Central Texas and Austin Mexican Americans Honored by the Naming of Schools, Streets, Parks, Buildings, and More

This information was originally gathered for the 2013 National Hispanic Heritage Month exhibits in ACC Libraries.

The 2013 theme was: “Hispanics: Serving and Leading our Nation with Pride and Honor.”
Many of the people honored here were featured in an Austin History Center exhibit, “Mexican American trailblazers recognized by Austin History Center.” The link for that exhibit no longer exists.


Brief history from the article:

"I think it's time that this community gets to know that this history is as long as it is, and about the many obstacles that (Mexican Americans) encountered," Espitia said. Early Mexican American residents suffered overt discrimination that was common in Texas well into the 20th century, and in interviews recorded for the history center — including some conducted by students at Martin Middle School — many of the trailblazers talked openly about overcoming prejudice, Espitia said.

“Today, Mexican Americans account for a dominant share — 83% according to 2008 census estimates — of the booming Hispanic community in Austin, which comprises about 37% of the Austin population, according to estimates by City of Austin demographer Ryan Robinson. But the Mexican American experience in Austin and Central Texas dates to the early 1800s, according to Zamora, an expert on Mexican American history.

In 1900 Mexican Americans comprised just 2 percent of Austin's population, according to the book *Austin: An Illustrated History* by David Humphrey. ‘By 1930 Austinites of Mexican descent formed 10% of the inhabitants and numbered 5,000,’ Humphrey wrote.

Once predominantly farm workers, Mexican Americans in Austin and Central Texas over time became skilled workers, business owners and professionals, Zamora said.” (Emilio Zamora, a history professor at the University of Texas, was an adviser on the project.)

Also see:
Other honorees in this presentation were listed on Mueller Street Legends:

“Mueller’s dozens of new streets honor a diverse cross-section of Austin leaders and legends symbolizing the city’s great history and distinct culture. Here are the stories behind the names of Mueller’s first streets.”

Emma S. Barrientos

“The wife of retired State Senator Gonzalo Barrientos and a mother of five children, Emma Barrientos marched with her husband in the streets for social justice. She served as the president of the Texas Senate Ladies Club, an organization of senators’ wives, was active in Democratic politics for many years and worked on numerous local, state and national campaigns. Emma was a founding member of the Tejano Democrats. She was a champion for the arts in Austin and an early advocate for the city's Mexican American Cultural Center. She served on the founding board of the Mexic-Arte Museum and as board president of the Austin Museum of Art. Emma was a community activist who fought to ensure that the talents of Latinos in Austin were acknowledged, respected and celebrated.”

http://www.capdaustintx.org/CAPDaustintx.org/Emma_S._Barrientos.html
EMMA S. BARRIENTOS MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

600 River St  Austin, TX 78701

http://www.austintexas.gov/department/emma-s-barrientos-mexican-american-cultural-center
Genaro P. Briones, 1899-1979

“Briones was a master bricklayer and plasterer. He designed and built his home, the largest and most prominent example of tinted concrete ornamentation on a building in the state of Texas, a style introduced from Mexico in the 1920s. He worked only nights and weekends, from 1947 to 1953. He learned the technique from Dionicio Rodriguez, a San Antonio artist and recognized master. Their method of applying tinted and sculpted stucco to reinforced concrete and concrete block is unusual in Texas. Throughout his career, Briones worked on projects in Texas, Tennessee, California, and Mexico.” It is known by some in the Hispanic community as "Casa de Sueños" (House of Dreams). The home was added to the National Register of Historic Places on August 7, 1998.

Lorraine Fuentes Castro "Grandma" Camacho

Lorraine Camacho worked for the Austin ISD Food Service Department at both Metz and Zavala elementary schools until she retired in 1979. She continued her involvement with youth as a volunteer at Metz, where she was affectionately known as “Grandma Camacho.” She was selected as the AISD Elementary Volunteer of the Year in 1991 and participated in the “Reading is Fundamental Program” at Metz Elementary School until her death. Ms. Camacho was very active in the political life of her neighborhood serving as one of the founding members of the East 1st Street Neighborhood Advisory Committee. In the 1970s she actively campaigned for Austin and Travis County’s first elected Mexican-American officials.

“Mexican American Trailblazers Recognized by Austin History Center,” http://www.austlibrary.com/Library/news/nr20110112.htm (link no longer works.)

Lorraine "Grandma" Camacho Center

34 Robert Martinez Jr. St., Austin, TX 78702
http://austintexas.gov/department/lorraine-grandma-camacho-activity-center
Camacho Street – Lorraine Fuentes Castro Camacho

Mrs. Camacho, who died in 1999, spent many hours working to enhance the life of her community and the community’s children. She was an advocate for children, and volunteered for many years with the Reading Is Fundamental program. She and her husband, Daniel, offered their home as one of the first McGruff Houses, a safe house for children.

A carpenter who died in 2001, Camacho was known as the "Mayor of Austin's Eastside," a moniker given to him by those who sought his political advice and help. He created the first One Hundred Dollar Club that funded several local political campaigns and he was active in numerous community groups. He was married to Lorraine Fuentes Castro "Grandma" Camacho.

Camacho Family Papers, 1850-2005
Austin History Center
https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00161/ahc-00161.html

“Mexican American Trailblazers Recognized by Austin History Center.”
Danny Camacho

Chosen as one of the heroes of Austin in 2010, Danny Camacho knew a lot about local history.

He was an expert about the Mexican-American community in East Austin since his relatives were some of the first settlers from Mexico to arrive in town in the 1870’s.

Oswaldo A.B. Cantu

Oswaldo A.B. Cantu was a lifetime advocate of youth and amateur boxing in Austin. In 1956, Cantu founded the Pan American Boxing Club at the city's Pan American Recreation Center on East Third Street. He served with the U.S. Army during the Korean War and worked for Austin's Parks and Recreation Department for 28 years and was heavily involved in providing East Austin youth recreational activities. He also worked at Capital Metro for 10 years, retiring in 1995. He passed away at the age of 65 in February, 1996.

Oswaldo A.B. Cantu/Pan American Recreation Center

2100 East 3rd St., Austin, TX 78702
http://www.austintexas.gov/department/oswaldo-ab-cantu-pan-american-recreation-center

Carlos Eduardo Castañeda 1896-1958

Historian, archivist, and educator, Carlos E. Castañeda was born in Camargo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. He graduated with a BA from the University of Texas in 1921, having been elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He obtained his MA from the University of Texas and began teaching Spanish for the College of William and Mary in Virginia. In 1927, Castañeda was asked to return to the University of Texas, to take responsibility for the newly acquired Genaro García collection, the basis for the current Benson Latin American Collection. While acting as librarian for this collection, he began to work on his PhD. He finished his doctorate in 1932. The author of twelve books, over 80 articles, and a recipient of many honors, Castañeda died on April 3, 1958, at the age of 62.

http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utlac/00087/lac-00087.html
In 1937, Cepeda, a Mexican immigrant, and others advocated for a local Mexican consulate office, which became a reality in 1940. In 1998 the city dedicated the Eustasio Cepeda Branch Library in his honor.

“Mexican American Trailblazers Recognized by Austin History Center.” http://www.austinlibrary.com/Library/news/nr20110112.htm (link no longer works)
Eustasio Cepeda, spokesman for the Central Texas Latino community, moved to Austin in 1920 and for the next half-century served as a community leader. Mr. Cepeda organized “mutualistas,” mutual benefit societies for Latinos to help individuals survive economically, politically and socially at a time when there were few or no opportunities for employment, education or political power. He also helped people establish legal residency, become U.S. citizens, find employment and fight social injustice and poverty. Mr. Cepeda acted as Austin’s de facto consul before the city had an official Mexican Consulate.

Cepeda Branch Austin Public Library

651 N. Pleasant Valley Rd., Austin, TX, 78702
http://library.austintexas.gov/locations/Cepeda%20Branch
... César was a civil rights, Latino and farm labor leader; a genuinely religious and spiritual figure; a community organizer and social entrepreneur; a champion of militant nonviolent social change; and a crusader for the environment and consumer rights. A first-generation American, he was born in the North Gila River Valley outside Yuma, Arizona. César joined the U.S. Navy in 1946, in the aftermath of World War II, and served in the Western Pacific. He returned from the service in 1948 to marry Helen Fabela, whom he met while working in fields and vineyards around Delano. People all over the world remember him as a man of courage who fought to improve the lives of all people.

In 1993, 1st Street was renamed César Chávez Street to honor the union organizer and Hispanic rights activist who died in April of that year.

Austin Public Library. Austin History Center. http://www.austinlibrary.com/ahc/streets/1st.htm
East César Chávez, Austin, Texas

Photo from the Wikimedia Commons.
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page
Johnny Degollado

Degollado is the premier conjunto accordionist, band leader, and songwriter in Austin and the surrounding areas. In 1952, at the age of 15, he started his own conjunto along with his neighbor, Vicente Alonzo. Johnny composed more than 200 songs and has been the event coordinator for the Austin Conjunto Festival, held in May, for the past 20 years. He was inducted into the Tejano Music Hall of Fame in 1986 and was featured in the PBS program “Accordion Dreams.”


Manuel 'Cowboy' Donley

Manuel Donley is considered a pioneer of Tejano music. An accomplished musician, arranger and composer, he is well respected by his musical peers. In addition to fronting a Tejano orquesta, he also performs in traditional “Trio” and “Mariachi” ensembles. Donley has also composed and performed for movie soundtracks, taught guitar lessons at Huston-Tillotson College, and still gives lessons at his home. His orquesta, Las Estrellas, formed in 1949, is famous for its tight horn section as well as for the many different styles of music they played. He was inducted into the Tejano Music Hall of Fame in 1985.

http://www.austinlibrary.com/library/news/nr20110112.htm (link no longer working)

Emma Galindo received her Bachelors Degree from Baylor University in 1953 and her Masters in Education from the University of Texas at Austin in 1976. She began a 24-year career as a teacher and administrator with the Austin Independent School District in 1958, where she taught at Palm, Brooke, and Zavala Elementary Schools, later serving as Assistant Principal at Govalle and at St. Elmo. In the 1960s, while at Zavala, she was one of the key figures in initiating the first Bilingual Education Program for AISD. Later, Galindo would become the district’s first Bilingual Education Instructional Coordinator. In 1985, Galindo Elementary was named in her honor for her dedication and commitment as a leader, teacher, and administrator. She passed away in 1983.

“Mexican American Trailblazers Recognized by Austin History Center.”
http://www.austinlibrary.com/Library/news/nr20110112.htm (link no longer works)
Emma H. Galindo Elementary School - AISD

3800 S 2nd St, Austin, TX 78704
http://archive.austinisd.org/schools/details.phtml?id=064

Golden Grizzly
Alberto Gonzalo Garcia, 1889–1962

Dr. Garcia received medical degrees in 1910 and in 1914. He was the first Mexican to set up a medical practice in Austin when he permanently moved to the city in 1915. After attending journalism classes at UT Austin, Dr. Garcia and his wife published La Vanguardia, one of Austin's first Spanish-language newspapers. He helped establish Obreros Mexicanos, a workers' group and the local chapter of the Comisión Honoríficas Mexicanas, which represented Mexican nationals in the United States. D. Garcia was also a leader in efforts to improve Brackenridge Hospital, a supporter of the building of the city library and advocated better educational opportunities for Mexican-Americans. He became a naturalized citizen in 1921 and encouraged others to acquire citizenship and exercise the right to vote.

Read more:

Dr. Garcia was the first physician of Mexican descent to set up a medical practice in Austin.

Gustavo L. "Gus" Garcia 1934 -

“Gus” Garcia dedicated more than three decades of his life to public service. In 1972, he became the first Mexican-American elected to the Austin school district Board of Trustees. During a second term on the board, he served as president. Garcia became an Austin City Council member in 1991. In November 2001, Garcia became the first Mexican-American to be elected mayor of Austin.


Gustavo "Gus" L. Garcia District Park & Recreation Center

1201 E. Rundberg Lane, Austin, TX  78753

http://www.austintexas.gov/department/gus-garcia-recreation-center

http://www.naturerocksaustin.org/greenspace/gustavo-gus-l-garcia-park-recreation-center
Gus Garcia Young Men’s Leadership Academy – AISD

7414 Johnny Morris Rd., Austin, TX 78724
https://www.austinisd.org/schools/garciaymla
Gonzalo Garza, 1927 -

Dr. Gonzalo Garza was born in New Braunfels, Texas. He dropped out of school at the age of 17 to join the Marines in 1944, serving in the Pacific Theater before leaving in 1946. He reenlisted in 1950, during the Korean War, and received the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for Valor. After returning from the Pacific, Garza earned his GED, a Bachelor's degree in History, Government and Spanish from St. Mary's, a Master's degree in Education from Our Lady of the Lake University, and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Texas. His career took him throughout the state to Austin, Eagle Pass and to Houston, where he was hired as an area superintendent in Houston ISD. Garza served as interim superintendent in Austin ISD for one year before retiring in 1992.

Read more:
Community Impact News
Oct 11, 2012
http://impactnews.com/austin-metro/georgetown/gonzalo-garza/
(link no longer works)

http://www.cemetery.state.tx.us/pub/user_form.asp?pers_id=8336
Gonzalo Garza Independence High School, AISD

1600 Chicon Street, Austin, Texas 78702

http://archive.austinisd.org/schools/website.phtml?id=024/
Dr. Janis Guerrero-Thompson

“An Austin native and AISD alumna, Guerrero-Thompson graduated from Crockett High School and taught in AISD high schools for 17 years, before being asked to coordinate the central administrative office and school principals' efforts to implement state requirements for gifted and talented education in secondary schools. She also worked in leadership positions for the University of Texas College of Business, the Texas Education Agency ...as a program director for UT’s Dana Center ...as president of the Board of Directors for Executive Women in Texas Government and on the boards of various city, church and community organizations. She passed away in June 2011.”


Guerrero-Thompson Elementary School

102 E. Rundberg Lane, Austin, TX 78753
Raul G. "Roy" Guerrero

Hired in 1947 as Recreation Activity Leader at the Pan American Recreation Center, over the course of more than 30 years, Guerrero worked his way up to become assistant director of the Austin Parks and Recreation Department, making him at one point the top Hispanic city employee and an advocate for residents' appeals. To the Austin community, he became known affectionately as "Mr. G.," the man in city government who could always be counted on for assistance and support.

Guerrero retired in April, 1981 as Assistant Director of Austin Parks & Recreation Department. He was inducted into the T.A.A.F. (Texas Amateur Athletic Federation) Hall of Fame on January 14, 1999.

http://austintexas.gov/event/grand-opening-roy-g-guerrero-colorado-river-metropolitan-park

Austin American-Statesman 08 Nov 2001: B1
Roy G. Guerrero Colorado River Metropolitan Park

400 Grove Blvd, Austin, TX 78741
Grand opening, July 1, 2013

Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center

808 Nile St., Austin, TX 78702
http://austintexas.gov/department/conley-guerrero-senior-activity-center
Hermelinda Rodriguez was born on January 22, 1922 in Martindale, Texas. She attended public school in San Marcos and graduated from Lockhart High School. To achieve her dream of educating children, she attended Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, where she received a bachelor of science degree in 1952 and a master’s degree in elementary education in 1955. She was Austin’s first female principal and first Hispanic principal. Ms. Rodriguez was also one of the first in AISD to teach Spanish and advocate for bilingual education. As the principal of Zavala Elementary, she brought national recognition to the school by implementing the first-ever bilingual curriculum. With the help of professors from The University of Texas at Austin, she developed a bilingual curriculum model that later served as the standard for other schools.

http://rodriguez.austinschools.org/our-school/history
Hermelinda Rodriguez Elementary School

4400 Franklin Park Dr., Austin, TX 78744
http://archive.austinisd.org/schools/details.phtml?id=100
http://rodriguez.austinschools.org/our-school/history
Trail of Tejano Legends Walking Trail: Ignacio “Nash” Hernandez

Ignacio “Nash” Hernandez 1922 - 1994

The Nash Hernandez Orchestra, Austin’s longest running big band, has been playing big band, swing and Latino styles of music for generations of fans throughout Central Texas. Nash Hernandez fell in love with the big band style while in the Army during World War II. When he returned to Austin, he worked with Matt Velasquez before starting his own band in 1949. He was also recognized for his musical contributions by the City of Austin in 1975 and 1993, by the Texas Senate in 1993 and by Vice President Al Gore in 1994.


Photos: Gabino Iglesias
Hernandez Street - Ignacio “Nash” Hernandez

Nash Hernandez, a trumpeter, developed his love for big bands rubbing shoulders with big band musicians during his service in the Army Air Corp during World War II. In 1949, Mr. Hernandez began the Nash Hernandez Orchestra in Austin, initially comprised of all Hispanic musicians, many of whom were his students. As the success of the orchestra grew, he began to use it to help the Austin community, playing for free at fundraisers to benefit storm victims or those in need of funds for medical care. Eventually, he learned he could use his orchestra to boost the political campaigns of candidates he supported and believed would be most helpful to the Austin community and the nation.

CPL Robert P. Hernandez

Hernandez was born and raised in Round Rock and graduated from Round Rock High School in 1967. He has the distinction of being the only Vietnam War casualty from Round Rock and posthumously was awarded the Purple Heart, Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Medal, and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.


Robert P. Hernandez Middle School, RRISD

1901 Sunrise Rd, Round Rock, TX 78664
http://hernandez.roundrockisd.org/
Margarita Muñoz Simon, the “Spanish Radio Queen,” broadcast to the Hispanic communities in Central Texas for 50 years, working at every Spanish radio station in Central Texas. After moving to Austin, Simon and her husband established *El Democrata*, a weekly Spanish-language newspaper, in the 1940s. She was a founding member of Austin League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the American G.I. Forum, PASO, and a charter member of Mexican-American Business and Professional Women of Austin.

https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fsimo
http://latinahistoryproject.omeka.net/exhibits/show/a-look-behind-the-lhp-scenes/margarita-munoz-simon
http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utlac/00071/lac-00071.html
Robert T. Martinez Jr. was an Austin police officer who was fatally injured in the line of duty in a February 1989 car accident. The former Canadian Street and was renamed in his honor.

Robert T. Martinez, Jr. Street

Robert T. Martinez Jr., known as Robby, was a young police officer at the time of his death. According to the monument, he was killed in a traffic accident while responding to an emergency call. A truck pulled suddenly in front of him. He swerved to avoid the truck and crashed into a tree. Robert T. Martinez was 26 years old when he died on February 25, 1989. Martinez was the son of a police officer. His father, Robert T. Martinez, Sr. died in 2003 having served the Austin Police Department with distinction in many roles, including Tactical Operations, Special Crimes and Under Cover Narcotics.

Roy Montelongo 1938 - 2001

Roy Montelongo is an original Tejano legend who started playing in his teens with the legendary orquesta of Beto Villa. He recorded many hits and toured nationally. Montelongo recorded over 20 albums and was selected to be an original member of “The Legends” of Tejano music along with the likes of Freddie Martinez and Sunny Ozuna. Eventually, he settled on broadcasting as a career and for many years was heard on the Austin airwaves.


Born in Brownsville, Texas, at age 12 Moreno experienced ‘an opportunity of a lifetime’ when his uncle, Julian Saldivar, brought him to Austin in 1929. He enrolled in the seventh grade at John T. Allen Junior High School, which was attended by children of the city's upper-class. Moreno said the school's science program was so impressive that later, as an instructor at the University of Texas at Austin's pharmacy school, he partly taught from material he’d learned there. In 1974 Moreno helped start the San Marcos council of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and later the University of Texas council, served many positions with the national organization including district governor. In correlation with LULAC, he also participated in the G.I. Forum and worked with the Anti-Defamation League. Mr. Moreno was later involved in teaching citizenship classes and political education.”

https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/voces/template-stories-indiv.html?work_urn=urn%3Aautlol%3Awwlatin.205&work_title=Moreno%2C+Jose+Ruben


Moya was the first Mexican-American to ever hold elective office in Travis County. In 1970, Moya became the first Mexican American elected to the Travis County Commissioners Court, representing Precinct 4. He served four terms as County Commissioner: from 1970 to 1986. Moya served as a delegate to the National Democratic Convention in 1972 and as one of three Deputy Chiefs of Staff in Governor Ann Richard’s administration from 1991 to 1995. Moya’s political career spanned over 20 years in county and state government. He served in both elected and appointed positions.


Richard Moya Park

10001 Burleson Rd., Austin, TX 78719
https://parks.traviscountytx.gov/find-a-park/richard-moya
The Perez-Ramos Families have a long musical tradition that stretches back several generations. Connected by brothers Don Louis Perez and Don Tranquilino Perez, Don Louis Perez and his wife Trinidad are the grandparents of Ruben and Alfonso Ramos. Ruben Ramos, Alfonso Ramos, Ruben Perez and Ernest Perez have all led their own Tejano orchestras. In recognition of their accomplishments, Ruben Ramos and Alfonso Ramos have both been inducted into the Tejano Music Hall of Fame. As a member of Los Super Seven, Ruben Ramos is a Grammy Award winner.

Staff Sgt. Jose Riojas, 1920-1944

Born in Pflugerville, Texas, Staff Sgt. Jose Riojas, was the oldest child of Casimiro and Sulema Riojas. He attended school in Pflugerville. At the age of eighteen he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and was assigned to the CCC camp in Pflugerville. He enlisted in the Army on December 13, 1940 and was stationed at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio. After completing basic training he was assigned to the Military Police, completing his MP training on May 3, 1941. On July 28, 1944 he was killed by a shell fragment in Saint-Jean-des-Baisants, France. Jose’s parents were presented the Bronze star and the Purple Heart in a ceremony at Pflugerville High School.

http://www.fallenwarriormemorial.org/staticpages/index.php/riojas
Ruiz, an architect of the East Austin political machine that elected the first wave of Hispanics to Austin and Travis County political offices, died Saturday, March 25, 2000. As executive director of the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Ruiz forged a 20-year career in state government, working in key positions under some of the state's most prominent Democrats. He served as a deputy comptroller for former Lt. Governor Bob Bullock when Bullock was comptroller, and worked for former Texas Agriculture Commissioner, Jim Hightower. Ruiz rose to the top of the Texas Land Commission as senior deputy commissioner in 1989.

Danny Ruiz, born in East Austin in 1946, had a long and distinguished career as a public servant. Starting at a young age, Mr. Ruiz worked as a youth director and coach at the Salvation Army Youth Center during high school. Later, Mr. Ruiz worked with the Model Cities Program in Austin and eventually became the key Mexican-American leader in the state government, serving under Jim Hightower in the Department of Agriculture, Bob Bullock in the State Comptroller’s Office and Gary Mauro in the General Land Office.
Daniel E. Ruiz Branch, Austin Public Library

Plaque in Ruiz Library, APL

1600 Grove Blvd, Austin, TX 78741
http://library.austintexas.gov/locations/Ruiz%20Branch
Teresa Lozano Long

Dr. Teresa “Terry” Long is an Austin civic leader responsible for funding, chairing, and organizing numerous philanthropic efforts across Austin, Texas, and the United States. She and her husband, Joe, have supported numerous university programs, colleges, and schools. Terry received her EDD, MED, and BS in Kinesiology from the University of Texas at Austin, becoming the first Mexican American to complete a doctorate in health and physical education at UT Austin. After teaching in Alice, TX, Dr. Long served as a research associate at the Texas Education Agency and joined the late Governor John Connally’s committee on public education. As a consultant, Terry advised the U.S. Department of Education and TEA’s Division of Compensatory Education.

http://governor.state.tx.us/files/women/Dr_Teresa_Long.pdf
http://longfoundation.org/long4/long41/long41.html
Long Center for the Performing Arts

In April 1999, Arts Center Stage received its lead gift of $20 million from Joe and Teresa Long, and the Arts Center Stage project was renamed the Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long Center for the Performing Arts.

http://www.austinchronicle.com/arts/2008-03-07/599656/

The Institute of Latin American Studies was renamed in recognition of an endowment gift from the Longs.

Teresa Lonzano Long Institute of Latin American Studies (LLILAS) University of Texas at Austin, SRH 1.310, 2300 Red River Street D0800, Austin, TX 78712

https://www.utexas.edu/cola/insts/llilas/student-programs/overview.php
Consuelo Herrera Méndez

In 1927, Consuelo Herrera Méndez was hired to teach in Austin schools, becoming one of the first Tejanas to teach in a major school system in the state and the first Hispanic woman to teach in Austin. A 1923 graduate of Austin High School, she taught for 45 years. Méndez was born in 1904 in San Marcos and is remembered as a teacher and worker for Mexican-American rights.

http://www.austinschools.org/campus/Mendez/history.html

http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fme53

Consuelo Mendez Middle School

5106 Village Square, Austin, TX 78744

http://www.austinschools.org/campus/mendez/aboutmendez.html
http://mendeznews.tumblr.com/
Consuelo Herrera Méndez was one of the first Hispanic teachers in Austin (there were Hispanic teachers in the 1880s and 1890s but not again until the mid-1920s when Ms. Mendez taught) and was a devoted worker for Mexican-American rights. Before teaching at Zavala Elementary School, Ms. Mendez taught at the Comal School, a segregated four-room house school for first and second grade Hispanic children. Along with her husband, she established the Zavala PTA and translated and wrote articles for the state PTA newsletter.

Jose Ruben Moreno, 1917 - 2005

"Moreno was born in 1917 in Brownsville, Texas. His uncle, Julian Saldivar, brought him to Austin in 1929, where he enrolled in the 7th grade at John T. Allen Junior High School, which was attended by children of the city's upper-class. Moreno said the school's science program was so impressive that later, as an instructor at the University of Texas at Austin's pharmacy school, he partly taught from material he’d learned there. He began is studies at UT in 1939. After his 1945 discharge from WWII, Moreno resumed his studies, earning an undergraduate pharmacy degree. Mr. Moreno obtained a Bachelors and Masters degrees in Pharmacy from the University of Texas at Austin. Although he never received a doctorate, Moreno taught a couple of decades at UT-Austin."

http://www.lib.utexas.edu/voces/template-stories-indiv.html?work_urn=urn%3Auwlatin%3Awwlatin.205&work_title=Moreno%2C+Jose+Ruben
Moreno Street - Jose Ruben Moreno

Moreno held many positions with the League of United Latin American Citizens, including district governor, and helped start two chapters – one at UT-Austin and the other in San Marcos. He participated in the G.I. Forum, the Anti-Defamation League and in politics. Mr. Moreno was also involved in teaching citizenship classes and political education.

http://www.lib.utexas.edu/voces/template-stories-indiv.html?work_urn=urn%3Autilol%3Awwlatin.205&work_title=Moreno%2C+Jose+Ruben

Daniel F. Ortega

Daniel F. Ortega graduated from Austin High School in 1933. He was killed during World War II while carrying a wounded soldier from the battlefield in France on August 6, 1944. Ortega received the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and other medals for distinguished service and honorable conduct.


http://www.austinschools.org/campus/ortega/aboutortega.html
Daniel F. Ortega Elementary, AISD

1135 Garland, Austin TX, 78721
http://www.austinschools.org/campus/ortega/index.html
Américo Paredes, 1915-1999

Américo Paredes is recognized as one of the seminal Mexican American scholars of the 20th century. He received his early education in the public schools of his native Brownsville, Texas and enrolled in Brownsville Junior College upon graduation from high school in 1934. In 1944, he entered the U.S. Army as an infantryman. Back in the United States after the war, Paredes began to fulfill his dream of becoming a professor of English. Enrolling in the University of Texas at Austin, he was graduated, summa cum laude, in one year, completed his M.A. in English and folklore studies two years later, and in 1956 received his doctorate in those same fields. He spent the rest of his academic career at UT Austin. In 1967 he helped found the UT Center for Intercultural Studies of Folklore and Ethnomusicology.

http://www.lib.utexas.edu/benson/paredes/biography.html
Américo Paredes Middle School, AISD

10100 S. Mary Moore Searight Dr., Austin, TX 78748
http://www.austinschools.org/campus/paredes/index.html
Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Perez

Perez, the first Austinite killed during the war in Iraq, Operation Iraqi Freedom, was a Boy Scout who graduated with honors from Travis High School in 2003, where he played varsity baseball and golf. He then enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and was killed in action while conducting military maneuvers in Iraq's Anbar province on September 3, 2004. The 19-year-old had earned a Purple Heart before his death.

*Austin American-Statesman* 09 Aug 2006: B1
http://projects.militarytimes.com/valor/solider/341522/
LCPL Nicholas S. Perez Elementary, AISD

7500 S. Pleasant Valley Rd., Austin, TX 78744
http://archive.austinisd.org/schools/details.phtml?id=159
George I. Sánchez 1906 - 1972

Jorge Isidoro Sánchez y Sánchez was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 1940 Sánchez moved to Texas where he was a professor in the Department of History and Philosophy of Education and a consultant in Latin American Education at the University of Texas. Sánchez also served as an expert witness in many legal cases regarding segregation in education, notably *Delgado v. Bastrop ISD*. He authored numerous articles, reviews, and monographs. In his memory, the National Education Association sponsored the George I. Sánchez Memorial Award; the United States Office of Education named a room in the new United States Office of Education Building for him; schools in Houston, San Antonio, and Austin, Texas, were named for him; and in 1995 the University of Texas rededicated its Education Building as the George I. Sánchez Building.

http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utlac/00069/lac-00069.html
George I. Sánchez Building University of Texas

1912 Speedway, Austin, Texas 78712-1293
http://www.edb.utexas.edu/education/about/profile/
George I. Sánchez Elementary School - AISD

73 San Marcos, Austin, TX 78702
http://archive.austinisd.org/schools/details.phtml?id=102
Pvt. Henry S. Terrazas 1946 - 1966

Pvt. Terrazas, a young Marine from East Austin, was one of four marines who, in 1996, were trapped on a ridge while battling a brush fire at Camp Pendleton. Three were killed and another burned critically when a shift in winds caused a flashback fire. Survivor Pfc. Henry S. Terrazas was airlifted to the base hospital. He suffered burns over 90% of his body and later died.

http://www.wlfalwaysremember.org/incident-lists/323-camp-pendleton.html

http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=83421221
Henry S. Terrazas Branch Austin Public Library

1105 E. Cesar Chavez St., Austin, TX 78702
http://library.austintexas.gov/locations/Terrazas%20Branch
Trail of Tejano Legends - Austin, Texas

(A) Perez & Ramos Plaza at the Mexican American Cultural Center
Trail Amenity: Public Artwork "Una Cancion de Fe y Familia" by Connie Arismendi

(B) Nash Hernandez Rd.
Trail Amenity: Public Artwork "Tenderly" by Connie Arismendi

(C) Johnny Degollado Pavilion at Fiesta Gardens
Trail Amenity: Public Artwork Pending

(D) Manuel & Robert Donley Park
Trail Amenity: Park Improvements and Museum Structure Pending

(E) Roy Montelongo Scenic Overlook
Trail Amenity: Public Artwork "Estamos en Tejas" by Connie Arismendi

(F) Matias and Roy Velasquez Plaza

(G) Cepeda Music Garden
In 1975, Treviño became the first Hispanic elected to the Austin City Council, where he served for 13 years. In 1983, when he was mayor pro tem, Mayor Carol Keeton Rylander resigned and he became the first Hispanic to serve as Austin's mayor. He was also the first Mexican American elected to the Travis County Commissioners Court.

John Treviño Jr., 1938 - 2017


John Treviño Jr.

October 18, 1938 – April 4, 2017
John Treviño Jr. at Morrison Ranch Metropolitan Park

9501 FM 969 Rd., Austin, TX 78725

http://www.naturerocksaustin.org/greenspace/john-trevi%C3%B1o-jr-park
Matt Velasquez

Matt Velasquez’s Latinaires performed from approximately 1946 to 1959. Vocalist-guitarist Velasquez was a member of several ballroom bands including Big Poppa’s Band, the group with which he started playing when he was 14 years old. After returning from military service in 1946, he formed his own band, playing sorority parties, debutante balls, and major parties. He also donated services to all Catholic churches. Matt Velasquez and his band played for the grand opening of Palmer Auditorium in 1959.

Zaragoza, Mexican general and hero of Cinco de Mayo, commanded the Mexican forces that routed the French Army on Cinco de Mayo in 1862 in the Battle of Puebla. He was born in Bahía del Espíritu Santo (now Goliad, Texas).” The number of French reported killed ranged from 476 to 1,000, although many of the troops were already ill from their stay in the coastal lowlands. Mexican losses were reported to be approximately eighty-six. Although the French captured Mexico City the next summer, the costly delay at Puebla is believed to have shortened the French intervention in Mexico and changed its outcome, since the French were planning to aid Confederate forces in Texas during the Civil War.”

https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fza04
Parque Zaragoza Recreation Center

2608 Gonzales St., Austin, TX 78702
http://www.austintexas.gov/department/parque-zaragoza-recreation-center
Lorenzo de Zavala, 1788–1836

Manuel Lorenzo Justiniano de Zavala y Sáenz, was the first vice-president of the Republic of Texas, and signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence. Arriving in Texas in July 1835, “he was drawn into the political caldron of Texas politics. Although he first advocated the cause of Mexican Federalism, within a few weeks he became an active supporter of the independence movement. Zavala's legislative, executive, ministerial, and diplomatic experience, together with his education and linguistic ability, uniquely qualified him for the role he was to play in the drafting of the constitution of the Republic of Texas.”

http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fza05
Lorenzo de Zavala Elementary School, AISD

310 Robert Martinez, Jr., Austin, TX 78702
http://archive.austinisd.org/schools/details.phtml?id=113/
Lorenzo de Zavala Texas State Library and Archives Commission

1201 Brazos St., Austin TX 78701
https://www.tsl.state.tx.us/