

46TH ANNUAL PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE'S DAY PARADE

IN CELEBRATION OF THE FIRST STATE DESIGNATED PUERTO RICAN CULTURAL DISTRICT IN THE UNITED STATES:

B A R R I O



SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH AT 2:00PM

PASEO BORICUA DIVISION STREET
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LA VOZ Est. 2004
DEL PASEO BORICUA

PRCC Y AGENDA PUERTORRIQUEÑA

LOGRAN IMPLEMENTAR LOS DISTRITOS CULTURALES CONTRA LA GENTRIFICACIÓN



P.6

NATIONAL PUERTO RICAN MUSEUM

HOSTS FIRST PUERTO RICAN ARCHIVES SYMPOSIUM



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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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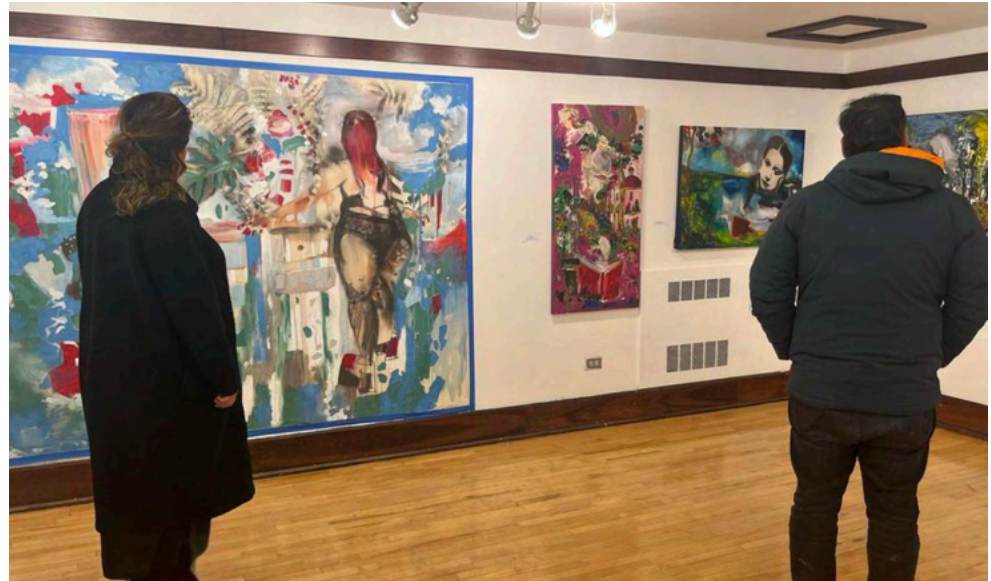


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Final Curtain for Alfredo Bauzá's 'Vida y Obra' Exhibition



By Leslie Bustos

On Friday, March 22nd, art enthusiasts gathered to bid farewell to Alfredo Bauzá's exhibit 'Vida y Obra' at its closing event held at the Humboldt Park Boat-house Gallery. The closing event for Bauzá's work, was a vibrant celebration of art and culture. Visitors were treated to traditional Puerto Rican cuisine while immersing themselves in Bauzá's captivating artworks.

The event's highlight was the host's heartfelt introduction of Bauzá, who shared a touching anecdote about first encountering the artist at a fundraiser for hurricane victims in Puerto Rico. In a special moment, the host read aloud a letter from the municipal government of Carolina that acknowledged Bauzá's contributions to cultural tourism and economic development. The letter highlighted his pivotal role in the 2014 centenary celebration of Julia de Burgos with his exhibition "Travesía del Tiempo: Julia de Burgos, a piece that caught the attention of the San Juan Tourist Company and the Institute of Culture. These institutions chose this work to be a part of the newspaper's institute that celebrates nationalism.

Bauzá took the stage to express his gratitude towards those who supported his journey, especially giving thanks to individuals like José López and Carlos Hernández, as well as the general public. He emphasized the intimate connection between his art and his life experiences, reinforcing his belief that "art is culture and culture is art."

The event concluded with an auction of his Julia de Burgos-themed artworks. In accord with his philosophy, Bauzá invited participants to offer as payment what they *felt* for the art, underscoring his view that art should not be merely transactional but an expression of feeling. Hence, his pieces were not assigned specific prices.

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

CAAC Receives Recognition from CPS Board of Directors



On March 21, CAAC representatives went before the Board of Directors of the Chicago Public Schools to be recognized for their education work in East Humboldt Park. CAAC co-chairs Lizzette Richardson and Marvin García made presentations on the vision and specific work areas, and were accompanied by Dahlia Quintanilla Emely Zamudio, Mónica Lozada and Ada López,

Family and Community Engagement specialist Carl Hurdlik also accompanied the group. The recognition was presented by Chief Education Officer, Bogdana Chkoumbova. The Board was invited to tour Paseo Boricua and attend a CAAC meeting.

Farewell to Wright College President, David Potash



On May 6, 2024, before a crowd of friends, community partners and colleagues, President Potash made his final speech as he will be leaving Wright College after 11 years of distinguished service. The Farewell program included comments from students, alumni, and the Chancellor of the Chicago City Colleges, Juan Salgado. The event ended with a toast and comments by President Potash.

CAAC Kicks Off The Girl's Soccer Season

The CAAC Sports program will kick off the Girls Soccer Season May 13, 2024. Four schools will compete for the coveted trophy. The schools include, Harriet Beecher Stowe Dual Language School, Rowe Middle School, Sabin Dual Language Magnet School and the Daniel R Cameron Public School. All games will be play at the Allstate Soccer Field in Humboldt Park.



Milagros Fernández: Humboldt Park's Very Own Named to West Town/Humboldt Park Mental Health Governing Commission



Milagros Fernández has been a lifetime resident of Humboldt Park, born at what is now Humboldt Park Health. Fernández has lived and worked in the community for more than 50 years. Just this past month she was appointed by Mayor Brandon Johnson to the West Town Humboldt Park Program Governing Commission. Milagros got her Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Chicago and has since become a champion for mental health in Humboldt Park working with Association House of Chicago, DCFS, Infant Welfare Society, and serving on the Board of the Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Alternative High School. Her personal and professional experience will be a guiding light

in this Governing Commission.

The nine-member Governing Commission manages the West Town Humboldt Park Program funds. These funds are levied under the Community Expanded Mental Health Services Act. The West Town Humboldt Park Program is the fourth of its kind created under this Act. The Act has allowed local communities to vote on a binding referendum to approve the creation of a local program and fund it through a voter-approved property tax increase. On November 3, 2020, voters in the West Town/Humboldt Park community approved the Referendum to create and authorize the West Town Humboldt Park Program to levy a tax not to exceed .025% of the total property tax bill of properties within the Program Service Area.

Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos H.S. Students and Staff Present at Society for Research on Adolescence Conference



Students and staff of Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos H.S. joined Dr. Laura Johnson at the Society for Research on Adolescence conference to present on the support systems in place at the school for young parents. The presentation centers around family supports in literacy, parenting, and peer mentoring of young parents. Alumni are encouraged to participate and advocate in after graduation careers and resources.

From Tiny Seedlings to Community Hub: Moos Elementary Sprouts Success with “Classroom 2 Table” Program

By Dahlia Quintanilla

Moos Elementary’s “Classroom 2 Table” initiative has grown beyond its hydroponic roots to become a model for student-driven learning and community engagement.

The program originated three years ago when a Pre-K teacher, Ms. Sabillon, introduced a unit on trees that sparked a desire for hands-on planting experiences. Limited classroom space presented a challenge, but a student’s creative suggestion led to the revitalization of the school’s neglected green area.

With support from school administrators, students, teachers, and parents, the unused space was transformed into a thriving garden. The project fostered not only academic growth in areas like science, but also social-emotional well-being and a sense of community ownership. Students honed problem-solving and teamwork skills alongside their green thumbs.

The program’s impact extends beyond the harvest. During the pandemic, the outdoor space provided a safe haven for learning. Today, it serves as a vibrant hub for school events, fostering friendships, and environmental awareness. Notably, the first group of Pre-K students who planted those initial seeds are now thriving second graders, while the 8th graders who nurtured the garden are carrying those lessons into high school.

The addition of hydroponic units allows for year-round learning, with benefits including improved academic performance, reduced behavioral issues, and the promotion of healthy eating habits. More importantly,

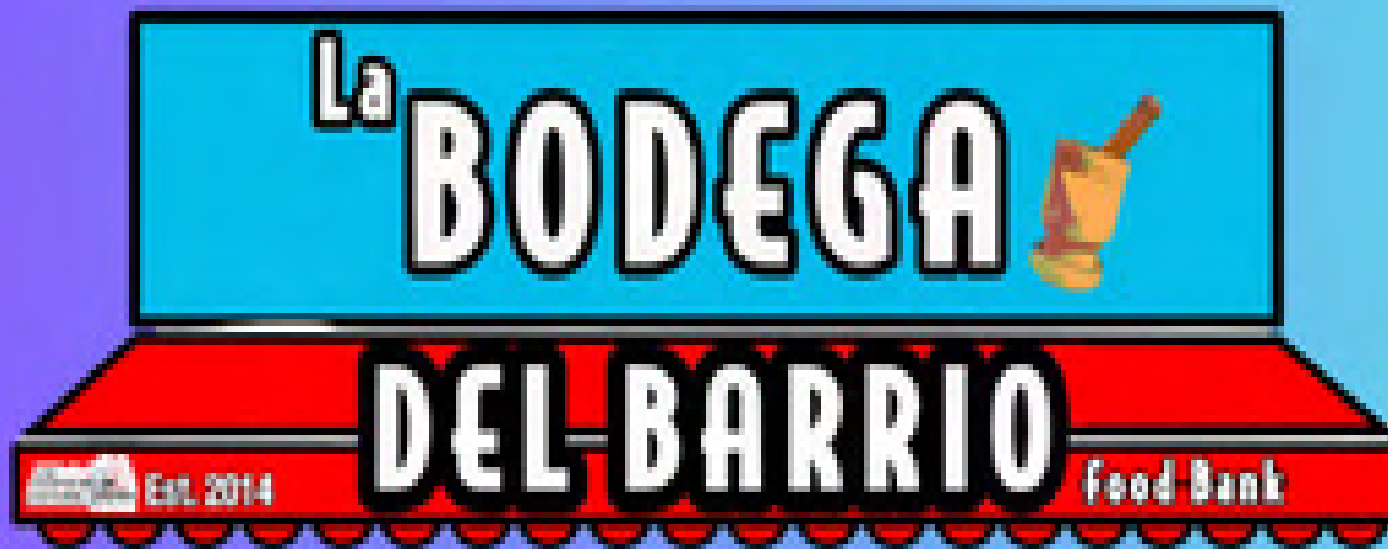


“Classroom 2 Table” empowers students and fosters a sense of ownership over their learning environment.

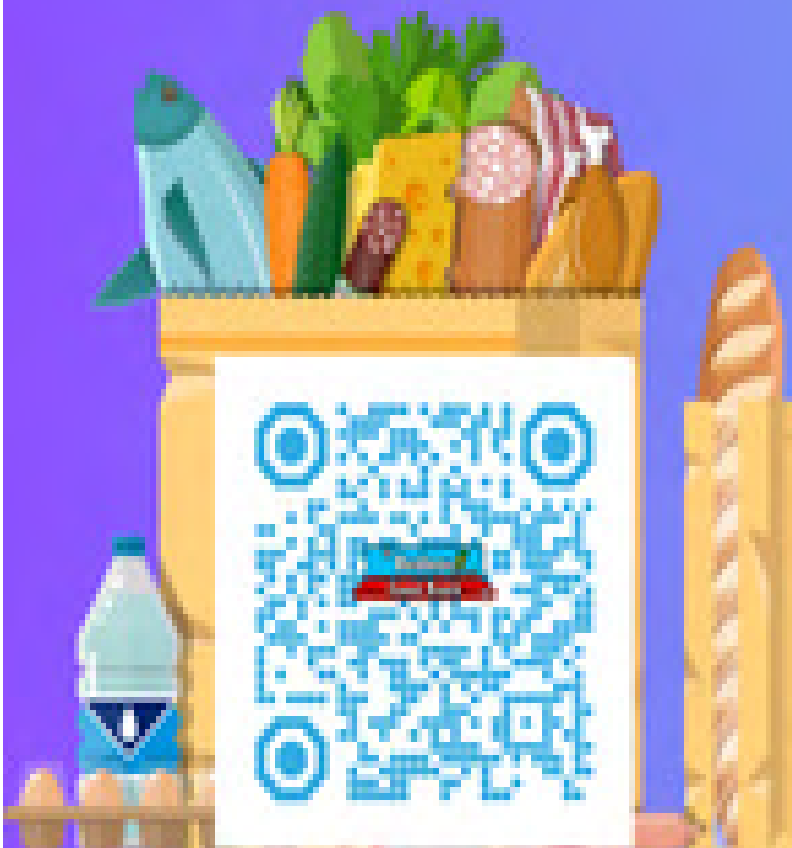
The community garden also serves as a lasting tribute to a beloved teacher, Ms. Smith, who passed away. A tree planted in her honor stands as a permanent reminder of her love and dedication to student growth and her community.

Moos Elementary’s “Classroom 2 Table” program stands as a testament to the transformative power of urban agriculture, cultivating not just vegetables, but a thriving school community.





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La Organización Comunitaria en Chicago Logra Implementar los Distritos Culturales Contra la Gentrificación

Por Cristina Del Mar Quiles del Centro de Periodismo Investigativo
Jessie Fuentes y Cristina Pacione Zayas son dos políticas puertorriqueñas en Chicago que han vivido el abandono gubernamental en múltiples facetas de sus vidas, pero que también han atestiguado el poder de la organización comunitaria que logró una legislación contra la gentrificación.

La principal medida contra la gentrificación en Chicago salió de la agenda de los boricuas en la ciudad. En febrero de este año, el Gobierno de Illinois designó el Chicago-Puerto Rico Town, uno de diez distritos culturales que son elegibles para recibir fondos para atender las necesidades de la zona, fomentar el desarrollo económico y ayudar a las comunidades a preservar sus identidades culturales.

Las historias de las políticas puertorriqueñas Jessie Fuentes y Cristina Pacione Zayas son las historias de querer permanecer en ese barrio. Ambas son fruto de la gestión comunitaria del Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño de Chicago, con más de 50 años de fundado. En cada oportunidad, hablan de las iniciativas que desde allí se han gestado y que dan vida al Paseo Boricua, en Humboldt Park, barrio que es el corazón de la comunidad puertorriqueña en la ciudad desde que las olas migratorias se comenzaron a establecer en el área para las décadas de 1960 y 1970.

Jessie Fuentes es la primera latina cuir en ser electa para la asamblea municipal de Chicago y es graduada de la emblemática Escuela de Educación Alternativa Pedro Albizu Campos, fundada en el sótano de una iglesia de Chicago en 1972 como La Escuelita Puertorriqueña.

Nació y creció en Humboldt Park. Su mamá era puertorriqueña y su papá, un “marielito”, del grupo de inmigrantes cubanos que salió en 1980

del puerto de Mariel en Cuba hacia Estados Unidos, como resultado de un acuerdo diplomático entre ambos países. Durante la mayor parte de su infancia y adolescencia, su papá estuvo en prisión. Al mismo tiempo, su mamá lidiaba con una adicción a drogas ilegales. Las condiciones de su familia representaron una dura batalla para manejarse emocional y socialmente. Se describe como una niña y joven que se metió en muchos problemas. Estuvo en siete escuelas elementales y tres escuelas superiores.

“Fue la Escuela Pedro Albizu Campos, fue el Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño y fue la comunidad puertorriqueña lo que salvó mi vida. Y yo escogí vivir mi vida haciendo más de eso que yo recibí”.

Por eso, dice, se convirtió en activista, en educadora y, en 2022, decidió postularse para el cargo de Concejala del Distrito 26, donde están el Paseo Boricua y el Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño.

“No es suficiente estar en las afueras [del Gobierno] movilizándolo y organizándolo. Si no tienes a alguien adentro que va a escuchar al movimiento afuera y a jugar el juego desde adentro, solo puedes llegar hasta cierto punto”. Y Fuentes confía en su nuevo poder de impulsar legislación y procurar cambios en los sistemas. “Podemos traer la organización al Gobierno”.

Uno de sus logros más recientes ha sido la adopción del salario mínimo para los trabajadores de restaurantes, que, como en Puerto Rico, subsistían con un subsalario que muchas veces las propinas no completaban.

Cuando Fuentes se postuló, no fue sola. Candidatos progresistas se postularon por toda la ciudad y hoy 19 de ellos son miembros en el

Consejo de la Ciudad, que tiene 50 concejales.

“Poder representar a la misma comunidad que me salvó la vida y pensar que puedo crear legislación que probablemente va a salvar otras miles de vidas es, probablemente, el mayor honor”, dice Fuentes.

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FOTO POR HERMINIO RODRÍGUEZ | CENTRO DE PERIODISMO INVESTIGATIVO

(Continuado de la página 6)

Agenda contra la gentrificación

Fuentes aprendió la historia de cómo la comunidad puertorriqueña en Chicago ha sido continuamente desplazada desde el inicio de la migración desde Puerto Rico. De LaSalle y Clark a Lincoln Park a Lakeview a Wicker Park a West Town. Y, ahora, en Humboldt Park, las amenazas continúan.

“Desafortunadamente, el movimiento de gentrificación ha contribuido al trauma histórico y generacional que enfrentamos los puertorriqueños en Chicago”, reflexiona.

Lograr más vivienda disponible, oportunidades para la compra de propiedades a un costo asequible, cooperativas de vivienda y tener conversaciones reales sobre vivienda pública ante la gran cantidad de personas sin hogar son parte de su agenda como concejala.

Otra prioridad de Fuentes es el desarrollo económico para crear estabilidad para las familias, además de vivienda digna. Es también una manera de hacerle frente al desplazamiento que han promovido las grandes corporaciones que se han establecido en la zona: no pagan sueldos justos y no proveen plan médico ni servicios de salud dignos a sus trabajadores.



FOTO POR HERMINIO RODRÍGUEZ | CENTRO DE PERIODISMO INVESTIGATIVO

Los distritos culturales como idea contra la gentrificación en Chicago

Cristina Pacione Zayas es la jefa de Gabinete del alcalde de Chicago, Brandon Johnson, y es también producto del trabajo comunitario gestado desde el Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño en Paseo Boricua. Comenzó en esta posición el mes pasado, luego de haber ocupado el cargo de Subjefa de Gabinete desde que Johnson asumió la alcaldía en 2023. Además, fue senadora por el Partido Demócrata en el estado de Illinois, entre el 2020 y 2023.

Pacione Zayas establece que cuando comenzó a involucrarse en el tra-

bajo anti gentrificación, el fenómeno estaba ya ocurriendo en el vecindario contiguo de Humboldt Park, donde ubica el Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño. La comunidad, establecida allí hace décadas, ha presentado una resistencia importante contra el desplazamiento.

Cuando se le pregunta qué empezó a desplazar a las familias latinas de la zona, Pacione Zayas explica: “En nuestro estado nunca hemos tenido un salario digno. El cambio de ser un sector industrial a uno basado en los servicios también cambió las cosas”, menciona como algunos de los factores externos.

Apunta que, aunque las escuelas cercanas no son consideradas las mejores, la ubicación, la arquitectura y el fácil acceso a autopistas y medios de transportación pública, que pueden llevar al centro de la ciudad en unos 15 minutos, han convertido la zona en un atractivo para personas con mayor poder adquisitivo.

“Esa dinámica ha desplazado a los latinos que estaban allí y siguen siendo clase trabajadora porque aumenta el valor de las casas, aumentan los costos de alquiler y aumentan los impuestos a la propiedad mientras que los salarios permanecen igual”, explicó.

La legislación de los Distritos Culturales

Desde antes de que Pacione Zayas llegara al Senado y Fuentes al puesto de Concejala, la Agenda Puertorriqueña

de Chicago, una organización sin fines de lucro integrada por otras decenas de organizaciones, ya desarrollaba trabajos enfocados en combatir la gentrificación e identificar mecanismos políticos para estabilizar la comunidad puertorriqueña en Chicago, honrando su identidad.

Exploraron diversos modelos. Primero, pensaron en la creación de distritos fiscales especiales. Se designarían áreas geográficas en las que se haría desarrollo a partir de un impuesto especial. Sabían que sería difícil conseguir apoyo para una legislación como esa.

Entonces, surgió otra idea.

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FOTO POR HERMINIO RODRÍGUEZ | CENTRO DE PERIODISMO INVESTIGATIVO “Nos dijimos ‘hagamos un distrito cultural designado por el estado, donde el estado reconozca una geografía única. Podría ser una comunidad, una ciudad, un condado, un par de condados. El punto es que sería algo que tiene una identidad cultural que corre el riesgo de borrarse o que los residentes corren el riesgo de ser desplazados”, describió Pacione Zayas.

La idea es que, al obtener un reconocimiento del estado como “distrito cultural”, se les provee a estas zonas una protección especial, se les permite tener una ventaja al solicitar fondos federales, estatales y municipales.

“Lo que queremos es obtener fondos para adquirir propiedades para establecer instituciones culturales, continuar iniciativas de desarrollo económico, no desde un lente capitalista, sino para la preservación de nuestras comunidades”, dijo Pacione Zayas.

El grupo redactó una legislación que se presentó en 2020, pero no tuvo éxito. Tras llegar a la asamblea legislativa estatal a finales de ese año, la entonces recién estrenada legisladora Pacione Zayas la presentó como su primera propuesta.

La ahora concejala Jessie Fuentes, que en ese momento no había incurrido en la política electoral, fue una de las personas del liderato de la Agenda Puertorriqueña que llegaron al Senado a hablar de la importancia

del Proyecto del Senado de Illinois 1833.

“Creo que la medida cautivó la imaginación de mis colegas porque, a través de todo Illinois, tenemos muchos tipos de enclaves históricos y culturales únicos. Creo que en la gente realmente resonó la preservación y conservación de esas comunidades, y entendió que la amenaza del desplazamiento y la gentrificación no es solo exclusiva de Chicago, es en todo el estado”, recuerda Pacione Zayas.

La medida pasó con apoyo bipartita. El último día de octubre, Mes de la Herencia Hispana, el gobernador J.B. Pritzker convirtió el proyecto en ley durante una celebración en el Museo Nacional de Arte y Cultura Puertorriqueña. El próximo 1 de junio, la comunidad bautizará su distrito cultural con el nombre de Barrio Borikén.

En el transcurso de 10 años, el estado puede designar hasta 15 distritos culturales, los cuales tendrán acceso a unos fondos ya separados para su desarrollo, que deben servir como dinero semilla encaminado a la sostenibilidad. El gobernador J.B. Pritzker ya designó 10: North First Street Cultural District, Bronzeville District, Chinatown, Clark Street/Camino Clark, Mahalia Jackson 79th Street Cultural District, Little Village, South Chicago Cultural District, Puerto Rico Town; y en Springfield, Central East Cultural District y The Southtown Cultural District. Ya se han separado \$3 millones para distribuirlo entre los distritos designados.

Lo que ha logrado la comunidad puertorriqueña en Chicago, específicamente en Paseo Boricua, es muy singular porque ha sido gestión de un movimiento que cree en la descolonización de Puerto Rico. La posibilidad de permanecer en el sitio en el que se ha estado por generaciones, de tener acceso a vivienda y educación digna, que fomente la conciencia política; la creación de empresas locales, todo son formas de descolonización, aun dentro de Estados Unidos.

“Para pensar en la descolonización de Puerto Rico, tenemos que poder practicar eso en nuestras comunidades. La autodeterminación, la autosuficiencia y la autorrealización de los puertorriqueños en Humboldt Park, en Paseo Boricua es el marco desde el que funcionamos”, afirma Fuentes, reconociendo que el desplazamiento es un elemento en común entre los boricuas de Chicago y los que viven en la isla.

“Es poder también ser dueños de la tierra”.

Healing Through Art: PRCC's Violence Prevention and Intervention Event in Humboldt Park



By La Voz Staff

In a colorful celebration of creativity and community, The Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC) hosted an Art therapy event on May 11, 2024, in the vibrant streets of Humboldt Park, Chicago. This transformative initiative, organized in collaboration with the Violence Prevention Initiative, aimed to address violence prevention in the

community through the therapeutic power of art.

At its core, art therapy serves as a catalyst for emotional regulation and healing. By providing a safe space for residents to express themselves creatively, the event offered a constructive outlet for processing emotions and reducing stress—a crucial step in violence prevention. Through painting, drawing, and other artistic activities, participants learned to channel their feelings in healthy ways, fostering resilience and coping skills that can deter involvement in violence.

Beyond individual healing, the event emphasized community building and unity. Humboldt Park is a diverse neighborhood with a rich cultural tapestry, yet social tensions and disparities often contribute to conflict. Art therapy provided a common ground for residents to come together, bridging divides and fostering empathy through collaborative art projects and shared experiences. By strengthening social bonds and promoting understanding, the event laid the foundation for a more cohesive and peaceful community.

Empowerment through self-expression was another focus of the Art Therapy event. In a community where marginalized voices may feel silenced, artistic expression became a powerful

tool for reclaiming agency and asserting one's identity. Participants were encouraged to share their stories and perspectives through art, validating their experiences and fostering a sense of empowerment that can serve as a protective factor against violence.

Lastly, the art therapy event provided opportunities for skill development and future growth, particularly for youth at risk of involvement in violence. By nurturing artistic talents and providing access to violence prevention resources, participants were equipped with the tools and confidence needed to pursue positive pathways and opportunities in the arts and beyond.

In summary, PRCC's Art Therapy event on May 11, 2024, represented a holistic approach to violence prevention in Humboldt Park. Through emotional regulation, community building, empowerment, trauma healing, and skill development, the event exemplified the transformative potential of art in creating a safer, more vibrant, and more resilient community for all.



Welcome to Barrio Borikén: Aquí luchamos Aquí nos Quedamos



By *Xiomara Rodríguez*

On June 1, 2024, at the newly opened Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Affordable Housing Apartments, Chicago's Puerto Rican community will hold a ceremony to name the first State-Designated Puerto Rican Cultural District in the United States. The name of this Puerto Rican Cultural District, Barrio Borikén, will honor the original name of the island of Puerto Rico (Borikén) given by the Tainos, who are the Indigenous people of Puerto Rico. The dedication ceremony, open to the public, will include hundreds of community members, stakeholders, leaders, and organizers as 20 members of the Concilio Taíno Guatu-Ma-cu A Borikén will hold a special Areyto (Taino ceremonial dance/intellectual communing ceremony) to dedicate Barrio Borikén. The Concilio Taíno Guatu-Ma-cu A Borikén were invited to Chicago to celebrate the National Puerto Rican Museum's exhibit ¡Taíno Vive! Caribbean Indigenous Resistance, which is a collaboration with the Smithsonian and the Field Museum. While they are in Chicago they will help Chicago Puerto Ricans celebrate this moment of Caribbean resistance as we dedicate Barrio Borikén.

The Puerto Rican community of Chicago exists today because of the ongoing process of colonialism and spatial deconcentration wherein U.S. occupying forces over centuries have enacted policies that make living in Puerto Rico nearly impossible, while luring Puerto Ricans to the U.S. to fill the need for low wage laborers. It has only been through decades of struggle that Chicago's Puerto Rican organizers, particularly from the Puerto Rican Agenda, were able to get Governor J.B. Pritzker to honor the historic contributions Puerto Ricans have made to the State of Illinois with the State Designated Cultural District program, which aims to provide funding to designated cultural districts, many of which have faced decades of disinvestment, red-lining, environmental racism, and now gentrification, and the erasure of their struggles/contributions in the City of Chicago. Barrio Borikén honors the Indigenous ancestors of Puerto Ricans, who continue to resist colonialism in all its forms on the island and in the internal colonies of the United States' Puerto Rican communities.



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In the face of extreme poverty, medical/environmental racism, red-lining, arson for profit, and the countless other struggles faced by Puerto Ricans who first moved to the internal colony that will now become Barrio Borikén, these people found a way to survive by building powerful networks of support grounded in the practice of communal responsibility so fundamental to Boricua culture. Where there was lack, Chicago Puerto Ricans created community institutions that actually served the community, and now we have Puerto Rican led institutions that are actively working to remedy the effects of colonialism like Hispanic Housing, Humboldt Park Health, The National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, and so many more. While amazing strides have been made to build this community of resistance, most recently the effects of gentrification have threatened to erase the powerful history of Puerto Ricans in Chicago. In 1995 when the Paseo Boricua Flags of Steel were built and the vision by then Alderman Billy Ocasio of a Puerto Rican cultural promenade was created to fight the gentrification and displacement of long term residents (many of whom were Puerto Rican), people said the flags would be torn down and warned that gentrification would ultimately win the neighborhood. Now nearly 30 years later the Paseo Boricua Flags of Steel have become a Chicago historic landmark and Barrio Borikén's designation as an Illinois State Cultural District stand as testaments to the anti-gentrification slogan local organizers used in the 1990s "aquí luchamos, aquí nos quedamos". Puerto Ricans in Chicago have had to fight tooth and nail to build a community

that affirms their existence and resistance. During this year's 46th Puerto Rican People's Day Parade, we celebrate another win in the battle against colonialism and its tools of gentrification and erasure.

As the Puerto Rican community of Chicago has been celebrating these exciting achievements Choose Chicago, the official tourism agency of Chicago, has been hard at work documenting all the things that make Barrio Borikén such an important destination for visitors from all over the world. In a new docu series called The 77: A City of Neighborhoods you can watch



the most beautiful episode highlighting the history of Puerto Ricans in Humboldt Park, the struggles they have faced, the cultural community they have built, and some of the people who make Barrio Borikén so special from small business owners, to elected officials, to community organizers, to muralists, and more. If you want to learn more about the dynamic community of Barrio Borikén you can watch the full episode at: "<https://www.choosechicago.com/the77/humboldtpark/>".

¡SE SIENTE!, ¡SE SIENTE!, Slim está Presente

By Luis Alejandro Molina

It is with deep pain that the entire Puerto Rican Cultural Center joins Reverend Emma Lozano and her family in mourning the physical loss of their beloved husband, father, and grandfather. Slim, Reverend Coleman and his entire family have been close allies of our Puerto Rican community for decades. Slim, as we lovingly called him, was one of the towering and bravest figures of Chicago's history of social justice, anti-racist, and anti-colonial practices, as well as other forms of oppression. He and his family have been a beacon of hope for our undocumented brothers and sisters. We have truly lost one of our greatest warriors, however, his indomitable and unswerving spirit will forever inspire us and future generations. Slim passed away on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, and a city-wide memorial service was held at Operation PUSH on May 30th. The following collage gives you a glimpse of Slim's commitment to the Puerto Rican community:

1. Circa mid- 1990s: Elvira Arellano and Cong. Luis V. Gutiérrez at a downtown press conference during a rally at the Dirksen Federal Building demanding national immigration reform.
2. Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López Rivera and Rev. Coleman at FCI Terre Haute prison in Indiana. Rev. Coleman and Rev. Pedro Windsor visited Oscar in 2013.
3. Emma Lozano and Rev. Coleman renewing their vows on their 25th wedding anniversary at the Lincoln United Methodist Church.
4. Members of the Café Batey Urbano formed an honor guard during the initial months of Elvira Arellano and her son Saul's drive for sanctuary at Adalberto United Methodist Church, A representative of the Chicago office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) remarked that while Elvira was in the Puerto Rican community, it would be very difficult to raid the church and take her out. "We have no plans to enter the church to arrest Mrs. Arellano." said a government official speaking on the condition of anonymity.
5. Circa 2007: Rev. Coleman and Jacqueline Jackson of Operation PUSH, surrounded by Latino and African-American elected officials and community leaders defending Elvira and the campaign for immigration reform.
6. Members of the Café Batey Urbano formed an honor guard during the initial months of Elvira Arellano and her son Saul's drive for sanctuary at Adalberto United Methodist Church, A representative of the Chicago office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) remarked that while Elvira was in the Puerto Rican community, it would be very difficult to raid the church and take her out. "We have no plans to enter the church to arrest Mrs. Arellano." said a government official speaking on the condition of anonymity.

7. Circa 2009: Rev. Coleman and Rev. Jesse Jackson at the Operation PUSH office during a meeting on immigration reform.

8. Circa February 2005: Rev. Coleman speaking at the wake of Rev. Torres at The PRCC Andrés Figueroa Cordero Library and Informatics Center Library. Congressman Luis V. Gutiérrez and Dr. Steve Whitman can be seen speaking to each other in the audience. In a rare exception for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Puerto Rican Political Prisoner Carlos Alberto Torres, who would be released in 2010 after serving 30 years in the struggle for Puerto Rican independence, was allowed to view a videotape of this event several months later.

9. Rev. Coleman with sanctuary activist Flor Crisóstomo, the second person to seek sanctuary in Adalberto United Methodist Church next to former Puerto Rican political prisoner Alicia Rodríguez, at a service celebrating Flor Crisóstomo, campaign for sanctuary and immigration reform and Alicia Rodríguez's recent freedom after serving 20 years in state and federal prisons struggling for Puerto Rican independence.



46TH PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE'S DAY PARADE

SPECIAL PARADE EDITION INSERT

SAT. JUNE 8TH, 2024 AT 2PM ON PASEO BORICUA

(DIVISION ST. FROM CAMPBELL AVE. TO SACRAMENTO BLVD.)



Welcome to the 46th Annual Puerto Rican People's Day Parade on Division Street "Paseo Boricua"

This year we are celebrating this community being named the first ever Puerto Rican Cultural District in the United States, Barrio Borikén.

The Parade has grown into one of the largest cultural celebrations in this community, which proudly showcases our rich cultural heritage. The Parade's carnival-like celebration featuring vejigantes, dancing/musical performances, marching bands, car club, motorcycle clubs and floats, bringing together area businesses, political figures, religious institutions, cultural centers, schools, and community groups.

In recognition of our rich diversity, and in celebration of Pride month, as a community, our Puerto Rican People's Day Parade Cacica/Queen and Casique/King are always transgender people and members of the LGBTQ+ community.

If you haven't been to El Barrio lately this is the perfect opportunity to immerse yourself into some good'old culture, Paseo Boricua is expanding every day; new affordable housing, new Puerto Rican women own businesses, cake shops, gallery spaces, shops, photography stores, new murals depicting inclusivity, come out to Barrio Borikén and see how the community is shifting paradigms to be the example Puerto Rican community the world can marvel at.

Following the parade enjoy las Fiestas Patronales Puertorriqueñas in Humboldt Park this year, returning for the third consecutive year, under the new management and promising to be even more festive than last year from Thursday June 6, through Sunday June 9, 2024. Check out the line up of the show inside this La Voz Parade issue.

Please join us as we celebrate our beautiful people, culture, and our collective successes. I am looking forward to your participation in the 46th Annual Puerto Rican People's Day Parade to make this event a community success. The Parade steps off at 2:00pm on Division corner of Campbell on Saturday June 8th, 2024.

A special thanks to all the merchants, individuals, organizations that sponsors our La Voz Parade issues, thank you to our Parade entries and all of PRCC's staff and volunteers for their diligence in and around the Puerto Rican People's Day Parade, and a special shout out to La Voz Parade Issue Production Team.

A special thanks to all the merchants, individuals, organizations that sponsored our La Voz Parade issues and our Parade entries and all of PRCC's staff and volunteers for their diligence in and around the Puerto Rican People's Day Parade, and our Parade insert Production Team.

¡Muchísimas gracias!

¡Feliz Desfile!

Leony Calderón

46TH PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE'S DAY PARADE LINE-UP

- THE PUERTO RICAN CULTURAL CENTER Float & Segundo Ruiz Belviz & Friends 45th Puerto Rican People's Day Parade Lead Banner & Flags Dignitaries /Honored Guest - Marching
- 26th Ward Alderperson Jessie Fuentes - Float
- Daniel Ramos 1-Cars
- Centro Infantil Consuelo Lee Corretjer-Float
- TranChicago Cacica and Cacique-Float
- El Rescate & The Humboldt Park Youth Employment Empowerment Program-Float
- Centro Sin Fronteras
- PRCC Violence Prevention & Intervention-Float
- PRCC Business Initiatives. El Mercado Del Pueblo Y Los Weperos -Float
- Reina's Cakes -Cake Carts & Marching Group
- PRCC-Digitizing El Barrio marching group
- Community As A Campus-Float
- CAAC: Community as a Campus Sports Program
- Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School- Float
- Esmeralda Santiago, An Acero School
- West Park STEAM Academy School-Float
- Sabin Dual Language Magnet School
- Roberto Clemente Community Academy-Float
- Roberto Clemente Community Academy-Float
- Northeastern Illinois University-Float
- Hispanic Housing
- Que Ondee Sola Marching group
- 27-La Escuelita Bombera de Corazon-Float
- National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture-walking group.
- SEIU
- Fiestas Patronales Puertorriqueñas - Float
- Chicago Early Learning- Walking group
- Fire Truck 1
- Chicago Early Learning- Walking group
- iHeart Radio Vehicle & Walking-Float
- Ponce Restaurant- Double decker
- Car Club Algarii Entertainment . (6 Cars)
- Fiesta Patronales Fire Truck 2
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois
- Ponce Restaurant- Double Decker
- Puerto Rican Bar Association
- Fruteria La Municipal
- Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation
- ComEd- Truck
- Chicago Teachers Union-Float
- West Town Bikes/Ciclo Urbano-Bicycles
- Classic Cruisers Bicycle Club of Chicago
- DIVVY
- American SoundBar 2(Jeeps)
- City Colleges of Chicago-Float
- Association House
- Cook County Public Defender Walking group
- Chicago Car Club (6 Cars)
- Chicago Park District-Contingent-Float
- BUILD- Float- Caravan
- Car Club Algarii Entertainment 1. (6 Cars)
- Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
- WAS UP Then Riders; Motorcycle Club
- Latin American Motorcycle Association (50 Motorcycles)
- PRCC Public Health Mobile Unit

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26TH WARD ALDERPERSON

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LUNES 2PM - 5PM*
MARTES 9AM - 5PM
MIÉRCOLES 9AM - 5PM
JUEVES 9AM - 5PM
VIERNES 9AM - 5PM

HORA DE ALMUERZO 1-2PM

*NOCHE DE DISTRITO 5-7PM
CON CITA PREVIA

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*WARD NIGHT 5-7PM
BY APPOINTMENT

26th Ward Office
2511 W Division St
773.395.0143
the26thward.org
info@the26thward.org

¡Que disfruten el Desfile del Pueblo Puertorriqueño!

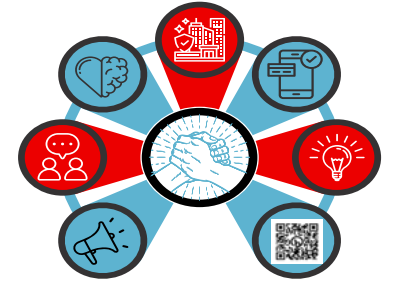
¡Felices Fiestas Patronales!

NOS MANTENEMOS

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US SAFE!



bit.ly/WKUSreslib

WE KEEP US SAFE Resource Library, including contact info for our Community Safety Committee organizations like ALSO, BUILD, Center for Changing Lives, PRCC, and Rincón.

Biblioteca de recursos, incluida la información de contacto de las organizaciones de nuestro Comité de Seguridad Comunitaria, como ALSO, BUILD, Center for Changing Lives, PRCC y Rincón.

MAY 2024/JUNE 2024

17

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PUERTORRIQUEÑAS EN CHICAGO.***



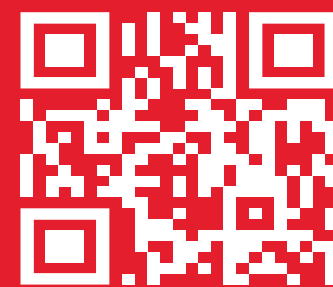
Por más de 15 años, el CPI ha sido la primera y única organización de periodismo investigativo sin fines de lucro en Puerto Rico que ha puesto al descubierto asuntos como el número real de fallecidos tras el huracán María o la pesquisa de las 889 páginas del chat del exgobernador Ricardo Rosselló, que culminaron en su renuncia.

Ahora, extendemos nuestra cobertura y compromiso a la comunidad boricua en Chicago, investigando a profundidad los temas que más les afectan.

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9TH

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JUNE
7TH

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"FANTASY GIRL"

CYNTHIA
"CHANGE ON ME"

JESSEE B
FORMERLY OF LEGACY

JUDY TORRES
"COME INTO MY ARMS"

C-BANK
"ONE MORE SHOT"

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SAT
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8TH



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CANA BRAVA



CHARLIE CRUZ



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La Sensación de la Bachata

SUN
JUNE
9TH

DIA DE LA SALSAS



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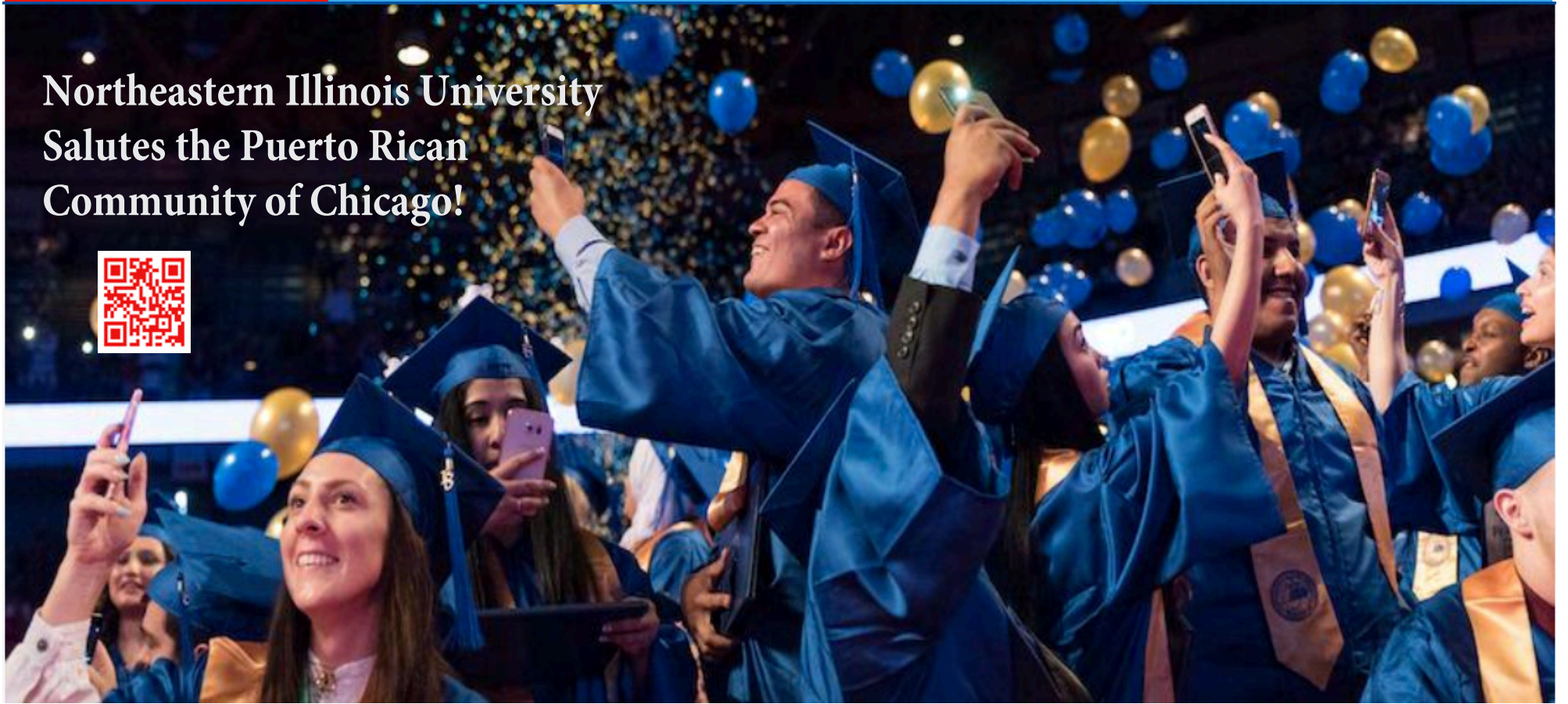
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--- Hipolito “Paul” Roldan

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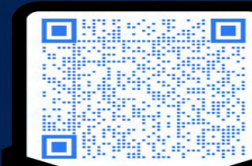
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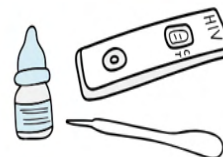
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www.prcc-chgo.org

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10:00AM-
3:15PM

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- **1:20 PM BARRIO BORIKEN DEDICATION**
WITH CONCILIO TAINO
AT 1203 N CALIFORNIA AVE
- **2-3 PM OPEN HOUSES OF**
PRCC FITNESS CENTER AT 2619 W. DIVISION
EL SCHOMBURG
2536 W DIVISION ST. APARTMENT
PICA GAME AT LA CASITA
- **2:45 PM DEDICATION OF REYNALDO RODRIGUEZ MURAL**
ON DIVISION & MAPLEWOOD
- **3:15 PM CHICAGO'S OWN PUERTO RICAN AUTHORS PRESENT NEW BOOKS**
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Chicago's Puerto Rican People's Day Parade Cacica & Cacique Coronation: Call to Action for Trans Rights and Services

By Ricardo Jiménez

On behalf of The Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC), I invite you to attend our Annual Cacica & Cacique Coronation, a significant event for the Puerto Rican People's Day Parade 2024. This prestigious event, scheduled for Thursday, June 06, 2024, at the Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center, promises an unforgettable evening of cultural entertainment. We have gone to great lengths to ensure the highest quality entertainment, including arranging for performers from other states and Puerto Rico to join us.

Furthermore, PRCC proudly will announce a Call to Action for Trans Rights and Services, a crucial event on Friday, June 07, 2024, at UrbanTheater, 2620 W. Division Street. This event, featuring a panel discussion with distinguished Chicago Trans Peoples, those from Puerto Rico, and elected officials from the city and state, is a call for immediate action and support. For your convenience, see attached the flyer for the Coronation with a QR Code to purchase tickets or donate.

We look forward to welcoming you to these grand events, which will highlight Puerto Rico's rich cultural heritage and commitment to the LGBTQ+ Community for human rights. Please consider donating to cover PRCC's huge expenses for this event. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at ricardoj@prcc-chgo.org. Please read the flyers for detailed information.

We hope to see you all join us at these memorial events.

Call to Action for Trans Rights and Services

Forum Friday, June 07, 2024
2:00PM - 5:30PM

Panel Discussions with distinguished guests from the city, state, and elected officials will discuss trans rights and services.

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- Education

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The Cacica & Cacique Coronation for the Puerto Rican People's Parade

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Cacica Honorary 2024

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Angel Gaez
Cacique 2024

Ticket donation: \$40.

FOR TICKETS SCAN HERE

Thursday, June 06, 2024

DONATIONS \$40.00

Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center, 4048 W Armitage Ave, Chicago, IL 60639

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- + 8:00 pm Program
- + 9:00 pm Intermission
- + 9:30 pm Coronation
- + 10:00 pm Celebration and Dancing

THE PUERTO RICAN CULTURAL CENTER

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Activistas Puertorriqueños de 15 Estados y la Isla se Reúnen con 34 Congresistas Sobre la Junta, Ley 22 y Soberanía Alimentaria

Por Marielis Acevedo Irizarry de El Diario NY

Bajo el lema “Reclamando nuestro territorio” (Reclaiming our Land), una coalición de organizaciones de puertorriqueños realizaron una jornada de abogacía en el Congreso federal esta semana en la que mantuvieron reuniones con legisladores con el fin de que eliminen la Junta de Control Fiscal (FOMBPR), actúen para garantizar que los beneficiarios de la Ley 22 dejen de evadir impuestos e incentiven la soberanía alimentaria.

Los representantes de los grupos además insistieron en sus reservas con el “Puerto Rico Status Act”, legislación que establece pautas para la realización de un plebiscito con aval congressional entre las opciones no territoriales de estadiad, independenciam o libre asociaciam.

Los puertorriqueños, procedentes de 15 estados y la isla, estuvieron liderados por Power4PuertoRico.

El fin general de los más de 60 activistas que llegaron esta semana hasta

el Capitolio federal es que los líderes del Congreso adopten una agenda que priorice la justicia económica para Puerto Rico y deje sin efecto políticas que provocan “daño real” a los habitantes del territorio y los de la diáspora.

Para llamar la atención sobre sus reclamos, los asistentes realizaron un plenario o evento al ritmo de plena frente al edificio Longworth de la Cámara de Representantes.

En la delegación se encontraban Daniela Velázquez y Jessie Fuentes, concejales de St. Louis (Missouri) y Chicago (Illinois), respectivamente. También estuvieron presentes los alcaldes de Loíza y Comerío, Julia Nazario

y Josian Santiago, respectivamente.

El evento contó además con la representación de miembros de Latino Justice PRLDEF, Puerto Rican Cultural Center, Alianza for Progress, Borricuas Unidos en la Diáspora, Puerto Rican Alliance, Vamos, Losing Puerto Rico, National Puerto Rican Agenda, LULAC Florida, El Otro Puerto Rico y La Mesa Boricua de Florida.

Las actividades incluyeron reuniones con 34 miembros del Congreso, entre estos, el senador demócrata de Illinois, Richard Durbin; los rep-

resentantes demócratas de Illinois, Jesús “Chuy” García y Delia Ramírez; el representante demócrata de Florida, Maxwell Frost; y el representante demócrata de Pennsylvania, Dwight Evans.

De lado republicano, algunas de las reuniones fueron con el representante Texas, Troy



Nehls, y con el senador de Kansas, Jerry Moran.

Algunos de los activistas también se reunieron con asesores del líder de la minoría republicana del Senado, Mitch McConnell, de Kentucky.

Los participantes emplazaron a los puertorriqueños a pedir a los legisladores en el Congreso eliminar la Junta creada bajo la Ley PROMESA aprobada en el Congreso en el 2016. Las organizaciones consideran que el tiempo de la Junta pasó, y mientras el organismo permanezca vigente no se puede hablar de verdadera democracia.

(Continúa en la página 47)

(Continuado de la página 46) “Bloquear legislación local en favor de la suya solo ha resultado en la privatización de las instituciones públicas y los servicios, así como un aumento en el costo de vida y en las utilidades que sobrepasa el de NYC...”, lee una entrada de Power4PuertoRico en sus redes sociales.

¡La Junta se tiene que ir!

“¡La Junta se tiene que ir! El Congreso tiene que dismantelar la Junta de Control Fiscal colonial que crearon bajo PROMESA. La Junta opera en la ‘dimensión desconocida de responsabilidad’, como dijo la jueza Sonia Sotomayor. Es inherentemente antidemocrática y está afectando a millones de puertorriqueños. Mientras se aplican recortes de austeridad a los servicios esenciales como la Universidad de Puerto Rico, la Junta gasta cientos de millones de fondos públicos en servicios cuestionables con corporaciones llenas de conflictos de intereses”, expuso Fuentes.

El impacto de la Ley 22 en Puerto Rico

El impacto de la Ley 22 o “Ley Para Incentivar el Traslado de Individuos Inversionistas a Puerto Rico” y la necesidad de atender la laguna fiscal que permite que estadounidenses que se relocalizan en la isla evadan impuestos federales fue otro de los asuntos discutidos.

“El Congreso debe legislar para requerirle a los individuos pudientes que se benefician de la Ley 22 en Puerto Rico, o de cualquier legislación sucesora o programa de reducción fiscal que estén sujetos a impuestos federales”, plantearon los activistas.

Para Velázquez, la legislación bajo la que se exime a inversionistas extranjeros del pago de impuestos por dividendos, intereses y ganancias de capital si se mudan a la isla y permanecen al menos 183 días al año afecta la seguridad y estabilidad de los locales.

“La laguna fiscal que le permite a estadounidenses adinerados moverse a la isla y esencialmente vivir sin pagar impuestos socava la seguridad y la estabilidad de comunidades puertorriqueñas. Esta ley además priva a las comunidades estadounidenses de los ingresos fiscales necesarios para servicios esenciales. Nosotros estamos viendo un influxo de mega ricos que están comprando propiedades por toda la isla mientras muestran desprecio por la cultura y las comunidades que están desplazando”, señaló la concejal.

Representantes como Chuy García, Ramírez y Cori Bush (Missouri) han utilizado su tiempo en el hemiciclo para enviar mensajes en repudio a la legislación local, que, a su juicio, ha aumentando el costo y alquiler de las viviendas y ha agravado los desplazamientos de locales.

Soberanía alimentaria en Farm Bill

En cuanto a soberanía alimentaria, los activistas pidieron que la legislación que se incluya en la reautorización de Farm Bill vaya dirigida a incentivar a los productores locales; y que sea culturalmente receptiva y con lenguaje apropiado.

Los solicitantes recordaron que la mayoría de lo que se consume en la

isla proviene del exterior, por lo que el sistema carece de sustentabilidad para mantenerse por sí solo.

“Nosotros necesitamos invertir en nuestros agricultores y construir fuentes de alimentos cultivadas localmente para crear seguridad alimentaria para la gente de Puerto Rico. Invertir en nuestros agricultores es invertir en nuestra salud también. Nosotros no podemos arriesgar la vida de los puertorriqueños en más de los mismos estantes vacíos del supermercado cada vez que un desastre natural bloquea el acceso a un cantidad inmensa de productos importados que se consumen en la isla”, argumentó Zacha Muñiz, presidenta de la organización Agroempresarias de Puerto Rico.

Opuestos a “Puerto Rico Status Act”

En el caso de las nuevas versiones de Puerto Rico Status Act (3231 en el Senado y 2757 en la Cámara), los manifestantes insistieron en que ninguno de los proyectos incluye detalles “críticos” sobre el alcance de las alternativas de estatus para que los electores en la isla realicen un voto informado.

“Los miembros del Congreso deben quitarle el apoyo a cualquier legislación o proceso de estatus que falla en ser abierto con la gente de Puerto Rico en asuntos críticos como idioma, impuestos y las restricciones marítimas asfixiantes de la Ley Jones”, plantearon.

Erica González, directora de Power 4 Puerto Rico, destacó que la movilización es prueba de que, los miembros de la diáspora, que sí pueden votar en las elecciones federales, son claves en la exposición y discusión de los problemas que afectan a los boricuas dentro y fuera de la isla.

“Los votantes puertorriqueños en Estados Unidos se preocupan profundamente por la justicia social y económicas en las comunidades puertorriqueñas en los 50 estados, y están invirtiendo equitativamente en la prosperidad y el bienestar de sus familias que viven en la isla. Esa es la razón por la que hemos creado la colación de líderes boricuas de la diáspora para abogar bajo una sola comunidad, hablar con una sola voz y exigir con el fin de acciones e inacciones congresionales que continúan perpetuando la codicia colonial, el desplazamiento y la inseguridad alimentaria en Puerto Rico”, indicó la activista.



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Trans Day of Visibility 2024 at the Lisa Isadora Cruz Trans Chicago Empowerment Center of The Puerto Rican Cultural Center

By La Voz Staff

History of Trans Day of Visibility

There is no doubt that the transgender community continues to face discrimination worldwide. Whether in the workplace, schools, or society, the Trans community are subjected to immense harassment and inequality in every part of the world for the 'sin' of being born different.

Rachel Crandall, a U.S.-based transgender activist, founded the Trans Day of Visibility, on March 31st, 2009, to raise awareness for the incredible burden of discrimination the community faces in every setting imaginable. The need to bring a day of 'visibility' for the transgender community is indicative of the

oppression they face in many sectors of life. International Transgender Day of Visibility – TDOV, is an annual event occurring on March 31st, dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination

facied by transgender people worldwide, as well as a celebration of their contributions to society.

On March 28, 2024, Maya Lozano and Dante Harris, Program Coordinators at The Lisa Isadora Cruz Trans Chicago Empowerment Center, organized and hosted, a panel discussion on gender affirming care and services at The Lisa Isadora Cruz Trans Chicago Empowerment Center.

Our panelists were:

- Reyna Ortiz, an Advocate, Activist and Author, fighting for the rights of Black/Brown Trans and Gender non-conforming communities.
- Yeo Roman, a Black Puerto Rican trans man and advocate for Gender Affirming Care and Trans Activism. Yeo is based in Chicago after having moved here from Florida, and transitioned in 2015. He often uses his platform to

emphasize the importance of gynecology check-ups for Transmen.

- Dr. Courtney Cripps, is a plastic surgeon and Assistant Professor at the University of Chicago in the Section of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Cripps earned her degree at the Medical College of Georgia before completing a residency in General Surgery at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City.
- Jess Gorden, founder of TransRun, created this fitness resource in 2021 for trans and non-binary people. In addition to being a resource, TransRun has hosted several fundraising trots for local and national trans/nonbinary organizations.
- The final member of the panel, Dr. Tatyanna Moaton, is a Human Resources professional, specializing in Inclusion, Equity, & Diversity with extensive experience in community health.

These panalesits emphasized the crucial importance of representation: in

activsim, in Gender Affirming care, in provision of services, and Trans visibility. The community was engaged with the panelists learning the pros and cons of gender affirming care. Such as, what type of insurance are accepted in the Chicago area and what they should expect when attempting to



access Gender Affirming Care. It was helpful to know the experiences each Trans person has gone through regarding gender affirming services, either providing or receiving care.

Even though Trans healthcare is important for the community, there are many barriers that have been identified by the community. Some have experienced fear and mistrust of providers, inconsistency in access to healthcare, disrespect from providers, and mistreatment due to intersecting experiences of gender, race, class, and location.

We recognize and revere the contributions, successes, and relentless resilience of each panelist in standing tall and strong in the face of injustice. Through this Day of Visibility, we hope to inspire moral responsibility and tolerance, and lift the restrictions on the rights of Transgender people.

Let's join hands together with the Trans community to celebrate not 'fitting in' when we all yearn to stand out!

Northeastern Illinois University Proyecto Pa'lante Providing Opportunities for Humboldt Park Students

By *Xiomara Rivera*

My name is Xiomara Rivera and I was born and raised in Humboldt Park. This community taught me to be resilient, passionate, caring, and determined to make a difference. Looking back on my life and seeing where I am now, I would have never thought that going back to college would be an option for me because of the financial instability that my family experienced growing up. I grew up in a single parent household with three of my siblings. My family and I faced challenges as I witnessed both my parents struggle to make ends meet. These are the same challenges that I see youth experiencing in our community, even today.

In June of 2014 I graduated from Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos High School. As a student at Albizu Campos I strived for success in academics and attendance. I was a member of the student council and crowned Homecoming and Prom Queen. Even though I was motivated and finding success in school, I would spend most nights staying with friends or cousins, because of the ongoing instability I was still experiencing at home. After graduation, I immediately started working and moved into my first apartment. I did not have the chance or privilege to explore career options or travel or continue my education. I began working full-time to support myself on minimum wage, living paycheck to paycheck. There were times when I wasn't able to afford even the essentials.

In September of 2022, I began working at The Puerto Rican Cultural Center in the Violence Prevention and Intervention (VPI) Initiative. I began as an after-school mentor at Roberto Clemente Career Academy, and was eventually promoted to Case Manager, a position I still hold full-time today. In the time I have worked for The PRCC, I have been involved in emergency responses to incidents of gun violence, established partnerships with schools and community agencies,

and have assisted youth with resume building, school engagement, and conflict mediations. I continue to show up to work everyday with a positive attitude, determination, and passion for what I do. Recently, I organized and planned the VPI Initiative's Open Mic Event, where participants of VPI programming and other community members came to express their music and talents in front of a live audience. After the success of the first event, the Open Mic became a part of our scheduled VPI programming.



From a young age, I knew I wanted to attend college. Neither of my parents or close relatives attended college. Growing up I was still unsure of what exactly I wanted to do or be. I decided to go back to school, so I could increase my learning potential and earn the income that I know I am worth. I decided to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, because I have a passion for working with children and people of all ages. My father was blind and unable to work, thus he relied on a monthly fixed income. My grandfather also struggled financially and always shared stories with me that in Puerto Rico he did not make it past the 1st grade to be able to support his 11 siblings and parents. In August of 2023, I was accepted into Northeastern Illinois University. I am extremely grateful and honored that Marvin García and Dr. José E. López pushed me to further my education and introduced me to a program called "Proyecto Pa'lante" The program has helped me stay on top of my classes, informed me about scholarship opportunities, and provided an academic advisor.

In just a few weeks, I will finish my first year of college, having received two different scholarships through Proyecto Palante, and achieving a 3.5 GPA. This is something I'm extremely proud of, especially in the aftermath of two incredibly difficult losses in my life. Before starting school I had lost my grandfather, whom I was incredibly close with. It felt like I was fighting a battle just to get up every morning and continue working toward the future I saw for myself.

(Continue on page 51)

(Continued from page 50)

This became even more difficult in November of last year when I lost my father, the biggest supporter in my life. Ever since I could remember, good, bad, or otherwise, I could always count on “Papi”. I lost myself for days. I couldn’t work, sleep, or come anywhere close to understanding the pain I was feeling. I stumbled over my school work a day at a time. I informed my advisor and professors about the situation, they understood and gave me time to recoup. I stressed over how I would be able to cover funeral arrangements. I’m so grateful to Proyecto Pa’lante program for helping to acquire emergency funds so that I could have a proper burial for my father. Marvin García of Community as a Campus continued to send me scholarship opportunities every chance that he got. After applying, I was awarded with another

academic scholarship that reduced my out of pocket expense for tuition to zero. Despite the hurt, loneliness, and sadness I was feeling from my fathers passing, I knew that he would be extremely proud of me and would want me to continue on, in the same way that he did when he lost his father.

So that is what I’m doing. I’m turning my trials into successes. I have a community to show up and show out for, and I want every youth who reads this to know that anything is possible. Not everything is always available in the moment and we may hit bumps on the road, but there’s always hope. Today, I am a case manager, a student, a friend, and a family member. The first of my family to go to college.

Violence Prevention Initiative, UrbanTheater, WBEZ, Hermosa Park, and Second City Host Renew, Reinvest, Restore Open-Mic Night

By Argenis Hernández

This March 22nd, el Barrio Borikén is bringing the arts to you in a fashion that captures the spirit of the neighborhood’s creative atmosphere. The Renew, Reinvest, Restore (R3) initiative’s Xiomara Rivera, in collaboration with the UrbanTheater Company and the Violence Prevention & Intervention Initiative, is hosting a bimonthly platform where individuals can express their art forms and talents within Humboldt Park’s cultural arena.

The previous R3 open mic night created a wave of inspiration with the help of WBEZ Radio’s engagement editor Alex Keefe, Hermosa Park’s Life Impacters bringing migrant youth to experience Chicago’s diverse culture, and stand-up comics from the Second City presenting their innovative acts.

About the showcase, Artist Estilo shares, “As a creative creature myself, I was fortunate enough to perform in this rich soil in between the flags. It allowed me to share my style while at the same time soaking in culture from all sides of the city.”

Garnering the attention of more than twenty artists who hopped on the stage that night, R3 is providing a vital resource within the community for the youth with their open-mic showcases. Residents from all parts of Chicago traveled to our Little Puerto Rico, some for the first time, and are witnessing an artistic renaissance unfolding.

We invite you all to our upcoming events. Follow the VPI’s Instagram @prccvpi to keep updated on their platforms!





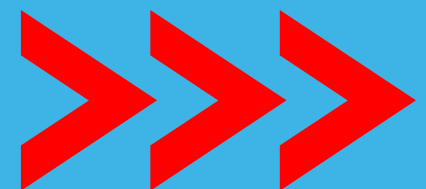
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Celebrating Puerto Rican Archives: Preserving Community Memory



By *Angélica Hernández*

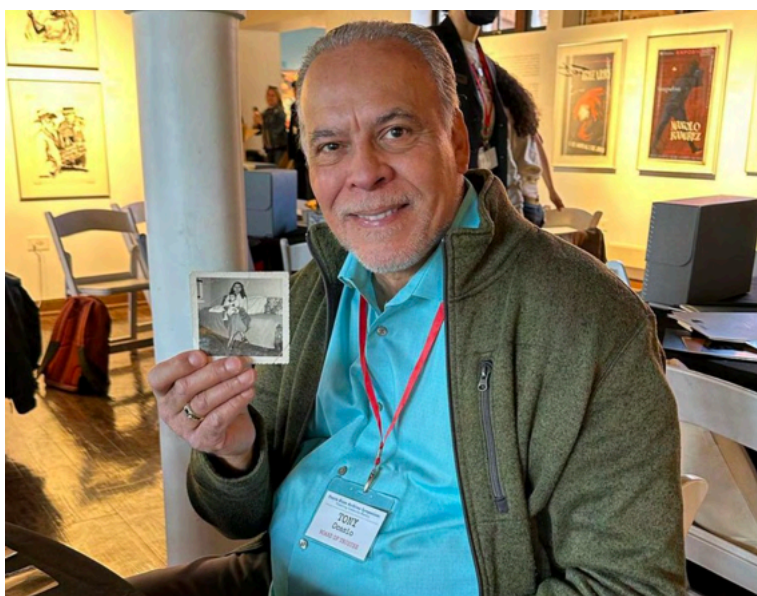
On April 5th and 6th, Digitizing the Barrio, along with the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture (NMPRAC) and the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (MCA), hosted the Puerto Rican Archives: Preserving Community Memory symposium. The first of its kind, it was filled with scholars, archivists, and community members eager to learn and share crucial histories. In connection with the MCA's exhibition *entre horizontes: Art and Activism Between Chicago and Puerto Rico*, this symposium was meant to expand on the archival materials featured in the exhibition that documented the political movements and community organizations that have shaped Puerto Rican Chicago. Similar to the exhibition, which sought to make a tangible connection between Chicago and Puerto Rico, we took this opportunity to strengthen our ties to other Puerto Rican archives, archivists, and memory workers. Through this symposium we were able to host guests from Archivo General de Puerto Rico, Archivo Histórico de Vieques, Archivo Comunitario LGBTQ+ de Puerto Rico, and Memoria Decolonial; and CENTRO in New York.

Day one was devoted to four distinct panels, each

highlighting the work and perspectives of our guests. Panel one, Puerto Rican Archives Across Space and Scales, allowed each guest to discuss what motivated them to join this profession and introduce their important projects. In panel two, Archiving 101, each archivist gave insight into basic archival processes and approaches. The goal was to provide tangible examples about what archives and archivists do. Panel three, The Politics and Ethics of Memory, explored how archives themselves are often contested sites of memory, heavily influenced by colonial practices in terms of how materials are organized, described, and presented. Each of our guest speakers revealed how they challenge these inherent practices through counter narratives and decolonial archival methods. Panel four, History-Making and Meaning-Making, highlighted three community projects as they address gaps and silences in community histories and create space for public engagement with such histories.

For day two, our focus shifted to community. We started off the day with a workshop, Building Personal and Family Archives, where community members received instruction on what documents to keep, what information was most relevant to record, and how to store those items for long term preservation. Participants had the opportunity to share deeply personal stories about their materials and jump start their family archives. Following the workshop was an in-depth conversation between community leaders José E. López and Michael Deutsch, moderated by Cristina Pacione-Zayas. They each provided unique perspectives and crucial historical context about a tumultuous time when Chicago's

Puerto Rican community faced intense political repression. López and Deutsch detailed the extreme surveillance Puerto Rican anti-colonial activists faced and the powerful solidarity that helped shape this community. And finally, CENTRO's directora Dr. Yomaira C. Figueroa-Vásquez closed the symposium with an incredible keynote address, highlighting the heartbreaking limitations but bright possibilities of archives. With so many stories still left to tell, we hope to continue this symposium for many years to come.



Festival de Apoyo a Claridad dedicado al Patriota Heriberto Marín Torres

By Clarisa López

El pasado mes de abril se celebró la edición número 49 de El Festival de Apoyo a Claridad en San Juan, Puerto Rico. El mismo fue dedicado a la figura del Patriota Puertorriqueño y Héroe Nacionalista Don Heriberto Marín Torres. En reconocimiento a una vida entera de lealtad militante a la lucha por una patria puertorriqueña libre. Don Heriberto fue uno de los que caracterizó a los patriotas que protagonizaron la Revolución del 30 de octubre de 1950 en Jayuya. Acto que lo llevó a cumplir nueve años de cárcel en la infame prisión de La Princesa, en el Viejo San Juan.

Estrechando los lazos que nos unen por años a El Festival, el Director Ejecutivo del Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño Juan Antonio Corretjer, José E. López viajó acompañado de un grupo de personas para asistir a dicho homenaje. Terminado el homenaje se le entregó un donativo de parte del Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño al Periódico Claridad. Además de efectuar junto a su hermano, Oscar López Rivera un donativo familiar al Periódico.

El Festival de Apoyo a Claridad es considerado uno de los Festivales más grandes y esperados en todo Puerto Rico. El mismo es una gran fiesta de pueblo. Los asistentes siempre se preparan para disfrutar por cuatro días llenos de la mejor música en vivo, una participación de más de 200 artesanos, delicias gastronómicas, baile, teatro, actividades para los niños y mucho más en los predios del Estadio Hiram Bithorn. Ahora a prepararnos para celebrar el próximo año la edición número 50 de El Festival de Apoyo a Claridad.





46TH PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE'S DAY PARADE

SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH 2:00PM

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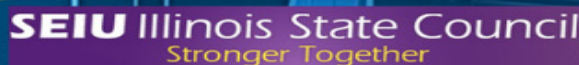
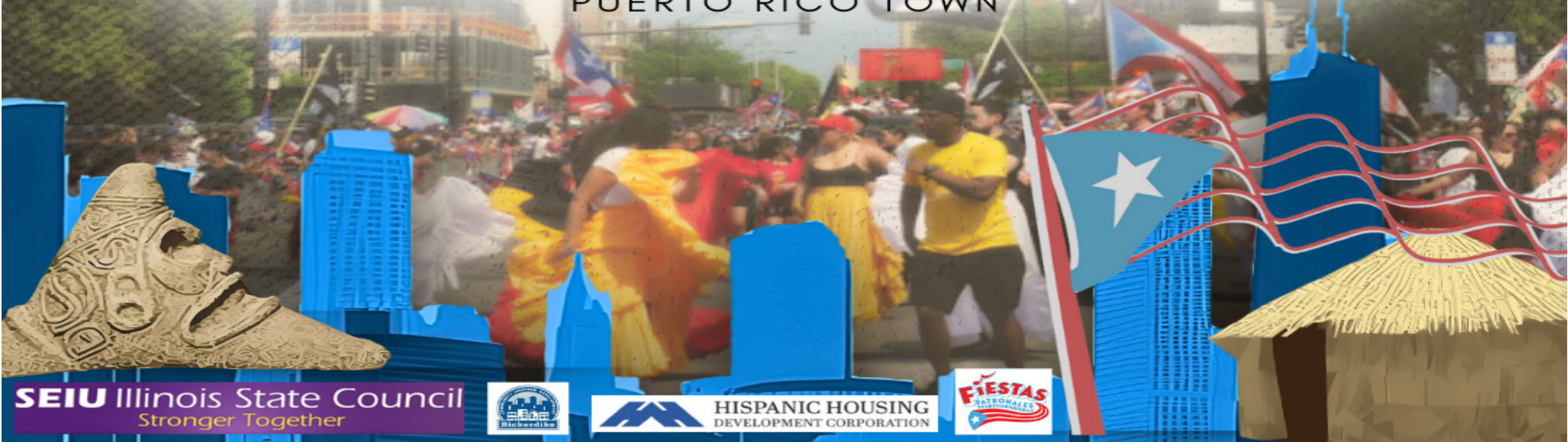


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