

A U S T I N C I T Y C O U N C I L

AGENDA



Thursday, May 25, 2006

 Back

#20

Parks and Recreation RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Subject: Approve naming of the Mexican American Cultural Center central plaza, located at 600 River Street, as the "Perez-Ramos Plaza." (Related to item 11,18-19 and 21-22)

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Additional Backup Material

(click to open)

[D Perez-Ramos Supporting Documents](#)

For More Information:

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board.

The Parks and Recreation Department received a request on January 26th, 2006 to name the MACC for the Perez-Ramos families. The City of Austin Public Information Office began the official process for nominations to name the facility in February, 2006. The deadline for submitting nominations was March 17, 2006. The following applications were received: 1) "Perez-Ramos MACC" by John Michael Cortez & Isidoro Lopez, Board of Directors of Austin Latino Music Association; 2) "Dos Mundos MACC" by Marcial Ramirez; 3) "John Trevino MACC" by Erica Ramos; 4) "Mexican American Cultural Center" by Hiett, Fabela, Martin, Pardo and Reyes; and 5) "Mexican American Cultural Center" by the MACC Advisory Board with a further recommendation that the Central Plaza of the MACC be named Perez-Ramos. The Parks and Recreation Board met on April 25, 2006 and recommended the MACC be named – Mexican American Cultural Center with the central plaza being named the Perez-Ramos Plaza. This was in support of the recommendation received from the MACC Board. The vote was 4-2. The central plaza recommended to be named for the Perez-Ramos families is one facility out of a series being recommended to celebrate a trail for Tejano Music Legends.

In the 1998 bond package, the citizens of Austin approved the construction of a Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC) to be located on the banks of Town Lake, at 600 River Street. The MACC is to be a cultural center dedicated to the preservation, creation, presentation and promotion of Mexican American cultural arts and heritage. Phase I will be the design and construction of a plaza, a multi-purpose building, office space, gallery space and associated landscaping and parking.

APPLICATION FOR FACILITY NAMING

We, John-Michael Cortez and Isidoro Lopez, members of the board of directors of the Austin Latino Music Association (ALMA), request that the names listed below be considered for the corresponding public facilities:

(A) Name the Mexican American Cultural Center located at 600 River St. for the Perez and Ramos Families that include among them the band leaders Ruben Ramos, Alfonso Ramos, Ruben Perez and Ernest Perez.

(B) Re-name Festival Beach Road located just North of Town Lake and just East of I-35 for the band leader Nash Hernandez.

(C) Name the Fiesta Gardens Pavilion located near the Western boundary of Fiesta Gardens at 1901 Bergman St. for the band leader Johnny Degollado.

(D) Name the Fiesta Gardens East Meeting Hall located at 2101 Bergman St. for the band leader Manuel "Cowboy" Donley.

(E) Name the Town Lake Scenic Overlook located near the intersection of Canterbury St. and Pleasant Valley Road for the band leader Roy Montelongo.

(F) Name the Medina St. Plaza to be built on the Medina right-of-way located between E. 5th St. and E. 6th St. and South of the alley for business and civic leader Roy Velasquez and band leader Matt Velasquez. Roy and Matt Velasquez are brothers.

Ruben Ramos, Alfonso Ramos, Johnny Degollado, Manuel "Cowboy" Donley and Roy Montelongo have all been inducted into the Tejano Music Hall of Fame. The Nash Hernandez Orchestra is the longest running big band in Austin and has been performing in Austin for more than 50 years. Matt Velasquez is a 50's era band leader, and his brother Roy Velasquez was the founder of Roy's Taxi, the only Latino-owned taxi cab company in Austin.

Biographical Synopsis: Refer to Attachment 1

Individual's Involvement in the Community: With the exception of Roy Velasquez, the individuals whose names are being recommended for naming the noted public facilities are important Latino musicians and families in Austin who helped establish Austin as the Live Music Capitol of the World. Roy Velasquez was a local entrepreneur and civic leader who helped establish the Austin Chapter of LULAC in 1935 and very active in local politics.

Please refer to Attachment 2(A) – 2(F) for additional information about the families and individuals for whom the specified facilities are proposed to be named.

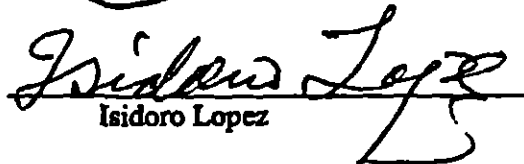
- 2(A) Perez & Ramos Families
- 2(B) Nash Hernandez
- 2(C) Johnny Degollado
- 2(D) Manuel "Cowboy" Donley
- 2(E) Roy Montelongo
- 2(F) Roy & Matt Velasquez

Individual's Connection to the Facility: Ruben Ramos, Alfonso Ramos, Ruben Perez, Ernest Perez, Manuel "Cowboy" Donley, Roy Montelongo, Nash Hernandez, Roy Velasquez and Matt Velasquez all lived in central East Austin where all of the proposed facilities to be named are located. Several of these artists still live in that area. Johnny Degollado has lived in the Montopolis community/neighborhood all his life and has hosted the Austin Conjunto Festival at Fiesta Gardens for more than 10 years. Roy Velasquez established Roy's Taxi in the early 1930's and for many years operated his business on the block adjacent to the proposed Medina St. Plaza.

ALMA will work to identify funding for signs and plaques if it is deemed necessary by the City of Austin.

Submitted to the Parks and Recreation Department this ^{26th} ~~25th~~ day of January, 2006.


John-Michael Cortez


Isidoro Lopez

ATTACHMENT 1

BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS FOR FACILITY NAMING PROPOSAL

(A) PEREZ-RAMOS FAMILIES

The Perez – Ramos Families have a long musical tradition that stretches back several generations. The two families are connected by brothers Don Louis Perez and Don Tranquilino Perez. Don Louis Perez and his wife Trinidad are the parents of Elvira Perez who is the mother of Ruben Ramos and Alfonso Ramos. Don Tranquilino Perez and his wife Carolina are the parents of Blas Perez who is the father of Ernest Perez and Ruben Perez.

Ruben Ramos, Alfonso Ramos, Ruben Perez and Ernest Perez have all led their own Tejano orchestras. Ruben and Alfonso have often performed and recorded together. Many of Ruben and Alfonso's brothers were and continue to be members of their musical groups. In recognition of their accomplishment, Ruben Ramos and Alfonso Ramos have both been inducted into the Tejano Music Hall of Fame. As a member of Los Super Seven, Ruben Ramos is a grammy award winner.

Accomplished local musicians such as Alfonso Ramos and Manuel "Cowboy" Donley played with the Ruben Perez Orchestra early in their careers. In addition to leading his own orchestra, Ernest played in his brother's orchestra for many years as well as other local groups such as Johnny Degollado and Los Cinco Reyes.

(B) NASH HERNANDEZ

The Nash Hernandez Orchestra, Austin's longest running big band, has been playing big band, swing and Latino styles of music for generations of fans throughout Central Texas. Nash Hernandez fell in love with the big band style while in the Army during World War II. When he returned to Austin, he worked with Matt Velasquez before starting his own band in 1949. In 1975, Nash Hernandez was named Ambassador of Goodwill by Governor Dolph Brisco for whom he had performed in 1973 at the Governor's Inaugural Ball. He was also recognized for his musical contributions by the City of Austin in 1975 and 1993, by the Texas Senate in 1993 and by Vice President Al Gore in 1994. Nash Hernandez passed away on June 26, 1994, but the band continues to perform under the direction of Nash's son, drummer Ruben Hernandez, who began playing with the group at the age of eleven.

(C) JOHNNY DEGOLLADO

Johnny Degollado is the premier conjunto accordionist, band leader, and song writer in Austin and the surrounding areas. In 1952, at the age of 15, he started his own conjunto along with his neighbor, Vicente Alonzo, who still is a member of the conjunto. Johnny studied under Camilo Cantu, another important conjunto band leader from the Austin area. Cantu also taught Johnny to tune and repair accordions. Johnny has composed more than 200 songs, and he is the event coordinator for the Austin Conjunto Festival that has been held in May for the last 20 years. He was inducted into the Tejano Music Hall of Fame in 1986.

(D) MANUEL "COWBOY" DONLEY

Manuel Donley is considered a pioneer of Tejano music. An accomplished musician, arranger and composer, Manuel Donley is well respected by his musical peers. In addition to fronting a Tejano orquesta, he also performs in traditional "Trio" and "Mariachi" ensembles. Manuel Donley has also composed and performed for movie soundtracks. He has taught guitar lessons at Huston-Tillotson College and still gives lessons at his home. His orquesta, Las Estrellas, is famous for its tight horn section as well as for the many different styles of music they played such as boleros, rancheras, polkas, rock-n-roll, rhythm-and-blues, big band-swing, etc. Manuel Donley formed his orquesta in 1949 and continues to perform with them occasionally.

(E) ROY MONTELONGO

Roy Montelongo is an original Tejano legend who started playing in his teens with the legendary orquesta of Beto Villa. He then went on to play with the orquestas of Isidro Lopez and Alfonso Ramos before forming his own band. One of his first picks for a sideman was Agustine Ramirez. Roy Montelongo recorded many hits and toured nationally. His unique singing style and his accomplishments as a saxophonist and arranger brought him much acclaim. Roy Montelongo recorded over 20 albums and was selected to be an original member of "The Legends" of Tejano music along with the likes of Freddie Martinez and Sunny Ozuna. Eventually, he settled on broadcasting as a career and for many years was heard on the Austin airwaves.

(F) ROY & MATT VELASQUEZ

Matt Velasquez' Latinaires, that pre-dated Little Joe's Latinaires by several years, performed from approximately 1946 to 1959. Vocalist-guitarist Matt Velasquez was a member of several ballroom bands including "Big Poppa's Band," the group with which he started playing when he was 14 years old. After returning from the service in 1946, he formed his own band, playing sorority parties, debutante balls and major parties. He also donated services to all Catholic churches. Matt Velasquez and his band played for the grand opening of Palmer Auditorium in 1959. He worked with Eduardo Martinez and Emilio Caceres. His brother, James Velasquez, played drums.

Roy Velasquez is an important local Hispanic businessman and community leader. He established Roy's Taxi in 1931 at the age of 21 when construction jobs dried up in the years following the great depression. He started the business with one car and within a year had 35 cars working for him on a contract basis. The company was located in various locations in and around East Austin, but in 1957 he moved the company to 90 East Avenue where the business headquarters remain today. Roy was active in political circles since his early years in business. He sold the poll tax to help minorities gain a voice in government. He also was active in supporting many political candidates and was a friend of leaders such as President Lyndon B. Johnson, Mayor Tom Miller, City Council Member Emma Long, Judge Homer Thornberry, and Congressman Jake Pickle. In 1935, Roy was co-founder of the Austin Chapter of LULAC, Council 85 and was one of the charter members of the Austin Citizen's League which was organized in the mid-1960's.

ATTACHMENT 2(A)

Perez-Ramos Families

Musical Family History for the Perez and Ramos Families

**This musical family history begins with the brothers
Don Louis Perez and Don Tranquilino Perez**

Louis & Trinidad H. Perez Family (Lived in Pflugerville)

Sons & Daughters & Their Musical Talents

Alfonso – Drums

Clemente – Drums

Elvira Perez Ramos - Guitar

Note: Elvira and her husband Alfonso are the parents of Ruben, Alfonso, Maria Inez, Joe, Elijo & Rogelio (see "Family History for Alfonso & Elvira Ramos Family" for more information).

Gonzalo - Trumpet

Juan Manuel – Alto Saxophone

Justine – Tenor Saxophone

Pascual – Guitar

Paula

Raul – Trumpet

Rebecca – Piano

Rogelio (Roy, Pia) – Bass, Guitar

Ruben - Saxophone

Tranquilino & Carolina Perez Family (Lived in Bastrop)

Sons & Daughters & Their Musical Talents

Blas Perez - Guitar & Violin

Note: Blas and his wife Sara are the parents of Ruben, Ernesto & Carmen (see "Family History for the Blas & Sara Perez Family" for more information).

Cleotilde

Eloy – Band Leader, Alto Saxophone

Ernesto ("Neto") – Band Leader

Felipe – Guitar

Ipolito

Leon - Violin

Locadio ("Chirico") – Guitar, Sax, Violin

Pedro

Polo

Sixto – Violin, Alto Saxophone

**Musical Family History
for the Alfonso Ramos & Elvira Perez Ramos Family**

Alfonso Ramos, Sr. & Elvira Perez Ramos were both musicians. Alfonso Sr. played the violin and Elvira played Guitar.

Sons & Daughters & Their Musical Talents

Alfonso Jr. – Alto Saxophone, Band Leader

Eligio – Tenor Saxophone

Maria Inez – Vocalist

Joe – Piano, Organ, Guitar, Trombone & Trumpet

Rogelio Ramos – Bass

Ruben – Drums, Vocals, Band Leader

**Musical Family History
for the Blas & Sara Perez Family**

Blas & Sara Perez were both musicians. Blas played the guitar and violin. Sara played guitar.

Sons & Daughters & Their Musical Talents

Ruben – Saxophone, Band Leader

Ernesto – Alto Saxophone, Guitar, Keyboards, Piano, Accordion, Vocals, Band Leader

Carmen – Vocals

Perez – Ramos Artist Profiles

Ruben Ramos

Ruben Ramos has evolved from a sideman-drummer to a vocalist-bandleader. His contributions to Austin, Texas and the Tejano music scene are immeasurable. His fame is international and his band, the Texas Revolution, is a dynamic award-winning orchestra, capable of combining a variety of musical styles to please all audiences. From the many recordings, TV shows, live performances, Ruben Ramos & the Texas Revolution continue to bring much respect and acclaim to Austin, Texas. Ruben Ramos, as a member of Los Super Seven, is a grammy award winner. In 1998, he and the band were inducted into the Pura Vida Hall of Fame and the Tejano Music Awards Hall of Fame. In 1999, Ruben Ramos & the Texas Revolution received the Best Male Vocalist and Video of the Year awards at the Tejano Music Awards.

Alfonso Ramos

Alfonso Ramos gained much musical experience at an early age. Being an excellent saxophone player and an outstanding vocalist, he quickly rose from the ranks of a sideman to the leader of his own orchestra. Alfonso Ramos' brothers were members of the band and the group went on to become one of the top bands not only in Austin but also in all of Texas. Eventually, Alfonso Ramos y su Orquesta toured many other states. Several members of his band, including brother Ruben and Roy Montelongo, went on to gain prominence of their own. The many concerts, recordings, and TV and radio shows in which he participated make Alfonso Ramos a top draw even now.

Ruben and Ernest Perez

Ruben Rangel Perez and Ernest Rangel "Neto" Perez are popular and talented musicians who have performed inside and outside the Central Texas area for over 50 years. Ruben Perez was born in Bastrop, County on July 7, 1923 and Ernest Perez was born in Elgin, Texas on September 6, 1931 to a musical family. Ruben and Ernest started playing music at parties and weddings at an early age with a band formed by their father and several of their uncles. They recall that in the late 1940's and early 1950's the entire band would get paid five or six dollars per musician for a performance.

Ruben Perez served in World War II and upon his return in 1943 became the guitar player for Justin Perez and the ex-G.I.'s band. Shortly thereafter, the name of the band was changed to Ruben Perez y su Orquesta. Several prominent local musicians such as Alfonso Ramos and Manuel Donley played with Ruben Perez' Orchestra.

Ernest Perez served in the U.S. army during the Korean conflict and returned to Austin in 1953. He moved to Fort Worth in 1954 to find work to support his family. In 1955, he formed his first orchestra, Ernest Perez y su Orquesta, in Fort Worth. Upon his return to Austin in 1958, he formed a smaller orchestra that performed locally. For many years, Ernest played in his brother's orchestra as well as other local groups such as Johnny Degollado and Los Cinco Reyes.

January 10, 2006

Mayor Will Wynn
Austin City Council Members:
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767

Re: Naming of the Mexican American Cultural Center

Dear Mayor Wynn and Austin City Council Members:

On behalf of the Ernest R. Perez, Ruben Perez, Alfonso Ramos, and Ruben Ramos' Families of Austin and Central Texas, we are grateful for the opportunity to have the Mexican American Cultural Center named in honor of our prominent and talented musical families. Our families have been great leaders in the music industry since the early 1800's, throughout the 1900's and we are presently enjoying our great legacy of musical entertainment throughout Texas, the United States, Mexico, and have evolved into the international musical scene.

Our deep, historical roots in music began with our forefathers of the Perez and Ramos Families - our musical roots include many genres of music including the early Folk Music, Traditional Mexican Ballads, Salsa, Samba, Tejano, Latino, Norteno, Big Band, Rock 'n Roll, Rock en Espanol, Conjunto, Christian Music, and many, many more. We even have one grandchild playing in the University of Texas Band!

We are extremely proud of our heritage, and honored to have been so blessed with our God given talents in all the many different arenas of art; music, dance, art, culture, and history. Our families have made a significant impact on many generations of people across the land that has transcended culture and class. We have entertained not only the Latino communities over the years but all cultures and many different generations and classes of people around the world.

Our history begins in a very humble place; with our relatives playing music solely to entertain themselves while working out in the cotton fields of Central Texas or teaching each other to play various musical instruments like the guitars, saxophones, and piano. That quickly evolved into entertaining the masses throughout the state in the smaller working class towns such as Elgin, Pflugerville, Round Rock, Bastrop, Utley, Austin, Buda, San Antonio, New Braunfels, Dime Box, The Valley, West Texas, and countless others. They would travel farther to New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma, and other states on occasion.

As their popularity grew, I remember our relatives playing their sophisticated and elegant music at all the weddings, quinceaneras, holiday parties, funerals, dances in the countryside, Cinco de Mayo, Diez y Seis de Septiembre, and other very special occasions. Everyone loved the music and danced the nights away. We all loved the music. It was in our genes. It ran through our blood. We were famous for it. People loved it and to this day, we remain deeply entrenched in it. There are generations of kids, grandkids, and great grandchildren that are now performing in all arenas of music.

By naming the Mexican Cultural Center after our families, we promise to take very special care to ensure that all the traditions of our culture, the roots of our people, and the love of our history will continue to develop and flourish for all generations to enjoy; past, present, and future. Whether we prefer to be called Latinos, Hispanos, Chicanos, Mexicanos, Nativos, or Mexican Americans. We are the same. We are one people and our beautiful Mexican American Cultural Center will be for all to enjoy. Everyone can come to learn and become more educated about our culture and traditions. We must continue to nurture our wonderful heritage of art, music, dance, and drama, and pass it along to our future generations. Our families, friends, and visitors to Austin, Texas from around the world will greatly benefit from our Mexican heritage and truly enjoy the "Live Music Capital of the World".

The Perez and Ramos Families have left an indelible mark on the arts, music, and cultural scene here in Austin and around the world. We are an extraordinary family but we could not have done it without all of the musicians along the way who have backed us up, the wives who have supported their husbands in this industry, the families of all the musicians, the support staff, the great dance halls such as the old Skyline and Dessau Hall, the dedicated audiences, and now, with all the high tech ingredients - the people who have recorded, videotaped, DVD'd, televised and have sent our music across the internet and musical waves around the globe.

The Perez, Ramos, and extended families are truly a special gift - we were all raised with impeccable morals, values, and strong Catholic traditions. We were instilled with character and strength in all aspects of our lives. We have performed our family duties, civic and social duties, church duties, and whatever else we can do to be of service to those who are less fortunate than ourselves. We are not only comprised of musicians, but also of artists, lawyers, doctors, accountants, veterans of wars, professional educators, community activists, computer specialists, state representatives, and we are so proud of each one! In their spare time, they either play an instrument in the church choir, head up a jazz band, or sing in the shower! We continue to be a strong, loving family and will continue to strive to be a source of strength and inspiration for our family, our friends, our supporters, and those who have yet to meet us.

Thank you so much for your consideration, we truly look forward to working with you to ensure that the name of the Mexican Cultural Center will have our family names on it - to share with the world. We will do everything in our power to continue the hard work that we have so diligently and painstakingly performed over the last couple of hundred years. We were recently honored by the City of Austin with a 'Reunion Show' of the Perez and Ramos Families. One of the newspapers that covered the performance and published an article began with the byline: "Rolling Stones, Move Over"! That says it all.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Perez and Ramos Families. Best Regards,

Delia Perez Meyer
1809 Margaret Street
Austin, TX 78704
512-444-5366

January 8, 2006

To Mayor Will Wynn and Austin City Council Members:

I request that the City of Austin consider naming the Mexican American Cultural Center located at 600 River Street for two of Austin most prominent musical families, the Perez and Ramos families.

My father, Ruben Rangel Perez, has always been a humble man. He has never been one to "toot his own horn" unless of course, it was for the enjoyment of others. It has been with his talent, humility, and generosity, that he has earned the admiration and respect of his peers.

Ruben Perez is, in many ways, a patriarch of the live music capital that Austin is today. Webster defines a patriarch as "a man who is a father or a founder".

Before he was inducted to the army, he had played his saxophone for the crowds at a time when no other form of entertainment was available to them. After his tour of duty ended and he returned home, around 1944, he became a band leader and gained his prominence from about 1945 through to the 1960s. He played clubs and many weddings. He had many different styles of music including Latin, boleros, polkas, blues, and cumbias among others.

His early band members of the 40s and 50s, included such notables as Manuel Donley and Alfonso Ramos. These greatly talented men, having learned and grown in their time spent with the Ruben Perez Orchestra, went on to establish their own bands and grew into their own prominence. Both Manuel Donley and Alfonso Ramos are inducted into the Tejano Hall of Fame. Ruben Ramos, brother to Alfonso Ramos, also went on to be inducted into the Tejano Hall of Fame, and as a member of Los Super Seven, was honored with a grammy award in 2001.

The influence didn't stop there. In the early 1970s, together with Manuel Donley, Ruben Perez went on to promote the musical careers of Mary Donley, daughter of Manuel Donley, and his own daughter Aurora Perez. Together Manuel Donley and Ruben Perez helped create an all girl Tejano/Rock band called La Teen Souls. Although the band was short lived, the girls, like their fathers, gave performances and even qualified to be entered a city wide "Battle of the Bands" competition.

I believe that many early careers were, in part, shaped by the influence of Ruben Perez. In turn, that influence has grown and evolved to the extent that it shaped the careers of many others in the generations that followed. Therefore, it would follow that my father had a great direct and indirect influence on the music scene of today. His music and his influence was all live and hands on. He is deserving of any and all honors that are bestowed on him. In his humble way, he has earned the love and respect of his musical peers, then and now, and of his legions of fans that have been faithful to him over the decades.

Mary Perez-Speed

January 8, 2006

To Mayor Will Wynn and Austin City Council Members:

I have moved up to Chicago to go to school at Northwestern University, a school that considers itself as possessing both a diverse student body and an interdisciplinary educational policy. There is presently a display in the library for Latino culture featuring mostly books, but also some music. Having learned some things about my grandfather, Ruben Perez, Sr., over the summer, I wandered over one day to see what sort of materials were on display for Tejano music. There was nothing. This struck me as odd, since Tejano musicians, including Ruben Ramos I believe, have won Grammy awards. I wanted to go to the info desk to see whom I needed to fill-in about a gross hole in the music display. I didn't of course, because I knew I would have little to recommend. My knowledge was as incomplete as their glass case. For me to raise a cry felt very absurd, and that absurdity meant to me that I, a granddaughter of this movement, somehow became an example of how a piece of history could be fading.

Though this anecdote may seem dramatic, I do not think that it is entirely without value. For small instances like this, multiplied thousands of times over, both write and erase history. There is, then, a sense of urgency to pay tribute to those who have built part of the foundation of a city. I, the granddaughter of one of Austin's patriarchs of music, to borrow a very apt term from my Aunt Mary, only learned at the age of twenty-six something that is so fundamental to the city in which I grew up. I feel that this circumstance demonstrates how obscure this history could become.

I would even go so far as to say that Austin stands to lose as much as I may have lost in my personal family history. That Austin is a hotbed for live music has become as much a piece of common knowledge as the fact that it is the Capital of Texas and in turn has done much for its reputation in other states and in other countries, as travel around the US, in England, and Germany has shown me. It is only befitting, then, that our Mexican-American Cultural Center should be named for founders of that part of culture that is strongest in and has meant the most to Austin. If these families have had a major hand in the founding of both Tejano music and Austin's music scene, then they are certainly worthy of the dedication.

Brietta Marie Perez

January 8, 2006

To Mayor Will Wynn and Austin City Council Members:

What I do know is that when dad played people danced. And danced a lot. All night long. When his band members talked about him, they always praised him, said he was a good man. They enjoyed playing with him and would always point at him and say "Listen to him, he'll teach you a lot." I always thought it was real cool that dad and Uncle Ruben were always in each other's bands and orchestras.

I remember that when the band would come over to the house to practice, they always had a good time and their rehearsals always filled the house with great music. Even when they worked on the same song over and over, it always sounded great. I remember dad's band members as being a pretty diverse group. All Hispanic, of course, but of different age groups, different levels of education, some good Christian men, and some with a somewhat shady past, but all great musicians.

Being dad's kid, I always had the opportunity to sit on the drummer's stool and bang around on the drum kit while they took their breaks. The bass player would let me pluck around on his bass, and I was always asked when I was going to start playing the sax, just like my dad.

During his performances, I remember that while dad was on the band stand singing some of mom's favorite songs, I would get dragged onto the dance floor to dance with her while dad played. She showed me how to move my feet, how to move to the beat, when to twirl her and how to lead. It was all very embarrassing to me early on, but after a while I felt like a pretty good little dancer and will always thank her for my dancing lessons. It was always a very special treat for me to watch dad start the band off on a particular song and after getting the song going, several bars into the song, he would climb down off the band stand, walk over to our table, take mom by the hand, lead her to the dance floor and dance her smoothly around while everyone watched. I was always so proud in those moments, they both danced so well together, the crowd would make room for them as they moved around the dance floor, and then, near the end of the song, he would bring her back to her seat, kiss her, and then climb back on the band stand, rejoin his orchestra and finish out the song to everyone's delight. Dad was smooth and cool.

I don't know how many people dad influenced with his music and musical style but I'm certain it was a significant number. I know that he and his bands and orchestras were always looked forward to at the many small venues and weddings and parties he played at, all around this central part of Texas. I know people in the audience always had wonderful things to say about dad and his bands. Se viente tu a'pa! Que suave son los musicos! Se tiran! Tu a'pa puede cantar TAN lindo! It's funny you know, at the time all these people, some perfect strangers, some friends, some relatives, are all singing dad's praises, and I know they're very flattering for him. Self centered, 10 year old Dave here is thinking, "Hey it's just dad. Where can a kid like me get a Coke?"

I knew dad had a wonderful and positive influence on not only the members of his orchestras and bands, but on the audience and party goers and dancers to his music as well, but I never realized it would be this vast and important.

I'm certainly proud of dad and Uncle Ruben and all the Ramos family musicians. And I'm sure that any and every one who knows them would be proud to have the Center named after them as well.

Thanks,

David Perez and Family
512-301-0192

January 5, 2006

To Mayor Will Wynn and Austin City Council Members:

As a member of the Perez family, I am delighted and honored that the Austin City Council is considering naming the Mexican American Cultural Arts Center after the Perez and Ramos families. The cultural contributions made by members of these two families are a source of great pride, not just to my family, but to the many Mexican American families of the Texas Southwest whose most important life's occasions were celebrated to the music of these two great families.

I have spent the past twenty-three years of my life preserving the cultural heritage and recorded legacies of some of the greatest musical artists of our time through my work with the Stanford University Archive of Recorded Sound in Palo Alto, California. An integral part of this work involves assessing the research value of a body of work and, in some cases, its historical significance to the region. In much the same way as the music of the Barbary Coast is significant to California, so too is Tejano music to the State of Texas. No other region of the country can claim this legacy. It is uniquely a product of Texas and the Southwest.

Having grown up in Texas, around the music of my father, Ruben R. Perez, and that of the Ramos family, and having performed it myself years later with the all-girl band "The Liberated" (formerly the "Latin Liberation") throughout Texas and Oklahoma, I know first-hand the impact our music had on those who aspired to be like us. My father was just such an inspiration, and those young musicians who aspired to be like him, who played with him, and who ultimately went on to make significant tangible contributions of their own, have acknowledged his role in their development. It is my hope that in naming the Mexican American Cultural Arts Center after the Perez and Ramos families that we will continue to be a source of inspiration and pride for the Latino community in Austin.

I wish to thank the Austin City Council for considering the Perez and Ramos families for this honor. "La vida, a veces, nos permite agarrar el horizonte, y la fugacidad de este instante feliz, permanece, dura, nos acompaña para siempre."

Sincerely,

Aurora C. Perez

18841 Barnhart Avenue
Cupertino, CA 95014
(408) 205-4712
(650) 723-9312
aperez@stanford.edu

Alexander, Jason

From: Webadmin, Austin City Connection
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2006 2:20 PM
To: Alexander, Jason; Esquibel, Matthew
Subject: Application for Facility Renaming

Date/Time Submitted: Friday, 2/24/06, 1419 hours

Facility Name: Mexican American Cultural Center

Suggested New Name: DOS MUNDOS MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

Biographical Synopsis:

Community Involvement:

Connection to the Facility:

Reason for non-individual nomination: I chose this name because it depicts the unity of people and languages from two different regions and cultures. Since this is a cultural center dedicated to Mexican-Americans, the name fits appropriately. Once someone sees the name "Dos Mundos" they will immediately relate it to who they are, where their roots come from, and where they live. I think this will be a great name for the center

Percentage of Cost: In as many as I am asked to participate

Nomintator's Name: Marcial Ramirez

Address: 2200 Willow Creek DR. Austin, TX. 78741

Phone Number: 512 912-1876

Alexander, Jason

From: webadmin@ci.austin.tx.us
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2006 2:41 PM
To: Alexander, Jason; Esquibel, Matthew
Subject: Application for Facility Renaming

Date/Time Submitted: Wednesday, 2/22/06, 1440 hours

Facility Name: Mexican American Cultural Center

Suggested New Name: John Trevino Mexican American Cultural Center

Biographical Synopsis: John Trevino was born here in Austin, Tx. He attended Becker Elementary, Fulmore Middle School and Travis High School. At a young age he joined the military serving as a paratrooper in the 82 Airborne Division. He is the father of 8 children.

Community Involvement: John Trevino was the first Mexican-American member of the Austin City Council and served as Mayor Pro Tem from 1981-1988 and Acting Mayor from February to May of 1988 when Carole Rylander resigned. He is currently the HUB-Coordinator at the University of Texas at Austin and currently a Board Member of the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO). John Trevino has over 40 years service of community involvement and community advocacy through his public service.

Connection to the Facility: Chairman of the Austin/Salttillo, Mexico Sister Cities Association. Member of the International Board of Directors of the US/Mexico Sister Cities Association which promotes the Mexican and American cultures.

Reason for non-individual nomination:

Percentage of Cost: \$100.00

Nomintator's Name: Erica Ramos

Address: 910-B Cardinal Lane, Austin, Tx 78704

Phone Number: 512-626-9830

Alexander, Jason

From: webadmin@ci.austin.tx.us
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2006 6:38 PM
To: Alexander, Jason; Esquilbel, Matthew
Subject: Application for Facility Renaming

Date/Time Submitted: Monday, 2/20/06, 1838 hours

Facility Name: Mexican American Cultural Center

Suggested New Name: NO MORE HISPANIC NAMES PLEASE

Biographical Synopsis:

Community Involvement:

Connection to the Facility:

Reason for non-individual nomination: I don't feel it in this cities best interest to rename at all!!! don't we have enough renamed locations honoring the hispanic population? If we keep going at this rate, everything will be given to the hispanic heritiage and we will loose America. How do you say Austin in spanish ? that will probably be next

Percentage of Cost: ZERO

Nomintator's Name: D White