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No lo tires! Don't Throw it Away! Texas Latino Archives Shaping their own Narrative: Community Leaders Negotiate a Framework for their Archival Collection

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No lo tires! Don't Throw it Away! Texas Latino Archives

Shaping their own Narrative: Community Leaders Negotiate a Framework for their Archival Collection

Texas Library Association Annual Conference April 8, 2014 - San Antonio, TX

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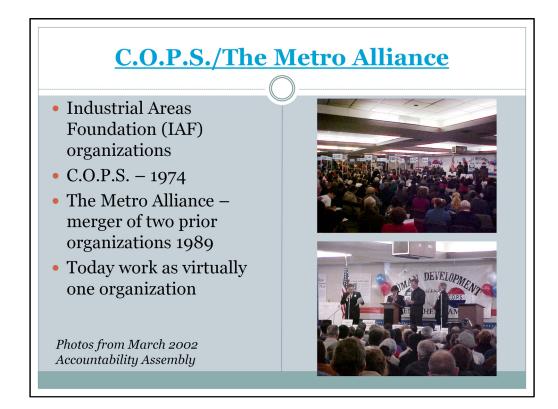
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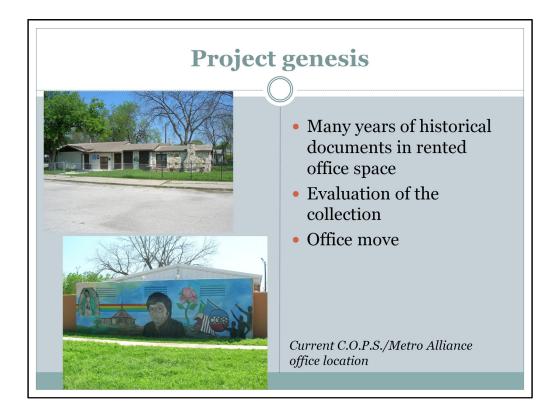
- Thanks Presentation based on unpublished paper co-authored with Oralia Garza de Cortés
- Oralia also was very helpful in conceptualizing and navigating the process from conceptualization to getting the documents into the archives
- I'm not an archivist
- Presenting viewpoint from a community organization leader
- Have been a "leader" (rather than member) with COPS/Metro since 1998 involvement thru my church



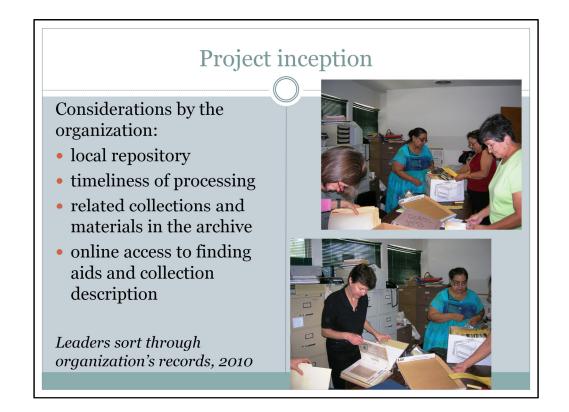
- Communities Organized for Public Service, or C.O.P.S., founded in 1974 in San Antonio
- First organizer, Ernesto J. Cortés, Jr San Antonio native trained by the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the well-known community organizing training school established by Saul Alinsky in Chicago.
- C.O.P.S. formed the first of the modern-day IAF organizations in the Southwest Network.
- Took hold on South & West sides of San Antonio among predominantly-Hispanic Catholic parishes
- Institutional, rather than individual, members
- Early 1980s, its sister organization, the East Side Alliance, formed and was comprised primarily of African American and Hispanic low- and lower-middle income churches.
- 1982, the Metropolitan Congregational Alliance organized and included South, Central, and Northwest area Anglo and Hispanic Protestant lower-middle and middle-income churches. The Metro Alliance formed through a merger of these latter two organizations in 1989.



- Today, C.O.P.S. and the Metro Alliance, or C.O.P.S./Metro, work together as virtually one organization,
- broad-based, non-partisan organization.
- Today C.O.P.S./Metro is a multi-ethnic citizens' organization comprising religious institutions, schools, and labor locals.
- Serves as a "people's university," training and developing leaders from member institutions to participate in public life
- by advocating for needs and services for the **common good** and
- **holding public officials accountable** for their public commitments to these needs.



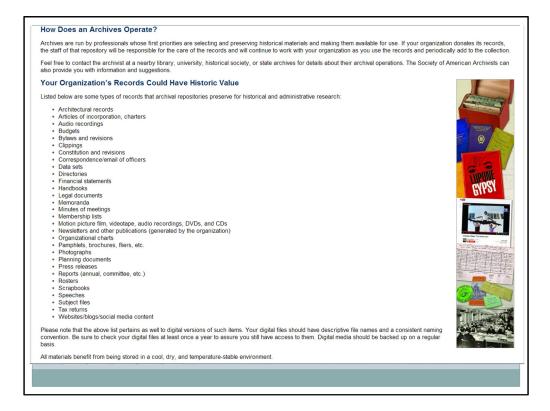
- Although written about in scholarly publications on a national level,
- Still a rich untapped source for documenting the voices and stories of those leaders who participated in the shaping of their society.
- History not organized and retrievable in one central place, the stories have emerged somewhat piecemeal.
- In early 2010, a lead organizer with C.O.P.S./Metro expressed concern about the organization's historical records that were occupying rented office space in a manner that was potentially vulnerable to fire, water, insect, or rodent damage.
- 200 boxes of materials gathered over the course of the organization's 30+ history were occupying limited office space.
- The materials had become somewhat disorganized because many of the boxes had been moved to several locations through the years and because limited space no longer allowed for efficient organization. (4 locations in the past 16 years).
- New leaders didn't know the history of the organization; early presidents of the organization recently passed away, which made preservation of the history more urgent.



- a cadre of leaders gathered to discuss the archival project and developed a strategy to find a permanent home for the organization's archive.
- Local where the organization started--San Antonio--and
- where family members could have easy access to their loved ones' records of community achievement.
- Many of the former C.O.P.S. presidents and early leaders also had archival materials.
- Looked at the largest public university library in the city, the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA)
- Andy Sarábia (pers. comm.), 1st president of C.O.P.S., noted that UTSA had recently acquired the Albert Peña papers
- UTSA was developing a stronger and more visible collection in Mexican American history.
- Recent additions to the collections at the university's special collections department could lead researchers to the organization's materials.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS Descriptive Summary Historical Hote Grasmitation of Collection Restrictions Index Ferms		
		A Guide to the C.O.P.S./Metro Alliance Records,1954-2009
Related Material Administrative Information Description of Series	d Material Istrative Information Descriptive Summary	
Address and Editories	Creators: Title: Dates: Creator Abstract:	Communities Organized for Public Service (San Antonio, Tex.) and Metro Alliance (San Antonio, Tex.) C. O. P. 8. Milero Alliance Records 1954-2009 Communities Organized for Public Service (COPS) is an organization of 25 partiches in the predominantly Hispanic. Iou-income West Side and South Side of San Antonio, Founded in 1974, ils the oldest of the Interfath Area Foundation (AF) organizations in Trease and, Indeed, in the entire rational network. The Metro Alliance, which shares office space and many resources with C. O. P.S. Formed in 1989 through a
	Content Abstract: Identification: Extent:	merger of the East Side Alliance, composed of African American and Hispanic low- and lower-middle income churches, and the Metropolitan Congregational Allance. The bluck the collection consists of news clippings, project files, reports, budgets, programs and general office files. MS 346 72 linear freet (72 Boxes)
	Language: Repository:	Naterials are in English. The University of Texas at San Antonio Libraries Special Collections.
	Historical Note Communities Organized for Public Service (COPS) is an organization of 36 pariables in the preformantly Hispanic, Iowincome Wast Side and South Side of San Antonio, Foundation 17 and San Antonio, Foundation 17 and San Antonio South Side of San Antonio, Foundation 17 and San Antonio South Side of San Antonio, Foundation 19 and San Antonio South Side of San Antonio, South Side Allance, and the Network Santa Compared in 1882 and Included South, Central, and Northwest area Anglo and Happinic Protestant Iower-middle and middle-income churches. C.O.P.S. and Metro Allance are a coatilistic of over 70 congregations, schools, and uniona coming together so that we can effectively can behard of Amilies. Allance work with each of these institutions to Identify a diverse, broas-based leadership that can connect to each other in neurolectro behard of Amilies. Antonio a better place for families. The Hatlannibe that leader device and fifter Vibin ther institutions and anong leaders for the business community and elected of Chilaria to make San Antonio a better place for Kentley and the taken device and fore vibin ther institutions and among leaders for the tacksition business community organized.	

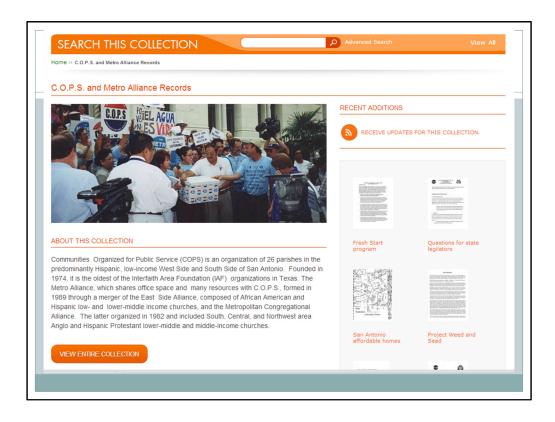
- Student exposure and access to C.O.P.S./Metro's materials through university courses in History, Interdisciplinary Studies, Mexican American Studies, Political Science, Public Administration, Sociology, Women's Studies, and other disciplines by conducting research using primary (archival) sources.
- Online access to the finding aid through the Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO) system Discoverable through Google.
- Some of the finding aids in TARO that mention C.O.P.S./Metro include the Albert Peña papers (UTSA), the José Ángel Gutiérrez papers (UT-Austin), and former Governor Ann Richards papers (UT-Austin).



- Special Collections Head & staff very willing to work with the C.O.P.S./Metro leaders. Assessed collection onsite and provided an orientation and tour of their area, so the leaders could learn more about the estimated processing time and see some of the other archival collections
- Oralia joined us on the project and provided a larger vision and framework
- Preparation of the collection used the SAA guidelines for items to include & exclude



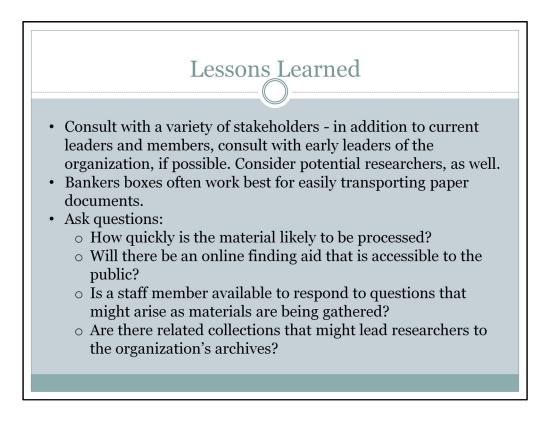
- Gathered teams of 4-6 leaders for 3-6 hours at a time to review materials and organize and sort by topic, also arranged by year
- Items generally at least 4-5 years old or older
- Bankers boxes worked best for transport
- Special Collections staff picked up collections when we had 10 or more boxes at a time. They would quarantine the material (part of normal procedures) before processing.



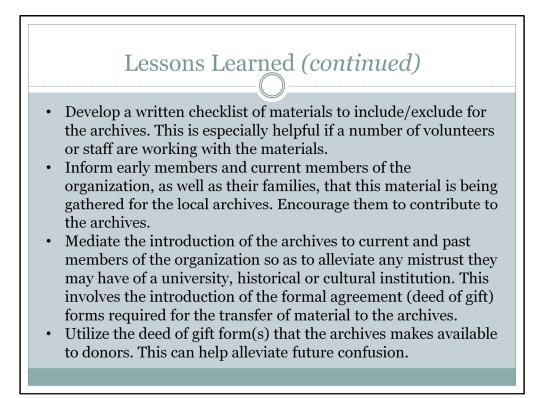
- The Special Collections staff digitized some of the visual materials from the collection
- Interviews with several leaders from C.O.P.S. had been recorded and some are available through the UTSA online archives, we wanted to gather and preserve more of the stories of our early leaders.
- StoryCorps Historías came to the Las Palmas Branch of the San Antonio Public Library in August 2010.
- Oralia secured four appointments at the Las Palmas Branch.
- During the course of two days, she conducted interviews with the four leaders.
- Each recording session was 40 minutes.



- December 2010 C.O.P.S./Metro held an end-of-the year/end-of-thedecade/memorama celebration. Early leaders were personally invited by Andy Sarabia.
- Head of Special Collections attended and took material that had been gathered and collected for the archive.
- The Managing Director for NOWCastSA, an online community journalism site, was interested in capturing the stories of some of the early C.O.P.S./Metro leaders through video.
- NOWCastSA staff members recorded brief interviews with two of the early leaders at the December 2010 celebration.
- They also recorded an on-location interview with Andy Sarábia, as he guided them on his legendary tour of West Side Victory Stories: sites on San Antonio's West Side that were the focus of the early work and struggles of C.O.P.S., including the parish sites of several of the member institutions, several of the library branches, drainage projects, and senior housing projects.



• Lessons Learned (slide 1)



Lessons Learned (continued)

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No lo tires! Don't Throw it Away! **Texas Latino Archives**



Panelists Margo Gutierrez, LLILAS Benson Collection, UT-Austin; Carolina A. Villarroel, Brown Foundation, Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage Project, University of Houston; Esther Garcia, Latino Caucus Round Table Chair; Gloria Espitia, Austin History Center; Diane Duesterhoeft, St. Mary's University & C.O.P.S./Metro Alliance, San Antonio. Photos courtesy Esther Garcia.

Attend one of these Latino Caucus events. It's never been more relevant.

TLA 2014 SAN ANTONIO April 8-11 Henry 8. Gonzalez

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2:00-3:30 PM - ROOM 201 CONCOURSE LEVEL NO LO TIRES! DON'T THROW IT AWAY! TEXAS LATINO ARCHIVES Margo Gutterrez, LLILAS Benson, University

Carolina Villarroel, Recovering the U.S. Heritage Project

Barbara Renaud Gonzalez, novelist, poet Carmen Tafolla, poet, autho Bryce Milligan, poet, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 5:30-6:00 PM - SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY SANDRA CISNEROS: MAKING READING Sandra Cisneros, poet, novelist, scholar

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 6:00 PM - SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEPTION SPONSORED BY LA ESTRELLA DE TEL SAN ANTONIO REFORMA CHAPTER

Join us and the San Antonio authors for a reception, A chance to meet and mingle with our San Antonio thors and REFORMA members from all over Terra

Diane Duesterhoeft, St. Mary's Unive Gloria Espitia, Austin History Center WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 4:30-5:30 PM - SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY VOCES DE SAN ANTO: SAN ANTONIO AUTHORS



APRIL 10. 9-00 AL LATINO CAUCUS MEETING - ROOM 002 - A RIVER LEVEL

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1-1:50 PM - ROOM 216 AB CONCOURSE LEVEL DONDE ESTA THE GOOD STUFF? SELECTING QUALITY SPANISH MATERIALS Daniel Berdaner, librarian

Jenny Lizaraga, Cinco Books

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 9-9:50 PM - ROOM 210 AB CONCOURSE LEVEL SPECIAL LANGUAGE COLLECTIONS AND THE ALA FREE PASS TO GUADALALARA INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 10-11:20 AM - ROOM 201 CONCOURSE LEVEL DIA DE LOS NIÑOS: SCHOOL AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES CONNECTING WITH LATINO FAMILIES Mark Smith, Texa ary and Arr Pat Mora, autho

alia Garza de Cortes, co Paola Ferate-Soto, Austin Public Librar

50% of students in Texas K-12 schools are Hispanic.



No lo tires! Don't Throw it Away! Texas Latino Archives Shaping their own Narrative: Community Leaders Negotiate a Framework for their Archival Collection Texas Library Association Annual Conference April 8, 2014 - San Antonio, TX Diane M. Duesterhoeft Neference/Instruction Librarian, St. Mary's University, Blume Library Leader with C.O.P.S./Metro Alliance dduesterhoeft@stmarytx.edu Twitter: @dduesterhoeft #txla14

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