



austin vida

MAY CULTURA GUIDE

Presented by Cine Las Americas



Art by Victoria Villasana. Photo courtesy of CLAIFF

BARRIO FEST

On May 22, head to Vesper from 6–11:30 p.m. for BarrioFest: Market & Show Tianguis, a familia-friendly evening centered on cultura, community and local creatives.

The event brings together a wellness tianguis, live music and a lively marketplace featuring local artisans, authors, Indigenous organizations and Austin's cultural workers. Enjoy a full evening of connection, comunidad, and creativity—from healing practices and herbal workshops to art, comida and activities for all ages. Get ready for a tea bar, acupuncture, tamales, y mucho más!

The night's soundtrack spans harp, punk and cumbia, with performances by Doubtcaster, Folk Harp Club, Wavy Eye and Cumbia Bajo La Luna.

Tickets start at \$12.51.

CINE LAS AMERICAS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Cine Las Americas International Film Festival returns May 13–17 with screenings and events across AFS Cinema, Violet Crown Cinema, Holiday Inn Midtown, and more. For the 28th annual fest, expect the classic Hecho en Tejas party and showcase, a conference portion, and more special surprises. Tickets range from \$13–\$15 for regular screenings, \$25 for premiere events, with free community screenings available. Badges and bundling options are available for those wanting the full experience!

This year's festival brings Latine and Indigenous storytelling through features, shorts and special events. From panels, red carpets and a music video showcase curated by Austin award-winning artist Gina Chavez, attendees can experience a range of voces y historias from across the Americas. Get ready for appearances from notable actors including Lou Diamond Phillips (of “La Bamba” fame), filmmakers and local creatives, all coming together to spotlight the power of storytelling en nuestra comunidad!

The celebration continues the following weekend with the second annual Emergente Youth International Film Festival on May 23, spotlighting films by young local and international creators, amplifying the next generation of storytellers.

Here are some fest highlights to look out for:

- 🦋 May 13: “American Pachuco: The Legend of Luis Valdez,” 7–8:30 p.m., AFS Cinema. Opening Night film
- 🦋 May 14: Documentary Shorts — 3:30–5:30 p.m., AFS Cinema. Free for the public!
- 🦋 May 17: “Versalles,” 7–8:30 p.m., AFS Cinema. Closing Night film



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MUST-SEE LIVE MÚSICA



Photo contributed by Ruben Ramos

May 7: Tejano legend Ruben “El Gato Negro” Ramos takes the stage at Waterloo Records at 5 p.m. performing songs from his latest album “Los Días de Calor,” bringing his distinct genre-blending sound shaped by Tejano, mariachi and Chicano soul.

May 10: Bachata powerhouses Romeo Santos and Prince Royce take over Moody Center for the “Mejor Tarde Que Nunca” Tour, bringing two of the genre’s biggest voices to one stage at 8 p.m. Known for shaping bachata’s global reach, the duo delivers a night of clásicos, modern hits and puro romanticismo. Tickets start at \$60.30.’

May 16: The Chucho Valdés Royal Quartet closes out the ATX Chamber Music and Jazz season at the Paramount Theatre, with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. and show at 7:30 p.m. A defining artist in Afro-Cuban jazz, Valdés brings decades of mastery to the stage for a noche that honors the roots and evolution of the genre. Tickets start at \$58.

May 24: José María Napoleón brings his “Hasta Siempre” farewell tour to ACL Live at the Moody Theater at 8 p.m., marking a final chance to experience the beloved balada icon live. Known for his romantic songwriting and timeless hits, Napoleón’s music has enchanted our gente for generations. Tickets start at \$54.40.

CELEBRATE “SPY KIDS”

Celebrate 25 years of “Spy Kids” with a special screening at the Paramount Theatre on May 23 at 3 p.m., followed by a live performance from Director Robert Rodriguez’s Family Spy Band.

This family-friendly event brings the beloved film back to the big screen with an added live music experience, plus a VIP option that includes a meet and greet with Rodriguez and a chance to see original props up close. Tickets start at \$17.

SANANDO JUNTOS



Photo by Shelby Murphy Figueroa on Unsplash

May is Mental Health Awareness Month — a time to check in, break stigmas and prioritize healing within ourselves and comunidad.

May 16: Sanando Nuestra Mente takes place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Metz Elementary School (84 Robert T. Martinez Jr. St.) offering a free, bilingual conference with workshops, wellness activities and resources designed to support mental health in a culturally rooted, familia-friendly space. RSVP for free!

May 17: Kalpulli Texas Quetzalcoatl hosts a Well-Being Circle from 1–5 p.m., bringing together comunidad for an afternoon of music, healing practices, danza, art, lotería y más—a welcoming space for all ages to connect, reflect and restore.