

AFFA What's Up - March 2023



Greetings, Friends. I have a lot of good news I want to share with all of you. First of all, a new committee has been created to raise awareness of, and to raise funds for, the Folk Art Museum we hope to have. When artist and AFFA member Candy Becker died, her daughters made a donation to our organization in her name with the stipulation that the money must be used towards the efforts to create a museum.

Encouraged to fulfill this goal, member Meta Hunt hosted a luncheon board meeting at her home to discuss the possibility of a museum and ideas for creating a support group or committee to lead the work. Board members gave their enthusiastic approval to the idea and committed to work

in support. It is with much appreciation that I announce that Meta Hunt agreed to serve as the Chair of the committee. I will share more information as the plans and goals are developed and set into motion. The Austin Friends of Folk Art give our thanks and appreciation to Meta Hunt.



L to R: Ed Jordan, Jim Huff, Kaye Northcott, Amalia Rodriguez Mendoza, Polly Johnson, Gloria Mata Pennington, Audrey Selden, Carol Hayman, kneeling in front Meta Hunt with Patrick Davis art figures.

Donation

Onward with more good news. I am going to share the report that the chair of the acquisitions and review committee, Amalia Rodriguez Mendoza, has written, as well as the information about our most recent donation. Although the report was written for the board and committee members, I am including it in this newsletter because it shows the dedicated work done by board and committee members.

Mary Nell Frucella Donation

AFFA Board and ARC committee: We acquired our latest donation from Mary Nell Frucella yesterday and packed 20 boxes that we transported to the storage facility. AFFA rented a van and all the items were in one vehicle. Thanks to Meta, Jim, and Hagan, we spent time packing all the items. We arrived at 1 pm and left at 4:30 pm and unloaded items till 5:30 pm. We have quite an impressive collection as well as many amazing items for our silent auction and the market sale that is scheduled for this Spring. I would estimate that there are well over 100 pieces we wrapped and packed. Very grateful to Meta and Ed for their longtime friendship with Mary Nell that we were able to acquire these precious pieces of folk art. Luckily the storage facility was ready and we had plenty of space to store all the items. Which leads me to the next item. Since we will need to unpack and inventory the items, we need to schedule some time for volunteers to come to the storage unit and slowly start unpacking and separating the items that are for the permanent collection and for the auction. Meta suggested maybe scheduling people in two-hour intervals. Gloria, Meta and I have card tables and we can spread the items out and document as much as we can about each item. I told Meta she will be our "historian" since she and Mary Nell traveled together and bought some of the same items from their travels. Thanks all for the hard work this committee has done and continues to do.

Mary Nell Frucella is an Austinite, world traveler and art collector. Through her friendship with AFFA members Meta Butler Hunt and Ed Jordan, she became aware of the Austin Friends of Folk Art and our Museum of Folk Art. Last year, she invited members of the Acquisitions and Review Committee (ARC) to tour her lovely home and view her extensive and exquisite art collection and pre-select items we would like for our permanent collection.

Recently, ARC members returned to wrap and load up 20 boxes of art Mary Nell donated to us which was immediately transported to our storage facility. Her varied collection includes folk art from her travels to the Far East, Africa, India as well as Mexico and Latin America. This collection will help our museum showcase folk art from global cultures.

In the very near future, we will have a “call out for volunteers” to help us unwrap, cull, and document the items for display in our online museum. AFFA members and folk art supporters will be asked to volunteer in two-hour intervals. Please let us know if you are interested in helping with this project.

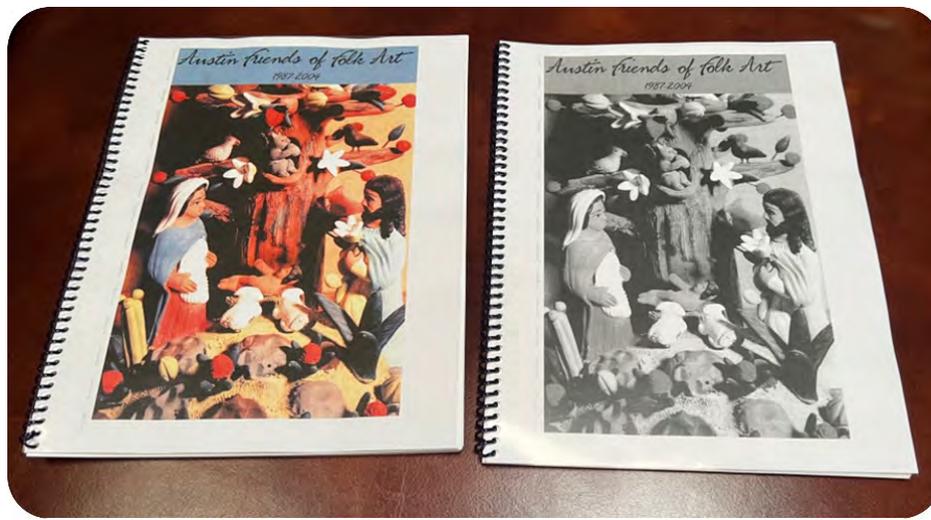
Amalia Rodriguez Mendoza, Chair
Acquisitions and Review Committee



L to R: Mary Nell Frucella, Ed Jordan, Polly Johnson, Amalia Rodriguez Mendoza, Meta Hunt

History of Austin Friends of Folk Art by Holly Hollingsworth

Some years ago, member Holly Hollingsworth was asked to write the history of the Austin Friends of Folk Art. He did, in fact he wrote an excellent history. At the end of her term as president, Merry Wheaton gave a copy of the history to me, as incoming president. I read it and prepared a package to store it in. Well, as the years went by, I wanted to share the history with the current board members and to ask for their approval for having extra copies printed. Guess what, among all the hundreds of files and photos I have that will eventually go to the Austin History Center, the Galveston History Center, and Travis County Archives, I could not find the copy of the history. I then asked secretary, Kaye Northcott if perhaps I had given her the copy for our official file, she said no. I contacted Merry Wheaton, who said she had given me the extra copy she had and now only had her personal copy which she was willing to loan to us for copying. So, Ed Jordan volunteered to go to Merry's house to borrow her copy. Well, then Ed got sick and ended up in the hospital. After his release, when asked about the copy, he could not find it anywhere! Sound familiar? So, the great search started, former members were contacted and asked if they happened to have a copy, finally founder Marcia Lucas, who was on a trip to Mexico, replied that upon her return, she would look for her copy. In the meantime, Ed who had continued looking, found the copy he had borrowed from Merry. Merry then offered to go pick up her copy and then to take it to a print shop for cost estimates for copies. At home, I decided that it was time to start putting the files and photos I had collected in some sort of order. I started with the huge number of documents and photos from the Austin/Salttillo sister cities files. When going through the last tote box, there in a brown envelope that I had marked Austin Friends of Folk Art History 1987-2004 was the booklet! I immediately let Audrey Selden and Paul Munguia know that I had found the copy given to me and we could proceed to make a decision on how best to digitalize the booklet and to have hard copies made. Very soon, the digitalized copy will be made available to all of you. I will ask Audrey Selden to write a short article for next months newsletter on how to access it. Whee! Is that a saga??



Women's History Month Program

Hello AFFA members and supporters. Join us on March 18, 2023, for the Austin Friends of Folk Art Women's History Month program. Details are provided below. We look forward to visiting with you to learn more about Women's history, see some incredible folk art, and enjoy light refreshments.

RSVP:
info@austinfriendsoffolkart.com

Gloria Mata Pennington

Austin Friends of Folk Art
info@austinfriendsoffolkart.org

Gloria Mata Pennington,
President
Board Members
Carmen Guerra
Carol Hayman
Jim Huff
Ed Jordan
Pat McCambridge

AUSTIN FRIENDS OF FOLK ART



Come to the AFFA Women's History Month Celebration. Hear about Texas Women's History radio moments and stories from Austin women leaders. See incredible folk art and enjoy light refreshments. Speakers include:

Melissa Hield, Public Historian, Ruthe Winegarten Foundation for Texas Women's History Board Treasurer, AFFA Member

Shannon Creekmur, President, Junior League of Austin, 2023 African American Leadership Institute Cohort, AFFA Member

Gloria Amescua, Children's Book Author, Child of the Flower-Song People: Luz Jiménez, Daughter of the Nahua

Saturday, March 18, 2023
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
8029 Bottlebrush Dr., Austin 78750
Home of Don and Polly Johnson

RSVP: info@austinfriendsoffolkart.org
No charge. AFFA memberships and donations accepted.





Amalia Rodriguez Mendoza
Kaye Northcott
Audrey Selden