

Women & Activism in the Westside

Just over 100 years ago Congress passed the 19th Amendment, prohibiting states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to citizens of the U.S. on the basis of sex. It was ratified on August 18, 1920, and became law on August 26, 1920. However, voting rights continued to be denied to people on the basis of racial and ethnic origin for years to come, making this a bittersweet victory for the many women of color who fought for women's suffrage.

This online exhibit tells a more inclusive story of women activists in San Antonio's Westside. Women who marched, boycotted and rallied for social change. Women who organized church tamaladas, circulated petitions and spoke out at city council meetings. Women who led school PTAs and shared their homes

with families displaced by flooded neighborhoods. Women who celebrated their identity and culture and challenged male-dominated industries. Politicians, neighborhood activists, educators, labor leaders, journalists, ranchera singers and carpa performers. Women who intentionally worked toward the change they wished to see. Women who acted on what they believe. Women who are remembered by their daughters and granddaughters, who are vital members of la comunidad del Westside of San Antonio.

You can now virtually visit (see above) the Museo del Westside's current exhibit, Women & Activism in the Westside and learn more about these extraordinary mujeres of our community.

Eva Garza



Pioneer of Mexicana women in theater

María Antonietta Berriozábal



Community, environment, and housing activist

Arcadia Hernández López



Bilingual Education Pioneer

Blanca Rosa Rodríguez



Pioneer of Mexicana women in music

Emilia Sánchez



Community activist, "Kelly Katie"

Isabel Casillas Sánchez



Neighborhood and Education Activist

Rita Vidaurri



Pioneer of Mexicana women in music

Beatriz Escalona



Pioneer of Mexicana women in theater

Carolina Malpica Munguía



Community and education activist

Emma Tenayuca



Social justice, labor and education activist

Jovita Idár



Teacher, journalist and political activist

Sebastiana Ramirez Rodríguez



Community and church activist