




austin vida


JANUARY CULTURA GUIDE

Presented by Conspirare

CULTURAL ART GOALS 2026

For our gente who want to experience more arte y cultura in the nuevo año, add these to your 2026 calendar!

 “Paper Trails: Latin American Art in Print, (1950–1995)” is now on view at the Blanton Museum of Art through April 19, offering a look at contemporary Latin American printmaking. The exhibition highlights influential print portfolios and their significance from workshops in Mexico and Puerto Rico y más!

 Austin Opera will open its new Butler Performance Center in October with a major milestone: the world premiere of “Ofrenda,” a 90-minute bilingual chamber opera composed by Jorge Sosa with a libretto by John de los Santos. The opera highlights familia, cultura, and Día de los Muertos traditions and was developed over años in residency with Austin Opera. The production is a powerful investment in stories that reflect nuestras comunidades and traditions!

LOS REYES MAGOS

Invite your gente to celebrate Octavitas with Los Reyes Magos on Jan. 18 at the Puerto Rican Cultural Center from 2–5 p.m. during the 17th annual community parranda honoring this special Puerto Rican tradition. The free, familia-friendly event invites the comunidad to bring their favorite parranda instruments. Canta along, enjoy folkloric dance performances, and check out surprise gifts for kids and plenty of dancing — plus enjoy comida from Borinkén Roots!

OCTAVIO PAZ POESÍA COMES TO LIFE WITH CONSPIRARE



Photo courtesy of Roberto Carlos Roman/Unsplash

On Jan. 23–24, experience the world premiere of “To Be the Sun: Piedra de Sol” at St. Martin’s Lutheran Church (606 W. 15th St.) from 8–10 p.m. This Conspirare concert brings composer Joby Talbot’s choral interpretation of “Piedra de Sol” (“Sunstone”) to life, exploring one of Mexico’s most celebrated literary works.

“Piedra de Sol” was written in 1957 by Mexican poet and Nobel laureate Octavio Paz. The poem takes inspiration from the Aztec Sun Stone, mirroring its 584-day Venus-sun cycle. Known for its complex layers, lyrical intensity, and existential themes, “Piedra de Sol” explores amor, time, death, and the human experience in a continuous, circular rhythm.

Talbot was drawn to the poem’s restless, cyclical energy and natural musicality. Talbot first experimented with “Piedra de Sol” in his ballet score “Like Water for Chocolate,” but has now extended it into this choral work for the Grammy-winning choir Conspirare. Attending “To Be the Sun” offers a chance for our gente to experience Paz’s masterpiece in a new way. This performance invites audiences to immerse themselves in the rhythm of an iconic Spanish-language poem. Tickets start at \$46.30, with student pricing available.



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MUST-SEE LIVE MÚSICA



*Singer-songwriter Carrie Rodriguez brings another edition of Laboratorio to life.
Photo courtesy of Conspirare*

Jan. 17: Head to Ani's Day and Night (7101 E. Riverside Drive) for Tropicália Nights, a chance to celebrate Brazil and Latin America cultura from 7 p.m. to midnight. Spend the evening dancing to live música including samba, funk, and tropical beats!

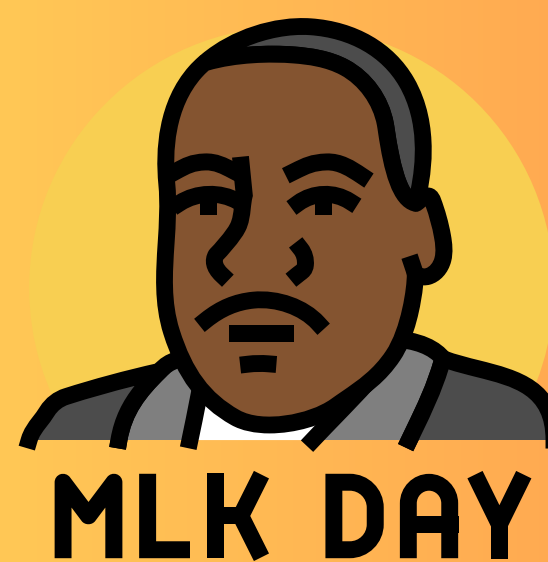
Jan. 24: Carrie Rodriguez's "Laboratorio" returns honoring Tejano legend Ruben "El Gato Negro" Ramos in a night of música, storytelling and comunidad. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. at McCullough Theatre. This performance celebrates the release of Ramos' latest album along with los classics. Ruben Ramos is a Grammy Award-winning Tejano icon, so grab your música lovers for this special evening! Tickets start at \$34.80.

Jan. 31: Esquina Tango (209 Pedernales St.) hosts Salsa en la Esquina with Via Nueva, a high-energy band that blends salsa, bachata and tropical grooves. Doors open at 7:45 p.m., with a beginner-friendly salsa class at 8 p.m. and live music from 8:30 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are \$17 online until 5 p.m on event day and \$20 at the door.

HIKING WITH COMMUNITY

Enjoy beautiful Hill Country views on Jan. 11. Latino Outdoors, Indigenous Movement Crew y others invite the comunidad to a joint hike at Warbler Vista Trail in Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (21646 E. FM 1431) in Lago Vista. Hike leaders will have walkie-talkies plus extra agua y snacks, but participants are encouraged to bring layers, water, comida, and to check social media for day-of updates. Meet up at 9 a.m. then start hiking at 9:30 a.m.

WAYS TO CELEBRATE MLK



Show up on Jan. 19 for a powerful morning of unity, comunidad and action at the annual MLK Community March. The rally begins at 9:30 a.m. on the south steps of the Texas State Capitol, followed by a march to Huston-Tillotson University for the MLK Festival from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. where you can enjoy live música, local vendors, comida y más.

Marchers are encouraged to bring canned goods or nonperishable items to support the Central Texas Food Bank and help keep our comunidad fed and strong!