MSS 0092  Héctor García
Dates: bulk 1973-1978
Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

Héctor García was executive director of the Catholic Council on Community
Relations, Diocese of Galveston-Houston, and an officer of Harris County PASO.

Reports, correspondence, clippings about discrimination and the advancement of
Mexican American; correspondence and notices of meetings and activities of
PASO (Political Association of Spanish-Speaking Organizations of Harris
County.

MSS 0093  Alfonso Vázquez Collection
Dates: bulk 1960-1979
Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

Alfonso Vázquez was a professional photographer and political cartoonist. He
was also a member of the Civic Action Committee, established in 1958 as an
organization to support the candidacy of State Senator Henry B. González for
Governor of Texas.

Photographs of Mexican American Community of Houston, P.A.S.O. Leaders, La
Raza Unida, G.I.Forum, Political Cartoons, Minimum Wage March of 1966,
Father Antonio González leader of the Minimum Wage March 1966, P.A.S.O.
Programs, El Sol 2 issues 1966, The Texas Observer 1966, clippings re politics,

MSS 0094  Chairez Family Collection
Dates: inclusive 1919-1970s
Approximate volume: 6 lin. in.

Feliciano Chairez and family founded a drama group at Magnolia Park, ca. 1929.
He also was one of the founders of Sociedad Mutualista Benito Juarez in 1921.
Feliciano Chairez’ son, Francisco Chairez graduated from Rice Institute in 1928.

History of the Chairez Family settling at Magnolia Park neighborhood in 1919,
Biographical data, clippings, photographs, correspondence, typescript on
Francisco Chairez 1920-1970s, Clippings re Mimi Ypina vocalist 1920s, Club Recreativo Mexico Bello, clippings 1935, Mutualista Benito Juarez membership, 1919, clippings and photographs re Francisco Chairez, the first Mexican American to graduate from Rice Institute 1928, Albino Torres Memorias by Joaquín Lorenzo and María C. Puente, México Bello Scrap Book 1930s, Certificates of Sociedad Mutualista Mexicana Unión y Progreso 1923, Sheet Music entitled “Palabras de Amor” (vals), Evangelina, (vals) by M. P. Fraga, Handbills advertising Spanish plays at “Salón del Campo” theater in Baytown, Tx, in 1929.

MSS 0099 Rodríguez Family Collection
Dates: inclusive 1920s-1960s bulk 1930s
Approximate volume: 2 lin. ft.

Victoriano Rodríguez settled in Houston during the 1920s, his son Salvador Rodríguez was born in Houston. He was president of a Mexican American Club in Conroe, organist and choir director of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Houston, Chief anesthetist at Montgomery County Hospital in 1967.

Letters to Víctor Rodríguez from relatives in Mexico, Personal documents of Adbón Rodríguez as president of the Partido de la Revolución Mexicana in Tpeozala, Mexico, Booklets about Masonry 1960, Booklet about religious topics 1929, Book about agriculture in Mexico 1933.

MSS 0101 Gregorio Torres Valerio
Dates: inclusive 1950s
Component: Photographic
Approximate volume: 1 lin. ft.

Gregorio Torres Valerio was a Houston professional photographer who captured in his pictures the everyday life of postwar Mexican American community.
MSS 0103    Ben T. Reyes
            Dates: inclusive 1970s

            Approximate volume: 38 lin. ft.

            Houston City Council Member for District I, President of Jones Lumber
            Company, Representative of Texas House of Representatives District 87, leader
            of many other Civic Societies.

            1974 Political campaign papers, campaign contributions & expenditure,
            statements, correspondence 1974, correspondence 1974, correspondence on
            industrial districts, MALDEF 75-77, Harris County correspondence, Houston-
            Galveston area council, governor, city controller, civil service, research,
            newsletters, Ben’s bills 63rd legislature, liquors regulation, democratic national
            committee 1974-1976, correspondence, 1978, police community relations 1977-
            1978, House of Representatives 65th Legislature 1977, election results 1976-1978,
            SER Job for Progress 1978, Houston Council on Human Relations 1978, LULAC

MSS 0107    Ernesto Rodríguez Collection
            Dates: bulk 1934-1940s
            Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

            Ernesto Rodríguez was a carpenter and entrepreneur. In 1916, he came to Houston
            from Piedras Negras, Mexico. Circa 1930 he owned a grocery store in Houston
            later he bought a furniture factory.

            Family Photographs, Financial documents, Emerson Radio dealer franchise 1948,
            and Money orders, Handbills advertising “La Casa Verde” grocery store
            photographs, and negatives.

MSS 0108    Felix Tijerina, Sr. Family Papers
            Dates: inclusive 1941-1975 bulk 1950s-1970s
            Approximate volume: 3.5 linear feet
            Whole collection except photographs is on microfilm.

            Felix Tijerina (1905-1965), son of an itinerant farm worker, had no formal
            education but was motivated to learn English as a teenager in Sugar Land, Texas.
            He became a highly successful Mexican American restaurant owner, civic leader,
            and champion of education for underprivileged Mexican American children. One
of Tijerina’s greatest achievements was his sponsorship of the “Little School of the 400” in the late 1950s, in which Mexican American children were taught 400 basic words to help them in English-speaking schools. This activity began through Tijerina’s involvement in the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). He served as the national president of this organization for four consecutive terms beginning in 1956.

Janie González was born in Sandyfork, Texas, on December 20, 1908. In 1928 she moved to Houston and in 1933 married Felix Tijerina. Together they developed a successful restaurant business, became involved in civic activities, and were leaders of Houston’s Mexican American community. After the death of her husband, Janie Tijerina established a scholarship foundation in Felix’s memory to help students attend college. She continued to be an active participant in civic and business groups.

The collection contains papers such as correspondence, publications, articles, minutes, and programs that detail the varied activities of Felix and Janie Tijerina. Material on the “Little School of the 400” represents a large portion of the collection. Other areas covered include the restaurant business, civil rights, LULAC, the Republican Party, and the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects, and the Rotary Club.

MSS 0122 Felix H. Morales Collection  
Dates: inclusive 1890-1980 bulk 1930-1960  
Approximate volume: 8 lin. ft.

In response to refusal by the city to allow Mexicans to be buried in cemeteries within the city limits, Felix H. Morales and his wife Angelina established the Morales Funeral Home in 1930 on Canal Street near the Houston Ship Channel. In 1935, he established a notary public service, which assisted the Spanish monolingual community in translating official documents and minor legal work. This service was quickly incorporated as part of the funeral home business. Mr. and Mrs. Morales also founded a mutual aid society in 1940, La Sociedad Union Fraternal. This organization provided death benefits to survivors of deceased members of the community as well as to survivors of was casualties to help defray the expenses of burial. Within a few years the organization took on a more civic-minded complexion, sponsoring English and citizenship classes and becoming actively involved in a number of causes such as protesting the continued segregation of Mexican children in the public schools. In 1950 the Morales’ applied for and were granted a broadcasting license under the call letters KLVL. This was to become the first Spanish-speaking radio station in the Gulf Coast area.
The Morales Collection contains approximately 500 pictures that include family, business, travel, hunting and fishing, KLVL radio station, religion, the Morales funeral home in Houston, and areas that pertain to the childhood of Mr. and Mrs. Morales. There are also documents pertaining to the family business, the Morales Funeral Home, and the notary public service, to Union Fraternal and to KLVL.

**MSS 0123  Lydia Mendoza Collection**

Dates: inclusive 1930s-1980s  
Approximate volume: 1.5 lin. ft.

Popular singer and guitarist, Lydia Mendoza was born in Houston in 1916. She began her career as a singer at an early age. Since 1927, she traveled with her family around the United States performing for Mexican Americans. During the 1930’s, she performed in several Houston theaters and clubs. She was acclaimed in presidential inaugurations as well as in the barrios.

Photographs of Lydia Mendoza and Mexican American artist, interview with Lydia Mendoza 1979, clippings, programs, handbills 1930-1940, poems dedicated to Lydia Mendoza 1930’s? letter of appreciation from President J. Carter to Lydia Mendoza 1979, contracts, letters from fans.

**MSS 0130  Mariano Rosales Ypina**

Dates: inclusive 1920-1970  
Approximate volume: 1.5 lin. ft.

Mariano Rosales Ypina, an employee of Southern Pacific, came to Houston from Mexico in the early 1920s. He and his wife Esperanza Rosales, David Casas and Irene P. de Casas founded in 1948 the club “Familias Unidas”, a social and cultural club for the Mexican American Community of Houston.

MSS 0133  Teodoro Castro Family History
Dates: bulk 1900’s
Approximate volume: 2 lin. in.

The Castro Family settled in Houston in 1903.

Castro Family Photographs.

MSS 0135  Melesio Gómez Family Collection
Dates: inclusive 1919-1950s bulk 1940’s
Approximate volume: 1 lin. ft.

Melesio Gómez arrived in Houston from San Luis Potosí, Mexico in 1919. He worked in the Houston Ship Channel, built in part with Mexican labor. In 1930 he was owner of “La Consentida” a popular café at 1708 Washington Avenue. Estella Gómez, Melesio’s Gómez daughter was one of the first Mexican Americans who graduated from High School during the 1920s.


MSS 0147  Leonel J. Castillo
Dates: bulk 1970’s
Approximate volume: 30 lin. ft.

Houston City Controller, President of Houston International University. Board Member and founder of the Diocesan Catholic Credit Union, Member of Board of Directors of American Red Cross, Board Member of Bread for the World, Member of the Advisory Board of Houston Business Journal.
Mexican American Collections
Houston Metropolitan Research Center
Houston Public Library

Resumes of Hispanic Community Leaders, Correspondence 1970’s, Working File, Job Studies, Organizations; Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Council on Municipal Performance, Democratic Party of Harris County, University Without Walls, Houston Federation of Teachers, Manpower Education and Training, Municipal Finance Officers, SER Minority Business & Trade Associations Developers, Texas Catholic Conference on Community Religion, Texas


MSS 0159 Alfred J. Hernández
Approximate volume: 13 lin. ft.
Collection available on microfilm.

Alfred J. Hernández was born in Mexico City in August of 1917. At age four, his parents immigrated to the Rio Grande Valley of Texas as farm workers. He graduated from high school and during World War II enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving in the African and European war operations as a technical sergeant. Hernández received his American citizenship while he was serving in Europe. On his return to the United States, he enrolled at the University of Houston, where he studied pre-law and obtained an LLB degree from South Texas College of Law in 1953. He married the former Minnie Casas and they have two sons, Alfred Jr., and John Joseph, and a daughter, Annie Marie. Hernández was president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) from 1965-1967 and became a civil rights leader, working for the improvement of the social and economic conditions of all American citizens of Spanish speaking descent in the United States. On March 28, 1966, Judge Alfred J. Hernández, together with delegates of LULAC, organized the “Alburquerque Walkout” in protest of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s (EEOC) discriminatory hiring practices against Mexican Americans. He also was the one of the organizers of the Selma (Texas) Minimum Wage March of 1966, a two month trek from the Rio Grande Valley which began as a labor strike of the United Farm Workers Association against local agri-business and ended in a confrontation with Governor John Connally on the highway near Braunfels. The march to Austin received national coverage and brought national attention to the social conditions of Mexican Americans. Judge Hernández was chairman of the Board of Project SER (Jobs for Progress, Inc.) created in 1965 as a job training center for unemployed Mexican Americans. He also served in the GI Forum Job Opportunity Program and was a member of the Houston Crime Commission.

The Alfred J. Hernández Collection consists of private and organizational records dealing with Judge Alfred J. Hernández life and civic activities; LULAC’s organization, Reports, Projects, and documents concerning the welfare, health and
education of Mexican American citizens in the United States. The collection also includes photographic materials of Judge Alfred J. Hernández and LULAC’s membership.

MSS 0160 John J. Herrera
Dates: bulk 1940s-1970s

Approximate volume: 8 lin. ft
Collection available on microfilm.

John J. Herrera (1910-1986) practiced law in Houston from 1943 to 1986 and was a leading civil rights advocate for Mexican Americans in Texas. He participated in cases which ended separate schools for Mexican Americans children in Texas (Delgado vs. Bastrop I.S.D., 1948), ended the systematic exclusion of Spanish-speaking citizens from juries (Pete Hernández vs. State of Texas, 1954), and protested employment discrimination against Mexican Americans in Houston shipyards during World War II. Herrera joined the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) in 1933. He served as national president of LULAC in 1952-53. He was appointed national legal counsel for LULAC in the late 1970s and served in that capacity until the early 1980s. Herrera was a lifelong Democrat and an active supporter of the party.

The materials in this collection document John J. Herrera’s civic, legal and political activities through correspondence, speeches, and other records. The largest portion of the collection concerns his involvement with LULAC.

MSS 0161 Juvencio Rodríguez Collection
Dates: inclusive 1930s-1950s bulk 1936
Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

Juvencio Rodríguez came to Houston in 1908; he became a civic leader for the Mexican American Community. He was a founding member of the Latin American Club of Harris County (LAC) formed in 1935 and headed by John Duhig. LAC took on political overtones as it endorsed candidates and tried to register the city’s Latin voters. Later, he became Chairman of the Tuberculosis League Drive, and organized a protest against the Social Security Office discrimination of Mexican Americans. He was the first Mexican American citizen hired by the Civil Service to work for the City of Houston.
MSS 0167    Navarro Family Collection

Dates: inclusive 1862-1970s  
Approximate volume: 10 lin. in.

Gabriel Navarro, originally from Michoacan, Mexico, came to The United States in 1915. Some of his children settled in Texas. Porfirio Navarro, an artist, was a Houstonian who served in several wars.


MSS 0179    Houston Mexican American Family History Collection

Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

Consist of papers written for a class taught by Dr. Cary Wintz, Texas Southern University, 1981.

MSS 0189    John Coronado Collection

Approximate volume: 2 lin. in.

John Coronado founded the Houston Mexican Chamber of Commerce in 1963. He served as editor of the “Latin Observer” and “Cinco Revista Histórica” and as president of the Spanish News Bureau.

This collection contains two letters to John Coronado concerning the Human Relations Committee and the Latin Scholarship Group (1970-1971); several copies of “Cinco Revista Histórica” (May 5, 1991); back issues of the “Latin
MSS 0191  Eloy Pérez Family Collection
Dates: inclusive 1931-1981
Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

Eloy Pérez was a Mexican American musician who helped introduce Tex-Mex music in Houston. Eloy Pérez and the Latinaires played at weddings, ballrooms, and farms and for benefit societies. The youngest of four brothers in the original orchestra developed after the war, Eloy Pérez toured his group across Texas and the Southwest, influencing an entire generation of Mexican American musicians. Eloy Pérez’ grandfather founded a school for Mexican Americans in Bastrop County, Texas.

The History of Pérez Family, by Alice Pérez Moreno, 1981, school records of Pérez children, clippings, photographs.

MSS 0194  Carmen Cortes Collection
Dates: bulk 1900-1960
Approximate volume: 1.5 lin. ft.

In 1940, Carmen Cortes was the first Mexican American hired to work in a white-collar position at the courthouse. She was active in LULAC in the 1950s.

Gutiérrez-Garza photographs, 1900-1960, Reyes and related family photographs 1900-1920s, 1970s, Garza Cortes photographs, 1930s-1950s, Cortes Family/LULAC photographs 1950-1960s, Martinez/U.S. Army WWII, Korea photographs 1940s-1950s, Navarro-Family photographs WWII 1910-1940s, Cruz Family photographs c. 1910s. scrapbook photograph identification.

MSS 0202  Frank and Ventura Alonzo Collection
Dates: inclusive 1920-1982
Approximate volume: 2 lin. in.

Frank and Ventura Alonzo were longtime residents of Houston and Magnolia Park. They were big band musicians from the 1930s until they retired in the late 1960s. Originally from San Antonio, Texas and Matamoros, Tamaulipas respectively, they met in Houston and married in 1931. Discovering a mutual love for music, they began their first band in the late 1930s and played for local
gatherings in Magnolia Park. Frank played guitar and Ventura played the accordion. Their orchestra developed into “Alonzo y sus Rancheros” during the 1940s with Frank as the leader and Ventura as lead vocal. From the 1940s through the 1960s, the band was popular in Houston as well as in many other areas of Texas where they traveled to perform. They specialized in “música ranchera,” a form of music from Texas roughly equivalent to a Mexican American country western sound. Over these three decades, few Mexican American dance bands enjoyed the popularity and acclaim of “Alonzo y sus Rancheros.”

This collection is mainly composed of photographs with a folder of biographic data compiled by Frank and Ventura Alonzo’s granddaughter, Linda Alonzo Saenz and Thomas H. Kreneck. It also contains a handbill announcement and a page from Woodmen of the World publication. Some of the photos deal with their sons, Frank Jr. and Alonzo Alonzo and various community activities in which the family participated. There is also an oral history with Frank and Ventura Alonzo in the oral history collection.

MSS 0205 Guadalupe Quintanilla/ “Little School of the 400” Collection
Dates: inclusive 1958-1971
Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

Guadalupe Quintanilla is an educator and a civic leader active in the Mexican American community. Her 1976 dissertation was written on the “Little School of the 400.” “Little School of the 400” was a program specifically designed to acquaint the Latin American children of this state with the basic English vocabulary necessary for them to enter their first year in school with greater ease and confidence. Advocates reasoned Mexican American children would not fall behind in their early school years and become discouraged and drop out at the alarming rate, which characterized the Texas Mexican community at the time. Pilot projects were established in the Texas towns of Ganardo and Edna in 1957 and by the following year spread to other places in the state. The overwhelming majority of the project’s preschoolers went on to successfully finish the first grade, a dramatic contrast to the appalling failure rate of children who did not receive such instruction. The name was derived from a list of 400 vocabulary words deemed necessary for Basic English skills. Felix Tijerina was chairman of the LULAC educational Fund, Inc. through which the “Little School of the 400” was run. Tijerina and LULAC worked to spread the program across the Southwest and ultimately it became a model for Project Headstart under Lyndon B. Johnson’s administration.

This collection contains gathered materials by Guadalupe Quintanilla from various sources for her 1976 dissertation. “Little School of 400” Reports, Financial documents, correspondence, LULAC Educational Fund, Texas Educational Agency Programs, List of Spanish Program Radio Stations, List of
MSS 0208  John Castillo Collection
Dates: bulk 1960’s
Approximate volume: 4 lin. ft.

John E. Castillo was very active in PASO (Political Association of Spanish-Speaking Organizations) at both the country and state levels. He was also involved in a variety of programs that dealt with political, labor and educational issues in the Mexican American community.

Records of PASO activities, especially conventions, voter education and registration, and support of candidates for local, state, and national offices. Also includes materials on: Project V.E.R. (voter registration), Joint Conference of Mexican Americans, Project SER/Jobs for Progress, OLE Inc., Mexican American Education Council, and other organizations. Contains materials on the campaigns of local figures such as Fred Hofheinz, Leonel Castillo, and Tina Reyes.

MSS 0228  J. A. ‘Tony’ Alvarez Collection
Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

A prominent LULAC and PASO supporter who participated in the Minimum Wage March of 1966.

Assorted newspapers. LULAC news, LULAC Prensa, Enterprise of Beaumont, Caller from Corpus Christi, El Sol, clippings, 1966, photographs re Minimum Wage March 1966 and President John F. Kennedy’s last night in Houston at a LULAC function at the Rice Hotel.

MSS 0237  William (Canales) Gutierrez Collection
Dates: bulk 1970
Approximate volume: 5.25 lin. ft.

Major Fred Hofheinz appointed William Gutierrez as Coordinator of community activities for the mayor’s citizen’s office. Gutierrez was director of SER Educational Talent Search, Director of Wesley Community Center, District director of LULAC.
Mexican American Collections  
Houston Metropolitan Research Center  
Houston Public Library


MSS 0255 Alex Arroyos/John Kennedy Collection  
Dates: inclusive November 21, 1963  
Approximate volume: 2 lin. in.

Photographs taken by Alex Arroyos of President and Mrs. John F. Kennedy at a LULAC function at the Rice Hotel on November 21, 1963, the night before President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.

MSS 0256 María Reyna  
Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

A Mexican American journalist, businesswoman and civic leader, Reyna participated in Mexican Patriotic Committees during the 1950s through the 1970s and mothers’ clubs in the Magnolia Park neighborhood of Houston.


MSS 0278 Mexican American Oversize Collection  
MSS 0282 Mexican American Family and Photograph Collection  
MSS 0352 Mexican American Small Collections  

These three collections consist of a variety of small donations, each usually a folder’s worth of material. Total volume for all three collections is approximately 4.5 lin. ft. Full descriptive inventories for these three collections are presently being compiled.

MSS 0284 Luis Cano Collection
Executive director of AAMA (Agency for the Advancement of the Mexican American), a nonprofit youth service agency, 1970. Luis Cano was also High School principal at the Sanchez High School, 1981 and a teacher at the Houston I.S.D., and elected Trustee at the H.I.S.D., 1987. In 1972, Luis Cano organized the Hispanic Teachers Caucus within the Houston Teachers Association.


MSS 0294 Mamie García LULAC Collection
Dates: inclusive 1960s-1980s bulk 1970s
Approximate volume: 3.25 lin. ft.

Long an active member in LULAC, Mamie Garcia, has served as director of District 8, which compromises the Houston area. She received a national award for her civic accomplishments.

The collection contains a voluminous amount of correspondence covering a period when LULAC addressed pressing social and political issues, including the issue of police brutality in the death of Joe Campos Torres. The collection includes By Laws of Latino Center. “Concilio de Organizaciones de Houston”, Hispanic magazines re employment, education, housing, civic programs, clippings, correspondence, Washington lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, 1981, LULAC State Women’s Affairs, WICS (Women in Community Service) 1973, Project Head Start, 1969, clippings, 1980.

MSS 0306 Fernando Salas A. Collection
Dates: inclusive 1896-1980s
Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

A native of Chihuahua, Fernando Salas A. was a Mexican American Jeweler who was an expert on diamonds. He won international recognition with his jewelry designs. He was a member of LULAC and in August 1944 became the first Mexican American to become a member of a Harris County Grand Jury.
Photographs, 1896, clippings, 1980’s, Newboys Club, 1965, Houston TX, Optimist Club of downtown, Houston, TX, 1959, correspondence, certificates.

MSS 0320 Luz Vara Collection of Early Mexican-Texan History
Dates: inclusive 1700-1800
Approximate volume: 10 lin. in.

The Luz Vara Collection consists of typescripts of the burials and confirmations of San Fernando Church in San Antonio, Texas. 1700-1800.

Typescripts of the San Fernando Church burials and confirmations, San Antonio, TX, 1703-1800.

MSS 0321 Augustina (Tina) Reyes Collection
Dates: bulk 1970s
Approximate volume: 1.25 lin. ft.

Augustina Reyes served as Secretary of HISD Board of Education and head of HISD’s Bilingual Program. She was a member of the Houston Community College System and was elected to the HISD Board of Trustees representing district #8 in 1981 and again in 1983. In 1984, she became President of the Board. Augustina Reyes earned a Master of Arts degree from Harvard Graduate School of Education. She was a recipient of a Kellogg National Fellowship Grant and a member of Texas Association of School Boards.

HISD correspondence, reports, agenda, legal papers re school desegregation, Tina Reyes closed session agenda, HISD House Bill 72, Origin and development of Texas Southern University by Dr. William E. Terry, AIDS a guide for survival, Harris County Medical Society and Houston Academy of Medicine, 1978, HISD report agendas, meetings.

MSS 0326 Arnoldo De Leon Manuscript Collection
Dates: bulk 1980s
Approximate volume: 1 lin. ft.

A copy of the manuscript, “Ethnicity in the Sunbelt: A History of Mexican Americans in Houston” by Arnoldo de Leon. This collection also contains drafts of the manuscript and a Houston “Chronicle” index of items relating to Mexican Americans.
Mexican American Collections
Houston Metropolitan Research Center
Houston Public Library

MSS 0328  Ernest Eguia Collection
Dates: inclusive 1952-1970s
Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

Ernest Eguia was a LULAC Council #60 leader.

Newspapers clippings, correspondence, LULAC news, LULAC handbills, Jobs for Progress, speeches, minutes, reports, LULAC membership, lists, photographs, LULAC National Convention programs, 1958-1970, financial papers, medical correspondence.

MSS 0330  Isidro García Collection
Dates: inclusive 1928-1985
Approximate volume: 3 lin. in.
Isidro García was a civic leader and member of LULAC.


MSS 0340  Juan P. Rodríguez
Dates: inclusive 1906-1953  bulk 1930-1940
Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.


MSS 0353  LULAC Regional Collection
Approximate volume: 2 lin. in.

Mexican American Collections
Houston Metropolitan Research Center
Houston Public Library

MSS 0355  1910 Census of Harris County Hispanics
Dates: inclusive 1910
Approximate volume: 1 lin. ft.

Twenty-four folders containing worksheets from a 1910 census of Harris County Hispanics. Information on the form includes name and address, number of family members, relation of each person to the head of the family, sex, race, age, marital status, children, place of birth and place of birth of parents, year of immigration to the United States, whether naturalized or alien, English or Spanish speaking, employment information, education and literacy information, whether own or rent home, whether veteran of Civil War and disability information.

MSS 0356  1900 Census of Harris County Hispanics
Dates: inclusive 1900-1986
Approximate volume: 2 lin. in.

One volume containing data sheets on each recognizably Hispanic person in the microfilm roll of the 1900 Federal Census for Harris County. The Federal Census of 1900 for Harris County comprises one full microfilm roll and is in two parts. The data sheets in this collection were completed by the members of History Class 3332, Chicano History Before 1910 taught by Thomas H. Kreneck during the fall semester of 1986. These sheets were part of the class’s research project. The eight members of the class were assigned an equal number of pages to examine. The sheets are arranged in order as the names appeared in the census. Each contains all the data in each census entry. Also included in the collection are papers written by the students regarding their findings.

MSS 0358  Abraham Ramirez, Jr. Collection
Dates: inclusive ca. 1970s
Approximate volume: 3 lin. ft.

Abraham Ramirez, Jr., was the spokesman and legal advisor for the Mexican American Education Council (MAEC). He worked in Houston as an attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). He was also a municipal judge. Ramirez, along with MAEC, called for the boycott against the Houston Independent School District for the district’s plan to desegregate by using between black and Hispanic schools. The ensuing court case was known as Ross vs. HISD. Judge Ben C. Connally’s ruling on the case created the Bi-Racial Committee, later the Tri-Ethnic Committee, to monitor the racial desegregation procedures and plans of HISD.
Mexican American Collections
Houston Metropolitan Research Center
Houston Public Library

The materials in this collection include newspaper clippings about the school boycott; documents recording the activities of MAEC, MALDEF, the Bi-Racial Committee, and others; legal documents used in preparing for the Ross case; and information about HISD’s desegregation plans.

MSS 0360  Tony Campos Collection

MSS 0363  Ruth T. Bello Collection
Dates: inclusive 1890-1989
Approximate volume: 2 lin. in.

Ruth Bello has written several papers on Mexican American Presbyterianism.

Music Book; “Excells’s Anthems for the Choir”, correspondence, photo negatives, photographs of “Borden Ranch People”, Mackey, Texas, Photographs of La Cruz Azul, Victoria, Texas, First Mexican American Presbyterian Church, 1949, The Broden ranch and the Presbyterian Church of Mackey, Texas by Ruth Bello.

MSS 0366  Constable Raul C. Martinez Collection
Dates: bulk 1973
Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

Raúl C. Martínez is a Mexican American civic leader; he fought in World War II. Raul C. Martinez was the first uniformed Mexican American officer in the Houston Police Department, entering the police academy in 1950. He later became a highly respected Harris County Constable.

Clippings, photographs.

MSS 0367  Ramón and Delfina Villagomez Family Collection
Dates: inclusive 1928-1930s
Approximate volume: 6 lin. in.

Ramón and Delfina Villagomez, originally from Morelia Michoacan, were some of the first Mexican Americans to settle in the Magnolia Park neighborhood. Mary Villagomez became a sister of The Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.
Mexican American Collections
Houston Metropolitan Research Center
Houston Public Library


MSS 0369  Gregorio Salazar Papers
Dates: bulk 1968-1970
Approximate volume: 1 lin. ft.

Member of MAYO organization, Chicano activist who promoted Mexican American rights during the 60s and 70s.


MSS 0411  Joe Orlando/LULAC Collection
Dates: bulk 1988
Approximate volume: 1 lin. ft.


MSS 1308  Pauline Oliveros Papers
Dates: 1951-1970
Approximate volume:

Correspondence between Pauline Oliveros and her mother, Edith Oliveros Gutierrez dating from 1951 through the 1970’s.

MSS 1316  Edith Gutierrez Collection
Dates: 1907-1996
Approximate volume: 2.75 lin. ft.
The collection contains correspondence of Edith Gutierrez, her mother, Pauline Gribbin, her grandmother, Pauline Viglini and other family members. Items collected by Edith Gutierrez throughout her life, including poetry that she wrote and items she acquired on trips to various places. There is also information pertaining to her daughter, Pauline Oliveros.

Related collections: RG 1307, MSS 1308, SC 1309, and OH 293

MSS 1369 Thomas L. López Collection
Dates: 
Approximate volume: 

RG D 020 El Mexica
Dates: inclusive 1974-1980
Approximate volume: 2 lin. in.
This collection contains almost a complete run of back issues of “El Mexica” from December 12, 1974 through 1978. There is also a 30 minutes oral history interview with Rogelio Noriega, the publisher of “El Mexica” on his background and the objectives of the paper.

RG D 021 La Prensa
Dates: inclusive 1978
Approximate volume: 1 lin. in.
“La Prensa” existed for around nine months in 1978 under the direction of Rosa America Cotto, from Central America. Also on the staff were John Penas, a Puerto Rican from New York and Orlando Boudini, and an Argentinian. Rosa went to work on a newspaper in Dallas in January 1979, Penas returned to New York and Boudini went to work on the Houston “Chronicle”.
This collection contains all the back issues of “La Prensa.”

RG D 022 La Voz del Barrio
Mexican American Collections
Houston Metropolitan Research Center
Houston Public Library

Dates: inclusive 1977-1978
Approximate volume: 1 lin in.

A Mexican American newspaper published in Houston by Macario Ramirez. It contains articles in both Spanish and English.

This collection contains Volume 1, Number 12 and Volume 2, Numbers 1-5 of “La Voz del Barrio”.

RG D 025 Compass
Dates: inclusive 1968-1973
Approximate volume: 1 lin. in.

A politically oriented newspaper containing both Spanish and English-language articles dealing with Mexican American issues.

This collection contains back issues from 1968 to 1973 plus an oral history with Felix “Ramrod” Ramirez, the editor of “Compass” regarding his activities and the newspaper.

RG D 027 La Vida Latina
Dates: inclusive 1971-1979
Approximate volume: 1 lin. in.

A monthly Spanish-language magazine published in Houston.

This collection contains back issues of “La Vida Latina” from 1971 through 1979.

RG D 030 La Gráfica
Dates: inclusive 1975-1976
Approximate volume: 1 lin. in.

A Spanish-language newspaper published in Houston.

This collection contains six copies of four issues of “La Gráfica de Houston.”

RG D 031 La Crónica de Texas
Dates: inclusive 1974-1975
Approximate volume: 1 lin. in.

Ten copies of seven issues of “La Crónica de Texas,” a Spanish-language newspaper.

RG D 036   A.D. Salazar Printing Company Collection
Approximate volume: 7 lin. in.


RG D 043   Papel Chicano
Dates: inclusive 1970-1972
Approximate volume: 2 lin. in.

The newspaper Papel Chicano was started in 1970 by a group of Mexican American youth activists in Houston. The group included Johnny Almendarez, Carlos Calbillo, Leo Tanguma, Kris Vasquez, Enrique Perez, Al Duran, and others. Papel Chicano was headquartered in Houston’s Magnolia Park subdivision, which had a large Mexican American population. The paper was part of the Chicano Movement, taking a militant political stance. The paper reported on grass roots activism, protested discrimination (from individual incidents to the lack of city services in the barrios), and freely criticized both Anglo politicians and more conservative Mexican American groups.

Back issues of Papel Chicano from 1970 to 1972.

RG D 080   El Sol
Dates: inclusive 1969-1989
Approximate volume: 13 lin ft.

Back issues of El Sol, a newspaper printed in Houston containing articles printed in both Spanish and English. The collection is incomplete, however there is a nearly complete run from 1977 to 1980 and all the issues from 1981 to 1987 are included.

RG D 082   Gaceta Mexicana
Mexican American Collections
Houston Metropolitan Research Center
Houston Public Library

Dates: inclusive 1928
Approximate volume: 3 lin. in.

Collection available on microfilm.
La Gaceta Mexicana was a Spanish-language literary magazine published bimonthly in Houston beginning in 1928. It featured essays, poetry, and society news, and contained advertisements for local business and for cultural and community events. La Gaceta Mexicana was published by the Sarabia family, who operated several successful local businesses including the Hispano Americana bookstore. The editor of the magazine was Lorenzo Yañez. Houston’s Mexican American community began to produce its own Spanish-language publications for the first time during the 1920s, including the newspapers El Anunciador, La Tribuna, and El Tecolote as well as La Gaceta Mexicana.

RG E 015 Political Assoc. of Spanish-Speaking Organizations (PASO)
Dates: bulk 1960-1968
Approximate volume: 2 lin. in.

In 1961, The Civic Action Committee organized PASO (Political Association of Spanish-Speaking Organizations) with Genaro Flores and John Castillo as a chairman and vice-chairman.


RG E 021 League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council #60
Dates: inclusive 1933-1979
Approximate volume: 21.5 lin. ft.

Council #60 was founded in 1934 as the first LULAC Council in the Houston area and has a distinguished record. It developed as a response to the trying conditions faced by the Hispanic Community during the first part of the twentieth century. At that time the Houston Mexican American populace suffered from many of the problems encountered by Hispanics across the United States. In particular, prejudice and discrimination placed numerous obstacles in the path of Hispanic advancement. Mexican Americans found little access to public facilities as well as the private sector where they found barriers to housing and equal employment. Likewise, the language barrier and lack of education stood in the way of Mexican American advancement. Therefore, it was that in 1934 a group of men from Houston and Magnolia Park, a predominantly Mexican American suburb of the
city, founded Council #60 just a few years after LULAC began in Corpus Christi. This early group of men was determined to do their best to facilitate the full participation of their people in the wider society. LULAC Council #60 became their vehicle for civic action. The goals of LULAC became the code they would live by. By the end of the 1930s, Council #60 was already widely known in the LULAC organization. In 1937, it hosted the first LULAC National Convention, held in Houston. It would later host national conventions in 1946, 1966 and 1979, the golden anniversary of LULAC. The Council has helped to foster the proliferation of LULAC chapters in the Texas Gulf Coast. LULAC Council #60 has produced many community leaders on the local, state and national levels. Four national presidents come from its ranks: John Herrera, Felix Tijerina, Alfred J. Hernandez and Roberto Ornelas. These men each in their own way symbolize Council #60’s commitment and struggle to foster education, employment and civil rights for the Hispanic community. Council #60, now over a half-century-old is proud of its history and hopeful for the future.

This collection contains an incomplete run of “LULAC News” from 1933 to 1979. It also contains correspondence, programs, minutes, scrapbooks and clippings, membership information and business records from LULAC Council #60.

RG E 024 Club México Bello
Dates: inclusive 1924-1970s
Approximate volume: 2 lin. ft.

Club Cultural Recreativo México Bello (or México Bello) began in Houston in 1924 as a social, recreational and civic outlet for individuals of the Houston Mexican American community. It was composed primarily of aspiring, upwardly mobile young adults from across the city. Although it was men’s group, it soon developed women’s auxiliary, which was composed mainly of member’s wives. The membership was exclusive and the number limited. Membership in the organization was highly sought after by people in the Houston community. México Bello functioned as a social and civic group as it sponsored dances and many forms of community interaction, including the annual “blanco y negro” ball. It also developed other affairs such as the yearly quinceañera. In addition, the club was very interested in cultural preservation as its motto stressed “Patria, Raza, Idioma.” From its inception the club was prestigious and counted in its membership many of the leaders of the Houston Hispanic community. They stressed a wider civic consciousness among the Houston colonia and endeavored to create a positive image of the Mexican American people in the minds of the larger Houston community. México Bello has worked over the years with other organizations in the Hispanic community, as many of its members have been active in other groups as well.
Mexican American Collections
Houston Metropolitan Research Center
Houston Public Library


RG E 025   Harris County Hispanic Caucus
Dates: bulk 1979
Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

In 1978, The Mexican American Hispanic Advisory Council was organized by the Harris County Hispanic Caucus (HCHC) to discuss with Houston’s mayor, Jim McConn, employment, economic and political problems that the Hispanic Community faced in Texas. Correspondence, reports, drafts.

RG E 053   Chicano Family Center (formerly Chicano Training Center)
Dates: bulk 1980s
Approximate volume: 1 lin. ft.

The Chicano Family Center was established in July 1971 as a non-profit agency with an emphasis in education, social services and research.


RG E 084   Tejano Association for Historic Preservation
Dates: inclusive 1986-1990
Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.

Tejano Association for Hispanic Preservation is a non profit organization which strives for the preservation of sites that have Tejano/Mexicano historical significance and that are in danger of being lost due to natural or human causes.
On August 31, 1970, a three-week-long, strike was initiated by the Mexican American community in protest to Houston Independent School District’s (H.I.S.D.) pairing plan. The plan paired black and white elementary schools, with students to be used between the paired schools in order to achieve court-ordered integration in the district; however H.I.S.D.’s so-called white student were mainly Mexican Americans. The strike was called for by the Mexican American Education Council (MAEC) and was intended to keep the Mexican American elementary students from attending H.I.S.D. schools. The school district officials negotiated with MAEC and ended the strike in September. Nevertheless, just as everything was in order, H.I.S.D. presented another version of the original pairing plan in January 1971, which was also disapproved by MAEC. In response to the plan, MAEC renewed the strike. In February, the strike evolved into a boycott when MAEC created the huelga schools. These schools were held at three churches where volunteer teachers, along with room mothers, helped teach the Mexican American students. José Torres, who was later appointed as the superintendent of the huelga schools, headed the Huelga School at Juan Marcos Presbyterian Church. The other two were at Denver Harbor Presbyterian Church and El Mesías Methodist Church. The boycott would eventually go on until the end of the 1972 school year.

This collection contains printed and manuscript materials pertaining to the huelga schools. Among the topics documented are support for the boycott by MAEC and the community, teaching materials and policies for the huelga schools, H.I.S.D.’s response to the boycott, and information on related court cases. Of particular interest are the diary of Principal Joe Torres, and a number of Photos of the huelga schools by Ed Gaida.
RG Q 001  Mexican American for Better Transit  
Dates: inclusive 1978  
Approximate volume: 2 lin. in. 

Mexican Americans for Better Transit was created in 1978, to mobilize support of the Mexican American community for the passage of the Metropolitan Transit Authority, and to emphasize had better transit services for the Mexican American Community.  

Metropolitan Transit Authority and the Mexican American-Community, correspondence, reports, Mexican American voting registration list, Harris County, The Mexican American and the Metropolitan Transit Authority an Analysis, By Raúl Castillo, MTA and its Importance to Houston Hispanics, by Ninfa Laurenzo, MTA Board member, La Prensa newspaper, 1978, El Mexica, 1978, clippings, flyers from MABT.  

RG 0943  Tejas News  
Dates: inclusive May 14, 1978  
Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.  

One issue of Tejas News, an English-language newspaper containing information on the riot in north Houston following the murder of Joe Campos Torres by the Houston Police Department.  

RG 0944  Con Safos  
Dates: inclusive 1971  
Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.  

One issue of Con Safos, a magazine published in Los Angeles containing essays and articles in both Spanish and English on Mexican American issues.  

RG 0945  La Raza  
Dates: inclusive 1970  
Approximate volume: 5 lin. in.
Mexican American Collections
Houston Metropolitan Research Center
Houston Public Library

Three issues of La Raza, a Los Angeles based magazine containing articles in both English and Spanish on Mexican American issues. Volume 3 is a special issue dealing with the murder of Rubén Salazar.

RG 1013     Our Lady of Guadalupe Church Inventory
RG 1314     LULAC News
RG 1322     Houston Hispanic Forum
RG 1392     Viva Magazine
RG 1393     Nuestra Palabra