.



Marcela Fuentes

Marcela Fuentes is an award-winning fiction writer and essayist. Her debut novel *Malas* was a *Good Morning America Book Club* pick. *Malas* won the 2025 **Texas Institute of Letters First Fiction Prize**, the 2024 **Western Heritage Literary Award**, the **Willa Cather Prize** for Contemporary Fiction, and was shortlisted for the 2025 **Mark Twain American Voice Prize** in Literature. **Marcela** is an Associate Professor at **TCU**. She lives in **Fort Worth** with two adorable (and bratty) German Shepherd Dogs, **Dolly Lynn** and **Francisco**.



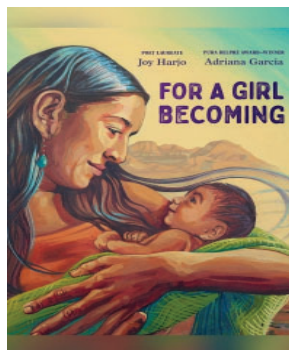
Gabriella Gamez

Gabriella Gamez is a Mexican American writer from **South Texas**. She has Bachelor's in English, works as a Library Aide, and is studying Library Sciences to become a Youth Librarian.



Adriana M. Garcia

Adriana M. Garcia is the winner of and two-time Honor recipient of the **Pura Belpré Award**. She lives in



Adult Spanish Sessions in the Leamos Tent | Sesiones en español para adultos en la carpa Leamos

1 El Arte de la Traducción

David Bowles & Guadalupe García McCall *El otoño de las luciérnagas* (Las estaciones de la sororidad #1) / *Fall of the Fireflies* (Seasons of Sisterhood #1) Sponsored by Univision. **Sábado 8 de noviembre 1:00 PM–1:45 PM**
Leamos Tent: Latine/Hispanic Authors & Literature in Spanish

Dibujados Juntos: La Voz Universal de los Libros Ilustrados

Zeke Peña (*Sundust / Polvo solar*) , **Andrea Cáceres** (*Hello, Tobi!*) & **Olivia Abtahi** (*The Interpreter*) **Saturday, November 8 | Sábado 8 de noviembre 2:00 PM – 2:45 PM** Leamos Tent: Latine/Hispanic Authors & Literature in Spanish

Historias que Nos Transportan: Explorando el Amor, la Pérdida y el Recuerdo a Través de la Ficción

Alejandro Varela (*Middle Spoon*) & **Adela Pineda Franco** (*Los Muertos: Day of the Dead Fiction*) **Saturday, November 8 | Sábado 8 de noviembre 3:00 PM – 3:45 PM** Leamos Tent: Latine/Hispanic Authors & Literature in Spanish

Benson Latin American Collection Presents: El Orgullo de ser Tejanas

Norma E. Cantú, **Mayra Olivares-Urueta**, **Crystal Silva-McCormick** & **Celeste G. Mendoza** (*¡Somos Tejanas!: Chicana Identity and Culture in Texas*) Sponsored by the Benson Latin American Collection. **Sunday, November 9 | Domingo 9 de noviembre 1:00 PM – 1:45 PM** Leamos Tent: Latine/Hispanic Authors & Literature in Spanish

Recordando el Pasado, Reimaginando el Futuro: Ficción Especulativa de Autores Latinx

Ruben Reyes Jr. (*Archive of Unknown Universes*) & **Fernando A. Flores** (*Brother Brontë*) **Sunday, November 9 | Domingo 9 de noviembre 2:00 PM – 2:45 PM** Leamos Tent: Latine/Hispanic Authors & Literature in Spanish

Todos Necesitamos Poesía

Saúl Hernández (*How to Kill a Goat and Other Monsters*) & **Octavio Quintanilla** (*Las Horas Imposibles / The Impossible Hours*) **Sunday, November 9 | Domingo 9 de noviembre 3:00 PM – 3:45 PM** Leamos Tent: Latine/Hispanic Authors & Literature in Spanish

Texas Book Festival



Xelena González

Xelena González practices the healing arts through creative writing and movement, centering self-love in her multi-disciplinary workshops for all ages. Award-winning author of the picture books *Of the Sun, Remembering, Where Wonder Grows*, and *All Around Us*, she is also the creator of *Loteria Remedios*, a guidebook of positive affirmations, self reflections, plant remedies, and animal medicine, based on the time-honored Lotería card deck. Forthcoming titles include *The Smallest Thing* and *Inclusion in the young adult anthology Onward*. Visit her website at XELENA.SPACE or online @xfactor.live.



Ada Limón

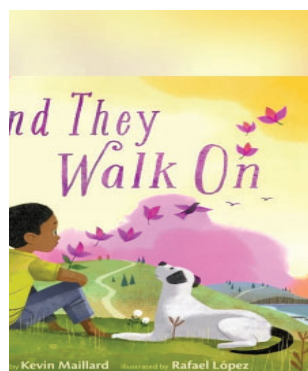
Ada Limón is the twenty-fourth U.S. Poet Laureate and the editor of the national bestselling anthology *You Are Here: Poetry in the Natural World*. She is the author of *The Hurting Kind* and five other collections of poems, including *The Carrying*, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award and finalist for the PEN/Jean Stein Book Award, and *Bright Dead Things*, a finalist for the National Book Award. Her children's book *In Praise of Mystery*

will be published in October 2024. **Limón** has received both a **Guggenheim** and a **MacArthur Fellowship**, and her work has appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, and *American Poetry Review*. She now resides in **California** where she was born and raised.



Rafael López

Rafael López is a *New York Times*-bestselling, award winning illustrator who has illustrated numerous acclaimed picture books, including *The Day You Begin* and *The Year We Learned to Fly* (*New York Times* bestsellers), *Dancing Hands* (Pura Belpré Medal), and *Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You* (Schneider Award), among others. His illustrations bring diverse characters to children's books, and he is driven to create books that reflect and honor the lives of all young people. **Rafael** is the recipient of three **Pura Belpré** medals, the **Schneider Family Book Award**, the **Jane Addams Book Award**, and the **Tomás Rivera Book Award**, as well as the illustrator of three *New York Times* bestsellers. He was the first guest artist of the **Smithsonian's National Postal Museum** and founder of the **Urban Art Trail**, a series of large-scale community murals around the U.S. **Rafael** lives in **San Diego** and **San Miguel de Allende, Mexico**.



Crystal Maldonado

Crystal Maldonado is a young adult author with a lot of feelings. She writes romcoms about (and for) fat, **Puerto Rican** girls, including *The Fall of Whit Rivera*, which *People Magazine* called a "pumpkin-spice-latte-flavored treat"; *Fat Chance*, *Charlie Vega*, which was a **New England Book Award** winner; and *No Filter* and *Other Lies*, which was named a **POPSUGAR** and **Seventeen Magazine** Best New YA. Her forthcoming *YA romcom, Get Real, Chloe Torres*, releases in spring 2025 and follows three estranged best friends as they embark on a once-in-a-lifetime roadtrip the summer before college. In 2024, she made her middle grade debut with *Camp Sylvania: Moon Madness*—a paranormal summer camp story featuring two fat besties, which she co-wrote with #1 *New York Times* bestselling author **Julie Murphy**. By day, **Crystal** works in higher ed marketing, and by night, she's a writer who loves **Beyoncé**, glitter, shopping, and spending too much time on her phone. Her work has been published in *Latina*, *BuzzFeed*, and the *Hartford Courant*. She lives in western **Massachusetts** with her husband and daughter.



Rick Martínez

Rick Martínez is a celebrated **Mexican American** cookbook author, *New York Times* bestseller, recipe developer, and food personality. His debut book, *Mi Cocina: Recipes and Rapture from My Kitchen in Mexico* is a **James Beard Award**-winner, **IACP Cookbook of the Year**, **IACP Best International Cookbook**, and *New York Times* bestseller and serves as a transporting tribute to his family's homeland of **Mexico** and a personal exploration of **Rick's** self-identity as a third-generation **Mexican American**.



Zeke Peña

Take a journey with two siblings through the sun-soaked desert of **El Paso**, discovering the natural beauty and magic of their hometown! Don't miss the chance to learn from our **Texas** land with acclaimed illustrator **Zeke Peña** and his new book, *Sundust*. Toma una jornada con dos hermanos en el desierto de **El Paso**, descubriendo la belleza natural y la magia de su pueblo!

in Austin, Texas 2025



Vanessa Angélica Villarreal

Vanessa Angélica Villarreal was born in the **Rio Grande Valley** to **Mexican** immigrants. She is the author of ***Beast Meridian***, which received a **Whiting Award**, a **Kate Tufts Discovery Award** nomination, and the **Texas Institute of Letters John A. Robertson Award**. She was a **2021 National Endowment for the Arts fellow**, and her work has appeared in **The New York Times**, **Harp-er's Bazaar**, **The Paris Review**, and elsewhere. She lives in **Los Angeles** with her son.



Isabel Zapata

Isabel Zapata was born in **Mexico City** in 1984. She studied political science at **Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM)** and philosophy at the **New School for Social Research**, in **New York**. She is the author of the titles ***Las noches son así*** (Broken English); ***Alberca vacía***/Empty Pool translated by Robin Myers—bilingual edition (Argonáu-tica / ***Lumen***); ***Una ballena es un país***

(Almadía); ***In vitro*** (Almadía) [In Vitro: On Longing and Transformation translated by Robin Myers, (Coffee House Press, 2023)]; and ***Tres animales que caben en el agua*** (Almadía). Her work has been included in Mexican journals such as **la Revista de la Universidad de Méxi-co**, **Periódico de poesía**, and **Letras Libres**, among others; and international publications such as **World Literature Today** and **Ancrages** (Canada). In 2015 she, along with four friends, founded ***Edi-ciones Antílope*** under the motto, "We make books that we would like to read," and their catalog includes narrative, la crónica, poetry, and essay. She received a 2016-17 grant from **FONCA's Jovenes Creadores**, a prestigious government program supporting Mexican artists and writers.



Reyes Ramirez

Reyes Ramirez is a Houstonian, writer, educator, curator, and organizer of Mexi-can and Salvadoran descent. He authored the short story collection ***The Book of Wanderers*** (2022), a **2023 Young Lions Fiction Award Finalist**, from **University of Arizona Press' Camino del Sol** series and the poetry collection ***El Rey of Gold Teeth*** (2023) from **Hub City Press**, a finalist for the **2024 Texas Institute of Letters Award for Best First Book of Poetry**. His latest curatori-al project, ***The Houston Artist Speaks Through Grids***, explores the use of grids in contemporary **Houston** art, literature, history, and politics. **Reyes** has been hon-ored as a **2020 CantoMundo Fellow**, **2021 Interchange Artist Grant Fel-low**, **2022 Crosstown Arts Writer in Residence**, **2023 Intercultural Lead-ership Institute Fellow**, **2023 Dobie Paisano Fellow**, **2024 Speculative Play** and **Just Futurities Fellow** and awarded grants from the **Houston Arts**

Kids Bilingual Sessions in English/Spanish in the Read Me a Story Tent | Sesiones bilingües para niños en la carpa Read Me a Story

Bilingual Storytime: The Interpreter / La intérprete

Olivia Abtahi (The Interpreter) Saturday, November 8 | Sábado 8 de noviem-bre 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Read Me A Story Tent

Bilingual Storytime: Sundust / Polvo solar

Zeke Peña (Sundust / Polvo solar) Saturday, November 8 | Sábado 8 de noviembre 12:00 PM – 12:30 PM Read Me A Story Tent

Bilingual Storytime: Little Rebels / Peques rebeldes

Yuyi Morales (Little Rebels) Sunday, November 9 | Domingo 9 de noviembre 12:00 PM – 12:30 PM Read Me A Story Tent Bilingual Storytime: Hello, Tobi! / ¡Hola, Tobi!

Andrea Cáceres (Hello, Tobi! / ¡Hola, Tobi!)

Sunday, November 9 | Domingo 9 de noviembre 12:30 PM – 1:00 PM Read Me A Story Tent

Alliance, Poets & Writers, and The Warhol Foundation's Idea Fund.



Joaquín Zihuatanejo

Joaquín Zihuatanejo is the proud de-scendant of migrant field workers. **Joa-quín** was recently named the inaugural **Dallas Poet Laureate**, and he received a **Poet Laureate Fellowship Prize** from the **Academy of American Poets** in honor of the outstanding service he provided while serving as **Dallas'** first poet laureate. The second sentence of this bio is not more poetic or important than the first. The second sentence would not be possi-

ble without the first. **Joaquín** received his MFA from the **Institute of American In-dian Arts**. His last book, ***Arsonist***, won the **Anhinga Prize for Poetry** as select-ed by **Eduardo C. Corral**. His new book, ***Occupy Whiteness***, is out now from **Deep Vellum Publishing**. **Joaquín** has two passions in his life, his partner **Aída** and poetry... always in that order.

The Texas Book Festival, the largest book event in the state and one of the premier book festivals in the country, returns November 8th and 9th in down-town **Austin** for its landmark 30th anniversary!

Free and open to all, the festival will feature a star-studded line-up of more than 300 of the year's leading authors, engaging panel discussions and programs for all ages, family activities, book sign-ings, cooking demonstrations, local food trucks, and the popu-lar Saturday night Lit Crawl.

Comisión De Calidad Ambiental Del Estado De Texas



AVISO DE RECIBO DE LA SOLICITUD Y EL INTENTO DE OBTENER PERMISO PARA LA CALIDAD DEL AGUA

RENOVACION

PERMISO NO. WQ0015837001

SOLICITUD. TWU – Wholesale Services, Inc., P.O. Box 140164, Austin, Texas 78714, ha solicitado a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental del Estado de Texas (TCEQ) para renovar el Permiso No. WQ0015837001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0139700) del Sistema de Eliminación de Descargas de Contaminantes de Texas (TPDES) para autorizar la descarga de aguas residuales tratadas en un volumen que no sobrepasa un flujo promedio diario de 500,000 galones por día. La planta está ubicada en 1222 Lantana Thicket Way, cerca de la ciudad de Rosharon, en el Condado de Brazoria, Texas 77583. La ruta de descarga es desde el sitio de la planta a través de una tubería hasta una zanja del Distrito de Drenaje No. 5 del Condado de Brazoria; de allí a Austin Bayou Above Tidal; de allí a Austin Bayou Tidal; de allí a Bastrop Bayou Tidal. La TCEQ recibió esta solicitud el 9 de septiembre de 2025. La solicitud para el permiso estará disponible para leerla y copiarla en la biblioteca de Angleton, Recepción, 401 East Cedar Street, Angleton, en el condado de Brazoria, Texas, antes de la fecha de publicación de este aviso en el periódico. La solicitud (cualquier actualización y aviso inclusive) está disponible electrónicamente en la siguiente página web: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>.

Este enlace a un mapa electrónico de la ubicación general del sitio o de la instalación es proporcionado como una cortesía y no es parte de la solicitud o del aviso. Para la ubicación exacta, consulte la solicitud. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-95.428888,29.310555&level=18>

AVISO DE IDIOMA ALTERNATIVO.

El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>.

AVISO ADICIONAL. El Director Ejecutivo de la TCEQ ha determinado que la solicitud es administrativamente completa y conducirá una revisión técnica de la solicitud. Después de completar la revisión técnica, el Director Ejecutivo puede preparar un borrador del permiso y emitirá una Decisión Preliminar sobre la solicitud. El **aviso de la solicitud y la decisión preliminar serán publicados y enviado a los que están en la lista de correo de las personas a lo largo del condado que desean recibir los avisos y los que están en la lista de correo que desean recibir avisos de esta solicitud.** El aviso dará la fecha límite para someter comentarios públicos.

COMENTARIO PUBLICO / REUNION PUBLICA. Usted puede presentar comentarios públicos o pedir una reunión pública sobre esta solicitud. El propósito de una reunión pública es dar la oportunidad de presentar comentarios o hacer preguntas acerca de la solicitud. La TCEQ realiza una reunión pública si el Director Ejecutivo determina que hay un grado de interés público suficiente en la solicitud o si un legislador local lo pide. Una reunión pública no es una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso.

OPORTUNIDAD DE UNA AUDIENCIA ADMINISTRATIVA DE LO CONTENCIOSO. Después del plazo para presentar comentarios públicos, el Director Ejecutivo considerará todos los comentarios apropiados y preparará una respuesta a todos los comentarios públicos esenciales, pertinentes, o significativos. **A menos que la solicitud haya sido referida directamente a una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso, la respuesta a los comentarios y la decisión del Director Ejecutivo sobre la solicitud serán enviados por correo a todos los que presentaron un comentario público y a las personas que están en la lista para recibir avisos sobre esta solicitud.** Si se reciben comentarios, el aviso también proveerá instrucciones para pedir una reconsideración de la decisión del Director Ejecutivo y para pedir una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso. Una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso es un procedimiento legal similar a un procedimiento legal civil en un tribunal de

distrito del estado.

PARA SOLICITAR UNA AUDIENCIA DE CASO IMPUGNADO, USTED DEBE INCLUIR EN SU SOLICITUD LOS SIGUIENTES DATOS: su nombre, dirección, y número de teléfono; el nombre del solicitante y número del permiso; la ubicación y distancia de su propiedad/actividad con respecto a la instalación; una descripción específica de la forma cómo usted sería afectado adversamente por el sitio de una manera no común al público en general; una lista de todas las cuestiones de hecho en disputa que usted presente durante el período de comentarios; y la declaración “[Yo/nosotros] solicito/solicitamos una audiencia de caso impugnado”. Si presenta la petición para una audiencia de caso impugnado de parte de un grupo o asociación, debe identificar una persona que representa al grupo para recibir correspondencia en el futuro; identificar el nombre y la dirección de un miembro del grupo que sería afectado adversamente por la planta o la actividad propuesta; proveer la información indicada anteriormente con respecto a la ubicación del miembro afectado y su distancia de la planta o actividad propuesta; explicar cómo y por qué el miembro sería afectado; y explicar cómo los intereses que el grupo desea proteger son pertinentes al propósito del grupo.

Después del cierre de todos los períodos de comentarios y de petición que aplican, el Director Ejecutivo enviará la solicitud y cualquier petición para reconsideración o para una audiencia de caso impugnado a los Comisionados de la TCEQ para su consideración durante una reunión programada de la Comisión.

La Comisión sólo puede conceder una solicitud de una audiencia de caso impugnado sobre los temas que el solicitante haya presentado en sus comentarios oportunos que no fueron retirados posteriormente. **Si se concede una audiencia, el tema de la audiencia estará limitado a cuestiones de hecho en disputa o cuestiones mixtas de hecho y de derecho relacionadas a intereses pertinentes y materiales de calidad del agua que se hayan presentado durante el período de comentarios.** Si ciertos criterios se cumplen, la TCEQ puede actuar sobre una solicitud para renovar un permiso sin proveer una oportuni-

dad de una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso.

LISTA DE CORREO. Si somete comentarios públicos, un pedido para una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso o una reconsideración de la decisión del Director Ejecutivo, la Oficina del Secretario Principal enviará por correo los avisos públicos en relación con la solicitud. Además, puede pedir que la TCEQ ponga su nombre en una o más de las listas correos siguientes (1) la lista de correo permanente para recibir los avisos del solicitante indicado por nombre y número del permiso específico y/o (2) la lista de correo de todas las solicitudes en un condado específico. Si desea que se agregue su nombre en una de las listas designe cual lista(s) y envía por correo su pedido a la Oficina del Secretario Principal de la TCEQ.

INFORMACIÓN DISPONIBLE EN LÍNEA. Para detalles sobre el estado de la solicitud, favor de visitar la Base de Datos Integrada de los Comisionados en www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Para buscar en la base de datos, utilizar el número de permiso para esta solicitud que aparece en la parte superior de este aviso.

CONTACTOS E INFORMACIÓN A LA AGENCIA. Todos los comentarios públicos y solicitudes deben ser presentadas electrónicamente vía <http://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/> o por escrito dirigidos a la Comisión de Texas de Calidad Ambiental, Oficial de la Secretaría (Office of Chief Clerk), MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087.

Tenga en cuenta que cualquier información personal que usted proporcione, incluyendo su nombre, número de teléfono, dirección de correo electrónico y dirección física pasarán a formar parte del registro público de la Agencia. Para obtener más información acerca de esta solicitud de permiso o el proceso de permisos, llame al programa de educación pública de la TCEQ, gratis, al 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

También se puede obtener información adicional del TWU – Wholesale Services, Inc a la dirección indicada arriba o llamando al Sr. Chuck Barry, Gerente de Salud y Seguridad Ambiental, Texas Water Utilities, Inc., al 737-376-2534.

Fecha de emisión: 15 de octubre de 2025



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AUSTIN

Join us for our next **HABLA Plática:**

Academic Freedom and the future of Ethnic studies at the University of Texas

Thursday, November 13, 2025 7:30am - 9am

Juan In A Million, 2300 East Cesar Chavez

HABLA 2025

Hispanic Advocates Business Leaders of Austin

HABLA Plática on Academic Freedom and the future of Ethnic studies at University of Texas

President Trump sent a letter to nine colleges, including **UT**, on Oct. 1, inviting them to sign a “compact for excellence in higher education.” *The compact would offer preferential federal funding to universities in exchange for fulfilling a slew of requests, including freezing tuition for five years and limiting speech that antagonizes conservative values. On Oct. 14, he extended the invitation to all American universities. Trump said the compact will eliminate “anti-American ideology” from universities and usher the United States into a “golden age of academic excellence.”*

The compact’s goals clearly attempt to limit discussion on topics that do not align with conservative values. If staff and students fail to alter course discussions accordingly, they are at risk of ambiguous, institutionally defined punishments.

The compact asks universities to compromise their First Amendment rights for financial compensation. **UT** has an obligation to its students and faculty to reject this offer, which undermines academic freedom and politicizes higher education. *“Academic freedom is fundamental to both teaching and research to consider multiple, including controversial, points of view, work at the forefront of our fields and help students understand cutting-edge ideas,”* said **Pauline Strong**, past president of the **AAUP** chapter at **UT**.

While the compact claims to protect civil discourse, its vague language does the opposite. By restricting how students engage with diverse perspectives and how faculty disseminate their full breadth of expertise, higher education loses its very purpose: to challenge, question and expand understanding.

Join **HABLA** for a passionate panel discussion and Plática on Academic Freedom and the future of Ethnic studies at **The University of Texas**, Thursday, November 13, 2025, 7:30am - 9am. Panelists will include Student Voices and Academic Perspectives.

Program:

7:30am - 8am Networking & Breakfast* (*Note attendees will purchase individual breakfast)

8am - 9am - HABLA Panel and Plática

9am - Adjourn

94.9 FM Texas Conjunto Radio

Comisión De Calidad Ambiental Del Estado De Texas

SOLICITUD Y DECISIÓN PRELIMINAR. La ciudad de Hutto, 500 West Live Oak Street, Hutto, Texas 78634, ha solicitado a la Comisión de Calidad Ambiental del Estado de Texas (TCEQ) la renovación del Permiso del Sistema de Eliminación de Descargas de Contaminantes de Texas (TPDES) No. WQ0011324002, el cual autoriza la descarga de aguas residuales domésticas tratadas con un flujo promedio anual que no exceda los 15,500,000 galones por día. La TCEQ recibió esta solicitud el 3 de diciembre 2024.

La planta está ubicada en 10700 Farm-to-Market Road 1660 en el Condado de Williamson, Texas, 78634. El efluente tratado es descargado al arroyo Brushy Creek en el Segmento No. 1244 de la Cuenca del Río Brazos. Los usos no clasificados de las aguas receptoras son elevados usos de la vida acuática para Brushy Creek. Los usos designados para el Segmento No. 1244 son recreación con contacto primario, abastecimiento de agua potable, protección de acuíferos y uso elevado de vida acuática.

El Director Ejecutivo de la TCEQ ha completado la revisión técnica de la solicitud y ha preparado un borrador del permiso. El borrador del permiso, si es aprobado, establecería las condiciones bajo las cuales la instalación debe operar. El Director Ejecutivo ha tomado una decisión preliminar que si este permiso es emitido, cumple con todos los requisitos normativos y legales. La solicitud del permiso, la decisión preliminar del Director Ejecutivo y el borrador del permiso están disponibles para leer y copiar en el Ayuntamiento de Hutto, 500 West Live Oak Street, Hutto, en el Condado de Williamson, Texas, 78634. La solicitud (cualquier actualización y aviso inclusive) está disponible electrónicamente en la siguiente página web:

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>. Este enlace a un mapa electrónico de la ubicación general del sitio o de la instalación es proporcionado como una cortesía y no es parte de la solicitud o del aviso. Para la ubicación exacta, consulte la solicitud. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-97.52372,30.50267&level=18>

AVISO DE IDIOMA ALTERNATIVO. El aviso de idioma alternativo en español está disponible en <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/pending-permits/tpdes-applications>.



AVISO DE LA SOLICITUD Y DECISIÓN PRELIMINAR PARA EL PERMISO DEL SISTEMA DE ELIMINACIÓN DE DESCARGAS DE CONTAMINANTES DE TEXAS (TPDES) PARA AGUAS RESIDUALES MUNICIPALES

RENOVACIÓN

PERMISO NO. WQ0011324002

[as.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notice](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/wastewater/plain-language-summaries-and-public-notice).

COMENTARIO PÚBLICO / REUNIÓN PÚBLICA. Usted puede presentar comentarios públicos o pedir una reunión pública sobre esta solicitud.

El propósito de una reunión pública es dar la oportunidad de presentar comentarios o hacer preguntas acerca de la solicitud. La TCEQ realiza una reunión pública si el Director Ejecutivo determina que hay un grado de interés público suficiente en la solicitud o si un legislador local lo pide. Una reunión pública no es una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso.

OPORTUNIDAD DE UNA AUDIENCIA ADMINISTRATIVA DE LO CONTENCIOSO. Después del plazo para presentar comentarios públicos, el Director Ejecutivo considerará todos los comentarios apropiados y preparará una respuesta a todos los comentarios públicos esenciales, pertinentes, o significativos. **A menos que la solicitud haya sido referida directamente a una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso, la respuesta a los comentarios y la decisión del Director Ejecutivo sobre la solicitud serán enviados por correo a todos los que presentaron un comentario público y a las personas que están en la lista para recibir avisos sobre**

esta solicitud. Si se reciben comentarios, el aviso también proveerá instrucciones para pedir una reconsideración de la decisión del Director Ejecutivo y para pedir una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso. Una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso es un procedimiento legal similar a un procedimiento legal civil en un tribunal de distrito del estado.

PARA SOLICITAR UNA AUDIENCIA DE CASO IMPUGNADO, USTED DEBE INCLUIR EN SU SOLICITUD LOS SIGUIENTES DATOS: su nombre, dirección, y número de teléfono; el nombre del solicitante y número del permiso; la ubicación y distancia de su propiedad/actividad con respecto a la instalación; una descripción específica de la forma cómo usted sería afectado adversamente por el sitio de una manera no común al público en general; una lista de todas las cuestiones de hecho en disputa que usted presente durante el período de comentarios; y la declaración "[Yo/nosotros] solicito/solicitamos una audiencia de caso impugnado". Si presenta la petición para una audiencia de caso impugnado de parte de un grupo o asociación, debe identificar una persona que representa al grupo para recibir correspondencia

en el futuro; identificar el nombre y la dirección de un miembro del grupo que sería afectado adversamente por la planta o la actividad propuesta; proveer la información indicada anteriormente con respecto a la ubicación del miembro afectado y su distancia de la planta o actividad propuesta; explicar cómo y porqué el miembro sería afectado; y explicar cómo los intereses que el grupo desea proteger son pertinentes al propósito del grupo.

Después del cierre de todos los períodos de comentarios y de petición que aplican, el Director Ejecutivo enviará la solicitud y cualquier petición para reconsideración o para una audiencia de caso impugnado a los Comisionados de la TCEQ para su consideración durante una reunión programada de la Comisión. La Comisión sólo puede conceder una solicitud de una audiencia de caso impugnado sobre los temas que el solicitante haya presentado en sus comentarios oportunos que no fueron retirados posteriormente. Si se concede una audiencia, el tema de la audiencia estará limitado a cuestiones de hecho en disputa o cuestiones mixtas de hecho y de derecho relacionadas a intereses pertinentes y materiales de calidad del agua que se hayan presentado durante el período de comentarios. Si ciertos criterios se cumplen, TCEQ puede actuar sobre una solicitud para renovar un permiso para descargar aguas residuales sin proveer una oportunidad de una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso.

ACCIÓN DEL DIRECTOR EJECUTIVO. El Director Ejecutivo puede emitir una aprobación final de la solicitud a menos que exista un pedido antes del plazo de vencimiento de una audiencia administrativa de lo contencioso o se ha presentado un pedido de reconsideración. Si un pedido ha llegado antes del plazo de vencimiento de la audiencia o el pedido de reconsideración ha sido presentado, el Director Ejecutivo no emitirá una aprobación final sobre el permiso y enviará la solicitud y el pedido a los Comisionados de la TCEQ para consideración en una reunión programada de la Comisión.

LISTA DE CORREO. Si somete comentarios públicos, un pedido para una audien-

Comisión De Calidad Ambiental
Del Estado De Texas

AVISO DE LA SOLICITUD Y DECISIÓN PRELIMINAR PARA ELP-
ERMISO DEL SISTEMA DE ELIMINACION DE DESCARGAS DE
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MUNICIPALES

RENOVACIÓN

PERMISO NO. WQ0011324002

cia administrativa de lo contencioso o una reconsideración de la decisión del Director Ejecutivo, la Oficina del Secretario Principal enviará por correo los avisos públicos en relación con la solicitud. Además, puede pedir que la TCEQ ponga su nombre en una o más de las listas de correos siguientes (1) la lista de correo permanente para recibir los avisos de el solicitante indicado por nombre y número del permiso específico y/o (2) la lista de correo de todas las solicitudes en un condado específico. Si desea que se agregue su nombre en una de las listas designe cual lista(s) y envía por correo su pedido a la Oficina del Secretario Principal de la TCEQ.

Todos los comentarios escritos del público y los pedidos una reunión deben ser presentados durante los 30 días después de la publicación del aviso a la Oficina del Secretario Principal, MC 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or por el internet a www.tceq.texas.gov/about/comments.html. Tenga en cuenta que cualquier información personal que usted proporcione, incluyendo su nombre, número de teléfono, dirección de correo electrónico

y dirección física pasarán a formar parte del registro público de la Agencia.

CONTACTOS E INFORMACIÓN DE LA AGENCIA. Los comentarios y solicitudes públicas deben enviarse electrónicamente a <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, o por escrito a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Cualquier información personal que envíe a la TCEQ pasará a formar parte del registro de la agencia; esto incluye las direcciones de correo electrónico. Para obtener más información sobre esta solicitud de permiso o el proceso de permisos, llame al Programa de Educación Pública de la TCEQ, sin cargo, al 1-800-687-4040 o visite su sitio web en www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

También se puede obtener información adicional de la Ciudad de Hutto a la dirección indicada arriba o llamando a Randy Lock al 254-307-9826.

Fecha de emisión: el 23 de septiembre 2025.

GEORGE for COMMISSIONER

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Warriors for Social Justice and Equality: Maria Jiménez of Houston and Mexican American Activists

by Linda J. Quintanilla (Author)

Warriors for Social Justice examines the contributions of **Mexican American** activists to the nation's democratic values by concentrating on the activism of **Maria Jiménez** (1950–2020) in **Houston, Texas**.

Linda J. Quintanilla tells the life story of this admired immigrant and human rights activist who not only fought racist discriminations such as segregation but also typified other **Mexican American** activists. **Quintanilla** documents how **Jiménez** and other activists advanced social justice by promoting our nation's best virtues, especially equality.

In 1971, when only 20, **Jiménez** already had a definition of what it meant for her to be an activist: *"when I see a problem which I feel needs a solution, then I go out to solve it."* **Quintanilla** describes her lifelong battle against injustice, be it racist, sexist, or anti-immigrant animus.

The **Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride** in 2003, only one of her many impressive achievements, delighted her the most. The experience introduced its participants, undocumented immigrants, to historic places and African American activists and descendants from the **Civil Rights Movement**. The **Freedom Ride**, **Jiménez** believed, not only was educational but also inspired the immigrants in their long and difficult fight to gain legal status—a true victory for social justice.

Quintanilla uses **Critical Race Theory** (CRT), which examines the relationship between race, racism, and power, as the framework for studying **Jiménez** and **Mexican American** activism. She describes the racial discrimination that the Mexican-origin community experienced in **Texas**, with a focus on **Houston**, dating from the state's earliest years and continuing into the twenty-first century. The commonplace belief in the inferiority of the Mexican-origin minority contributed, for example, to segregation, substandard public schools, and denial of the vote and jury duty.

Quintanilla also addresses the violence this community suffered from authorities and examines immigration laws in depth in order to provide a historical context to the current national debate on immigration.

La Voz Newspaper - November, 2025



WARRIORS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE



**Maria Jiménez
of Houston and
Mexican American Activists**

Linda J. Quintanilla