





## Austin Friends of Folk Art

### What's Up August 2022 Edition

Welcome, Friends, I hope you are all staying cool. I am having to stay indoors as much as possible, since the heat drains my energy. It's time for iced tea and reading lots of books for me. I recently had my granddaughter take three bags full of books to donate at the library re-cycle store and already I have at least that many more books to donate. If there are any big-time readers out there who would be interested in trading books, let me know. I'd be happy to send you a list of some of the books I have available and maybe we can arrange a trade.

#### Our Partnership with Travis County

I have told this story many times, but here it goes again. In 2013, Paul and Ken Mikeska donated their deceased mother's (Jean) folk art collection to the Austin Friends of Folk Art. It was our very first donation! Without a place to store the hundred or so pieces, we paid storage for two years while I sought out a place. My first contact was with the city, since I had served for years as Chair of the Arts Commission and had contacts there. At first, it looked promising, but then--nothing. At that time, Amalia Rodriguez Mendoza was serving as District Clerk and when I told her about my search, she told me that Travis County had recently created an archives department and that they might be interested in a partnership. She gave me the name and contact for Steven Broberg, I contacted him, we met, and a match was made! Since that time, Steven has retired from Travis County and we miss him, think of him often and are grateful for his strong commitment to art and the Austin Friends of Folk Art. I then contacted Commissioner Margaret Gomez, told her of my proposal and asked if she would be willing to support it and present it to the Commissioners Court. She agreed and she became our champion.



Commissioner Margaret Gomez

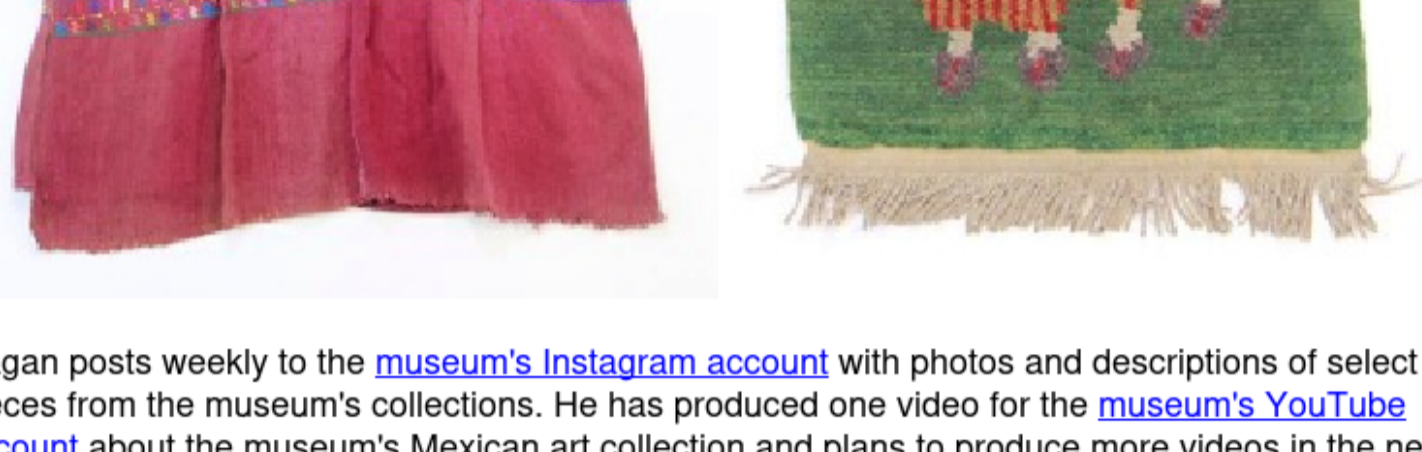
#### Partnership by Shawn Malone

In its seventh year, the Folk Art Museum of Central Texas has grown from a fledgling storage arrangement for AFFA's first donated collection to a partnership between Travis County and the Austin Friends of Folk Art that provides public displays, storage and preservation of our growing collection of art objects, artifacts, photographs, and related materials. In recent months, both the Travis County Commissioners Court and the Austin City Council have approved resolutions to explore moving the Travis County Archives, including the AFFA collections, to the Faulk Library Building next to the Austin History Center downtown. While the specifics are still in the early planning stages, these votes by the political leadership of both governments auger good times for the AFFA collections. Space limitations in the County Archives facility have limited the County's ability to accept folk art donations, so a move sometime after 2024 could provide the facility space necessary to continue our collection's growth.

Since 2015, Hagan Barber, of the Travis County Archives, has curated the AFFA museum with rotating exhibits and displays in Travis County and City of Austin buildings, and a growing presence online. This month is your last chance to see in person the exhibit at the Ruiz Branch Library in south Austin, showcasing beautiful and imaginative interpretations of dancers from the Danza de la Pluma (Dance of the Feather) and Danza de Los Quetzales (Dance of the Quetzal birds). The exhibit will be rotating out at the end of August and returning to storage at the Travis County Archives, with photographs available at <https://folkartmuseumcentraltx.org>.

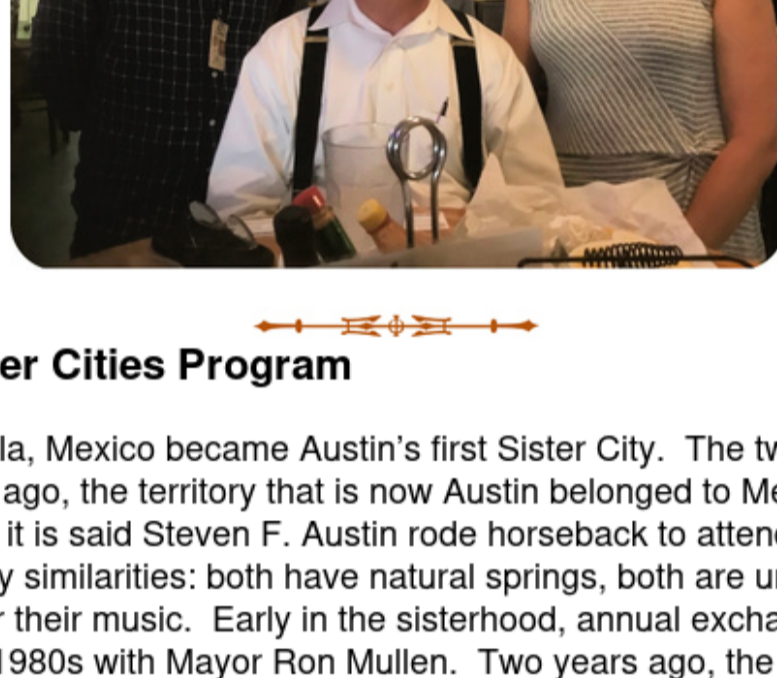
Since Hagan and graphic artist Colleen Liedtke created the online museum, AFFA members & donors have collaborated with Hagan to research and catalog more than 700 pieces of art; progress continues in expanding the museum's collections and outreach. Hagan is currently working on cataloging and photographing the museum's newest collections and updating the website with new features.

Two new items from the Paula Wiesner Collection include:  
*A Hupil from San Lucas Tolimán in Guatemala and a Tibetan Yak Prayer Rug*



Hagan posts weekly to the [museum's Instagram account](#) with photos and descriptions of select pieces from the museum's collections. He has produced one video for the [museum's YouTube account](#) about the museum's Mexican art collection and plans to produce more videos in the near future.

**Travis County Team - Hagan Barber, Shawn Malone, Christy Costlow, a valued team member, Colleen Liedtke, missing from photo**



#### Austin/Salttillo Sister Cities Program

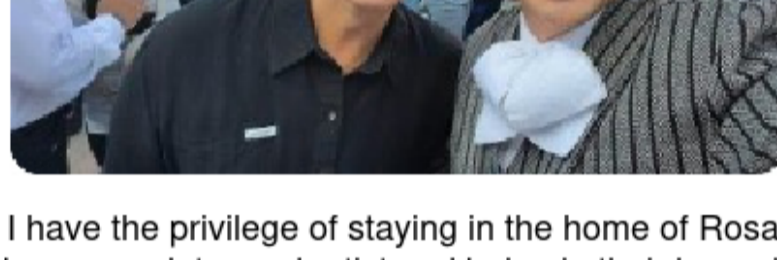
In 1968, Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico became Austin's first Sister City. The two cities share a long-time bond. Many years ago, the territory that is now Austin belonged to Mexico. It was the Capital of Tejas y Coahuila and it is said Steven F. Austin rode horseback to attend the legislature. The two cities still have many similarities: both have natural springs, both are university towns, and both cities are also known for their music. Early in the sisterhood, annual exchange visits were started, my first visit was in the 1980s with Mayor Ron Mullen. Two years ago, the pandemic put a stop to the annual trips. They started up again this year and since I had not missed a scheduled trip, I was looking forward to the visit. However, my friend and travel companion, Alicia Perez got COVID and since I can no longer travel alone, I too had to cancel the trip. However, friends sent me some beautiful photos, a couple that I will share with you from the celebration.

#### Matachin Dancers on Steps of the Cathedral of Saltillo



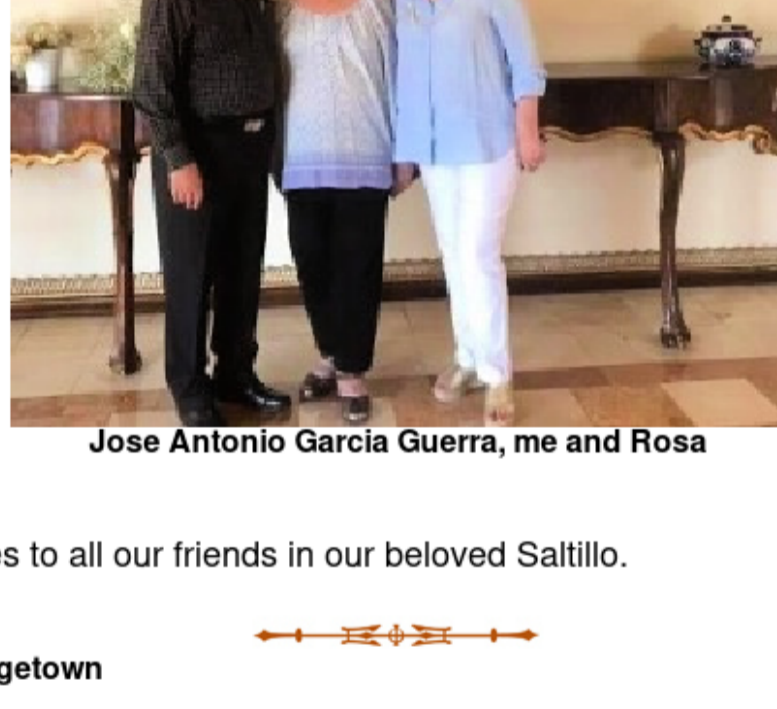
This year, the city of Saltillo celebrated its 445<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the city. One of the emotional traditions is on the morning of the date of the founding, at sunrise, the Mayor invites the citizens and guests to accompany him at the top of a mountain and as the sun rises, Mariachis sing Las Mananitas to their beloved city. I was so sorry I missed the ceremony this year because my friend Rafael Vasquez was invited to sing. After the ceremony, delicious tamales and champurrado were served.

#### Mayor Steve Adler and Rafael Vasquez



When I travel to Saltillo, I have the privilege of staying in the home of Rosa and Antonio Garcia Guerra. Pepe is a well known sculptor and artist and being in their home is like being in museum. The photo below is of his life size Matachin that is on public display on a busy street in Saltillo. They are such gracious people and I miss them very much.

#### Studio of Antonio Garcia Guerra



Jose Antonio Garcia Guerra, me and Rosa

We send our best wishes to all our friends in our beloved Saltillo.

#### Interesting Event in Georgetown

I wanted to share this information about some interesting events at the Georgetown Art Center, specifically **OAXACAN GOLD: AN IMMERSIVE OAXACAN EXPERIENCE**. On the opening night, August 27<sup>th</sup>, a dance group from Austin, under the direction of our friend Yopez, will be performing dances from Oaxaca. Edgar has Oaxacan roots, the dances are authentic and so are the fantastic hupils. The next day, there will be an exhibit by nationally known photographer Greg Davis, followed by a talk and a weaving workshop. Check carefully, as some events require tickets, which are said to be limited.



#### Austin Friends of Folk Art Strategic Plan Update

**Austin Friends of Folk Art Strategic Plan Update — July 2022**  
*Valuing Folk Art and Global Cultures Now and In the Future*

Carmen Guerra was elected to the AFFA Board as Membership Director. New AFFA members will now receive a Welcome to AFFA letter. Sixty-three members have joined or renewed their AFFA membership this year. Welcome to Business Sponsor Member – Feria Maestros Exposicion del Arte. The Folk Art fair trip to Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico is scheduled for November 11-13, 2022.

780 followers on Instagram. Check out our latest posts at [folkartmuseumofcentraltx.org](http://folkartmuseumofcentraltx.org).

Community Folk Art enthusiasts continue to donate Folk Art treasures to build the AFFA collection. Board Member Kaye Northcott who serves on the Acquisitions Committee enjoys storing donations at her home, including these Susan Frost dresses.

Fun with Folk Art

Website Under Construction  
Coming Soon

Austin Friends of Folk Art is hosting a "Welcome Back" in-person event  
June 29th - 7:00pm

Board President Gloria Mata Pennington proposed and Board members approved a resolution that Rosedale School becomes the permanent location for the AFFA Museum of Folk Art; however, no action was taken. AFFA continues to work with Travis County officials to secure a permanent physical museum location.

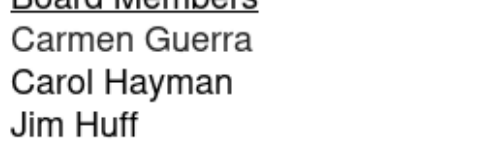
Board Member Carol Hayman arranged to have three Mexican figurines displayed at the Ruiz Public Library in Austin. In May, AFFA hosted a Fun with Folk Art event for children and families to view the display, create hats and maracas, complete a puzzle, and color a figurine. (see pictures on the left) Fifteen people attended the event.

In June, AFFA partnered with Texas Folklife and Austin Folklife for a La Santa Muerte documentary and heard from Texas Folklife Executive Director Charlie Lockwood (pictured above). Fifty people attended the event, including AFFA Board President Gloria Mata Pennington, Board Member Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza, Rene LeBlanc, and Patricia LeBlanc.

Until next month, enjoy the gift of life, family, and friends.

Gloria Mata Pennington

**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

