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Fats Tuesday - Martes Gigante Festival scheduled in March

International Festival brings Carnival to Wonderland of the America's Mall

The Fats Tuesday – Martes Gigante International Festival will showcase a “Latin Fusion” of music, food and dance. The 4-day festival will be held at the Wonderland of the America's Mall on March 4, 5, 6 and 8. The Latino, Carnival themed, family-friendly, multi-cultural festivities will take place at the recently named America's Amphitheater. Additional activities will take place at the main stage inside of the mall with some activities within the Marketplace.

The *free*, Latino festival, “Fats Tuesday – Martes Gigante” (Big Tuesday), is scheduled for Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday, March 4, 5, 6 and 8 will provide a “Latin Fusion” of music and dance performances from local and regional bands and dance groups for the whole family.

OLA Marketing and Entertainment Group is producing this event to highlight and showcase local and regional talent while celebrating a family-friendly, Carnival style, event at the mall.

“The festival is unique in that we are showcasing different Latino cultures and countries with food, fun, and family event that everyone can enjoy,” said OLA spokesperson, and Latin Fusion TV host, Brandy Lopez.

Chef Waldo Castro of Divine Taste Catering will provide a Taste of the Americas Food court outside, providing cuisine from as many as 12 different countries during the festival.

“We have so many diverse foods in the Latino community, we need to share the food of the Americas,” said Chef Waldo. “We will have various cuisines from 12 different countries,” he added.

Musical performances include a fusion of Latin music by Texas State's Salsa del Rio, Austin's Braulio y Fuzzion and the Austin Piozzola Quintet, and local bands Bombasta, Jai Roots, Grupo Pasion, along with music from Jorge Alejandro, Ronny Tee, Panama Finesse along with a special performance from Harp and Soul featuring Justin Vasquez with special guest Benny Harp. More groups will be added as the festival nears.

Dance performances include Zumba from Studio Vida Dance Fusion, Lee Rios and Semeneya Dance Studio, KaZamba Drum and Dance Group along with Tango with Daniela Arcuri, Angel and Melissa Santiago of Xibuke Dance Studio, and showcasing dance styles of Samba, Bachata, Capoeira and more.

Additional activities include Face painting, bead and mask making, contests along with food, fitness and fun.

“We are doing something that no one else is doing outside of the Riverwalk,” added Lopez. “Wonderland of the Americas Mall is a great place for families to enjoy Mardi Gras,” she concluded.

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