

# BARRIO BORIKÉN - CHICAGO - JULY 4TH 2026

May-June-July  
2026



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## #FREEPUERTORICO

 **JESSIE FUENTES**  
26TH WARD ALDERPERSON

el Comité  
mijente



**ALL OUT TO THE  
48TH PUERTO  
RICAN  
PEOPLE'S DAY  
PARADE!  
SAT. JUNE 13**



## 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 grassroots 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.

## OUR PRODUCTION TEAM



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Visit Our  
Website

## Levitating the Pentagon... Nancy Kurshan's memoirs



In *Levitating the Pentagon and Other Uplifting Stories*, longtime activist Nancy Kurshan offers a vivid, woman's-eye view of seven decades of radical social change. From the founding of the Yippies and the theatrical feminist resistance of W.I.T.C.H., to solidarity work with political prisoners and indigenous liberation movements, Kurshan's life chronicles the evolution of the U.S. Left—from civil rights to antiwar to feminist, abolitionist, and internationalist struggles.

Kurshan was not just a witness—she was a key player. She marched at the first major Vietnam War protest in D.C., co-organized the 1967 "levitation" of the Pentagon, and ran the streets of Chicago during the 1968 Democratic National Convention. She was in court for the Chicago 8 Conspiracy Trial. She traveled to North Vietnam in 1970, and returned four decades later as an honored guest.

More than a memoir, *Levitating the Pentagon* is a vital historical document and a passionate call to action, grounded in an ethic of humility and truth.

## Community as a Campus slate wins Clemente LSC elections

On Wednesday, March 18, 2026, the Community as a Campus won a decisive victory for the LSC election at Roberto Clemente Community Academy High School. This is another important step in making sure that Roberto Clement High School is the school of choice in our community and ensures it is reflective of this community education needs. The slate included parents' representative; Beatriz Ortiz, Kathiria Salgado, and Angel Hernandez and community representatives; Glenda Guzman and Leonilda Calderon. This new LSC will select the next principal for Roberto Clemente Community Academy High School and will make sure the principal has a vision that integrates the education practices in the school with the community's aspiration.



**¡ALL OUT TO THE 48TH PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE'S DAY PARADE!  
SAT., JUNE 13, 2026 STEP-OFF DIVISION ST CORNER OF CAMPBELL AVE, 12:00**

## Pillars of PUERTO RICAN ECONOMIC SELF-ACTUALIZATION ON PASEO BORICUA



by Juan Morales

As we commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Puerto Rican uprising of June 12–14, 1966, the Puerto Rican Cultural Centers

Business Economic Development Initiative will honor the enduring pillars of Puerto Rican self-actualization and economic empowerment on Paseo Boricua.

This recognition will include two major initiatives: the creation of a mural celebrating these community pillars and a social media campaign highlighting their legacy and impact. The following legacy businesses have been



selected for this special recognition:

These businesses were chosen because they

have served the Paseo Boricua community for 20 years or more. They represent the spirit of Puerto Rican resilience, self-actualization, and economic empowerment in the face of historical disenfranchisement and ongoing gentrification.



Like the legendary phoenix rising from the ashes of the 1966 rebellion, these community pillars have helped ensure that our neighborhood continues to rise stronger, prouder, and more vibrant with each generation.

## Community celebration highlights REINA'S CAKE'S 2nd year on Paseo Boricua

Reina Marcelle owner of Reina's Cakes celebrated her 2<sup>nd</sup> year on Saturday, May 16th since the opening of her store, Reina's Cakes at 2550 W Division St. Reina began selling her cakes 5 years ago in Humboldt Park with her retrofitted (ice cream) cart that she filled with her many cakes including her famous Puerto Rican Flag cakes. She has grown her business and become a staple store on Paseo Boricua. Along with selling her cakes she hosts cake decorating workshops. She organized her neighboring businesses such as La Casa Del Domino, Luquillo Barbershop, El Schomburg among others. Dozens of vendors also lined the street to help celebrate her anniversary. The festive atmosphere attracted hundreds of participants across generations including many youth and seniors that took part in the free giveaways of hotdogs and cake samples as well as entertainment by local music acts like La Escuelita Bombera de Corazón and El Corillo.

Several speakers paid homage to Reina including Alderperson Jessie Fuentes of the 26<sup>th</sup> Ward and Jose E Lopez, Executive Director of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center who said, "Reina represents the Puerto

Rican women that has faced many adversities and will not be defeated".

Reina who was overwhelmed by the support, spoke with tears in her eyes, thanking all who attended and supported her business. She especially thanked the youth who she has given opportunities to earn money by hosting a successful Car Wash in front of her store for the second year in a row with proceeds going to help pay for prom costs. Reina also took the opportunity to announce the release of her book "Baking My Way Back" a memoir of her life and struggle to create her business which will be on sale at her store.



# Vaivén

By Cristian Roldan

Three years have passed since the day Mr. (Paul) Roldán called me asking me if I could create an artwork that connected the island

with the diaspora. That time seems like nothing compared with the first migration from the island, when workers left El Fanguito for the mainland U.S. in search of a better life 75 years ago. As someone who immigrated to this

diaspora twelve years ago, I have the honor of creating and searching for that intersection between two realities unified by a single identity, where airplanes have become the bridge

*continues P. 46*



## On the 60th Anniversary of the Puerto Rican Uprising

### Book presentation “White, Black, Brown Becoming Puerto Rican in Chicago”

by La Voz Staff

*Photo of Puerto Rico book signing by Christian M Rosado*

The University of North Carolina recently published *White, Black, Brown: Becoming Puerto Rican in a Changing City* by historian Dr. Michael Staudenmaier, which will be presented on June 12, 2026, sixty years to the date of the Puerto Rican uprising in Chicago, an event that marked a turning point for Puerto Rican social activism in the city. Dr. Staudenmaier, who serves on the board of Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School, has long been an ally of Chicago’s Puerto Rican community in its struggles. The book explores issues of identity and class while centering the Puerto Rican struggle for independence and human rights in the United States.



The book places special emphasis on the Puerto Rican Cultural Center, an institution whose mission is grounded in three foundational principles: self-determination, self-actualization, and self-reliance. Its work has been framed through the creation of parallel institutions designed to serve the socio-economic and cultural needs of Chicago’s Puerto Rican community.

The book examines the 1966 Puerto Rican rebellion — often referred to as the Humboldt Park riots — as a major turning point in both

the Puerto Rican movement and the fight against gentrification in Chicago. It further demonstrates how the organizing and activism born from that historic moment helped transform the Puerto Rican community in Humboldt Park from a marginalized and neglected neighborhood into a strong community rooted in organized economic and political empowerment. This legacy contributed to the creation of the state-designated cultural district, Puerto Rico Town / Barrio Borikén, guided by four central pillars: economic development, affordable housing, education, and health and wellness, all within the overarching framework of arts and culture as defining community values. The event will consist of a Puerto Rican-style continental breakfast beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, June 12, 2026. The location will be announced at a later date, followed by a panel discussion by our very own distinguished scholars, Dr. Michael Rodríguez Muñiz, Dr. Margaret Power, and Dr. Michael Staudenmaier. This event is by invitation only.

**¡CALL OUT TO THE 48TH PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE'S DAY PARADE!  
SAT., JUNE 13, 2026 STEP-OFF DIVISION ST CORNER OF CAMPBELL AVE, 12:00**

Presentaciones  
Especiales de:



Lic. Juan Dalmau  
Secretario General del  
Partido Independentista  
Puertorriqueño



Rapero Siete Nueve  
presentando  
su nuevo álbum

# “Jolgorio Boricua en Humboldt Park”



## 4 de julio 2026

- 250 años (1776–2026) : Sin Reyes, y Sin Colonias  
¡Puerto Rico Libre!
- 128 años (1898–2026) después exclamamos:  
¡Se sienten! ¡Se sienten! ¡Los Boricuas están presentes!

**GRATIS EN UN AMBIENTE FAMILIAR**

Una celebración de la cultura Boricua como Resistencia.

- Lechón asado a la barra
- Kioskos de comida criolla
- Talleres de Bomba y Plena
- Bailes de Salsa
- Sangría sin alcohol
- Juego de dominós por Pe Erre
- Actividades culturales para niños(as)
- Talleres / decoraciones de bizcochos por Reina's Cake
- Declamación de poemas y lecturas de Literaria
- Venta de Libros Boricuas

*INVITATION COMMITTEE: Luis V. Gutiérrez, (Fmr Cong. D-IL), Sen. Omar Aquino (IL), Sen. Adam Gomez, (MA), Angel Arroyo, (City Council, Lorain, OH), Rep. Johana López, (FL), María Isa Pérez-Vega, (MN), Melissa Mark Viverito, (Fmr NYC Council Speaker) SPONSORS: SEIU Local 1, Mijente, Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC), National Boricua Human Rights Network (NBHRN) ENDORSERS: National Puerto Rican Agenda (NPRA), Power 4 Puerto Rico (PWR4PR), Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center (SBRCC), Boricuas Unidos en la Diaspora (BUDPR)*

**UNASE AL “JOLGORIO BORICUA EN HUMBOLDT PARK” 4 DE JULIO 2026, 11AM-6PM**

# PRIDEChicago Names the Puerto Rican Cultural Center as “Out Front” Group for 55th Annual Chicago Pride Parade

Marching under the theme “Free to Be Proud,” the PRCC will lead the 2026 procession, highlighting the intersection of heritage, housing, and LGBTQ+ advocacy.

CHICAGO – (April 7, 2026) – PRIDEChicago, the all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization behind the iconic Chicago Pride Parade, is proud to announce the Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC) as the “Out Front” community group for the 2026 Chicago Pride Parade.

Positioned at the head of the June 28th procession, the PRCC is being recognized for its tireless work in Chicago’s Humboldt Park neighborhood to dismantle homophobia and transphobia, integrating LGBTQ+ advocacy into the core of public health and housing justice.

“The Puerto Rican Cultural Center embodies the spirit of our 2026 theme, Free to Be Proud,” said Terra Campbell, Director of Community Engagement for PRIDEChicago. “Through their life-saving work at El Rescate and Vida/SIDA, they have proven that freedom is only real when it includes a safe place to sleep, culturally relevant healthcare, and a community that affirms your right to exist authentically.”

For decades, the PRCC has been a cornerstone of Chicago’s grass-

roots activism. Their LGBTQ+ initiatives are national models for intersectional care, most notably El Rescate Transitional Living, which provides essential housing for homeless LGBTQ+ and HIV+ youth. Through their Vida/SIDA program, the PRCC delivers culturally competent health and prevention services, ensuring that LGBTQ+ equity remains a central pillar of the broader Puerto Rican and Latine communities.

“This recognition is especially meaningful as our Puerto Rican People’s Day Parade on June 13, 2026, carries the theme Celebrando Orgullo Boricua: Puerto Rican Gay Pride, Aquí y Allá,” said Juan M. Calderon, Deputy Executive Director for the Puerto Rican Cultural Center. “We are proud to celebrate the diversity and strength of our community, including leaders such as Miguel Méndez Pérez, the first openly gay Mayor of Isabela, Puerto Rico, and Jessie Fuentes, 26th Ward Alderperson, an openly lesbian leader making an important impact in our community.”

“We receive this honor with grati-



tude and reaffirm our commitment to uplifting the full diversity of our people,” Calderón added.

## Leading the Way: 2026 Community Grand Marshals

The PRCC joins an esteemed lineup of 2026 honorees previously announced by PRIDEChicago. These Community Grand Marshals reflect the diverse history and resilient future of the movement:

- *Tracy Baim: Iconic journalist, historian, and co-founder of Windy City Times.*
- *Mona Noriega: Former Chair of the Illinois Commission on Human Rights and Lambda Legal leader.*
- *Evette Cardona: Philanthropic leader and co-founder of Amigas Latinas.*
- *The Alliance of Illinois Judges (AIJ): Represented by President Judge Jill Rose Quinn, the state’s first openly transgender elected official.*

## The Legacy of the Chicago Pride Parade

Founded in 1970 as the Gay Liberation March to commemorate the Stonewall Uprising, the Chicago

Pride Parade has evolved over 55 years from a protest march into one of the world’s largest declarations of visibility. Today, it remains a platform for advocacy, supporting those living with HIV/AIDS and championing the civil rights of all LGBTQ+ individuals.

**The 55th annual Chicago Pride Parade steps off at 11 a.m. (CST) on Sunday, June 28, 2026, beginning at the corner of Grace and Broadway and traveling through the landmark Northalsted neighborhood.**

This year’s theme, “Free to Be Proud,” honors the hard-won progress achieved by generations before us while recognizing that freedom is not equally experienced by all—and must be continually protected and expanded.

## About PRIDEChicago

PRIDEChicago is a volunteer-powered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Through the annual Chicago Pride Parade and year-round advocacy efforts, PRIDEChicago honors the legacy of those who came before us while investing in the future of LGBTQ+ communities in Chicago and across Illinois.

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SAT., JUNE 13, 2026 STEP-OFF DIVISION ST CORNER OF CAMPBELL AVE, 12:00**



**Roberto Clemente Community Academy**  
an International Baccalaureate World School

Phone: (773) 534-4000  
Fax: (773) 534-4003

Mrs. Donieshia Johnson  
Assistant Principal

## Community Notice of Intent to Apply: Sustainable Community Schools Initiative (SCS)

Date: May 1, 2026

School: Roberto Clemente Community Academy

In accordance with the application requirements for the Sustainable Community Schools Initiative (SCS), Roberto Clemente Community Academy hereby provides public notice of its intent to apply in partnership with the lead agency, The Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC). PRCC brings deep community roots in Humboldt Park and West Town since 1973 and extensive experience successfully managing the SCS program, including current grant administration at Yates Elementary School.

The purpose of the SCS program is to provide academic and enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for children, particularly those attending high-poverty and low-performing schools. The program also seeks to offer families of participating students literacy support and related educational development opportunities.

The SCS model is grounded in Seven Principles and Six Pillars that vastly redesign school culture and academic delivery:

### The Six Pillars of SCS

- **Engaging Culturally Relevant Curriculum:** Grounded in the 50-year history of advocacy for bilingual and Puerto Rican history education at Clemente.
- **Wraparound Supports:** Comprehensive health, housing (Teresa Roldán), and mental health services provided via PRCC and partners like Erie Health.
- **Positive Discipline Practices:** Restorative justice and violence prevention frameworks that prioritize healing over punitive measures.
- **Authentic Parent and Community Engagement:** Utilizing the FACE Community Action Council and the CAAC three-phase approach to center family voice.
- **Inclusive Leadership:** Co-governance where the LPA, staff, and parents are crucial decision-makers in hiring, budgeting, and the CIWP.
- **High-Quality Teaching:** Supporting instructional excellence through community-based professional development and alumni-teacher expertise.

### The Seven Principles of SCS

1. Racial Justice and Equity
2. Community Wisdom and Self-Determination
3. Shared Leadership and Collaboration
4. Whole Child, Whole Community
5. Transparency and Trusting Relationships
6. Reflective Practice and Continuous Improvement
7. Sustainability

If awarded, the proposed project will offer after-school and summer programming designed to improve student academic performance, support social-emotional learning, promote family involvement, and strengthen community partnerships. Clemente is currently serving as a community hub by hosting Yates ES during construction, demonstrating our immediate capacity to act as a center for neighborhood resources.

Community members, partners, and stakeholders who wish to provide input into the development of the grant application are encouraged to contact:

- **Contact Person:** [Donieshia Johnson](#)
- **Title:** Assistant Principal
- **Organization:** Roberto Clemente Community Academy
- **Email:** [dswade2@cps.edu](mailto:dswade2@cps.edu)
- **Phone:** 773-534-4000

This notice is intended to inform the public that Roberto Clemente Community Academy plans to submit a proposal for SCS funding. Please note that this announcement does not guarantee that funding will be awarded

## Ismael Guadalupe; INCANSABLE Luchador de la Batalla de Vieques

por Luis Rosa Pérez  
(Foto de Claridad.)

Lo conocía antes de conocerlo. Lo conocía por sus actos y principios. Me sentí hermano, camarada, orgulloso de marchar codo a codo.



Corretjer y sus hermanos/compañeros Ángel Rodríguez Cristóbal y Roberto Rabin. Fue y será uno de los de siempre - uno de los indispensables. Se marchó, dejando huellas en las arenas de su pueblo natal,

El Quijote que enfrentaba buques de guerra con lanchas y hondas con piedras.

Ismael, el titán, el héroe defensor de Vieques, veterano de muchas batallas, prisionero de causas justas, el hombre de incansables luchas.

Ismael Guadalupe permanecerá en la inmortalidad junto a los Betances y Albizus, donde conversan las Lolitas y Marianas con las Blancas y Carmín. Esa inmortalidad donde se abraza con

Vieques, y nutriendo las esperanzas de un Puerto Rico libre con su sangre y sudor.

Te extrañaremos, mi compa, esa sonrisa triunfadora como la de Ángel, esa mirada fija y segura en su misión. Nos fortaleciste a todas y todos a tu alrededor y nos liberaste un poco más. Alabanza, camarada, por ti el pueblo se levanta... Contaré siempre con tu presencia a mi lado.

*Héroe del mar  
Si hoy te digo, gracias  
No es sólo por tu tierna sonrisa  
O el calor de la confianza  
con cual nos abraza*

*Sino también por tu marcha incesante  
La que con puño y sangre consagraste  
La que estuvo siempre presente  
con gritos de libertad,  
cueste lo que cueste*

*Agradecido por quien fuiste y eres  
por la firmeza de tu liderazgo  
ni la cárcel pudo quebrantar*

*Abrazos eternos guerrero  
de muchas batallas  
Maestro, marinero de causas justas*

*Alúmbranos desde el más allá  
Y que se oiga tu lancha  
rompiendo las olas  
Pa que el enemigo sienta tu valentía.  
Y para que el pueblo no deje de luchar*

## Puerto Ricans in Loíza Face Homelessness After Being Told They Could Stay

### The human cost of Act 22 displacement

by Federico A. de Jesús  
May 5, 2026

*This article originally appeared in The Latino Newsletter.*

#### Doña María

Doña María has lived in her Hacienda Grande home, also known as Villa Vaca in Loíza, for 62 years. It is the only home she has ever known. It is also where her grandfather lived. Five years ago, she and her neighbors were told they could remain in their homes forever. This October, that promise may be broken, leaving the people of Villa Vaca on the street with nowhere to go.



*Nalia Diaz and Federico de Jesús*

I recently had the opportunity to visit Doña María and several of her neighbors. Their stories are heartbreaking. They live in constant fear of being forced out of the homes where four generations of Puerto Ricans have lived. The reason: an environmentally destructive luxury project that could increase flooding risk and, most importantly, displace an entire community.

This is happening in the shadow of Act 22, the tax-break regime that has allowed wealthy outsiders, including Illi-

*continues P. 46*

## Floating Museum

# DIGNIDAD, la nueva instalación móvil de arte público de artista Iván Argote, curadora de arte Carla Acevedo-Yates, y Floating Museum rinde homenaje a las comunidades puertorriqueñas y latinas

(CHICAGO, IL — 14 de mayo de 2026) — Floating Museum se enorgullece en presentar DIGNIDAD, una nueva obra móvil de arte público a gran escala con el artista Iván Argote bajo la curaduría de Carla Acevedo-Yates. El proyecto se presentará del 13 al 14 de junio de 2026 en Humboldt Park, Chicago, y continuará recorriendo distintos barrios de la ciudad y otros espacios. El lanzamiento incluirá una serie de programas públicos, entre ellos procesiones, performances y eventos organizados por la comunidad, que activarán la escultura como escenario y como participante de la misma.

DIGNIDAD es la cuarta entrega de la serie Floating Monuments del Floating Museum, que reimagina el monumento, no como un objeto fijo anclado a un único lugar, sino como una plataforma móvil y colectiva que activa el espacio público a través del movimiento, el encuentro

y la participación. La serie muestra cómo los monumentos pueden funcionar como estructuras dinámicas que reúnen personas, historias y expresiones de la vida pública, más que como símbolos estáticos del pasado.

La palabra en español “dignidad” opera tanto como gesto lingüístico, así como político, poniendo en primer plano la presencia de las comunidades hispanohablantes en Chicago, a

la vez que afirma la dignidad como una condición fundamental y colectiva, y no como un ideal abstracto. Compuesto por grandes letras de concreto que deletrean la palabra, el monumento recorrerá la ciudad en un camión trailer, circulando por calles, parques y espacios cívicos

comunidad, y subraya que la dignidad no es algo que pueda ser censurado o disminuido. La obra adopta una expresión directa y urgente: un monumento que no conmemora un pasado distante, sino que afirma una condición compartida y una demanda colectiva en el presente.



*“Como artista, el espacio público es mi principal sitio de acción”, dijo Iván Argote. “La calle nos cuenta las complejidades de la historia en tiempo real. Con DIGNIDAD, quería crear una obra que transmitiera un sentido de resiliencia, resistencia y solidaridad, algo que pudiera moverse por la ciudad y ser apropiado por las personas que lo encuentran.”*

Este proyecto se basa en la continua exploración de Argote de intervenir el espacio público para cuestionar las narrativas históricas dominantes y la autoridad de las formas monu-

mentales. Originario de Colombia, en una familia profundamente marcada por la organización política, Argote desarrolló desde temprana edad una conciencia de cómo el poder, la violencia y la memoria quedan inscritos en el espacio público, prestando atención a quién es conmemorado, quién es borrado y quién tiene el poder de decidir. Trabajando en ciudades como Bogotá, Madrid, París y Nueva York, Argote ha desarrollado una obra que desestabiliza los monu-

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*Véase P. 45*

**UNASE AL “JOLGORIO BORICUA EN HUMBOLDT PARK” 4 DE JULIO 2026, 12PM**

# JUNTA DE CONTROL FISCAL: DIEZ AÑOS QUE PESAN COMO SIGLOS

*Este artículo originalmente apareció en Claridad.*

Nadie sabe y nadie supo» por qué en 1984, bajo el gobierno del Republicano Ronald Reagan, con un Senado de mayoría republicana y una Cámara de Representantes de mayoría demócrata, el 98vo. Congreso de Estados Unidos decidió sigilosamente enmendar la Ley de Quiebras Federal y excluir a Puerto Rico de la protección de dicho estatuto, bajo el cual estuvo cobijado- como todos los «Estados»- desde el año 1938.

Ni siquiera el entonces Comisionado Residente de Puerto Rico en Washington, el celebrado jurista Jaime Fuster Berlingeri, advirtió el cambio. Si lo hizo y lo informó al entonces Gobernador, Rafael Hernández Colón, igual mutismo practicó este y todos los gobiernos de Puerto Rico hasta 2014, cuando, para subsanar tan grave omisión, se aprobó en Puerto Rico la fallida Ley de Quiebra Criolla, que el Tribunal del Circuito de Apelaciones de Boston desestimó de un plumazo como inaplicable, porque la ley federal de 1984 prevalecía sobre ella.

Por eso, cuando en 2015 la deuda pública de Puerto Rico, que en ese momento ya alcanzaba la inimaginable cifra de \$73 mil millones, se hizo insostenible e impagable, Alejandro García Padilla, entonces Gobernador de Puerto Rico, y Pedro Pierluisi, Comisionado Residente acudieron en dupla a Washington a pedirle al Presidente de Estados Unidos, Barack Obama, y al Congreso que aprobaran



una ley especial de quiebra para Puerto Rico

Así nació la Ley PROMESA, de claro corte colonial, y se nombró, también por el Congreso y el Presidente metropolitanos, la primera Junta de Control Fiscal (JCF). Desde entonces, han transcurrido ya diez largos años, y tres Juntas de composición diferente, todas igualmente enajenadas de nuestro pueblo, atornilladas en su burbuja, engordando una creciente burocracia interna y una corte interminable de asesores y contratistas- la mayoría extranjeros- que viven y facturan como si Puerto Rico, en vez de un país pobre y en quiebra, fuera dueño de los ríos de dinero de los casinos de Las Vegas o Montecarlo.

En el año 2025, la entidad de análisis económico Espacios Abiertos publicó un informe que colocaba los gastos de la JCF, hasta fines de 2024, en \$2, 200 millones, principalmente en pagos a abogados, asesores y contratistas. Ese

dinero ha salido de los menguados recursos de Puerto Rico.

Cuando el Congreso aprobó PROMESA, estimó que la JCF estaría en Puerto Rico por un término aproximado de cinco o seis años y que sus gastos totales por dicho término no serían mayores de \$370 millones. Por lo cual, el Congreso, el Presidente de Estados Unidos y el Gobierno de Puerto Rico -por servil e incondicional que sea- deberían cuestionar cómo es posible haberse equivocado tanto en las proyecciones originales de tiempo de estadía y

costos de PROMESA y la JCF. Hasta donde se sabe públicamente- porque la secretividad y falta de transparencia es otro de sus defectos- ese cuestionamiento no ha ocurrido y la JCF sigue gastando el dinero de Puerto Rico como si no hubiese mañana.

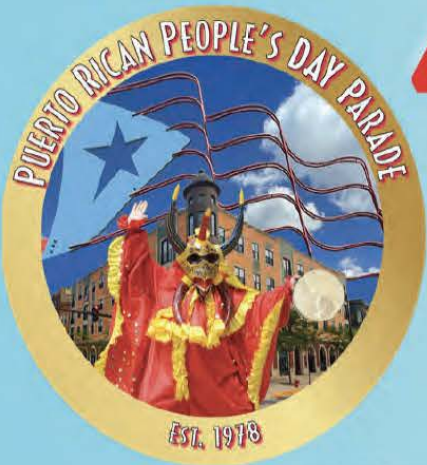
Es imposible ignorar, además, la incompetencia, la desidia y la indiferencia ante las carencias del pueblo demostradas por la JCF. La mayoría de sus supuestas medidas correctivas han sido dirigidas a penalizar a los sectores trabajadores y a los más vulnerables. Repasemos solamente algunas de las más evidentes:

– *Pensiones: recortes masivos a las pensiones de los empleados públicos y eliminación de beneficios laborales.*

– *Salud: recortes en fondos destinados a hospitales, incluyendo Centro Médico y el Hospital Pediátrico Universitario.*

*Véase P. 44*

**¡ALL OUT TO THE PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE!**



# 48th Puerto Rican People's Day Parade

Saturday, June 13, 2026

12:00pm (Division St. COR of Campbell Ave.)

## Orgullo Boricua: Aquí y Allá!

de



*De Puerto Rico la más bella*

**Honoring 60 Years of Struggle!  
Puerto Rican Rebellion (1966-2026)**



**Grand Marshals:**

**Hon. Miguel "Ricky" Méndez Pérez, Mayor of  
Isabela, Puerto Rico,  
and our very own  
Jessie Fuentes,  
26th Ward Alderperson, Chicago IL.**



**Honorary Cacique:**

**Dr. Wilfred Labiosa,  
CEO of Waves Ahead Puerto Rico.**



 **JESSIE FUENTES**  
26TH WARD ALDERPERSON



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**SEIU**

  
**THE**  
**PUERTO RICAN**  
**CULTURAL CENTER**

# Welcome to the 48th Annual Puerto Rican People's Day Parade

## Honoring 60 Years of Struggle! Puerto Rican Rebellion (1966-2026)

**"Orgullo Boricua: ¡Aquí y Allá!**

**De Isabela, Puerto Rico a Barrio Borikén, Humboldt Park."**

The Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC) and the parade committee are proud to welcome this year's Grand Marshals: Hon. Miguel "Ricky" Méndez Pérez, Mayor of Isabela, Puerto Rico, and Jessie Fuentes, Alderperson of Chicago's 26th Ward. We are also honored to recognize Dr. Wilfred Labiosa, CEO of Waves Ahead Puerto Rico, as this year's Honorary Cacique.

As we celebrate Pride Month and the beautiful diversity of our community, this year's as every year the Parade Cacica and Cacique proudly represent the LGBTQ+ community. We are also excited that PrideChicago has dedicated its 2026 Pride Parade to the Puerto Rican Cultural Center. PRCC will proudly help lead the Pride Parade on Sunday, June 28, 2026. Don't miss it!

This year also marks the 60th anniversary of the 1966 Humboldt Park uprising. We remember the life of Puerto Rican youth Arcelis Cruz, who was shot at the hands of Chicago Police and sparked protests and calls for justice. Sixty years later, our community continues to stand strong with pride, courage, and unity. His legacy helped shape the vibrant and powerful Barrio Borikén we know today.

We welcome you to Barrio Borikén and Paseo Boricua with open arms. Come enjoy the new exiting things happening in the Barrio; Puerto Ri-

can-owned businesses, rich cultural traditions, delicious food, music, art, and the amazing spirit of our people.

After the Parade, keep the celebration going at Las Fiestas Patronales Puertorriqueñas in Humboldt Park (under the new management). The festival will take place over four days, from Thursday, June 11 through Sunday, June 14, 2026. Be sure to check out the entertainment lineup inside this special La Voz Parade Issue.

Please join us as we celebrate our beautiful culture, history, and community at the 48th Annual Puerto Rican People's Day Parade. The parade begins at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at Division Street and Campbell Avenue.

A heartfelt thank you to all the merchants, organizations, sponsors, parade participants, volunteers, and supporters who help make this celebration possible. Special thanks to the staff and volunteers of PRCC, Glenda Guzman, for her tireless support, Ketty Colom and Luis Alejandro Molina and the La Voz Parade Production Team for their hard work and commitment.

We can't wait to celebrate with you. ¡Que Viva Puerto Rico!

Leonilda Calderón

### PARADE LINE-UP (INFORMATION):

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>THE PUERTO RICAN CULTURAL CENTER Float ft. Colectivo Sayba Lead Flags and Banner</p> <p>GRAND MARSHALS<br/>Miguel "Ricky" Méndez Pérez,<br/>Mayor of Isabela, PR, and<br/>Jessie Fuentes, 26th Ward Alderperson</p> <p>HONORARY CACIQUE<br/>Dr. Wilfred Labiosa Waves Ahead Corp. CEO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RE-ELECT 26TH WARD JESSIE FUENTES</li> <li>• CACICA /CACIQUE 2026 AND VIDA/SIDA "LIVE AND HELP TO LIVE"</li> <li>• CENTRO INFANTIL CONSUELO LEE CORRETJER             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUÉVETE, MOVEMENT FOR LIFE!</li> </ul> </li> <li>• EL RESCATE &amp; THE HUMBOLDT PARK YOUTH EMPLOYMENT EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PRCC BUSINESS INITIATIVES</li> </ul> </li> <li>• World Pro Boxing Champions Marching Group</li> <li>• PRCC-Digitizing El Barrio -Marching Group             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DYNAMIC PRODUCTIONS FOR FIESTAS PATRONALES PUERTORRIQUEÑAS                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 103.5 KISS FM</li> <li>• SEIU</li> <li>• HISPANIC HOUSING</li> <li>• COMED- Truck</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• ELECT JASON DÓNES FOR CHICAGO SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 3B             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daniel Ramos</li> <li>• FLOATING MUSEUM FT DIGNIDAD</li> <li>• BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF ILLINOIS                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CTU</li> <li>• COMMUNITY AS A CAMPUS</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• DR. PEDRO ALBIZU CAMPOS PUERTO RICAN H.S.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lambda Thela Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc- Marching Group</li> </ul> </li> <li>• SABIN DUAL LANGUAGE MAGNET SCHOOL</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESMERALDA SANTIAGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</li> <li>• RICHARD YATES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</li> <li>• WEST PARK STEAM ACADEMY SCHOOL             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Que Ondee Sola-Marching Group             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NEIU</li> <li>• UIC UPRS</li> </ul> </li> <li>• ROBERTO CLEMENTE COMMUNITY ACADEMY             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cuba Coalition - Marching Group</li> </ul> </li> <li>• PRCC VIOLENCE PREVENTION &amp; INTERVENTION             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY</li> </ul> </li> <li>• BICKERDIKE REDEVELOPMENT CORPORATION             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Town Bikes/Ciclo Urbano</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 36TH WARD ALDERMAN GILBERT VILLEGAS-Trolley -Marching Group<br/>Future First Female Puerto Rican President<br/>Jelissy Rivera Class of 2026</li> <li>• METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban Theater Company-Marching Group</li> </ul> </li> <li>• GRIFFIN MUSEUM OF SCIENCE &amp; INDUSTRY             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United Slingshot Riders</li> <li>• Night Ministry Marching Group</li> <li>• Centro Sin Fronteras ft. Healthy Hood-Marching Group                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algari -Car Club</li> </ul> </li> <li>• LA PRENSA DE CHICAGO INC.                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BUILD</li> </ul> </li> <li>• CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Windy City Jeep Club</li> </ul> </li> <li>• CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT-CONTINGENT</li> <li>• 787 Domino League- Marching Group</li> <li>• PUERTO RICAN BAR ASSOCIATION</li> <li>• Latin American Motorcycle Association</li> <li>• National Puerto Rico Motorcycle Association                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IDAHO POTATO ON TOUR</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|---|--|

**¡ALL OUT TO THE 48TH PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE'S DAY PARADE!  
SAT., JUNE 13, 2026 STEP-OFF DIVISION ST CORNER OF CAMPBELL AVE, 12:00**



## THREE YEARS RESILIENT.

As I enter the final year of this term, my gratitude is deep – for the NWS rapid responders who support our immigrant families, the 26<sup>th</sup> Ward committees that advocate for affordability and safety, the neighbors who look out for our most vulnerable, and the community partners who bridge the gaps.

### BECAUSE OF YOU, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO:

- **Complete 69,319 requests** for 311 services
- Invest **\$25.9 million** in infrastructure:
  - **Alleys:** \$3.3 million
  - **Streets:** \$2.2 million
  - **Sidewalks:** \$1.3 million
  - **Lighting:** \$2.7 million
  - **Schools & Parks:** \$16.4 million
- **Open 193 new affordable housing units**
- Support **794 affordable housing units in queue**, along with La Casa Norte’s **41 shelter beds** for unhoused youth
- Witness a **35.4% decline in violent crimes**, compared to the city’s 26.6% decline
- **Canvass over 20,270 homes**
- **Pass** the COPA Amendment, Humboldt & Sacramento Boulevard Landmark Designation, Northwest Side Housing Preservation, One Fair Wage, along with 33 significant resolutions

**I am proud to represent YOU and everyone who lives, works, and enjoys the 26<sup>th</sup> Ward.**

*Congratulations!*

to 48 years of the Puerto Rican People’s Day Parade!



**REQUEST SUPPORT FROM MY OFFICE**

- 311 Service Requests
- Yard Sales & Block Parties
- Disability Parking
- Permit Applications
- Street Sweeping
- Safety Concerns
- Community Resources
- Participatory Budgeting
- Business Questions
- Zoning Questions

 [the26thward.org](http://the26thward.org)
 773.395.0143
  [info@the26thward.org](mailto:info@the26thward.org)

 **JESSIE FUENTES**  
26TH WARD ALDERPERSON

# The Cacica & Cacique Coronation

for the Chicago's Puerto Rican People's Parade

FOR TICKETS SCAN HERE



Ticket donation:  
\$40.



Wilfred Labiosa, Ph.D.  
Honorary Cacique 2026

Llyna Ramirez  
Cacica 2026

Maya Lozano  
Honorary Cacica 2026

Ashton Houston  
Cacique 2026

6:00 PM RECEPTION & APPETIZERS

7:00 PM PROGRAM WELCOME & PERFORMANCES

8:45 PM PERFORMANCES AND CORONATION

## Thursday, June 11, 2026

at Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center

4046 W Armitage Ave, Chicago, IL 60639

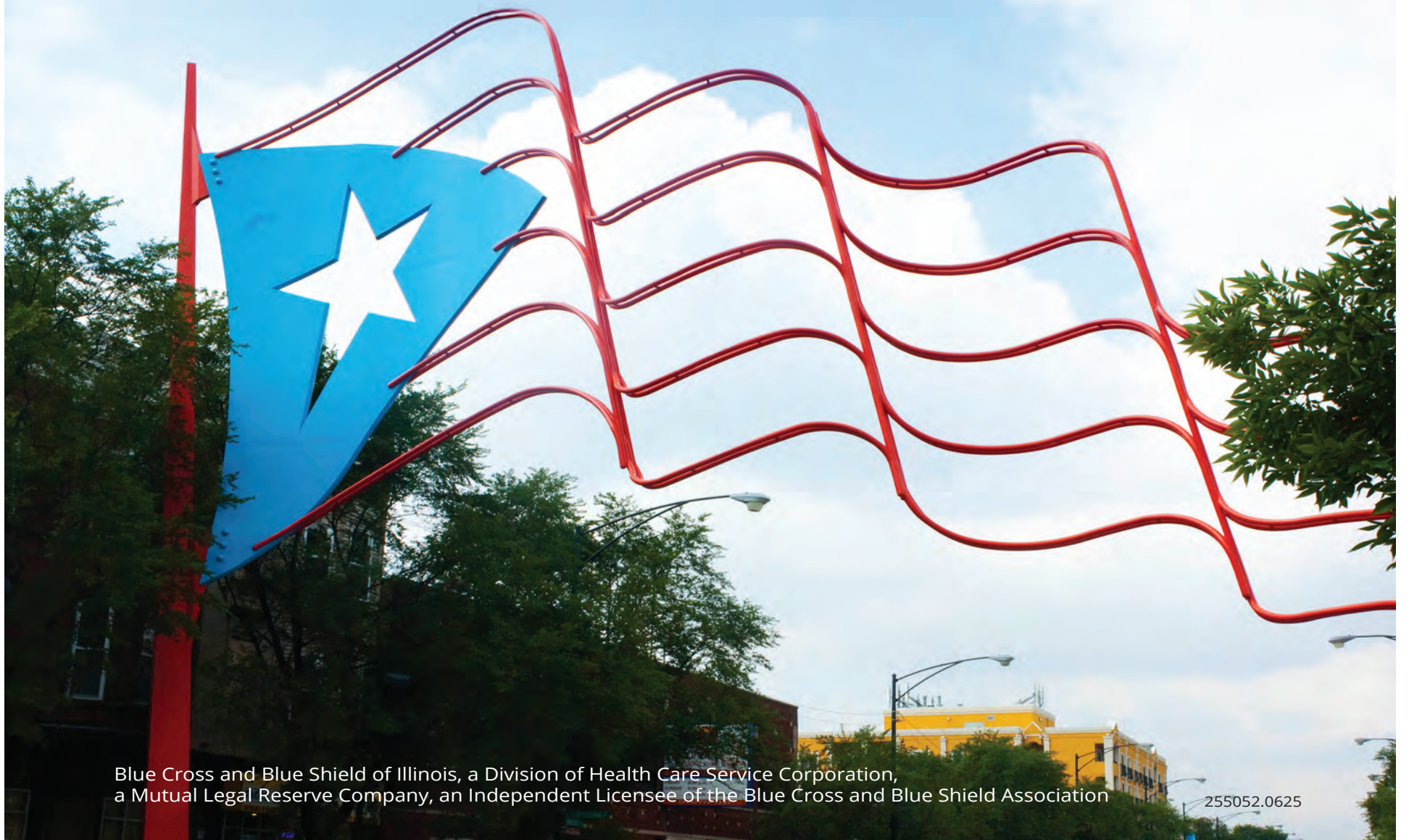


CALL OUT TO THE 48TH PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE'S DAY PARADE!  
SAT., JUNE 13, 2026 STEP-OFF DIVISION ST CORNER OF CAMPBELL AVE, 12:00



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**We are proud to celebrate  
the rich culture and heritage  
on Paseo Boricua.**



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**UNASE AL "JOLGORIO BORICUA EN HUMBOLDT PARK" 4 DE JULIO 2026, 11AM-6PM**



DYNAMIC PRODUCTIONS

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2026 JUNE 11th 12th 13th 14th

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CALL OUT TO THE 48TH PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE'S DAY PARADE! SAT., JUNE 13, 2026 STEP-OFF DIVISION ST CORNER OF CAMPBELL AVE, 12:00

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Colectivo Sayba Puerto Rican Bomba Ensemble



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## Know Your Numbers. Protect Your Health.

Wellness West, in partnership with the Live Healthy Chicago program, is supporting free blood pressure screenings this summer.

To learn more, contact the Puerto Rican Cultural Center:  
[prcc-chgo.org](http://prcc-chgo.org)



UNASE AL "JOLGORIO BORICUA EN HUMBOLDT PARK" 4 DE JULIO 2026, 11AM-6PM



# Making the community a brighter place to live.

For more than a hundred years we've lent our support to organizations and events throughout our community. Giving back is a tradition we're proud to continue for years to come. ComEd is proud to support The Puerto Rican Cultural Center **Puerto Rican People's Day Parade**. Congratulations on another year of celebrating culture, pride, and heritage!

[www.ComEd.com](http://www.ComEd.com)

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**¡ALL OUT TO THE 48TH PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE'S DAY PARADE!  
SAT., JUNE 13, 2026 STEP-OFF DIVISION ST CORNER OF CAMPBELL AVE, 12:00**



ALTERNATIVE  
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*Congratulates the  
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**CALL OUT TO THE 48TH PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE'S DAY PARADE!  
SAT., JUNE 13, 2026 STEP-OFF DIVISION ST CORNER OF CAMPBELL AVE, 12:00**



**¡INSCRÍBETE HOY PARA  
FÚTBOL AMERICANO!**

# **HUMBOLDT PARK PATRIOTS**



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NIÑOS Y NIÑAS 6 A 13!**

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PROUD TO CELEBRATE

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773-348-2704



*Salud, Sonrisas y Orgullo.*

¡VIVA PUERTO RICO! ★

THANK YOU FOR LETTING US BE A PART OF YOUR SMILE JOURNEY.

¡ALL OUT TO THE 48TH PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE'S DAY PARADE!  
SAT., JUNE 13, 2026 STEP-OFF DIVISION ST CORNER OF CAMPBELL AVE, 12:00



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# Celebrating the Puerto Rican People's Parade Paseo Boricua

# Congratulations to the Class of 2026!

**¡ALL OUT TO THE 48TH PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE'S DAY PARADE!  
SAT., JUNE 13, 2026 STEP-OFF DIVISION ST CORNER OF CAMPBELL AVE, 12:00**

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e on

the



2739 W Division  
Chicago IL 60622  
773-342-8022

UNASE AL "JOLGORIO BORICUA EN HUMBOLDT PARK" 4 DE JULIO 2026, 11AM-6PM

[info@pachis-chicago.org](mailto:info@pachis-chicago.org)



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Serving The Puerto Rican  
Community For Over



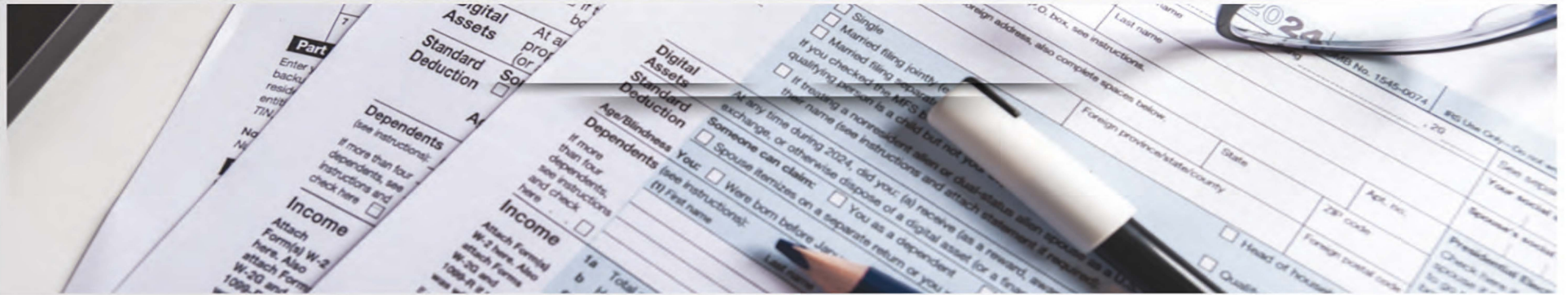
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SAT., JUNE 13, 2026 STEP-OFF DIVISION ST CORNER OF CAMPBELL AVE, 12:00

# VOHRA TAX & ACCOUNTING

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# NOTARY SERVICES



Hi neighbor! I am Elizabeth, a proud member of our community and a passionate realtor. If you are looking to sell or buy a home, I would be honored to help you. Not sure if you are ready to buy or sell? Reach out to me today for a free consultation and overview of the real estate market in our neighborhood!

## HAPPY PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE'S DAY PARADE! ¡QUE VIVA EL DESFILE PUERTORRIQUEÑO!

¡Ey, vecino! Soy Elizabeth, miembro orgullosa de nuestra comunidad y agente de bienes raíces con pasión por lo que hago. Si estás buscando vender o comprar una casa, sería un honor para mí ayudarte. ¿No estás seguro si estás listo para comprar o vender? ¡Contáctame hoy para una consulta gratis y un resumen del mercado de bienes raíces en Chicago!



ELIZABETH OTTER  
312.305.1423

Elizabeth@kdhomeschicago.com

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UNASE AL "JOLGORIO BORICUA EN HUMBOLDT PARK" 4 DE JULIO 2026, 11AM-6PM

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| Government Services                               | Change of Address Assistance    |
| Social Security Assistance                        | Section 8 Paperwork             |
| Unemployment Applications                         | Lease Assistance                |
| Senior Bus Pass (Ventra/RTA)                      | 501(c) Application Support      |
| Department of Aging Services (Elderly Assistance) | Family Support Services         |
| Immigration Support                               | School Referrals & Applications |
|   | Attorney Referrals              |
|   | Food Pantry Referrals           |
|   | And More!                       |



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LASH TECH

TEXT MESSAGE:  
 (630)660-8572

EMAIL:  
[KEILEYCASTELLANOS11@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KEILEYCASTELLANOS11@GMAIL.COM)

INSTAGRAM:  
 GUERA\_LASHES

LOCATION:  
 MELROSE PARK



## LASH TECH

TEXT MESSAGE:  
 (630) 660-8572

EMAIL:  
[KEILEYCASTELLANOS11@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KEILEYCASTELLANOS11@GMAIL.COM)

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**¡SALUDA!**  
 The 48th Puerto Rican People's Day Parade



**¡ALL OUT TO THE 48TH PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE'S DAY PARADE!**  
**SAT., JUNE 13, 2026 STEP-OFF DIVISION ST CORNER OF CAMPBELL AVE, 12:00**



*Since 1969, BUILD has helped Chicago's most vulnerable youth escape gangs and violence to become positive leaders in their communities. We engage youth at every stage, with specialized teams dedicated to street violence interventions, gang detachments, creative after-school programming, academic school and college support, mental health care, community violence crisis response, and enrichment activities ranging from art and music to sports, podcasting, engineering and gardening.*

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BUILD proudly started in the Humboldt Park community over 57 years ago!

**BUILD PROUDLY SUPPORTS THE 48TH PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE'S DAY PARADE**



**2 LOCATIONS:**  
 Humboldt Park Office  
 1750 N. Kimball Ave.  
 Chicago, IL 60647  
 Austin Headquarters  
 5100 W. Harrison St.  
 Chicago, IL 60644

**UNASE AL "JOLGORIO BORICUA EN HUMBOLDT PARK" 4 DE JULIO 2026, 11AM-6PM**



## The Greater West Town Community Project

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Location: 500 N. Sacramento Blvd

Contact Information

[gwtp.org](http://gwtp.org); [info@gwtp.org](mailto:info@gwtp.org)

312-563-9570





**Cermak**  
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*--- Tony Hernandez*

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SAT., JUNE 13, 2026 STEP-OFF DIVISION ST CORNER OF CAMPBELL AVE, 12:00**

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Martes y Jueves, 5:00pm  
Instructora; Carmen



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## Zumba Dance-aerobics

En el Parque Kosciuszko  
Field House  
2732 N. Avers Ave.  
Martes y Jueves, 6:00pm  
Instrs.; Cristina, Vicky Angeles & Liliana



THE Puerto Rican Center



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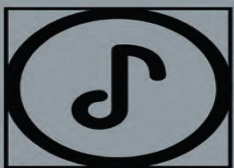
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**The Puerto Rican Cultural Center Oral History Initiative**, led by sociologist **Michael Rodríguez-Muñiz** (University of California, Berkeley), seeks to document and preserve memories of Puerto Rican life, activism, and politics in Humboldt Park/West Town from the 1970s to the 1990s. **Your story is important!**



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JUNE  
11TH



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**LYRIK CRUZ**  
HOST | CHOREOGRAPHER  
"BORICUAS GOT TALENT"



**ELI CASTRO**  
HOST | COMEDIAN

FRI  
JUNE  
12TH



TKA • 2 IN A ROOM  
THE COVER GIRLS • FREESTYLE  
GEORGE ANTHONY • NOCERA



SAT  
JUNE  
13TH



**TONNY TUN TUN**



**FULANITO**



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UNASE AL "JOLGORIO BORICUA EN HUMBOLDT PARK" 4 DE JULIO 2026, 11AM-6PM



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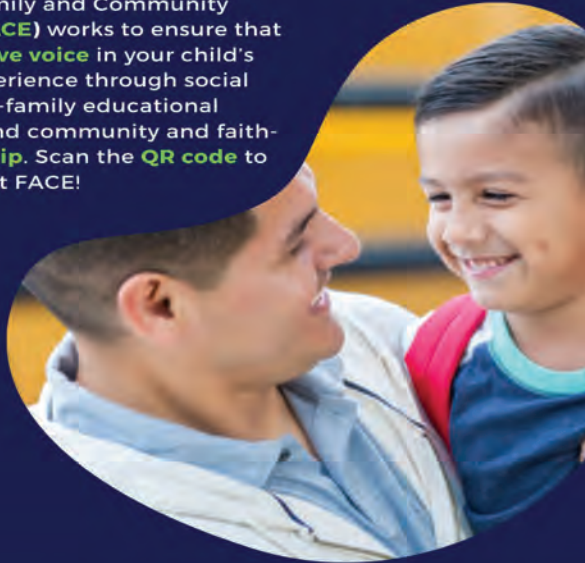
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## Yates Elementary Summer Camp

June - July 2026  
Monday - Thursday  
(9am - 2pm)



Weekly Theme	Spirit Monday	Arts Tuesday	Little Chef Wednesday	Field Trip Thursday	No Camp Fridays
<b>Ocean Explorers</b>	June 15 CAMP T-SHIRTS MANDATORY Musuem of Science & Industry	16 CAMP T-SHIRTS MANDATORY Little Cubs Field	17 CAMP T-SHIRTS MANDATORY iFly Chicago	18 CAMP T-SHIRTS MANDATORY Shedd Aquarium	
<b>STEAM</b>	22 DIY Tie-dye Shirts	23 ARTS & CRAFTY	24 Cooking & Water Wednesday	25 CAMP T-SHIRTS MANDATORY SLOOMOO (K-8TH)	
<b>Color Explosions</b>	29 WEAR AS MANY COLORS AS POSSIBLE :)	30 ARTS & CRAFTY	July 1 Cooking & Water Wednesday	2 CAMP T-SHIRTS MANDATORY COLOR FACTORY (K-8TH)	
<b>Around The World</b>	6 Represent Your Culture!!!	7 ARTS & CRAFTY	8 Cooking & Water Wednesday	9 CAMP T-SHIRTS MANDATORY CHINATOWN (5th-8th) Lincoln Park Zoo (K-4th)	
<b>STEAM</b>	13 Final week of Fashion Fun- Wear Your Best Summer Fit <3	14 ARTS & CRAFTY	15 Cooking & Water Wednesday	16 CAMP T-SHIRTS MANDATORY CHICAGO FIRE SOCCER (K-4th) SIX FLAGS (5th-8th)	

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR STUDENT WITH  
A CHANGE OF CLOTHES EVERY WEDNESDAY

For More Information, Contact:

**Angel Mendez**  
Resource Coordinator

312-907-2013  
[acmendez3@cps.edu](mailto:acmendez3@cps.edu)



Humboldt Park  
Community  
as a Campus  
Education Initiative

## Northeastern Illinois University Salutes the Puerto Rican Community of Chicago!



**!ALL OUT TO THE 48TH PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE'S DAY PARADE!  
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# 4th Annual Wellness Day on Paseo Boricua



**Saturday, June 6, 2026  
11:00am-3:00pm**

**On Division St. From Western Ave. to California Ave.**

**JOIN US FOR A FAMILY FRIENDLY DAY OF WELLNESS ON PASEO BORICUA**

**INAGURATING PUERTO RICAN WEEK**



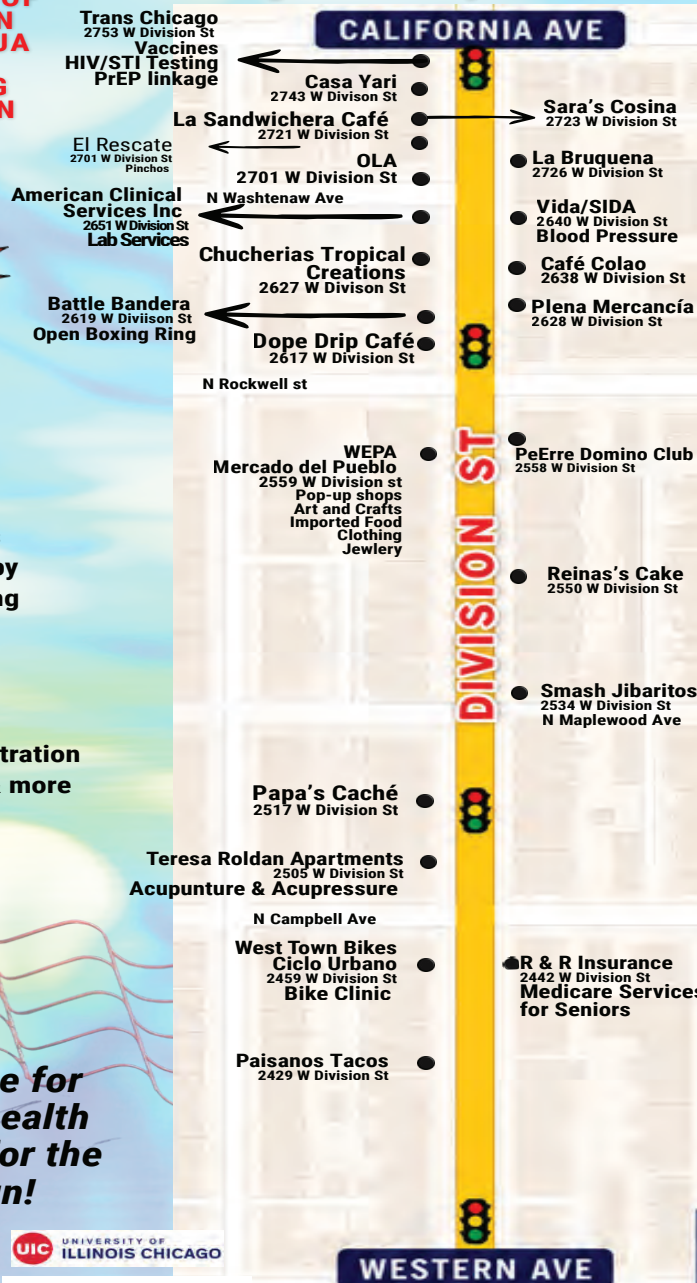
- Resources
- Vaccines
- Cooking Demos
- Physical Therapy
- Health Screening
- Activities
- Networking
- Shopping
- Pop-up Shops
- Boxing Demonstration
- Art Exhibition & more

health screenings

**Come for the health stay for the fun!**



## Dining and Healty Food Crawl



Our VPI (Violence Prevention Initiative) program brings together a range of community-driven efforts designed to empower and uplift youth while reducing violence. Through initiatives like Re-Imagine, the program fosters creativity and forward-thinking solutions to community challenges, while Youth Development focuses on building life skills, leadership, and personal growth. The R.I.S.E Youth Initiative encourages resilience, inspiration, support, and empowerment among young people, helping them navigate obstacles and make positive choices. Our Battle Bandera boxing gym provides a safe, structured outlet for physical activity, discipline, and mentorship, and SCaN (Service Coordination and Navigation) connects families with critical resources and support systems. Together, these programs create a holistic approach that promotes safety, opportunity, and long-term community well-being.

- ✓ **Re-Imagine (Northside cluster)**  
Address: 2744 N Laramie  
**Service Areas:** Albany Park, Avondale, Belmont-Cragin, Irving Park, Hermosa, Logan Square, Near North Side, and West Town
- ✓ **Battle Bandera Boxing Gym**  
Address: 2619 W Division  
**Kids Class:** 7-12 yrs  
**Youth Open Gym:** 13-21 yrs
- ✓ **R.I.S.E Youth Initiative**  
lorenzot@prcc-chgo.org  
**Service Ages:** 13-24 yrs
- ✓ **Re-Imagine (Humboldt Park)**  
Address: 2636 W Division
- ✓ **Youth Development**  
Address: 2636 W Division  
**Service Ages:** 11-21 yrs
- ✓ **SCaN**  
deangelocarrero@prcc-chgo.org  
**Service Ages:** 14-24 yrs

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En la Escuela Secundaria Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos, damos la bienvenida a estudiantes de 16 a 21 años que están listos para tomar las riendas de su educación y su futuro. Con un ambiente de apoyo y un fuerte sentido de comunidad, ayudamos a nuestros estudiantes a prosperar tanto dentro como fuera del aula.



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UNASE AL "JOLGORIO BORICUA EN HUMBOLDT PARK" 4 DE JULIO 2026, 11AM-6PM

viene P. 10

– *Educación: cierre de cientos de escuelas públicas y reducción de presupuesto operacional.*

– *Servicios públicos: consolidación de agencias y eliminación de puestos de trabajo regulares. Aumento de puestos de confianza, que son nombramientos políticos y responden principalmente al gobierno de turno.*

– *Transporte- reducción en las rutas y aumento en las tarifas de la Autoridad Metropolitana de Autobuses*

– *Universidad de Puerto Rico: reducción del 48% de fondos del Fondo General entre 2017 y 2024, lo que ha provocado aumentos en costos de matrícula y servicios a estudiantes, eliminación de puestos de trabajo docentes y no docentes, y deterioro de la infraestructura en los recintos del sistema de educación superior público.*

Estas medidas de austeridad y recortes de servicios impuestas por la JCF, junto a la ausencia de iniciativas de revitalización económica para el país, han tenido el efecto de estimular la emigración reciente de cientos de miles de profesionales puertorriqueños, educados y diestros, que se van del país en búsqueda de las oportunidades que aquí se les niegan.

Pero, la peor nota en el récord de la JCF ha sido su caótica gestión de la crisis de energía en Puerto Rico y la quiebra de la Autoridad de Energía Eléctrica (AEE), cuya resolución es todavía incierta después de 10 años, y cuyos efectos nefastos afectarán el desarrollo económico de Puerto Rico por años y décadas. La JCF ha sido responsable de impulsar la privatización de nuestro sistema eléctrico, en un proceso atropellado y poco transparente, y de haber aprobado

la contratación de engendros como LUMA y GeneraPR, que apenas pueden mantener el sistema eléctrico operando. La JCF también es responsable de haber avalado el rescate financiero de la empresa privada AES, que quema carbón para producir energía. También aprobó el contrato de siete años otorgado a New Fortress Energy, la empresa gasífera en riesgo de bancarrota que tiene el monopolio de la importación y distribución de gas metano a las unidades de generación en manos de su subsidiaria, GeneraPR. La otra cara de la moneda la representa una ciudadanía puertorriqueña que vive de apagón en apagón, y que es rehén de empresas energéticas mediocres en capacidad y servicios, que priorizan sus ganancias sobre el compromiso con sus abonados.

La aprobación de PROMESA y la JCF, y su toma de control de las finanzas públicas de Puerto Rico, ha sido una de las expresiones más cínicas, arrogantes y prepotentes del colonialismo estadounidense en Puerto Rico. Es más humillante aún que las leyes Foraker y Jones que la precedieron, porque ha develado, de golpe y porrazo, la farsa del gobierno propio y del supuesto «pacto bilateral» que representó la creación del llamado Estado Libre Asociado (ELA).

Puerto Rico, bajo la Junta de Control Fiscal, es un país más empobrecido, maltratado y desgobernado que diez años atrás. Aquí los principales beneficiados han sido los bonistas, los buitres, McKinsey & Company, Alvarez & Marsal, Proskauer Rose, y toda la caravana de contratistas y asesores que acompañan, nutren, adulan y deciden a nombre de la JCF. Esa es la realidad de nuestro país a diez años de PROMESA y la Junta. Diez años que pesan como si fueran siglos.

## Clemente Students Take Part In PRCC Photography Apprenticeship & Gallery

On March 10, 17 students from Roberto Clemente Community Academy (RCCA) showcased their work in a photography gallery organized by the school's media department in partnership with the Puerto Rican Cultural Center, the Boys & Girls Club and Jaay Diaz Photography.



Over the course of six weeks, students developed foundational photography skills, including composition, lighting, and photo editing. After studying the work of renowned photographers, they applied those influences to create their own original pieces, each reflecting their unique perspective.

The program was led by Milton Tanco and Jacob Diaz, both RCCA alumni, with Diaz also a former student of the school's Radio/TV program. Their leadership highlighted the impact of graduates returning as professionals to invest in the next generation.

The gallery was held in the school library, transforming a previously unused classroom into a vibrant exhibition space. The students' work brought the room to life, demonstrating both their technical growth and creative expression.

*continued P. 46*

# Kathy Ortiz Lives On in Our Struggle

*Everyone in the Puerto Rican Cultural Center joins our Board of Directors' member, Veronica Ocasio, in the bereavement on the physical loss of her beloved mother, Katherine Ortiz.*

*Kathy (as all who knew her*

*called her) was a very active member of our Puerto Rican community, from a community activist and organizer to a self-actualized Puerto Rican entrepreneur. She was involved early on in the work of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center, as well*

*as our high school, Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos.*

*Even though we cannot count on her physical presence, her essence, her energy, her commitment, and her love will live on in every person she touched- particularly those*

*who have worked in the Puerto Rican Cultural Center.*

*A celebration of her life will be held at the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture at 3015 W. Division St. on Friday, June 20, between 2 and 4 p.m.*

Dear Friends and Museum Family,

It is with a heart full of love and deep sorrow that I share the passing of my beloved Queen, my mother, my best friend, my rock, Katherine Ortiz (78 years young), who passed peacefully in her sleep on the morning of Tuesday, May 19, 2026 in Puerto Rico

She is deeply and eternally loved and will forever be missed by my sister, Iliana and me. She leaves behind a legacy more beautiful than words can hold in her grandchildren who will carry her fierce spirit and beautiful light forward: Dessere Ortiz, Ramón Rodríguez, Ismael A. Sánchez, Gabriel Albizu Ocasio, Antonio Betances Ocasio, and her 8 precious great-grandchildren.

As the eldest of her siblings, she also leaves behind her dear sisters Diana Estevez Segarra and



Alicia Segarra, daughters of her beloved mother Alicia Aponte Segarra and beloved stepfather William Segarra; and her siblings Gloria Ortiz, Juan J. Ortiz (Jr.), Wilfredo Ortiz, Marilyn Ortiz, and Juan B. Ortiz (Jany), children of her beloved father Juan Ortiz, as well as her prima-hermanas Aidita Ortiz and Janet Ortiz, and many family members she

loved immensely.

We find great peace knowing she is fully healed, reunited with those we lost and loved, with our ancestors rejoicing, exactly where she always knew she was headed: Heaven.

We are so grateful for your prayers, your kindness, and your love during this time. At this moment, I am on the island she loved so much, fulfilling her final wishes and holding her close one last time in the place where her heart always lived. In the gentleness of your understanding, I ask that you hold space for my beloved husband, Billy, whom she loved as her own, and for our family, as we wrap ourselves in grief, in gratitude, and in the grace she so beautifully showed us every day of her life.

viene P. 9

umentos del poder mientras propone formas nuevas y más inclusivas de simbolismo público.

Tras su lanzamiento en junio, el monumento continuará recorriendo distintos barrios de Chicago, apareciendo en espacios cívicos, culturales y cotidianos, para examinar cómo la visibilidad, el sentido de pertenencia y el poder se distribuyen de manera desigual en el espacio urbano. Aunque la escala del proyecto es monumental, su impacto se medirá en los encuentros cotidianos: personas que salen del trabajo, recogen a sus hijos de la escuela o pasean por el parque con un ser querido. "Dentro de la comunidad puertorriqueña de Chicago, el arte público ha cumplido durante mucho tiempo un papel cívico vital, generando diálogo en torno a la identidad y el lugar, al tiempo que inspira

la acción colectiva hacia la autodeterminación. DIGNIDAD reafirma un valor fundamental de la comunidad: que la dignidad es un derecho humano inherente. Ante las deportaciones masivas y la creciente intimidación de las comunidades latinas, la urgencia de este proyecto no podría ser más profunda," dijo Carla Acevedo-Yates.

Al igual que otras obras de la serie Floating Monuments, DIGNIDAD surge de un compromiso sostenido con la ciudad como paisaje de memoria, símbolos y significados en disputa. No monumentaliza un único evento o figura, sino que ofrece un lenguaje compartido, simple, directo y poderoso, que puede ser habitado por distintas comunidades a través del tiempo y el espacio.

"DIGNIDAD refleja nuestro interés continuo en cómo los monumentos pueden funcionar como plataformas y no simplemente como objetos", dijeron los codirectores del Floating Museum, Avery R. Young, Faheem Majeed, Andrew Schachman y Jeremiah Hulsebos-Spofford. "Al desplazarse por la ciudad, la obra se resiste a volverse invisible en un momento en que las preguntas sobre la dignidad, la visibilidad y la pertenencia necesitan sostenerse colectivamente."

Este proyecto fue posible gracias al apoyo de la Fundación Mellon. Visita [www.floatingmuseum.org](http://www.floatingmuseum.org) para más información.

**UNASE AL "JOLGORIO BORICUA EN HUMBOLDT PARK" 4 DE JULIO 2026, 12PM**

*continued from P. 8*

nois-based Dr. Yan Katsnelson of Ora World, to move to Puerto Rico and enjoy extraordinary tax benefits while communities like Villa Vaca face displacement.

How did this happen? The people of Villa Vaca were told to pay \$1 a month and sign a contract. They were verbally assured they would never be thrown out of their homes. Then the property was sold. The new owners have not even shown their faces to the community, nor have they offered compensation to families who have lived there since 1965.

It should also surprise no one that Loíza is a predominantly Afro-Boricua community that has faced discrimination since the days of Spanish colonization.

Thankfully, Mayor Julia Nazario is helping. She has organized volunteer legal assistance and brought diaspora groups, including Chicago's Puerto Rican Cultural Center, which I advise in Washington, D.C., as well as media personalities, to help rally support for the community.

Unfortunately, Mayor Nazario has no authority over the permits for these projects in her town. She also will not receive meaningful revenue from the development because of Puerto Rico's tax giveaway system. In fact, she told us that even if her municipality were eligible for tax revenue, she would reject the project because the lives of Villa Vaca residents matter more.

#### Act 22 Anger

So what is Act 22? It is a Puerto Rican law that exploits a federal tax loophole and gives outsiders zero percent tax rates on certain capital gains, dividends, interest, and other forms of investment income, along with additional benefits not available to most Puerto Rican residents.

At the same time, the Puerto Rican diaspora is increasingly angry about the Act 22 loophole

because cities, states, and the federal government are being deprived of hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenue. The result is a circular pattern of gentrification and displacement that affects Puerto Rican communities from Loíza to Humboldt Park and back again.

"We are not animals. People live here, and we are not going anywhere," Miguel Luis Franco Figueroa told me.

Nalian Díaz, a mother of two babies, told me she has nowhere to go. She fears that one day she will return home and find her house reduced to rubble or boarded up with an eviction notice on the door.

The validity of verbal agreements, property titles, tax laws, territorial permits, and other technicalities will all be used to justify this inhumanity. The language of "progress" will be aimed at the very people who, in the eyes of developers and investors, stand in the way of jobs, growth, and trickle-down economics.

But this is not a routine case of poor families being priced out of their homes because they can no longer afford rising costs. Villa Vaca residents, including Doña María, have little or no income and no other housing alternatives.

That is why those of us in the diaspora have a responsibility to raise our voices and support Villa Vaca. We have a duty to act, including by boycotting the clinics Dr. Katsnelson operates across 30 states, so that abusive tax beneficiaries understand there will be economic consequences if they continue to threaten the lives of the 16 families in Hacienda Grande.

If the Puerto Rican diaspora in the United States and our allies do not stand up for Doña María and her neighbors, we will be next.

View the video on X here: <https://bit.ly/villa-vaca>

*continued from P. 44*

In addition to gaining hands-on experience, students were compensated through the Puerto Rican Cultural Center's Youth Development program. A few participants reinvested their earnings into their craft by purchasing their own photography equipment, allowing them to continue developing their skills beyond the program.

The event served as a powerful example of community collaboration, mentorship, and youth empowerment—showcasing how education and creativity can come together to inspire meaningful growth.

**ERRATA:** We mistakenly omitted the name of the author, Jacob Diaz, of the article, "Café Con Música students develop skills." Apologies to the author.

*continued from P. 4*

between the homeland and nostalgia.

As I remember my childhood, playing with paper airplanes in el campo or in a school's yard in Juncos, I never understood the significance of the airplane in our culture until now, when I was commissioned to create an art piece that connected our culture between the diaspora and the island. As simple as it might look, those paper airplanes leaving El Fangito would eventually transform into a real airplane. As we live and reinvent ourselves in the diaspora, we grow older, longing for the island as the promised land, ending with an airplane between our hands, as a recreation of a painting by Ramón Frade, el pan nuestro. But instead of holding a bundle of Platanos, he is holding an airplane, symbolizing migration and displacement as the search for a better future.

# As the U.S. Military Expands in Puerto Rico, Enlistment Keeps Falling on the Island

*The promise of socioeconomic mobility through enlistment is being eclipsed by harassment, discrimination, language barriers and the prospect of looming armed conflicts.*

By Víctor Rodríguez Velázquez  
 Víctor Rodríguez Velázquez, José M. Encarnación Martínez José M. Encarnación Martínez and Gabriela Carrasquillo | Centro de Periodismo Investigativo Gabriela Carrasquillo | Centro de Periodismo Investigativo

CPI's investigation found a growing disconnect between Puerto Rico's increasing role in U.S. military strategy and the declining number of Puerto Ricans choosing to enlist. While federal and local officials have celebrated hundreds of millions of dollars in military investments and the expansion of military operations at sites such as the former Roosevelt Roads Naval Station in Ceiba, recruitment across the main branches of the U.S. armed forces on the island fell by 11% between 2021 and 2025. The sharpest decline occurred in the Army, where enlistment dropped 30%, while only modest gains were recorded in the Air Force and Marine Corps.

The data suggests that economic hardship continues to play a major role in recruitment. CPI found that a majority of Air Force and Puerto Rico National Guard recruits over the past decade came from municipalities with high levels of youth poverty. Interviews with veterans, counselors and experts indicate that the military is no longer widely viewed as a reliable path to upward mobility. Many young people now favor technical programs, college

studies or jobs that provide immediate income, while interest in military careers remains low among students in Puerto Rico's schools and universities.

"Lots of people think the military is 'where the money is.' Lie, lie and lie," said Nagelys Viera Viera, 23, an Army veteran — though she acknowledged that in her case, she enlisted in search of financial independence. She joined the Army at 17, right out of high school. Although she grew up in a family where the military was part of the landscape — her mother, Carmen Viera, is a Navy veteran, and several cousins served in other branches — the Army was never a personal aspiration.

"I never liked it," she said.

But she hadn't completed the paperwork in time to start college, and she couldn't find a job that appealed to her. Bored and increasingly desperate, she took the military aptitude test and enlisted. She was assigned to a unit responsible for supplying the battalion's inventory — work that meant lifting heavy equipment and climbing in and out of distribution trucks. After training and once she began her duties, she suffered a back injury that left her disabled.

One of Nagelys' biggest disappointments in the Army — and later in the ROTC — was the sexual

harassment she said she endured and that, even after she reported it, nothing was done. "Any woman who's been in the military will tell you that at some point she's been harassed," she said.

Veterans interviewed by CPI described a more complicated reality behind the military's promises of opportunity. Some joined seeking financial stability, educational benefits or a better future for their families, but later faced physical injuries, psychological trauma and difficult transitions back to civilian life. Others recounted experiences of sexual harassment, discrimination and language and cultural barriers. When interviewed by CPI, a woman veteran shared her story and assured is not isolated, and that harassment remains widespread, while former ROTC participants described restrictions on speaking Spanish and racist treatment during training programs in the United States.

Experts interviewed for the story also pointed to broader geopolitical concerns. The legacy of the Iraq War, in which thousands of Puerto Ricans served, continues to shape public perceptions of military service. Historians and analysts argued that fears of being deployed to future conflicts, combined with growing awareness of the physical and emotional costs of war, have made enlistment less attractive to many young Puerto Ricans.



Photo provided.

At the same time, the U.S. military's footprint on the island continues to expand. New funding is being used to modernize bases and infrastructure, and military activity has become increasingly visible in eastern Puerto Rico. Government officials argue these investments will generate jobs and economic growth, but critics question whether military spending truly benefits local communities. Drawing on the experience of places such as Vieques, they contend that military installations often operate as self-contained spaces whose economic gains flow primarily to contractors and military operations rather than to surrounding residents.

The investigation shows that Puerto Rico is becoming more strategically important to the U.S. military even as fewer Puerto Ricans are willing to serve in it. Economic need still motivates some recruits, but concerns about discrimination, harassment, injuries, war and uncertain long-term benefits are increasingly outweighing the military's traditional appeal as a vehicle for social and economic advancement.

This story is possible through a collaboration between the Centro de Periodismo Investigativo and Open Campus.

Read the full investigation at [www.periodismoinvestigativo.com](http://www.periodismoinvestigativo.com)

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