

# Austin Friends of Folk Art 2007 annual report: AFFA reached out!

## Reaching out

AFFA strived in 2007 to involve more members through committees, to spread AFFA's name in the community, to share folk art with a wider public, and to more actively support folk artists. Read on and see how you'd rate our success.

## AFFA gets Community Arts Award

The Austin Arts Commission honored AFFA with a Community Arts Award on October 15. It recognized a \$3,500 grant we made in 2006 to artists commissioned to create artwork for seven obeliscos on East 7th St. Nancy Townsend received the award for AFFA at the Arts Commission meeting which was televised on Channel 6. A reception followed.



## AFFA supported folk art financially

In 2007 AFFA disbursed \$902 in program honorariums, to event speakers, \$875 to musicians for the membership and holiday parties, \$520 to Peckerwood Gardens and \$155 to Indian Classical Music Circle of Austin, \$3,170 to Mexican artisans for auction items, and \$2,500 in grants to:

### ◆ Artes de México, \$1,000

Towards publication of a gorgeous 80 pp. book on 1920-1950 Tlaquepaque pottery, with fab photos and articles in Spanish and English by Lance Aaron, Lenore Hoag, Gerardo Murillo (Dr. Atl) and others. Always collectors' items, Artes de México publications have helped preserve traditional production methods by increasing awareness and demand for traditional work. AFFA is listed as a supporter in the book. Copies are available on ebay for \$37 or from AFFA for \$30.



### ◆ Lisa Orr, Austin potter and ceramics instructor, \$500

Towards professional filming and production of a documentary on the ceramics processes of San José de

Gracia and Patamban, Michoacan, Mexico. AFFA is listed in the credits of this 50-min. DVD, which Lisa will show at the Greater Austin Clay Artists meeting in February, at NCECA National Ceramics Conference in March and in classes and workshops.

### ◆ Feria Maestros del Arte. \$1,000

To help transport artists to the 3-day market in Ajijic—the first contact many of them have with the outside world. They pay no fees or percentage of sales; they lodge with local families and get two free meals a day. Feria aims to provide a stable market for traditional arts, so artisans will not have to abandon their heritage to work in the cities.

## Our programs reached the general public, members & youth

In 2007 we offered a variety of programs about a variety of cultures, for the general public and youth as well as our loyal members.

### ◆ 1/27 Folk art sale & exhibit at Central Market on North Lamar.

AFFA arranged an all-day folk art sale in Central Market Cafe. Bands (members of Austin Friends of Traditional Music) provided music at the event. AFFA brochures and members' folk art were on display for a month.

◆ 2/11 **Poor Man's Fortune causes serious toe tapping at membership party.** Monica Shomos and Ron Taylor hosted this event at their wonderful new home. Members brought delicious salads, appetizers and desserts. Fun, friendly and free!

### ◆ 2/24 Bus trip to Peckerwood Garden & John Fairey Folk Art Collection, Hempstead, Texas.

This first-rate repository of rare and unusual plants and folk art from Mexico and the U.S. is the result of John Fairey's 30-year effort to highlight and strengthen our common heritage. Peckerwood Garden has a beautiful website but the folk art collection is not online and is rarely open to the public.

### ◆ 5/5 Lance Aaron's exhibit at Mexic-Arte & lunch with Los Amigos del Arte Popular (LADAP).

Lance Aaron guided us through his exhibit *From Revolution to Renaissance*, which included more than 100 important pieces of fine and folk art from Mexico's Golden Age (1920-1950). We had lunch at Nilda de la

Llata's art-filled home with LADAP members who came from Houston for the day. Then Merry Wheaton and Dick LeVan opened their colorful home to the group.

◆ 6/21 **Movie Night: Cave of the Yellow Dog.** A mix of documentary, children's story and drama filmed in Mongolia, it won a Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. With breathtaking scenery and actors who are a real family (not professional actors), it offers an intimate, thought-provoking look at a very different lifestyle.

### ◆ 7/28 Maestros Mexicanos Gallery Opening.

An enthusiastic crowd perused the gallery full of high quality Mexican folk art. Sales were lively and the food, margaritas and agua de piña were terrific. Teresa Kendrick, Carmen Sepulveda, Roberto Garduño, Linda Hannah, Suzy Kirchberg and Roberto Alvarado brought this fine folk art and us together.

◆ 8/19 **Indian dance drama, Krishna Vande Jagatguru.** The Silamban Dance Company revived this classic about "Krishna as a child, lover and God" and got rave reviews in India. The audience here in Austin was a veritable fashion show with colors not found in our crayon box. The performance was followed by Indian dinner at The Clay Pit.

### ◆ 9/15 AFFA Youth Outreach: Shield, Story & Song in the Lakota Tradition.

Lakota sun dancer, Tim White Face, taught 15 Boy Scouts and siblings to make Native American shields while talking about the need to be one with creation. He also played a drum ("It's a heartbeat.") and sang a prayer. The children were very receptive and the *Round Rock Leader* ran an article about the event.



### ◆ 9/19 Day in San Antonio for Huipiles: A Celebration, Barney Smith's Toilet Seat Museum & Susan Frost's house.

At the Museo Alameda Smithsonian, we previewed Kathy Sosa's huipiles exhibit and enjoyed trunk shows of silver and huipiles. At Barney's, where 800 seats are displayed in his garage, we helped make a toilet seat in honor of our visit. Lunch at Mi Tierra and a visit to Susan Frost's house rounded out a delightfully offbeat day.