

50 Years of Friendship & Memories

A Look Back at the Austin-Salttillo
Sister Cities Association



1968-2018

Welcome | Bienvenidos

The Sister Cities relationship is special. It is a bond, supported by our city government and promoted by volunteers, that connects us to our international friends. The relationship between Austin and Saltillo is something even more significant. Not only are we bound by Sisterhood, we are neighbors. Our great states, Texas and Coahuila are connected by land, roads, music, food and families, separated only by our shared resource, the Rio Grande. Together, we are one great space. This land is our land. We are Coahuila and we are Texas. We are family and we will never be divided.

La relación de las Ciudades Hermanas es muy especial. Se trata de un enlace respaldado por el gobierno de nuestra ciudad y promovido por voluntarios que nos conectan con nuestros amigos internacionalmente. Pero la unión entre Austin y Saltillo es algo todavía más significativa. No solamente estamos unidos por lazos de hermandad, sino que también somos vecinos. Nuestros grandes Estados Texas y Coahuila están conectados por su territorio, sus carreteras, la música, la gastronomía y por las familias, separadas solo por nuestro también compartido Río Grande. Juntos somos un gran espacio. Este territorio es nuestro territorio, nosotros somos Coahuila y somos Texas. Somos una sola familia que nunca será dividida.

-Nick Barreiro, Presidente del ASSCA



Brunch at Steve Yau's house, 2017

Introduction



The Sister Cities Program was a brain child of General Dwight D. Eisenhower; he envisioned that world peace could be facilitated through a program that fostered friendship between cities and developed people to people diplomacy. As President, Eisenhower ultimately realized his vision with the establishment of the Sister Cities Program in 1955.

In 1968, the City of Austin, Texas, led by Mayor Harry Aiken, and the City of Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico, led by Mayor Jesús Gonzalez Santos, held official visits to the seats of government of both cities. They agreed via a Resolution adopted by the Austin City Council that Austin and Saltillo would work towards establishing friendship, respect and mutually beneficial exchange. Austin and Saltillo became Sister Cities on November 7, 1968. In 2018, Austin and Saltillo will again unite to celebrate fifty years of friendship, respect and mutual exchange, as it was envisioned in 1968. The relationship between the two cities has only grown and the bonds are stronger than ever.

This book is dedicated to the Austin-Saltillo Sister Cities Association and all the diplomacy shared by these two cities over the last 50 years. Through photographs, documents and narratives, it is a reflection on five decades of friendship, projects, and memories. There are also highlight chapters that tell of special projects, events and civic service. Finally, the book provides a tribute to individuals that have contributed much to the survival and success of the Austin-Saltillo Sister Cities Association.

A Little History on Coahuila y Tejas

Researching Coahuila y Tejas for this book was very compelling because of the shared heritage and because Saltillo and Coahuila played an important role in Texas history. The two states share a border that is 318 miles long, but they weren't always separated. Historical accounts show Coahuila y Tejas comprising one unified state as early as 1689. Because of the proximity of the two states, the Spanish governors of Coahuila kept extending their authority into the territory of Tejas. During Spanish rule, Coahuila had the most inhabitants and established cities like Saltillo and Monclova. On the other hand, Tejas was sparsely populated by Native tribes who resented the foreign intrusion. The Apache, Comanche and Karakawa along with other tribes made Tejas a difficult and dangerous place to settle in 1690. By 1693, any missions established by Spaniards in Tejas had failed, causing Spanish colonists and clergy to withdraw. They did not attempt to settle Tejas for another 20 years.

The Spanish Crown was still interested in colonizing Tejas and securing its place in North America. To achieve their goal the Spanish hired empresarios who acted as brokers between the settlers and the Spanish authorities. Children in Texas learn about Stephen F. Austin as an Empresario and the Father of Texas. Those facts are true but the dream of settling Texas was not born of him, but his father Moses Austin who first set course for Texas. In 1797, Moses Austin, a businessman originally from Connecticut,

went to New Spain to explore economic opportunities. He was awarded land grants to settle Missouri, but those ventures proved unsuccessful. In 1820 Moses Austin again petitioned the Spanish Crown for a land grant, but this time to settle Texas. He was awarded the land grant but never realized his vision, as he died at the age of 60 in 1821. From his death bed, Moses Austin asked his son to take up the mantle of Empresario and look toward Tejas.

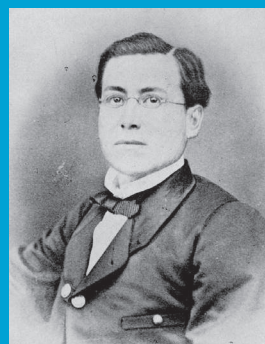
About the same time, Mexico became a newly independent nation. In September 1810, Father Miguel Hidalgo sounded the “Grito” for Mexican independence from Spain. The Mexican war of independence ended Spanish rule over Mexico in 1821. The Mexican constitution of 1824 officially created the state of Coahuila y Tejas. Saltillo and Monclova both served as capitals of the newly formed state, and battled for years on which city was to keep the state archives and be recognized as the true capital. Finally, Mexican President Antonio López de Santa Ana settled the discord and made Saltillo the permanent capital as it remains today.

Coahuila y Tejas remained one state until 1835, when President Santa Ana abolished state governments to centralize power. The same year, the rebellion in Texas escalated into a full-scale revolution that resulted in Texas independence in 1836. At the time, there was competition between Houston and Waterloo to determine which city would be the Capital of Texas, much like the struggle between Saltillo and Monclova, Coahuila. Interestingly enough, the same methods were used in both instances. Wherever the state archives and records were held, that was considered the Capital City. In 1837 Sam Houston established the city of Houston as the capital, but in 1839 the city of Waterloo was chartered and renamed Austin, after the “Father of Texas” Stephen F. Austin, and officially became the Capital of Texas.

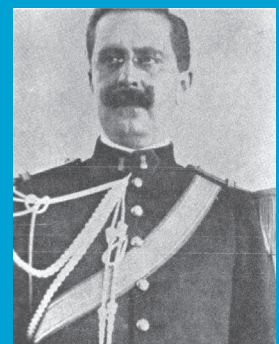
Some interesting facts about Saltillo and Austin:

The State of Coahuila’s formal name is Coahuila de Zaragoza. The state is named after General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguin, who led Mexican forces to victory at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, now known around the world as Cinco de Mayo. Ignacio Zaragoza was a son of Texas, having been born in 1829 in the town of La Bahía Del Espíritu Santo, now known as Goliad.

In researching the history of Coahuila y Tejas, it was noted that the eminent historian on the subject is Vito Alessio Robles, from Saltillo, Coahuila. The renowned historian was a military general and diplomat of the Mexican Republic. After the Mexican Revolution of 1910-1920, he opposed the regimes of Presidents Calles and Obregón and was exiled from Mexico to the United States. During his time in the US, Alessio Robles conducted his research at the University of Texas in Austin.

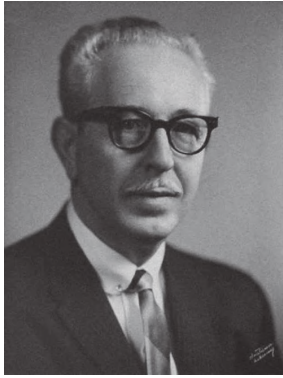


General Ignacio
Zaragoza Seguin



General Vito Alessio
Robles

The First Decade 1968-1977



Harry Akin, Mayor of Austin, 1968



Jesús Gonzales Santos, Mayor of Saltillo, 1968

The Austin-Salttillo Sister Cities relationship was established by resolution adopted by Mayor Harry Akin and the Austin City Council on November 7, 1968. The resolution adopted by the City Council states,

“Officials of both cities shall actively engage in work toward the establishment of friendship and respect between all segments of their constituencies which will extend beyond their own terms of office.”



Accepting the Sister Cities Friendship Resolution on behalf of the City of Saltillo was Mayor Jesús R. Gonzales Santos along with a delegation from Saltillo. A reception followed the adoption of the resolution between Austin and Saltillo. Photographs from the reception show the presence of Governor John B. Connally at the gathering along with Mayor Harry Akin and Mayor Jesús Gonzales of Saltillo.

In 1971, Mayor Roy Butler invited another delegation from Saltillo to visit Austin. The delegation was led by Mayor Arturo Berrueto Gonzalez. At a reception Mayor Berrueto presented Mayor Butler with a Sarape de Saltillo, which would become a traditional gift from Saltillo. The Saltillo delegation met with then Governor Preston Smith and a special surprise awaited them at the LBJ Library.

The story told is that Mayor Roy Butler and President Lyndon Baines Johnson were good friends. Mayor Butler found out that President Johnson was going to be in Austin at the LBJ Library the day the Saltillo delegation visited. Mayor Butler called the former President to ask him if he could possibly greet the visiting delegation. The arrangements were made and members of the Saltillo delegation were told they would visit the LBJ library but were not told about President Johnson's presence. As they walked into the room with the replica of the oval office, they saw a man sitting behind the desk. The man looked up and said, "Welcome to Texas." As the man stood up they recognized him as the 36th President of the United States, Lyndon Baines Johnson. The delegation from Saltillo was honored and delighted to meet



Mayor Berrueto of Saltillo presents a hand-woven sarape to Mayor Roy Butler of Austin, 1971



Mayor Butler, Texas Governor Preston Smith & Mayor Berrueto with his wife, 1971



Council members from Austin and Saltillo pose before the River-Boat COMMODORE...





President Johnson. The photo above shows Mayor Roy Butler and Mayor Arturo Berrueto Gonzalez standing next to President Johnson as he signs autographs.

During the Austin delegation's most recent trip to Saltillo in 2018, several members of the Association had the opportunity to meet Professor and former Mayor of Saltillo Arturo Berrueto Gonzalez. At 88 years old, he fondly remembers Mayor Roy Butler and his surprise meeting with President Lyndon B. Johnson.



Professor Arturo Berrueto and Jesús Castilla S, 2016





Brother Mayors of Sister Cities—Saltillo's Berrueto (left) and Austin's Butler

AUGUST, 1971

By Nettie D. More

Sisters—Austin, Saltillo What Do They Share?

EXCEPT for a unique twist of fate some hundred and thirty-odd years ago, Austin, Texas might still be a part of the great state of Coahuila! Stephen F. Austin of the Province of Bexar first met Jose Miguel Ramos Arizpe of the Province of Saltillo in April, 1823. Both were citizens of the State of Coahuila y Texas and from that time forward, these two great men worked closely together to build and colonize that wealthy and geographically varied region known as the northeastern interior provinces of Mexico.

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When shown the pictures of him and Mayor Roy Butler in 1971. Mayor Berrueto smiled and said in Spanish “Muy buen hombre, el Alcalde Butler”. In English he said, “Mayor Butler was a very good man”. From the photographs of that 1971 trip to Austin by the Saltillo delegation it appears that Mayor Berrueto Gonzalez is right, Mayor Roy Butler was a good man and a strong supporter of Sister Cities.

The other eventful thing that happened in this decade was the election of the first Mexican American to the Austin City Council. John Trevino Jr. was elected in 1975 and became the liaison our Sister City of Saltillo and remained at that post for the 13 years he was on the Austin City Council.



John Treviño on the campaign trail, 1975



The Second Decade 1978-1987



Saltillo Rodeo, 1978



Rondalla de Saltillo, 1978

By the late 1970s and early 1980s, membership in both the Austin and Saltillo Sister Cities Associations was no longer appointed and each group developed into more diverse and community-based associations. The Austin-Saltillo Sister Cities Program demonstrated how much ordinary people, visiting each other across national borders can achieve in terms of international understanding and friendship.

The first International trip by Austin delegates to the US/Mexico conference in Ensenada in 1982





By 1978 the annual visits to Saltillo were firmly established and Council Member John Trevino led a delegation to Saltillo to celebrate the city's 401th anniversary of its founding.

In 1981 Austin-Saltillo Sister Cities Association was selected to host the XVII Annual International Conference of United States and Mexico. The successful conference attracted more than 200 delegates from both countries and established Austin as one of the leaders of the international program.

In 1982, John Treviño led an Austin delegation to the US/Mexico Sister Cities Conference in Baja California. In those days, each member city was asked to have a Sister City Queen in their delegation. Austin was represented by Imelda Ruiz.

During the 1980s, the Austin-Saltillo Sister cities relationship blossomed with support from Mayors Ron Mullen and Frank Cooksey. The relationship between Austin and Saltillo continued to strengthen throughout the decade.



Council Member John Treviño and Judy Ford with hosts in Ensenada, Baja California, 1982



Peggy Vasquez, Amy Hamnber, Pat Limon, Mary Sanchez, Maria Kennedy and John Treviño in Baja California, 1982



Amy Hamnber, Sister City Queen Imelda Ruiz and Gloria Mata Pennington, 1982



Sisterly exchange

Sunday, July 10, 1983 **

Austin strengthens ties with city in Mexico

By JAMES PINKERTON
American-Statesman Staff

SALTILLO, Mexico — Mariachi music, cold beer and a special bullfight set the scene Saturday for an impromptu skull session between Austin officials and their Mexican counterparts in the capital city of Coahuila state, high in the Sierra Madres.

What do city officials from Saltillo and Austin talk about when they get together? One topic was sewage treatment.

Unromantic, but Austin Mayor Ron Mullen, Councilman John Trevino and Saltillo city officials were



Staff Photo by Tom Lanke
Ron Mullen models a serape for John Trevino, left, Mario Eulalio Gutierrez.

opportunity for personal contacts, which pay off for Austin and Saltillo.

"The idea is to open up communications on a more direct basis, and that can lead to increased tourism and that's good for Austin," Mullen said.

Mullen noted that several of the 33 Austinites making the trip had already made professional contacts in Saltillo. "One of the people who came down here with us is thinking about purchasing some goods from here. Another

Austin officials slash red tape on visit to Mexican sister city

Mayor Ron Mullen and City Council member John Trevino now know how it feels to be undocumented aliens. When they flew by private plane to Saltillo, Mexico, last week for an official visit to Austin's sister city, they neglected to stop at the border as required for small aircraft. Mexican customs officials were about to turn them back, but Trevino's charm and a letter of invitation from the mayor of Saltillo convinced customs to overlook the error.

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Austin American Statesman
July 1983





Mayor Ron Mullen in Saltillo

At the invitation of Saltillo's Mayor Mario Eulalio Gutierrez, Mayor Ron Mullen along with a delegation of elected officials and community representatives visited Saltillo in 1983. Saltillo officials and citizens joined in the exchange and workshops. The meeting included a panel discussion of issues affecting the two countries, including trade and small business development. The continuation of the exchange programs was identified as a priority. Council Member John Treviño took his charge as Liaison to Austin-Saltillo Sister Cities very seriously as can be attested to an Austin American Statesman article from July of 1983, shown at the left. Council Member Treviño used his skill of diplomacy to cut some red tape at the border.



Austin's own Paul Tovar waiting for cabrito in Saltillo, 1983

Throughout the 1980s Council Member John Treviño continued as the Association's President. The exchanges continued with visits to Saltillo by Austin delegations and annual visits to Austin by friends from Saltillo. Lasting relationships were born and continue today.



The Third Decade 1988-1997



Mayors Galindo & Cooke, 1989

In 1988, Austin elected Mayor Lee Cooke and Saltillo elected Mayor Eleazar Galindo Vara. Mayor Cooke along with City officials and members of the Austin-Salttillo Sister Cities Association traveled to Saltillo in 1989 to celebrate the 412th anniversary of its founding. Mayor Cooke was later asked what his memories were of Saltillo. He said “they treat you like royalty - the most cordial people in the world. I was also impressed with their knowledge of the historical bridge between Texas and Coahuila, Saltillo and Austin.”

Matachines of Saltillo



In the early 1990s the visits and exchanges continued. Bruce Todd was elected Mayor in 1991, and the tradition of visiting Saltillo on July 25th to celebrate the founding of the city was firmly established.

In 1992 Mayor Bruce Todd and a citizen delegation traveled to Saltillo and were hosted by Mayor Rosendo Lopez Villarreal. For the annual exchange of gifts, Mayor Todd presented Mayor Villarreal with a Stetson hat and was given a Matachín head dress in exchange.

In 1993, Austin again hosted the US–Mexico Sister Cities Conference, and it broke records for attendance. A delegation from Saltillo led by interim Mayor Bibliano Berlanga and his wife, Estela, were special guests at the conference. At the closing night event, the International Board President was elaborate in his praise of the conference and its substance. In appreciation, plaques were presented to Association President Stacy Lopez and medallions to Peggy Vasquez and Gloria Mata Pennington. The following year in 1994, State Senator Gonzalo Barrientos, Mayor Todd and Council Member Gus Garcia joined Saltillo in celebrating the 417th anniversary of the founding of the city.

By 1995 the annual visit to Saltillo included extended work sessions, or Mesas de Trabajo. The work sessions provided an opportunity for members of the respective associations to develop projects that were of benefit to both cities. In recognition of all their work, in 1996 Austin firefighters presented a gift to the Saltillo firefighters: piece of equipment called the “Jaws of Life,” which was purchased with funds raised by the Austin Fire Department. They also provided training on the use of the equipment.



Mayor Cooke and his wife Barbara Vacker Cooke with Mayor Galindo and his wife Angelica Sanchez Galindo



Jesús Castilla, Mayor Galindo & Mayor Cooke, 1989



Mayor Todd receiving a gift from Mayor Villarreal, 1992





Stacy Lopez receiving recognition, 1993



Mayor Bibliano Berlanga and his wife



Senator Gonzalo Barrientos with Mariachi Aventureros, 1992

In July 1997, an Austin delegation joined in the celebration of the 420th anniversary of the founding of Saltillo. It was also an opportunity to meet Mayor Manuel Lopez Villarreal. The young Mayor was an instant hit, for he had an Austin connection. Mayor Lopez Villarreal had received his degree from St. Edwards University.

Austin being the live Music Capital of the World, the Austin- Saltillo sister Cities Association decided it was about time to share some Austin talent with the people of Saltillo. Dan Walser and Patty Davis were among some of the artists that traveled with the delegation to Saltillo in 1997. Many people in Saltillo were not familiar with the art form of yodeling, and when Dan Walser stated to yodel, as only he can, the crowd went wild with cheers and applause.



Austin Police Department's Joe Muñoz discussing public safety at Mesas de Trabajo





Sesion de Cabildo, 1994



Mayors Lopez Villarreal and Kirk Watson, 1997



Training with the jaws of life



Patty Davis in Saltillo, 1997



Don Walser



The Fourth Decade 1998-2007



Mayor Lopez Villarreal, 1998

1998 began with a planning session for the visit of Mayor Manuel Lopez Villarreal from Saltillo. In May, more than 200 Austinites gathered to welcome Mayor Lopez Villarreal, his wife Teresa, and the rest of the Saltillo delegates. The short visit was filled with round-table discussions where technical information was shared regarding water treatment, Disaster Recovery/911 Center, the Adopt-A-Park Concept and other civic issues.

Austin delegation in Saltillo, 1998



In July the Association prepared to depart for the annual trip to Saltillo, this year celebrating the 421st anniversary of its founding. Mayor Kirk Watson and City Manager Jesus Garza joined the Austin delegation on the trip.

1998 also saw the construction of Saltillo Plaza. On behalf of the people of Saltillo, Mayor Manuel Lopez Villarreal donated beautiful wrought iron benches with the logo of the City of Saltillo embossed on each bench. Plaza Saltillo was dedicated in 1999.

Mayor Oscar Pimentel Gonzalez began his term as Saltillo's Mayor in January 2000, and visited Austin frequently during his two year term. Mayor Pimentel enjoyed visiting Plaza Saltillo and made a gift of a bust sculpture of historian Vito Alessio Robles, which is installed at the Plaza.

In November of 2001, the city of Austin elected its first Mexican-American Mayor, Gustavo Garcia, who expanded the Sister Cities program and had the Austin Police and Fire Departments take a leadership role in public safety exchanges. In 2002, Mayor Pimentel conferred on Mayor Garcia a great honor when he presented him with the "Presea de Saltillo" in recognition of his work in Austin and in Saltillo throughout the years.

In 2004, a successful project to donate wheelchairs to Saltillo was coordinated by Marianne Martinez. Mayor Will Wynn accompanied the delegation that traveled to Saltillo to deliver the wheelchairs in a public presentation. At the ceremony, Mayor Wynn put on a show to the delight of all present, doing wheelies in a wheelchair. It turned out that Mayor Wynn has a brother who used a wheelchair. In order for him to be able to join his brothers in playing basketball, the Mayor's parents purchased



Mayors Kirk Watson and Oscar Pimentel at Plaza Saltillo, 2000



Mayor Gus Garcia and his wife Marina with members of the Austin delegation in Saltillo, 2000



Saltillo firefighters training in Austin, 2003





Council Members Raul Alvarez, Lee Leffingwell, Governor Enrique Martinez de Martinez, Congressman Lloyd Doggett and Consul General Jorge Guajardo, 2005

wheelchairs for all the boys. Mayor Wynn was already skilled in the use of wheelchair, as he exhibited that night.

On Sept. 16, 2005, Governor of Coahuila Enrique Martinez de Martinez and his official party delivered a very special gift to the City of Austin. The members of the Austin-Salttillo Sister Cities Association had first met the Governor in 1979, when he was serving as Mayor of Saltillo. A deep friendship was formed and when he became Governor, he wanted to present a special gift to the people of the City of Austin. On that date, he flew to Austin to deliver two bronze busts of heroes of Mexican Independence, Father Miguel Hidalgo and José Maria Morelos. The busts were delivered to Waterloo Park where a year later, they were installed and dedicated. Friends from Saltillo joined Mayor Will Wynn and Consul General Jorge Guajardo in a dedication ceremony.

In 2006, a group of Austin artists traveled to Saltillo to attend an exhibition of their work. The exhibition introduced Austin art to Saltillo.



Delivering wheelchairs, 2004



Mayor Will Wynn showing off wheelies, 2004



One of the artists that joined the delegation was sculptor Dan Pogue. He was so delighted by the friendship and hospitality provided to the Austin visitors that he announced that in appreciation, he would donate one of his sculptures to the people of Saltillo. In 2007, Pogue's sculpture, entitled "Fiesta," was transported by firefighters to Saltillo, where it proudly stands today.

The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center opened on September 15, 2007. After decades of civic engagement, Austin was proud to finally have a center to honor and teach Mexican American culture. In honor of the occasion, sculptor and Sister Cities member from Saltillo, José Antonio García Guerra, donated a bronze sculpture, "As de Oros" which is installed at the entry to the Community Gallery at the center.

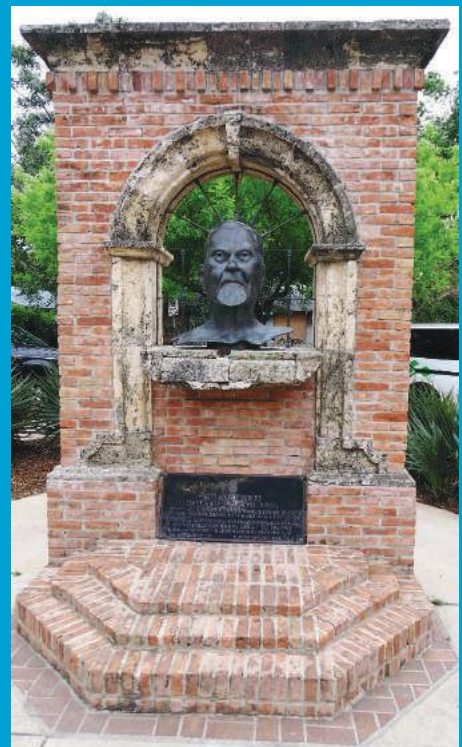


Firefighters with "Fiesta" by sculptor Dan Pogue, 2006



Sculptor José Antonio García Guerra with "As de Oros," 2007

Vito Alessio Robles was born in Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico in 1879. He was a military general, a Senator, a scholar and an acclaimed historian. During the Mexican Revolution, Robles was a political activist that opposed the regimes of Calles and Obregon. He was temporarily exiled, fled to the United States and came to Austin with a purpose in mind. He dedicated himself to historical research at the University of Texas, which helped launch his literary career. Robles went on to write the history of Coahuila y Tejas in three volumes, a collection of works considered to be monumental archives on the history of the two sister states.



The Fifth Decade 2008-2018



Austin Firefighters with Coahuila Governor Humberto Moreira Valdes, 2008



Firefighters from Saltillo training in water rescue, 2009

In November 2018 the Austin-Salttillo Sister Cities Association celebrates 50 years of friendship between the City of Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico and the City of Austin, Texas, USA. The years between 2008 and 2018 tested the friendship due to travel warnings, and there were years when the City of Austin did not send formal delegations to Saltillo. That is when the people-to-people bond grew stronger, when we knew that neither distance nor fear would alter our friendship.

Austin delegation in Saltillo with Mayor Isidro Lopez Villarreal, 2016



The loyalty and affection are evident as there has not been a year in this decade in which Saltillo delegations did not travel to Austin on an annual basis and sometimes more often. In kind, Austin Sister Cities members made the trip to Saltillo annually to join friends on July 25 of every year to celebrate the founding of the city. A model of that commitment is Billy Webb, who has been to Saltillo every year for the last 20 years. It is those long term relationships that develop trust and keep the work and exchanges going year after year.

One of the Sister Cities programs that has endured is the public safety training and exchange program. During this last decade Austin firefighters facilitated the sale of more than a dozen fire trucks to the City of Saltillo and provided training for the use of the equipment. During the same period an estimated 60 firefighters and paramedics from Austin attended Spanish immersion classes and other training in Saltillo.

In July of 2008, a delegation from Austin traveled to Saltillo. As usual, our hosts opened their homes and their hearts to us. They took us to the city of Parras for a lovely dinner outdoors, where we stomped grapes and sampled the local wines. Parras is a small city west of Saltillo. It is best known for its fine wines and as the home of Francisco I. Madero, a revolutionary and 33rd President of Mexico.

On July 25th, we were proud to join our friends at the traditional daybreak ceremonies to celebrate the 431st anniversary of Saltillo. The delegation later attended the Sesión Solemne de Cabildo, a formal meeting of the Mayor and City Council Members. The Governor of Coahuilla and other federal, state and local dignitaries also attend the annual meeting. That evening, Saltillo Sister Cities members Jose Antonio Guerra and his wife Rosy hosted an evening dinner in their home. It was a special treat to be in Jose Antonio's studio, surrounded by his art.



Saltillo firefighters in a parade



Billy and Gail Webb stomping grapes for good wine in Parras, 2008



Members of the Austin delegation Vicente Hernandez and Ms. Mary Sharp attend the Coahuilla Sesión Solemne de Cabildo, 2008





Jose Antonio Garcia Guerra Of Saltillo visiting the Broken Spoke with Mayor Gus Garcia, Sylvia Orozco and Gail Webb, 2009

During their 2009 visit, the Saltillo delegation was invited to the Broken Spoke, an Austin landmark. The Austin-Salttillo Sister Cities Association is committed to sharing the full Austin experience with friends. When friends from Saltillo visit, there are fiestas to celebrate another year of friendship. The celebrations have been a source of much joy, laughter and even a little dancing the Texas two-step.

Because Saltillo and Austin share a common history and Mexican heritage, through the years we have taken our friends to points of historical significance in Austin. In 2012 Senator Gonzalo Barrientos invited the Saltillo delegation to tour the Texas State Capitol. A member of the delegation in 2012 was the former Governor of Coahuila, Eliseo Mendoza Berrueto. His wife Lucila was President of Saltillo Sister Cites at the time. In 2014 the Saltienses (that is what citizens of Saltillo call themselves) visited the Tejano Monument on the Capitol grounds.



Mayor Gus Garcia with Rosy Cadena Rodriguez of Saltillo showing off his fabulous dance moves at the Broken Spoke, 2009



Former Governor of Coahuila Eliseo Mendoza Berrueto asks a question of Senator Gonzalo Barrientos, 2012



There was discussion on our common roots and our differences. It was decided that after almost five decades of friendship our commonalities were much greater than our differences or nationalities.

In 2014 Saltillo's Mayor Isidro Lopez Villarreal visited Austin to meet with Mayor Lee Leffingwell and City Manager Mark Ott. He was interested in better understanding the scope of the City Manager and his relationship with the Mayor and City Council. The Saltillo delegation also met with the Austin Police Department to discuss community policing and traffic control.

Since education is a high priority for Saltillo, the delegation expressed a desire to get acquainted with another of Austin's universities, St. Edward's. Mayor Isidro Lopez Villarreal is an alumni of St. Edward's and remembered the University fondly. The link between St. Edward's and Mayor Lopez Villarreal led to the sponsorship of a Wheelchair Basketball game between Austin and Saltillo in 2015. The same year a group from the Saltillo delegation met with Dr. Paul Cruz and AISD School Board member Paul Saldaña to discuss the education of children with special needs.



Mayor Lee Leffingwell and City Manager Marc Ott meet with Mayor Lopez Villarreal, 2014



Wheelchair basketball game at St. Edward's University, 2014

Alicia Perez-Hodge with Maestra Lucila Ruiz Muzquiz, President of Saltillo Sister Cities, with members from Austin and Saltillo at the Tejano Monument, 2014



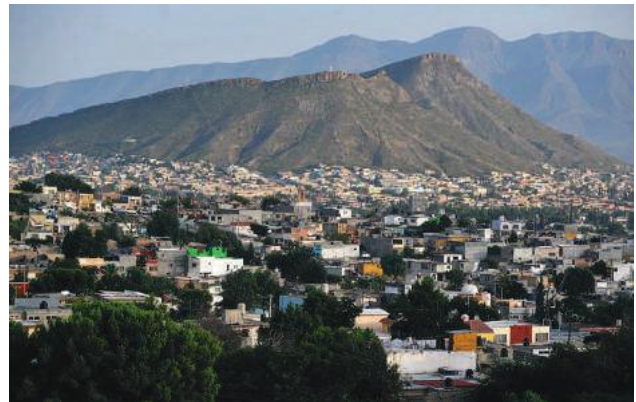
The annual visit to Saltillo in July 2016 was extra special. For the first time in a number of years, a large delegation traveled to be with our friends in Saltillo to once again celebrate the 439th anniversary of the founding of the city. Following tradition, there was a sunrise program, and the Sesión Solemne de Cabildo held at Saltillo's world-class Museum of the Desert. Many members opened their homes and hosted gatherings with great food and as always in Saltillo, joyful music from the many friends who sing! The mountains that surround Saltillo have come to have special meaning. Upon arriving to the outskirts of Saltillo the mountains stand in welcome, and it is their good-bye that is carried home with all of the rest of the memories made on the trip.

In 2017 the Austin-Saltillo Sister City Association elected a new President, Nick Barreiro, an Austin businessman with much enthusiasm and interest in Mexican culture and trade. 2017 was the first year for Saltillo Day in Austin. As is explained in another section of this book, Saltillo Day in Austin was proclaimed to recognize the union and long term friendship between the two cities. In kind, there will be a day dedicated to Austin in Saltillo. This year saw a large delegation of Saltienses traveling to Austin to celebrate Saltillo Day at Saltillo Plaza. Along with the delegation came artisans, plus a sampling of products made in Saltillo.

The days we spend with our friends from Saltillo are always memorable and too short. Some members of both Associations have known each other for decades. Jesús Castilla, current President of the Sister Cities Association in Saltillo has been part of Sister Cities for 41 years. Former City Council Member John Treviño Jr. was also with



Paul Saldaña, Jesús Castilla S, and AISD Superintendent Dr. Paul Cruz, 2015



Sierra Madre mountains surrounding Saltillo



From Saltillo Mrs. Rosie Cadena Rodriguez, Ing. Mario Ricardo Del Bosque and Ms. Veronica Muillo with the future police chief Bian Manley and Austin Police Department command staff at City Hall, 2014



Sister Cities for 41 years. Gloria Mata Pennington has served the Association for 35 years. Several other members have enjoyed more than 20 years of learning about friendship and sharing a common civic goal: to foster friendship through economic, educational and cultural exchange and improve the quality of life in both cities. The Association is pleased by the addition of many new members. New members will add to the longevity of the friendship that has now lasted for 50 years. Austin is also very fortunate to have a strong Sister Cities International program that is supported by the City of Austin. As a farewell, a friend from Sister Cities International, Mr. Steven Yau, who is also a member of Austin-Salttillo invited the group to his home for a luncheon. The food was superb and the company even better.

2018 is a very special year for the friendship between Austin, Texas and Saltillo, Coahuilla. November 7, 2018 will mark 50 years since the resolution was approved to make Saltillo Austin's Sister City. Most of the year has been spent planning for the Gala De Oro that will take place on November 10, 2018. Capital Metro, Austin's mass transit agency, joined the Austin-Salttillo Sister Cities Association in welcoming our friends by putting up a Saltillo banner at Plaza Saltillo. Along with friendships, respect and appreciation has developed.



*Mr. Ernesto Cadena with his wife
Rosario Segovia Ibarra*



Ladies of Austin-Salttillo Sister Cities Association



Nick and Chuy arm in arm, ready for the next 50 years



Arts & Culture



Mayor Gus Garcia, Marina Garcia, Mayor of Saltillo Oscar Pimentel, Teresa Pimentel, Bishop Gregory Aymond, Bishop José Raúl Vera López, Council Member Raul Alvarez, Consul General Francisco Alejo and Harmonia Alejo at opening reception at Mexic-Arte Museum 2002

Arts and culture have always been a source of pride and a shared heritage between Austin and Saltillo. During each visit to the sister cities, the delegations from Austin and Saltillo have participated in the Mesas de Trabajo under the topic of arts and culture to share and plan future cultural exchanges. Both the Austin and Saltillo associations have members that are artists, curators and patrons of the arts. Over the past fifty years, numerous exhibits were presented in Austin and Saltillo as part of the cultural arts exchange. The Austin-Saltillo Sister Cities Association is fortunate to have as a member Sylvia Orozco, Executive Director of Mexic-Arte Museum in Austin. Mexic-Arte has been a leader in organizing major art exhibitions from Saltillo to feature in Austin.

In October 2002 the splendid exhibition *Los Tesoros de la Cathedral de Saltillo* was presented at the Mexic-Arte Museum in Austin, Texas. The exhibit featured over forty pieces from Mexico's 300-year colonial period. The treasures rarely leave the Cathedral of Santiago in Saltillo.





Sculptor Jose Antonio Garcia Guerra, Rosy Garcia, and Artist Guillermo Garcia 2005

Most notable was the embossed and engraved silver altar frontal crafted in 1768 by Diego Ramirez. This exhibition was made possible through the excellent relationship between Austin and Saltillo. This project is an example of how art and culture unite and educate as well as promote binational cultural exchange and understanding.



Ishmael Soto, ceramic sculpture, 2007 from the exhibition Miniatures from Austin, 2008

In 2006 an Austin delegation traveled to Saltillo for the exhibition *Hermanados en el Arte: Pintura y Escultura*. The exhibition featured thirty artworks by Austin artists. The exhibition was coordinated by the Instituto Municipal de Cultura and took place at the Centro Cultural Universitario de la Universidad Autonoma de Coahuila for the Festival Viva Saltillo 2006. Austin artists included Augusto Brocca, Bob Coffee, Fidencio Duran, David Everett, Mary Paige, Dan Pogue, Deborah Roberts, Pablo Taboada, Bob Wade, and Liliana Wilson.

In 2008 *Miniatures from Austin* was exhibited in Saltillo. The exhibit was organized by Mexic-Arte Museum in collaboration with the Austin-Salttillo Sister Cities Association. Austin artists exhibited at Saltillo's municipal Museo Vito Alessio Robles and featured over forty artists from Austin and several cities in Texas.



David Garza, great nephew of Ruben Herrera; Delia Herrera Sifuentes, niece of Ruben Herrera, and Evangelina Herrera Garza, niece of Ruben Herrera

In 2008 Mexic-Arte was fortunate to present the exhibition *Ruben Herrera: Master Artist and Teacher (1888-1933)*. Mexic-Arte Museum, in collaboration with the City of Austin, Austin-Salttillo Sister Cities Association, the Instituto Municipal de Cultura de Saltillo and the Museo Ruben Herrera in Saltillo, and in conjunction with the Saltillo Delegation's visit to Austin. The City of Austin's Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Martinez participated in the inaugural festivities. Ruben



Herrera was significant as an artist as well as a teacher, having founded the Painting Academy of Saltillo, which created a new generation of painters from Coahuila in the early 20th century. The exhibition, featuring ten works of art, premiered for the first time in the United States in Austin and was part of Mexic-Arte Museum's year-long 2010 programming to commemorate the Centennial of the Mexican Revolution and the Bicentennial of the Mexican Independence. This special exhibition was made possible in part thanks to the diligent research efforts of Austin resident, Mrs. Delia Herrera Sifuentes who is the niece of Ruben Herrera. Her father, Benjamin Herrera, was Ruben's older brother. Benjamin, a master tailor, moved to Texas around the 1920s. Mexic-Arte Museum highlighted this family lineage, as well as demonstrate the importance of genealogical research for Austin's Mexican American community during this year of reflection on Mexico's history.

In 2018 the Austin delegation traveled to Saltillo and were fortunate to see Matlachinada Estatal. The exhibit *Danzas Matlachines: Tesoros y Patrimonio Cultural, Las Tradiciones Continúan* was presented in September 2018. It was an exhibition examining the Matachin dance traditions from the state of Coahuila and highlighting the continuing cultural practice in Austin. The exhibition was organized in conjunction with the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Austin-Saltillo Sister Cities collaborative relationship that was established in 1968. The exhibit was organized by El Instituto Municipal de Cultura de Saltillo and was curated by Ivan Ariel Marquez Morales and Maria Magdalena Davila Salinas. Photographs and objects from artists and Matachin dance groups in Austin also



Descendants of Ruben Herrera at the home of David Garza, great nephew of Ruben Herrera



Ruben Herrera, Self Portrait, charcoal on paper, 1914



Matachines dancing at the celebration of the founding of Saltillo in 1577. Photograph gift to the City of Austin





Rupert Chambers, Matlachinada Estatal 2018, Color Photograph, July 22, 2018 Saltillo, Coahuila



Rupert Chambers, Matlachinada Estatal 2018, Color Photograph, July 22, 2018 Saltillo, Coahuila

demonstrated the tradition in Texas started in the 1980s by Victoria Ruiz and her family, who brought a new tradition to Austin from their home in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

Throughout the years, there have been many exchanges of art and culture. Moving art across borders can be a precarious endeavor and could not have been accomplished without the assistance of the municipalities of Saltillo and Austin, their staff, the Consulate General of Mexico in Austin, artists, arts administrators and the very enthusiastic members of both Austin and Saltillo Sister Cities Associations. Austin is forever grateful to its sister city of Saltillo for sharing the beauty of art and culture that transcends borders and affirms the historical friendship between two cities.



Maria Magdalena Davila Salinas, Director of the Ruben Herrera Museum and Ivan Ariel Marquez Morales, Director del Instituto de Cultural del Municipio de Saltillo with Sylvia Orozco, Rebecca Gomez, Andrew Anderson, Rupert Chambers, Mexic-Arte Museum at Casa Purcell discussing Matlachine exhibit, July 2018



Saltillo Day



Every time friends from Saltillo are in Austin it feels like Saltillo Day. In fact, in 2002, a “Saltillo Expo” was held in partnership with the Hispanic Chamber at Plaza Saltillo, featuring sarape weavers, pan de pulque, and some chefs from well-known restaurants in Saltillo, who cooked their specialties. However, “Saltillo Day” was not considered as an annual event until it was suggested by Consul General Carlos Gonzalez Gutierrez in 2016. Friends from Saltillo were invited and joined their Austin friends at the Texas State Capitol to celebrate Diez y Seis de Septiembre at the Fiesta de el Grito. The following day, the Consul General was invited to attend a farewell breakfast. At breakfast Consul General Gonzalez Gutierrez appeared pleased to see the strong bond of friendship and mutual respect the Austin and Saltillo Sister Cities Associations had for each other. The group held a “platica” (discussion) on plans for continued exchanges that would benefit both cities. During the discussion, the Consul General suggested that Austin consider holding an annual event that celebrates Saltillo in Austin and a similar event in Saltillo that celebrates Austin’s friendship. The idea appealed to members of both cities and a commitment was made that Austin would hold the First Saltillo Day. Austin owes much appreciation to Consul General Carlos Gonzalez Gutierrez for his brilliant idea that originated “Saltillo Day in Austin” and “Austin Day in Saltillo.”

The first “Saltillo Day in Austin” was held in April of 2017. It was a beautiful day spent visiting and appreciating a bi-cultural experience. Lunch was held on the Mayor’s terrace at City Hall and the afternoon at Plaza Saltillo. The second Saltillo Day was held April 8, 2018. It was an unforgettable day. The Consul General Carlos Gonzalez Gutierrez opened the program with





Planning for Saltillo Day with Consul General Carlos Gonzalez Gutierrez

“Welcome to Austin’s Winter Festival.” The temperature dropped to the 40s and with a wicked wind, it felt even colder. Even with the cold, everyone’s hearts were warmed by the kinship shared with the people of Saltillo. The delegation was delighted to once again have Mayor Steve Adler in attendance, as well as Spencer Cronk, the City Manager, along with Council Member Pio Renteria to welcome Manolo Jimenez, Mayor of Saltillo and his delegation.



2017 Austin Day in Saltillo with Mayor Lopez Villarreal and the Austin Delegation

As is the tradition in July, an Austin delegation traveled to Saltillo for the 441st Anniversary of the founding of the city, and “Austin Day in Saltillo.” An outdoor event was held with folklorico dancers and friends who sing, including Arturo Rey, Rafa Vasquez and Fred Picon. The next day at the luncheon, the Saltillo delegation gave special recognition to Gloria Mata Pennington for her more than thirty years of service as a member of the Austin-Saltillo Sister Cities Association.



Mayor Manolo Jimenez, Gloria Mata Pennington, Mayor Steve Adler and Alicia Perez Hodge

Friends from Saltillo are always so gracious and hospitable. They treat members of the Austin delegation like family. One evening during the trip, the groups visited an open-air theater that featured traditional ballet folklorico dancers. The next day some culturally-minded members went to town to see the dance of “los Matachines.” The dance and colorful costumes are part of an ancient tradition in the Hispanic Southwest.





After several days in Saltillo the Austinites were ready to head home. In 2018 Austin's Sister Cities delegation was made up of new and old members. New or old the feelings expressed are the same, "The friendship of the people of Saltillo creates lovely memories and the city is beautiful. We will be back for the 2019 Austin in Saltillo Day."

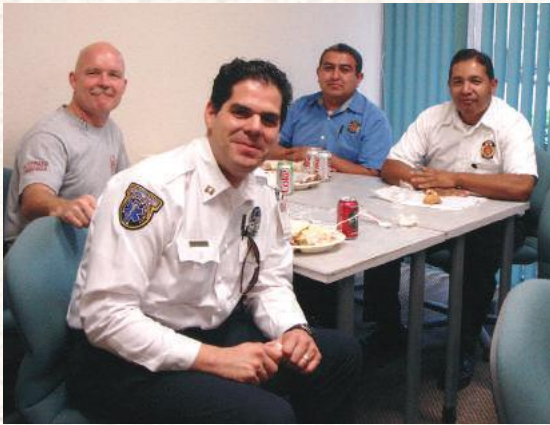




Public Safety

The cities of Austin and Saltillo consider public safety a priority for their growing populations. For decades, the two cities have coordinated training and exchange programs to improve police, fire services and emergency medical services. This exchange of education, training and culture was facilitated by the Austin-Saltillo Sister Cities Association.

In 1994 Austin Firefighter Randy Moreno with the Austin Hispanic Association of Firefighters and Austin Police Officer Joe Muñoz from Amigos en Azul worked with then- Councilmember Gus Garcia to energize the relationship between public safety agencies from Saltillo and Austin. There were many exchanges and training sessions during those years. The Austin Police Department was involved in training Saltillo police officers on investigation techniques, crime prevention, community policing and other areas of law enforcement. The Austin Police Department had a specific goal in mind when sending police officers to Saltillo: Spanish immersion. APD wanted its officers to learn Spanish and gain cultural sensitivity. The language skills acquired in Saltillo better equipped officers for interaction with the burgeoning Hispanic population in Austin.



Paramedic Marco Villaseñor with Firefighter Don McCullough with their counter parts from Saltillo



The Austin Fire Department has maintained a strong and productive relationship for nearly 25 years with the firefighters of Saltillo, who travel to Austin for training in fire rescue, emergency management, arson investigation and water rescue. In partnership with the Patronato de Bomberos, firefighting equipment and gear was transferred to the Saltillo Fire Department. Several members of the Patronato de Bomberos are also members of the Austin-Saltillo Sister Cities Association. The years of friendship and trust built through the Sister Cities program lead to successful exchange in Public Safety programs.





Throughout the years the Austin-Salttillo Sister Cities Association has enjoyed many talented and dedicated members. Among them is Billy Webb, a 27 year veteran of the Austin Fire Department who served twice as President of the Austin-Salttillo Sister Cities Association. In 2004 Billy was named the liaison to Saltillo by the Austin Fire Department. Working with other firefighters Billy has facilitated the transfer of firefighting equipment and gear including protective clothing, boots, fire hats, respirators, ladder trucks and other firefighting equipment. When asked why he got involved with Saltillo and why he continues to work with the people of Saltillo, Billy responded, “I wanted to learn how to speak Spanish and every year I get better. I love Saltillo, it is the center of much knowledge and good people and I can speak Spanish now.”



Austin Police Officer Joe Munoz receives Certificate of Appreciation from Saltillo Police Chief Jorge Salcido Urroz, 1999



Plaza Saltillo

You can say that the idea and later construction of the Plaza Saltillo was truly a labor of love and devotion to a community. In the 1990s, a few Eastside business women started talking about ideas that would help draw people to shop and eat on the Eastside. The idea of a Plaza in honor of Saltillo, our Sister City, was born and the group incorporated under the name Ole Mexico. The principals were Diane Vallera, Cathy Vasquez and Rachel Davila. Every chance they got, they lobbied for a location and the funds with which to build the plaza. They lobbied for so long that many thought the idea might not come to fruition. In fact, then State Representative Glen Maxey, told Diane Vallera, "If you ever get the funds and build it, I will do the Mexican Hat Dance". In 1991 Gus Garcia was elected to the City Council and he immediately lined up in support of building the Plaza Saltillo. In 1994, while in Saltillo, Gus Garcia made a presentation on the proposed plaza to the Mayor and City Council of Saltillo. At the presentation the Governor of Coahuila, Rogelio Montemayor



The plaza was designed by Juan E. Cotera, AIA, of Cotera, Kolar, Negrete Architects.





Arturo Rey performs, 1999

Seguy was also present and asked that the people of Saltillo be actively involved in the project. So, on their behalf, Mayor Manuel Lopez Villarreal donated wrought iron park benches, each embossed with the logo of the City of Saltillo to be placed at the Plaza, where they reside today. With funding from the City of Austin and much community support, Plaza Saltillo was inaugurated in 1999. In attendance was a delegation from Saltillo, who added to the festivities by bringing with them Mariachi singers Diana and Arturo Rey to perform. Representing the City of Austin were Congressman Lloyd Doggett, Mayor Kirk Watson, Council Member Gus Garcia and Gloria Mata Pennington, president of the Austin-Saltillo Sister Cities. As promised, years prior, Representative Glen Maxey danced the Mexican Hat Dance with Diane Valera on the stage at the Plaza Saltillo. ¡Olé!



Rep. Maxey performs the Mexican Hat Dance at the Plaza inauguration, 1999



Rep. Doggett greets the crowd at the Plaza inauguration, 1999



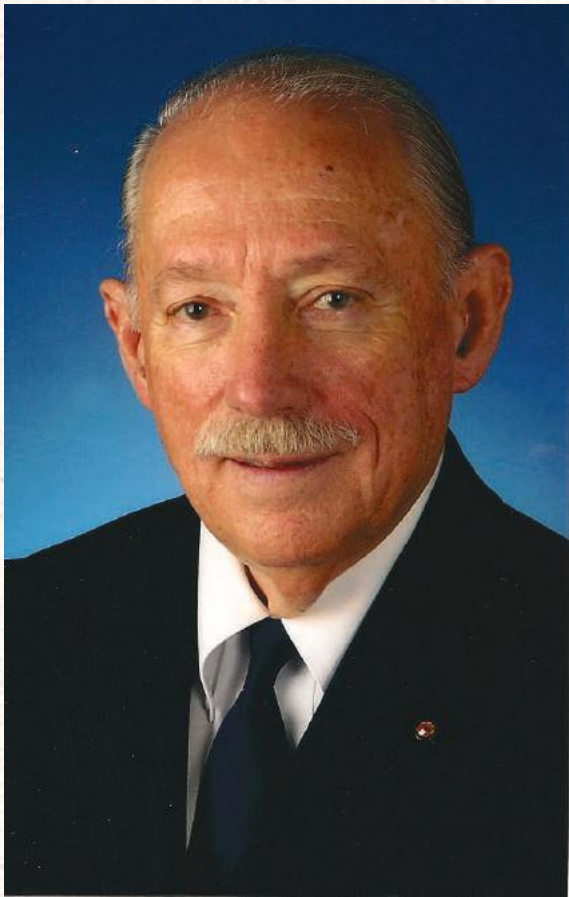
Plaza Saltillo under construction, 1999



2018 Honoree

When asked about his fondest memories of Saltillo, Gustavo L. Garcia, former Mayor of the City of Austin, responded “the

Gustavo L. García



people - the friendships that last a lifetime. I still have long time friends in Saltillo and they still have a friend in Austin.” That loyalty to Mayor Garcia is evident. Every time an Austin delegation travels to Saltillo, people always ask for Don Gus or sometimes just Gus, as he is known to friends. Gus Garcia came to Austin to attend the University of Texas and received a BBA in 1959. As a CPA he was the first Mexican American elected as trustee to the Austin Independent School District. He was then elected to the Austin City Council in 1992. During his nine years as a Council Member he ensured the Austin-Saltillo Sister Cities Association became a meaningful exchange for both cities. He empowered others to become more involved in the development of the city exchange. The Austin Police Department and Amigos en Azul initiated training for law enforcement officers from both cities, and Austin police officers went to Saltillo for more training and Spanish instruction. The Austin Fire Department also began a strong and long term relationship with the firefighters in Saltillo and the surrounding areas. These training programs were of mutual benefit to both Austin and Saltillo and are credited with saving lives and improving the communication skills of both departments.



In 2001, Gus Garcia became the first Mexican American to be elected Mayor of the City of Austin, and continued to strengthen the bonds between Austin and Saltillo. “Collaborating on improving government while enjoying the Mexican culture with good friends, adds richness to life,” he said. In 2002, in recognition of his civic work that transcended borders, Mayor Garcia was presented a “Presea” by Saltillo Mayor Oscar Pimentel Gonzalez at a formal City Council (Cabildo) meeting attended by some 500 citizens of Saltillo and Coahuila. The “Presea” is a prestigious medal and honor usually reserved for citizens of Saltillo. During Mayor Garcia’s speech he spoke of his familiarity with Mexico. “I came from a small town in South Texas named Zapata and there, with the exception of the Postman and the agricultural agent, everyone spoke Spanish and my father maintained his loyalty to his Mexican culture. So when I visit Saltillo I feel very much at home and I love the Pan de Pulque.”



Council Member Raul Alvarez, Mayor Humberto Moreira, Mayor Gus Garcia and Joe Muñoz, Pres. Austin Saltillo Sister Cities, 2003



Gus and his wife Marina with friends



Gus and his wife Marina with friends



Mayor Garcia showing his Presea medal from the City of Saltillo, seated next to Consul General Francisco Javier Alejo, 2002



2018 Honoree

Gloria Mata Pennington has been a loyal and dedicated member of Austin-Salttillo Sister Cities for over 35 years. Originally from

Gloria Mata Pennington



With a dress from Chiapas



Lady friends from Saltillo

Galveston, Texas, Gloria was crowned Beauty Queen by the Galveston League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) in 1956. Her grandparents, who came from Mexico and settled in Texas in the 1800s, instilled in her great pride in her Mexican heritage. In 1958 she married Mel Pennington, her husband of 45 years. They came to Austin in 1964 to open Austin's second television station. For over 50 years Gloria has served her community in AISD PTAs, as President of the Austin-Salttillo Sister Cities, as Chair of the Austin Arts Commission, Chair of the Fiesta del Grito de Independencia, Director of the Austin Pan American Round Table and President of the Austin Friends of Folk Art.

Her introduction to Sister Cities began in the 1970s when she became involved in John Treviño's local campaign for Austin City Council. After being elected, John became the liaison for the Austin-Salttillo Sister Cities Association and recruited his friend Gloria to serve as secretary of the organization. She made her first trip to Saltillo in a delegation led by Mayor Ron Mullen in 1983. That started her on the road to establishing many strong bonds with the people of Saltillo. When asked about her fondest memories of her visits to Saltillo, Gloria responded, "The visits have allowed me to learn more about and to





Gloria Mata Pennington with Mayor Bruce Todd of Austin and Mayor Rosendo Villareal Davila of Saltillo with Mariachi Los Aventurados, 1992

rejoice in my roots, the culture, the music, the art, and the people. I have many fond memories but one I will never forget is our visit in 1998 with Mayor Manuel Lopez and ‘Las Campanas de Paz’. Mayor Kirk Watson and City Manager Jesús Garza were with us. We were led across the street from the cathedral to the plaza, where we promenaded by candle light, and heard the church bells from all over the city getting closer and closer until the cathedral bells joined in and the fireworks exploded. It was so beautiful, a prayer for peace in Chiapas, which at that time was having many problems. After 35 beautiful years of sharing and love, I could tell stories forever of my memories of Saltillo. Yet, I must say that the greatest experience of all has been the friendships between the people of Saltillo and Austin. It is a fact that many of those friendships have developed into a feeling of family. For me, the friends I have made over the years will live forever in my mind and in my heart.”



Gloria & Mel in Parras, 2003



Presenting a gift on behalf of the City of Austin, 1992



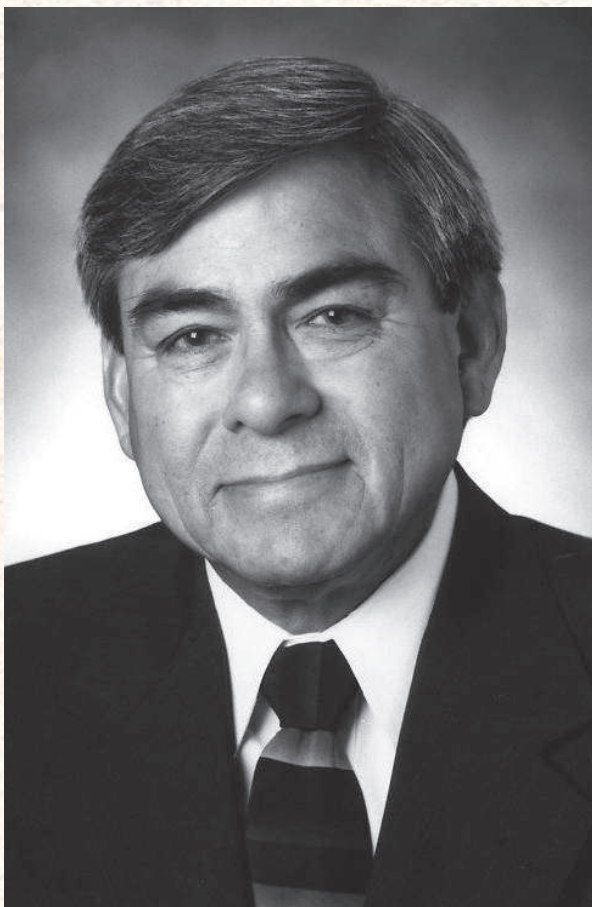
With Mayor Manolo Jimenez Salinas at Saltillo Day in Austin, 2018



2018 Honoree

If there were a Godfather for the Austin-Salttillo Sister Cities Association, it would be John Treviño Jr. His stewardship and enthusiasm for the friendship between Austin and Saltillo generated

John Treviño, Jr.



an energy that has kept the Association going for the last 50 years. He was born in Austin, Texas and was raised close to his family and Mexican heritage. “Johnny,” as he was known to family and friends, was a pious and kind man who understood the plight of the poor and disadvantaged, whether in Austin or its sister city of Saltillo. In 1975, John became the first Mexican American elected to the Austin City Council. He was appointed liaison to the Austin-Salttillo Sister Cities Association, and remained a member in good standing and a patron of the Association until the end of his life. He stayed true to his goals of bringing a better understanding and respect for Mexican culture to Austin and helping to improve the quality of life and governments for the citizens of both cities.

John dedicated 60 of his 78 years to public service. He served on Austin’s Capital Metro Board of Directors for 12 years, where he provided opportunities for Saltillo to purchase Capital Metro surplus vehicles. Through his efforts, transportation was provided for children in orphanages, the elderly who needed transportation to medical facilities, and disabled children who needed special transportation to get to school. Saltillo brought John closer to his own culture and heritage of Mexico he so loved. In 2007 he was awarded the “Presea al Mérito Social” by the Instituto Mexicano-Norteamericano de Relaciones Culturales (IMARC) of Saltillo to recognize his accomplishments “under adverse





conditions” in helping the Latino populations of Texas and his contributions in eliminating barriers and building bridges between the United States and Mexico.

John’s last trip to Saltillo was in July 2016. He enjoyed his time with old friends and raised a toast “to loyal friendships and to Austin and Saltillo.” About two weeks before John passed away, several colleagues from the Austin-Saltillo Sister Cities Association visited him. He was in good spirits and asked about his Saltillo friends who were visiting Austin. “I will miss the brindis with my friends and I will miss Saltillo. You know those people from Saltillo, mi gente, they really know how to live.”

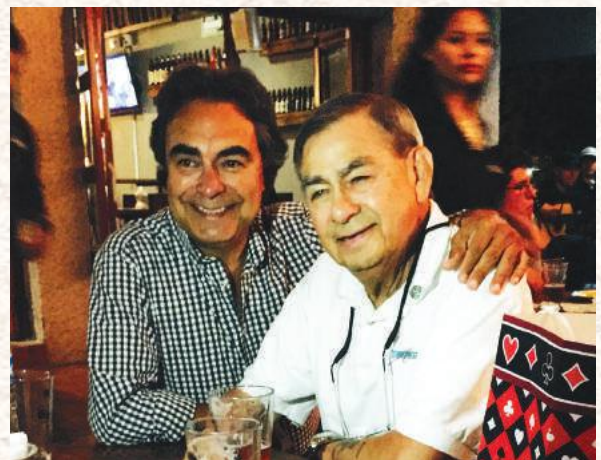
John Treviño, Jr. died on April 4, 2017 at the age of 78. A friend, a brother, and a compatriot, “Johnny” will forever be held in high esteem and affection by the Austin-Saltillo Sister Cities Association, which will always remain grateful for his service.



Council Members John Trevino and Larry Duser with Mayor Bruce Todd, Gloria Mata Pennington and Vicente Hernandez in Saltillo 1993



John Treviño and Amelia Lopez with delegation from Saltillo at Austin City Hall, 2010



John Treviño with Juan José Cornejo, his friend and President of Saltillo Sister Cities, 2016





Presidents of Austin-Saltito Sister Cities Association

M. H. Crockett, Jr.
1969

John Treviño
1976 - 1989

Stacy Lopez
1990 - 1993

Peggy Vasquez
1994 - 1996

Gloria Mata Pennington
1997-2001

Randy Moreno
2001 - 2004

Joe Muñoz
2004 - 2008

Billy Webb
2008 - 2011

Alicia Perez-Hodge
2011 - 2014

Emmanuel Loo
2015- 2016

Billy Webb
2016- 2017

Nick Barreiro
2017 - Present

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