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## Community celebrates end of Puerto Rican Christmas

By: News 8 Austin Staff

Dancing and music filled the Puerto Rican folkloric Dance and Cultural Center for the Octavitas celebration Sunday.

The event marks the end of Las Navidades, or the Puerto Rican Christmas season.

The Puerto Rican party is an eight-day event that begins eight days after the Epiphany.

Though the season's festivities end with Octavitas, to some, it's more than just an eight-day event.

"Puerto Ricans are a lively people. We celebrate life, when life is good, when life is bad. We are very passionate about our culture. We always find a reason to sing and dance," Ana Maria Tekina-Eiru Maynard, with the [Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center](#), said.

Part of the Octavitas tradition includes an obligation to throw a party for carolers who visited over the Christmas season.

Sunday's celebration was one last chance to make good on the tradition.