

Susana Almanza, Director, is a native of East Austin and founding member of PODER. Susana is President of the Montopolis Neighborhood Association, a community in East Austin.

Previous Achievements

- 2013 Inducted by and into Southwest Key's *Walk of Heroes* for commitment to the community, the environment, and social justice.
- 2013 *Distinguished Service Award* -Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Community Oversight Team – City Council of Austin, TX
- 2011 *Environmentalist of the Year*- Ten Thousand Villages Award
- 2010 *Mexican American First Trailblazers* of Austin & Travis County, Austin History Center/Austin Public Library
- 2009 *Cesar Chavez “Si Se Puede!”* Award - PODER
- 2008 *Community Award*, National Association for Chicana & Chicano Studies
- 2007 *Vision & Valor Award* of Courage, School of Social Work University of Texas
- 2003 Recognized as *Heroína Del Pueblo* by Las Tejanas 300 Years of History A Symposium
- 2002 Received *National Leadership for a Changing World* award from Ford Foundation
- 2001 *Bannerman Fellowship* for Outstanding Activists of Color
- 1998 *“Rebozo Award”* from *La Pena* for Community Service
- 1998 Received *Petra Foundation Fellow Award* for promoting economic and environmental justice
- 1998 Award from *Austin Capital Area Community Leadership Council of the National Hispanic Institute* for contributions to the Austin Hispanic Community
- 1994 Selected by the *University YWCA* to receive the Outstanding Achievement Award for Community Service
- 1993 Received *“El Ano De La Mujer Award”* from El Ano De La Mujer Committee for grassroots organizing around the “Tank Farm” issue.
- 1992 Received *“Outstanding Service Award”* from the Pan American Advisory Board for Community Service
- 1992 Recognized by *Hispanic Women’s Network of Texas* for work on addressing health hazards

Special Assignments

- 2012 Appointed to the City of Austin Parks & Recreation Board (8/23)
- 2011 Appointed to the City of Austin Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Community Oversight
- 2011 Elected President of the Montopolis Neighborhood Association (5/7)
- 2009 Elected Chair of the Montopolis Neighborhood Planning Contact Team (8/13)
- 2009 Appointed School Board Trustee for East Austin College Prep Academy
- 2009 Appointed to the City of Austin Community Development Commission
- 2008 Elected Precinct Chair for Precinct #423 Austin Travis County
- 2003 Appointed by the City of Austin and Capital Metro to the Community Advisory Group for the Saltillo District Redevelopment Plan and elected co-chair
- 2003 Selected by Capital Metro as one of five- member community RFP evaluation team for Saltillo District Redevelopment Plan
- 2003-04 Leadership Austin 25th Class
- 2002 Appointed to City of Austin Environmental Board
- 2002 Appointed to NEJAC Enforcement Subcommittee by US EPA office of Compliance and Assurance
- 2001 Elected as Co-Chair for the Southwest Network for Environmental & Economic Justice Coordinating Council (a network of over 80 grassroots organizations in southwest US)
- 1999 Appointed to the City of Austin Planning Commission

1998 Appointed to the City of Austin Environmental Justice Task Force & elected Co-Chair
1998-99 Appointed to the City of Austin Bond Oversight Committee
1996 Appointed to the Texas Waste Reduction Advisory Committee of TNRCC
1993 Appointed to City of Austin Charter Review Committee & elected Co-Chair
1991 Member of the Coordinating Committee for the Texas Network for Environmental & Economic Justice (a network of grassroots organizations in Texas)
1991 Member of the East Austin Strategy Team (EAST), a coalition of African American groups

Publications

“Entre Guadalupe Y Malinche: Tejanas in Literature and Art”, 2016 University of Texas Press- Ines Hernandez-Avila & Norma Cantu- Authors

“Who Owns Our Cities?” Race, Poverty & the Environment, Vol.15, No.1, Spring 2008

“Mujeres de la Tierra”, Voices from the Earth, Summer 2004 – Vol. 5, No. 2

“Women’s Work”, Race, Poverty & the Environment, Vol. X No. 1, Summer 2003.

“Sacred Waters: Life Blood of Mother Earth: Four Case Studies of High-Tech Water Resource Exploitation & Corporate Welfare in the Southwest”, Southwest Network for Environmental & Economic Justice and Campaign for Responsible Technology, 1997.

“Empowering Communities of Color: Bridging Transportation & Environmental Justice”, Just Transportation, May 1997.

“The Impacts of Siting Transportation Facilities in Low-Income Communities and Communities of Color”, U.S. Department of Transportation: Transportation Environmental Justice, and Social Equity, July 1995.

“Tanks But No Tanks: PODER’s Grassroots Victory”, People of Color Environmental Directory Groups, 1994-95.

“Texas Network for Environmental and Economic Justice: Toxics in Texas and Their Impact on Communities of Color”, Texas Center for Policy Studies, 1993.

“Environmental Racism”, Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, The House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary, Federal Register, March 1993.

“Tejidos”, 1978 Volume 5 Nos. 2, 3, & 4, Editores- David S. Cavazos& Raquel Elizondo