



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 10, 2026

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Mexican Sister Cities Celebrate Culture at MXLAN 2026
City leaders hosted eight delegations from across Mexico, reinforcing decades of cultural exchange and binational collaboration.

In a historic show of unity and cultural exchange, McAllen Mayor Javier Villalobos and city leaders hosted eight distinguished delegations from Mexico, accounting for over 62 guests, representing Apodaca (Nuevo Leon), Corregidora (Queretaro), Irapuato (Guanajuato), Reynosa (Tamaulipas), Saltillo (Coahuila), the State of Tamaulipas, Tampico (Tamaulipas), and Zacatecas (Zacatecas).

During the festivities, Saltillo Mayor Javier Diaz Gonzalez and Zacatecas Mayor Miguel Angel Varela Pinedo highlighted the significance of binational collaboration and praised MXLAN as a model platform for promoting their vibrant communities throughout the Rio Grande Valley.

Over the weekend, Mexican representatives showcased tourism opportunities and celebrated the unique heritage of their cities. This year marks the 26th anniversary of McAllen's Sister City partnership with Irapuato and the 10th anniversary with Reynosa. Audiences enjoyed a dazzling performance by Irapuato's Ballet Folklorico IMCAR at the Sister Cities Stage at MXLAN, spotlighting the rich traditions that bind these communities together.

"As Mayor, I am incredibly proud of our international partners and the deep relationships we have built over the years," said McAllen Mayor Javier Villalobos. "Having Irapuato, our longest-standing Sister City, represented at the festival filled me with immense joy, especially as they brought their vibrant folklorico ballet to share with McAllen."

We are grateful to the festivalgoers who visited the Sister Cities booths to explore tourism attractions, immerse themselves in art and culture, and experience the traditions that have long united McAllen with its Mexican partners.

"The presence of our distinguished mayoral guests speaks volumes about the strong ties between McAllen and Mexico," said City Manager Isaac J. Tawil. "These relationships are paving the way for future binational success. The enthusiasm and energy our guests brought to MXLAN elevated the festival and reminded us why McAllen is such a unique and welcoming city in South Texas."

About the City of McAllen

Founded in 1904 and incorporated in 1911, the City of McAllen has grown from a small agricultural community into one of the most vibrant and fastest-growing cities along the U.S.–Mexico border. Known as the "City of Palms," McAllen serves as a hub for international trade, retail, tourism, and culture in the Rio Grande Valley. Today, the city employs more than 2,600 dedicated public servants across 41 departments, delivering essential services to a community of more than 150,000 residents. McAllen city leaders remain committed to transparent governance, fiscal responsibility, and enhancing quality of life through innovation, infrastructure, and community engagement. For more information, visit www.mcallen.net and follow us on social media @cityofmcallen