

History



Roy Velasquez
(1901 - 1981)



PICR 25922 AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER

SISTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS PAROCHIAL
SCHOOL OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH
1112 E. 9TH STREET



Margarita Muñoz Simon
(1925-1998)



LEFT: Johnny Degollado and Fidel Acevedo
at a political rally in 2008 in Austin, Texas

Hispanic Chronology of Austin, Texas

- 1842** Austin flourished initially but in 1842 entered the darkest period in its history. Lamar's successor as president, Sam Houston, ordered the national archives transferred to Houston for safekeeping after Mexican troops captured San Antonio on March 5, 1842.
- 1875** There were 757 inhabitants from Germany, 297 from Mexico, 215 from Ireland, and 138 from Sweden. For the first time a Mexican-American community took root in Austin, in a neighborhood near the mouth of Shoal Creek.
- 1900** Austin's Hispanic residents numbered about 335 and composed just 1.5 percent of the population.
- 1907** Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, the oldest Hispanic parish in Austin was originally located at 5th and Guadalupe
- 1925** Frank Pinedo was born in Austin, Texas. He graduated from Austin High School in 1943, served in World War II, graduated from UT Austin in 1948 and the UT Law School in 1950. He was elected the 23rd President of LULAC at its 1954 convention.
- 1930** Jovita González graduates from The University of Texas at Austin with a masters degree. She is one of about thirty students of Mexican descent from the Rio Grande valley to attend the University of Texas in 1930
- 1931** Roy Velasquez establishes Roy's Taxi Service in Austin, Texas
- 1935** In 1935, Roy Velasquez is the co-founder of the Austin Chapter of LULAC, Council 85
- 1940** Austin Hispanics numbered 9,693 or about 11% of the population. By the 1940s most Mexican Americans lived in the rapidly expanding East Austin barrio south of East Eleventh Street, where increasing numbers owned homes. Hispanic-owned business were dominated by a thriving food industry.
- Consulado Mexicano fue establecida en Austin, Texas
- 1941** Dr. George I. Sanchez elected President of LULAC. The previous year he had become a tenured professor at The University of Texas at Austin
- 1947** LULAC national convention held in Austin, Texas.
- 1949** Nash Hernandez Orchesta established in Austin, Texas. The orchestra continues today under the direction of Nash's youngest son, drummer Ruben Hernandez. The band has been playing big band swing and Latin music for generations of fans throughout Texas.
- 1951** Patricio Mendez is the first Mexican American to run for public office in Austin, Texas
- 1952** Johnny Degollado started his first conjunto in Austin, Texas
- 1958** With a Pistol in his Hand by Americo Paredes is published by UT Press
Austin Hispanics have the first opportunity to vote for a Mexican American candidate for Governor when Henry B. Gonzales decided to run.
- 1961** Consuelo Herrera Méndez, the first Mexican American teacher in the Austin Independent School District, heads up Ladies LULAC Council No. 202 and also serves as the state chair.
- 1969** Economy Furniture Strike was started in Austin, Texas
- 1970** Edna Canino is the first Mexican American woman to run for public office in Austin, Texas
Gus Garcia, First Mexican American elected to the Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees
Richard Moya, first Mexican American elected to Travis County Commissioners Court
Center for Mexican American Studies established at The University of Texas at Austin

Hispanic Chronology of Austin, Texas

- 1971** Juárez-Lincoln University, a Mexican-American institution of higher learning in Austin, was founded.
Economy Furniture Strike comes to an end
- 1972** Gus Garcia. First Mexican American elected to the Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees
Beatriz Gonzáles serves as the President of MAYO at The University of Texas at Austin
Chicanos in Austin begin running under the banner of La Raza Unida Party
- 1973** Tejidos, a literary a quarterly publication made its debut
The Mexican American Legal Defense Fund presents a study in the Austin school desegregation case that indicates that the restrictive covenants that have existed in the city from 1923-1960 contributed to the racially segregated housing patterns in the city. Although no longer legal, the covenants historically have “disallowed total freedom of choice in the area of residential site selection.”
- 1974** Chicana Educational Conference held at St. Edwards University on February 23rd.
Mexican American Business and Professional Women hold first annual meeting in June
Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce was started
Gonzalo Barrientos makes his first successful run for elective office and becomes a Texas State Representative
- 1975** John Treviño, first Mexican American elected to the Austin City Council
Viet Nam War ends, a total of 75 young men from Austin had lost their lives in Southeast Asia, 23 were Hispanic
- 1977** Martha Cotera, community activist publishes *The Chicana Feminist*. The year prior she published *Dios y Hembra: The Hisotry and Heritage of Chicanas in the U.S.*
- 1978** Two Mexican American organizations band together in an effort to unify Austin Chicanos on school desegregation and other educational issues. A 12-member task force is organized to find out how Mexican-Americans feel about their public schools and how to make those feelings known.
- 1980** Margaret Gómez becomes the first Mexican American to win elective office in Travis County.
- 1981** Raul Salinas comes back to Austin, Texas and opens Resistencia Book Store.
- 1983** Sylvia Orozco, Pio Pulido and Sam Coronado start Mexi-Arte as a forum for artistic expression
- 1984** Lena Guerrero wins a Texas State Represenative seat in Austin, Texas.
- 1986** UT Professor David Montejano’s book, Anglos and Mexicans in the Making of Texas 1836-1986 is published.
La Prensa Newspaper is started in Austin, Texas
- 1990** El Mundo becomes city’s first Spanish language newspaper
- 1991** PODER (People Organized in Defense of the Earth and her Resources) is founded
PODER was formed by a group of Chicana/o East Austin activists and community leaders
- 1993** First Street renamed Cesar Chavez Street in honor of the farm worker labor union leader
- 1999** Famed UT Professor Dr. Americo Paredes passes away on El Cinco de Mayo
- 2001** Gus Garcia becomes the first Mexican American mayor of Austin, Texas
- 2005** *La Voz de Dove Springs* is started by Alfredo Rodriguez Santos c/s.

* This is but a partial listing.