

MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY IN AUSTIN



BY RIDDHI BORA

PEOPLE GATHER AT REPUBLIC SQUARE IN AUSTIN, TEXAS TO CELEBRATE MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY ON SEPT. 15, 2025. SEVERAL ATTENDEES WORE RED, GREEN AND WHITE TO REPRESENT THE MEXICAN FLAG'S COLORS. (RIDDHI BORA / J311F)

Usually reserved for walks, yoga and the Sunday farmer's market, Austin's Republic Square transformed into a portal to Mexico. As live Mexican folk music played from a stage, families danced, laughed and sang along, filling an otherwise regular Monday evening with the air of festivities.

Austin-Salttillo Sister Cities Association hosted "Fiesta de la Independencia de México" to celebrate Mexico's independence day on Sept. 15. The free-to-attend festival platformed vendors, food trucks and performances highlighting Mexican culture. Featured sponsors included HEB, the Mexiarte Museum, and the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center.



A MAN BLOWS BALLOONS TO SELL AT REPUBLIC SQUARE IN AUSTIN, TEXAS ON SEPT. 15, 2025. ATTENDEES COULD ALSO PURCHASE FLAGS AND MEXICAN STREET FOOD. . (RIDDHI BORA / J311F)

Since 1968, the ASSCA has focused on creating a lasting partnership between Austin, Texas and Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico through “community events, collaborative projects in the arts, educational exchanges, and economic partnerships.” Live performances, such as a band performing traditional Mexican music, a Cumbia duet, and a singer who sang the national Mexican anthem, entertained attendees and prompted onlookers to stop and watch the program.



TWO DANCERS PERFORM “CUMBIA” IN FRONT OF FESTIVAL ATTENDEES AT REPUBLIC SQUARE IN AUSTIN, TEXAS ON SEPT. 15, 2025. CUMBIA IS A LATIN-AMERICAN FOLK DANCE ORIGINATING FROM COLOMBIA THAT IS CHARACTERIZED BY A 4/4 RHYTHM AND LIVELY DANCE STEPS. (RIDDHI BORA / J311F)



A HAND PAINTED MEXICAN HAT HANGS OUTSIDE THE BOOTH OF A VENDOR AT REPUBLIC SQUARE IN AUSTIN, TEXAS ON SEPT. 15, 2025. THIS HAT EVOLVED FROM A SOMBRERO -- A WIDE-BRIMMED STRAW HAT BROUGHT TO MEXICO DURING THE SPANISH COLONIAL ERA. (RIDDHI BORA / J311F)

In addition to platforming the performing arts, “Fiesta de la Independencia de México” platformed the visual arts by showcasing an original art piece titled “Viva la América.” Made by local artist Fidencio Durán, “Viva la América” was the winning entry of the 2025 El Grito Poster Contest sponsored by ASSCA and Downtown Austin Alliance Foundation. The artwork shows how the Priest Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla rallied Mexican peasants against the Spanish crown, which ignited the Mexican Independence liberation movement.



As the sun set, more and more attendees began showing up to the event, many of whom wore red, green and white to honor Mexico’s flag. Attendees could choose from a variety of Mexican street food and drinks such as agua fresca, horchata, chicharonnes de harina, and elotes. In addition to enjoying a wide variety of Mexican food, attendees windowshopped and bought colorful traditional Mexican jewelry, hats and clothing from vendors.

A VENDOR FOLDS A PIECE OF CLOTHING TO GIVE TO A BUYER AT REPUBLIC SQUARE IN AUSTIN, TEXAS ON SEPT. 15, 2025. SEVERAL VENDORS SOLD TRADITIONAL MEXICAN CLOTHING, JEWELRY AND FOOD AT THE FESTIVAL. (RIDDHI BORA / J311F)