

31ST ANNUAL FIESTA BORICUA

DE BANDERA A BANDERA

SAT. AUG. 31ST | SUN. SEPT. 1ST



THE PRCC HONORS THE LEGACY, CULTURE AND HERITAGE OF AFRO-BORICUAS



P.6

PUERTO RICAN ELECTED OFFICIALS DEMAND SELF DETERMINATION DURING DNC



P.8

CELEBRATING:

- OUR AFRO-BORICUA CREATIVITY
- 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROBERTO CLEMENTE HIGH SCHOOL
- 15 YEARS OF CICLO URBANO

LA VOZ Est. 2004
DEL PASEO BORICUA

P.14

PHOTO BY SAMUEL REYES



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.



@PRCC.Chicago



lavoz@prcc-chgo.org



@prccchgoOrgYT



@jacprcc



773-394-4935



@prcc-chgo

MEET OUR PRODUCTION TEAM



Roberto Sanabria
COPY EDITOR
robertos@prcc-chgo.org

Xiomara Rodríguez
EDITOR IN CHIEF
xiomara.rodriguez
@prcc-chgo.org



Joel Ortiz
Journalist/Reporter
Joelo@prcc-chgo.org



Luis Alejandro Molina
SENIOR ADVISOR
alejandrom@prcc-chgo.org

Barrio Borikén Celebra 50 Años de la Escuela Secundaria Roberto Clemente



Photo of Roberto Clemente Community Academy

Por Joel Ortiz

Roberto Clemente Community Academy se fundó en 1974 después de un movimiento de tres años en favor de la comunidad. Bautizada con el nombre del jugador de béisbol titular, la High School fue el primer edificio de Chicago bautizado con el nombre de un puertorriqueño, lo que consolidó su estatus de escuela dedicada a la población predominantemente puertorriqueña de Humboldt Park. Este año se cumple el 50 aniversario del nombramiento de la High School. Al recordar el esfuerzo organizativo para cambiar el antiguo nombre de 'Tuley High School' por el de Roberto Clemente, José López, el director ejecutivo del Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño, explica por qué era importante para la comunidad.

"La apertura de esa escuela fue un hito importante en la lucha del pueblo puertorriqueño por mejorar la calidad de la educación en esta comunidad", afirma Lopez. El hito del aniversario llega al mismo tiempo que la decisión del Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño de llevar la creatividad y el legado de los afroboricuas al primer plano de la Fiesta Boricua de este año. El impacto histórico de Roberto Clemente en el béisbol lo consolidó como uno de los mejores jugadores de todos los tiempos. Al mismo tiempo, su legado de ser un puertorriqueño negro fue -y sigue siendo hasta el día de hoy- un ejemplo del talento, la determinación y la dedicación de los afroboricuas.

"Obviamente, nuestro objetivo es asegurarnos de que la presencia y la persistencia africanas en Puerto Rico se sitúen en primer plano en términos de quiénes somos como pueblo", afirma López.

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

CAAC Neighborhood Highlight: Roberto Clemente Community Academy: A school as a community center, the community as a campus

Story by Crystal Paul

In the 2022-23 school year, 44.51% of elementary school students and 76.18% of high school students opted out of attending their zoned neighborhood schools. As the city shifts its focus to neighborhood schools, Chalkbeat spoke with community members and alumni at four Chicago high schools about how reputation affects their schools and communities, and how they're trying to change the narrative.



A large white and green sign outside with trees in the background. 'Roberto Clemente Community Academy in Chicago, Illinois.' (Crystal Paul for Chalkbeat).

Roberto Clemente Community Academy: A school as a community center, the community as a campus
Humboldt Park, West Side, Founded 1974

Growing up in Humboldt Park, Hector Perez had heard stories about his neighborhood school, Roberto Clemente Community Academy. According to the rumors, it was violent and dangerous. So when he graduated from eighth grade in 2009, he dreaded going to Clemente for high school. When classes started, he was surprised to find “zero examples” of the stories he had heard.

“Everything seemed pretty normal,” he said. “I didn’t feel like I was in harm’s way.”

In fact, Perez credits Clemente’s culinary arts program with getting him on track academically and eventually launching his career. It’s why 11 years later, he’s back at Clemente as a culinary instructor and a member of the East Humboldt Park Community Action Council, or CAC, a group of staff and community members who support the neigh-

borhood schools. But he’s noticed that despite significant changes at the school, its reputation in the community is mostly the same.

Much of the damage to Clemente’s reputation occurred in the 1990s, when a Sun-Times article accused the school, which enrolled mostly Puerto Rican students, of supporting Puerto Rican radicals. Investigations found no evidence to support the accusations, but programs created by community members at the school and the enrichment and support they brought vanished, said Marvin Garcia, the CAC chair and an educator who grew up in the community. Two men pose for a portrait inside.

José López, left, and Marvin Garcia work together with the East Humboldt Park Community Action Council to make Roberto Clemente an anchor for the community and the community a sort of extended campus for Clemente students.



José López (left) and Marvin Garcia (right). The two pose for a portrait on Sat., April 6, 2024 in Chicago, Illinois. (Crystal Paul for Chalkbeat)

Clemente was on academic probation for 19 consecutive years until 2011, when José López, executive director of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center, began pushing for a return of community groups and programs to Clemente. The idea, he said, was to turn the school into “a community center school.”

Lopez’s “community as a campus” idea eventually became the East Humboldt Park CAC, which is facilitated by CPS. Through these efforts, in the last decade Clemente has gotten a new athletic field and a library renovation. The dual-language, STEM, music, and career and

(Continued pg 4)

CAAC Neighborhood Highlight: Roberto Clemente Community Academy: A school as a community center, the community as a campus (continued)

technical education offerings have grown, and school leaders have strengthened dual enrollment programs with local universities. Partnerships with community organizations have created robust after-school programs with the goal of increasing attendance and retention.

In 2015, Clemente began offering the International Baccalaureate program, and within the year, the graduation rate rose dramatically from 56% to 68%. Today, the graduation rate is up to 76%, and the school is designated as “commendable” by the state, which is the second highest of five categories.



Marvin Garcia (left), Hector Perez (seated right) and principal Devon Morales (center) are all members of the East Humboldt Park Community Action Council. All pose for a portrait on Wed., April 3, 2024 in Chicago, Illinois.

Principal Devon Morales says he sees a shift in school spirit among current students too. In 2022, he implemented the Wildcat Program, which allows students with 95% attendance, a 3.0 minimum GPA, and zero misconduct to keep their cellphones during the school day. They also get a certificate of achievement and a card that gives them free access to school games and dances.

“You wouldn’t believe how thirsty these kids are for those cards,” said Perez. “You’re definitely seeing a change even in students’ school spirit, and just (the pride) of wanting to wear the gold and blue that represents Clemente.”

Student attendance was up from 67.9% in 2022 to 74.6% in 2023. Still, Garcia says, a bad reputation is not so easily overcome.

“A lot of the parents today were the students at Clemente when things were tough there,” he said. “So people only see the negative. They’re not seeing the inner workings and how the school has changed.”

(Continued from Pg. 3)

Part of the problem, Garcia said, is that parents and elementary schools tend to send higher achieving students to selective-enrollment schools instead of their neighborhood schools, creating a sort of “brain drain” from the community. To combat this exodus, CAC members organize “shadow days,” inviting students from local feeder elementary schools to check out Clemente and its offerings. In the 2023-24 school year, Clemente’s enrollment was up to 753 students, from 594 the previous school year.

“We want to make Clemente a school of choice for our community,” Garcia said.

La Bodega del Barrio Offers HIV Testing, Food Bank and More



La Bodega del Barrio food bank is also offering free HIV rapid testing counseling and referrals.

Tester and counselor Edgar Rossi, is hosting focus group interventions; helping individuals living with or without HIV get access to prevention and management services. These groups are designed to assist in the prevention of HIV to men who have sex with men, gay, bisexual, transgender and heterosexual men of high risk behavior, and to assist PLWH manage their status. Counselor Edgar is conducting outreach and testing in several locations; at the new office location 3411 W. North Ave., at the Mexican Consulate, at Clubs and bars in the Chicago area, and very soon surrounding Chicago suburbs. These services are completely free and accessible for the community. “You must be the change you wish to see in the world” please call for a full

schedule of the testing dates and locations. 773-342-0855. By Edgar Rossi

New Hispanic Housing Development Broke Ground in Humboldt Park

Alderson Jessie Fuentes On Timeline and Hopes for the Neighborhood

Story by Joel Ortiz

On the corner of California and Crystal Streets sits a silver fence and an empty lot. Perched on the fence is a logo advertising 'Path Construction'-- the very company that will be helping the development for a new affordable housing building.

On August 2 of this year, 26th Ward Alderson Jessie Fuentes along with Sen Omar Aquino, Chief of staff for the Mayor, Cristina Pacione-Zayas and Paul Roldan, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Hispanic Housing Development Corporation celebrated the groundbreaking for the building. The reported \$44 million building will bring 40 affordable housing units to the Humboldt Park neighborhood.

Previously the land occupied La Casa Puertorriqueña which was notable for being a gathering space for the community; however, after their bankruptcy, the lot was acquired by the Hispanic Housing Development Corporation. A move that Alderson Fuentes describes as being necessary in order to combat the ongoing process of gentrification in the neighborhood.

Gentrification is a process that drives property taxes and rents upward, and in the end displaces the long-term residents of a community. Because these cost of living increases are unaffordable for many, displacement and even homelessness are inevitable. Gradually, the community loses its continuity and its historic character.

"It permeates everywhere, all around Humboldt Park. We have seen the average monthly rent for two bedrooms in the last five years go anywhere from nine hundred to 11 hundred to two thousand to 25 hundred... It's almost a doubling of the average rent in our community. Also for homeowners... (they) see a 30-50 percent tax increase for their residents." she says.

For Alderson Fuentes it was important to partner with someone who would specifically bring affordable housing to Humboldt Park to reduce the impact of displacement.

When asked about funding, although the exact amounts were not provided, Fuentes assured that the Chicago Housing Authority has subsidized some of the units. Additionally, she was able to pass an \$8 million fund in the City Council that was to be allocated for the development of the new building.

As for the building itself, it will include 40 affordable units consisting of five three-bedroom family units, twenty-five two-bedroom units and ten one-bedroom units.



Photo rendering of the new development provided by Alderson Fuentes

As mentioned prior, some units will be subsidized by CHA to house zero to 30 percent average median income apartments designed to accommodate those who have little or no income.

Then there will be several apartments offered with an expected monthly rate of 40 to 50 percent average median income. Alderson Fuentes stated that the range for a CHA apartment can vary from two hundred to three hundred dollars and a three-bedroom apartment could range between 11 to 13 hundred dollars a month. This is just one step of a "multi-pronged" process, as Alderson Fuentes explains, to combat the displacement caused by gentrification.

"If we are going to address homelessness in the city of Chicago... we need to continue to build then we need to continue to build affordable housing that is diverse in nature." she says.

Alderson Fuentes talks about the roles that affordable rental units have alongside public housing at zero-percent of the Average Median Income; as well as non-congregate shelter, which is the use of temporary housing for families; along with affordable home ownership in assuring that everyone can continue to live in the community. A community that is loved dearly by its residents.

One Fuentes says is, "A culturally vibrant and diverse community that truly allows for everyone to be housed despite the color of their skin, the zipcode they reside in or the income that they have."

Tiznando El País Premieres Afro-Centric Art Installations in Chicago

Featuring Barrio Borikén's Prominent Artists Brenda Torres Figueroa and Cristian Roldán

Story by Joel Ortiz

Brenda Torres Figueroa and Christian Roldán are both premiering two works of arts in partnership with Tiznando el País, an organization dedicated to working against anti-blackness in Puerto Rico through art and education.

Torres Figueroa will be debuting her piece “Quimeras” which will be painted self portraits on mirrors all within a frame that is decorated in the style of a map. The design is meant to invoke the experience of looking into a mirror at yourself.

This is her first time painting on mirrors relying on traditional techniques. Ornate frames being made that are baroque; However these will be made with maps and distinct patterns all over. The idea is to give direction to the person who looks into the mirror. Torres Figueroa adds that she likes to include codes in her work. Including recognizable imagery, but including elements from Africa. The aim is to take elements of “traditional” European style frames and embody them with pieces that are uniquely African.

Originally from Santurce, PR. Torres Figueroa has used art to explore healing and being combative to oppressive systems. Her work is uniquely personal in how it blends her experiences and allows her a platform to be overtly political and intimately reflective at the same time.

When asked about her work with Tiznando el País and the PRCC, she says, “It helped validate that need of being an independent critical thinker and being able to develop my own ideas as an artist.”

Christian Roldán will be leading a restoration of the corner murals that he initially painted a few years ago. The aim of his work is to preserve the artistic integrity of Division street. For Roldán, his art is centered around taking and claiming space.

Both Roldán and Torres Figueroa believe that the history of colonization in Puerto Rico is integral to reclaiming and occupying space that is so often taken from the Puerto Rican people. Torres Figueroa speaks of the memories she has of seeing the military bases in Puerto Rico. For Roldán, he wants to take space and mark it as being purposefully by and for the people who live in this neighborhood. Moving to the United States from Puerto Rico, Roldán came across a massive culture shock that was difficult for him to get used to.

Whether it was during his studies or at his home in Chicago, he experienced firsthand the hardship that comes with such a move.

For him, Paseo Boricua shines as a beacon of familiarity. Although not exactly like Puerto Rico, he sees the space as being one that is so familiar for him. One that is worth protecting and celebrating.

Both pieces will have a public exhibition during this year's Fiesta Boricua on August 31 and September 1. This year is dedicated to the art, legacy and impact of Afro-Boricuas.



Brenda Torres Figueroa (Left) and Cristian Roldán (Right) in front of Torres Figueroa's art gallery and museum, 'El Schomburg'. Photos by Joel Ortiz

FIESTA BORICUA

SAT. AUG. 31-SUN. SEPT. 1 ON PASEO BORICUA

Honoring Afro-Boricua Creativity

SPECIAL EDITION INSERT



Puerto Rican Elected Officials Demand Self-Determination for Puerto Rico at DNC

Story by Joel Ortiz

In the morning of August 20 upwards of 60 people convened at the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture (NMPRAC) on Division St. and Humboldt Blvd. for a breakfast to before the second day of the Democratic National Convention. People came from more than 10 states and Puerto Rico.

In the museum's courtyard gathered notable Puerto Rican figures in politics, art, and organizing across the Diaspora. The Puerto Rican Cultural Center Executive Director and co-founder José E. López introduced the event by sharing some words about the legacy of former congressman and community organizer, Luis Guitiérrez's organizing in the neighborhood and the legacy of The PRCC to create the historic Barrio Borikén.

Shortly after the breakfast event kicked off, attendees enjoyed sweet and savory Puerto Rican delicacies from Chucheria's, Nellie's, and Reina's cakes, which were the local vendors featured at the museum. López then introduced Billy and Verónica Ocasio who are the President and Director of Education of NMPRAC respectively.

Verónica kicked off the meeting by discussing the needs of the community and why the museum exists in the first place. She said, "It's about the collec-

tive. I would like to thank our staff here who are around here in this building.

The volunteers. This is not our museum, this is your museum, so we welcome you to your museum and please enjoy and visit all of our exhibits."

López followed them by focusing on the self-determination of Puerto Rico and the lack of recognition of it by the Democratic Party. He said, "We are here because we want to say that someone can want Puerto Rico to be a state, someone can want Puerto Rico to be an independent nation, someone can want Puerto Rico to be a free associated state, but no one has the right to impose on us what choice we should make."

As López finished, the elected officials gathered in the front of the courtyard for a press conference hosted by #Power4PuertoRico's Director, Erica González. She moderated the conference introducing each guest and their integral role in fighting for the self-determination of Puerto Rico.

Photos provided by Jacob Diaz.



José López, Executive Director of the PRCC and Rep. Cori Bush of Missouri



From left to right, Sen. Omar Aquino, Alderperson Jessie Fuentes and Movimiento Victoria Ciudadana (MVC) Resident Commissioner Candidate Ana Irma Rivera Lassén

Muevete

Movement for Life!

Fall schedule 2024



Indoor Activities to Start
Monday
September 30th, 2024
at 6:30pm

Utilizing our build in environment to stay active!



-Wall Push-Ups

-Bunker-Hill Climbing

-Bench Press

-Planks

-Speed-Walking

-Jogging

-Squats and more



**DANCE-AEROBICS & STRENGTH TRAINING
AT THE HUMBOLDT PARK FIELD HOUSE**
1440 N. Humboldt Dr.
Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 6:30pm



AT TC EMPOWERMENT CENTER
2753 W. Division St.
Tuesday & Thursday, 5:00pm
Instructor; Carmen

**DANCE-
AEROBICS
&
ZUMBA**



Muevete@prcc-chgo.org
Facebook.com/Muevete
773-342-0855



AT KOSCIUSZKO PARK FIELD HOUSE
2732 N. Avers Ave.
Tuesday & Thursday, 6:00pm
Instructors; Cristina, Vicky Angeles & Liliana

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FOR EVERYONE 18 YRS & OLDER!

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES IS HIRING!

Explore a new career with **heart** and **soul**

-  Mission-driven **culture**
-  Competitive **salaries**
-  Excellent **benefits**
-  Paid **vacation** and **sick time**
-  **Career advancement** opportunities



Bilingual candidates (Spanish/English) may be eligible for **additional compensation**.

View available positions at DCFSjobs.illinois.gov
or e-mail DCFS.Employment@illinois.gov

Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services

FIESTA BORICUA

"DE BANDERA A BANDERA"

CELEBRATING AFRO-BORICUA
CREATIVITY & THE 50 ANNIVERSARY
OF ROBERTO CLEMENTE HIGH SCHOOL

08/31/2024 &

09/01/2024

12PM-8PM

PASEO BORICUA,
CHICAGO



Asistencia financiera pensando en ti

ComEd está comprometido a hacer que sea más fácil para las familias tomar el control de sus facturas de energía. Por eso creamos el Asistente Inteligente para ayudarte a encontrar las opciones de asistencia y pago más adecuadas para ti. Es posible que te sientas aliviado al descubrir para qué eres elegible.

Programas de Asistencia Financiera:

- Ponte al día y ahorra
- Facturación presupuestada
- Acuerdos de pago diferidos y más

Más información

[Es.ComEd.com/SAM](https://www.comed.com/SAM)

© Commonwealth Edison Company, 2024. Todos los Derechos Reservados.

**All
of Us**
PROGRAMA CIENTÍFICO

 UI Health | 

Sea uno en un millón.

Mientras más sepan los investigadores científicos sobre lo que nos hace únicos, más personalizada será la atención médica.

Sea parte de una iniciativa de investigación junto a un millón de personas en todo el país y así crearemos un futuro más saludable para todos nosotros.

Contáctenos:

(312) 996-2778 | joinallofus@uic.edu

joinallofus.org/UIC



31st FLEST

Beacons

Afro-B

Leg

Barrio Borikén's Weaver of Afro-Boricua Arts



Brenda Torres Figueroa
INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTIST
AND GALLERY CURATOR

Born in Fajardo PR, 1976 Figueroa is a museum curator, teacher and interdisciplinary artist. Her art is expansive covering diverse themes of collective memory, identity and history. She is the curator and owner of El Schomburg art gallery highlighting Afro-Boricua art and she is also a member of Tiznando El País. Figueroa is always pushing herself to dive deeper in her art and is being honored as one of this year's awardees for her excellence in both her art and the impact she has made celebrating Afro-Latinidad on Paseo Boricua.

Trailblazer of African Diasporic Public Intellectualism



Dr. William Santiago
PROFESSOR AND
INTELLECTUAL

Santiago is an associate professor in Africana Studies at Western Michigan University Kalamazoo and Director of the Race & Ethnic Relations Institute. Santiago brings consciousness to his students regarding systems of social stratification, globalization and the cultures of the African Diaspora. Santiago has researched and traveled to South America, the Caribbean and West Africa. For his extensive work in researching and teaching about African and Global studies as a teacher, researcher and foreign correspondent, he is being honored as an awardee by the PRCC.

Imprinter of Our Afro-Boricua Presence



Christian Roldán
MURALIST AND VISUAL
ARTIST

Originally from Juncos PR, Roldán is a 34-year-old artist in the Chicagoland area. As the founder of Diaspora Designs LLC, Roldán is a visual artist and muralist whose work can be seen painted on the intersections of various streets on Paseo Boricua. Roldán's art is focused on reclaiming space and making art that represents and uplifts the community celebrating our roots and shared progress. For his work, Roldán is being honored as one of this year's awardees.

Keeper of Afro-Boricua



**Dr. Maria Elba
Torres Muñoz**
FOUNDER OF TIZNANDO EL PAÍS

Director of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program at the University of Puerto Rico, Dr. Torres Muñoz is a scholar of African History from the Center for Caribbean Studies, a Master's degree holder in African Studies from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, and is currently curating Tiznando el País, a series of exhibitions on the history of Afro-descent. Dr. Torres Muñoz has organized over three major exhibitions on Afro-Boricua resistance. For her astute leadership in the field of Afro-Boricua art she is being honored as an awardee by the PRCC.

LA VOZ DEL PASEO BORICUA

Icons of Our Boricua Legacy

Boricua History and Art

Disciplinary and Multicultural Institute (INIM) at the University of Puerto Rico. Dr. Torres Muñoz holds a PhD in History from the University of Puerto Rico and the University of Mexico. Her work developing and curating art from Puerto Ricans elevates and highlights art from Puerto Ricans. Dr. Torres Muñoz through Tiznando el País has curated art exploring themes of re-existence, freedom and community. Her contributions in preserving and centering Puerto Rican art is being honored as an awardee.

Icon of Chicago's Afro Boricua Trans Community



Lisa Isadora Cruz
LGBT HALL OF FAME
RECIPIENT

Born in Santurce PR, 1958 to a Cuban father and Puerto Rican mother. Cruz began her hormonal transition at the age of 14 and shortly after leaving Puerto Rico for New York after experiencing transphobia. Cruz, in 1985, was diagnosed with HIV and began to help others during the AIDs epidemic, committing herself to helping young Queer people receive life-saving treatment. In the 90s she began working with the PRCC to help support Trans Latina Youth in the community and has been working diligently and flawlessly to expand life-saving treatment for Trans and Queer youth in marginalized communities. Cruz has made a name for herself in the Chicago LGBTQ+ Hall of Fame. For her work in the PRCC and Trans Chicago, she is being honored as an awardee this year by the PRCC.

The Muse of Afro-Boricua Poetry



Nora Cruz
POET AND SINGER

Born in Guayama PR, 1947 Cruz is a renowned poet and author focusing on prose, poetry and playwriting. Her work has been published in the Editorial Collective of the League of Poets of the South. Cruz earned a Bachelor's degree in Education, a Master in Cultural Research and Management from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras and an honorary Doctorate from World Academy of Ibero-American Education. Her work is uniquely Afro-centric in its presentation and celebration. Cruz also educates children and adults in Bailes Folkloricos de Puerto Rico, Reciting Poetry and Theatre. For her work expanding the Afro-Boricua literary canon she is being honored by the PRCC as an Awardee.

31st FERIA BORICUA

Artists

El Grupo Esencia



Founded in Ponce, Puerto Rico, El Grupo Esencia is directed by Ángel “Papote” Alvarado. Together they play Salsa, plena and Bomba.

Junte Cultural: El Legado



Nora Cruz and her group Junte Cultural celebrate Afro-Descendancy with a fusion of traditional music and poetry.

Jimmy “Conga” Rodríguez Y Su Orquesta Tamboriquiri



Born and raised in Humboldt Park and Caguas, PR. Rodríguez focuses on Salsa and has been an active percussionist since 1979.

Colectivo Sayba



A collective Ensemble of Bomba players co-founded by Brenda Torres Figueroa. Colectivo Sayba centers Bomba as a form of resistance.

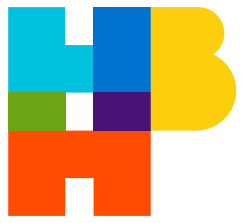


ALTERNATIVE
SCHOOLS NETWORK

*Congratulates the
Puerto Rican
Community on
Fiesta Boricua*

Celebrating over 46 years of creating
brighter futures for Chicago's youth!

For more information visit
asnchicago.org



Howard Brown
Health



comedSM

AN EXELON COMPANY



Family and Community
Engagement

The Office of Family and Community Engagement (**FACE**) works to ensure that you have an **active voice** in your child's educational experience through social **outreach**, whole-family educational opportunities, and community and faith-based **partnership**. Scan the **QR code** to learn more about FACE!



Stay Connected With Us!

- Email us at FACE@cps.edu
- Visit our newly launched website at cps.edu/FACE
- Follow us on social media [@CPS_FACE](https://twitter.com/CPS_FACE)



Watch the series:

THE 77: A CITY OF NEIGHBORHOODS



CHICAGO **THE 77**
CHOOSE CHICAGO A CITY OF NEIGHBORHOODS



Home to a thriving Puerto Rican community, Humboldt Park showcases the history, culture, and cuisines of Puerto Rico. Choose Chicago is proud to support the Puerto Rican Cultural Center and the many organizations that help make our neighborhoods a draw for visitors from near and far.

NOTORIOUS FITNESS

- GROUP FITNESS
- KIDS CLASSES
- SUMMER CAMP
- HIIT CLASSES
- YOGA
- SAUNA
- COLD PLUNGE
- BREATHWORK

6610 W DAKIN

LEARN MORE



enroll now at yccs.us
get connected
 to a high school community near you

Sometimes we have to try out several spaces to find the perfect fit. Let us help your youth transition into a placement just right for them.

HS Diploma
Flexible Scheduling
College & Career Opportunities

Student Support Services
Blended Learning Support



YOUTH CONNECTION CHARTER SCHOOL

Chicago Public Schools

ENROLL NOW

For More Info Contact
 Bill Moore
bmoore@yccs.org



NOW ENROLLING AGES 16 - 21

312-328-0799

www.yccs.us



YOUTH CONNECTION CHARTER SCHOOL
conéctate

La escuela secundaria Youth Connection Charter puede ser la solución perfecta para tu transición educativa a Chicago y en los Estados Unidos. Nosotros podemos ayudarte a conseguir tu diploma de secundaria e inscribirte a entrenamientos de trabajo o asistencia para las universidades en una de nuestras 17 escuelas secundarias.

Diploma de Escuela Secundaria
Oportunidades de Empleo o Asistencia a la Universidad
Horarios Flexibles

Servicios de Apoyo Para Estudiantes

Servicios de Apoyo del Idioma Inglés



YCCS-Latina Youth HS Alumna

Para estudiantes entre edades 16-21 años de edad

YOUTH CONNECTION CHARTER SCHOOL

Chicago Public Schools

INSCRIBASE AHORA

Para Más Información,
 Contacte a
 Michelle Alvarez
malvarez@yccs.org
 Bill Moore
bmoore@yccs.org



Solo Para Estudiantes de 16 a 21 Años de Edad

312-328-0799

www.yccs.us



Humboldt Park Community Health Center

2641 W Division St, Chicago, IL

Make an appointment to be seen for any of the following services/

Haga una cita ahora para cualquiera de los siguientes servicios:

Primary Care/Atención Primaria
 Pediatrics/ Pediatría

Teen Clinic/ Clínica para adolescentes

Women's & Men's Health/ Salud de la mujer y el hombre

Behavioral Health/ Salud mental

Telemedicine/ Telemedicina

To schedule an appointment call/
 Para programar una cita llame (877) 692-8686

Centro Infantil Consuelo Lee Corretjer Daycare Center



Serving ages 6 weeks to 5 years old

Head Start/ Early Head Start-CCP

CCAP- Action for Children

Private Slots Available

Centro Infantil is a high-quality dual language (Spanish/English) Daycare center designed to provide a strong foundation for children's learning and development while placing a special emphasis on Puerto Rican, Mexican and Latin American Culture.

Now Enrolling!

(773) 342-8866



Request a tour using
this QR link :



THE *Juanita Ortiz Library*
PUERTO RICAN
CULTURAL CENTER

FIESTA BORICUA

Brought to you by our amazing sponsors:



JESSIE FUENTES
26TH WARD ALDERPERSON



Educa y Entretiene

CHUWI

"DE BANDERA A BANDERA"
08/31/2024-09/01/2024
HUMBOLDT PARK, CHICAGO
LAVOZDELPASEOBORICUA.ORG



Young Woman Turns Challenges Into Possibility With Reimagine Program

Story By Joel Ortiz

When asked about the moment she walked into S.C.A.N. for the first time, she says, “When I told them my situation, it’s like they didn’t look at me differently than they would look at someone else... They didn’t look at me no different because of my situation.”

Zaira Torres, program coordinator for Reimagine, describes, “an environment of acceptance and understanding.” An environment that is important to help people break away from survivor mode for a little bit.

At S.C.A.N. Ingram was able to build a foundation for her basic needs. She got an apartment through a ‘Rent to Own’ program and began working a job with the program before transitioning to retail work where she was promoted to her current job of front end manager at a retail store.

“They helped me get on my feet and do better for my son. S.C.A.N. really helped me find housing, a job, they helped get my son daycare and helped him with places where his life can get better.” Ingram says.

Torres explains that Diavonnie’s case was transferred from S.C.A.N. to Reimagine. The reason for the switch was due to S.C.A.N.’s shift to working for reentry for those who were formerly incarcerated.

The Humboldt Park based Reimagine program, in partnership with the PRCC, is an extension of the violence prevention initiative. They work primarily with those who are impacted by gun violence offering monetary victim support, rental assistance and job support. At Reimagine, Diavonnie collaborated with a caseworker to get a three step goal plan completed. Torres describes this process as a demographic intake, a need based assessment followed by three steps that can be taken to help someone meet their goals. When transitioning to Reimagine Torres heard about her case and was impressed about how Ingram was able to build herself from the ground up. While her time at S.C.A.N. helped Diavonnie get back on her feet, she knew that more was coming in the

horizon for her—both out of ambition and necessity. Her child, Prince, was born several weeks prematurely which resulted in him being born immunocompromised which made his needs specifically challenging for Diavonnie. She later then found out that Prince was born on the Autism spectrum and would require even more support and medical attention.

Knowing this and working with the foundation she already had set up for herself, Ingram decided to enroll in Dominican University to continue her studies in Criminal Justice with ambitions of one day being a police officer.

“I like to help people. Just how people have helped me, I want to give that back in return... That’s what you call a career. Like I’m grateful for the job I have now, but I feel like moving up and forward becoming a police officer could be a lifelong career. Something I can stick with for the rest of my life until I can retire.” she says.

Ingram’s uncle is a retired police officer and she wanted to be one ever since she was a kid. She hopes that this career will set her up with the opportunities she needs to buy a home and provide for her son even in the future after retirement. For Diavonnie, this is a matter of legacy. Of choosing the life she wants to live.

She says, “The pay will unlock more for me, getting a better house, putting my son in a way better daycare, moving to a really good neighborhood. I feel like it can open up a lot more for me and my life and it would give my son something to fall back on when he gets older.” While Diavonnie finishes the interview, Prince can be heard playing with the staff in front of the Reimagine office.

When asked about the way she feels about coming to Reimagine she says, “It feels really good... Like it makes you just feel like it’s another place that you can call home and it makes you feel like they’re family to you.” When Torres was asked about Diavonnie’s success, she replied, “We’re very proud of her... She can always come back here, she knows that this is her spot.” When Diavonnie started, she was shy and timid. She admits that she struggled with telling people about her situation. Through trust and time, she allowed herself to seek and accept the help she needed.

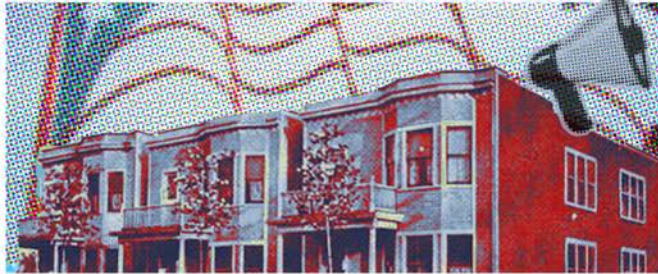
As the interview comes to a close, Diavonnie adds, “I’m nowhere near the situation that I was when I first started. Like I’m far from that now. Looking back at the situation, I don’t regret that situation, because it got me where I am today.”



Photo of Diavonnie Ingram shortly after the LaVoz Interview. Photo taken by Jacob Diaz

Alderperson Jessie Fuentes on Combating Displacement | Op Ed

JESSIE FUENTES
26TH WARD ALDERPERSON



HOW WE CAN PREVENT DISPLACEMENT: THE NORTHWEST SIDE PRESERVATION ORDINANCE EXPLAINED

By Jessie Fuentes, 26th Ward Alderperson

As we walk through the streets of Humboldt Park, familiar sounds of salsa music, the smell of freshly brewed café con leche, and the sight of our beautiful flag proudly waving in the wind remind us of our deep roots in this community. For generations, Humboldt Park has been our home, a place where families like yours and mine have built our homes, raised children, and woven our cultural traditions into the fabric of this neighborhood. But today, when we walk down the street we also notice things like demolitions, deconversions, and other signs that our community is facing an existential threat—gentrification and displacement. When I was elected to be your Alderperson I committed to protecting naturally occurring affordable housing and fighting for working families who are currently being priced out.

The skyrocketing property taxes, rising rents, and conversion of our historic two- and three-flats into luxury single-family homes are leaving many families with no option other than to move out of the very community they've built. As your Alderperson, I hear your concerns, and I share your fears. This is why I am sponsoring the Northwest Side Preservation Ordinance, a bold new policy initiative (that builds on the success of the 606-Pilsen Demolition Permit Surcharge Ordinance) which is designed to protect and preserve housing affordability in Humboldt Park, West Town, Logan Square, Hermosa, and Avondale.

The Northwest Side Preservation Ordinance is rooted in one simple principle: our neighborhoods belong to the people who live here, not to developers looking to make a quick profit at our expense. This ordinance aims to protect the very essence of Humboldt Park, West Town, Logan Square, Hermosa, and Avondale by focusing on four key areas:

1 Protecting Historic Homes from Demolition

Under this ordinance, developers who want to demolish our cherished two-flats, three-flats, and four-flats will be required to pay a significant surcharge—\$20,000 per unit or \$60,000 per building, whichever is higher. This is not just a fee; it's a safeguard. The funds raised will go directly to the Chicago Housing Trust and the Here to Stay Community Land Trust, organizations dedicated to creating new affordable homeownership opportunities right here in our neighborhoods.

2 Preventing the Conversion of Multi-Family Homes into Luxury Single-Family Houses

Our community thrives on the diversity and density of our housing stock. When multi-family homes are converted into luxury single-family houses, it not only displaces residents, it drives up property taxes for everyone. This ordinance will disallow such conversions on blocks where most buildings are multi-family, helping to rein in rising property taxes and keeping our naturally occurring affordable housing stock in place.

3 Empowering Tenants with the Right of First Refusal

For too long, tenants have been at the mercy of landlords selling their buildings to the highest bidder, often leading to eviction and displacement. This ordinance will change that by giving tenants the right of first refusal when their building goes on sale. Tenants will have 30 days (for buildings with four units or less) or 60 days (for buildings with five units or more) to match any offer made by a third party. This empowers our residents to stay in their homes and maintain the stability of our community.

4 Legalizing the Construction of New Two-Flats "By Right"

The ordinance also looks to the future by allowing the construction of new two-flats by-right in areas currently only zoned for single-family homes. This will increase the availability of naturally occurring affordable middle housing in our community, ensuring that future generations can find a home in Humboldt Park, Logan Square, Hermosa, and Avondale.

Why This Matters Now

This isn't just about preserving buildings — it's about preserving the heart and soul of our neighborhoods. It's about ensuring that our children and grandchildren can grow up in the same vibrant, diverse, and affordable community that we call home.

I urge you to support this ordinance and to make your voice heard by emailing your local alderperson and letting them know that you stand with us in preserving the Northwest Side for generations to come.

Together, we can ensure communities like Humboldt Park remain a place where our culture thrives, where families can live without fear of displacement, and where our community can grow. While there's more work to do, the Northwest Side Preservation Ordinance is a critical step in that direction.

Let's preserve what we've built.

SAY YES TO THE NORTHWEST SIDE PRESERVATION ORDINANCE!

-  **SAY YES TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING**
-  **SAY YES TO RACIAL JUSTICE**
-  **STOP DEMOLITIONS NOW**

SCAN HERE TO SEND A LETTER TO YOUR ALDERPERSON:




SCAN HERE FOR MORE DETAILS:



ESCANEAR AQUÍ PARA LEER EN ESPAÑOL:



 (773)-395-0143

 INFO@THE26THWARD.ORG

 WWW.THE26THWARD.ORG

Decenas de personas se congregaron en el barrio boricua de Chicago, en una reunión paralela a la convención presidencial del Partido Demócrata

Por José A Delgado El Nuevo Día
Chicago, Illinois - En una convocatoria paralela a la Convención Nacional Demócrata (DNC), dos



La congresista demócrata Delia Ramírez (Chicago) abogó por un proceso de descolonización. (Ramon "Tonito" Zayas)

congresistas y funcionarios electos boricuas elevaron el martes el llamamiento al Congreso y al Partido Demócrata para que reabra la discusión sobre la búsqueda de un nuevo proceso de status que comience con una Asamblea de Status en Puerto Rico.

La reunión –en el Museo Nacional de Arte y Cultura Puertorriqueña– incluyó a decenas de líderes de la diáspora boricua de Illinois, Misuri, Nueva Jersey, Florida, Nueva York, Minnesota y Massachusetts, algunos de ellos delegados a la convención presidencial demócrata que el martes aprobó, en esta ciudad, un programa de gobierno que respalda un proyecto como el 2757 de la Cámara de Representantes de Estados Unidos, que persigue un plebiscito vinculante para el gobierno federal entre la estadidad, la independencia y la soberanía en libre asociación.

Entre los participantes, estuvo la senadora del Movimiento

Victoria Ciudadana (MVC), Ana Irma Rivera Lassén, candidata de la Alianza del MVC y el Partido Independentista Puertorriqueño (PIP) a comisionada residente en Washington, quien afirmó que busca ir al Congreso para “representar a todo Puerto Rico, las islas y la diáspora”.



El evento paralelo a la convención presidencial demócrata contó con la participación de la congresista demócrata Cori Bush (Misuri). (Ramon "Tonito" Zayas)

Por entender que un proyecto como el 2757 deja en el aire “demasiadas preguntas” sobre las alternativas de status –especialmente, el futuro del idioma español como lengua común del gobierno, de la representación deportiva internacional y el impacto de las contribuciones federales sobre la economía de la isla bajo la estadidad–, el grupo de funcionarios y activistas quiere revivir una medida como la 2070 presentada, en la pasada sesión del Congreso, por las puertorriqueñas de Nueva York Nydia Velázquez y Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, que propuso una Convención de Status previo a un referéndum entre alternativas no territoriales.

El evento paralelo a la convención presidencial demócrata contó con la participación de la congresista demócrata Cori Bush (Misuri). El evento paralelo a la convención presidencial demócrata contó con la participación de la congresista demócrata Cori Bush (Misuri). (Ramon “Tonito” Zayas)

“Esta comunidad reconoce el colonialismo cuando lo ve”, dijo la congresista demócrata Delia Ramírez (Illinois), quien representa el barrio boricua de Chicago, al indicar que, en un proceso de status dirigido a “desmantelar las estructuras coloniales”, deben participar solo los puertorriqueños, no los estadounidenses. Ramírez, natural de Guatemala, hizo claro su respaldo a la independencia de Puerto Rico. “Viva Puerto Rico libre”, señaló, al cerrar su mensaje.

Junto a Ramírez, estuvo su colega demócrata Cori Bush (Misuri), una de las integrantes del “escuadrón” liberal del Congreso, pero que acaba de perder su candidatura a la reelección en primarias, en medio de una votación que estuvo dominada por la presión financiera del grupo de cabildeo pro-Israel AIPAC, que invirtió cerca de \$9 millones para desbancarla debido a su firme rechazo a la guerra en Gaza.

En marzo, Bush exhortó al Congreso a cerrar “el hueco fiscal” que provoca la antigua Ley 22 de Puerto Rico, que otorga altos beneficios tributarios a personas que se mudan a la isla y que multimillonarios han aprovechado.



La reunión a líderes de Puerto Rico, Illinois, Misuri, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Florida, Nuevo Hampshire y Nueva York. Ramon “Tonito” Zayas / GFR Media (Ramon “Tonito” Zayas)

“Pocos en el Congreso hablan de la libre determinación de Puerto Rico”, señaló Bush, quien destacó el espacio que ha creado la diáspora boricua en Chicago y abogó por seguir presionando al Congreso, pues, aunque es un organismo que no se mueve con rapidez, “se mueve cuando la gente presiona”.

En la conferencia de prensa, estuvieron el excongresista demócrata boricua Luis Gutiérrez (Illinois); las representantes estatales María Isa Pérez (Minnesota) y Johanna López (Florida); el senador estatal Omar Aquino (Illinois); las concejalas municipales Jessie Fuentes (Chicago) y Daniela Velázquez (San Luis); la segunda vicepresidenta del Partido Demócrata de Carolina del Sur, Mayra Rivera Vázquez; la expresidenta del Concejo Municipal de Nueva York Melissa Mark Viverito; el expresidente del Comité Demócrata de Laconia, Nuevo Hampshire, Carlos Cardona; y la directora ejecutiva de la coalición Power4Puerto Rico, Erica González, al igual que líderes sindicales y comunitarios.

continúa en la página 24

Congresistas, funcionarios y líderes de la diáspora exhortan al liderato v a revisar su posición sobre el status Cont.

En medio de la convención, “hemos hecho nuestra propia convocatoria”, dijo Gutiérrez, al insistir en que un proyecto como el 2757 –similar al 8393 aprobado en diciembre de 2022 por el pleno de la Cámara de Representantes, pero que no avanzó en el Senado– no solo “no responde preguntas importantes”, sino que “no permite una negociación directa con Estados Unidos, los amos coloniales”.

La falta de precisión sobre las consecuencias de la estadidad convierte el 2757 en un proyecto a favor de que Puerto Rico se convierta en el estado 51 de Estados Unidos, según el director del Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño de Chicago, José López Rivera, principal organizador de la reunión.

La representante Pérez, quien es cantante de rap y bomba, afirmó que el mensaje principal de los representantes de la diáspora es que “la libre determinación de Puerto Rico pertenece a la gente”. “No podemos firmar un contrato en blanco”, señaló, por su parte, López.

Aunque el liderato demócrata del Congreso, y ahora el Partido Demócrata, han respaldado una medida como la 2757, la senadora Rivera Lassén piensa que debe haber espacio para cambiar la agenda de esa colectividad.

Rivera Lassén, quien asiste a la convención presidencial demócrata, dijo que aunque la congresista Velázquez ahora respalda el 2757, “su actitud es muy buena”.

La congresista Velázquez ha dicho que optó por un proyecto como el 2757 –dejando atrás la propuesta de ir primero a una Convención de Status– debido al tranque que existió en el caucus demócrata en torno a su legislación 2070 y el proyecto de la comisionada residente en Washington, Jenniffer González, republicana y candidata del Partido Nuevo Progresista (PNP) a gobernadora, que buscaba un referéndum “estadidad sí o no”.

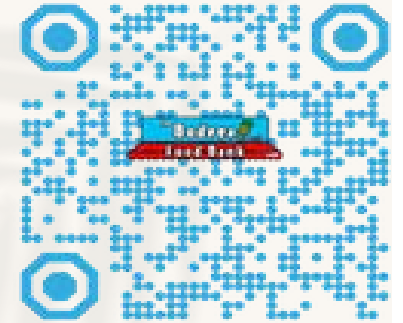
Rivera Vázquez, quien es delegada ante la convención presidencial demócrata, sostuvo que, pese a incluirse el 2757 en el programa de gobierno, todavía deben hacerse esfuerzos para llevar el punto de vista de importantes sectores de la diáspora al presidente del DNC, Jamie

Harrison, y a la campaña de Kamala Harris como candidata a la Casa Blanca.

Varios de los participantes en la conferencia de prensa suscribieron la semana pasada una carta de Power4PuertoRico pidiéndole a la vicepresidenta Harris un plan de acción sobre Puerto Rico, que elimine el respaldo al 2757 y la Junta de Supervisión Fiscal (JSF), entre otras cosas.t

Continúa de la página 23





**FALL 2024
NUTRITION CLASSES
&
COOKING DEMONSTRATION
SERIES**



THURSDAY AT 1:00PM ON

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

OCTOBER 3, 2024

**AT EL MERCADO 2559 W. DIVISION ST.
773-342-0855**

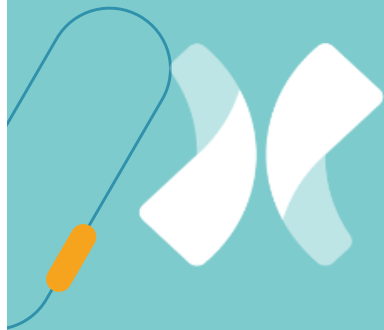


Un servicio de 

Feria de la salud

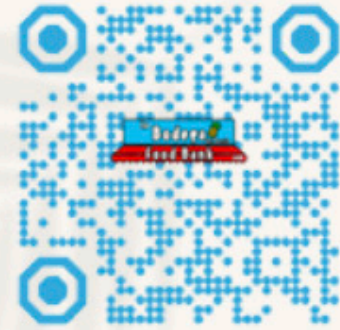
Visit us at the intersection of Rockwell and Division,
Saturday and Sunday, August 31 and September 1, 12-8pm

PARTICIPATING VENDORS



**HUMBOLDT PARK
HEALTH**
ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY





OTOÑO 2024
CLASES DE NUTRICIÓN
Y
DEMONSTRACIÓN DE COCINA



JUEVES A LA 1:00PM EL

SEPTIEMBRE 12, 2024

OCTUBRE 3, 2024

EN EL MERCADO 2559 W. DIVISION ST.
773-342-0855

PILLARS

The Trans POC Marketplace

HIV/STI
Testing
Available

*In Commemoration of
Trans Chicago
Empowerment Center's
Anniversary*

SEPTEMBER 28, 2024
2PM - 6PM

*Join Trans Chicago
Shop with a host of excellent vendors.*

Come to eat,

*engage in services, and
be entertained by
outstanding performers
from Chicago.*

Donations
Accepted

Hosted by
Ginger Valdez



THE *Isleño* *Ortiz* *Long*
**PUERTO RICAN
CULTURAL CENTER**
www.prc-cngo.org
PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES

Trans Chicago Empowerment Center
2753 W. DIVISION STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60622
773-698-7473



THE NATIONAL
PUERTO RICAN
MUSEUM

SEPT 12

GALLERIA MARCHETTI
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM



2024

NATIONAL
CEIBA AWARD
RECIPIENT



RAICES
Gala

Roselyn Sánchez

We're thrilled to be honoring a true powerhouse! Roselyn's incredible talent shines as a singer-songwriter, dancer, model, actress, producer, and writer. Get ready to celebrate her remarkable contributions and achievements!





PATROCINADOR ORGULLOSO DE LA FIESTA BORICUA

PROUD SPONSOR OF FIESTA BORICUA

Encuéntranos en la Fiesta para saber más sobre Howard Brown Health y para recibir las pruebas de:

- **VIH**
- **Presión Arterial**
- **Glucosa en Sangre**

Meet us at the festival to learn more about Howard Brown Health and to receive screenings for HIV, Blood Pressure, and Blood Glucose.



O visítanos en nuestra clínica en La Casa Norte (3533 W North Ave) para atención médica que es excelente, comprensivo y asequible.

Or visit us at our clinic in La Casa Norte (3533 W North Ave) for medical care that is excellent, affirming, and affordable.

773.388.1600