

## CULTURA EN AUSTIN

Resize text A A A

## December brings Our Lady of Guadalupe celebrations, 'La Pastorela'

Posted: 12:00 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 26, 2015

By [Nancy Flores](#) - American-Statesman Staff

I remember one December day, in my childhood home on the Texas border, when it sounded as if rain were approaching. I walked outside with my mother and discovered that the sound wasn't coming from the sky, but from a beautiful procession that was approaching our street to honor the Virgen de Guadalupe.

Traditional religious dancers, called matachines, wore leather-like ankle bands with dried ayoyote shells that rattled rhythmically with each of the dance steps. As a young girl, I was captivated.



CONTRIBUTED BY TEATRO VIVO

Teatro Vivo presents "La Pastorela" starting Dec. 3.

Every year on Dec. 12, Catholics honor the Virgen de Guadalupe with everything from Masses to processions and mariachis. The Virgen de Guadalupe, legend says, appeared to an indigenous man, who was later baptized as Juan Diego, in 1531 in what's now northern Mexico City.

Catholic churches across Central Texas will join the international celebrations for the Virgen de Guadalupe, who has also become a symbol of Mexican identity and culture. While many area churches are preparing for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe next month, parishioners at [St. Austin Catholic Parish](#) near the University of Texas have been celebrating since early this fall.

They've led book discussions on "The Treasure of Guadalupe." They've held art classes and exhibits based on the image of the Virgen de Guadalupe. All of this has led up to their December celebrations, which includes a presentation by UT senior lecturer and Our Lady of Guadalupe specialist Cristina Cabello de Martinez. She'll share her insights on the symbolism of the image of La Virgen at 7 p.m. Dec. 3 at St. Austin's Hecker Hall. A special Mass will bring faithful together at 11 a.m. Dec. 12.

Check your neighborhood Catholic

advertisement

### In this Section

[Zilker Tree Lighting and more free things to do Nov. 29-Dec. 5](#)

[Blue Genie Art Bazaar rings in 15 years](#)

[Free things to do during this holiday week, Nov. 22-28](#)

[More things to do, 11/16/15](#)

[Circuit repairs continue after storms caused extensive damage](#)

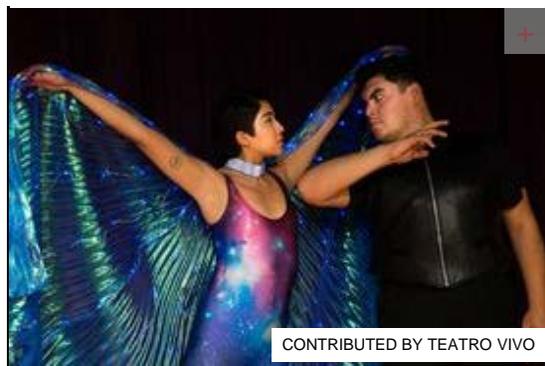
[Isabel Allende will be at BookPeople to talk about her newest book](#)

[East Austin Studio Tour, astronomy, piñatas and more free things](#)

[Amid doubts over F1's Austin future, Steve Adler says he wants to help](#)

[Austin's graceful old Inshallah fires the imagination](#)

[More things to do, 11/9/15](#)



CONTRIBUTED BY TEATRO VIVO

church for other services and celebrations near you.

### 'La Pastorela' returns

While performances like "The Nutcracker" and "A Christmas Carol" evoke the classic holiday spirit, another yuletide tradition — Nativity plays, or pastorelas, performed in Latino communities for centuries — can increasingly be seen across the

U.S.



RALPH BARRERA

During a 2014 procession to celebrate the Virgen de Guadalupe, Elias Sanchez, left, and Alberto Garcia, right, carried her image through ... [Read More](#)

Over the years, Austin has produced a number of contemporary versions of the play, which typically recreates the story of the shepherds' journey to Bethlehem to visit baby Jesus. This year, **Teatro Vivo** takes on the good versus evil theme with a bilingual comedic twist, classic Mexican songs and modern hits.

"La Pastorela," an adaptation by Rupert Reyes, opens Dec. 3 and runs through Dec. 20 at the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center. Opening night is free

admission.

Before doors open Dec. 4, there'll be a special pre-play reception, called *Vino y Chocolate*. The \$35 fee includes reserved seating as well as appetizers, drinks and desserts starting at 6 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED BY CHARLES ROECKLE

Artist Fidencio Duran teaches a painting workshop based on the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Austin Catholic Parish.

Shows are 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays at and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets — \$12 for seniors, students and teachers; \$15 for general admission; \$20 for reserved seating — can be purchased online at [pastorela.bpt.me](http://pastorela.bpt.me). On Dec. 10 and 17, it's pay what you wish one hour before performance time.

### Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance musical

Don't miss another Austin theater tradition — the **Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance's** annual *Sembrando Herencia* production. "Mi Tierra Boricua," written by the group's executive and artistic director **Ana María Tekina-eirú Maynard** with help from community elders in Puerto Rico, brings oral history to the stage through music, dance and theater.

"Mi Tierra Boricua" tells the dramatic, adventurous tale of what happens when people of a mountain tobacco community leave in

search of a better life. The production features the poetry of Puerto Rican poet Julia de Burgos and is written in English, Spanish and Taíno.

“Mi Tierra Boricua” runs Dec. 5-6 at the George Washington Carver Museum’s Boyd Vance Theatre. Opening night starts at 6:30 p.m.; Dec. 6 show is at 3 p.m. Advance tickets can be purchased online at [casita.prfdance.org/sembrando2015](http://casita.prfdance.org/sembrando2015) and are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 3-12 years old. For more information, visit [prfdance.org](http://prfdance.org).

## WELCOME TO CULTURA EN AUSTIN

Cultura en Austin is a monthly column highlighting Latino-related cultural events in Austin. Look for it on the last Friday of the month.

Nancy Flores grew up in the Texas border town of Eagle Pass and has been covering Latino culture for the American-Statesman and Austin360 since 2011. Before that, she covered Latino issues as a journalist in Mexico City. Send tips or suggestions to [nflores@statesman.com](mailto:nflores@statesman.com).

## CULTURA ONLINE

You can find more news about Latino cultural art happenings on the Cultura en Austin blog at [cultura.blog.austin360.com](http://cultura.blog.austin360.com).

Also, check out Austin Gente, an Emmy-nominated video/story series that explores what it means to be Latino in the U.S., at [austin360.com/cultura](http://austin360.com/cultura).

## CULTURA ONLINE

You can find more news about Latino cultural art happenings on the Cultura en Austin blog at [cultura.blog.austin360.com](http://cultura.blog.austin360.com).

Also, check out Austin Gente, an Emmy-nominated video/story series that explores what it means to be Latino in the U.S., at [austin360.com/cultura](http://austin360.com/cultura).

### PREVIOUS: EVENTS

**Free things to do during this holiday week, Nov. ...**

By Rachel Corbelli

### NEXT: EVENTS

**Zilker Tree Lighting and more free things to do N...**

By Rachel Corbelli - American-Statesman Staff

Popular on MyStatesman.com

**Olamaie chefs' refined Southern cuisine earns national honors**

**The Black Friday shooting: One year later**

**Homeless village in Travis County starting to bear fruit**

**Six classic burgers for about \$6**

**Golden: After new injuries, Romo should consider retiring from...**

This website is for subscribers; please **Sign in** or **Get Access** to read or post comments.

advertisement



## Read Today's Paper Online

Still like to read the newspaper in the familiar page-by-page format? Great news! Digital versions of today's paper are available on your computer or tablet. And it's included in your subscription.

[Learn More](#)

[Read](#)



## We're Listening

We hope you're enjoying MyStatesman.com, our premium website exclusively for subscribers. Please tell us what you like and what we can do to make it even better by completing a brief survey.

[Take The Survey](#)

[NEWS SERVICES](#) ▶

[TOP](#) ▲

© 2015 Cox Media Group. By using this website, you accept the terms of our [Visitor Agreement](#) and [Privacy Policy](#), and understand your options regarding [Ad Choices](#) ▶ [Learn about careers at Cox Media Group](#)