Research Guide
Chicano Movement in Houston

**Vertical Files** (These are newspaper clippings organized by subject)

- Ethnic Groups – Mexican Americans – 1965-1979
- Ethnic Groups – Mexican Americans – MAYO (Mexican American Youth Organization)

**Archival Collections**

- **MSS 0237 William Gutierrez Collection**
  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.

- **MSS 0369 Gregorio Salazar Papers**
  Member of MAYO organization, Chicano activist who promoted Mexican American rights during the 60s and 70s.

- **MSS 0092 Hector Garcia Collection**
  Hector Garcia was executive director of the Catholic Council on Community Relations, Diocese of Galveston-Houston, and an officer of Harris County PASO. The Harris County chapter of the Political Association of Spanish-Speaking Organizations (PASO) was formed in October 1961. Its purpose was to advocate on behalf of Mexican Americans. Its political activities included letter-writing campaigns, poll tax drives, bumper sticker brigades, telephone banks, and community get-out-the-vote rallies. PASO endorsed candidates supportive of Mexican American concerns. It took up issues of concern to Mexican Americans. It also advocated on behalf of Mexican Americans seeking jobs, and for Mexican American owned businesses. PASO produced such Mexican American political leaders as Leonel Castillo and Ben. T. Reyes. Hector Garcia was a member of PASO and its executive secretary of the Office of Community Relations. In the late 1970's, he was Executive Director of the Catholic Council on Community Relations for the Diocese of Galveston-Houston.

The collection contains some materials related to some of his other interests outside of PASO including 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 Vazquez Collection**
  Alfonso Vazquez 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.


- **MSS 0159 Alfred J. Hernandez Collection**
  Alfred J. Hernandez 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. Hernandez 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. Hernandez 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. Hernandez, together with delegates of LULAC, organized the "Albuquerque Walkout" in protest of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC) discriminatory hiring practices against Mexican Americans. He also was 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 Hernandez 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. Hernandez Collection consists of private and organizational records dealing with Judge Alfred J. Hernandez's 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. Hernandez and LULAC's membership. Collection available on microfilm.

- **MSS 0189 John Coronado Collection**
  John Coronado founded the Houston Mexican Chamber of Commerce in 1963. He served as editor of the "Latin Observer" and "Cinco Revista Historica" 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 Historica" (May 5, 1991); back issues of the "Latin Observer" (1965-1969); a City of Houston historical brochure (1969); and letterhead from the Spanish News Bureau.

- **MSS 0208 John E. Castillo Collection**
  John Castillo was very involved in the Mexican-American movement. He was a member of the Harris County PASO (Political Association of Spanish Speaking Organizations), and was made recording secretary in 1967. Castillo was involved with voter registration and Project VER (Voter Education Registration), which was a project to get people out to vote. They wanted to support politicians who were going to help the Mexican-American community. Castillo was also a part of various other groups including Opportunities for Leadership Education (OLE), Coalition for Better Government, Raza Unida, Joint Conference of Mexican-Americans, and the National Spanish Speaking Management Association (NSSMA).

  The collection contains private and public documents dealing with the activities of John Castillo. PASO represents a large portion of the collection. Voter Registration, campaign/election information, and community events are also covered. Mary Castillo headed the Education movement, which is also covered.

- **MSS 0228 J. A. `Tony' Alvarez Collection**
  J. A. “Tony” Alvarez was a successful Houston businessman who became involved with the League of United Latin-American Citizens in 1965. By 1966, he had met with Vice-President Hubert Humphrey in Washington, D. C. regarding Mexican-American concerns and been named LULAC’s Man of the Year. Alvarez was instrumental in the planning of Project SER, a Latin-American jobs program. A PASO supporter, Alvarez also participated in the Minimum Wage March of 1966.
The collection contains: Assorted newspapers, LULAC news, La Prensa, Enterprise of Beaumont, Caller from Corpus Christi, El Sol, photographs of the Minimum Wage March in 1966 and President John F. Kennedy's last night in Houston at a LULAC function at the Rice Hotel.

- **MSS 0284 Luis Cano Collection**
  Luis Rey Cano was born on August 25, 1948 in Corpus Christi, Texas. He received his Bachelors of Science in English and Secondary Education from North Texas State University in 1970. In 1973, he received his M.A. in Guidance and Counseling from Texas Southern University. While working on his masters degree, Cano taught English in the Houston Independent School District, where he designed and implemented a Mexican-American Studies Program. During this time he also served as chairman of the Hispanic Teachers Caucus in Houston. After receiving his M.A. from Texas Southern, Cano completed a doctorate program in 1981 from the University of Houston, where he earned a doctorate in Administration of Public Education. While working on his Ed.D., Cano founded a private community based alternative school for at-risk students. This school, George I. Sanchez, was later incorporated into HISD and continues to address the needs of marginal students. Cano's honors include Eagle Scout and Who's Who in Texas. His memberships reflect the breath of his many and varied interests, such as bilingual education, alternative schools, and Chicana/o studies. Luis Cano is married to Amelia Araiza with whom he has two children, Victoria and Veronica.

The collection spans from 1968 to 1986 with the bulk of the materials dating from the early 1970s to the mid-1980s. The collection contains private and public papers detailing the many and varied interests of Luis R. Cano. The major sections of this collection include papers on the Association for Advancement of Mexican Americans, the National Council of La Raza, the Housing Authority of the City of Houston, CETA, bilingual education, discrimination and segregation in HISD, thesis and dissertation materials, as well as general reports and publications. The collection contains one box of photographs.

Also see: MSS 052 Mexican American Small Collections AMMA; RG 1392 Viva Magazine

- **MSS 0294 Mamie Garcia LULAC Collection**
  Mamie Garcia was born on August 8, 1941. She married Julian Garcia and had three children, two of whom are Carolyn Ortiz and James Richard Ortiz. Mamie graduated from Jefferson Davis High School in 1959 and then from Durham Business College in 1965. She then became a teacher for Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral Church. Mamie was also president of the Better Neighborhood Development Corporation to promote Housing for Senior Citizens and was appointed secretary for Familias Unidas of Second Ward. More community involvement included her volunteer work at Ripley House, Casa de Amigos, the Latino Learning Center, and
the Macario Garcia Center. Mamie's first involvement in the League of the United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) began in 1964 when she became a member for Council #402. From 1966-1968, she was elected as secretary and from 1970-1971 was the treasurer and chairwoman for the fundraising committee. In 1972, Mamie was appointed as coordinator for the First State Women Affairs Committee and later appointed State Chairwoman of Women Affairs Committee. The Women Affairs Committee (WAC) of LULAC was established from the liaison between LULAC and Women In Community Service, Inc. (WICS). She was elected Deputy District Director for District 8 in 1974 and then elected as District 8 Director for 1976 and 1977. Mamie also participated in Fiestas Patrias as the chairwoman for the beauty pageant and as a member of the Publicity Committee for LULAC News. Mamie's awards consist of Woman of the Year for Council #402 from 1967-68 and Woman of the Year for District 8 in 1972. She also received the Sarzosa Award for Outstanding State Chairwoman of Women Affairs Committee in 1971-72.

This collection contains personal papers of Mamie Garcia as well as her correspondence. There are also documents from Women in Community Service, Inc. (WICS), Women Affairs Committee of LULAC (WAC), and League of the United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) that are dated during Mamie's involvement with them and at the end of the collection is a folder which has four (4) photographs. A list of Houston Chronicle newspapers are included at the end of the container list because they were taken out but they did not contain any particular information that dealt with Mamie, WICS, WAC, or LULAC.

- MSS 0358 Abraham Ramirez, Jr. Collection

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 busing between black and Hispanic schools. The ensuing court case was known as Ross v. 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.

This collection contains documents dated from the decade of the seventies. These documents consist of newspaper clippings which discuss the boycott against the Houston Independent School District (HISD) by the Mexican-American community. Documents from the Mexican American Educational Council (MAEC), Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), and many other organizations, such as the Tri-Ethnic Committee, are also included. Legal documents from Ross vs. HISD and the proposed Westheimer Independent School District (WISD) to other legal cases from different cities are accounted for. Materials from HISD, including a map of school sites from that district, have been included.
**RG E 0015 Political Association of Spanish-Speaking Organizations (PASO)**
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 0021 League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council 60**
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. 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. So 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 J. 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.

**RG D 0043 Papel Chicano**
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.

**RG D 0020 El Mexica**
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 bused between the paired schools in order to achieve court-ordered integration in the district; however, H.I.S.D.'s so-called white students 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 brought an end to 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. The huelga school at Juan Marcos Presbyterian Church was headed by Jose Torres, who was later appointed as the superintendent of the huelga schools. 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.

- MSS 173 Houston Anti-War Movement Collection
- MSS 1466 Moody Park Riots Papers