



**Greetings, Friends. March and April are months to celebrate with family and friends.**

### **Passover**

Many people don't know that Passover lasts for a full week. In the book of Exodus, God commands the Jewish people to commemorate the exodus from Egypt, the freedom from slavery. The focus of the week is to acknowledge the past, and welcome better times to come. The first night begins with a ceremonial dinner, called a Seder, where the story is told. Family members and friends gather for the meal where traditional food and wine are served. It is a joyful time, a time of hope.

### **Easter**

For Christians, the resurrection of Jesus, when he rose from the dead after his crucifixion, means resurrection is available to all believers. It is a celebration of hope and thanksgiving.

### **An Invite from our Friends at Mexic-Arte Museum**

Join Us for the Opening Reception of [Expresiones de México, Arte de la Gente / Art of the People!](#)



***Expresiones  
de México,  
Arte de la Gente***

*Art of the People  
4.14.23 - 8.20.23*

## OPENING RECEPTION:

**Date:** Friday, April 14, 2023 from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

**Location:** Mexic-Arte Museum

**Admission:** \$10 or Free for Museum Members –

[Become a Member!](#)

**Music:** La Familia Chavez

**Refreshments:** Drinks provided by Dulce Vida

\$25 Special Discount on Full Year Individual Memberships at the door only!

**Parking:** The Frost Bank Tower provides \$10 parking for visitors after 5:00pm and on week-ends. Learn more about parking by visiting the [Museum's website](#).

Following the revolution in the 1920s Mexico's leaders sought to define and promote Mexico's culture and art to its people and the world. This campaign included looking to artists from regions all over Mexico. The search for a neatly defined Mexican art form is a difficult task to take on. The vast number of Mexican artists, both past and present, produce a wide variety of artworks. Their artworks also come in a great assortment of styles, subjects, and mediums. To this day, artists from all over Mexico master and share their practices with their communities and the world.

With *Expresiones de México, Arte de la Gente / Art of the People* Mexic-Arte Museum presents the impressive collection of artworks created by many artists utilizing techniques and skills passed down through generations.

This collection has been compiled over the course of the nearly forty years of Mexic-Arte Museum's history. This exhibition will give light to some of the key master artists in Mexico that have made this art so sought after by people around the world. *Expresiones de México, Arte de la Gente / Art of the People* includes artwork from pivotal artists, including Irene Aguilar, Josefina Aguilar, Juan Orta Castillo, Luis Manuel Morales Gamez, Irma García Blanco, Tiburcio Soteno Hernández, Ángel Santos Juárez, Sergio Lejarazu, Felipe Linares, Herón Martínez Mendoza, Teodora Blanco Núñez, Gorky González Quiñones, Guadalupe García Ríos, Sergio Sánchez Santamariá, anonymous artists, and more.

The exhibit will feature work by Master Printmaker, Sergio Sánchez Santamariá with his work *Los Chinelos*, Portfolio of 11 linocuts. Chinelos are a kind of traditional costumed dancer which is popular in the Mexican state of [Morelos](#). The tradition arose from the blending of indigenous and Catholic traditions, most notably [Carnival](#), with its permission to be masked and to mock. The artwork by these people expresses the variety and vibrancy of these artforms that, for many, are emblematic of Mexico's creativity and culture.

The artworks in this exhibition represent generous donations by significant donors including Patricia and Carmine DeVivi, Robert Hollingsworth, Ed Jordan, Joyce and David Moss, Priscilla Murr, Juan Antonio Sandoval Jr., David Wilkinson, Marilyn Wood, and others. Donations from valued collectors evidence the continued role of Mexic-Arte Museum as an entrusted steward of art in Austin for nearly four decades.

The artwork in *Expresiones de México, Arte de la Gente / Art of the People* spans the gamut of tradition, technique, beauty, and time and Mexic-Arte Museum welcomes the community to share in the enjoyment, discovery, and appreciation of these incredible artworks and traditions.

# Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories

Audrey Selden, AFFA Board Member

Austin Friends of Folk Art and folk art enthusiasts gathered at the home of Polly and Don Johnson to celebrate Women's History Month. Polly shared with the group that her family has been collecting folk art globally for many years. She spoke briefly about the many countries and cultures reflected throughout their home including one story about a visiting artist from Mexico who created a large portrait of his wife (in one of Polly's huipiles) while they were staying with them. This is now hanging above their mantel. She also discussed the importance of participating in dance and other folk art forms.

Gloria Mata Pennington, AFFA Board President, welcomed the group and noted our ever-growing folk art collection, our partnership with Travis County, future plans to work with Austin's Sister Cities across the globe, and our quest to create a physical Museum of Folk Art with attention to numerous diverse cultures.

Our presenters included three phenomenal women:



Melissa Hield is a Public Historian who helped create the 1981 “Texas Women: A Celebration of History” exhibit for the Institute of Texan Cultures. Melissa’s presentation included passages and artwork from this famous project that generated several women’s initiatives like Leadership Texas and Leadership America (<https://leadership-women.org/>) and original artifacts for the Texas Woman’s University. Melissa is the Board Treasurer for the Ruthe Weingarten Foundation – Women in Texas History who has provided Women’s History Moments for the past several years to KUT, the national public radio station. You can hear these 1-minute stories at <https://www.kut.org/life-arts/2023-03-07/texas-womens-history-moments-2023>.

Shannon Creekmur, Junior League of Austin President, discussed the importance of role models for women – we inspire others and in turn, other women inspire us. She provided a brief history of the JLA and its community impact programs – Coats for Kids which distributed its 1 millionth coat this year, Food in Tummies (FIT), and Kids in Cool Shoes (KICS). A 2,400-member organization the JLA annually contributes 160,000 volunteer hours throughout our community. A fun fact – in 1992, the JLA provided the initial funding to create positive change in the lives of young Latinas by empowering them to earn a college education. That program is now its own 501 (c) (3) organization – Con MI MADRE. Visit <https://www.jlaustin.org/community/> to learn more about the JLA community efforts. The JLA’s A Cosmic Christmas Affair, the annual holiday market, is scheduled for November 15-19, 2023.





Gloria Amescua is an award-winning Children's Book Author. Gloria told her story about being an Austin, Texas native who spent more than 30 years in the education field. She is a University of Texas graduate who played alto saxophone in the Longhorn band. Her artistic talents also include writing. She detailed the rigorous, multi-year process of researching, writing, and revising a book to capture an illustrious, meaningful story. Her book, *Child of the Flower-Song People: Luz Jiménez, Daughter of the Nahua* is a biography of an indigenous Nahua woman from Mexico. <https://www.gloriaamescua.com/child-of-the-flower-song-people> As Gloria writes, Luz Jiménez shared her native language, stories, and traditions when modeling for artists Diego Rivera, Jean Charlot, and Tina Modotti. Gloria read a moving passage about the familial generational storytelling of the Nahua who lost their land, but not their culture.

Carmen Guerra, AFFA Board Membership Director, shared information about AFFA membership and provided information about joining AFFA with this link: <https://austinfriendsoffolkart.org/join/>. Several attendees agreed to join and took the AFFA membership form and AFFA annual report (<https://austinfriendsoffolkart.org/affa-annual-reports/>) to share with others.

What a wonderful event to see such incredible folk art, to hear from amazing women leaders, and to spend time meeting new friends who share our love of folk art. We so appreciated hearing from our presenters who captured women's stories from our past, are creating history in our present, and give us hope for the future by honoring and amplifying the stories of women who dream big and live with intention. May we continue to celebrate the many women in our community throughout the year.





## AFFA Bylaws Proposed Amendments to Expand Board Size

Flowers are not the only thing growing. The AFFA Strategic Plan Committee conducted its annual review of the AFFA Bylaws. The Committee requested two changes to the Bylaws that increase the minimum and the maximum number of Board Directors. On March 14, 2023, the AFFA Board unanimously approved changes to Bylaw 5.2 Number of Directors. The revised proposed provision states that the number of Board Directors may increase up to 15 people and that the Board shall not be less than five. The proposed amendments are:

*5.2 Number of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of five up to 15 persons. The number of directors may be increased or vv decreased from time to time by amendment to the bylaws provided that the number shall not be less than three five.*

AFFA Bylaw 4.8 provides that the election of Board Directors and any bylaw amendments are subject to an AFFA membership vote. At the December 2023 annual meeting, AFFA members will vote on these bylaw amendments and the 2024 AFFA Board of Directors.

The current AFFA bylaws are available at <https://austinfriensoffolkart.org/about/bylaws/>

Are you interested in joining the interesting, hard-working AFFA Board? Do you have time, talent, and treasure that you are willing to share so that Austin Friends of Folk Art continues to grow? Send an email stating your interest to [info@austinfriensoffolk.org](mailto:info@austinfriensoffolk.org). We welcome more people getting involved in this wonderful Folk Art organization.

The Strategic Plan Committee – Audrey Selden, Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza, and Carol Hayman

Folk art pieces from the [Folk Art Museum of Central Texas from the A. V. Shirk Collection:](#)



## AFFA History

We have completed our online version of the History of Austin Friends of Folk Art from 1987-2004. I invite you to take a look at our AFFA history either [online](#) or at the [AFFA webpage](#).

# *Austin Friends of Folk Art*

1987-2004



## The Arrival of the Easter Bunny

In the 18th century, German immigrants brought the idea to the United States of an Easter hare giving colorful eggs to good children. In America, the hare was made over into a cuddlier bunny!

Now, Easter egg hunts and the Easter Bunny have become a part of Easter family gatherings.



Until next month, enjoy the gentle rains and the sunshine!

Gloria Mata Pennington, President  
Austin Friends of Folk Art  
[info@austinfriendsoffolkart.org](mailto:info@austinfriendsoffolkart.org)

Gloria Mata Pennington, President  
Board Members:

Carmen Guerra  
Carol Hayman  
Jim Huff  
Ed Jordan  
Pat McCambridge  
Amalia Rodriguez Mendoza  
Kaye Northcott  
Audrey Selden

