**9.2.26**
**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:**

**Cumbia Para MACC**
**Dance Room/Zocalo**
**Mondays June 8th - July 27th | 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m**
**Participation: Over 35 participants each week**
Cumbia Para MACC provided a space for community members to learn to dance cumbia on a weekly basis. Participants loved the instructor, the style of dance and gained new friendships.

*"The instructor was amazing!!!! Such a great teacher. Music was so good. Reminded me when I was a kid and my dad use to have parties at our house."*

**Entre Hilos- Stitching Course**
**Art Studio**
**Tuesdays July 7th - Aug 4th | 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**
**Participation: 10 participants weekly**



Stitch Lab's signature Crash Course, a beginner-friendly sewing class focused on creativity, confidence-building, and hands-on learning in a welcoming community environment. Participants learned how to confidently use a sewing machine, understand essential sewing tools and techniques, practice beginner sewing exercises, and complete a simple sewing project while exploring creativity and self-expression through textile arts. This program was provided to complete beginners with no prior sewing experience and encouraged participants to learn at their own pace while connecting with others.

*"I loved how patient the instructor was! It was really great to also be able to connect with other people in the community."*

**Raices Vivas**
**Healing Garden**
**Wednesday July 29 & August 26th | 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Participation: 17 participants**
Our July garden workshop celebrated traditional herbal teas and *aguas frescas.* The July 29th Garden Workshop was called *Sabores de Verano*. Participants dove deep into the rich world of traditional Mexican herbalism and botanicals. They'll learn how to grow and cultivate Lemongrass, Epazote, and Hibiscus (Jamaica), plus the secret to keeping sweet Yerbabuena (Spearmint) and their amazing



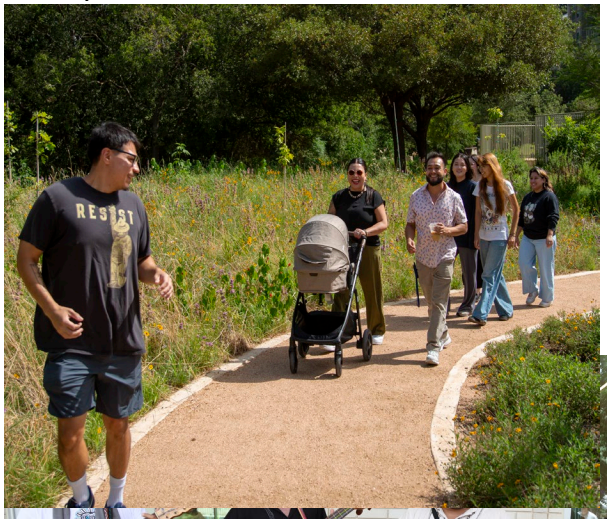
medicinal uses. They discovered the art of crafting traditional Mexican tisanes and ice-cold *aguas refrescantes*.

August is the time to start sowing your seeds in the garden for Fall. This month, Raices Vivas transitioned the healing garden by planting some of our favorite seasonal fall crops. Participants took their *maceta* (garden container) to sow and start their own plants at home!

What did you like about this program?
*"Spiritual info about herbs and their uses"*

**Caminata con Calma**
**Zocalo**
**Saturday July 25 & Aug 29th | 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.**
**Participation: 20 participants**

A walking group for everyone, sharing a little bit of history about the MACC while connecting with others while walking the trail surrounding the MACC. Walkers joined in on a mindful 1.5 mile walk, returned to the Zocalo to share beverages donated by BAWI and invited everyone to visit the Art Gallery afterwards.



What did you like about this program?: *"Accessible, tranquil, some new information about history of MACC"*

**Son Jarocho**
**Dance Studio**
**Thursdays & Saturdays June 11th - July 11th | 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.| 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**
**Participation: 15- 20 participants**



A family friendly series of music and dance. Explore the music and dance of Veracruz, Mexico throughout this series with Los Fandangueros de Austin. Participants learned to play the Jarana and dance the rhythms of zapateado.

*"I loved learning all aspects of Son Jarocho, from learning to play jarana to dancing zapateado. One of the most fun programs!"*

*"Beyond teaching culture, this program serves as a vital community lifeline. After the passing of my father-in-law, my wife tried various forms of therapy and counseling, but nothing had a greater impact on her healing than this program. It has truly brought her joy back. Thank you."*

**Colorin Colorado**

**Dance Studio**
**Wednesdays June 17th - July 22nd |10:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m.**
**Participation: about 10 each week**
This free family story time program called Colorin Colorado introduced families to singing canciones, playing games, and engaging with stories that reflect the beauty of language, identity, family, and cultural traditions. Sirena Del Rio, the indigenous mermaid from the San Marcos River, shared stories from the river and reminded us "*todos somos familia*"

**Dulces a Traves del Tiempo**
**La Cocina**
**Saturday July 25th 10:00 a.m**
**Participation: 15 weekly**



Our *Dulces a Traves del Tiempo* wrapped up their program with a final dessert making class rooted in tradition. The class hosted a celebration of the skills learned and connections made. Students walked away with a communal recipe book to inspire them to keep traditions alive for future generations.

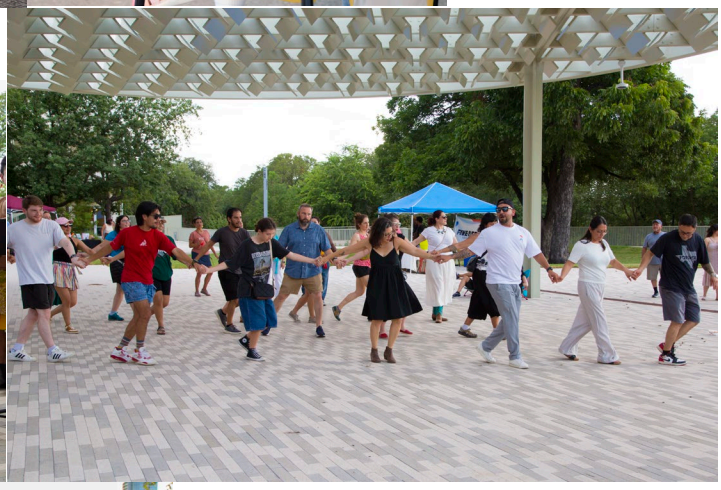
*"Es un evento familiar, bilingüe y donde se aprende de una manera divertida e interesante"*

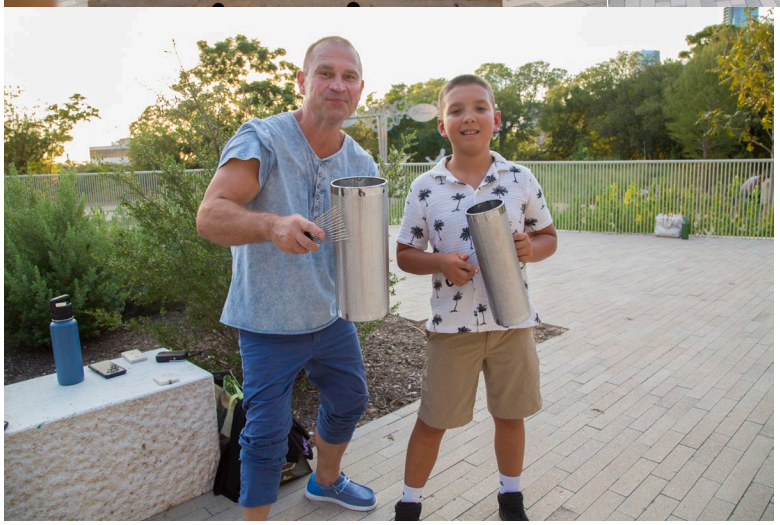
**Books y Baile!**
**Zocalo, Art Studio, and Atrium**
**Participants: 300 people**
Books y Baile brought out over 300 people to celebrate literacy, dance, and music. The Casa de la Cultura team hosted an end-of-summer celebration and invited many of the instructors from the summer to celebrate their participants' accomplishments. Son Jarocho participants played and hosted a fandango under the Zocalo; Alberto from Cumbia Para MACC led a free cumbia class. The night ended with a family-friendly Cumbia Bajo la Luna. Local barbers provided free haircuts to children to get them ready for the school year. In collaboration with AVANCE, the community also enjoyed a family Storytime and celebrated AVANCE's CapMetro bus wrap unveiling.











**Current:**

**Movement Mondays – Rumba MX**
**Dance Studio**
**Mondays Aug 10th – Aug 31st |7:00PM – 8:00PM**



Rumba MX a Latin rhythm-based fitness class designed for all fitness levels and open to the general Austin community. The program blends cumbia, salsa, and other Latin rhythms into a fun, high-energy workout experience

**Nuestra Mirada – Our Perspective**
**Multipurpose Room**
**Tuesdays August 18th – Sept 29th |6:00PM – 8:00PM**




Learn how to turn everyday moments into photos that tell a story. In this hands-on program, award winning photographer Roj Rodriguez will teach the basics of photography using your own camera phone! This program is a chance to build your skills, get creative, and develop your own photography style.

**Casa Canta – Music and Vocal Arts**
**Blackbox Theater/ Music Room**
**Wednesdays August 19th – Sept 23rd |6:30PM – 8:00PM**




Join Casa Canta! A six-week vocal program preparing participants to perform the Mexican National Anthem with confidence, artistry, and cultural pride for the Mexican Independence Day celebration, "Viva Mexico". Through healthy vocal technique, breathing, ensemble singing, and performance coaching, participants will strengthen their voices while celebrating Mexican heritage.

**Upcoming:**

**Raices Vivas - September -Ofrenda del Equinoccio de Otoño**
**Garden at the MACC**
**Wednesday Sept 30th | 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

Participants will gather to honor the cycle of harvest, gratitude, and renewal through a community seed “ceremony” inspired by Mexican Curanderismo and Indigenous understandings of reciprocity with the Earth. Together we reflect on what we are harvesting, what we are releasing, and what seeds we wish to carry into the next season. Through story, ceremony, sound, and shared reflection, participants deepen their relationship with seasonal change and the living teachings of seed.




## Youth and Family Education








The MACC Education team wrapped up its summer camp program, Raices, on Friday, August 7th. Over the three (3-week) sessions in Summer 2026, campers explored three themes:

1st session “From the Bronx Out- The Latine roots of hip hop.”
2nd session “Indigenous Storytelling and Life Ways.”
3rd session “Journey Through Life and the Afterlife with the Mexica.”

During the first session, students learned about the fundamental elements of hip hop, including rap and poetry, dance, fashion, graffiti, and DJing. Students learned the influence Latines brought to hip hop and how they continue to influence the culture. They visited the HOPE Outdoor Gallery to learn about free public art spaces and community murals and participated in an introduction to hip hop workshop with dancer AJ Flores.

In the second session, students focused on the Andes region and explored worldbuilding by imagining what Indigenous civilizations may have looked like if colonization had never occurred. They built their own Incan cities of the future out of found objects. They also learned about food sovereignty by visiting one of Austin's free food forests and participating in a tour led by local volunteers.

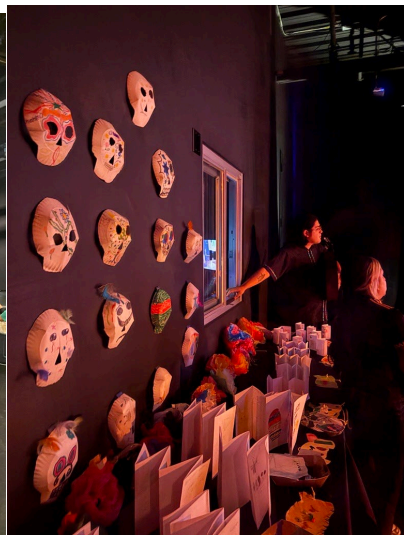
For the final session, students learned about the life and afterlife of the Mexica people through hands-on activities such as creating regalia, learning Danza Mexica and Nahuatl, and exploring the nine levels of Mictlan through gameplay. Guest instructors from Teatro Sin Fronteras led workshops in cartonería and Latino theater, while students also explored Indigenous engineering systems and traditional foodways. Field trips included visiting the Meadows Center for a glass-bottom boat tour and the textile exhibition at Mexic-Arte Museum. The summer Camp final showcase for parents/ families was Thursday, August 6th.

Quotes from Raices Summer Camp:

*“This is her favorite camp, she even likes it better than her horse camp.”*
*“We love this camp, everyone is so friendly and helpful.”*
*“I love that they are not just doing crafts all day, they are actually learning!”*
*“We can’t wait for my youngest to be old enough to attend.”*
*“Too bad you don’t have anything for tweens and young teens.”*
*“We love the end of camp performances!”*













**Communities in Schools**

The MACC afterschool partnership with Communities in Schools (CIS) will begin the first week in October. MACC Teaching Artists will meet with students at four sites to teach them about art, culture, and history. The four Austin Housing Authority sites this year are **Meadowbrook, Bouldin Oaks, Booker T. Washington, and Rosewood Apartments**. The MACC Education team hosted an activity table at the CIS Open House in August.

## Upcoming:

The Lending Library afterschool program with Austin Parks and Recreation will begin in October. The MACC Education team has proposed going to two sites each week.

Austin Saltillo Sister Cities "El Grito" Event at Republic Square Park, Tuesday 9/15. The MACC Education Team will support outreach at this event and lead hands-on children's activities.

Austin Museum Day at the MACC on Sunday, Sept 20th. The MACC Education team is putting together a scavenger hunt and a hands-on art activity that highlights the tradition of ballet folklorico.

## Caminos Teen Leadership Program

Interviews for the next class of Caminos are underway! The MACC will be hiring 10 new teens for the

class of 2026-2027. Planning for the fall Caminos Session to start early September. The new students will participate in the Viva Mexico event at the MACC on Sept 12.

The Caminantes have been supporting the MACC through Summer Camp, Casa de la Cultura programs, they have been covering the Gallery and Front Desk shifts. Most recently at the Awards of Excellence, Caminante Miguel Doria provided music after the ceremony. They have also been supporting the Carver Museum and Dougherty Arts Center with their Summer Camps. The teens also led art activities at the July 21 and July 28 Hillside Concerts.

## Outreach



The MACC provided information at the kickoff party for the UnidosUS Conference at the Fairmont Hotel, at 3rd and Red River. We made a special map to show participants how to walk from their hotel to the MACC, and invited folks to come visit us. It worked! We had 20+ participants visit on Wed & Thurs, July 29-30. We also loaned our History of the MACC exhibit – the one that's usually in the Community Gallery on retractable screens- for display at the conference. Thanks to Saldana Public Relations for connecting us!



**Back to School Bash at Dove Springs Recreation Center**

**Saturday, August 8th, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Free and open to all ages. This multi-department Back-to-School Bash is put on by Austin Resource Recovery and other COA departments. Families can learn about recycling, composting, on-demand collection services and other department programs while attending the backpack and school supply giveaway. They will also provide free face painting.

**District 9 FY26–27 Budget Open House**
**Thursday, August 6, 6:00–7:30 p.m.**
**Austin Energy Headquarters (4815 Mueller Blvd., Shudde Fath Hall, Room 1111).** Open events for District 9, which includes the MACC. Participants can learn more about the proposed City budget, ask questions, and share their priorities before Council votes on the FY26–27 budget.

**KMFA LTGB Mixer Event with Arts Organizations**
**KMFA Studios, Navasota Street**
This fun event was a networking and preview event showcasing Austin's fall arts season, featuring over 40 local theater, dance, film, and music organizations (including Austin Symphony and Austin Opera).

It was co-hosted by KMFA Classical 89.5 and the Austin LGBT Chamber of Commerce. We distributed information about the ACME Grants and the MACC.

***Outreach- Upcoming:***

**Batfest, Sept 5**
We will pass out Viva Mexico flyers at this annual event on Congress Bridge.

**Grito Event, Sept 15**
Austin Saltillo Sister Cities "El Grito" Event at Republic Square Park, Tuesday 9/15 from 6:00-9:00pm.

## Tours

The public is requesting tours through our Exhibits page. Tours last about an hour and can be combined with hands-on activities and/or existing programs.

| Tour Request | Organization | Date | # Touring |
|---|---|---|---|
| Stephanie Gatica | HABLA Business Association | 7/18/2026 | 4 |
| Dr Desirée Pallais | UT Austin | 7/23/2026 | 2 |
| Elvia & Ivan Andarza | Hispanic Leadership Alliance | 7/25/2026 | 2 |
| Marissa Vasquez | Lamar Senior Center | 7/27/2026 | 15 |
| Vanesa Arellano | Con Mi Madre | 7/27/2026 | 30 |
| Gabriel Ornelas | Cine las Americas | 7/30/2026 | 1-2 |
| Gizela Gonzalez | Pfluger Architects | 7/30/2026 | 15-20 |
| Christian Arana | Latino Community Foundation | 7/30/2026 | 2 |
| Ananda Glover | GrandLiving | 8/12/2026 | 10 |
| Patricia Bonilla | Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary | 8/14/2026 | 15 |
| Jesica Gierke | Studio Prep School | 9/4/2026 | 10 |



*Thank you for sending us the link to the Viva Mexico event, and most important, thank you for your time in showing us all that the MACC has to offer! We have not stopped talking about it. If it wasn't for your hospitality, we wouldn't have spent that much time exploring the MACC. We LOVED it and will definitely be participating more!*
-Elvia & Ivan Andarza, Hispanic Leadership Alliance, 7/25/26

*Thank you so much for taking the time to give the Lamar Senior Activity Center participants such a wonderful tour of the Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC). Our participants truly enjoyed learning about the center, its history, and the cultural significance you shared throughout the tour. Your knowledge, enthusiasm, and warm hospitality made the experience both engaging and memorable for everyone. Thank you as well for sending the wonderful photos from our visit! I hope more City of Austin senior activity centers will visit you all in the near future!*
-Marissa Vasquez, Lamar Senior Activity Center, 7/27/26

## Awards of Excellence



***Past***

The 2026 Awards of Excellence Ceremony took place on Saturday, August 1 from 1:00 pm -2:30 pm. Guests enjoyed a mocktail refreshment, mingling opportunities, and a live performance from Trio Los Vigilantes upon their arrival. At 1:30 pm, the ceremony commenced in the Auditorium with opening remarks from Michelle Rojas (ESB MACC Manager) who introduced this year's emcee, Britt Moreno (KXAN Evening Anchor). Guests enjoyed a meal from Eldorado Cafe as award recipients were announced.

At the end of the ceremony, guests were presented with floral bouquets made by MACC staff, cupcakes, and refreshments to end the event. Additionally, our very own Caminos graduates, Miguel Doria & Bradley Bonilla Sanchez, performed a closing show for the guests as they exited. At this time, guests were also encouraged to contribute to the community art piece brought by the family of Shorty Ortiz to honor his life.

In total, 66 guests attended the ceremony including our 6 honored award recipients: Estilo Peruano (Emerging Artist), Kat Fajardo (The Arts), Lora Yvette Alaniz (Arts Educator), Linda Valdez (Service), Frederick Aldama (Lifetime Achievement), and Shorty Ortiz (Lifetime Achievement, Posthumous). We are so proud of these outstanding community members and look forward to planning towards the next Awards of Excellence.

Upon receipt of the FY2027 budget, the ESB MACC team will plan with Artist, Robert Mezquiti, for updating *Petalos.* These updates will include the permanent addition of our 2023-2026 Awards of Excellence recipients to the sculpture wall.

**Viva Mexico**



**Saturday, Sept 12, 4:00-9:00pm.**
**MACC Zocalo, Auditorium, Galleries**
The Viva Mexico event planning is in full swing! Austintexas.gov/vivamexico
Partner is Univision, they will provide promotion, MC's and community organization "activation" tents include loteria.

**Outdoor Stage Performance Schedule**
4:00p.m. La Sonora Hechicera
5:00p.m. Danza Azteca Guadalupana
5:30p.m. Ricardo Castillon y La Diferencia
6:30p.m. Ballet Folklorico de Austin
7:00p.m. Latin Breed
8:15p.m. El Grito & Himno Nacional, with Mexican Consulate
8:30p.m. Mariachi
9:00p.m. Mariachi & Ballet Folklorico Grand Finale

**Vendor Market:**
-Otomi Mari
-Old School Nation
-Tinta Y Tierra
-Athena Silversmith
-Muertos Clothing
-Dollface Accessories

**Activities**:
Quetzalcoatl Paper Crowns
Luchador Wrestler Belts
Storytime with Avance

**Other:**
Extended Gallery Hours to view current exhibits
Play "La Corregidora" with Samantha Montenegro in the Auditorium
Food Trucks
Free Shuttle

## Collaborations

## Past

**Webber Family Preservation Project**
**July 25, 10am-7pm**
**Auditorium & Atrium**
We hosted a free all-day symposium titled "Visibilizing a Freedom Fighter, Silvia Hector Webber: A Legacy of Resistance & Black Freedom in North America". The event explored African American and Mexican American history, the Webber family's legacy, and the Underground Railroad into Mexico. Guests listened to local historian speaker panels, ate lunch on the plaza, toured the gallery, and

participated in discussions. It was a big day at the MACC and the auditorium was filled to capacity!



**Mexic-Arte's Changarrito Pop Up**

On the same day as the Symposium, the MACC hosted artist Citalli Delgado at the MACC. She set up her artwork outside the atrium (lobby of the auditorium) and was able to engage with participants in the Webber Family Symposium and general visitors to the MACC. We all enjoyed learning about her visual arts practice.



**Upcoming Collaborations/ Rentals:**

Fiesta de Salud- Sept 19, Collaboration with Austin Public Health
Fiesta Austin- Sept 26-27, Rental with Art Alliance Austin
CentroAmericanto, Oct 3-4, Collaboration with Mauricio Callejas
Michael Anthony Garcia Exhibit

# Exhibits



**Culture and Arts Education Coordinator**
The ESB MACC is happy to welcome Kim Flor in the role of Culture and Arts Education Coordinator for Exhibits. Kim Flor is a Chicana cultural arts programmer originally from Las Cruces, New Mexico, who has called Austin home since 2007. Her work is grounded in the belief that cultural arts can connect communities, preserve memory and tradition, expand access, and create opportunities for learning and exchange. Over the years, she has developed exhibitions, public programs, artist-centered events, and cultural initiatives through her work with Canopy, Art Spark Texas, and independent projects including Flor y Fuego Texas and Flores Market. She now brings that experience to the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, where she serves as Culture and Arts Education Exhibit Coordinator.

**Austin Museum Day**
**Coronado Gallery, Outdoor Areas, Media Library**
**1:00-5:00pm (bus tour 12-2pm)**

The MACC will open for special Sunday Hours: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. for Austin Museum Day, and will remain open until the evening for the Ballet Folklorico of Austin performance.

The Emma S. Barrientos invites the public to a public tour, exhibit, and activities for Austin Museum Day. Tour our newly renovated facility and learn about the architecture of our building. View our beautiful exhibits in the three galleries. Participate in hands-on coloring activities, tour the exhibit and the building, and learn about the events the MACC has coming up for Latino/a Heritage month.

Additional Events as part of Austin Musuem Day on 9/20/26 include:

Joon Community Bus Tour (12:00-2:00 p.m., reservations required- free)
Ballet Folklorico of Austin (2:00 & 6:00 p.m. tickets available)

**More About Joon Community Bus Tour:**

Get outside, get curious, and explore the world around you! This event is made possible by the Movability Go Grant.

Meet up at Pan American Park (exact location TBA) at 12 pm for chats and refreshments from XOCHi prebiotic Agave Soda & pastries from Comadre Panaderia. Please bring comfortable shoes, water, and anything else to help cool off (fans, hats, etc.)

The first part of our Latine history tour will be led by Claudia Zapata (they/them), who is a specialist in Latine & Chicanx art at the park. Then we will head to Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural

Center for a 1-on-1 private tour led by Olivia Tamzarian from around 1- 2 PM. Free CapMetro digital metro passes will be sent via email/text before the event. https://luma.com/c4j7u6c0

**More About Ballet Folklorico de Austin:**
Visitors to the MACC on 9/20/26 may purchase tickets to attend the Ballet Folklorico of Austin performances "Mexico de Colores" at 2:00pm and 6:00pm in the MACC Auditorium.

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mexico-de-colores-hasta-que-la-diversidad-se-haga-costumbre-tickets-1994974821394

## ACME News



**Division Manager, Cultural Education & Programs**
**Matrex Kilgore**
Matrex joins ACME as our new Division Manager for Cultural Education & Programs. An award-winning performer, director, cultural strategist, and arts administrator, he brings extensive experience in arts education, community engagement, and cultural programming. Most recently, he served as a Program Administrator with the Texas Commission on the Arts, leading statewide arts initiatives, strengthening partnerships, and supporting arts organizations across Texas. A graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, Matrex has been recognized nationally for his contributions to arts education and community engagement, including the National Afterschool Association's "Top 30 Under 30" Award and the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials' Award of Merit.

In his new role, Matrex will oversee ACME's cultural facilities, including the African American Cultural & Heritage Facility, Asian American Resource Center, Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural and Genealogy Center, and Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex.

We also want to extend our sincere appreciation to Tony Vo and Michelle Rojas for serving as Acting Division Manager since October 2025. Their leadership, dedication, and commitment have been instrumental in supporting the division during this transition.




**Grant Application Workshops in Spanish**
**July 15, (virtual)**
**July 18, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (in person)**
**July 30th, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (in person, CAAST)**
**August 11 (virtual)**
The MACC provided Spanish language presentations on applying for the cultural arts grants. There was two sessions done virtually led by Olivia, and two sessions in-person led by Michelle. The virtual session recording was also posted on the cultural funding website. There was help sessions and open office hours leading up to the grant application deadline of August 18th, 2026.

Workshops for the next ACME grant will occur virtually on Sept 17 and at the MACC on Sept 23, in Spanish.