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La Prensa Texas

This grass roots publication is the life source for a community that is not easily afforded viable access to diverse and accessible media. San Antonio and the surrounding counties have become accustomed to relevant news brought to them in both English and Spanish since 1913.

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Let's Talk About It Machismo

By Yvette Tello

Machismo -. an exaggerated sense of manliness. Today, many Latino households are redefining what it means to be a man. Men are encouraged to be sensitive, empathetic, and emotionally expressive. They are learning to share responsibilities within their families and relationships, fostering healthier dynamics and more meaningful connections. In a Latino household in the past, there was no other way that was acceptable. Machismoism seems to be a thing of the past. Do you think that is a good thing it's in the past or do you think we could all use a little more of it in our lives? Let's talk about it...

Orlando Barrios: “Machismo is, of course, a cultural phenomenon: the local flavor of Patriarchy. And I would say that yes, it's easier to find among poorer people, at least in my experience. However, I would say that poverty is not the cause of Machismo, but one of the factors that perpetuate it, the same way it perpetuates large families, or alcoholism, or any other social disease. Better standards of living and access to better education will surely help us to get rid of this worthless heritage.”

Alejandra Muñoz Cravioto: “While I haven't encountered anyone saying that ever, I think that the reason why one would believe that is because, overall, women in the USA complain more. That is, they don't see “machismo” as part of their day to day life, so when they encounter a chauvinistic attitude or sexism, they're going to notice it. By contrast, women in Latin America (though by no means all of them) are used to certain actions and attitudes that would be considered sexist in the USA, so they don't really sweat those attitudes and don't bring them up as a form of discrimination. Thus, giving the appearance that there's more sexism/machismo in the USA.”

Tony DeAnda: “I think everyone is different. Every relationship is different. Some women like a man like that and some don't. I am definitely not Machismo but I do think some women like a man like that.”

Paul Budak: “Nice guys still finish last. However a man that is confident and kind but assertive wins out. Jerks win to a point but lose in the end.”

Jazmin D Zuñiga: “Past???? It's still here!”

Stacie Jo Reyes: “Ok. I still want a man that kills bugs, fixes cars, can run a fence line, build stuff, and takes out the trash. I don't want a man that tells me I can or can't do something, you can't eat that, you can't say/act a certain way.”

Michael Momo Chazz Martinez: “Non-Toxic Machismo...absolutely.”

Ian Ybanez: “The system wants us to be weak.”

Johnny Graterol Guevara: “The root cause is the deeply homophobic and conservative nature of Latin American culture. I can't speak for other countries in the region, but in the case of Venezuela, at least, the upbringing of a child is very much determined by the expectations and phrases such as:

¿Y como están las novias? ("How are the girlfriends?" like in plural. A boy is always expected to have not one, but several girlfriends, as to demonstrate his manliness and prowess) ¿Y cuando te casas? ("So, when are you going to get married?" If you remain single for a significant amount of time, people begin to question your sanity)

¿Será que es marico? ("Perhaps he is a queer?" Said of every Venezuelan male that remains single after thirty)

As to whether this is influenced somehow by economic factors, in my experience I can tell it doesn't matter: Both wealthy and not wealthy strata of Latin Americans (Venezuelans) seem to share the same amount of machista, misogynist and homophobic attitudes.”

Sarah Grandstaff: “I found your question because I was searching for answers about my father-in-law. He's not poor, in fact the family is wealthy and has been for generations. He's very well educated with a masters' degree from an ivy league school. We (my family) don't live in Mexico but he still tries to control every decision we make and all of our vacation time. We're financially independent but my husband still feels a strong pull to obey his parents (really, his father), because of his “training”. While my father in law is not physically abusive, he is most definitely emotionally abusive and must be obeyed. It's actually funny to watch his adult children agree with every word he says when

we're together. Sometimes one of the spouses forgets the dynamic temporarily and treats the dinner discussion as an actual debate. This person is verbally eviscerated in front of the entire group and forced to apologize for confronting their father in law with facts. It would be funny if it hadn't done so much damage to my husband's sense of self. And I'm an absolute nervous wreck when we have to be around him because he has disdain for both women and Americans in general, so I'm usually a target. This is anecdotal and it's entirely possible that he's just a random malignant narcissist, but I think Mexico's patriarchal society had a hand in creating the monster.”

Joseph Panzarella: “Machismo is, historically, a vicious circle. A mother with young children showers affection on her sons. Not as much on her daughters because they will one day marry away from the family. Therefore, they are less important to her future. The life of a young Mexican wife is dominated by two people: her husband and her mother-in-law. They essentially band together for the purpose of making her life miserable. She dares not complain to her husband about her mother-in-law's interference. He will respond “No te metas con mi mamá!” “Leave my mother alone!” The husband does what he wants. Has as many women as he wants. Drinks whatever he wants. Ignores the family for extended periods of time. And resorts to physical violence if his wife has the nerve to protest. She also makes sure that her young sons witness her misery and take her side. After all, these boys are her future. One day she will be that domineering mother-in-law. And so it happens. The sons grow up. They marry. They treat their wives as miserably as they witnessed their father treat their mother. And their mother becomes that all-powerful mother-in-law, never to be contradicted. And the old father? “Get lost old man! You're not wanted around the house. Go to the cantina, hang out with your cronies and drink all you want.” And he does. Down through the generations. But, there's good news. This way of life still exists but primarily in rural areas. In the cities, where most people live, machismo as a way of life is considered outdated. The trend is irreversible, especially among the young and the growing Middle Class. But for poor, small-town folks, it's going to hang on for a while yet.”

About the Cover Artist: Larry Portillo

By Ricardo Romo, Ph.D

Larry Portillo grew up in New Mexico and moved to San Antonio in the late 1990s. As a young child, his attraction to artistic creations led him to teach himself to paint. Portillo spent his teens and young adult years learning new artistic techniques and original approaches to drawing and painting. His first major art break came in 1991 when Leo Tanguma, a Colorado artist, hired him to assist in painting a mural in the New Mexico Art Museum in Santa Fe. The mural project gave Portillo added confidence in his artistic ability, and he

learned from Tanguma, a seasoned muralist, how to paint larger-than-life portraits.

Over the next five years, Portillo accepted invitations to exhibit in numerous El Paso art galleries. In the mid-1990s he earned a commission to paint a mural in his hometown's San Luis Church in Chamberino, New Mexico. At the end of 1997, Portillo and his wife Maria Elena decided to move to San Antonio, a larger city that offered expanded art opportunities. In San Antonio, he had the good fortune of meeting Joe Lopez, a highly accomplished artist and owner

of Gallista Gallery. Lopez recognized Portillo's talents and gave the emerging artist his first solo exhibit.

Art collectors are drawn to Portillo's work because of his excellent layering of basic colors. His paintings glow with reds, blues, and yellows. His paintings are all the more remarkable because he is largely self-taught. It is obvious though that he has studied great paintings. Portillo acknowledges that few artists have inspired him more than Vincent Van Gogh.

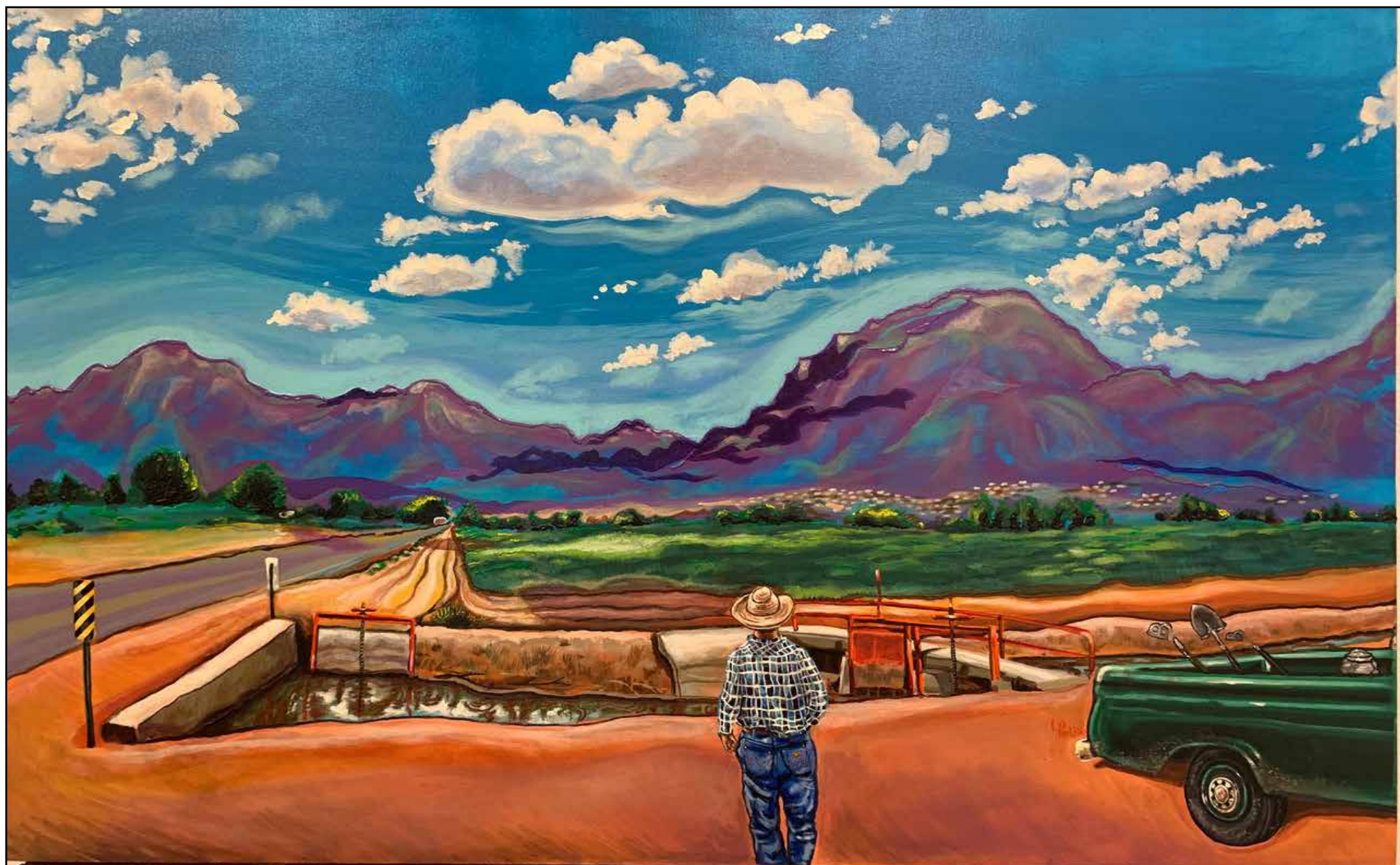
In several of his works, Portillo has painted a Southwestern version of what could be con-

sidered the famed sky of Van Gogh's stunning "Starry Night." Portillo often applies thick swirls or layers of paint similar to Van Gogh. The painting "Los Flying Tacos" includes a truck the color of a bright green nopal parked under a brilliant blue starry sky.

St. Philip's College has selected Larry Portillo as the artist to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with a solo exhibition of his work opening on Diez Seis de Septiembre [September 16] celebration. A painting not to miss at St. Philip's College Hispanic Month exhibit is his vibrant San Antonio "River-

walk" where the reds of the restaurant buildings and sidewalk umbrellas appear adjacent to a majestic blue river. In his Riverwalk painting, Portillo creates a grey-blue sky with no stars, but he manages to add several tall trees that have twisted branches similar to Van Gogh's cypress paintings.

Portillo is a highly talented artist with creative ideas and a Texas-size imagination. His paintings in the St. Philip's exhibit celebrate the many sparkling sites of San Antonio and capture the culture of the US-Mexico Borderlands.



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La Prensa Texas

Gala

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Time: 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

La Canterra Ballroom

SUNDAY

17

Noon - 4 pm



Jovita Idar Family Day

Día de las familias por Jovita Idar

Join us for a Fiestas Patrias celebration for the new Jovita Idar quarter at Market Square! Kids of all ages can enjoy activities hosted by the Smithsonian inside Centro de Artes. Enjoy a dance inspired by Jovita Idar's life by the Guadalupe Dance Company on the outdoor stage.

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Tax Assessor-Collector Albert Uresti Announces Bexar County Residents Have Only A Few More Weeks To Apply For HAF Assistance

By
Lisa Anderson

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) is planning to shut down the Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) Grant Program in about two to four weeks. Tax Assessor-Collector Albert Uresti is urging Bexar County homeowners affected by COVID after January 21, 2020 who need assistance paying their delinquent property taxes, delinquent mortgages, and delinquent utility bills to apply online as soon as possible.

"We do not know how much longer funds for the HAF program will be available, so we are encouraging citizens affected by COVID to submit their application as soon as possible. These are grants, not loans, and do NOT have to be paid back!" said Albert Uresti, Bexar County Tax Assessor-Collector.

Homeowners wanting to apply are required to submit their application through the online portal at www.TexasHomeownerAssistance.com. We can also help you apply at our downtown Tax Office from 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Tuesday thru Friday. After the portal is shut down, TDHCA will no longer be accepting applications for assistance. You can call 833-651-3874 or our office for more information.

"I want to continue to urge homeowners to apply for this once in a lifetime federal assistance opportunity for residential homesteads. The Program provides a maximum of \$65,000 per eligible household. The entire amount can be used for delinquent property taxes or delinquent mortgages, including up to \$10,000 for utility assistance.

Bexar County's "Operation Home Rescue – Tax Assessor Style (OHR)", which incorporated the Texas Homeowners Assistance Fund (HAF) into the Tax Assessor-Collector's daily operations, has led the way in promoting and helping procure over \$70 million in HAF assistance for over 7,000 Bexar County households.

"We are proud to be #1 in property tax assistance with over \$19,600,000 received through the HAF grant program. We are also #2 in the State in total funds received and are the only Tax Assessor-Collector's office, out of 254 Counties, that is providing this extra service to our citizens. The HAF program has been a vital part of the Tax-Assessor's mission, 'To Help Keep Families In Their Homes,'" said Albert Uresti, Tax Assessor-Collector.

SUPPORTING MILITARY PARENTS PURSUING EDUCATION UNITED WAY CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS



United Way's Child Care Scholarships cover the majority of costs for quality child care* for military spouses seeking a degree or job training. By providing access to affordable child care, parents are able to further their education and provide a stronger foundation for their family. These scholarships are available for child care centers on and off-base.

Are you:

- A resident of the greater **San Antonio** area?
- The **spouse** of an active duty, guard or reserve military member?
- Enrolled in **college full-time** pursuing an associate or bachelor's degree?
- Enrolled in **college part-time** with a **part-time job**?
- Enrolled in a **job training program**?

Then you may be eligible for a United Way Child Care Scholarship!

Applications for Spring 2024 are now open.

The deadline for Spring 2024 scholarships is October 15, 2023.

*Costs and average vary by age of children and accreditation level of center.

For full eligibility requirements and to apply, visit:
uwsatx.org/child-care-scholarships



Carden International Circus

By Ramon Chapa, Jr.

La Prensa Texas had the honor of attending the sold out Carden Circus at the Freeman Coliseum. The circus show featured clowns, elephants, camels, fire juggling and acrobatics. The smiles on the children and the adults tell the story!



Playball Categoría Abierta Franco La Prensa Texas 2023

Por Sendero Deportivo

Con la participación de diez equipos arranco con éxito la temporada Invernal en Liga Abierta dominical en el estadio Potranco Baseball Field.

El presidente Simón Sánchez y el artista Eloy Rocha dueño del complejo deportivo y social, dieron la bienvenida a los aficionados y jugadores.

Así cómo el nombramiento del padrino de temporada el periodista deportivo Franco. Quién decidió antes de lanzar

la primera bola. La temporada Invernal fuera nombrada "Franco La Prensa Texas 2023".

Franco tuvo en la receptoría al bateador Eloy Rocha, el catcher Jonathan Alvarado del subcampeón Texas Jay's y al ampayer Enrique Torres.

Franco cumplió con la segunda invitación para lanzar la primera bola, ya qué cuándo el presidente Simón Sánchez sé lo propuso. El por estar en recuperación de

dos grandes operaciones y malestar del brazo derecho no pudo cumplir. Ahora no bien recuperando optó por hacer realidad ésa distinguida invitación. Recordando a su jefe Tino Durán (dueño de La Prensa de San Antonio), quién siempre en eventos similares dijo "Homenajes en Vida".

Sánchez, dijo lo siguiente durante la ceremonia. "Honramos al amigo Franco y La Prensa Texas. Por su trayectoria cubriendo deportes en San Antonio".

Resultados categoría Abierta: Bobcats del buen amigo John Guzmán retorno a Potranco ganando su mañanero partido ante el duro rival Águilas de Veracruz y su lanzador estelar Juan Serrano 8-1. Art Brown Jr., ganó y salvamento de Mike Salazar. Mejores bates. Josiah Carraman de 3-4. Peewee Barrientez 2-3.

Rieleros de JP Reza con pitcheo de Justin De Los Santos derrotó 11-4 a Pericos y su as del pitcheo Kevin García.

Maceteros de Edwin Ortiz Jr, apalearon 17-2 a Tomateros. Texas Jay's de John Alvarado ganó 7-2 a Jalisco dirigidos por Gerardo Rodríguez y el coach Alan Serna.

El campeón de Campeones Cardenales de Nacho García derrotó a 9-8 a Piratas de Sabinas dirigidos por el multiple campeón Sergio De Luna y el coach Iván.

Los equipos participantes en categoría Abierta son: Bobcats, Maceteros. Texas Jay's, Piratas. Rieleros, Pericos. Águilas de Veracruz, Tomateros, Jalisco y Cardenales.

Suerte y buena disciplina deportiva.

En categoría Masters 50+ segundo partido de la serie final de campeonato en el líder Broncos de Reynosa SA y Yankees SA, sé empató 1-1.

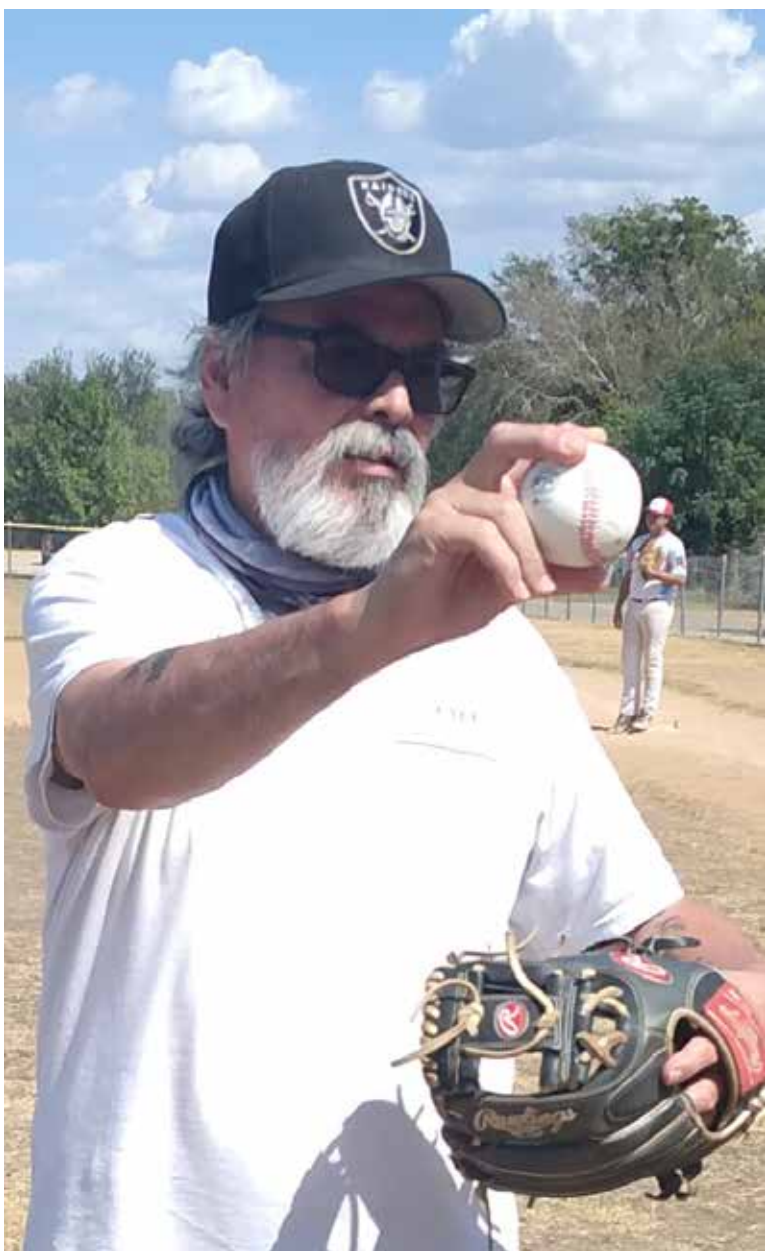
Forzando al tercer partido a jugarse éste domingo 17 de septiembre en el campo 2 de Potranco Baseball Field en el horario de las 10:30am. Masters qué preside Mister Sánchez, con apoyó del scout Frank Torres y Linda Garza, al final del partido estará presentando trofeos de temporada y del playoff.

Yankees dirigidos por Luis Velázquez y sus coaches Roberto Cervantes y Patricio Hernández, estarán com-

pitando en sus respectivas estrategias ante los expertos directivos de Broncos Jaime Guerrero manager y el legendario coach Tomás Muñoz.

Yankees igualó la serie con pizarra de 15-2 carreras, con triunfo en la lomita para Juan Martínez y derrota para Jorge Morales quién tuvo relevó del boricua Israel González.

En las fotos aparecen Franco, haciendo el primer lanzamiento. Eloy Rocha al bate, Joshua Alvarado en la receptoría y el ampayer Enrique Torres, contando el "perfecto strike". Un agradecimiento al pitcher Josh Gill, quién capto ambas fotografías en el cellphone de Franco.



Joe and Carmen Gamez: Champions of Justice and Community, Honored at the La Prensa Texas Award Gala

By LPT Staff

In the heart of San Antonio, a legal legacy was born in 1979, and today, the Joe A. Gamez Law Firm stands as a beacon of justice, compassion, and community support. Founded by Joe A. Gamez, a native son of the west side of San Antonio, this firm has evolved from a one-person practice to a powerhouse with eight dedicated attorneys operating in six Texas locations. As Mr. Gamez celebrates his remarkable 50-year career in 2023, his commitment to serving his community remains as unwavering as ever.

Born and raised on the west side, Mr. Gamez's journey from Sydney Lanier High School to St. Mary's University of San Antonio's law school laid the foundation for his remarkable career. But what truly sets him apart is his deep-seated commitment to his community. Throughout his career, Mr. Gamez has served on numerous community boards, embodying the spirit of altruism and advocacy.

The Joe A. Gamez Law Firm specializes in personal injury law, championing the rights of those affected by catastrophic accidents, particularly vehicle accidents. What makes this firm unique is its personal connection to the struggles clients face. Mr. Gamez's own family endured a traumatic motor vehicle accident, providing firsthand insight into the challenges of navigating insurance claims. This experience has shaped the firm's ethos: "At our firm, you are the priority. We strive to protect others who have needed help in this difficult situation."

Yet, Gamez Law is more than just a legal practice. It's a force for good in the community, disbursing \$500,000 to nonprofits in 2022. Mr. Gamez's commitment to education is particularly noteworthy, with scholarships for law students, high school scholars, and funding for music education. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the firm participated in food drives, and their yearly turkey drive ensures hundreds of families enjoy

Thanksgiving. Their support extends to nonprofits assisting families with special needs children, renovating churches, preventing abortions, and making inclusive parks a reality.

In every endeavor, the Joe A. Gamez Law Firm underscores its commitment to justice and community support. Their legacy is one of compassion, dedication, and an unwavering belief that the law can be a force for positive change.

La Prensa Texas Award Gala: Honoring Joe and Carmen Gamez with La Gente Award

On the evening of September 20, 2023, at the luxurious Marriott Airport Hotel in San Antonio, the La Prensa Texas Award Gala will be an event to remember. This prestigious occasion will celebrate and honor individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the community.

The Gala will shine a spotlight on Joe Gamez and his wife, who will be presented with the "La Gente Award." This award acknowledges their outstanding contributions to the community and their tireless efforts in championing the rights and well-being of the people of San Antonio. Together, they have exemplified the true spirit of "La Gente," the people.

A Legacy of Excellence: Joe A. Gamez's 50-Year Journey

Joe A. Gamez's journey to becoming a prominent figure in the legal world is nothing short of inspiring. Born and raised on the west side of San Antonio, he attended Sydney Lanier High School. During his formative years, he worked at the Coca-Cola bottling company during the summers and engaged in door-to-door sales for his grandmother's homemade pralines. These early experiences instilled in him the values of hard work, resilience, and community engagement.

After graduating from high school, Mr. Gamez pursued higher education at San Antonio College before transferring to the University of Texas at Austin. In 1973, he

achieved his dream of becoming a lawyer when he obtained his law degree from St. Mary's University of San Antonio. Little did he know that this was just the beginning of a remarkable journey.

Throughout his career, Mr. Gamez's unwavering commitment to his community remained a constant. His dedication was not limited to the courtroom; it extended to various boards and organizations within the community. His passion for helping others and fighting for those who couldn't advocate for themselves became the defining purpose of his law firm.

More Than a Law Firm: The Heart of Gamez Law

The Joe A. Gamez Law Firm specializes in personal injury law, providing a voice for individuals and families grappling with the aftermath of catastrophic accidents, particularly vehicle accidents. What sets this firm apart is its personal connection to the struggles clients face. Several years ago, Mr. Gamez's wife and daughter experienced a harrowing motor vehicle accident, thrusting his own family into the complex process of filing a claim with the insurance company.

This firsthand experience profoundly impacted Mr. Gamez and the entire law firm, shaping their approach to handling cases. "We understand how difficult the aftermath of a motor vehicle accident is because we have been through it ourselves," Joe A. Gamez shares. "We also know how important it is to have someone in your corner when the insurance companies aren't looking out for your best interests. At our firm, you are the priority. We strive to protect others who have needed help in this difficult situation."

Beyond the courtroom, the Joe A. Gamez Law Firm has become a pillar of support for the San Antonio community. In 2022 alone, they disbursed \$500,000 to various nonprofit organizations, making a tangible difference in countless lives.

Education as a Cornerstone of Community Upliftment



Education is one of Mr. Gamez's most significant community outreach efforts. The law firm has established a scholarship fund with the St. Mary's University School of Law, providing a full scholarship for a law student from the west side of San Antonio. This commitment to education extends further through partnerships with organizations like the SAISD Foundation, which awards scholarships to college-bound high school students from the west side of San Antonio.

In addition, the Gamez family has provided approximately \$75,000.00 in support to Lanier High School students and other students within Bexar County, Texas. Their dedication to educational initiatives doesn't stop there; they provided \$50,000 to the Rey Feo Foundation, offering high school students scholarships throughout San Antonio.

One particularly noteworthy project is their support for the Network for Young Artists, which enables children from families who cannot otherwise afford musical lessons to obtain music, voice, and instrumental training. Joseph B. Gamez, the Firm Manager, stated, "We are researching our efforts to extend scholarships to other minority schools within

other school districts in the San Antonio community." Gamez Law Firm's legacy is one of education, empowerment, and opportunity.

Community Support Beyond Expectations

During the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Joe A. Gamez Law Firm stepped up to the plate. They actively participated in food drives to support the San Antonio community, demonstrating their commitment to those in need. Their yearly turkey drive ensures that 500 families in San Antonio can enjoy a Thanksgiving. Their support extends to nonprofits assisting families with special needs children, renovating churches, preventing abortions, and making inclusive parks a reality.

In every endeavor, the Joe A. Gamez Law Firm underscores its commitment to justice and community support. Their legacy is one of compassion, dedication, and an unwavering belief that the law can be a force for positive change. As they are honored with the prestigious La Prensa Texas "La Gente Award" at the award gala on September 20, 2023, it's clear that Gamez Law is not just a legal institution; it's a symbol of hope and support for San Antonio, forever etching their place as "The Pride of the West Side."

Dr. William Elizondo Honored with La Prensa Texas Lifetime Achievement Award

By LPT Staff

On September 20, 2023, at the Marriott Airport Hotel at 6 PM, La Prensa Texas will proudly bestow the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award upon their distinguished board member, Dr. William Elizondo. This grand occasion marks a profound recognition of Dr. Elizondo's unparalleled lifetime of accomplishments, remarkable leadership, and unwavering dedication to both the field of optometry and the greater community of San Antonio.

With a legacy of service that has touched countless lives and left an enduring impact, Dr. Elizondo has exemplified the essence of a true community leader. His remarkable journey is characterized by a tireless commitment to positive change and philanthropy and has shaped the course of our local community and inspired generations. La Prensa Texas is privileged to honor Dr. Elizondo's extraordinary contributions with the Lifetime Achievement Award, celebrating a lifetime filled with compassion, leadership, and enduring impact. This gala promises to be an unforgettable evening, recognizing the indelible mark Dr. Elizondo has left on our community and his invaluable role in shaping a brighter future for all.

Dr. William Elizondo was born to Joe and Helen Elizondo and grew up in San Antonio, Texas. His journey through life has been marked by hard work, dedication, and a relentless commitment to public service. From his early years working at his family's grocery store to his distinguished military service and his numerous contributions to civil rights and education, Dr. Elizondo's life story is one of resilience and unwavering commitment.

Early Life and Work Ethic

From a very young age, Dr. Elizondo was no stranger to hard work. He began selling and stocking groceries at his family's store when he was just six years old. By the time he was eleven, he was working as a bicycle delivery boy and later as a busboy at the St. Anthony Hotel. During his high school years at Brackenridge High School, Dr. Elizondo continued to work part-time, dispensing sodas at Sommers Drug Store, demonstrating his strong work ethic and commitment to self-reliance.



Military Service and Korean War

Upon graduating from high school in 1948, Dr. Elizondo, along with his childhood friends Rudy Granados and Rudy Castillo, joined the United States Marine Corps (USMC-V) for one year. His journey in the Marines was challenging, including rigorous training at Camp Pendleton, California, before being assigned to the First Marine Division as part of a Replacement Draft in March 1951 during the Korean War. The division was involved in fierce battles against North Korean and Chinese forces in central Korea around Hoang Son and Wonju. The harsh conditions of the Korean winter, with temperatures plummeting to 20° and 30° below zero, took a toll on Dr. Elizondo and his fellow Marines. Despite the challenges, they persevered, and Dr. Elizondo's leadership as a Sergeant played a crucial role in their fight.

Throughout his service, Dr. Elizondo and his comrades upheld the Marine Corps tradition of not firing at night unless they saw the "whites of their eyes," demonstrating their dedication to tactical discipline and strategic awareness. Dr. Elizondo served under the leadership of General Lewis "Chesty" Puller, one of the most decorated Marines in history.

After being Honorably Discharged from the USMC, Dr. Elizondo and his fellow Marines received recognition in the form of the Presidential Unit Citation and Korean War Combat Medal for their valor and service during the Korean War.

Education and Civil Rights Advocacy

Returning to civilian life after his military service, Dr. Elizondo

resumed his studies in college while working part-time at the U.S. Post Office. His determination to continue his education led him to graduate in 1959 with an Optometry Doctor degree from the Southern California College of Optometry. He graduated with honors (Cum Laude) and passed the California State Board of Optometry and the Texas Optometry Board.

Dr. Elizondo's dedication to public service extended to his community involvement and advocacy for civil rights. In 1956, he actively volunteered in empowering Hispanics by helping to elect prominent figures like Henry B. Gonzalez as State Senator, Albert Pena as County Commissioner, and Albert Trevino as Justice of the Peace of Bexar County. These efforts marked a historic moment as Mexican Americans were elected countywide for the first time.

His involvement in LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) led to numerous accomplishments, including securing a U.S. Presidential Cabinet member, Secretary of Labor Arthur Goldberg, for the Installation of Officers. Dr. Elizondo also played a crucial role in reorganizing the LULAC Council #2 "Feria De Las Flores" Scholarship Fund into a Corporation. He actively promoted anti-poll tax drives, get-out-the-vote rallies, and anti-tuberculosis campaigns. His advocacy even led to changes in the hiring and promotion practices of Mexican Americans in the San Antonio Police Department.

Changing the Face of Law Enforcement

In the early 1960s, Dr. Elizondo lobbied the City Public Service Board and San Antonio City Council to relax entrance requirements for cadets entering the police department,



particularly challenging the height requirement of 5 feet 10 inches. His efforts resulted in the recruitment and appointment of Mexican American officers, many of whom went on to seek elected public office or hold other law enforcement positions in Bexar County and beyond. Some even became sheriffs, such as Joe Neaves, Ralph Lopez, Roland Tafolla, Armadeo Ortiz, and, in January 2017, Javier Salazar.

Dr. Elizondo's commitment to diversifying law enforcement extended to the national level when he was appointed as the Chairman of Minority Recruitment for the American Optometric Association in 1960. His involvement in the political arena also led to the election of the first Mexican American State Representatives from Bexar County, John C. Alaniz and Rudy Esquivel, in 1960 and 1961.

National and International Advocacy

Dr. Elizondo's advocacy efforts reached the highest levels of government. In 1961, he wrote a letter to President John F. Kennedy, recommending the development of a Cabinet position called HUD (Housing and Urban Development), which later came into existence in 1965.

One of the most significant milestones in Dr. Elizondo's advocacy journey occurred on November 21, 1963, when he met with President John F. Kennedy and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson at the Rice Hotel in Houston, Texas. This historic meeting marked the first time a sitting U.S. President met with a National Hispanic Organization. Dr. Elizondo used this opportunity to discuss important national issues, including the appointment of a Mexican American to the Cabinet and anti-poll tax efforts in Texas.

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Dr. Elizondo continued to be at the forefront of civil rights and community activism. He played an instrumental role in changing hiring and promotion practices for Mexican Americans in various sectors and government agencies, including the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Fourth Court of Appeals in Texas.

Educational Advocacy and Leadership

In 1974, Dr. Elizondo made a significant shift to education and public service when he ran as an independent candidate and was elected to the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) Board of Trustees. During his tenure as a trustee, he achieved remarkable accomplishments. He introduced and obtained a policy for "Quality Education for Students" and initiated various educational programs, including the Multilingual School, Pre-Engineering Program, and Full-Day Kindergarten. Dr. Elizondo also banned the use of tobacco in schools, started the Career Center/Museum, and established a 5-year and later a 10-year Education Goals Plan.

One of his most outstanding achievements during his SAISD presidency was a drastic improvement in student Math and Reading scores across all grade levels, bringing them up by one to two years, in a period when national educational standards were on the decline.

Legacy and Recognition

Dr. Elizondo's lifetime of dedication to his community and advocacy for civil rights did not go unnoticed. Throughout the years, he received numerous awards and recognitions, including the prestigious Dr. Bill Pittman Award at the 100th Anniversary of the Texas Optometric Association Convention in 2000.

Latino Artists Featured in San Antonio's FotoSeptiembre Festival



Francisco Cortes. *Cassiano Homes Series*. Photo courtesy of the artist.

By Dr. Ricardo Romo

Michael Mehl, the founder and director of the photography festival FOTOSEPTIEMBRE-SAFOTO, describes himself as a composer, musician, photographer, digital artist, and writer. For the past two decades, Mehl has been producing, curating, and promoting many artists, especially those who work in photography. I relied on him this year to assist me in featuring the work of three artists participating in the 2023 FotoSeptiembre exhibitions. Guillermina Zabala also assisted me in identifying a photographer, San Antonio artist Francisco Cortes. The four photographers I feature in this essay include Carlos Limas, Anthony Garcia, Jorge Sandoval, and Francisco Cortes.

The first, Carlos Limas grew up in the small border town of Rio Bravo in the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico. At age 15 he left with his

brother to continue his education at a preparatory school in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. Like many teens of his generation, he did not have a career path planned. Consequently, he took courses in the sciences and in journalism before finding his vocation in graphic design. He earned a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Graphic Design from the Instituto Profesional de Arte y Diseño, Monterrey, México. He earned a second BA in the studio art program at the prestigious l'Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts, in Bruxelles, Belgium.

After a short residency in Milan, Italy, Limas returned to Monterrey, Mexico where he dedicated his creative energy to directing a cultural arts program. After six years of successful events and productions, a newly elected government administration terminated his art program. In 2013, he left Monterrey to enroll in the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program at the University of Texas Rio

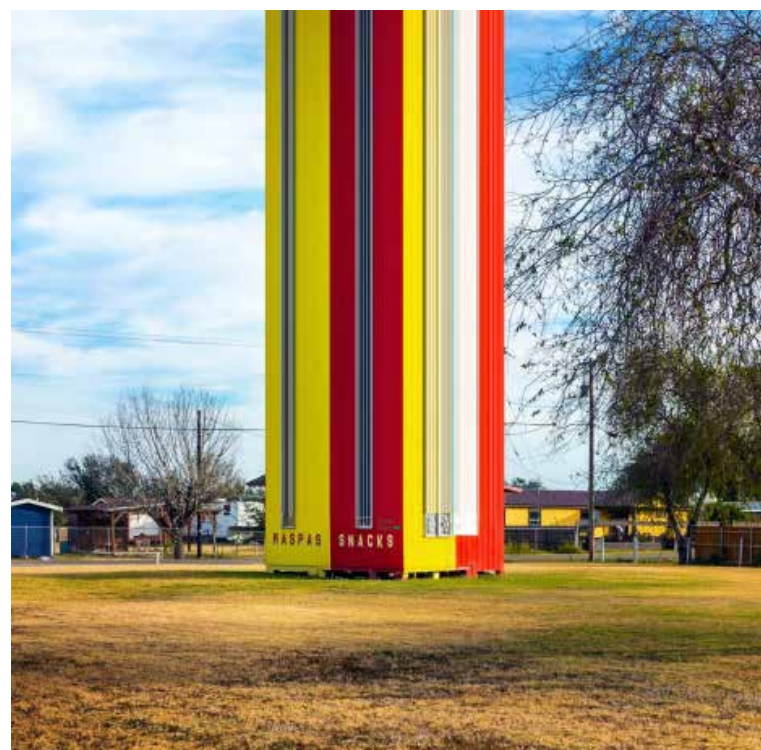
Grande Valley (UTRGV), Edinburg, TX. Following the completion of his MFA degree, Limas began teaching digital and analog photography at UTRGV and South Texas College. He currently serves as the Program Coordinator for the UTRGV Center for Latin American Arts covering events in México, South America, and the US. As a multidisciplinary artist, Limas works in painting, video installation, photography, and graphic design.

His series of photographs of abandoned buildings and homes came about after Limas traveled several years through the Rio Grande Valley in search of worthy subjects. The images Limas wanted seemed so difficult to find. One day he decided "to step back and simply contemplate" what he called the "invisible landscapes." Soon he saw something of importance: abandoned homes and old structures on the side of the road. This single revelation, he wrote, "made a very strong connection to my past and present. I understood how complex the paradox of time can be."

Lima's "Intangible" photographic series are striking "digitally manipulated images of people and places, displaying patterns of lines that extend in different directions, transcending beyond the constraints of the picture frame." He utilized several color palettes, "ranging from vivid and saturated colors to more neutral, almost monochromatic tones." His images for FOTOSEPTIEMBRE can be found online at FOTOSEPTIEMBRE 2023 Online Gallery : Carlos Limas : Intangible.

The second photographer, Anthony Garcia, grew up in San Antonio and worked as a driver for UPS from 1989 to 2022. Garcia always had a passion for rock music, and he formed a band while in high school. While holding a full-time job with UPS, Garcia played bass guitar with his band on the weekends and attended concerts and music venues whenever he did not have his own gigs.

Garcia told Sanford Nowlin of the San Antonio Current that although he always had a passion for photography, it remained a pastime until 2016 when he became the in-house photographer at The Brick at Blue Star. His interactions with many



Carlos Limas, "Intangible" series. Photo courtesy of the artist.



Carlos Limas, "Intangible" series. Photo courtesy of the artist.

artists led him to open his own photo studio at Blue Star. He also founded an online radio station, KPSA. The SA Current noted that Garcia joined in this new media endeavor with his cousin Johnny Carrera. He would broadcast from the studio as well as use the station to record videos of local artists.

In his artist statement, Garcia explained his photographic approach: "By playing with the balance of light and shade, I seek to capture that which dwells beneath the surface." Garcia refers to his new work as a "Rock and Roll" aesthetic with dark tonalities, "such as portraying women in



Jorge Sandoval. Cesar Chavez March. Photo courtesy of the artist.



Anthony Garcia. "I am Queen." Photo courtesy of the artist.

power poses instead of a diminutive demeanor." His goal is to take the viewer "on a personal reflection journey, and tell a story that takes them to another place."

Garcia is fascinated with the early Italian paintings that art historians described as Chiaroscuro, an Italian word meaning "light-dark." In photography, the term represents the use of light and dark elements to create a

sense of volume and depth. Garcia's images have that light and dark quality. He currently has numerous works on exhibit around San Antonio, including a public art installation at the San Antonio Airport and the 2023 FOTOSEPTIEMBRE exhibit at the Ridge at the Hill.

The third photographer, Jorge Sandoval loves the arts. Over a forty-year career, has embraced theatre perfor-

mance, small acting roles, and more recently, documenting his Latino and Mexican culture. Sandoval grew up on San Luis Street in San Antonio's Westside near Lanier High School. His street is well known to poetry lovers for its molino, a small business that Carmen Tafolla praised for its delicious corn tortillas.

After graduating from Lanier High School in the early 1970s, Sandoval relocated to California and joined the Chicano Teatro movement in the San Francisco Bay Area. A member of the famed Teatro Campesino, Sandoval traveled throughout California and beyond carrying the message of Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta that farmworkers should earn decent wages, enjoy safe working conditions, and be treated fairly in labor negotiations.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Sandoval traveled extensively to Mexico, Central and South America, and Asia. Initially, he traveled for adventure and to learn about other societies. In 2000, he decided to carry a camera with him. His photos at the Centro Cultural Aztlan are a representation of his travels to Mexico, Peru, Cuba, and Malaysia. He also devoted time to documenting the Chicano murals at the San Antonio Cassiano Homes. Nearly 100 photos were selected by Centro Cultural Aztlan curators Malena Gonzalez-Cid [Centro Director] and Ruth Guajardo for Sandoval's FotoSeptiembre exhibit.

Perhaps the largest exhibit in this year's

FotoSeptiembre is at the Centro de Artes in San Antonio's Mercado. A three-year curation project featuring nearly 20 photographers organized by Guillermina Zabala challenges viewers to see the "connection of common themes and narratives that go beyond borders." The only San Antonio-based photographer in the exhibit is Francisco Cortes. [He is also the only photographer from the University of Texas Austin].

Cortes was born in Southern Mexico in a rural community between Oaxaca and Veracruz. Cortes came to San Antonio at an early age when his family immigrated to the United States. The Cortes family lived in the

Southside, and he left briefly [2001-2005] to attend UT Austin where he majored in Chicano Studies and Photojournalism. He spent a Study Abroad summer at the Universidade Federal do Bahia, Salvador do Bahia, Brazil in 2004. Cortes describes his principal photographic method as addressing "his images with a minimalist approach, accen-



Francisco Cortes. Cassiano Homes Series. Photo courtesy of the artist.



Jorge Sandoval. Havana, Cuba. Photo courtesy of the artist.



Anthony Garcia. "I see you." Photo courtesy of the artist.

tuating but not manipulating truths."

Cortes' photos of the Cassiano Housing Project are engrossing. My cousin Arnold Romo worked at the Cassiano Homes for 25 years as the maintenance supervisor, and he encouraged me in 1983 to visit and photograph the community artists hired to paint many of the murals. These muralists included Vicent Valdez and Rubio. I documented many of the 60-75 Chicano murals

for an exhibit at the Institute of Texan Cultures. Today, all of the murals are badly faded. Cortes uses the faded murals as a backdrop for images of residents and visitors to the small apartment Cassiano homes.

The photographs in this year's FotoSeptiembre are exceptional. I encourage art lovers to explore the exhibit venues on the FOTOSEPTIEMBRE-SAFOTO website as well at the San Antonio galleries.

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Budget Inequities Exploding at County

Hopes for Integrity, Transparency, & Equity Dashed by Backroom Cap

By Joshua Garcia

Recently some members of the Commissioners Court have called for budget parity and for the first time a cap on County Commissioners that has never existed.

Commissioner Clay-Flores stated the parity was good so that “one Commissioner didn’t run away with the budget process.”

An investigation of the Bexar County budget from 2017-2023 reveals, ironically, Precinct 1, under the leadership of both Commissioner Chico Rodriguez and Commissioner Rebeca Clay Flores, has received the lion’s share of County allocations for roads, drainage, and other infrastructure.

The sprawling Precinct 1 has the largest geographic territory and has been supported by the Commissioners Court as a whole.

But as other precincts face growth and challenges, a potential Court vote to limit budgetary needs on all precincts that are already getting less funding than Precinct 1, could have negative impacts on county services for the west, south, north, and eastern parts of Bexar County.

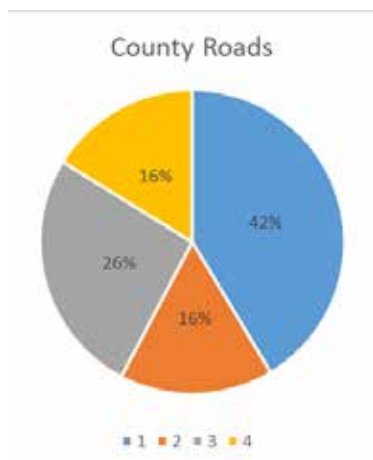
Bexar County’s budget has suffered from a lack of equity for many decades. Under the new County Judge, another impediment has occurred—a random cap of 10.5 million has been imposed without any transparent process.

From 2017 – 2023 the following shows the allocations and breakdowns that reflect neither parity nor equity in the categories of roads, flood control, parks, creeks, and trails.

ROAD breakdown from 2017-2023

Precinct 1: \$122,624,403.00
Precinct 2: \$48,401,740.00
Precinct 3: \$69,323,676.00

Precinct 4: \$47,935,348.00
The number of road miles the county maintains in each precinct is the following
Precinct 1: 754.3 miles
Precinct 2: 177.8 miles
Precinct 3: 317.4 miles
Precinct 4: 349.7 miles
FLOOD CONTROL ALLOCATIONS 2021-2022:
Precinct 1: \$62,798,800.00
Precinct 2: \$32,028,900.00



Precinct 3: \$8,435,000.00
Precinct 4: \$7,500,000.00
PARK ALLOCATIONS 2021-2022:
Precinct 1: \$14,991,980.00
Precinct 2: \$12,000,000.00
Precinct 3: \$16,425,000.00
Precinct 4: \$14,600,000.00
As a whole, Precinct 1 received:

- \$205 million more than Precinct 2
- \$171 million more than Precinct 3; and,
- \$158 million more than Precinct 4

As the County pie given out for capital infrastructure is divided, the County has given about \$1,064,000,000 in total. Precinct 1 has 38% of the budget of the pie, Precinct 2 has 18%, Precinct 3 has 21%, Precinct 4 receives 23%.

But some parts of the budget have more stark disparities like in flood control dollars. In parts of Bexar County that were starved for many genera-

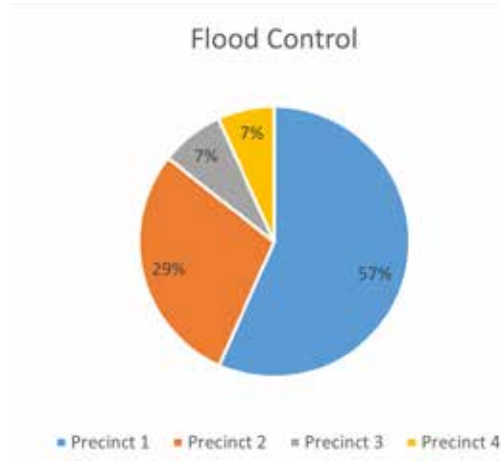
tions for people living on the west, south, and east sides, and while dollars made their way to some parts of the south and far west, the precinct breakdown does not demonstrate parity in county budgeting over the last five years and it is only going to get worse with a so-called “parity” budget.

“This random cap creates even more disparity and I never anticipated this would be proposed and I do not understand what the end game is other than to shackle me,” explained County Commissioner Tommy Calvert.

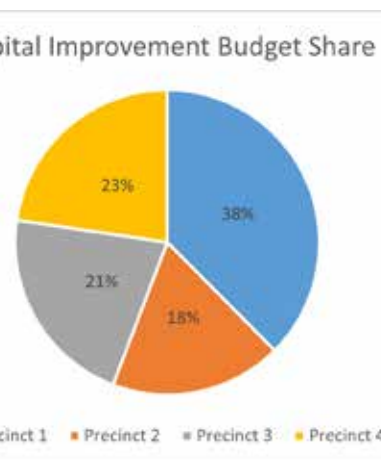
Calvert continued, “There is nothing broken in the manner by which I have championed causes that help us create jobs, reduce homelessness and blight, and save lives.

But all of these requests are on the chopping block if the Court does not approve the community organization’s requests. There will be a change order to include these non-profits presented on September 11, 2023.”

Commissioner Calvert represents downtown and the majority of non-profit organizations located in the center of the city, the Pearl, northeast Bexar County, and South Central and Southeast Bexar County.



He explained, “The constructive thing to do is to get these allocations into the departmental budgets and the county budget ahead of time so that we don’t reach a contentious budget process but the current budget process has been unnecessarily tense this year, and proposing a random budget cap has shed light on the enormity of the inequity ex-



perienced by the community countywide.”

In addition, the County staff is going to cost millions more in construction and labor costs by postponing the dollars needed to construct a new Advanced Manufacturing Training Center at Brooks until the 2025 budget.

The Manufacturing Association of San Antonio has lobbied and county staff have spent significant dollars on airplane and hotel tickets to other cities to research an advanced manufacturing training center at Brooks.

One of the major goals is to help Bexar County get a second Toyota manufacturing vehicle product line. The delay pushed by the County Manager’s office and the Facilities Department of Bexar

County could cost taxpayers upwards of 40 percent on materials costs and labor. We face inflation in construction causing estimates given today to be unusable if the project is not budgeted by the County until 2025.

“In the private sector, time is money. If we treated the public tax dollars the same way we treat private businesses, we would never put a much-needed manufacturing training center on the shelf for another year. I am calling for this budget to be better stewards of taxpayer dollars,” explained Commissioner Calvert, the senior member of the Bexar County Commissioners Court.

Many business leaders are worried that having the County manager postpone San Antonio’s manufacturing training center will practically mean that other cities with training centers will be able to market a pipeline of talent that San Antonio has to catch up to.

Commissioner Tommy Calvert is advocating that the center funding be in the budget now. However, the random cap imposed has put that job-creating center on the chopping block. “I will never stop advocating for what is right for the people of Bexar County. If people believe the County should fund these projects, they should come to Commissioners Court on Monday, September 11th at 1:30 p.m. and let the Court know.

Commissioner Calvert concluded “I’ve delivered seven balanced budgets and I am constitutionally bound to deliver an eighth balanced budget now. But these Bexar County facts have brought to light that we need to balance our inequities and disparities in Bexar County too.”



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Los Spurs Campeón En La Comunidad

Por Franco

Los Spurs en su agenda de labor comunitaria en cincuenta años tras haber conseguido 5 campeonatos en el circuito de la NBA en las temporadas de 1999, 2003, 2005, 2007 y 2014 bajó el comando de Gregg Popovich entrenador en jefe, continúan siendo el campeón en obras comunitarias tanto en la ciudad de El Álamo como en el sur de Texas.

Durante el mes de Mayo en asociación con Dallas Mavericks y KABOOM! y otras organizacio-

nes en el programa denominado "Effort to Bring Hope and Healing for Kids and Families in Uvalde", trabajaron en la creación de un parque infantil dónde participaron 150 voluntarios.

El proyecto fue un esfuerzos en asociación con Uvalde CISD, KABOOM!, The Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country, Bank of America, San Antonio Area Foundation and Sport for Healing Fund, que fue creado por San Antonio Spurs y Dallas Mavericks, entre otros

asociados.

En boletín oficial informativo de Spurs Sports and Entertainment (SS&E), muchos de los niños que estarán Aprovechando éste centro de entrenamiento al aire libre son ex-estudiantes de Robb Elementary School.

El proyecto es parte de The Community Foundation Uvalde Forever Fund's que tiene compromiso de respaldar esfuerzos de organizaciones locales proveyendo a residentes de Uvalde programas y recursos durante proceso de alivio.

"CISD acepta la importancia de proveer a nuestros estudiantes con la creación de espacios seguros para su diversión y aprendizaje", así se expresó Gary Patterson, director interino de Uvalde CISD.

La doctora Kara Allen, Chief Impact Officer for Spurs Sports and Entertainment, dijo lo siguiente. "Con el respaldo para el programa Sports Healing Fund después de la tragedia se incrementaran programas apoyados por KABOOM!." Aportando lo siguiente.

Con ello vamos ayudar a los afectados salir adelante mental-

mente y físicamente." Afirmó la doctora Allen.

También se dijo que en Spurs su fundación en su alineación con otras organizaciones a nivel nacional ha diseñado en la comunidad programas inicios de necesidad comunitaria que los niños logren excelente pasatiempo y les ayude en su formación personal. Lysa Ratliff, CEO de KABOOM!, emocionada dijo lo siguiente "de seguir contando con el apoyo de Spurs y otras organizaciones ayudando a la comunidad a

restablecer calidad de vida. Éste playground en UDLA, ayudará a los programas de rehabilitation y buenas programaciones en el bienestar infantil y familiar." Con éste fin los Spurs siguen adelante cumpliendo con su agenda que estipula la National Basketball Association (NBA). Por lo que siempre ha cumplido y le ha dado oportunidad de darle a San Antonio la gran celebración de cinco campeonatos.

(Fotos cortesía de SS&E).



DECLARACIONES EXPLICATIVAS PARA LAS ELECCIONES DEL 7 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2023 ELECCIÓN DE LA ENMIENDA CONSTITUCIONAL

Número de propuesta 1 (HJR 126)

La HJR 126 propone una enmienda constitucional para proteger el derecho de una persona a dedicarse a prácticas generalmente aceptadas de agricultura, ganadería, producción de madera, horticultura o gestión de la vida silvestre en propiedades inmuebles que posean o arrienden. La enmienda propuesta no afectaría la autoridad de la legislatura para autorizar la reglamentación de estas prácticas por parte de: (1) una agencia o subdivisión política del estado según sea necesario para proteger la salud y la seguridad públicas contra un peligro inminente; (2) una agencia del estado para evitar un peligro para la salud animal o la producción de cultivos; o (3) una agencia o subdivisión política del estado para preservar o conservar los recursos naturales del estado en virtud de la Constitución de Texas. Asimismo, la enmienda propuesta no afectaría la autoridad de la legislatura para autorizar el uso o la adquisición de bienes para uso público, incluido el desarrollo de recursos naturales en virtud de la Constitución de Texas.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la siguiente manera: **“La enmienda constitucional que protege el derecho a dedicarse a la agricultura, la ganadería, la producción de madera, la horticultura y la gestión de la vida silvestre”.**

Número de propuesta 2 (SJR 64)

La SJR 64 propone una enmienda constitucional para permitir al organismo de gobierno de un condado o municipio eximir de impuestos a la propiedad la totalidad o parte del valor tasado de los bienes inmuebles utilizados para operar una instalación de cuidado infantil. La enmienda propuesta autorizaría al organismo de gobierno adoptar la exención como un porcentaje del valor tasado de la propiedad, pero ese porcentaje no podría ser inferior al 50% del valor tasado de la propiedad. Asimismo, la enmienda propuesta permitiría a la legislatura definir el término “instalación de cuidado infantil” y establecer requisitos de elegibilidad adicionales para recibir la exención de impuestos sobre la propiedad.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la siguiente manera: **“La enmienda constitucional que autoriza una exención opcional a nivel local de impuestos ad valorem por un condado o municipio sobre la totalidad o parte**

del valor tasado de los bienes inmuebles utilizados para operar una instalación de cuidado infantil”.

Número de propuesta 3 (HJR 132)

La HJR 132 propone una enmienda constitucional para prohibir a la legislatura aplicar un impuesto basado en la riqueza o el patrimonio neto de una persona o familia. Asimismo, la enmienda propuesta prohibiría a la legislatura aplicar un impuesto basado en la diferencia entre los activos y pasivos de una persona o familia.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la siguiente manera: **“La enmienda constitucional que prohíbe la aplicación de un impuesto sobre la riqueza o el patrimonio neto individual, lo que incluye un impuesto basado en la diferencia entre los activos y pasivos de una persona o familia”.**

Número de propuesta 4 (HJR 2 - Segunda Sesión Especial)

La HJR 2 propone una enmienda constitucional para modificar ciertas disposiciones de la Constitución de Texas relacionadas con los impuestos a la propiedad. La enmienda propuesta autorizaría a la legislatura a limitar temporalmente el valor máximo tasado de bienes inmuebles a los fines del impuesto a la propiedad en un año fiscal. La enmienda propuesta también aumentaría la exención obligatoria de la propiedad residencial con respecto al impuesto a la propiedad del distrito escolar de \$40,000 a \$100,000. La enmienda propuesta exigiría a la legislatura establecer una reducción en la cantidad de la limitación de los impuestos a la propiedad del distrito escolar que se aplican a las propiedades residenciales de las personas de edad avanzada o discapacitadas. Asimismo, la enmienda eximiría las asignaciones no dedicadas por la Constitución de Texas y utilizadas para la desgravación del impuesto a la propiedad de ser consideradas como asignaciones al determinar si la tasa de crecimiento de asignaciones en un bienio ha excedido el límite constitucional de gastos fiscales. La enmienda propuesta también autorizaría a la legislatura a establecer que los miembros que se desempeñen en una junta de tasación en un condado con una población de al menos 75,000 personas cumplan mandatos que no excedan los cuatro años.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la siguiente manera: **“La enmienda constitucional para autorizar a la legislatura a establecer un límite**

temporal sobre el valor máximo de tasación de los bienes inmuebles que no sean residencias familiares a efectos de impuestos ad valorem; a aumentar el monto de la exención de impuestos ad valorem por un distrito escolar aplicable a las residencias familiares de \$40,000 a \$100,000; a ajustar el monto de la limitación de los impuestos ad valorem del distrito escolar aplicados a las residencias familiares de personas mayores o discapacitadas para reflejar los aumentos en ciertos montos de exención; a exceptuar ciertas asignaciones de pagar para el alivio del impuesto ad valorem de la limitación constitucional sobre la tasa de crecimiento de las asignaciones; y a autorizar a la legislatura a prever un mandato de cuatro años de cargo para un miembro de la junta directiva de ciertos distritos de tasación”.

Número de propuesta 5 (HJR 3)

La HJR 3 propone una enmienda constitucional para redesignar el fondo nacional de universidades de investigación como Fondo Universitario de Texas (Texas University Fund, TUF), así como para asignar fondos del fondo de estabilización económica al TUF. La enmienda propuesta asignaría al TUF un monto equivalente a los ingresos por intereses, dividendos y ganancias por inversiones atribuibles al fondo de estabilización económica en el año fiscal estatal anterior. El monto de asignación no podría exceder \$100 millones para el año fiscal estatal que comienza el 1 de septiembre de 2023, o un monto ajustado por el aumento en el nivel general de precios, sin exceder el dos por ciento, en los años fiscales estatales posteriores. Asimismo, la enmienda propuesta prohibiría a cualquier universidad del estado con derecho a participar en el financiamiento dedicado establecido por el Artículo VII, Sección 18 de la Constitución de Texas, recibir dinero del TUF.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la siguiente manera: **“La enmienda constitucional relacionada con el Fondo Universitario de Texas (Texas University Fund), que establece financiamiento para ciertas instituciones de educación superior con el fin de lograr renombre nacional como importantes universidades de investigación e impulsar la economía estatal”.**

Número de propuesta 6 (SJR 75)

La SJR 75 propone una enmienda constitucional para crear el fondo de agua de Texas. El fondo de agua de Texas sería un fondo especial en el tesoro estatal, fuera del fondo de ingresos generales y administrado por la Junta de Desarrollo del Agua de Texas (TWDB, por sus siglas en inglés) o su entidad sucesora, para facilitar el financiamiento de proyectos hídricos en el estado. La enmienda propuesta ordenaría al administrador del fondo de agua de Texas a usar el fondo solo para transferir dinero a otros fondos o cuentas de la TWDB. La enmienda propuesta autorizaría a la legislatura a asignar dinero para depositarlo al fondo de agua, para que esté disponible para las transferencias permitidas. No se requeriría ninguna otra asignación legislativa para que el administrador transfiera dinero del fondo o lo restituya a este, incluyendo la transferencia de dinero del fondo a o la restitución del dinero de ciertas cuentas y fondos designados de la TWDB. El fondo de agua constaría de: (1) dinero transferido o depositado al fondo por la ley general; (2) otros ingresos que la legislatura, por ley, dedica para depositar al fondo; (3) ganancias por inversiones e intereses obtenidos sobre montos acreditados al fondo; (4) dinero de contribuciones, subvenciones y donaciones al fondo; y (5) dinero devuelto de cualquier transferencia autorizada. La enmienda propuesta requeriría que la legislatura, por ley general, estableciera la forma en que se podría usar el dinero del fondo de agua de Texas. Asimismo, la enmienda propuesta requeriría que al menos el 25% del dinero inicialmente asignado al fondo de agua de Texas se transfiriera al Fondo de Nuevo Suministro de Agua para Texas (New Water Supply for Texas Fund).

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la siguiente manera: **“La enmienda constitucional que crea el fondo de agua de Texas con el fin de facilitar el financiamiento de proyectos hídricos en este estado”.**

Número de propuesta 7 (SJR 93)

La SJR 93 propone una enmienda constitucional para crear el fondo de energía de Texas. El fondo de energía de Texas sería un fondo especial en el tesoro público fuera del fondo de ingresos generales, y sería administrado por la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas (PUC, por sus siglas en inglés) o su entidad sucesora. El dinero del fondo de energía de Texas podría ser utilizado, sin necesidad de

una asignación adicional, exclusivamente por la PUC o su entidad sucesora con el fin de otorgar préstamos y subvenciones para financiar o incentivar la construcción, mantenimiento, modernización y operación de instalaciones generadoras de energía eléctrica que se necesiten para garantizar la confiabilidad o adecuación de una red de energía eléctrica en el estado. La enmienda propuesta exigiría que la PUC asignara dinero del fondo para préstamos y subvenciones a proyectos elegibles para instalaciones generadoras de energía eléctrica que sirvan como fuentes de energía eléctrica de respaldo y en cada región del estado que forme parte de una red de energía eléctrica, en proporción a la cuota de carga de esa región. El fondo de energía de Texas constaría de: (1) dinero acreditado, asignado o transferido al fondo por la legislatura, o según lo autorizado por esta; (2) ingresos que la legislatura dedica para depositar al fondo; (3) el rendimiento recibido de la inversión del dinero en el fondo; y (4) contribuciones, subvenciones y donaciones al fondo.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la siguiente manera: **“La enmienda constitucional que establece la creación del fondo de energía de Texas con el fin de apoyar la construcción, mantenimiento, modernización y operación de instalaciones generadoras de energía eléctrica”.**

Número de propuesta 8
(HJR 125)

La **HJR 125** propone una enmienda constitucional para crear el fondo para infraestructura de banda ancha. El fondo para infraestructura de banda ancha sería un fondo especial en el tesoro público fuera del fondo de ingresos generales, y sería administrado por el Contralor(a) de Cuentas Públicas de Texas (Contralor(a)). El dinero del fondo se podría utilizar, sin necesidad de una asignación adicional, exclusivamente para ampliar el acceso a y obtener servicios de banda ancha y telecomunicaciones. El fondo para infraestructura de banda ancha constaría de: (1) dinero transferido o depositado al fondo por la Constitución de Texas, la ley general o la Ley de Asignaciones Generales; (2) ingresos que la legislatura, por ley general, dedica para depositar al fondo; (3) ganancias por inversiones e intereses obtenidos sobre el dinero del fondo; y (4) contribuciones, subvenciones y donaciones al fondo. La enmienda propuesta autorizaría al Contralor(a) a transferir dinero del fondo para infraestructura de banda ancha a otro fondo según lo establecido por la ley general, y la agencia del estado que administra el fondo al cual se transfiere el dinero podría usar el dinero, sin necesidad de una asignación adicional,

exclusivamente para la expansión del acceso a y la adopción de servicios de banda ancha y telecomunicaciones. El fondo para infraestructura de banda ancha vencería el 1 de septiembre de 2035, a menos que su existencia se prorrogara mediante la adopción de una resolución conjunta de la legislatura. Inmediatamente antes del vencimiento del fondo, el Contralor(a) tendría la obligación de transferir todo saldo que no se hubiera gastado y comprometido que quedara en el fondo para infraestructura de banda ancha al fondo de ingresos generales.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la siguiente manera: **“La enmienda constitucional que crea el fondo para infraestructura de banda ancha con el fin de expandir el acceso a la banda ancha de alta velocidad y facilitar el financiamiento de proyectos de conectividad”.**

Número de propuesta 9
(HJR 2)

La **HJR 2** propone una enmienda constitucional que autoriza a la legislatura a proporcionar un ajuste por costo de vida a beneficiarios elegibles del Sistema de Jubilación de Maestros de Texas (TRS, por sus siglas en inglés). La enmienda propuesta también autorizaría a la legislatura a asignar dinero del fondo de ingresos generales al contralor(a) de cuentas públicas de Texas con el fin de pagar el ajuste por costo de vida.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la siguiente manera: **“La enmienda constitucional que autoriza a la 88a Legislatura a proporcionar un ajuste por costo de vida a ciertos beneficiarios del Sistema de Jubilación de Maestros de Texas”.**

Número de propuesta 10
(SJR 87)

La **SJR 87** propone una enmienda constitucional para permitir a la legislatura eximir de impuestos a la propiedad los bienes muebles tangibles pertenecientes a un fabricante de productos médicos o biomédicos como productos terminados o utilizados en la fabricación o procesamiento de productos médicos o biomédicos.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la siguiente manera: **“La enmienda constitucional que autoriza a la legislatura a eximir de impuestos ad valorem los equipos o inventarios pertenecientes a un fabricante de productos médicos o biomédicos, con el fin de proteger a la red de atención médica de Texas y fortalecer nuestra cadena de suministro médico”.**

Número de propuesta 11
(SJR 32)

La **SJR 32** propone una enmienda constitucional para ampliar la autoridad de la legislatura con respecto a los distritos de conservación y reclamación en el Condado de El Paso. La Constitución de Texas permite que los distritos de conservación y reclamación en ciertos condados del estado emitan bonos para financiar el desarrollo y mantenimiento de parques e instalaciones recreativas, pero actualmente no otorga esta autoridad al Condado de El Paso. La enmienda propuesta agregaría los distritos de conservación y reclamación en el Condado de El Paso a los distritos que actualmente tienen permitido, si así lo autoriza la ley general, emitir bonos respaldados por impuestos a la propiedad para financiar el desarrollo y mantenimiento de parques e instalaciones recreativas. La enmienda propuesta no limitaría las facultades de la legislatura o de un distrito de conservación y reclamación con respecto a los parques e instalaciones recreativas, dado que esas facultades actualmente existen.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la siguiente manera: **“La enmienda constitucional que autoriza a la legislatura a permitir que los distritos de conservación y reclamación en el Condado de El Paso emitan bonos respaldados por impuestos ad valorem para financiar el desarrollo y mantenimiento de parques e instalaciones recreativas”.**

Número de propuesta 12
(HJR 134)

La **HJR 134** propone una enmienda constitucional para abolir el cargo de tesorero del condado en el Condado de Galveston. La enmienda autorizaría a la Corte de Comisionados del Condado de Galveston a dar empleo o contratar a una persona calificada o designar a otro funcionario del condado para desempeñar cualquiera de las funciones que hubiera llevado a cabo el Tesorero del Condado. La enmienda propuesta entraría en vigor solo si la mayoría de los votantes del Condado de Galveston que votaran sobre la propuesta favorecieran la enmienda.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la siguiente manera: **“La enmienda constitucional que establece la abolición del cargo de tesorero del condado en el Condado de Galveston”.**

Número de propuesta 13
(HJR 107)

La **HJR 107** propone una enmienda constitucional para aumentar la edad obligatoria de jubilación para los magistrados y jueces estatales. Actualmente, la Constitución de Texas

establece que los magistrados y jueces de los tribunales de apelación, tribunales de distrito y tribunales de distrito penales deben jubilarse al finalizar el mandato durante el cual cumplan 75 años o una edad más baja, no inferior a 70 años, según lo que la Legislatura pueda prescribir. La enmienda propuesta modificaría la edad obligatoria de jubilación para los magistrados y jueces de los tribunales de apelación, tribunales de distrito y tribunales de distrito penales a 79 años o una edad más baja, no inferior a 75 años, según lo que la Legislatura pueda prescribir. Asimismo, la enmienda propuesta eliminaría la disposición que establece que los magistrados y jueces solo pueden desempeñar el cargo hasta el 31 de diciembre de su cuarto año en el cargo si cumplen la edad de 75 años durante los primeros cuatro años de un mandato de seis años.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la siguiente manera: **“La enmienda constitucional para aumentar la edad obligatoria de jubilación para los magistrados y jueces estatales”.**

Número de propuesta 14
(SJR 74)

La **SJR 74** propone una enmienda constitucional para crear el fondo de conservación de los parques centenarios como un fondo fiduciario fuera del tesoro del estado. De conformidad con la ley general, el fondo se podría utilizar solo para la creación y mejora de los parques estatales. El fondo de conservación de los parques centenarios constaría de: (1) dinero asignado, acreditado o transferido al fondo por la legislatura; (2) contribuciones, subvenciones y donaciones recibidas por el Departamento de Parques y Vida Silvestre de Texas (TPWD, por sus siglas en inglés) o su sucesor para un fin para el cual se pueda usar el dinero del fondo; y (3) ganancias por inversiones e intereses obtenidos sobre montos acreditados al fondo. La enmienda propuesta autorizaría a la legislatura a asignar dinero del fondo de conservación de los parques centenarios al TPWD o su sucesor para la creación y mejora de los parques estatales”.

La enmienda propuesta aparecerá en la boleta de la siguiente manera: **“La enmienda constitucional que establece la creación del fondo de conservación de los parques centenarios que se utilizará para la creación y mejora de los parques estatales”.**

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City of San Antonio's Ready to Work Program Awarded with Fifth Annual Sharman Stein

By Sara Yeager

The City of San Antonio's Ready to Work program has been honored as the recipient of the fifth annual Sharman Stein Award for Storytelling Change-makers, presented by Results for America. This award celebrates Ready to Work's exceptional communication practices and the city's commitment to effective public engagement while paying tribute to the late Sharman Stein, the pioneering Director of Communications at What Works Cities.

Introduced in 2022, the Ready to Work initiative has rapidly become a cornerstone of San Antonio's efforts to empower adults seeking to overcome financial, social, and emotional obstacles to higher education and career advancement. The program addresses multifaceted barriers to success by providing access to tuition aid, comprehensive support services, emergency assistance and job placement support.

"We are thrilled to get national recognition for

Ready to Work's targeted outreach to meet people where they are and to take them to the next level," said Mayor Ron Nirenberg. "Ready to Work is a transformative program that's changing the lives of people in our city."

"What sets Ready to Work's communications strategy apart is that it starts with residents and their needs—whether that's a local business owner, community leader or someone taking the next step in their education or career," said Michele Jolin, CEO and Co-founder of Results for America. "It's a collaboration that would have made Sharman proud." The award comes on the heels of creating an entirely new city department—Workforce Development—to manage and operate the Ready to Work program. San Antonio City Manager Erik Walsh brought Mike Ramsey on board after a national search and credits the communications and storytelling capabilities to Ramsey and the department as a whole.

"This office has been laser-focused on telling the stories of the people involved in Ready to Work," Walsh said. "That includes San Antonians who seek training and education to gain quality jobs, the employers who have pledged to hire Ready to Work graduates, as well as the partner organizations from career counselors and case managers to community members who support this program. We stand committed to working and collaborating with them as the program moves forward. We are proud of where we've been and where we're headed."

The annual award is given by Results for America (RFA). RFA's mission is to make investing in what works the "new normal" so that government decision-makers use evidence and data to maximize their impact and increase economic mobility. The City of San Antonio participates in RFA's Opportunity Accelerator and has achieved Gold Certification by What Works Cities.



The City of San Antonio's Ready to Work team's receipt of the Sharman Stein Award stands as a testament to its dedication to effective communication, collaboration, and community development. As the program continues to flourish, its dedication to education, training and career transformation will continue to shape the lives of San Anto-

nio residents and our community for years to come.

If you would like to learn how Ready to Work can help shape your future call 311 or visit ReadyToWorkSA.com.

Photo Caption: Mike Ramsey, Executive Director of Workforce Development for the City of San Antonio.

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**Estamos contigo.
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2023 Toyota Camry



Automotive Review by Albert Flores



Welcome to the 2023 Toyota Camry, one of the best-selling vehicles Toyota makes and it continues to be one of its consumer favorite vehicles to buy year to year. The 2023 Toyota Camry has a starting MSRP of \$25,295. The price of the Camry varies depending on the trim level, engine size, and many options. On the outside the 2023 Toyota Camry comes in a variety of exterior finishes, including Super White, Midnight Black Metallic, Celestial Silver Metallic, Blueprint, Oxide Bronze Metallic, and Ice Edge Blue Metallic, Heather Gray Metallic, Windchill Pearl and Ruby Flare Pearl. The Camry also has a sportier SE and XSE trims, which come with unique exterior features such as a black grille, black mirror caps, and a rear spoiler. The 2023 comes in six versions: LE, SE, XSE, Nightshade Edition, TRD Camry, and TRD Camry SE. If you can't find something you like in all those choices, you are just too picky.

On the inside, the Camry is stylish and comfortable. The LE trim comes standard with cloth seats, while the SE and XSE trims come standard with SofTex synthetic leather seats and can easily seat 5 adults. The Camry also comes standard with a 7-inch touchscreen infotainment system, but the SE and XSE trims come standard with an 8-inch touchscreen infotainment system. The 2023 Toyota Camry comes standard with a variety of electronics, including a 7-inch touchscreen infotainment system, Bluetooth, and a rearview camera. The SE and XSE trims come standard with an 8-inch touchscreen infotainment system, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, and a JBL sound system. The important item to most people is how big is the car on the inside. The 2023 Toyota Camry has plenty of interior space for passengers and cargo. The Camry has 10.2 cubic feet of cargo space behind the rear seats and 33.7 cubic feet of cargo space with the rear seats

folded down. Let me tell you, on the outside the Camry seems a bit small, but once you get inside, you can't believe how roomy it feels and the materials they use are soft and comfortable. I really enjoyed the way the seats felt, soft but very supportive, which is great on long trips.

Second most important item when purchasing a car is how much power do I have on the road. The 2023 Toyota Camry is available with two engine sizes: a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine and a 3.5-liter V6 engine. The 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine gets an EPA-estimated 28 mpg in the city and 39 mpg on the highway. The 3.5-liter V6 engine gets an EPA-estimated 25 mpg in the city and 35 mpg on the highway, which is some generous millage numbers. I must admit, I took a ride on the 6-cylinder version of the Camry and this baby, got up and went! You are not going to have any problems merging on to the highway traffic. The 2023 Toyota Camry comes standard with a variety of safety



features, including Toyota Safety Sense 2.5+, which includes a pre-collision system with pedestrian detection, lane departure alert with steering assist, automatic high beams, and adaptive cruise control. The Camry also comes standard with a rearview camera and blind spot monitoring.

There are many reasons why someone would want to choose the 2023 Toyota Camry. The Camry is a reliable, fuel-efficient, and comfortable car that comes

standard with a variety of safety features. The Camry also has a stylish interior and exterior, and it is available in a variety of trim levels to fit different budgets. If you are looking for a midsize sedan that is both practical and stylish, the 2023 Toyota Camry is a great option. It has everything you need in a car, and it is sure to turn heads wherever you go. I would be proud to have one of these well built cars in my driveway.



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