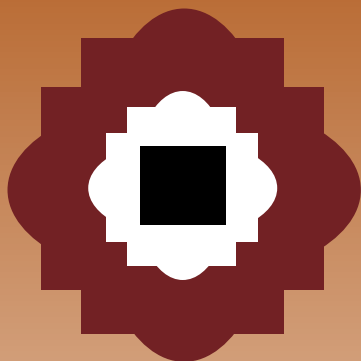




The **Tejano** walking Trail

Rayo de Esperanza- A beacon of Hope:

Caesar Chavez Sculpture in honor of the Civil rights and labor leader by Connie Arismendi and Laura Garazuay commissioned by the City's Art in Public Places at Terrazas Library



East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Tejano Healthy Walking Trail

This Trail is 4.95 miles long and takes about 2 ½ hours to walk. The volunteers who created this Trail respect the American Disability Act but our sidewalks are not in good shape and most streets lack sidewalks on both sides, some have no sidewalks at all. It may be difficult for those who use walking aides to follow our Trail. We regret we cannot accommodate everyone and will continue to work with the City to improve accessibility in our area.

We start our Tejano Healthy Walking Trail at the East Austin Neighborhood Center and CommUNITY Clinic at East 2nd and Comal Streets. As one of Austin's first platted neighborhoods, this part of our 'hood has always been a hotbed of grass-roots organizing. We're a neighborhood in transition, working hard to respect, preserve and protect our cultural heritage and unique identity. This Trail helps us celebrate our history and diversity with you. We are a "live and let live community," so enjoy our beautiful homes, schools, gardens, and historical assets. But please respect our land and our privacy.



On the last leg of the Trail, you'll pass an area north of 3rd and south of 6th originally settled by freed slaves from Texas, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Georgia. This area was called Masontown after brothers Sam and Raiford bought the land in 1867. As downtown expanded and a Master Plan was adopted in part to encourage industrial uses and minorities to locate further east, this sector was known as "The Negro District." Although Austin replaced its political ward system in 1909 with city commissioners, the neighborhood retained its name as "The Tenth Ward" and still maintains strong ties to Rainey Street, Palm School and Palm Park which were part of the same ward for decades.

Many homes you'll see were built in the early 20th century, largely of longleaf pine from Calcasieu Parish, LA, as vernacular versions of ornate Victorian homes. Early residents were middle class workers of European descent. These clerks, salesmen, dress makers, tradesmen and railroad workers and their families rode streetcars to work, shop, and socialize downtown. Early plats show large dairy farms, railroad right of way, and flood plain. A serious flood in 1935 affected many buildings close to the river but some of the pecan and oak trees, roses and other native flora are as old as the neighborhood.

Our neighborhood changed a lot in the late 1920s and early 30s when city leaders decided to grow downtown and came up with Austin's first big Master Plan. As Austin's minorities moved out of downtown to the eastside, new neighborhoods sprouted north of downtown. With more affluent residents and voters moving north of town, the eastside suffered. When East Avenue, a beautiful tree-lined boulevard where young people would come play ball and families would picnic under the shady trees, got bulldozed in the late 50s to build I-35, the natural and political ties to downtown were physically severed, creating a cultural and economic barrier.

From the late 1940s through the 1970s, Mexican American residents organized into numerous activist groups to affirm their cultural identity and to fight for basic civil rights. These organizations included LULAC, East Austin Lions' Club, the Pan American Roundtable, and the American GI Forum. Most of that grass-roots organizing was done at an old school house at La Parque Comal. Our neighborhood began a long struggle to sustain itself and our cultural and historic assets. When Senator Lyndon Baines





1112 E. Cesar Chavez St. (demolished)

Johnson became President, his War on Poverty and Great Society programs gave neighbors the tools they needed to protect themselves from urban removal efforts which affected large neighborhoods north and east of ours. By the late 1970s some neighborhood organizers were winning elections, such as the first Mexican-American City Councilmember (Johnny Trevino), County Commissioner (Richard Moya), and Tx Representative and later Tx Senator (Gonzalo Barrientos). Other ‘homeboys and gals’ got into high level city management positions and helped the neighborhood get the power to combat discrimination and improve social services, education, medical care, employment opportunities, and public safety.

In the 1980s came the birth of the creative class and a sprinkling of artists began to buy and renovate old warehouses and homes into small studios and galleries. With the Savings & Loan Bank failures in the late 80s and the tech bust in the 1990s this neighborhood became very affordable and many rental units were flipped to homeowners attracted to the area for its rich diversity and affordability.

In 1997, with downtown expanding eastward and the neighborhood gentrifying rapidly, City Council selected the area for its pilot Neighborhood Planning Process. Area residents, business owners, civic groups, congregations, and non-profits formed a Neighborhood Planning Team to advise future Councils on preserving the neighborhood’s



affordability, character, and delivery of public services.

This Trail is a work in progress and a result of participating in the City's Neighborhood Planning Process which provided the funding. The research and Trail work has been done mainly by volunteer residents, partner agencies, and numerous city departments. Copies are limited and available courtesy of the City of Austin Neighborhood Planning and Development Review Department and local businesses. More details about these sites and lots of other community assets not listed here are available at our website www.eastcesarchavez.org, a service provided in-kind by Trinsic Technology.

From the kiosk in front of 211 Comal at the corner of E. 2nd Street and Comal Street, walk eastward on E. 2nd Street. The next 2 sites will be on the right side of the street.

1. MHMR C.A.R.E Center, 1631 E. 2nd Street.

The Community AIDS Resource and Education Program is a service of Austin Travis County MHMR. Established in 1988, it provides supportive services to individuals living with HIV and AIDS, families of HIV positive individuals, and people most at-risk for contracting these diseases. The services include counseling, case management, psychiatric services, support groups, free and confidential testing for HIV, Hepatitis C, and Syphilis, substance abuse treatment, street outreach, and distribution of risk-reduction materials.

2. El Jardin Alegre, 1801 E. 2nd Street.

El Jardin Alegre (the Happy Garden) was established in 1996 on the site of a vacant weed-infested lot that was rife with illegal activity. The land was transformed into a positive space through the creation of a community garden, where neighbors grow food together and build community. The garden features 40 10'x 12' plots, which are available for a small rental fee to residents from the surrounding neighborhood and beyond.

When you get to the corner of E. 2nd Street and Chicon Street, turn left and walk 1 block north to E. 3rd Street. You'll see the next site on the northwest corner. Then turn right going east down E. 3rd Street.

3. Chalmers Court Apartments, 1801 E. 3rd Street.

Built in 1939, Chalmers Court was one of the first three public housing



developments in the nation. It was constructed under the US Housing Act of 1937, co-authored by Senator Lyndon Johnson, who was a strong advocate for affordable housing. Because of segregation, Chalmers Court was built for “Whites,” Santa Rita Courts, just east of here, was built for “Mexicans”, and Rosewood Courts near E. 12th and Chicon was built for “Negroes.” When they opened, Whites paid \$14.20 per mo., while Mexicans paid just \$10.20 per mo. Pete Lopez, Jr., born 9-12-39, was the first child born in a federal housing program. Chalmers Court still provides affordable housing and now has 158 units and a number of programs, including Communities in Schools, SMART, Boys and Girls Club, Family Connections, and the Austin Academy.

4. AB Cantu/Pan American Hillside Amphitheatre and Recreation Center, 2100 E. 3rd Street. At the request of the Pan American Roundtable and Comal Center Advisory Board in the early 50s, this 5 acre tract was purchased by the City where the first building designed and constructed specifically as a city operated recreation center would be located. Activists were able to persuade the City and Zavala Elementary School leaders to design features for the new park and gym for shared use by the community and students at Zavala. The ball fields and outdoor stage were some of the City’s first to offer nighttime lighting. Generations of eastsiders supported and sponsored the Joker’s International Mexican-American Basketball Tournaments. The outdoor amphitheatre stage has been in continuous use since the Center opened in 1956. Teatro and folklorico groups came together to support a large mural project coordinated by artist Raul Valdes in 1978. The traditional free Tuesday Night Summer Hillside Concert series has featured some of the hottest Tejano and Conjunto Bands in the southwest for almost 60 years. As many as 5,000 people have squeezed together on the hillside, sharing blankets under the bright summer stars to listen to headliners like Ruben Ramos and the Texas Revolution. Activities in the park and building are supported by the Pan Am Recreation Center Advisory Board, a group originally made up of members from the Pan Am Roundtable and the different organizations and clubs that provided services or held meetings here. The Center was a model of community education and collaboration. Original programs included all types of outdoor sports and entertainment while the indoor building spaces were used as a community health center; library; gym; commercial kitchen; arts, drama, and dance studios; classrooms; and meeting hall for social events. Major Mexican Holidays have always been celebrated on these grounds. For many years Pan Am has hosted a semi-professional boxing program and Golden Gloves



Tournaments that bring boxers from across the state to compete. Another ongoing tradition is the Free Annual Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner which is like a big family reunion for generations of eastsiders and their supporters who provide about 2,000 meals each year. For the last 10 years this dinner has been sponsored by the Advisory Board and Fiestas Patrias and a number of businesses. Affordable afterschool programs, day camps, sports, exercise, and creative arts classes offered here help our community preserve our cultural heritage, expand our knowledge, and enjoy a healthy lifestyle.

One of the dedicated members of the community, AB Cantu, was honored after his death by having the Pan American recreation center named in his memory. Cantu was a Pan American recreation center employee and golden glove champion.

5. Zavala Elementary School, 310 Robert T. Martinez Street.

Zavala Elementary was constructed in 1936 as a “New Deal” project during the first term of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The school is named for Lorenzo de Zavala, a signatory of the Texas Declaration of Independence and the first vice-president of the Republic of Texas. While major renovations have occurred over the years, the community has pushed hard to maintain as much of the original features as possible. Zavala is a National Blue Ribbon school. Its motto is “saber es poder - knowledge is power”; its mascot is a mustang.

When you get to the corner of E. 3rd and Robert T Martinez, turn right, walk south down Robert T Martinez Street.

6. Cristo Rey Catholic Church, 2201 E. 2nd Street.

In 1922, a block of land was purchased at 2300 E. 1st Street (now E. Cesar Chavez) for \$4,900, and church services were held in a tent. In 1942 a wooden church was built. At the first Christmas service the church had no water, gas, or electricity and oil lamps lighted the service. After WWII, the church was enlarged. The masonry church at the corner of Robert Martinez and E. 2nd Street was completed in 1959. Cesar Chavez spoke to about 50 people at Cristo Rey during a United Farm Workers grape boycott in 1973, and attended Mass afterwards.





1804 E. Cesar Chavez St. (demolished)

7. Metz Elementary School, 84 Robert T. Martinez Street.

Metz Elementary was founded in 1916, and named after a school board member. By 1992 the original school house had fallen into disrepair and the school was rebuilt. The death of a construction worker fueled rumors of ghosts on the campus. The first principal, Clara Stubbs, served the campus for 16 years. Metz and Sanchez teachers and their principals were the first educators in Austin to form a Bilingual Teachers Association and they pushed for bilingual programs before the School Board and the state legislature. Now known as the Austin Area Association of Bilingual Educators (AAABE), our teachers helped strengthen the statewide association called TABE because we are so close to the state Capitol. Our teachers continue to take leadership roles in reforming statewide educational programs to better serve bicultural students. Metz is committed to bilingual education, with a goal of graduating each student as a critical thinker in two languages. The school's mascot is a cobra.

Continue south on Robert T Martinez, when you reach the corner of Haskell Street look left and you'll see the remnants of the old Holly Power Plant at 2401 Holly Street. Look further southeast and you'll see the Lorraine 'Grandma' Camacho Youth Activity Center at 34 Robert T. Martinez Street. Now turn right, heading west on Haskell for 5 blocks to Comal Street.



8. Martin Middle School, 1601 Haskell Street.

In the 1940s this site was used by the War Training Production Program. The buildings might also have been used as a temporary processing center to assign boys for training in Killeen and Camp Swift who were going overseas to fight in WWII. Area elders say that after the war, the center was transformed into a re-training center so returning Vets could gain skills to find good jobs. Some of these Veterans lived in Santa Rita and Chalmers Courts public housing units and could walk to the training. There was a huge fire, and the training center was closed. Neighbors were told to “take anything you can carry”, and they used the wood to build additions and garages at their nearby homes. The land stood vacant for some years and there are tales of baseball games held at the site back near the Colorado River where players fell off cliffs trying to catch fly balls. It was eventually developed by Austin ISD for use as a new Junior High School. Martin Middle School opened in 1967, to replace University Junior High, which became part of the UT campus and is now used by the UT School of Social Work. The new school is named for Sam Martin, an educator who served the district for 39 years as the vocational coordinator. Mr. Martin took a leadership role in creating the War Training Center on the same site and was director of the Evening School Program which earned local and national recognition. Rumors have it that the school was designed to deter potential race riots among students because it would be the first school to serve white, black and brown students and sociologists at that time didn't think different races could co-exist peacefully. So, in anticipation of large fights, students were assigned to 3 different wings of the building based on race and separating these wings are large, swinging metal gates similar to jail bars that could separate the diverse populations should fights occur. Some community members who first attended Martin say “they built the school like a prison, so we acted out what the adults expected us to do – we fought a lot.” Today, Martin students participate in a range of special projects, including: video production, computer journalism, and a 4-H Club. Be sure to visit the goat and/or chicken pens and big community garden on the west side of the building. Martin is part of the International Baccalaureate Middle School Program and has strong partnerships for service-learning programs on campus supported by the Sustainable Food Center, Capital Area 4-H, Extend-a-Care, and Keep Austin Beautiful. Martin's mascot is the eagle and the school song has kept the same melody as the UT anthem “The Eyes of Texas” in recognition of its roots at UT-Austin.



When you reach the corner of Comal, turn left and walk 1/2 block south towards Lady Bird Lake, the Martin Community Garden, Greenhouse and farm animal pen will be on your left, and Robert Weaver Circle is on your right. Take a stroll around the Circle—the trees are awesome.

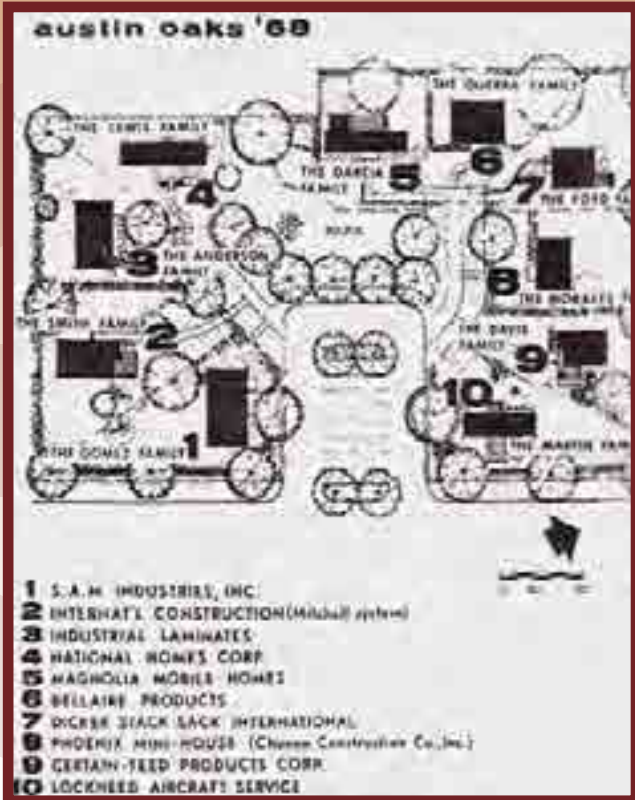
9. 1500 Robert Weaver Avenue & LBJ's Historic Oak Grove.

When the Colorado River was dammed at Pleasant Valley Road to provide a cooling pond for the new Holly Power Plant in 1960, the land upstream of Longhorn Dam became practical for development. Before the dam was built, ramshackle homes on the riverbanks were often flooded during heavy rains. After each flood, poor people would re-build their shanties. Supposedly, a few homeowners were offered \$5,000 each to vacate the riverbanks in order to create a higher quality neighborhood on the north riverbank. Almost all the land between what is now Waller and Comal Street south of Haskell Street was part of a federal fish hatchery. You can still see a large pump on the vacant land south of Robert Weaver Avenue. Somehow, in the late 70s, Texas politicians, including President Lyndon Baines Johnson, were able to get a piece of the old fish hatchery land to use as a demonstration of low-cost, energy-efficient model homes that could be mass-produced at affordable costs. Robert Weaver Avenue was originally known as the Austin Oaks Subdivision. Twenty faculty members from the University of Texas in Austin helped coordinate the design competition and building aspect of the program while UT social scientists studied the concept of creating a new kind of mixed-race neighborhood where people of different ethnic backgrounds could live the American Dream, together. The project created a Design Center in a downtown warehouse where over 300 families from adjacent downtown African American and Mexican American communities were interviewed and screened as possible homeowners. The families were paid a small stipend to participate and part of the process asked the families to move cardboard replicas of furniture and appliances around the game room to show how they would like their Dream House designed. Social scientists at the time thought that the different ethnic groups might have totally different lifestyles requiring different floor plans. Ten different builders from across the nation participated in the competition to design and build 10 model homes. LBJ saw this project as a culmination of his Great Society, War on Poverty, and Model Cities initiatives. There was extreme local political pressure to get this desegregation project accomplished including a rowdy protest at the County Courthouse that required the President to get his train to turn around and return him to



Austin to quell the disturbance. Ten lucky families, 5 each of African American and Mexican American heritage, were selected by Lottery at the Design Center. President Johnson dedicated these homes on December 14, 1968, which was one of the last official acts of his presidency. The large oak trees were donated by the President and Lady Bird Johnson and were supposedly transplanted here from their ranch in Johnson City. The Neighborhood Planning Team is interested in completing the studies that UT started in the 60s. Some of the original families still own these homes and we are curious to see which model homes retained the most energy efficiency. One renter in a home who found out these were built with experimental, energy-efficient construction materials said, “No wonder it feels like living in an old fashioned cooler. My home was built with walls that look like the lining in an antique thermos bottle.”

After walking the Circle, go left on Comal Street and head north for ½ block on Comal and then turn left on Haskell Street. You’ll be walking west towards downtown. Look for the next site on your left.








10. National Fish Hatchery Grand Entrance, seen from I30I-I207 Haskell Street. The big stone circle you see was once a fish pond. In 1940, the City procured and donated 30 acres of land to the US Fish Commission to raise fish for stocking ponds and lakes. Pumps installed in the Colorado River fed irrigation ditches that filled 19 huge ponds used to raise bass, sunfish, and channel catfish. The fish were then transported by truck to lakes and farm/ranch ponds in 39 counties to “provide 100,000 days of healthful outdoor fishing for Americans of all ages.” The director of the US Fish Commission who managed this fishery was selected to lead the creation of The Smithsonian Institute and his duties and this hatchery were then transferred to the Department of Interior. The site was also under the US Dept. of Commerce Bureau of Fisheries where specimens were bred and studied along with other research projects and field studies about aquatic life, sediments, and flood control. Labor to build the ponds and buildings was provided by youths involved with the National Youth Administration Service (NYA) from 1940-42 with an average of 30 youths per period being supervised by skilled laborers employed by the Service. A report from 1941 states that “...the youth labor has consisted almost entirely of Mexicans and colored boysproviding the Service with much labor without cost, the work has allowed the youths much work experience as well as financial gain.” The youth, who were based at the NYA Training Center at Inks Dam, also built furniture, painted signs, and installed the posts you see at the entrance that used to have beautiful Bronze Plaques on them. The two structures on either side of the brick pond housed the Superintendent and the Fish Culturist. There was another building that served as a large office, feed room, workshop, and small lab. Generations of tourists, school children and nearby neighbors toured the buildings to learn about the fish hatchery program and field studies. Many adults in Austin can still remember school field trips to this pond to see a big gator and lots of fish. At the pond, looking slightly northeast, you can still see the large pipes and faucets that brought Colorado River water into the ponds and the concrete ramps used to load the trucks with fish. The hatchery operation closed sometime in the late 1960s. , In 1968, with native son, Lyndon Baines Johnson in the White House, the majority of the land was eventually given to a new non-profit, Austin Geriatrics Corporation, to build a model, senior citizens independent living residential tower. One of the Tower’s most famous residents was Mr. Isamu Taniguchi, a landscape architect and farmer, who was forced during WWII to move from his adopted home in California to live in a Japanese Relocation Camp in Crystal City, Texas. Isamu remained in South Texas, growing flowers and crops. He retired in Austin to be closer to his son, Alan,





 East Austin Neighborhood Center/
Travis County HHSD—trail info and starting point

 Tejano Music Legends Trail (○ = awaiting construction)

 Tejano Healthy Walking Trail

 Austin Art in Public Places installation



Bogy
Creek
Greenbelt

Cepeda
Music Gardens

PanAm
Hillside
Ampitheatre

PanAm
Recreation
Center

Zavala
School

Cristo Rey
Church

Metz School,
Park

Metz
Park & Pool

Comacho
Recreation Center

Thorpe
Field

Holly Power Plant
(decommissioned)


Roy Montelongo
Scenic Overlook

Seton East
Community
Clinic

Fuel "Cowboy"
Donley
Feating Hall

Map courtesy of Molly O'Halloran, Inc.
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and out of gratitude for his sons' education at the University of Texas at Austin, Taniguchi offered to create a Japanese garden for the City of Austin. The city parks department let Taniguchi have three acres of land in Zilker Botanical Garden which is now known as the Isamu Taniguchi Oriental Garden. Isamu tried valiantly to restore and preserve the fish pond and create a mini-park out of the remains of the fish hatchery to include a large fountain in the area that acts as a retention pond for the parking lots behind the Tower. He could be seen tinkering in the old warehouse space that he converted to use as a greenhouse until his death in 1982. Isamu Taniguchi's son, Alan, has trained thousands of young architects in recent decades as dean of the School of Architecture at the University of Texas and as director of Rice University's School of Architecture. Isamu's grandson, Evan, serves on the city's Comprehensive Plan Task Force. The Austin Geriatrics Corporation is working with the neighborhood to improve the property and continue its mission to provide seniors with quality, low-cost housing in a sustainable community.

 **Continue west on Haskell until you reach Waller. Turn left, and walk 1 block south heading towards Lady Bird Lake. You'll pass by our new Festival Beach Community Gardens and see the next site on your right.**

II. RBJ Clinic & Senior Residential Center, 15-41 Waller Street.

Part of President Lyndon Johnson's vision of A Great Society was to build a model senior citizens' program offering affordable and independent living units with supportive medical services available at an on-site nursing home. With a lot of politicking by high profile movers and shakers in government and academic circles, Roy Butler, Frank Erwin, and John Burns formed the Austin Geriatrics Corporation in 1968 and took possession of the land, which was an old federal fisheries operation. The 16-story Residential Tower, named after LBJ's mother, Rebekah Baines Johnson, was one of the first high rise apartment buildings in the city. The 5-story building next to it operated as a nursing home. Funding for the Tower came from use of a 236 Federal HUD Program designed to provide investors and non-profits long-term, low or no interest loans to provide housing for the elderly. The Residential Tower opened in early 1972 and the AGC Board is still providing very low income seniors affordable housing and a sense of community. The 5-story nursing home built adjacent to the Tower was operated under contracts from 1972 until 1981 but several private groups could not make the nursing home profitable. In 1981 with HUD oversight, the city bought the nursing home land and building for use by the Austin/Travis County Health and



Human Services for administrative offices and small clinics. The seniors have a beautiful community garden and common areas on the first floor. If you enter the lobby area or want to look at the gardens, you must sign in at the security desk. The City's offices are open during regular business hours. The Austin Geriatrics Corporation Board continues LBJ's vision to provide independent living for low income seniors and is working with our neighborhood planning team to improve and expand the number of low-income residents served at this site and build some new business and retail spaces to meet the needs of their senior residents and nearby neighbors.

Turn around and go north on Waller Street and walk 2 blocks north past Holly Street. You'll pass by the back side of Sanchez School and Park on your left.

12. Sanchez Elementary School and Park, 73 San Marcos Street.

When East Avenue was converted from a park-like boulevard into Interstate Highway I-35, parents began organizing to get a new school built east of the Interstate Highway. Neighborhood children were assigned to Palm Elementary which ended up on the west side of the highway, creating a dangerous walk to school. That building is now known as Palm Square. It took almost 20 years, but once Gus Garcia was elected to the School Board, the Austin School District finally relented and set aside funds to



1009 Willow Street



build Sanchez Elementary which finally opened in 1976. Several homes and the beloved Salvation Army Youth Center Gym were demolished to make way for the new school, named for the noted UT academic and civil rights activist, George I. Sanchez. Among his many accomplishments, Sanchez served as an expert witness in the 1948 landmark suit *Delgado v. Bastrop Independent School District* - which challenged the segregation of Hispanic students in Texas schools. The motif on the school's front awning represents the school's mascot: the Aztec. Sanchez and Metz Schools were the first to form a Bilingual Teachers Association and pushed for bilingual programs before the School Board and the state legislature. Sanchez was uniquely built with the open classroom concept and has some fabulous murals by artist, Raul Valdes, as well as a wonderful library. Every year, the school celebrates the graduating class with a festive banquet. The graduating class develops an art project that is displayed at the ceremony. In 1999, La Peña Art Gallery partnered with the graduating students to produce giant paper sculpture masks, depicting the Aztec gods. When La Peña printed posters of the exhibit, it brought citywide attention to Sanchez's art department. The students also produce an Annual *Día de los Muertos* Altar that helps




1111 E. Cesar Chavez Street



us preserve our cultural traditions. The Sanchez Aztec Singers often perform and compete at venues citywide. The large garden next to the track is part of the service-learning programs on campus and is supported by the Sustainable Food Center. Capital Area 4-H, Extend-a-Care, and Keep Austin Beautiful, groups that have also been partners in service at the campus for many years.

 When you reach the corner of Spence Street, turn left onto Spence and walk 2 blocks until you reach the I-35 frontage road.

13. Willow-Spence National Historic Register District, 800-1100 blocks. Shaded by pecan and oak trees as old as the neighborhood itself, the single-family residences and compatible commercial and public buildings in this East Austin district were first occupied by European working class families as early as 1880. Downtown growth displaced many Mexican American families who moved eastward in the 1920s and 1930s. In the late 50s when East Avenue was upgraded into Interstate 35 and it severed East Austin from downtown socially, economically, and spiritually, many Anglo residents moved out. This area suffered like many minority neighborhoods from civic neglect but in the 70s a small group of former and current residents from Willow Street banded together to get a few blocks of Willow and Spence Streets recognized as a National Historic Register District. This action has been one of the most stabilizing factors in the area and helped save these beautiful homes from demolition as downtown Austin expanded over the last 40 years. The neighborhood currently boasts a lively Mexican-American culture, though there has been a recent return of many Anglos who want to restore and live in these historic homes. The many wood-frame cottages of Late Victorian or Craftsman/Bungalow architecture are rarely found in such large concentrations today and there is a shared goal of maintaining the historic and cultural character of the neighborhood.

 When you reach the corner of Spence Street and I-35, turn right heading north, walk 1 block and turn right onto Willow Street. At the corner of Willow and Waller, turn left and you'll see El Buen Pastor Church on your right.

14. El Buen Pastor Presbyterian Church and Early Childhood Development Center, 1200-1208 Willow Street. In 1908, Rev. Elias Treviño, a Presbyterian Evangelist, came to Austin. The Texas-Mexican Presbytery allowed him to organize the Iglesia Presbiteriana Mexicana at E. 6th and Navasota Streets, founded on April 23, 1910, with 20 charter members. The



church moved downtown to the corner of 4th and Nueces in October 1918. In 1921, an adjacent lot was bought extending it to San Antonio Street. In 1932, the church was relocated to the corner of E. 8th and Navasota Streets where it remained for the next 27 years. In 1951, the name of the Church changed to “El Buen Pastor” Presbyterian Church, which means “The Good Shepherd.” The purchase of the present property, including the 1902 traditional Mission Revival style church building, was made in 1959. The church has an attractive sanctuary with beautiful stained glass windows. Some were brought from Germany and are more than 100 years old. The Fellowship Hall is used for conferences, family nights and other social gatherings. Next to the Hall was the pastor’s manse. The adjacent lot was bought for the site of the El Buen Pastor Early Childhood Development Center. The idea for the Center originated from a 1974 needs assessment conducted in East Austin by United Urban Council of Churches (now Austin Interfaith Metropolitan Ministries) which found a severe lack of affordable and local childcare services for low-income residents. Responding to this need, on September 2, 1975, the Center opened its doors and began serving its first class of eight children in the Fellowship Hall. The goals were simple and direct: provide a place where children could find educational, spiritual, physical, mental, and social nourishment. In 1978, parents eagerly raised the funds through car washes and tamale sales to relocate the Center to the pastor’s manse, permitting expansion of childcare services. The Childhood Center has served low-income families from the neighborhood for over 34 years with a high quality, bilingual program that has educated the children of some of Austin’s most talented citizens. Through grants and individual donations, a new facility was built allowing for 117 children, including infants. The Center is equipped with child friendly sinks, bathrooms, and furniture and its broad porches are used in arts, physical play, and other educational activities, while spacious rooms allow for science, computer, math, language and musical activities. All the Center’s staff are certified Early Childhood specialists. The National Academy of Early Childhood Program (NAEYC) accredited the Center in March 1992 and it has also earned the Four Stars Texas Rising Star Provider recognition from the Texas WorkForce Solutions Capital Area. If you look closely at the corner of the campus, you’ll find the Corner of Compassion, where members, their families and friends, have laid bricks that have the name of a loved one engraved on it.

The congregation and those of other churches were also instrumental in founding the mission, Manos de Cristo, which includes an on-site Clothes



Closet, Back-To-School Program, Citizenship and English Classes, a Food Pantry, Legal Aid service and the Dental Clinic around the corner on E. Cesar Chavez Street. Manos de Cristo ministry quickly began making a name for itself within the larger community so demand for its church-based services exploded. In 2002, the El Buen Pastor ministry bought a beat-up house on the southwest corner of Waller at 1111 Willow, and its vibrant colors and remarkable renovation came to represent the transformation of the people who come to Manos de Cristo in dire need. The ministry sold the property for the funds to expand this valuable resource center to the offices at 4911 Harmon Ave. in the Ridgetop neighborhood.

From the corner of Willow and Waller Streets walk 1 block north on Waller to E. Cesar Chavez Street (formerly called Water Street and later known as E. 1st Street) This corner hosts Manos de Cristo Dental Clinic on the southeast corner.

15. Manos de Cristo Dental Clinic, 1201 E. Cesar Chavez Street.

When Reverend Diaz became pastor of El Buen Pastor church, he quickly realized that the needs for dental treatment and other services for the community at El Buen Pastor were services needed by poor people all over Austin. In 1990, with help from other churches and individuals, Diaz and other members of the church established a dental clinic with 501c3 non-profit status in order to tap the support of individuals, churches, corporations and foundations. The Manos de Cristo Dental Clinic is currently the only low-fee, full-service dental clinic in Austin. Manos bears the enormous responsibility of offering the best care possible to the most vulnerable among us: the children and families who lack the resources to meet their needs. In 2008, the clinic provided more than 7,741 appointments and \$1,041,842 in free dental services to Austin's working poor. In addition to emergency care for people in pain, Manos offers a full range of restorative care, such as fillings, crowns, partials and periodontal treatment, as well as preventive care, including exams, x-rays, sealants, and regular cleanings. Services are only offered to people who have no private insurance, MAP cards, or Medicaid coverage.

Walk west towards downtown on E. Cesar Chavez Street ½ blocks to Terrazas Library. You'll see The Travis County Healthcare District Admin offices in the Cesar Chavez Building on the southwest corner, before you reach Terrazas Library.



16. Terrazas Library, 1105 E. Cesar Chavez Street.

This Library was named for Henry S. Terrazas, a Johnston High School Ram's football star. Henry joined the Marines during the Vietnam War and while training at Camp Pendleton, he died fighting a wildfire in a forest in California. A plaque and flag at the corner of I-35 and Brushy Street were dedicated to Henry and all the young Vietnam Vets by the East Austin Lions' Club. Known as "The Best Little Library in Texas" by School Library Journal (January 2001 issue), The Terrazas Branch of the Austin Public Library is now double the size of its original E. Cesar Chavez building. Actually, the East Austin branch officially began in 1961 in a small room at the Pan-American Recreation Center at 2100 E. Third Street. Eight years later it was moved to a former furniture store at the corner of Canadian and E. First Streets, and in 1976 made the move to its current spot. On May 6, 2006 the new Terrazas Branch opened its 10,000 square feet with space for a collection of almost 50,000 volumes, a public meeting room, children's library area, computer lab space, an Immigration Center, and an art exhibit space. Located at the gateway to East Austin, the Terrazas Branch has steadily expanded its role by offering varied collections, helpful resources, and unique programs aimed at meeting the needs of its community. The metal sculpture in front of the Library and the statue of Cesar Chavez near the parking lot, are both part of Austin's Art in Public Places program. The Chavez statue was dedicated in May 2009 and featured historic farmworker protest songs by Conjunto Aztlán and speeches by community organizers who knew Cesar Chavez and supported his work with the United Farm Workers Union activities here in Austin. Many residents here joined him at local grocery stores for his national "boycott grapes" campaign aimed at ending horrific migrant labor practices including the use of child labor, back-breaking harvesting tools, exposure to cancer-causing pesticides, and the lack of decent housing and access to schools by migrant families. The library houses a special collection in Cesar's honor, and at night the statue of Cesar Chavez has awesome lighting with colors that change on certain dates to forever remind us of his dedication to non-violent community organizing and national hunger strikes that compromised his health. Our neighborhood is very proud to host so many tributes to this cultural icon. The metal sculpture at the entryway of the Library "El futuro is una página en blanca. ¿Qué escribirás en ella?" was created by Connie Arismendi who was commissioned by the City's Art in Public Places Program. Continue west on Cesar Chavez Street for ½ block and turn right onto San Marcos Street heading north. Walk 1 block to E. 2nd Street and turn left





1201 E. 2nd Street

walking 1 more block west to the church at the corner of E. 2nd Street and Brushy Street.

17. Iglesia Metodista Emanuel, 200 Brushy Street.

Iglesia Metodista Unida Emmanuel was organized in 1891 in a downtown home on Rio Grande Street and later had a church building at Nueces & 4th Streets. The church was tempted along with other minority-serving institutions to move east of East Avenue as part of the Downtown Austin Master Plan in the 1930s. So it moved to East Avenue and E. 9th Street and became known as the East Avenue Methodist Church. The church was displaced once again when East Avenue was destroyed to make way for Interstate Highway 35. The present building, with seating for 275 people, was erected in 1952.




Turn around and go back on E. 2nd heading east. You will see the next site on the next block on the right side.

18. Primera Iglesia Bautista Church, 112 Medina Street.

Primera Iglesia Bautista was organized in 1899 with 35 members. By 1926 the church had a building at East Avenue (now I-35) and 3rd Street. The area was described as “fast becoming the center of the Mexican population, and . . . easily accessible” by the Baptist Women’s Missionary Society. The first Mexican Baptist Convention was held here in 1910. The present building was completed in 1959. The mosaic work above the front door was



designed by Reverend Carlos Paredes, a pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista for over 27 years.

   Continue walking on E. 2nd heading east another 3 blocks and turn left onto Attayac Street. (There are no sidewalks on Attayac.) Walk north 2 blocks until you reach E. 4th Street, then turn right onto E 4th Street and you'll see the next site on your left side.

19. Texaco Oil Depot Warehouses, 1300-1302 E. 4th Street.

The Houston and Texas Central Railroad built tracks into Austin using local bond funds. On Christmas Day in 1871, John M. Swisher, a streetcar and ferry operator in town drove the final spike into the track while a large crowd of people looked on from Robertson Hill above the French Legation. The first 'iron horse' arrived full of tourists the next day. The Tri-Weekly Statesman newspaper reported that the epic event included booming cannon, cheers, speeches, and a parade of marching cadets, US Infantry, and local fire department divisions. With rail service, Austin grew quickly into a thriving city full of opportunities for expanding businesses. These warehouses are the last still standing from the original 1871 plat map detailing the Railroad right of way. Texaco Oil Company bought the warehouses in 1912. The Depot received oils, primarily used for lighting and heat, loaded from railroad tanker cars into huge drums held up by concrete structures that can still be seen in the backyard at the northeast corner. Trucks were then loaded with fuel from these tanks for delivery to retail outlets. It's hard to imagine today that before the arrival of this train, the only way in or out of Austin was by stagecoach, horse and carriage, or by foot. Thanks to the arrival of the train and the oil delivered to these warehouses, Austin's "modern age" began. With the rise of cars and buses used by working class families, the Texaco Depot received even more petro products by train. After WWII, Texaco sold the tract to the Firestone Company which used the space primarily for warehousing their inventory. The buildings were purchased in 1976 by an area resident and have been used as live/work space for local artists and community groups ever since. The building was designated a Local Historic Landmark in August, 2009.

20. The Scoot Inn, 1308 E. 4th Street.

Built in 1871, The Scoot Inn began as a railroad saloon and is the oldest continuously running beer joint in central Texas. In the olden days, weary pioneers would roll their wagons into the Scoot "drive in" for a jug of beer, food and perhaps some ice when available. Many evenings saw



pioneers, Luddites, Flat-Heads, drunks, dullards; rough-necks, ranch hands, outlaws, bandits and ladies of easy leisure as well as men in stove-pipe hats, sombreros and derbies filling the barroom with tales of their travels throughout the wilds of the Lone Star State. Later, she catered to locals and the random lookey-loo or passerby. In 1940, Scoot Ivy and his buddy Red opened Red's Scoot Inn after a long succession of owners who operated even through the Depression and Prohibition. They catered to railroad men and workers who needed a beer after a long journey or after a day's work at a nearby factory or warehouse. Scoot and Red owned the business until 1980, when they died in their late 70s. Not bad for two old salties. During the next two decades a lot of different folks owned the bar business, each catering to a somewhat different crowd and most hosting some kind of live music. In 2006, the Longbranch Inn acquired the Scoot Inn. Now the two bars are collectively known as the East Inns.

At the corner of Navasota and E. 4th, go south on Navasota 2 blocks to E. 2nd Street and turn right heading back west 1 block until you reach Attayac again. Turn left on Attayac, walk 1 block to E. Cesar Chavez Street then turn left going east on E. Cesar Chavez Street. You'll see the next site immediately on the right side.

21. Moreland House, 1301 E. Cesar Chavez Street.

This house was built in 1897 for C.B. Moreland, a painting and wallpaper business operator, who painted the original star in the Texas Capitol rotunda. The current colors are supposed to be the original colors from paint Moreland had left over from other jobs. Moreland's daughter inherited the home but during the 1930 depression, lost or left the property and a bank took possession of it until it was sold to another family in the 1940s who sliced it up into a boarding house, which is why the kitchen is upstairs. In 2002 it was bought by the current family and restored to Historic Landmark criteria. It's a Victorian Queen Anne, popular in the 1880s/1890s, characterized by the abundance of spindles, precut shingling, decorated gables, steep roofing, scroll bracket supports and bay windows. This period and style of home is known by its vibrant colors and use of porches. Almost all of the materials are original, though the old cedar foundation posts needed replacement. Most of the interior and exterior wood that had rotted was replaced with reclaimed material purchased at the Austin Habitat for Humanity Re-Store, another neighborhood gem.



22. Quintanilla House, 1402 E. Cesar Chavez Street.

This unique two story limestone structure was built in 1886. The Victorian period home boasts a double gallery, a carved wooden staircase in the central hallway and a ghost named Clara. Clara supposedly has appeared as a silhouette peering out the front windows in photos of the home. In 1972, Joel V. Quintanilla purchased the home with the intention of restoring it to its original luster. In 1978, a non-profit bought the house hoping to raise \$50,000 to begin restoration of the home. On October 5th, 1984, the home was named in memory of Joel V. Quintanilla, a former Capitol guard who risked his life in an attempt to save a guest in the Capitol during the fire that occurred on March 15, 1983. He received a commendation for heroism for the courage he displayed.

Walk east on Cesar Chavez tot the corner of E. Cesar Chavez and Comal, where you'll see the next site on the northeast corner.

23. Wolfe House, 1602 E. Cesar Chavez Street.

Documents support a transfer of ownership to Charles Wolfe on December 17, 1883. City tax records show the house was built in 1900. It was said that Lambie and Fischer Construction Company was hired to build the residence and that construction took two years. The Wolfe house was the center of social activity in what was then (and is now) a fashionable neighborhood. The house has pine floors, cypress siding, oak mantles, and



1602 E. Cesar Chavez Street



classical detailing. Charles Wolfe emigrated from Germany at 16, served in the Army during WWI, and owned a farming and investment business. Members of the Wolfe family occupied the house from 1903 to 1954. After the death of Martha Wolfe in 1954, the house was rented to various persons. In 1974, Jack Canson purchased the property and saved the structure from destruction. He literally stopped the wreckers as they were about to demolish the building. Over the years, the Heritage Society of Austin has awarded grants and loans to enable continued restoration.

At the corner of E. Cesar Chavez and Comal Street, head north on Comal, walking 2 blocks to E. 3rd Street.

24. Parque Comal, 300 Comal Street.

In 1941, a vacant elementary school building was transformed into an education and recreation center by activists serving as the Comal Center Board. It was the center of political organizing for 15 years by groups such as the Century Club, LULAC, Mexican Patriotic Club, Club Beneficiencia, and American Friends' Services which provided English classes at the Center to meet their goal of helping Mexican Americans become eligible to vote as citizens. These groups organized themselves into a collaborative, neighborhood-based group called the Pan American Roundtable and they got the city to assign a director, Roy G. Guerrero, to manage the site on April 25, 1946. Ten years later they organized and lobbied to get local funds to build a new, larger Center in 1955, which is now called the AB Cantu/Pan American Rec. Center at 2100 E. 3rd Street. The old wood frame building was torn down and the site was dedicated as a small park. Today, it is a favorite neighborhood spot for basketball games and enjoyment of the shady play area. The colorful archway was built in 2002 as a community project funded by the Austin Parks Foundation. Neighborhood volunteers of all ages guided and participated in the construction process working with the City, American Youth Works, and Clayworks Studio, which helped neighbors, design, fire and install the archway tiles.

To return to the East Austin Neighborhood Center where this Trail started, turn around and go back onto Comal, heading south on Comal 1 block to the corner of E. 2nd. To eat lunch before you go, walk up to E. 6th Street (there are restaurants a few blocks east or west or go down to the 2100 – 2600 blocks of E. Cesar Chavez Street).



Thank you for visiting our neighborhood. Visit our Kiosks at Terrazas Library, Plaza Saltillo, or 211 Comal to see the most current events and contacts for the East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Planning Team. If you would like to learn more about the sites on this Trail and other cultural, community, and historical assets in our area, please visit our website at www.eastcesarchavez.org or email loriaustin@live.com

You can see more photos and information about our neighborhood in a special collection held at Terrazas Library.

The Trail of Tejano Music Legends

This Trail is 5.6 miles and is most enjoyed by scooter, bicycle, segway, horse-drawn carriage, or pedi-cabs. Some of the trail can be difficult for walking as it requires crossing busy streets, some without sidewalks. In some instances parking will be limited, requiring a bit of a walk. However, portions of the trail can be accessed using Austin's hike and bike trail along Lady Bird Lake. This project is a major contribution to our area by the Austin Latino Music Association. Call (512) 293-7607 to get a copy of their fabulous and colorful Music Legends Trail Guide or get it online at www.austinlatinomusic.com/trail.html

The Trail of Tejano Music Legends is an Austin City Council led initiative to re-name 5 public east side spots to commemorate Austin's Latino music legends from the 1940s and 50s. Many of these Legends lived in our neighborhood and their families laid down roots that anchor our community's creative class in diverse ways that are difficult to describe. This ongoing effort is being led by the Austin Latino Music Association, Art in Public Places Program, the Parks and Recreation Department, families of The Legends, and the Mexican American community across Central Texas. Only 3 of the sites have been completed and their descriptions follow. We hope you will join us in encouraging future City Councils to set aside funds to complete this Trail.

The long term vision for this project is that we not only honor these musicians for their help in making Austin the Live Music Capitol of the World, but that we also work with the musicians and their families to preserve the archives of these important figures in Austin's history. If we are able to do this at the Cepeda Library site, we could have exhibits and research files at the library of



the individuals and their families that are being recognized along the Trail. The 3 sites have public artworks funded by AIPP, which commissioned artist, Connie Arismendi, and her associates. Working primarily with aqua jet cut aluminum sheet metal, Arismendi's sculptural works reveal a story of Austin's Tejano musical legends and provides visual markers along the Trail.

“Una Canción de Fe Y Familia” (“A Song of Faith and Family”), at the Perez and Ramos Plaza at the Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River Street.

This sculpture honors the deep musical traditions and cultural contributions of the Perez and Ramos families, represented by the brothers Ruben and Ernest Perez, and Alfonso and Ruben Ramos. Arismendi portrays the Perez brothers playing the saxophone and the Ramos brothers engaged in song. The performers each led their own orchestra or band, and are joined by two curvilinear “stage structures” to symbolize the link between the two families. The vertical supports represent curtains on the side of the stage and a curving cut metal pattern based on a modified treble clef sits at the top and holds the names of these great families.

“Tenderly”, located along Nash Hernandez Sr. Road near I700 Chicon Street in the Festival Beach Park.

The sculpture honors Nash Hernandez who was a legendary orchestra leader and trumpeter who began his career playing German polkas in his hometown of Fredericksburg. After serving in the Army Air Corps during WWII he and wife, Minnie, settled in this neighborhood, where Minnie was raised and played with Matt Velasquez and the Latinaires. He formed the Nash Hernandez Orchestra in 1949. Many of Austin's Latino musicians got their start playing with Nash's Orchestra as did many of Austin's jazz musicians. His son, Ruben Hernandez, continues his father's legacy, regularly playing in and around Austin. A cut metal silhouette of Nash Hernandez stands atop a base that includes two lyrics from “Tenderly,” Nash's final song of each performance that he would dedicate to his wife, Minnie. The big ring forms a “spotlight” and swirling treble clefs create a dramatic Big Band setting.

Manuel “Cowboy” Donley and Robert Donley, Fiesta Gardens building, 2101 Jesse Segovia Street.

Manuel Donley is considered a pioneer of Tejano music. An accomplished musician, arranger and composer, Manuel Donley performed in a Tejano orquesta, traditional “Trio” and “Mariachi” ensembles. He's also composed and performed for movie soundtracks. He taught guitar lessons at Huston-Tillotson College and still gives lessons at his home. His orquesta, Las Estrellas, was formed in 1949 and is famous for its tight horn section, boleros, rancheras,



polkas, rock-n-roll, rhythm-and-blues, and big band-swing. Cowboy Donley still performs with them today. Robert Donley was also a musician, playing with his brother's orquesta and other groups. He was involved in the campaign to shut-down the Holly Power Plant and it is fitting that this park is adjacent to the Holly Power Plant which finally shut down in 2008.

The Johnny Degollado Pavilion at the Fiesta Gardens Stage, 1900 Jesse Segovia Street.

Johnny Degollado is the premier conjunto accordionist, band leader, and song writer in Austin and surrounding areas. In 1952, at the age of 15, he started his own conjunto along with his neighbor, Vicente Alonzo, who is still a member. 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.

¡Estamos en Tejas!, at the Roy Montelongo Scenic Overlook, 2707 Canterbury Street

The art provides shade and a welcoming environment for visitors to reflect on Roy Montelongo's musical accomplishments. Roy began his musical career at 14 years old playing sax for the Beto Villa Orquesta. He also played with Cowboy Donley, Isidro Lopez and Alfonso Ramos before forming his own band in 1964. He was a popular radio show man and in 1991 was inducted into the Tejano Music Hall of Fame. Arismendi's shade structure is circles of metal that are like a spinning record in honor of Montelongo's more than 20 recorded albums. The shade treble clef motif casts shadows that move across the footpath on sunny days. The 4 ft. medallions show his love of music, family, and his popular radio program ¡Estamos en Tejas!

Future Park-like sites designed, but on the waiting list for construction:

Cepeda Music Garden entryway for the Cepeda Library, 651 N. Pleasant Valley Road at the corner of E. 7th Street.

There is no question that music defines Austin's culture. The eastside has been and continues to be home to many notable people in the Austin music scene such as Alfred Johnson, James Cotton, TD Bell, Ruben & Alfonso Ramos, Roy Montelongo, and Augustine Ramirez. Many of the local musicians have gone on to international fame. Places like the Victory Grill, Charlie's Playhouse, the Skyline Club and the Avalon Club are important because they hosted these local music legends and other touring artists. There is a great need to recognize



and preserve East Austin's musical legacy, because we are quickly losing this incredible knowledge about our Community's past. We are blessed that local arts organizations such as Diverse Arts, Victory Grill Entertainment, the Tejano Artists Music Museum, and the Austin Latino Music Association have begun to call attention to the importance of these people and places.

The open space near the entryway of Eustacio Cepeda Library presents a great opportunity to recognize East Austin's rich musical legacy by honoring both African American and Latino artists. This cross-cultural aspect of the proposal is important because East Seventh Street has always been a significant corridor for both communities. This project presents a unique opportunity to celebrate history as we work to preserve it and to build unity between the African-American and Latino communities. The entry and fencing around the Cepeda Library could be transformed into a magical, musical gateway project.

Velasquez Park y Plaza, at the Medina Street Pocket Park, west of Tops Furniture in the 1100 Block of E. 5th Street.

Matt and Roy Matt Velasquez' Latinaires pre-dated Little Joe's Latinaires' by several years, and 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 War in 1946, he formed his own band, playing sorority parties, debutante balls and major parties, donating services to all Catholic events. 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. Nash Hernandez was a member of Matt's band before he started his own orchestra. Roy Velasquez was an important local Hispanic businessman and community leader. He established Roy's Taxi in 1931 at the age of 21 during the great depression. Roy was active in political circles and helped minorities gain a voice in local government. He supported lots of political candidates and was a friend of leaders such as President Lyndon B. Johnson, Mayor Tom Miller, City Council Members, Local Judges, and Congressman Jake Pickle. In 1935, Roy co-founded the Austin Chapter of LULAC, Council 85 and helped charter the Austin Citizen's League which was organized in the mid-1960s.



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For more information, visit www.eastcesarchavez.org or email loriaustin@live.com

The Tejano *walking Trail*

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