

# AFFA What's Up - January 2025



Greetings Friends, Happy New Year! May 2025 be filled with love and good health! As I grow older, each day during the year is enjoyed day by day, made more meaningful being with family and friends. Old age is a time to reflect and to be grateful for each day given to you. Join me in being thankful and looking forward to shared joy and happiness.

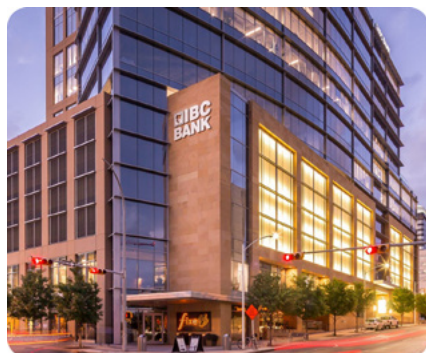


## Reflections and Exciting Plans for 2025

As we bid farewell to 2024 and embrace the new year, we'd like to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we've had and share our exciting plans for 2025.

Thanks to the generosity of collectors who have donated their extraordinary folk-art collections to AFFA, we've had the privilege of experiencing a global tour through the unique artistic expressions of different cultures created in **Mexico, India, China, New Zealand, and Indonesia**, among others. These donations have brought the world closer together through art. We are grateful for the opportunity to share this global collection with you all.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our wonderful supporters—**IBC Bank, Tito's Handmade Vodka, Old Bakery and Emporium, Austin Film School**, and the eight generous collectors who have entrusted us with their works. Without your support, none of this would be possible.



## Looking Ahead to 2025

We are thrilled to announce that in **March**, we will present a special **Masks** exhibit at the **Georgetown Library**, showcasing pieces from our collection that represent a wide array of cultural traditions. This will be followed in **September** by an exhibit of folk art at the **Dell Jewish Community Center**, featuring works from our permanent collection.



Additionally, we are excited to welcome **Peruvian artists** to Austin in **February**, who will be visiting and sharing their rich cultural heritage.

We are also happy to announce that we have already been approached by three new **folk-art collectors**, eager to donate their items to our museum. We are happy to accept their contributions and look forward to adding even more diverse works to our collection.

## New Additions to Our Online Museum

Our **online museum** at [folkartmuseumcentraltx.org](http://folkartmuseumcentraltx.org) has recently been enriched with the donation of **51 pieces** from the late **Susan Bassion**, a beloved longtime member of AFFA, and an avid collector of folk art. We are proud to honor her memory with this generous donation from her estate.



## Join Us in 2025

We invite you to continue this journey with us. Whether through volunteering, becoming a member, or simply sharing the experience with a friend, your involvement helps us to further our goals of educating the community about folk art. Together, we can make 2025 even more successful and impactful.

Gracias,  
Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza  
President, AFFA Board



## Three Kings Day

As I sit here typing this newsletter, tomorrow will be Three Kings Day. How many of you wait until that day to take down your Christmas tree? I used to wait in years past when I could do the putting up and taking down of the tree and all my vintage decorations by myself. However, now, I do it on the day that I can get some help. Last week, my daughter made the two hour drive to come help me. I can't believe how quickly we got it done, so much to pack up carefully and put away, but to me it's worth every minute it takes.



I love Christmas, especially vintage Christmas decorations. So, I will once again show you a photo of the Three Kings made by my friend, Demetrio Garcia Aguilar from Oaxaca.



## Weather

I keep reading that cold/freezing weather is on its way. I hope your pantry is full with all you need, so you won't have to get out in the cold. I try to make pots of stew and/or soup that I can freeze and have a meal that can be warmed up and eaten and leave the sandwiches for another day! I think it would be nice if at least some of you would share easy to make recipes that can be frozen and ready to eat when needed, how about it? Please send the recipes to me at [Twopenns@aol.com](mailto:Twopenns@aol.com). Many thanks!



## Guelaguetza Austin 2024

As some of you may remember, this year the Ballet Folklorico de Austin honored me as the honorary Corn Goddess at Guelaguetza Austin 2024.



Last month, as I was researching available folk art for sale, I ran across a marvelous clay figure "making a corn offering". Of course, I had to buy the piece!



## Until Next Month

I feel sorry that so much of the newsletters are about me and what is happening in my life. The newsletter would be much more interesting if some of you would share short stories that I can add to the newsletter about your favorite folk art items in your collection or that you hope to have some day. Perhaps you could tell us about your favorite artisan or what lead you to appreciate folk art. Give it some thought, I would appreciate help in making the newsletter about all of us.

I am hoping that next month I will receive more information about upcoming events to share with you. Until then, stay warm.

Gloria Mata Pennington, Editor



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