



MujerARTES

1412 El Paso St. (between S. Brazos & San Jacinto)
(210) 223-2585

We, the women of MujerARTES, invite you to come to our Casita. MujerARTES is a pottery cooperative of the Esperanza Center where we work in clay, explore our creative skills, and develop our oral histories. Through sculpting, drawing, painting, and telling our stories, we have created artwork that reflects our lives as women.

In this sharing and learning, we find ourselves considering the community issues that impact us. We recognize that for many years nuestra cultura has been criticized, ignored, and even erased. We find that our culture is now being neatly packaged for tourists and television commercials. We strive to recapture our cherished voices and struggle to maintain the traditions found in our Mexicana/Chicana/Indigena/Mestiza communities of San Antonio, South Texas, and Mexico. We recognize that as women, we are the keepers of our cultures and that it is through us that our traditions move to the next generations.

Rita Vidaurri: La Calandria

Esperanza Peace and Justice Center • (210) 228-0201

Rita Vidaurri was born May 22, 1924 on the Westside in a neighborhood called El Callejón de Montezuma. She grew up singing at neighborhood nuecerias and carpas and became well-known for her musical talent. At age 14, she recorded "Alma Angelina," her debut 78 r.p.m. single, accompanied by her sister Queta.

In 1943, Mario Moreno ("Cantinflas") recommended that Rita launch a career in Mexico. By the mid-1940s, Rita was a sought-after artist in Mexico and Central and South America, performing with Celia Cruz, Olga Guillot, Tin Tán, Pedro Vargas, Trío Tiaricuri, and Lalo González ("El Piporro").

Through Esperanza's Arte es Vida program, Rita has once again begun performing mariachi, ranchera, y bolero classics. In 2004, she recorded a new CD, "La Calandria," and has plans for another. Her accomplishments affirm the significance of Westside culture and history, and we honor her experience as an artist and mujer fuerte.

**To book Rita for parties, weddings,
and other occasions, call (210) 228-0201**



Centro Esperanza de Paz y Justicia

922 San Pedro Ave., San Antonio, TX 78212
(210) 228-0201 www.esperanzacenter.org

Vision Statement

The people of Esperanza dream of a world where everyone has civil rights and economic justice, where the environment is cared for, where cultures are honored and communities are safe. The Esperanza advocates for those wounded by domination and inequality – women, people of color, lesbians and gay men, the working class and poor. We believe in creating bridges between people by exchanging ideas and educating and empowering each other. We believe it is vital to share our visions of hope . . .we are esperanza.

Arte es Vida Westside Project

The Esperanza's Arte Es Vida project seeks to dialogue, promote, and support the values, histories, traditions, and cultures of residents of San Antonio's Westside. We seek to address the role of artistic and cultural expression in a society that inherits the deep wounds of social and economic divisions. Through twenty years of community cultural organizing, we have learned that to participate fully in democratic civic life, individuals must be culturally grounded, confident of their voices, and certain of the value of their contributions. Art and culture connect us to our histories, give us joy and hope, and plant the seed for our self-worth.

En Aquellos Tiempos... Fotohistorias del Westside

*Presented by the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center
922 San Pedro Ave. • (210) 228-0201*

En Aquellos Tiempos...Fotohistorias del Westside is an ongoing celebration of the traditions and strength of the gente del Westside of San Antonio, Texas. Enlarged photos of caras, streetways and community from the early 1900s to the 1950s are installed in open spaces and on walls and buildings throughout the Westside.

En Aquellos Tiempos, part of Esperanza's Arte es Vida project, allows community members to reflect on the role of art, culture, and history in our lives. We bring together cross-generational participants to pass on the history, guidance, and sabiduría of nuestras/os sabias/os. With the images collected and the cuentos shared, we build bridges in our community, honor the artist and storyteller in all of us, and reclaim public space in our neighborhood. Through conversation, convivencia, y comida rica, we rediscover and preserve history in our daily lives.

More photos coming soon!

**Come share your fotos and historias
at the Casa de Cuentos!**

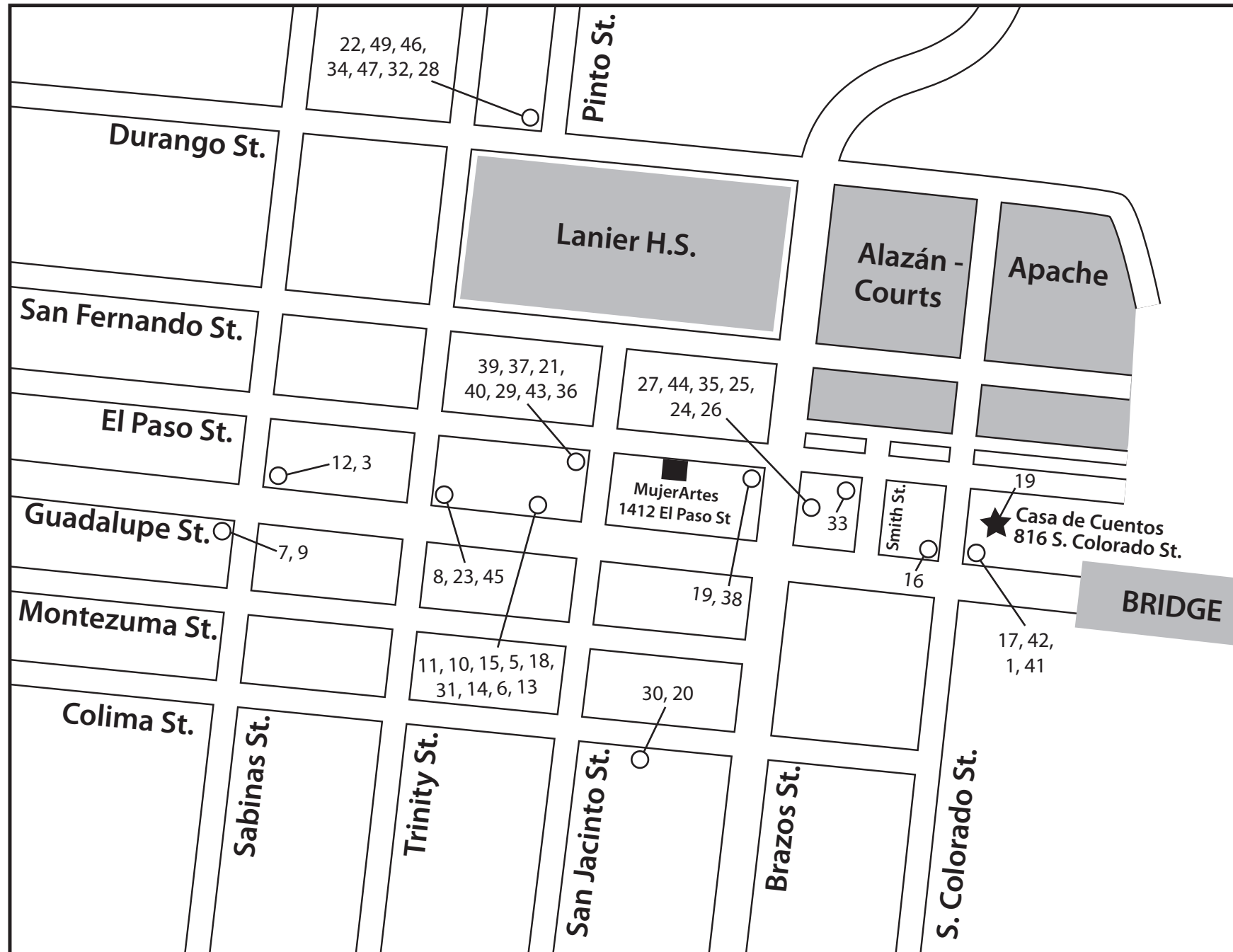
1st Saturday of every month
816 S. Colorado (@ Guadalupe)

For more information: (210) 228-0201

¡Muchísimas gracias a la buena gente del Westside!

Funded in part by the City of San Antonio Office of Cultural Affairs, National Endowment for the Arts, and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

En Aquellos Tiempos . . . Fotohistorias del Westside



1. 1952: Roger Presas and Richard Luderus, primos, at 734 Cupples Rd.
3. 1950s: Sánchez and Casillas kids playing on urky-durky.
5. 1933: Alejandro Benavidez, a barber at the Terminal Produce Market.
6. 1923: José Merla of 1622 W. Travis (now 1322).
7. 1950s: Rosa Elva, daughter of Fernández Drug Store owners.
8. 1930s: Juanita Rico and cousin.
9. 1921: La familia de Las Siete Hermanas, M. de la Cruz e Hijo general store
10. 1940s: Tina Garza-Moore, born and raised on the Westside.
11. 1950: Refugio Medina Merla at 1622 W. Travis (now 1322).
12. 1951: Segovia family of Segovia's Mexican Candy Company.
13. 1923: María Ramírez Merla, who lived at 1622 W. Travis (now 1322).
14. 1944: Bertha Flores with her mother, Rosa E. Rodríguez
15. 1913: El niño Alejandro Benavidez, born in 1911.
16. 1952: Eva Garza with sister Sylvia and nephew Dicky at Alazán Courts.
17. 1950: Manuel and Elida Reyes, owners of M & E Grocery.
18. Early 1900s: Francisca G. Casillas on the 4th of July.
19. 1929: Rita Vidaurri, Westside singer, at five years old.
20. 1954: Joe García painting at the M.C.I., now the Inman Christian Center.
21. 1954: Eva Garza at Alazán-Apache Courts with her family.
22. 1955: Francisca Casillas con nietos Xavier y Bernard Sánchez.
23. 1937: Manuel Garza, Jr. and his Ford Coupe.
24. 1933: Eva Garza, age 15, Lanier High School basketball team.
25. 1929: Lanier High School basketball team, city champions.
26. 1941: Lanier High School sewing class.
27. 1941: MCI field trip. Bertha Flores, far right.
28. 1954: Primos Roger Presas and Richard Luderus at 734 Cupples Rd.
29. Mamá e hija in the front yard.
30. 1941: Lanier High School sewing class.
31. 1957: Rubén Delgado and friends at Rubén's first birthday party.
32. 1942: Mother's Day event at Wesley Neighborly Service.
33. 1948: Leonardo Flores and his son, Filbert, en San Patricio y Pinto.
34. 1935: Armando Benavidez, age three, in front of Ruiz Elementary.
35. 1919: Enrique Ramírez (in hat), grandfather Cruz Ramírez, and friends .
36. 1930: Herminia Leos at her home on Laredo St.
37. 1949: Isabel y Enrique Sánchez at 910 Santiago after their wedding.
38. 1940s: Guadalupe Church Choir members.
39. 1942: Betty Hernández and Eva Rodríguez dancing at a party.
40. 1924: Abuela Teresa Cantú, center, with daughter and grandchildren.
41. 1935: Siblings Josie, George and Eloise Merla at 1607 W. Travis.
42. 1934: Candelaria Cásarez and grandchildren at 1607 W. Travis.
43. 1950s: Emma Presas with sons Rubén and Roger at 734 Cupples.
44. 1944: Candelaria Casillas Sánchez, 910 Santiago St.
45. 1933: Ramiro Benavidez, four years old, at 914 Santiago St.
46. 1938: Ray Pérez, front and center, at the Wesley Community House.
47. 1935: Armando Benavidez behind the Guadalupe Community Center.
49. 1934: Marta Benavidez Vásquez on a ram at three months old.