



Date:
From: James M. Benavides (james.benavides@utsa.edu)
Office: (210) 458-2237 Mobile: (210) 347-9786

IT'S ALL ABOUT FRIENDSHIP

Texas Folklife Festival theme celebrates 36 years of friends

SAN ANTONIO (June 2007) – For 36 years, the Texas Folklife Festival has brought together more than 40 Texas cultures in a celebration of diversity and friendship. The event has changed and evolved, but some of the underlying themes have stayed the same. This year's festival, June 8-10 at UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures, will celebrate the theme, "It's All About Friendship."

"Some people have been here since the beginning and for some groups, it's become a multi-generational event," said JoAnn Andera, Texas Folklife Festival director. "O. T. (Baker) may have created 'Texas' Biggest Block Party,' but it's really become one of the state's biggest family reunions. It doesn't matter who you are or where you're from, we're all friends here and that's why we celebrate friendship."

Before "diversity" became a buzzword, Folklife was already breaking down the walls between cultures and creating an atmosphere that honors and shares every culture's uniqueness. Through authentic foods, world music, traditional dance, folk arts and craft demonstrations, the Texas Folklife Festival helps to keep these cultural traditions alive.

O. T. Baker came up with the concept of the Texas Folklife Festival after returning from

-MORE-

Folklife Friendship
Add one and last

the Smithsonian Institution's American Folklife Festival in 1968. With UTSA inheriting the exhibit hall from HemisFair one year later, Baker sought to continue the mission of celebrating cultural diversity. Baker, the festival's founder, who died in January 2006, laid the foundation for the signature event at UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures, with a small gathering of San Antonio's cultural societies in 1971. Today, the festival brings together more than 70,000 people to celebrate Texas' many cultural traditions.

The Texas Folklife Festival will be held on the grounds of UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures, 801 S. Bowie St. Hours are 10 a.m.-11 p.m., Saturday, June 9 and noon-7 p.m., Sunday, June 10. Special UTSA advanced tickets are \$6, available at fiscal services at both 1604 and Downtown campuses. Regular admission is \$10 for adults; \$4 for children ages 6-12 and free for children under age 5. Advance \$8 adult tickets are available at select partner locations in San Antonio. Group rates are available for parties of 25 or more by calling (210) 458-2259.

For more information, visit the [Texas Folklife Festival](#) Web site or call (210) 458-2390.