

Tejano Luncheon & Mini Conference

September 24, 2025
- Jack Gunther Pavilion -
Briscoe Western Art Museum

Celebrating 25 Years of preserving Native Tejano Heritage



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Texas State Historical Association 2026 Annual Meeting Irving, Texas 🇺🇸 March 4-7, 2026

An esteemed tradition since the inception of our association, the Texas State Historical Association's Annual Meeting stands as the premier gathering for aficionados of Texas history, welcoming both seasoned professionals and independent scholars alike. This flagship event presents an array of opportunities for individuals and organizations dedicated to historical, cultural, preservationist, and tourism endeavors.



- 120 Speakers and Over 32 Panels
- 8 Banquets and Receptions
- Multitude of Networking Opportunities



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On behalf of Texas Tejano, thank you for joining us to celebrate 25 years of research, education, and storytelling dedicated to Native Tejano heritage.

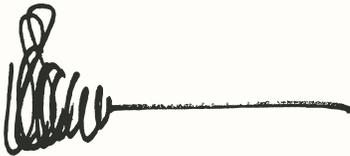
This event brings together scholars, students, community leaders, and institutions to honor the foundational role of Tejanos in Texas history. Through today's exhibits and presentations, we reflect on the first 200 years of Texas — a time shaped by perseverance, identity, and the enduring legacy of the families who called this land home.

Your presence supports our mission to preserve these stories and share them widely. We are especially grateful to our sponsors, speakers, and volunteers whose commitment made this gathering possible.

We look forward to continued collaboration as we prepare for the 250th anniversary of American independence and other heritage projects in 2026

Thank you for standing with us.

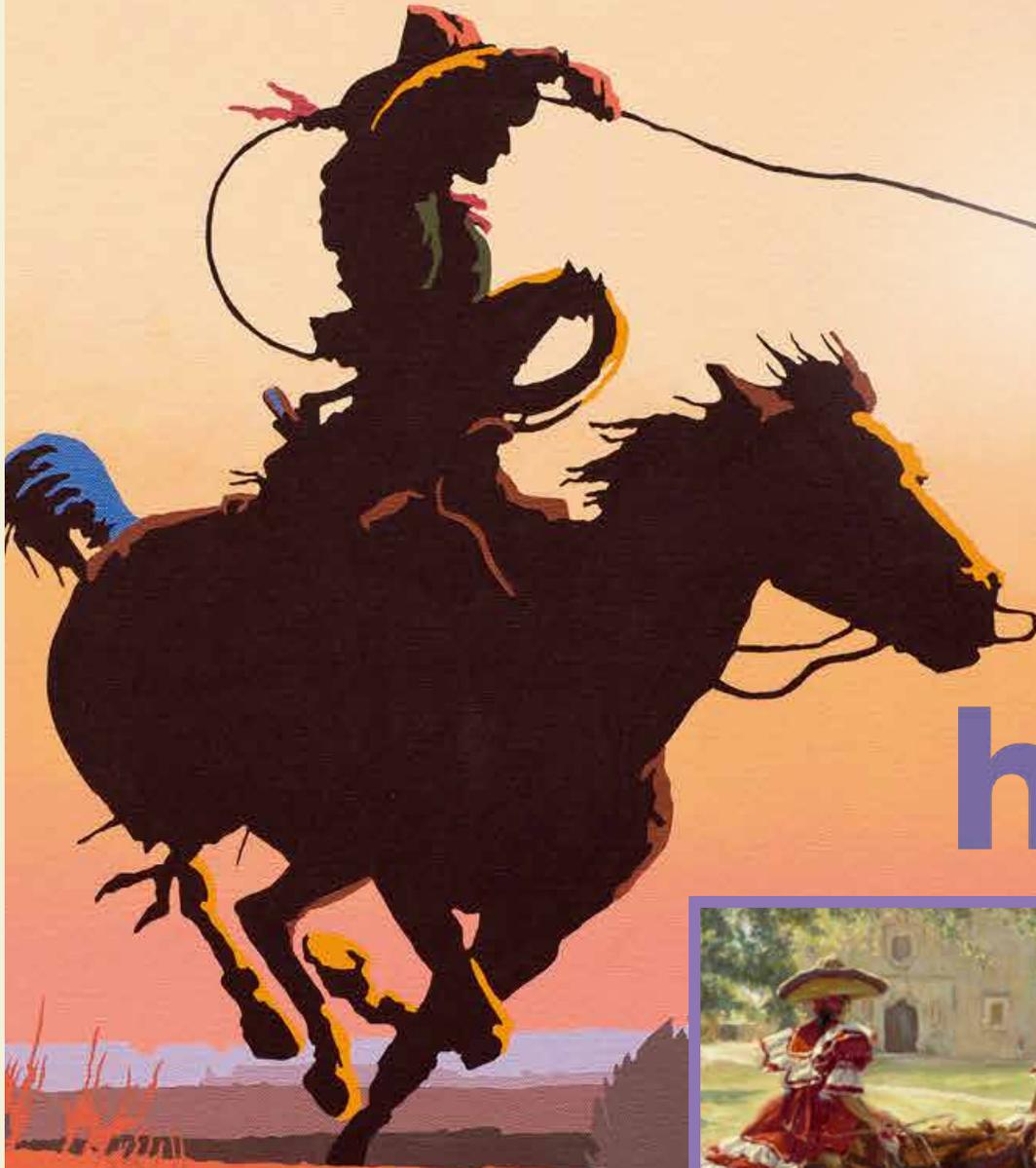
Viva Tejas!



Rudi R. Rodriguez
President, Texas Tejano



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ON THE RIVER WALK

Billy Schenck, *Throwin' A Loop*, 2012, Oil on canvas, 32" x 38 1/8". (detail)
Purchased with funds provided by the Jack and Valerie Guenther Foundation.

Gladys Roldan-de-Moras, *Sunday Riding at Mission San Jose*, Oil on canvas, 36" x 48". (detail)
Gift of Marris McLean Bowman in Memory of His Mother Ruth McLean Bowman Bowers.

Tejano Luncheon & Mini Conference Overview

Texas Tejano is proud to celebrate 25 years of preserving and promoting Native Tejano heritage across Texas. To mark this milestone, this event celebrates our anniversary and benefits our community and partners by highlighting our partners in preserving Tejano heritage and collaborations.

9-11 am	Exhibit Viewing
12:00	Luncheon Begins
12:15	Welcoming remarks and salads/drinks are placed on tables
12:20	Introductions and thanks
12:30	Presentation intro
12:30	Lunch is served
	Rudi R. Rodriguez - Texas Tejano Background and goals
12:45	Phyllis Viagran - Toribio Losoya/District 3 support
12:55	Dr. Rick McCaslin – TSHA efforts and collaborations
1:05	Stephen Cure – Tejano Military History and THC Collaborations
1:15	Raffle, Closing Remarks, and announcement of Teacher Kit Award

Exhibits & Artifacts

This event includes 3 of TexasTejano’s world-class traveling exhibits:

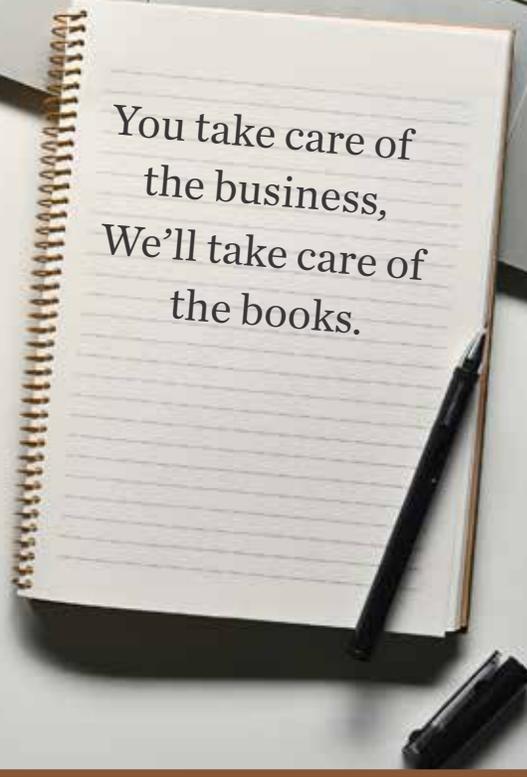
“A Tejano Son of Texas” exhibit highlights the life of Tejano pioneer Jose Policarpo “Polly” Rodriguez.

“Tejanos in Texas Heritage” exhibit highlights the first 200 years of Texas beginning in 1690.

“Tejano Historical Portrait Series” highlights 6 notable Tejanos of the Texas Revolution.

You can also view artifacts and a variety of historic documents, maps, and photos in the pavilion alcove.





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Speakers



Mr. Stephen Cure THC

Stephen S. Cure serves as coordinator of the Military and Oral History Programs for the Texas Historical Commission. From 2004–2018, he served as director of education for the Texas State Historical Association where he directed most of the Association’s World War I commemorative efforts. He also serves as president of Texas History Matters LLC, an organization providing historical consulting services.

Dr. Rick McCaslin TSHA

Dr. Richard B. McCaslin is the Director of Publications for the Texas State Historical Association and former TSHA Professor of Texas History at the University of North Texas. He has authored or edited twenty books, several of which have earned major honors, including the Tullis Award, Laney Prize, Slatten Award, Pate Award, and Bates Award, with one nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. His works have also been recognized by the Texas Philosophical Society, the San Antonio Conservation Society, and Civil War Round Tables in Dallas, Fort Worth, and Shreveport. A Fellow of TSHA, Dr. McCaslin is widely regarded for his scholarship and dedication to preserving Texas history.



Rudi R. Rodriguez

Founder/President of Texas Tejano

Rudi Rodriguez was born and raised a proud Texas Tejano and has significantly impacted the landscape of Texas history with his life’s work to educate the masses about the role Native Tejanos played in the development of our great state. Under CEO Rudi Rodriguez, Texas Tejano has been vigilant about producing materials that are accessible to all and are adept at digital formats that have reached millions of people. To date, it is estimated that over 2.4 M people have visited a Tejano Heritage exhibit and over 100 M people have watched an online or television segment produced by Texas Tejano.

Councilwoman Phyllis Viagran for City of San Antonio District 3

Elected in 2021, native San Antonian Phyllis Viagran proudly represents District 3, where her deep family roots include Toribio Losoya, an iconic Tejano Alamo Defender. A graduate of Texas Tech University and UTSA, she began her career as an elementary teacher before serving as a Community Service Specialist and Domestic Violence Advocate with SAPD. She later worked in tourism with Visit San Antonio and as a Community Outreach Coordinator with Older Adults Technology Services, championing digital equity. Today, she chairs the City’s Audit Committee and serves on several key local, regional, and national boards. Councilwoman Viagran remains committed to advancing equity, opportunity, and heritage for the Southside and all of San Antonio.





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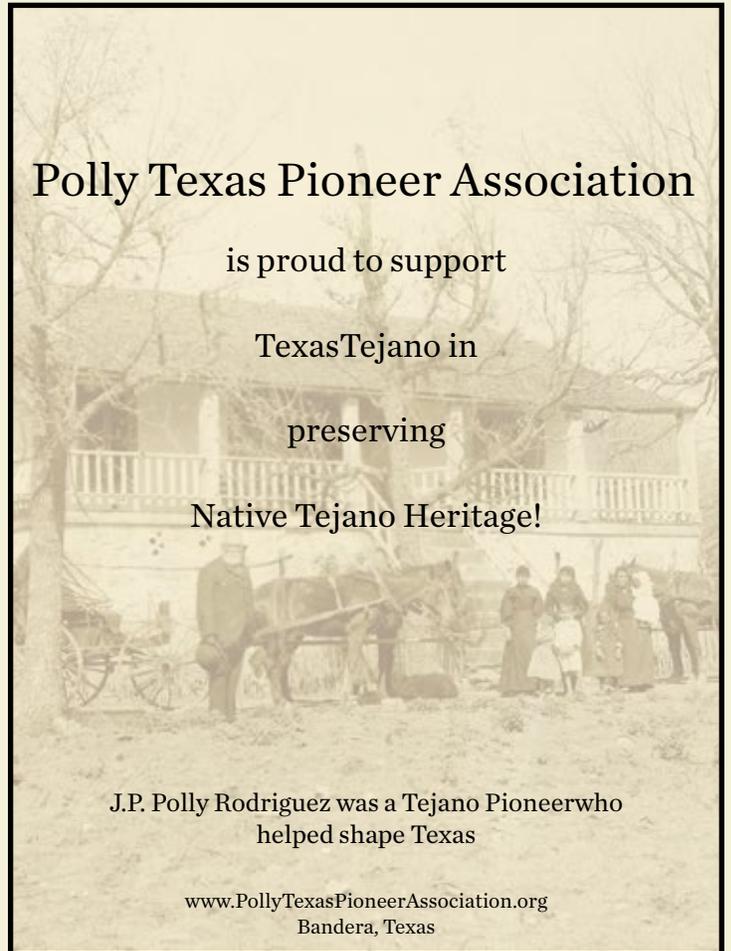
TexasTejano in

preserving

Native Tejano Heritage!

J.P. Polly Rodriguez was a Tejano Pioneer who
helped shape Texas

www.PollyTexasPioneerAssociation.org
Bandera, Texas



Friends of Texas Tejano

The Friends of Texas Tejano are volunteers that provide the organization with support of its mission, services and programs to champion the true lives and legacies of Native Tejanos. Programs consist of research, publications, exhibits, presentations, educational material and special events.

These programs are directed and planned by the organization's directors and staff. An annual calendar of events is proposed every year, and the group of volunteers commit to provide time and effort to help conduct these events. The duties will consist of hosting, demonstrating, and conducting the different activities scheduled during the year.

Friends[★] *of* TEXAS TEJANO

Texas Tejano Living History Group

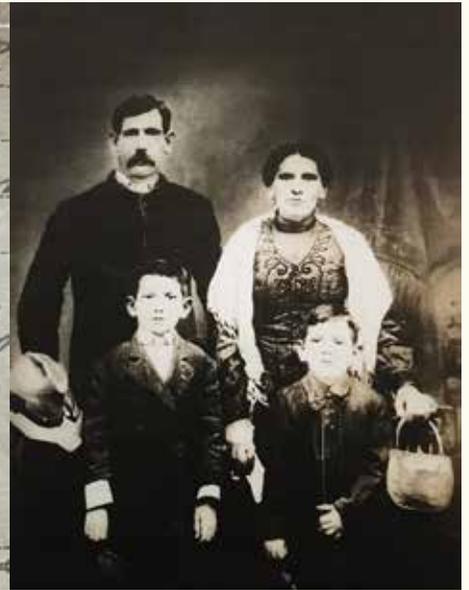
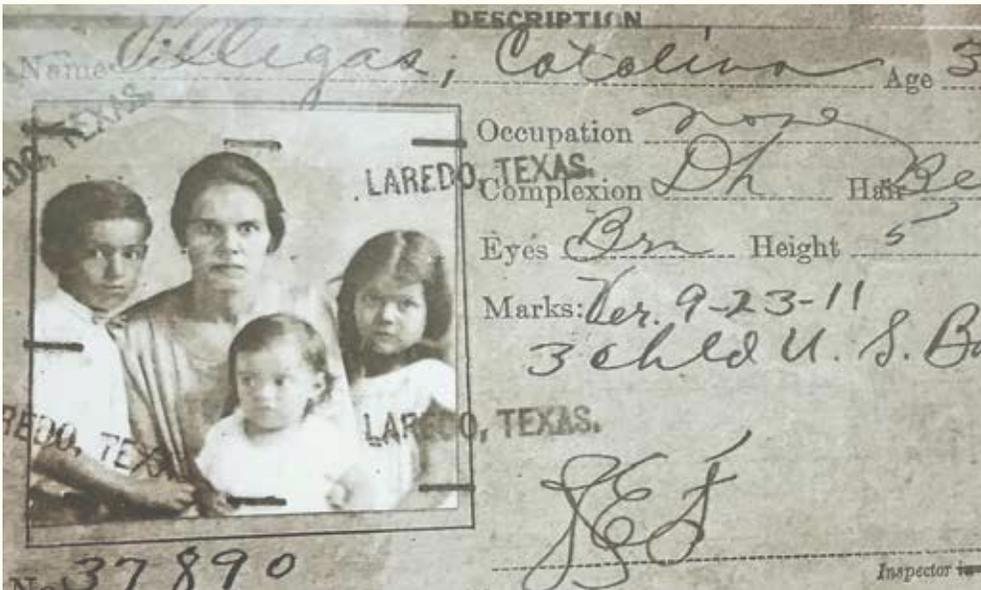
The Texas Tejano Living History group's goals are to bring awareness and education about the legacy and heritage of Native Tejanos that contributed to the development of early Texas; this will be done through live reenactments and having an active presence at events. As there has not been very much to bring attention to this story, we are very proud to help champion a living history group to provide education, elevation and celebration of this history.





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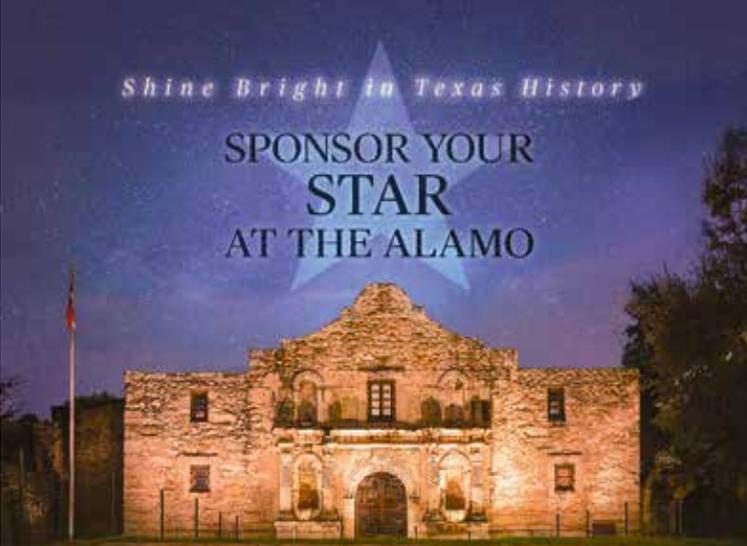


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The Mexican American Museum of Texas

Congratulates Texas Tejanos on Their 25th Anniversary

**"To fully understand the history of Texas, one must
include the stories and contributions of its diverse
cultural groups."**

- Gus Hinojosa, President

Our Mission

The purpose of the TMAMT is to provide,
permanently and on a visiting basis, a venue for exhibiting and
interpreting Mexican American history, culture, and origins,
from its earliest beginnings to the present.

The TMAMT's objective is to enrich current and
future generations from a Mexican American perspective.

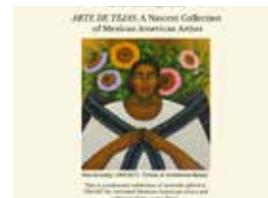


Exhibit "Arte De Tejas"

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Founded 2022, Dallas, Texas

info@tmamt.org www.tmamt.org



2026 Goals



Lorenzo DeZavala Statue @ Texas State Library & Archives

Through the Friends of Texas Tejano, we are working to reignite the effort to erect a monument of Lorenzo De Zavala in front of the Lorenzo De Zavala State Library & Archives. This building is on the state capitol grounds.

HCR No. 81 was written by then State Rep. Gilbert Pena, to erect a monument of Lorenzo De Zavala at the Lorenzo De Zavala State Library & Archives. The effort lost traction when Rep. Pena was not reelected. Texas Tejano is working to ensure that this project is completed.

Tejano Exhibit @ Texas State Capitol in Austin

As we look ahead to 2026, one of our key goals is to once again present our Native Tejano heritage exhibit at the Texas State Capitol. As the seat of our state's government and history, the Capitol should reflect the full story of Texas—including the contributions and legacy of Native Tejanos. This exhibit helps ensure that our heritage is seen, acknowledged, and preserved at the highest level.

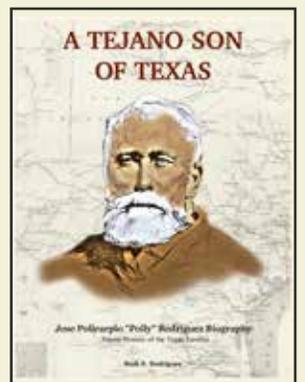


Tejano Events

In 2026, we will continue our tradition of community engagement and education with a series of signature events. These include a spring Tejano Outreach Breakfast, a summer Tejano Heritage Reception, and our capstone event—the Tejano Heritage Luncheon and Mini Conference held in the fall during Hispanic Heritage Month. Each event offers a meaningful opportunity to celebrate Native Tejano contributions to Texas history while connecting with community partners and supporters.

A Tejano Son of Texas: Jose Policarpio “Polly” Rodriguez Biography

The biography of José Policarpio “Polly” Rodríguez — surveyor, scout, gunsmith, and pioneer — will be released in 2026. This long-awaited work explores his life and legacy as a key figure in Texas history, and a powerful example of Tejano leadership and resilience.



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