

2.4.26

MACC Staff Report – Website - Facebook - Instagram

Please share our social media posts, sign up for our [newsletter](#), and check out our upcoming events!

Casa de la Cultura

Past

Aprende a Nadar - Bilingual Swim Lessons: January 15th - February 28th Thursdays: 4pm-5pm & Saturdays: 1pm-2pm

Bartholomew Pool

Attendance:44

Free Bilingual Swim Safety Classes for youth and adults. Participants will learn essential swim skills and water safety practices with bilingual instructors. Pools are climatized and heaters are spaced around the pool area.



All-Levels Bilingual Yoga: Saturdays @ 10:30-11:30am

Southeast Library

Attendance: 65

Focuses on body awareness, connection with the breath, with gentle movement, and time for meditation in culturally responsive atmosphere. The library has mats to share with community participants.





Upcoming:

Casa de la Cultura - Dance

The ESB MACC Casa de la Cultura, in partnership with the African American Cultural and Heritage Facility, will host an “Afro-Caribbean Dance” Series. Designed with families in mind, this four-week program led by Oro Dance Company will provide adults and children (8+) the opportunity to learn and experience Afro-Caribbean dance traditions through accessible, beginner-friendly instruction. Featured cultural dance styles will include Orishas, Salsa, Merengue, and Rumba Guaguancó.

Rooted in practices that have long been forms of both resistance and joy, the program will foster intergenerational learning, cross-cultural understanding, and community connection. Presented in celebration of Black History Month, the series highlights the rich diversity of Afro-Latin cultures while supporting the ESB MACC’s mission to honor, preserve, and uplift culturally rooted artistic traditions.

 : February 17th - March 14th

 : African American Cultural and Heritage Facility

 : Thursdays 6:30p – 7:30p | Saturdays 11:00a – 12:00p

Casa de la Cultura - Cocina

La Cocina is not only a space to create meals that nourish our bodies, but also a space where stories are told and traditions are passed down.

Join Paulina Bermeo, a master practitioner at Sana Yoga, as she guides participants in an immersive Cacao Workshop. This program is inspired by her homeland, Ecuador, where cacao is not a trend but a legacy. She visits the farms and carries the cacao herself, just as she grew up watching her grandmother and aunts prepare it as nourishment from the land, while engaging in cultural community connection.

Families are invited to gather and drink cacao, share stories, and move through gentle yoga movement that support collective healing rooted in cultural practices. Cacao is rich in flavonoids, but its most profound medicine is gathering with purpose!

 : Saturday, February 21st

 : Mendez Recreation Center

 : 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Youth and Family Education

Past:

Lending Library

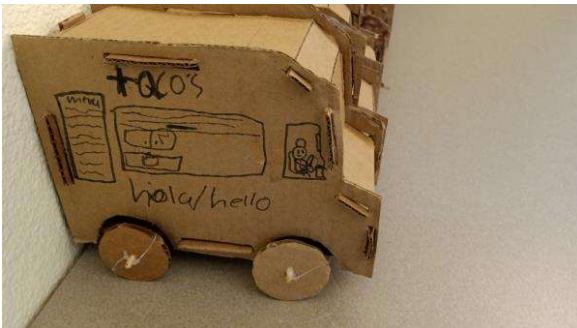
MACCtivities continued with its fourth session at Virginia L. Brown and Dolores Duffie over the past three weeks. Youth participants created Cartoneras, sewing and designing their own books and adding a photo of themselves to the back cover. Instructors used this activity to introduce the Creation Stories and Myths

theme for the session, emphasizing the importance of telling one’s own story—whether rooted in the past or the present.



CIS SmartKids

At CIS Meadowbrook, eight students explored Mexican American history through the lens of the food truck industry in Los Angeles, California. Over a two-day afterschool activity, students learned how food trucks have served as both economic opportunities and cultural touchstones within Mexican American communities. Participants then applied their learning by designing and creating their own miniature cardboard food trucks, incorporating personal and cultural elements into their designs while practicing creativity, problem-solving, and hands-on construction skills.



Summer Camp Early Registration For Financial Aid Recipients

1.31.26

The MACC EDU team registered families for the MACC’s Summer Camp. As of Monday, February 2nd, 40 out of 72 spots are filled. All information on Spring Break and Summer Camp can be found at AustinTexas.gov/MaccEdu.

Spring Break registration is February 14th.

Summer Camp Registration is February 28th.

Upcoming:

Sabados en Familia – Milwood Branch Library

February 14th, 2026 – 12pm-2pm



Sabados will be at the Millwood Branch Library on Valentines's Day. This month, we will be reading Wepa! By J. De laVega. Join Mia's journey as she learns to embrace her vibrant spirit with the help of a supportive community. Inspired by her story, participants will bring their own joy to life by creating dancing puppets!

Caminos Teen Leadership Program

Past:



Past

Bob Bullock Museum Visit

1.17.26

Caminos Teen Leadership cohort was able to explore Bob Bullock Museum to learn about Texas/Tejas history as well as civil rights. In addition, had the chance to see the immersive multi-sensory historical film screening of La Belle ship at their theatre. Afterwards, a meaningful discussion took place about what stood out. The teens created zines featured on the Caminos blog based on their experience.

Youth Career Fest 2026

1.28.26

Caminos team leads participated in the largest and longest running youth career fair in Austin. Held at the Palmer Events Center, hundreds of teens were introduced to the ESB MACC by Caminos. This also made for the ideal opportunity to build up anticipation and invite students to the forthcoming Caminos teen led annual Mental Wellness Day Event, "Breaking Barriers" in March.

Caminos Upcoming:

FEBRUARY 2026 CAMINOS CALENDAR



ALWAYS BRING YOUR OWN REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE AND A LUNCH OR MONEY FOR LUNCH.
SNACKS PROVIDED.

02/07/26

CENTRAL LIBRARY,
10:30AM-4:30PM
AMOR & AMISTAD
CELEBRATION & WORKSHOP
W/ MIGUEL SANTANA!

02/11/26

TEAMS MEETING, 6-8PM

02/14/26

10:30AM-4:30PM MEET @
CARVER MUSEUM FOR HBCU
DAY

02/21/26

FIELD TRIP- MEETING PLACE
TBD, 10:30AM-4:30PM

02/25/26

TEAMS MEETING, 6-8PM

02/28/26

CENTRAL LIBRARY,
WORKSHOP PART 2 W/
ZAMARRIPAS 10:30AM-
4:30PM



UKG TIMECARD DUE DATES:

TUESDAY THE 3RD AND 17TH BY 12PM!

REMEMBER TO EMAIL TINA AND CC EUFEMIA WHEN ENTRIES ARE SAVED

If you don't follow @ATXCaminos on Instagram today is the day to start! You'll see a wonderful series of introductions to all the 2026 Caminantes! The Caminos Facebook page will be going away (as well as the MACC's Twitter account). Please follow the MACC at its own Facebook and Instagram accounts @ESBMACC.

Outreach and Marketing

Upcoming:

Wishbone Bridge Unveiling

2.7.26

A unveiling of the new bridge, with a [ribbon cutting ceremony](#) and live music. The wishbone-shaped bridge will connect the Ann & Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail at three points for pedestrians and bicyclists: Longhorn Shores, Holly Shores, and the peninsula near Holly Shores, with a new underpass beneath South Pleasant Valley Road.

Love Hub Community Event in Dove Springs

2.14.26

Austin ISD Family and Community Engagement warmly invites you to participate in the upcoming [Community LOVE Hub](#) Festival. This event at Mendez Middle School is designed to bring together families, students, and community partners to share resources, build connections, and celebrate our collective commitment to serving our community.

Administration

Staffing Updates

The ESB MACC has welcomed two brand new staff members to the team while a third has transitioned into a bigger role!

Dr. Cassie Smith



Erika Sanchez



Laura Olvera Ahmed



Dr. Cassie Lynn Smith, Culture and Arts Education Specialist, Education

Dr. Cassie Lynn Smith began working with the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center (ESB-MACC) in 2008 as a volunteer and later served as an ESB-MACC Board Member from 2011-2014. She took on the role of culture and arts instructor at the center in 2016 and is proud to continue this work as a Culture and Arts Education Specialist beginning in January 2026.

Erika Sanchez, Culture and Arts Education Specialist, Education

Erika Sanchez has worked as a program manager and advocate dedicated to creating opportunity and representation for the Mexican American community. Her journey began in Title I school classrooms, where she saw firsthand the impact of culturally relevant engagement, leading her to create drama programs that celebrated student heritage. Today, she channels that same commitment into public sector projects, ensuring programs are accessible and effective for the communities she understands deeply.

Laura Olvera Ahmed, Culture and Arts Education Specialist, Casa de la Cultura / LAAP

Laura Olvera Ahmed brings a deep commitment to representing Mexican culture and creating meaningful, community-centered experiences through art, music, and education. She has over 12 years of service in public education with AISD, including leading the GEAR UP grant to support college and career access for first-generation students through mentorship, events, and citywide resources. Laura is the founder of Cumbia Bajo La Luna, a monthly intergenerational event series celebrating culture through cumbia dance. Laura first connected with the MACC as a Latinitas intern in 2012 and is excited to return and continue supporting its mission.