

Palm School Oral History Project Outcomes

Recommendations for future research opportunities

The Palm School holds importance in understanding not only the history of Austin but also captures major issues at state and national levels. It contributes to deeper understandings of Latina/o/x and Black communities of Texas. To extend the place and meaning of Palm within the East Austin community it is important to include perspectives of Black Austinites, especially as it pertains to access to educational spaces and aspirations. Additionally, the impact of the construction of I-35 played in the development and segregation of various communities and their relationship to Palm School needs to be studied further, as well as the longer history of gentrification of East Austin.

While the scope of the current oral history project centers on the Palm School, expanding discussion of Palm Park will contribute to further capture this history. This history would contribute to the broader struggle over public spaces in U.S. History.

Additionally, the contributions of Palm School graduates to the Chicana/o Movement and the larger social activism in Austin needs to be explored further. Many of the alumni interviewed in the Palm School Oral History Project went on to join local organizations and have dedicated their lives to serving their communities. These histories need to be included in the broader narratives of Mexican American History.

Lastly, the ongoing project to preserve Palm School reveals the complex nature of preserving historical memory. Further research on the process of preserving Palm can help shed light into the larger efforts of preserving Mexican American history and memory.

Potential academic presentations

Findings from the interviews may be proposed to various conferences to disseminate work. The Palm School Oral History Project covers wide-ranging topics which would be welcomed by academic audiences across disciplines. Academic meetings of the Oral History Association, the Organization of American Historians, the Alliance for Texas History, the Western History Association and the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies can serve as fruitful venues for this research.

Additionally, the Latinx Studies Association, which will be hosted at UT Austin in 2026, provides an opportunity to arrange a panel that includes narrators to share their histories and shed light on the Palm School Project.

Foundational work for further research, including additional interviews

The Palm School Oral History Project provides insight into the school's significance to the Mexican American Community of Austin. To expand this history, the project needs to expand to include more interview from within the Latina/o/x community and perhaps secure interviews to include members of East Austin more broadly. These interviews might reveal coalition building and networks. In March, 20025, Voces interviewed Susan Almanza, a Palm school alumnus.

The Austin History Center and the Travis County Archives hold materials pertaining to the Latina/o/x community in Austin. The collection houses key sources to community life in Austin. In particular, the Camacho Family Papers, School District Records, among newspapers and other materials.