

24TH HAUNTED PASEO BORICUA CELEBRATING WHILE REMEMBERING



 **LA VOZ** Est. 2004
DEL PASEO BORICUA

FREE
TRICK OR TREATING
& ACTIVITIES! P.12

HUMBOLDT PARK'S VERY OWN: AUTHOR **LUIS RODRÍGUEZ** EX POET LAUREATE OF L.A. VISITS PRCC



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ABOUT LA VOZ:

The most recent manifestation of Puerto Rican journalism in Chicago, La Voz del Paseo Boricua proudly continues in the legacy of our community's previous newspapers. Founded in 2004, La Voz del Paseo Boricua, or simply

'La Voz' as it is affectionately called by our readers, is a grass-roots bilingual periodical published by the Juan Antonio Corretjer Puerto Rican Cultural Center. We report on stories relevant to our community on a bimonthly basis, disseminating news about local events, programs, resources, and developments. As an alternative source of media, we seek to acknowledge the achievements of the Puerto Rican community at large and to advocate for the preservation of the heart of our barrio in Humboldt Park - our "pedacito de patria" in Chicago.

SOBRE LA VOZ:

La más reciente manifestación del periodismo puertorriqueño en Chicago, La Voz del Paseo Boricua continúa orgullosamente el legado de nuestros primeros periódicos. Fundado en 2004, La Voz del Paseo Boricua, o 'La Voz' según se le conoce cariñosamente por nuestros lectores, es un periódico de pueblo, publicado de manera bilingüe por El Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño Juan Antonio Corretjer. Bimensualmente, divulga historias relevantes de nuestra comunidad, diseminando noticias sobre acontecimientos, programas, recursos, y progresos locales. Como fuente alternativa de medios, intentamos reconocer los logros de la comunidad puertorriqueña al igual que abogar por la preservación del corazón de nuestro barrio Humboldt Park - nuestro "pedacito de patria" en Chicago.



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Renowned Author, Publisher, and Poet Luis Javier Rodríguez Visit's PRCC's Violence Prevention Dept. & Mercado del Pueblo

By Argenis Hernández

Renowned author, publisher, and poet Luis Javier Rodríguez visits Chicago for a special reading & celebration of the 30th anniversary of his debut novel, *Always Running*, at the Chicago History Museum.

During his time in Chicago,

he stopped in Humboldt Park and stepped into the Violence Prevention and Intervention Program office, where we had the privilege of having such a prominent figure lead a peace circle and panel discussion. Giving us a glimpse of his past, he shared stories of his upbringing along with his struggles of drug abuse, being gang affiliated, and life of crime during his childhood and adolescence.

His engaged dialogue and profound message inspired our VPI team to implement new strategies to further assist our violence prevention and intervention efforts here at The Puerto Rican Cultural Center. "From trauma to transformation" stated Mr. Rodríguez when he spoke of therapeutic methods that involve spirituality and culture which can bring healing and peace to those seeking it.

VPI's reentry case worker, Jason Rodríguez shared how the author recalls one of his teachers smacking him upside the head at school, "which was one of those turning points that were the most instrumental to his journey which immediately resonated with me, because it reminded me of my own experiences, wholeheartedly." It is these instances that show the vital work we do here as the VPI department aims to bring our community closer together by providing programs for all youth ages and residents.

Luis Rodríguez, being from the West coast barrios and making his way to ours here in Humboldt Park, has reminded us how essential it is to share our lived experiences with one another as an act of humanity. Luis' past demonstrates how against all odds there is always hope of finding self-actualization. Through the power of language, words are capable of restoring that faith by transcending cultural boundaries.



COMMUNITY AS A CAMPUS (C.A.A.C) BRIEFS:

West Park STEAM Academy Dance and Cheer Wolf Pack Perform at Fiesta Boricua!

By *Marvin García*

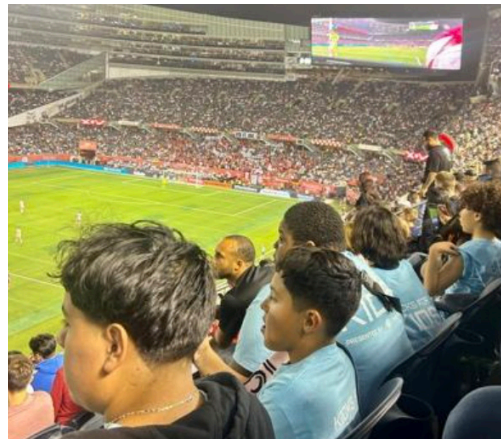
After performing for “El Canto del Coquí” video with renowned author Dr. Raquel Ortiz and Grammy-nominated artist and composer William Cepeda, the West Park STEAM Academy Dance and Cheer Wolf Pack Perform at Festival Boricua! The dance and Cheer group is led by Michelle Urbina and Aida Sanchez.



C.A.A.C. Sponsored Chicago Fire Soccer Game Attended by Students, Parents, and

By *Marvin García*

Thanks to a donation by Meridian Health, Sports For Good and the Laureus Foundation, students, families, and staff representing three schools and The PRCC attended the Chicago Fire game against Inter Miami, Leonil Messi's first game in Chicago. Although he did not play due to an injury, all the participants were treated to a great game and experience.



C.A.A.C. Sports Program Commences 7th Year with New Administrator

By *Marvin García*

CAAC sports kicked off its seventh year by adding a new administrator to strengthen the program. Monica Lozada has taken on this role and is currently meeting with principals to get feedback. Meanwhile the Girls' Volleyball and Boys' Soccer games have commenced.



College Prep Class Launched at Clemente: Prepares Students for Dual Enrollment

By *Marvin García*

As part of the dual enrollment initiative in partnership with Northeastern Illinois University, a college prep class was initiated at Roberto Clemente Community Academy. The class will prepare students to be successful college students and enroll in the Spring Dual enrollment free college credit class. Schools invited to participate are Clemente, Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos High School, Association House High School, Wells High School, and West Town Academy.

Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Staff attends A.S.N. 50th Anniversary

By *Marvin García*

Congratulations to the Alternative Schools Network (ASN) staff and their Executive Director and co-founder Jack Wuest. On Friday, Oct 13, the ASN staff hosted a wonderful gala that brought together 300 staff from all their member schools and partners. The work of the ASN includes academic and workforce support to alternative schools across the Chicagoland area and advocacy for out of school youth. Fifteen staff members of Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos High School participated in the event.

Northwestern University Settlement House and Rowe Elementary School Tour Paseo Boricua

By Marvin García

On August 14, 2023, 188 staff from Northwestern University Settlement House and the Rowe Elementary School were divided into six groups and taken on a tour of Paseo Boricua. The tour was organized into different focusses such as media outreach to the community, art and murals, economic development, cultural enterprise district, and Paseo Boricua history. The purpose of the tour was to introduce the staff to the community and the rich history and resources that can be used in the classroom.

The Northwestern University Settlement House Executive Director, Carole Wood looks to build a partnership with CAAC and The Puerto Rican Cultural Center that will benefit each organization as well the stakeholders who are served.



Challenging the Lies About Paseo Boricua's Development

By María T. Collado Sierra

On October 3, 2023, the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture hosted a community meeting that addressed the controversy surrounding the construction of the archives building. A plan was unveiled to replace the construction with a new facility situated along the iconic Paseo Boricua corridor—a powerful symbol of resilience and unity.

However, amid these positive developments, we need to address a statement made during the meeting regarding the placement of the archives building on Division Street. One participant suggested that Division Street lacks investment and development, a notion that is both inaccurate and offensive to the community that has existed there for decades.

Division Street, home to Paseo Boricua, has been a thriving hub of Puerto Rican culture and community for over 50 years. It is a street lined with businesses that have not only survived but thrived, even though the challenging times brought about by the pandemic. These businesses are owned and operated by members of the community who have poured their efforts into building a resilient local

economy.

Investment and development in Division Street have always meant more than the influx of corporate chains or overpriced yoga studios. It means affordable housing, local businesses owned by community members, and a strong and self-sustaining economy. These pillars have been the foundation of Division Street's success for decades.



Before suggesting development ideas, newcomers to the neighborhood need to learn to distinguish between gentrification and authentic development. Gentrification is the process by which wealthier individuals or businesses move into a neighborhood, leading to increased property values, rent, and a shift in the character of the area. On the other hand, genuine development involves sustainable initiatives that enhance the community's well-being without displacing long-term residents or erasing their cultural identity.

We cannot accept the notion that Division Street lacks development and investment, especially when we have the 64-unit affordable housing new construction named after Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos—a testament to genuine development.

POST-TOWN HALL REFLECTIONS 9/25/23



@NEW LIFE CHURCH
Moderated by Dr. Xavier Pérez
ft. Ald Jessie Fuentes, Ald Daniel La Spata,
Commissioner Anthony Quezada,
CCPSA Council Member Angelica Green,
CPD 19th District, CPD 25th District
& Community orgs below

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OUR COMMUNITY ASSETS,
NETWORK & RESOURCES
TO ADDRESS NEEDS BEFORE
WE ARE IN CRISIS?

RAPV SURVEY RESPONSES

MAPPING OUR ASSETS

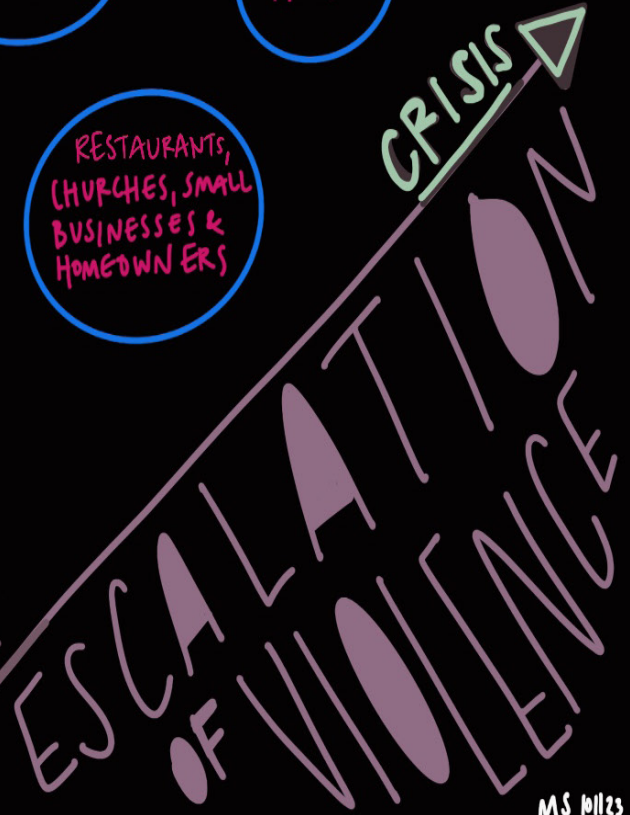


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BASIC NEEDS food housing mental health meaningful engagement CONFLICT



Puerto Rican Cultural Center's Advocacy Work Expands with Coalition Building Throughout the Diaspora and the Island

By Federico A. de Jesús

The Puerto Rican Cultural Center's (PRCC) advocacy efforts on behalf of our community in Washington, DC have focused on food sovereignty for Puerto Rico utilizing the once every five-year negotiation and debate regarding the Farm Bill as an entry point.

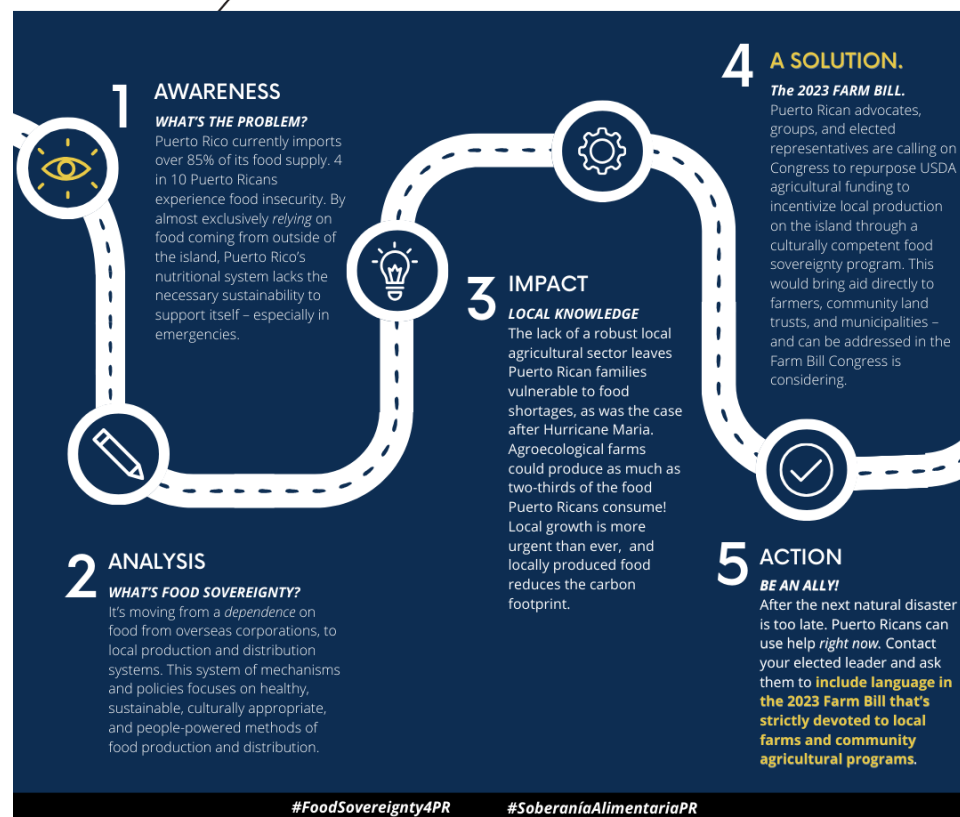
We have engaged stakeholders across civil society, elected officials in Illinois, Puerto Rico, and several states, as well as U.S. congressional representatives to support a call for provisions to be added to the Farm Bill creating the Puerto Rico Food Sovereignty Program. As Puerto Rico imports more than 85% of the food consumed on the island, The PRCC is advocating for the program to retool all USDA agriculture program and grant funding for Puerto Rico to be allocated directly to farmers, municipalities and the land-grant University of Puerto Rico College of Agricultural Sciences, which supports the initiative. In addition, PRCC's efforts to push for this legislative measure has garnered the support of 13 mayors from two political parties in Puerto Rico, the Movimiento Victoria Ciudadana Party, Chicago Alderperson Jesse Fuentes, and others. Recently, Congresswoman Delia Ramírez gave a speech on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives urging colleagues to support the inclusion of the Puerto Rico Food Sovereignty Program in the Farm Bill. The Mayor of Chicago has also publicly joined this effort.

The PRCC's hard work was highlighted in the following article in El Nuevo Día that showed how quickly the movement has grown, both within the U.S. Puerto Rican Diaspora and on the island. We are proud to have helped to lead a coalition that brought advocates, elected officials, and farmers from Puerto Rico and more than 10 states to take part in a week-long citizen lobbying effort that continues to yield positive results for this critical project. The advocacy week garnered coverage in several other news outlets. The Center also helped place an op-ed by one of the farmers who joined the lobby week placed in Puerto Rico's newspaper of record, El Nuevo Día, talking about the importance of learning from the devastation left by Hurricane Maria in 2017, when ports closed for three weeks and many went hungry given the imported food was not able to come in.

Now is the time for you to support this worthy cause and contact your Member of Congress and Senators and tell them you stand with The PRCC and the people of Puerto Rico. As the awareness for the critical need for healthy, reliable, and locally produced food for Puerto Rico grows, The PRCC will continue to engage key stakeholders to ensure that Congress includes the Puerto Rico Food Sovereignty Program in the Farm Bill.

RECLAIMING OUR LAND

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY FOR PUERTO RICO!



Grupos de la Diáspora y Puerto Rico Presionan Ante el Congreso Contra la Ley 22 y en Favor de la Soberanía Alimentaria

En el Sexto Aniversario del Huracán María, Reclamaron - en Reuniones y Una Manifestación-, Cancelar Beneficios Tributarios Federales a Estadounidenses que se Mudan a la Isla

Por José A. Delgado (El Nuevo Día)

Coincidiendo con el sexto aniversario del huracán María, una delegación de más de 10 estados y Puerto Rico reclama esta semana en el Congreso -por medio de reuniones y una manifestación-, que se elimine la antigua Ley 22 y se ponga en marcha un programa de soberanía alimentaria en la isla.

Como parte del grupo, el alcalde de Aguadilla, Julio Roldán, reafirmó su respaldo a que el Congreso utilice los programas federales agrícolas relacionados a Puerto Rico para crear una iniciativa dirigida a la soberanía alimentaria de Puerto Rico.

“(Con esto) vamos a lograr propulsar la economía de Puerto Rico”, dijo Roldán durante una manifestación en los alrededores del edificio Longworth de la Cámara de Representantes, al cruzar la calle del Capitolio estadounidense. La manifestación incluyó un minuto de silencio en recordación de las cerca de 3,000 vidas perdidas como consecuencia del huracán. También hubo un ‘plenazo’.

Las reuniones tienen lugar entre hoy, miércoles, y mañana, jueves.

Junto a Roldán estuvieron varias organizaciones de la diáspora y Puerto Rico, al igual que líderes boricuas de varios estados, entre ellos la concejal municipal puertorriqueña de San Luis (Misuri), Daniela Velázquez, y la vicepresidenta del Partido Demócrata de Carolina del Sur, Mayra Rivera. Diana Torres, por su parte, representó en las reuniones al alcalde de Comerío, Josian Santiago.

“Queremos que los fondos lleguen directamente a los agricultores”, sostuvo Rivera.

Sasha Muñiz, de la finca Flor del Ají, en Corozal, y presidenta de las agroempresarias de Puerto Rico, recordó las penurias a que se enfrentó el pueblo puertorriqueño tras el huracán María, que causó una catástrofe en Puerto Rico a partir del 20 de septiembre de 2017, derrumbó el sistema eléctrico y afectó la cadena de suministros de alimentos.



Más del 85% de los alimentos que se consumen en la isla son importados

Durante los últimos meses, el Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño de Chicago -cuyo director ejecutivo, José Rivera, fue otro de los oradores-, ha promovido que se utilice la ley reautorización de la ley agrícola para diseñar un programa de soberanía alimentaria que evite que un ciclón vuelva a dejar a puertorriqueños de la isla sin comida debido a la interrupción en el suministro de alimentos.

La propuesta tiene el apoyo de 13 alcaldes de la isla, la congresista demócrata Delia Ramírez (Illinois), el Colegio de Ciencias Agrícolas

de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, funcionarios electos en varios estados de Estados Unidos y el Sustainable Agriculture Community Land Trust, entre otras entidades.

El Movimiento Victoria Ciudadana (MVC) apoyó la idea de crear el Programa de Soberanía Alimentaria de Puerto Rico en una carta enviada hoy, miércoles, al Congreso, dirigida al speaker Kevin McCarthy, el líder de la mayoría del Senado, Charles Schumer, el líder de la minoría republicana del Senado, Mitch McConnell, y el jefe de la minoría demócrata cameral, Hakeem Jeffries.

“Nuestra misión con el Programa de Soberanía Alimentaria de Puerto Rico es sencillo pero fundamental: garantizar que nuestra población tenga acceso inmediato a alimentos saludables y alimentos cosechados localmente. Esto no sólo revitaliza nuestra comunidad agraria, sino también disminuye nuestra dependencia de los productos importados, que frecuentemente tienen conservantes innecesarios y son vulnerables a las incertidumbres del envío. El grito de guerra por esta iniciativa resuena en toda nuestra isla”, sostuvo Manuel Natal, coordinador general del MVC, en la misiva.

La iniciativa también ha recibido el respaldo del alcalde de Chicago, Brandon Johnson, por medio de una proclama de la ciudad.

Federico de Jesús Febles, estratega y cabildero del Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño de Chicago, manifestó que han dejado a un lado el reclamo para que se utilice, al menos, la mitad de los fondos de asistencia alimentaria, el PAN o el Programa de Asistencia Nutricional Suplementaria (SNAP) -si hubiese una transición en los próximos años-, para financiar la iniciativa para fomentar la soberanía alimentaria.

No obstante, consideran que hay que reordenar el acceso de Puerto Rico a los programas agrícolas y dejar en manos de la Universidad de Puerto Rico (UPR) la administración de los mercados familiares que se han integrado al PAN.

“Los estantes vacíos de los supermercados que fueron evidentes en las semanas posteriores al huracán María demuestran que los alimentos cultivados y almacenados localmente son una necesidad, no una opción, para salvar vidas”, comentó, por su parte, Erica González, directora de la Coalición Power4PuertoRico.

La ley 22

Respecto a la antigua Ley 22 -que ahora es parte de la Ley 60 de 2019 y exime a los beneficiarios del pago de ganancias de capital-, las organizaciones impulsan la cancelación de sus exenciones tributarias y solo excluir del pago de contribuciones federales en el archipiélago puertorriqueño a personas nacidas en Puerto Rico, de origen puertorriqueño o naturalizadas como ciudadanos estadounidenses en la isla.



“El curso correcto es que el Congreso detenga este paraíso fiscal injusto que permite a los evasores de impuestos hacer trampa y desplazarnos de nuestras propias comunidades”, manifestó Sandra Cruz García, coordinadora general de la organización VAMOS.



Por su parte, De Jesús Febles, quien también es codirector del proyecto en vídeo “Losing Puerto Rico”, sostuvo que, a raíz del impacto de beneficiarios de la Ley 22 en el mercado de las compras de bienes raíces, puertorriqueños pueden estar perdiendo su hogares y comunidades, mientras “el Tesoro de Estados Unidos, los estados y los gobiernos locales están perdiendo los ingresos fiscales necesarios para financiar servicios esenciales”.

“Esto es insostenible. Esa exención de impuestos federales fue legislada por el Congreso para beneficiar a los puertorriqueños, no a los evasores fiscales fugaces que están jugando el sistema y, al mismo tiempo, contribuye poco o nada a la economía de la isla”, criticó De Jesús Febles, cuya organización divulgó hoy un segundo vídeo sobre el tema de la Ley 22.

Mientras, Edil Sepúlveda Carlo, fundador del grupo “Puerto Rican Alliance”, recordó que, a principios de 2023, envió una carta a líderes del Congreso “describiendo el camino legislativo para poner fin a esta grave injusticia”.

Letter to the Editor Puerto Rico, Palestine: One Struggle Many Fronts Gaza: Unraveling Complex Realities and the Call for Informed Engagement

By *María T. Collado Sierra*

In the aftermath of recent events that unfolded in Gaza throughout the month of October, we must delve deeper into the context and complexities surrounding the situation.

First and foremost, we must be clear that what we are witnessing in Gaza is genocide, Apartheid, and ethnic cleansing. There are entire bloodlines of Palestinians being wiped out in indiscriminate bombings as I write this letter. When news comes out that during the month of October of the year 2023, Israel dropped 6,000 bombs in Gaza (which is only about the size of the city of Detroit) in a matter of six days, nearly matching the total number of bombs the U.S. dropped in Afghanistan in one year, that is an act of genocide. It is gut-wrenching that this act of intense violence is just one example from decades of extreme violence from Israelis towards Palestinians. It is heartbreaking to see the death toll in both Israel and Palestine. We must also be clear that according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) from the years between 2008 to 2020, “The Human Cost of The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict” was 251 Israelis compared to 5,590 Palestinians, which illustrates the level of violence Palestinians are facing.

As Puerto Ricans, unfortunately, we know the violence of settler colonialism all too well, and when I see what is happening to our Palestinian siblings in struggle, I cannot imagine the anguish I would feel to watch as another country bombed Puerto Rico to the point of exterminating any of my people left in their homeland. This is why I stand in solidarity with Palestine, and I am calling for truly informed engagement with what is happening in Gaza. I pray this is not the case, but if Israel accomplishes the ethnic cleansing of Palestine, what will you say? Will you say you stood by and watched an entire nation massacred and violently uprooted from the land they have called home for a millennium?

If there is to be truly informed engagement it is imperative to acknowledge the historical context surrounding the state of Israel. The land on which Israel was established was once inhabited by Palestinians who have endured unspeakable violence since the inception of the nation. What we are witnessing today, rather than a mere terrorist attack from Palestin-

ians, is really an act of resistance. Displaced and colonized individuals are steadfastly reclaiming their land through any means necessary. It is worth noting that Palestine does not have an organized military, meanwhile, Israel has one of the most advanced and powerful militaries in the world. They also count on the United States as an unconditional ally. The disparity is further evidenced by President Biden’s recent visit to Gaza. The President announced that \$2 billion of our taxpayer dollars will go to abet Israel’s actions.

It is also essential to clarify the nature of Hamas. Often portrayed as a mere militia in the media, Hamas is more than just an armed faction. It is also an elected political body that governs the Gaza Strip. While it’s not my intention to endorse or condemn Hamas, it is important to recognize the multifaceted role that the organization plays in the region’s political landscape.

Another critical point is that Hamas is not universally recognized as

a terrorist organization. This distinction may come as a surprise to some, as media coverage and political rhetoric can often blur this line. It’s essential to approach this subject with an open mind and seek a comprehensive understanding of the various perspectives that exist.

As someone who was born in Puerto Rico, and thus raised and educated in a colonial context, I stand in unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian struggle. The situation in Israel is a stark example of a colonial project that has driven the displacement and subjugation of an indigenous population. It is crucial to recognize that the struggle for freedom and decolonization should transcend any national and political boundary. The principles of justice, human rights, and self-determination should be upheld, regardless of the actors involved.

The key message here is that colonization, violence, and terror cannot be justified simply because the perpetrators have certain alliances or affiliations. It is essential to view such actions through a lens of critical analysis and empathy for those who have been historically marginalized and oppressed. The fight for freedom and decolonization should be championed unconditionally, as it is a struggle that transcends borders and speaks to the core of human rights and justice.

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National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture and the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña Present: 'Celebrating 100 Years of Rafael Tufiño at ICP'

On September 14, 2023, The National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture held the opening reception of another extraordinary exhibition in collaboration with the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña and the estate of **Rafael Tufiño**, bringing 39 spectacular paintings, drawings, and prints by beloved Puerto Rican artist Rafael Tufiño to Chicago and the United States for the first time. **Celebrating 100 Years of Rafael Tufiño** opened to the public on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, and will be on view through August 2024. The Museum and exhibit entry is free to the public.

Born in 1922 in Brooklyn, New York, to Puerto Rican parents, Rafael Tufiño, often hailed as “El Pintor del Pueblo,” was a tireless creator and one of the artists who truly represented the best Puerto Rican tradition of printmaking. Tufiño came to Puerto Rico as a child and began his art training with Alejandro Sánchez Felipe and Juan Rosado and studied printmaking and mural technique at the San Carlos Academy in Mexico. Tufiño’s contributions to the arts and education include co-founding the Center for Puerto Rican Art in 1950 and founding the Puerto Rican Workshop (“Taller Boricua”) in New York from 1970 - 1974. He has also been awarded numerous distinctions, such as the Guggenheim Fellowship in 1954, the National Culture Award of the Institute of Puerto



Rican Culture in 1987, and in 2013 New York City named 103rd Street in Harlem as the “Rafael Tufiño Way.” Tufiño left an indelible mark through his vibrant artworks that celebrated his Puerto Rican heritage and social issues and his legacy as a printmaker, painter, illustrator, muralist, and draftsman lives on in the collections of esteemed institutions like the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña and the Museo de Arte de Ponce, exemplifying his role as a cultural connector and a passionate advocate for the arts.

“Our museum exists to share the work of artists in the Diaspora with people outside of the island, who otherwise would not have the opportunity to experience our history and cultural traditions,” said National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture CEO **Billy Ocasio**. “Throughout his career, Rafael Tufiño played a vital role in bridging the communities of Puerto Rico and New York, and now, with this exhibit, his legacy lives on, building a new bridge to the Chicago community.”

Pablo Tufiño, youngest son of Rafael Tufiño, was accompanied by his siblings, Rima and Salvatore, and other family members for the inauguration of this historical exhibition. “We are very honored to have our Father’s works of art on display at the only Puerto Rican Museum in the United States.” The children of Tufiño recognized the importance of building the Museum’s Archives and Collections and generously donated over 40 incredible prints. This gift included the impressive portfolio entitled “El Café,” consisting of seven linocuts that were the product of a field investigation that Tufiño conducted in 1953 at the barrio Vegas Arriba in Adjuntas.





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Celebrating Love: The Calderón-Cuza family Welcome Their Newest Addition and Call Out the Financial Barriers to Queer Family Planning



By María T. Collado Sierra

On October 1, 2023, a heartwarming and inspiring event unfolded at the iconic National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, as a loving queer family came together to celebrate the upcoming arrival of their bundle of joy. This baby shower was more than just a joyous occasion; it served as a platform for advocating accessible surrogacy and fertility options for all queer families, promoting inclusivity, and breaking down financial barriers that often limit the family planning journey for many.

The National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture served as a fitting backdrop for the celebration, with its rich history and dedication to preserving Puerto Rican heritage. This venue symbolized the resilience of the Puerto Rican community.

The event was an embodiment of love, uniting friends, family, and well-wishers from all walks of life. Guests arrived at the museum with beaming smiles and open hearts, eager to show their support for the

growing family. It was a day of pure joy, laughter, and solidarity.

Beyond the joyous celebrations, this baby shower was also a powerful platform for advocacy. The Calderón Cuza family at the center of the event used their celebration to shed light on a crucial issue – the accessibility of surrogacy and fertility options for LGBTQ+ individuals and couples.

Too often, financial barriers can stand in the way of the family planning journey for queer couples, limiting their options and causing unnecessary stress. Juan and Yaimanis sought to challenge this reality by raising awareness about the importance of accessible and affordable fertility treatments and surrogacy services.

Queer families, like all families, deserve the right to family planning without the burden of financial limitations. By advocating for accessible surrogacy and fertility, the hope is to make

these options more readily available to everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

The baby shower at the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture was a beautiful illustration of the progress being made towards a more inclusive and accepting world. It emphasized that love knows no boundaries, and family planning should be a universal right, not a privilege.



Declaración del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores Sobre el Ataque Terrorista a la Embajada Cubana en Washington



El jueves, septiembre 21 Billy Ocasio el C.E.O. del Museo Nacional de Arte y Cultura Puertorriqueña, José E. Lopéz el Director Ejecutivo del Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño y Juan Calderón el C.O.O. del Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño fueron invitados por la Embajada de Cuba en D.C. a participar en un evento de bienvenida para el Presidente de Cuba quien aceptó obsequios de la delegación de Chicago que representaba a Puerto Rico, incluyendo un plato de Los Santos Reyes Magos creado por el patriota puertorriqueño Óscar López Rivera. El Presidente agradeció los obsequios y envió un mensaje a Óscar López Rivera sobre lo importante que ha sido para el pueblo cubano.

Por Resumen Latino

En horas de la noche del 24 de septiembre de 2023, se produjo un ataque terrorista contra las instalaciones de la Embajada de Cuba en los Estados Unidos, cuando un individuo lanzó desde la acera dos cocteles Molotov sobre la cerca perimetral de la instalación, los que impactaron en la pared frontal de esa misión diplomática. No se produjeron daños al personal que se

encontraba en esa sede. A solicitud de la misión diplomática cubana, oficiales del Servicio Secreto de los Estados Unidos se presentaron en la sede y tuvieron acceso a sus instalaciones para constatar la acción violenta perpetrada.

Los grupos anticubanos acuden al terrorismo ante la bancarrota moral de su odio contra Cuba y la impunidad que creen disfrutar. De manera regular, en los intercambios oficiales que sostiene la Embajada con el Departamento de Estado, se ha alertado que la conducta permisiva de las agencias de cumplimiento de la ley de los Estados Unidos frente acciones violentas pueden estimular la comisión de hechos de esta naturaleza.

Es el segundo ataque violento contra la sede diplomática en Washington, desde abril de 2020. En la noche de ese día, un individuo de origen cubano, parado en plena calle de la capital estadounidense y haciendo uso de un fusil de asalto, disparó en ráfaga treinta cartuchos contra el edificio. Afortunadamente, tampoco hubo en esa ocasión lesiones al personal que se encontraba dentro del edificio, pero sí hubo perjuicios materiales de consideración.

Al cabo de tres años, el comisor del hecho aún espera ser juzgado y el gobierno de los Estados Unidos ha rehusado calificar el hecho como un acto terrorista.



La Convención de Viena sobre Relaciones Diplomáticas establece como obligación especial de los Estados Unidos, como Estado receptor, adoptar todas las medidas adecuadas para proteger los locales de la misión contra toda intrusión o daño y evitar que se turbe la tranquilidad de la misión o se atente contra su dignidad.

El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores condena esta acción terrorista y espera que el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos actúe en consonancia con la Convención de Viena sobre Relaciones Diplomáticas, en el interés de evitar la repetición de estos hechos.

Alerta una vez más sobre el mensaje que se traslada respecto a la actitud del gobierno estadounidense frente a amenazas de este tipo contra la sede diplomática cubana, pero también contra las de otros países en la ciudad de Washington D.C.

Alerta, además, ante el uso con dobles raseros del supuesto compromiso del gobierno estadounidense contra el terrorismo.

K-A-R-I-N-A



Karina González is a Senior at Oswego East High School and a young Puerto Rican-Guatemalan poet.

By Karina González

Karina

Say it again please, k or c, could you spell that for me ...

That name that melts on the tongue of my mother but tumbles through the throats of others. That little girl that sat in the mirror wishing she was pale with blue piercing eyes and a name like Jessica

A foundation 2 shades too light so I could look like her

Throwing my laundry over the name to hide it when someone new asked me for

My name ..

Shove it in a drawer and under the bed

I wouldn't correct you when you tried

Heart beating when the substitute stood standing against my name

Corrina ... yeah sure ...

In english it's a basic thump
on the ground

Katrina

Corinna

Kathy

Arina

Shit Victoria made the list

But stop

WAIT! Please listen

Karina

In Spanish it falls like honey
and bounces through the streets like the parade
If you say it fast enough you hear the croaks of the coquí

Roll the R like the rolling storms in Puerto Rico and the truenos de la isla

you can see the cinnamon skin of my ancestors shining off my name
and those dark eyes staring back at you you can feel the Boricua rumbling
inside waiting to proudly burst out of my lips at

just the mere mention of my name

I'll stand and fight for my name ... my name shall stand even after the
30 hurricanes that hit my home my name will stand like the Island stands

I will no longer hide it under my sweater and inside my closet, she will
stand joyous and proudful You will say it right, it will ring in your ears like
the guiro and the salty taste of the many attempts to say it right
shall melt like chocolate in your mouth

Corinna ... No it's Karina

I will not bite my tongue any longer

My face cringes in disgust because you shall say my name right

K-A-R-I-N-A

Karina



SAVE THE DATE
Friday, December 1st, 2023

REMEMBER AND COMMIT
WORLD AIDS DAY
35
ANNIVERSARY



PRCC-Vida/SIDA

**KEYNOTE
SPEAKER:**

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF
WAVESAHEAD IN
PUERTO RICO
WILFRED W.
LABIOSA**

4:00 PM

Vigil

4:30 PM

*LGBTQ+ Art
Exhibit @*

*Schaumburg Art
Gallery*

6:00 PM

*National Museum
of Puerto Rican Art
& culture*



GALA of Galas: The National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture Celebrates its 10th Year Raíces Gala



PHOTO CREDIT: BARRY BRECHEINSEN

“That was absolutely fantastic!”

This year marked the 10th Annual Raíces Gala, and it truly lived up to the hype, becoming an event for the ages as they sold out two months before the event. Upon arriving, the delightful sounds of the coquí (a small Puerto Rican singing tree frog) welcomed guests, complemented by the aroma of roasting lechón (pig roast). The sight of joyful individuals with smiles on their faces, the rhythmic beats of hands on drums as AfriCaribe performed for the reception, and the delectable taste of quesitos (Puerto Rican cheese-filled pastry) from Chucherrías Tropical Creations engaged all our senses, making it a delightful reception.

The main event commenced with Flaco Navaja poetically serenading the audience with “Preciosa,” accompanied by a sea of light blue Puerto Rican flags waving in the background. The fabulous Boricua, que es always cute, Ana Belaval, host of WGN-TV’s “Around Town,” graced the stage as the Emcee and self-proclaimed “#1 Ricky Martin Fan.”

The evening featured several noteworthy awards. Aida Giachello received the prestigious Three Kings Lifetime Achievement Award for her commitment to access and equity in healthcare for all. Then Chicago Chefs Cook for Puerto Rico was honored with the Three Kings Humanitarian Award for their commendable efforts in raising funds to aid the island after

Every year, the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture hosts the Raíces Gala, which has become an ultimate destination. Year after year, we wonder how they will surpass the previous event, yet somehow, they always manage to outdo themselves, leaving attendees in awe, exclaiming,

the most recent hurricane.

The prestigious National Ceiba Awards were presented to three deserving recipients. The family of the renowned artist Rafael Tufino, known as “El Pintor del Pueblo,” received the Ceiba Legacy Award. The Cultura Y Arte Preservation Award went to El Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, accepted by the Director, Carlos R. Ruiz Cortés. ICP is the department responsible for overseeing the arts and national archives of Puerto Rico. The highlight of the evening was when Lin-Manuel Miranda surprised attendees and delivered an impassioned introduction for Ricky Martin, recalling Ricky’s electrifying 1995 performance of “Viva La Copa.” Before Ricky



PHOTO CREDIT: DAMIAN RICO

Martin received the National Ceiba Humanitarian Award, the museum surprised him with a captivating Bomba dance performance by “Belele,” a group of talented students from Loiza, Puerto Rico, and are part of Centro TAU, an organization sponsored by the Ricky Martin Foundation. They were so dynamic that Ricky Martin joined them in a Bomba dance!

The evening culminated with the captivating salsa sounds of The Caribe Project, leaving everyone in high spirits. It leaves us all pondering what surprises and delights they will have for us next year.

Scan the QR code to enjoy the Raíces Gala 2023 highlight video.





**EL CENTRO CULTURAL Y NMPRAC
TE INVITAN**

**EL ESTRENO COMUNITARIO DEL
DOCUMENTAL DE UNIVISION
"HUMBOLDT PARK: RAÍCES DE RESISTENCIA"
12/08/23 A LAS 4:15 PM**

31 October 2023, 3:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.

Paseo Boricua
Western to California



HAUNTED PASEO

**TRICK OR TREATING, PHOTOT BOOTHS,
HAUNTED HOUSE, GAMES, AND SO MUCH
MORE!**

FREE FALL FEST

THE Puerto Rican League
**PUERTO RICAN
CULTURAL CENTER**

Chicago Diaspora Shows Support for Juan Dalmau's Road to the Governorship of Puerto Rico; Raising More Than \$13,000 in Less Than a Week

By *Xiomara Rodríguez*

On Thursday, October 5th, 2023, a group of Puerto Rican community leaders and elected officials from Chicago including Alderpeople Jessie Fuentes, Rossanna Rodríguez, and Felix Cardona kicked off a weekend of support for the Puerto Rican Independence Party's Secretary General, Juan Dalmau, and his upcoming candidacy for the Governorship of Puerto Rico with a fundraiser at Nellie's Restaurant on Chicago's Paseo Boricua. The fundraiser began with a speech from longtime Boricua activist and community leader Prof. José E. López, which stressed the fact that Chicago's 26th Ward has elected openly Independentistas to the Alderperson position for more than 40 years to show that the will of the people is there as Dalmau begins his journey to becoming the first person elected to be Governor of Puerto Rico from the Independence Party. Following Lopez's speech, 26th Ward Alderperson Jessie Fuentes spoke as a proud Independentista elected official detailing her process to declare herself an Independentista at the age of 16, as a result of the social consciousness she gained through her involvement in the long fight to excarcerate Puerto Rican political prisoners like Óscar López Rivera. Fuentes went on to discuss that her ability at the age of 16 to connect the legacy of colonialism in Puerto Rico to her lived experience



in Humboldt Park helped her process the realities of being a Puerto Rican child of two parents struggling against addiction and the carceral system, and led her to become a champion of Puerto Rico's Independence for the next 16 years.

Throughout all the speeches the overarching theme of the night was that enough is enough! Puerto Rico has been a colony for more than 500 years and we have seen time and time again the failures of colonial rule; from Hurricane Maria, to la Junta (that has the last word on Puerto Rico's annual budget), to the skyrocketing displacement caused by Act 22.

It is time to elect someone who understands the violence of colonialism and is willing to be a champion for Puerto Rico's Independence. The night ended with a speech by Juan Dalmau as he shared the unprecedented growth of the Puerto Rican Independence Party's support in recent years, particularly among younger voters. Dalmau then called on the Puerto Rican Diaspora to play their part by ensuring that all those who can vote in the upcoming election for Puerto Rico's Governorship cast their vote, and by raising awareness about Dalmau's candidacy and how crucial it is to elect someone who will fight to end the destruction caused by colonialism on the island in what would be a historic victory by the Puerto Rican Independence Party.



Visitors from Taiwan Spend a Week on Paseo Boricua Learning About Community Programs and Engagement

By Dr. Laura Johnson

Over the week of Fiesta Boricua, two visitors from National Sun Yat-sen University's (NSYSU) Center for Alumni Relations and Social Engagement, located in Kaohsiung, Taiwan visited the community to learn more about programs of The Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC) and work in the broader community. Amber Wu, Senior Manager and Director, and Emily Liu, Project Assistant, traveled to Chicago at the invitation of Dr. Laura Ruth Johnson, a longtime supporter of The PRCC and a professor at Northern Illinois University who has spent time at NSYSU as a visiting scholar and is currently conducting research with colleagues at NSYSU as part of a Fulbright-Hays grant. Laura met them during a research sabbatical in 2019 and found mutual interest in the areas of community-university partnerships and community-engaged learning and research. Amber and Emily came to Paseo Boricua to not only learn about innovative models in the areas of youth employment, small business development, and arts and culture, but to engage in dialogue and discussions about potential collaborative projects and initiatives. While here, they were graciously hosted by The PRCC and attended a number of activities and events, including The PRCC's 50th Anniversary Celebration, the monthly Puerto Rican Agenda meeting, the dedication of the Pedro Albizu Campos Apartments, and, of course, Fiesta Boricua. They also met with José E. López, the Executive Director of The PRCC, toured Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos High School and met with principal, Dr. Melissa Claudio-Lewis, and had formal meetings and informal chats with numerous community leaders, elected officials, educators, and artists from Chicago and Puerto Rico. Below are some excerpts from reflec-



tions they prepared on their experience:

The PRCC:

“The Puerto Rican Cultural Center is amazingly vibrant and active. The dedication and passion of the staff were evident in every interaction; everyone is warm, welcoming, and we can really sense their love for the community.”

Similarities between Puerto Rico and Taiwan:

“We learned about the striking similarity of Puerto Rico and Taiwan in terms of our histories. Both Puerto Rico and Taiwan have endured tumultuous pasts, marked by colonization and political struggles. The fight for self-determination and autonomy resonates strongly in both communities, forging a unique bond that transcends geographic boundaries. However, in Taiwan, few people are aware of the situation of Puerto Rico. Therefore, we wish to engage in collaboration with The Puerto Rican Cultural Center and their youth to bring the international perspective into Taiwan.”

The role of education in the community:

“One aspect that particularly resonated with us, as educators who work in the university, was the Center's commitment to educational empowerment. The availability of programs aimed at supporting and empowering the youth through the center and

the two local high schools showcased a dedication to achieving equity and social mobility.”

Thank you!

Special thanks and our warmest regards to José E. López, Clarisa López, Dr. Melissa Lewis, Dr. Margaret Power, and all the wonderful folks at Paseo Boricua for hosting us. We hope to see you in Taiwan, too!

BELLY of the BEAST

THE WAR ON CUBA

An in-person screening and conversation with Belly of the Beast's award-winning filmmakers and journalists Liz Oliva Fernández and Reed Lindsay

BELLY OF THE BEAST

INSIDE BIDEN'S CUBA POLICY



Oliva Fernández | Award-Winning



2:00pm

21 Oct, 2023

2559 W. Division St.





The National Museum
of Puerto Rican
Arts and Culture

Navi Arts Festival

NOV. 11: SAT. 10AM - 5PM

NOV. 12: SUN. 10AM - 4PM

ARTISANS
ART WORKSHOPS
FOOD
FREE ENTRANCE

