



OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
PRESENTS

# Connecting with the Arts



## Mexican Folk Music and Folklorico Dancing

Modern folk dance traditions in Mexico are blended from Indigenous, African and European cultures. From 1520 to 1750 there was a sweeping change in Mexican folk dance; much of which was influenced by European dances, music and instruments. Many traditional dances were richly influenced by pagan religious practices, but were modified to reflect the Christian religious practices brought over by European settlers.

The 1930s were a definitive time for folk dance in Mexico. It became so popular that educational centers for dance were opened across the country. Interest declined in the 50s and 60s, but today dance is a defining element of Mexican culture and continues to evolve with influences from popular culture. Mexican folk dance celebrates indigenous practices rather than disregard it as part of history.

Many historical aspects of Mexican folk dance have remained the same. One area which has seen the most change is in costuming. The costumes used to be made of hides and feathers but are now made with synthetic fabrics and added modern elements.

Ballet Folklorico is Mexico's best known folk dance troupe. It was founded in 1952 by Amalia Hernandez and since her death in 2000 has been directed by her grandson Salvador Lopez. The group began small with only 8 dancers and has grown to 40 dancers, a mariachi band and sixteen other musicians. They travel around the world, performing an average of 250 times each year.



### CREATE YOUR OWN MEXICAN FOLK DANCE:

Watch the following videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytfTVOWJyAA>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_mkqUffnzjk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_mkqUffnzjk)

Break into groups of 5-6. Create a dance that includes some elements used in Mexican folk dance and incorporate elements from modern dance. Perform the dance for your class.

### EXPERIENCE THE PERFORMING ARTS:

Attend a live performance. OCCC presents Fiesta Mexico-Americano featuring Los Lobos and Ballet Folklorico Mexicano on Tuesday, February 16, 2016, at 7:30 P.M. in the Visual and Performing Arts Center Theater located at 7777 S. May Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK.



Tickets to the performance may be purchased at [tickets.occc.edu](http://tickets.occc.edu).

For more information visit: [www.occc.edu/pas](http://www.occc.edu/pas)