



austin vida

OCTOBER CULTURA GUIDE



Photo contributed by Chris Caselli

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATIONS BEGIN

Día de los Muertos traditionally falls at the start of November, but Austin makes space for remembrance much earlier to prepare for the holiday.

✈ Oct. 1-11: Austin Opera brings the world premiere of “Ofrenda” to the Butler Performance Center (5811 Trade Center Drive, Building 1). Set as Día de los Muertos approaches, the story follows immigrant mother Macaria through family loss, an unexpected encounter with death and the power of healing. Sung in English and Spanish, performances run through Oct. 11.

✈ Oct. 19-Nov. 7: Ofrendas created by Austin familias and community groups will fill the MACC as Día de los Muertos nears. The collection remembers loved ones alongside local and national historias, with altars honoring the Uvalde students, victims of ICE and community figures. Community members can apply to create an indoor or outdoor altar through Oct. 9.

✈ Oct. 24: Calaveras, lowriders, música and plenty of color fill downtown for Mexic-Arte Museum’s 43rd annual Viva La Vida Festival & Parade. A special section at this year’s procession will feature La ofrenda, with artist-made pieces carried through the parade before coming together onstage, followed by live performances, art activities, comida tradicional and the Muertos Mercado. The celebration runs from noon-6 p.m. RSVP for free!

✈ Oct. 29: The Cathedral marks seven years in East Austin con “Arte y Vida,” a Día de los Muertos fiesta blending remembrance with a celebration of its support for local artists. The 21+ fundraiser features artwork from founder Mónica Ceniceros and Mexico City-based Melina Garza, hand-painted ceramic skulls from artists in The Cathedral’s collective, a community ofrenda, música and more. The evening begins at 6:30 p.m., with tickets starting at \$125.

WRAPPING UP HERITAGE MONTH CON TACOS Y TEATRO

✈ Oct. 15-17, 18 & Oct. 21-24: Don’t miss this long awaited comeback from Austin theater veterans Rupert and JoAnn Reyes. The founders of Teatro Vivo along with Trinity St. players bring us the powerful bilingual play “Esperanza.” The story shines a light on the realities of undocumented immigrants through love, loss, humor and moments that deeply connect us all. Performances at Trinity St Playhouse (901 Trinity St.) start at 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$20-35.

✈ Oct. 11: Austin’s taco story is also about familia, barrios and who remains in a changing city. Tacos of Texas brings its podcast live to Tamale House East (1707 E. Sixth St.) for “Austin Taco History: Tacos, Tejanos and the Fight Against Gentrification.” The conversation brings local culinary icons Diana Vasquez-Valera of Tamale House East, Christina Torres of Mi Madre’s and historian Mónica Muñoz Martinez, for a free panel from 5-7 p.m. hosted by Mando Rayo and explores the Mexican and Tejano communities behind generations of Austin food culture.



austin vida

OCTOBER CULTURA GUIDE

MUST-SEE LIVE MÚSICA



Photo by Mari G. Hernandez / Special to Austin Vida

Oct. 8: Mexican American singer-songwriter Lisa Morales moves between English and Spanish with a sound shaped by Americana, roots music and the traditional Mexican songs she grew up hearing in Tucson. Hear the cousin of music legend Linda Ronstadt in the intimate Rosette listening room at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$36.05.

Oct. 16: Colombian-born Austin musician Jaime Ospina steps out with his debut solo album, “The Vessel,” tracing Afro-diasporic connections through cumbia, gaita and rhythms rooted in Colombia’s Caribbean coast. The Superfónicos member celebrates the vinyl release at Waterloo Records beginning at 5:30 p.m. The all-ages show is free with RSVP.

Oct. 21: Colombian-born artist Ana Barajas brings together Andean melodies, electronic soundscapes and traditional South American instruments through her experimental electro-folk project VHU. Catch the Austin-based artist as her self-titled debut album arrives on vinyl, with a free in-store performance beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Waterloo Records.

Oct. 30: After a summer postponement, nortño legend Ramón Ayala arrives in Austin with his “Historia De Un Final” Tour. Hear decades of accordion-driven classics from one of the genre’s most enduring figures as his farewell tour stops at Moody Center at 8:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$72.15.

MEXAMERICON

Superheroes get a cultura-first spin at MexAmeriCon. Meet creators working across comics, graphic novels, manga, zines and fan art while exploring lucha libre, cosplay, música, artist talks, Lotería and more.

The free convention runs Oct 31 from 11 a.m.–5 p.m. at the MACC!

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ DAY

October brings opportunities to honor Indigenous cultures and living traditions, from Taíno foodways carried across generations to gatherings centered on Austin’s Indigenous community.

🦋 Oct. 11: Learn how yuca becomes casabe (crisp, flat bread made from cassava vegetable) while connecting with Taíno traditions from Borikén at the Puerto Rican Cultural Center for Taíno Harvest Gathering & Casabe Workshop. Yukayeke Yara Cu leads an afternoon of casabe making alongside Areyto dance, Batu and community celebration of the yuca harvest. The free gathering runs from 2–5 p.m.

🦋 Oct. 12: Celebrate Indigenous Peoples’ Day with an afternoon centered on Native culture, foodways and community at the Native American Cultural Center’s second annual gathering at Travis Early College High School. From 3–7 p.m., explore local Native vendors, enjoy a free traditional dish dinner from Ayotochtli ATX and catch a screening of “Gather” followed by a panel on Indigenous food sovereignty, plus a session on Karankawa revitalization led by Cari of the Karankawa Tribe of Texas.