



La Voz de Esperanza

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- We advocate for a wide variety of social, economic & environmental justice issues.
- Opinions expressed in *La Voz* are not necessarily those of the *Esperanza* Center.

La Voz de Esperanza

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Articles due by the 8th of each month

Policy Statements

- * We ask that articles be visionary, progressive, instructive & thoughtful. Submissions must be literate & critical; not sexist, racist, homophobic, violent, or oppressive & may be edited for length.
- * All letters in response to *Esperanza* activities or articles in *La Voz* will be considered for publication. Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

Recibimos el otoño con esperanza

We receive the autumn with hope

Esperanza Series, The Practice of Hope took place Saturday, September 12th at 7 pm at *UTSA Southwest Campus Chapel*—the old Ursuline Academy site off of Augusta St. and on Sunday, September 13th at 3pm at the historic *Lerma's* night club in the *Westside* that was renovated by the *Esperanza Peace & Justice Center*. The Series juxtaposed venues as well as music and audiences usually are not programmed together. Azul Barrientos, known for her *Noche Azul* concerts of traditional Mexican music at the *Esperanza*, collaborated with the classical music group, *Agarita* to create an evening of ethereal music with inherited and original songs that lulled the audiences into a state of revelation making an intimate discussion of today's state of affairs in the U.S. possible. With panelists, Rebecca Flores, a lifelong community activist, and artist/activist, Mauro De La Tierra, Azul carefully guided a moving and authentic discussion between panelists and audience about the state of reality today and what we can do to change things. The most salient point of this discussion was Rebecca Flores' assertion that we must use our own agency to create conditions for change that will ultimately benefit all people. This begins with individual acts taken with the purpose of activating change whether it is keeping oneself informed, being part of a group, making signs, joining community-wide actions or simply exercising your right to vote—we all have agency that can move us toward a better world. We must not allow ourselves to be isolated and uninformed—for that will lead us to feeling helpless—without hope. *The Esperanza Series* ended with folks feeling hopeful and wanting to do their part in making change. As we end the year welcoming seasonal changes and looking forward to our annual celebrations of *Día de Muertos*, *Peace Market* and the holidays—may we each reflect on what we can consciously achieve to make change as 2026 ends and 2027 begins. *Ay vamos.* —Gloria A. Ramirez, editor, *La Voz de Esperanza*.



Esperanza Series panel with Rebecca Flores, Mauro De La Tierra & Azul. Photo Sherry Campos



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VOZ VISION STATEMENT: *La Voz de Esperanza* speaks for many individual, progressive voices who are gente-based, multi-visioned and milagro-bound. We are diverse survivors of materialism, racism, misogyny, homophobia, classism, violence, earth-damage, speciesism and cultural and political oppression. We are recapturing the powers of alliance, activism and healthy conflict in order to achieve interdependent economic/spiritual healing and fuerza. *La Voz* is a resource for peace, justice, and human rights, providing a forum for criticism, information, education, humor and other creative works. *La Voz* provokes bold actions in response to local and global problems, with the knowledge that the many risks we take for the earth, our body, and the dignity of all people will result in profound change for the seven generations to come.