

Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance hosts annual Octavitas Celebration on January 23rd

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Once again, Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance closes the Puerto Rican holiday season with the largest Octavitas celebration in Central Texas – this time also celebrating Chinese New Year in the process.

The free party of song and dance will be held at Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance and Cultural Center on Sunday, January 23rd, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

This year's celebration serves as cultural exchange with performances by the Love of China dance group, a Tai Chi performance from the Xiang Yun Temple, and other special guests.

Traditionally, Puerto Rico's holiday season begins on Thanksgiving and ends with Octavitas, the last holiday of the season. Octavitas begins eight days after the Epiphany and lasts for eight additional days.

"Do you know why Puerto Ricans are such joyful people?" asked Dr. Ana Maria Tekina-eiru' Maynard, Founding Director of the Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance and Cultural Center. "It's because we celebrate the Christmas season - Las Navidades - longer than any culture on the planet!"

The public is invited to bring musical instruments and join in the songs. Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance's professional and junior companies - and performing arts students - will perform traditional dance and music numbers.

The celebration will be held at the Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance and Cultural Center, located at 701 Tillery Street. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (512) 251-8122 or visit www.PRFDance.org.

(Photo courtesy PRFDance)

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