

# Altar-ing: A Latinx Memoir Workshop Series with Bonnie Cisneros

11:30AM to 2PM / Saturday, Jan 11 · Feb 8 · Mar 14  
Latino Collection and Resource Center at Central Library

Join us for a three-part writing workshop series where participants will excavate family histories, dreams, recipes, and biographies, as well as research collective cultural texts from the Latino Collection and Resource Center in order to compose autohistoria-teoría, or auto-ethnography, in the form a three-tiered altar.



## Session I: A Foto is Worth a Thousand Palabras

Participants will analyze a favorite family photo for sensory and emotional memories and use poetry to transform the photo into their own "Stenciled Memory." Texana/Genealogy staff will share regarding genealogical research methods and the types of records available to family. Bring a family photo and digitize it using San Antonio Public Library's Memory Lab.



## Session II: Recipe for Remembering

Participants will tap into food and kitchen memories as a source of ancestral knowledge and cultural pride. After choosing a family dish that encapsulates the spirit of their home/kitchen memory participants will write the home/family recipe from memory in the recipe format. Bring a written family recipe and digitize it using San Antonio Public Library's Memory Lab. Guest lecturer, Dr. Lilitana Saldaña.



## Session III: The Craft of Música

Music makes everything better. Sometimes we are disconnected from ancestral sounds, songs, lullabies, or they may not be aware of the diverse and myriad of genres that make up Mexican/American/Latinx music. In this session, participants will listen to a variety of Latinx music as they create crafty offerings for their loved ones.

**Participants' finalized projects will be exhibited in the Latino Collection and Resource Center with a reception on Thursday, April 9th from 6PM-8PM.**

*Altar-ing* is one facet of *Bodies of Agua*, a literary research project supported by the National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures, Southwest Airlines, and the City of San Antonio Department of Arts and Culture through a grant from the NALAC Fund for the Arts Grant Program.



Photo by Jorge Cisneros



**Bonnie Cisneros** is a fourth-generation educator in a line of South Texas school teachers. A mother of two, she earned an MFA in Creative Writing from Texas State University and is a member of the Macondo Writers Workshop. Her poems and essays appear in *River Teeth: A Journal of Nonfiction Narrative*, *El Retorno*, *Chicana/Latina Studies*, and *El Placazo Barrio Newspaper*. Moonlighting as DJ Despeinada, she consciously spins vinyl records that center women artists of color and musicians of the borderlands. Her essay collection *Bodies of Agua* will be published in 2020. Learn more about her work at [bonniecisneros.com](http://bonniecisneros.com).