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LA VOZ DEL PASEO BORICUA



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PG 6

NATASHA BROWN CASTRO
PRCC Director of Human
Services and Housing Initiatives
SPEAKS



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PR AGENDA

Reflects on 3rd Anniversary
Irma & Maria: Redoubles
Commitment to 3Rs for PR



PG 11

**NO A LA ESTADIDAD
EN PUERTO RICO**
3 de noviembre

PRCC Celebrates **GRITO DE LARES** and its **LEGACY OF SELF-ACTUALIZATION** Inaugurates 3 Public Health Initiatives:



• **Lisa Isadora Cruz**
Trans Empowerment Center

• **Ricardo Jiménez**
Prevention Van



• **Drs. Virginia Bishop and
Helen Rodríguez Trías**
Historical and Generational
Trauma Mental Wellness Center

BORICUA/LATINO
¡VOTA! VOTE!
ON NOVEMBER 3

SEE OUR COMMENTARY & ENDORSEMENTS

• **VOTE TO LOWER YOUR TAXES:**
VOTE YES ON FAIR TAX AMENDMENT
SEE PAGE 15



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 monthly 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. Mensualmente, divulga historias relevantes de nuestra comunidad, diseminando noticias sobre acontecimientos, programas, recursos, y progresos locales. Como fuente alternativa de medios, intentamos reconocer los logros de la comunidad puertorriqueña al igual que abogar por la preservación del corazón de nuestro barrio Humboldt Park - nuestro "pedacito de patria" en Chicago.

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PRCC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ADDRESSES DÍA DE LA RAZA CELEBRANTS IN PILSEN

A CALL TO RETHINK COLUMBUS DAY



by Roberto Sanabria

Chicagoans simultaneously celebrated two divergent holidays on October 12th. While some waved Italian flags and decried the City's removal of two statues depicting Christopher Columbus, a larger crowd gathered to commemorate Indigenous Peoples Day - or Día de La Raza, which recognizes this hemisphere's original inhabitants who were all but destroyed in the genocide that was jump-started by this same European explorer. The Puerto Rican Cultural Center's executive director, José E. López addressed the gathering of Native Americans, Latinos, and anti-colonial /social justice activists of all backgrounds that was gathered in Pilsen's Plaza Tenochtitlán. López

rejected the false equivalency of paying tribute to the Columbus Holiday and honoring Italian heritage. The executive director conveyed his belief that both Indigenous and Italian heritage can be celebrated, but admonished, "Preserving Columbus Day means the further perpetuation of modern colonization, which is structural racism and the ultimate form of White Supremacy."

NATIONAL BORICUA PHONE BANKING DAY PROVES SUCCESSFUL

The Puerto Rican Agenda participated in National Boricua phone banking day, Sept 16 2020, through a joint effort of Power-4-Puerto Rico, Alianza, and the Puerto Rican Agenda of Chicago. All joined efforts for a day of diaspora to reach Boricua voters in swing states, particularly Florida. It was a fruitful effort that will successfully get Puerto Ricans out to vote in their states.

October 21, 2020, 4-8 p.m. ET
National Boricua Phone Banking Day



Join us for a day of diaspora action to reach boricua voters in swing states.

Sign up to make calls at:
power4puertorico.com

For more information, email:
info@power4puertorico.com



PRCC Celebrates GRITO DE LARES and its LEGACY OF SELF-ACTUALIZATION Inaugurates 3 Public Health Initiatives:

• Drs. Virginia Bishop and Helen Rodríguez Trías
Historical and Generational Trauma Mental Wellness Center

• Lisa Isadora Cruz
Trans Empowerment Center

• Ricardo Jiménez
Prevention Van



Current/former state reps and PRCC staff honor Lisa Cruz



Dr. Bishop's mother and daughter visit wellness center named after her.



E.D. López connects Betances, self-actualization, and vision of Wellness Center.



PRCC opens the Drs. Virginia Bishop and Helen Rodríguez Trías Historical & Generational Trauma Mental Wellness Center

by Roberto Sanabria

On the anniversary of Puerto Rico's auspicious "Grito de Lares", an event that heralded the proclamation of the Puerto Rican nation, The Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC) introduced its latest public health and wellness initiatives. These projects are the culmination of The PRCC's mission to educate, empower, and to promote the self-actualization of the Puerto Rican people in a holistic and organic manner.

Dr. Ramón Emeterio Betances, the intellectual author of the Grito de Lares, expressed the nascent desire of Puerto Rican people to be self actualized, autonomous beings who were rid of Spanish slavery and servitude. His demands on the Spanish Crown would have Puerto Ricans managing their own affairs. They would be unrestrained as they developed their collective talents - their self-actualization. Moreover, Dr. Betances exemplified the process of self-actualization when he returned to Puerto

Rico during the island's most deadly epidemic of that century, the Cholera outbreak of 1856. Betances courageously threw himself into the work; he treated the sick without regard to their social station, which ran him afoul of Spanish authorities, and he designed effective sanitation measures that slowed and eventually brought to a halt the cholera epidemic. In such selfless and heroic service to the Puerto Rican people, Betances altered the course of a raging epidemic that was on a trajectory to kill thousands more, and in so doing, he transformed the face of public health in Puerto Rico; thus he realized his immense potential as a healer and as a critical thinker. In this process, Betances became a luminous example of a self-actualized man.

In the animate spirit of Betances' legacy, The Puerto Rican Cultural Center celebrated its most ambitious expansion of services to date. On September 23rd, the 152nd anniversary of The Grito de Lares, it inaugurated three life-affirming

initiatives. First was the PRCC's new Trans Health Center. The facility is named after Lisa Isadora Cruz, a local transgender Puerto Rican woman who exemplifies what is it to lead a fully-actualized life. Cruz is a trans activist, advocate for Puerto Rican health equity, a leader of The PRCC as the Coordinator of its Trans Health program, and is a celebrated mentor to scores of younger, trans Latina and African American women who revere her for her wisdom, courage, and giving spirit.

After the inauguration of the Trans Health Center, The PRCC unveiled its new Prevention Van. This vehicle is named after another Puerto Rican treasure, Ricardo Jiménez. After 20 years of incarceration as a political prisoner, Jiménez persevered and rose to become a tireless and effective advocate for HIV+ Latinos and African Americans. His work to promote community wellness has earned him the respect not just of his colleagues, but of the greater community of public health-

(Continued on next page)

PUERTO RICAN DIASPORA COMMEMORATES GRITO DE LARES FROM NEW YORK TO THE BAY AREA

BAY AREA VIRTUAL EVENT CENTERS CULTURE, HISTORY AND CALL TO ACTION; FEATURES NELSON DENIS, JOSÉ E. LÓPEZ AND COLECTIVO ILÉ

by BASPR

The San Francisco Bay has celebrated Grito de Lares every year at least since the '70s put on by different Puerto Rican groups. Other groups usually join in. This year with the COVID-19 restrictions, no in-person commemoration was possible so we had to go virtual, which opened up so many possibilities. The event took place on Saturday, September 19, 2020. Most of the cultural presentations were local but our 3 speakers came from as far away as Puerto Rico, New York, and Chicago. These were Mariluz Franco-Ortiz, Ph.D., Social Psychologist, Community Assessment, Kimberly Figueroa-Calderón, organizer and organizer and anti-racist educator, and Cristina M. Carrasquillo, Director of Development, all from for Colectivo Ilé in Puerto Rico, Nelson Denis, author of "The War Against All Puerto Ricans", and José E. López, from The Puerto Rican Agenda and the National Boricua Human Rights Network. The organization pulling Grito together this year was La Tertulia Boricua who celebrated its 9th year of existence this past February. We have met monthly ever since to share food, friendship, and Puerto Rican culture.

"EL MAESTRO" GRITO DE LARES EVENT MAINTAINS TRADITION, SPIRIT OF STRUGGLE IN THE BRONX; DEDICATED TO "PETE" LASPINA

by PRCC staff

Adding itself to the series of events in the US and Puerto Rico, El Maestro Cultural Center in the Bronx held its annual celebration of El Grito de Lares this past September 19. The event, dedicated to one of El Maestro's co-founders, Pedro "Pete" Laspina, who passed away earlier this year of cancer, has been celebrated continually since 1976.

The event was emceed by Iván Colón, and it featured music by Grupo El maestro and Herencia de Mi Tambo, as well as speakers from different organizations. L. Alejandro Molina, representing

the National Boricua Human Rights Network, dedicated his words to Pete Laspina and played "En La Vida Todo es Ir" the musicalized poem by Jun Antonio Corretjer made popular by Roy Brown. More than 100 people, mostly Puerto Rican and of all ages, attended the event. All attendees respected social distancing and mask-wearing standards,

and all enjoyed grilled chicken, hamburgers, and hotdogs.

El Maestro is a non-profit organization that offers training to neighborhood youth who want to develop their boxing skills. Like all community organizations, especially Latinx and African American ones, they

have not been able to raise much needed funds for the ongoing delivery of services during the last 6-7 months. Please help them continue their work by going to your Paypal account and sending a donation to: elmaestrobx@gmail.com



(Continued from last page)

care workers as well. It is fitting that the Ricardo Jiménez Jiménez Prevention Van will reach marginalized individuals who are usually overlooked because their accessibility challenges are too great.

Lastly, The PRCC inaugurated the Historical & Generational Mental Wellness Center. This new community resource proudly bears the names of two trailblazing and iconic Puerto Rican women who had worked in, and who had greatly influenced, the field of public health: Dr. Helen Rodrí-

quez Trias, who often expressed the aphorism, "All health is public health" was instrumental in the crucial expansion of health services for women and children in marginalized populations around the world. Dr. Virginia Bishop was an educator and a physician in Chicago who tirelessly advocated for community involvement and leadership in public health matters. She was a constant presence in Humboldt Park, where she often led her Northwestern University students on tours where they learned of the community's boundless and

organic resources. As had Betances before them, both women realized their immeasurable potential, and left behind enduring marks in the field of public health. Dr. Bishop's daughter, Angela and Sister Rosie, as well as Dr. Rodríguez Trías' three children -- Jo Ellen, Laura, and Daniel, addressed the attendees (the latter via a video-taped message) expressing their heartfelt gratitude for the honor bestowed upon their mothers and for the continuation of their legacy and their work through the new center.



EN MEDIO DE EPIDEMIA COVID: CENTRO CULTURAL REDOBLA ESFUERZOS PARA SERVIR COMUNIDAD TRANS

por Nathalie Tirado

Este 2020 ha sido un año histórico. Desde su comienzo, se nos ha presentado una cascada de eventos tal como temblores en nuestra patria, revoluciones alrededor del mundo, y la aparición de la pandemia del virus COVID-19.

Tras varios actos dentro de una agenda global para abordar el tema de cambio climático, evitar la destrucción y fragmentación de hábitats, revertir la pérdida de biodiversidad, reducir la propagación del COVID-19, y mejorar la gestión de derechos humanos, El Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño en Chicago continuó con su lema: Vivir y Ayudar a Vivir.

Al enfrentar una crisis de salud que ha causado un choque social y económico global, El Centro continuó brindando servicios de salud pública a una comunidad marginalizada no por décadas sino siglos - las comunidades de minorías étnicas y raciales. Tras la continuación de servicios por medios virtuales, el programa Trans Chicago, continuó su ardua labor al mantener un espacio, virtual, abierto

para la comunidad transgénero y género no conforme. En tal espacio, se proporcionó información y recomendaciones antes el cuidado físico y mental como también recursos para servicios esenciales antes la pandemia del COVID-19.

El equipo de Salud Pública de El Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño se juntó y brindó información diariamente por medio de redes sociales tal como Facebook, Instagram, y Snapchat de cómo: mantener la salud mental, el cuidado de salud sexual, consejos para alimentarse bien, consejos acerca la violencia doméstica e intervenciones para mujeres transgéneros viviendo con el VIH al igual intervenciones para jóvenes en alto riesgo para contraer enfermedades venéreas y/o el VIH. Al conducir el sinnúmero de actividades, nos permitió acercarnos a nuestras comunidades durante momentos de crisis y poder brindarles artículos de comida y apoyo mental.

Durante la cuarentena del COVID-19, el equipo de Trans Chicago se enfocó en particular en reclutar y mantener la comunidad transgénero vivien-

do con el VIH bajo un cuidado meticuloso. En tal medida, la intervención TWIST por sus siglas en inglés (Mujeres Transgéneros Viviendo con el VIH) fue proveída por medios virtuales confidenciales. Tal intervención, implementada por Facilitadora de Intervención y Co-facilitadora, Lisa Cruz y Saanti Martin, respectivamente. La intervención refleja las experiencias vividas de las mujeres transgéneros e incluye su capacidad de recuperación frente a la marginación social.

La intervención (TWIST) enfatiza la afirmación de género, estrategias de afrontamiento para reducir los factores de estrés en la vida, aumenta la conciencia de las conductas de riesgo de transmisión del VIH, enseña habilidades de comunicación para negociar relaciones sexuales más seguras, refuerza el uso adecuado y constante del condón, distingue entre relaciones sanas e insalubres, y define los tipos de relaciones abusivas y su efecto sobre la capacidad de una mujer transgénero para negociar prácticas sexuales más seguras.

REP. JESÚS "CHUY" GARCÍA ADDRESSES PALESTINIAN STUDENTS SCHOLARSHIP FUND EVENT

by PRCC Staff

The Palestinian Students Scholarship Fund (PSSF) held its annual fundraiser on Saturday, September 19th, 2020. This year the event took place online and featured a virtual conversation among students, elected officials, community leaders, and academicians. The discussion focused on the obstacles that Palestinian students confront. Entitled "Palestinian Ingenuity and Achievement: A Virtual Conversation". Rep. Jesús "Chuy" García participated in this



Dr. Sami Abushehadeh



Baker Awawdeh

exchange with Dr. Sami Abushehadeh and Baker Awawdeh. Dr. Abushehadeh is a Palestinian scholar and member of the Knesset. He holds a doctoral degree in Middle Eastern history, and wrote his dissertation on Jaffa as a cultural center during the British mandate. Mr. Awawdeh is a prominent Palestinian businessman and Community leader. He has conducted much research about the dire economic situation that the Palestinian people and their families are facing.

INTERVIEW WITH PRCC DIRECTOR OF HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING INITIATIVES NATASHA BROWN

Natasha Brown is a senior administrator at the PRCC. She supervises projects and initiatives that promote human services in the Humboldt Park/ West Town community. La Voz del Paseo asked her to talk about one of these projects - The Humboldt Park Youth Employment Program.



Q. Tell us about your experience leading this program? What is the most important thing you have learned working with these young people?

A. I worked in the program the past 2.5 years. When I began, our Youth Employment Program was in expansion. It was a summer initiative that was growing into a year-round program. Additionally, the program was evolving into a cohort model. This would ensure that youth participants would not just gain skills and become more employable, but would have a critical support network of their peers. One of the most important things I have learned working with our youth is their resilience and determination to learn and succeed when they're in a supportive environment. Once youth are provided with the support services necessary, knowledge, and an opportunity, they will soar to the next level.

Q. Tell us more about the Youth Employment Program. How long has it existed?

A. The initiative began as a summer program in 2016, and by 2017 it was serving 50 youth. It is a 12-week workforce development program that serves 110 youth per year. This year 2020 has proven to be the most critical and challenging as the pandemic reshaped every aspect of life, and continues to do so without an end in sight. Much of the discourse

revolves around the uncertainty of the program in the community. The work of the City Youth Employment Program has become more critical than ever; unemployment plummeted, and record-setting job losses, unseen since the Great Depression, have overwhelmed families. This is when the employment program shifted from important to essential. Supporting the youth in our community takes on new meaning when they are bringing home the only checks.

Q. Why is this program important to the Humboldt Park community?

A. The program is an integral part of the larger ecology of the Humboldt Park- Paseo Boricua community. Like all communities of color, socioeconomic development has an impact on all aspects of our lives. Through this program, youth are provided a 12-week workforce development training. In this training, they learn the skills such as: how to develop a resume, how to develop a cover letter, and how to apply for financial aid. All this while being placed at a work site, earning a wage, and developing hands-on work experience. This program is critical for communities of color where COVID-19 has impacted the workforce, employers, and their families. Through our network of partner businesses, the youth were still able to be placed in businesses while the city was beginning to reopen after the "shelter in place" was order went into effect in March by Governor J.B. Pritzker.

Q. How many individuals and families have benefited from this program?

A. To date, the program has served 320 youth in the community. However, focusing on the number of individuals who enrolled and benefitted from this initiative, obscures the full extent of its success. This past summer we served eighty-five youth. During that time, our case managers took note that several of these young people had become the financial cornerstones of their households. In some cases, they were even the ones who had to feed and house children of their own.

Q. What jobs do these young people perform?

A. We work with many businesses from the immediate community. These aren't just any businesses; these are community-based businesses with a strong

history in Humboldt Park. Most were started by Puerto Rican entrepreneurs generations ago. Our youth have taken posts in what has become a colorful spectrum of employment opportunities ranging from agricultural cultivation, barbershop interns, working in authentic Puerto Rican restaurants and cafes, a weekly fresh market, as well as social service programs that are ingrained in the community. The roles and responsibilities of these young people are integrated into the fabric of the community in ways that stabilize small businesses during this time of economic turbulence across the country.

Q. Can you tell us about a successful experience about someone in this program?

A. The parallels between our staff and our youth, I believe, drive a lot of our success. Running any successful community program depends deeply on the principle that staff should largely reflect the demographics they serve. Not all our staff has lived the exact struggles these young people endure, but they have bounced back from great adversity. Life has tested them, and they have proved their resilience. Their journeys illustrate their development over time. They do not come from wealth, but they have worked hard, applied themselves, and got college degrees. Each one, in fact, is working on a master's degree in a related field. Having such staff on hand, staff that looks like them and come from similar places, is a constant reminder of what they can achieve. Our staff are their role models as well as our greatest assets.

Q. What is the future of this program (what goals do you want to achieve)?

A. Looking into the future is difficult because we can't predict how this pandemic will play out. Not one industry has been left untouched by COVID - 19. Nonetheless, we are focused on innovation so that our youth will succeed. Moreover, I see the future of this work heading toward one-stop centers. Each center will have many businesses. Those

businesses will have jobs for youth. Additionally, these centers will offer a comprehensive umbrella of support services that provide youth with access to trade schools and other hands-on educational opportunities directly related to meaningful employment.

DR. HERNÁNDEZ BURGOS LEAVES PRCC TO ASSUME LEADERSHIP ROLE WITH FEDERAL HIV AGENCY

by Melissa Banerjee

The Puerto Rican Cultural Center is proud to announce that Dr. Jesus Hernández-Burgos, PRCC's Director of Public Health Initiatives, has taken a position with the HIV/AIDS Bureau Division of the US Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in Washington, DC. We are delighted to see a core member of PRCC's leadership team and Reina Cacica del Paseo Boricua 2015 grow into a national leader in the field of Public Health.

Dr. Hernández-Burgos will bring to his new position not only his years of experience working as an epidemiologist in Puerto Rico, but also the unique perspective he has gained working with the LGBTQ+ community in Humboldt Park through the Public Health Initiatives of The PRCC, as well as the successful development of the Trans Chicago Organization.

The Public Health Initiatives will now be under the experienced leadership of Dr. Will Cobbs, who has been with The PRCC for more than 10 years and will now serve as Interim Director. Dr. Cobbs says; "Dr. Hernández-Burgos has been a great leader and motivator for our community and for all of us at The Puerto Rican Cultural Center. His humility and eagerness to help build the community are reflected in his commitment to the people we serve every day. We are grateful and wish him well as he continues his career to serve and be a selfless leader."

Moving forward, the PHI programs will also benefit from the expertise of



senior public health advisor, Dr. Aida Giachello. Dr. Giachello also sends Dr. Hernández-Burgos off with the warmest wishes; "The Puerto Rican community is proud to have a young leader like Dr. Hernández-Burgos who works long hours over and above the expectations to meet the needs of his community."

Chief Operations Officer, Juan Calderón, said, "We are proud to continue to plant the seeds of leadership in Public Health. Today, we send our Dr. Jesús Hernández-Burgos to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a program officer."

While we will miss Dr. Hernández-Burgos' leadership, we are proud that The PRCC has become a public health workforce training ground for our future Latinx leaders in the field of Public Health Policy. We hope to continue working on other grounds with Dr. Hernández-Burgos for the enhancement and preservation of our community, which is highly impacted



: AFROABORIGINAL :

En El Medio, We Rico

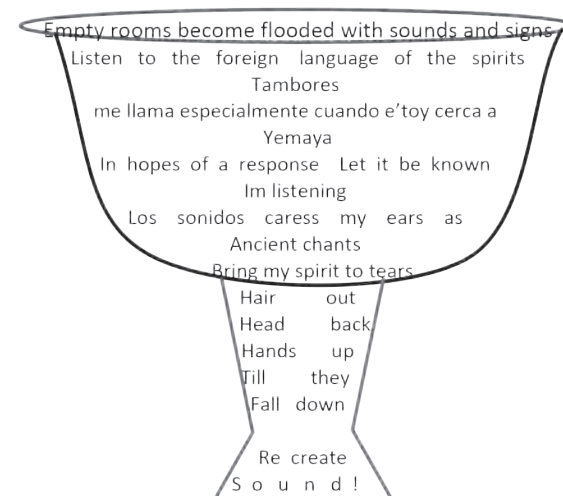
*En el medio
I'm in the middle
In between Amerikkha
And the Amerikkhano Dream
¿Qué sueño? Despiertate coño!
Pa' ti no hay sueño, hay trabajo
En el Medio
Where we are told we have
Freedom of speech & press
Pero the only freedom I see
Is the freedom to oppress
And repress mi gente
En el Medio
In between Borinquén
And the Boricua Dream
Donde naci'te? Alla o no?
Ju ar not Boricua mijo
Tu ere' Americano
En el Medio
In Milwaukee
Dentro de dos culturas distintas
Listening to hip-hop, (t)rap, jazz
reggaeton, bachata, y*

salsa

*En el medio
Speaking english
Oyendo español Borinqueniza'o
Y pensando in Spanglish
tu sabe
En El Medio
En la tierra de Borinquén donde
No he nacido yo pero
I still feel conecta'o con
Mi gente y nuestra
historia, cultura
y musica
En el Medio
Refusing to pledge allegiance to
Una bandera that is not truly mine
Pero will take mi gente to
Fight for freedom pa' un*

*País that in return takes
away nuestra libertad
En el Medio
En El Midwest where I call
Home pero no siento total-
Mente en casa
En El Medio
Entre muchas cosas que
son ni aqui, ni alla
ni pa'lao, ni pa'tra
En El Medio
Soy multicultural/multilingue/
multimusical/multicocinero y
multimemente/ hay muchxs que
sienten
Como me siento
Soy el Boricua en El Medio
You can find me
Esperando pa' ti
Con un cafecito en
Puertowaukee, WiRico*

*By Joseph Martínez II aka
AfroAboriginal*

*Tambores/Drums*

*Ancestors speak to
Elders who listen to
Youth that learn to
Teach
This is our education
It's not in the system
Get lost in the sound
Not in the system
Break mental chains/They stop change (x4)
Free yo mind
Youll be amazed at what you found or find
You thought you were lost
Only to realize youre blind
But when you see with sound
What was lost becomes found
Answers lie in a mix of
Contemplation n' Jazz
Our liberation lies in
Poetry n' Drums
Follow the rhythm (x7)*

LA CASITA DE DON PEDRO FEATURED IN OPEN HOUSE CHICAGO



From October 16th through the 25th, Open House Chicago is one of the largest architecture events of its kind in the world. The free festival typically offers access to hundreds of sites across Chicagoland. Featured on one of the architectural tours is, what many consider a hidden architectural Gem of Chicago, La Casita de Don Pedro. For more information on this tour please visit the Open House Chicago website at:
<https://openhousechicago.org/sites/site/la-casita-de-don-pedro/>

PUERTO RICAN AGENDA OF CHICAGO REFLECTS ON 3RD ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANES IRMA AND MARIA REDOUBLES COMMITMENT TO 3RS FOR PUERTO RICO CAMPAIGN

by Cristina Pacione-Zayas

As the diaspora commemorates the third anniversary of the catastrophic impact of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the island is still on a long road towards recovery with many households living under blue tarps, spotty electricity, inconsistent water service, and incessant earthquakes in the southwestern portion of Puerto Rico. Today we honor the 4,645 lives lost as a result of the long-standing negligence and disregard for the humanity of Puerto Ricans living on the island, and we stand in solidarity with Puerto Rican climate refugees, families across the diaspora, and here in Chicago as we continue to advance the work for achieving self-determination for Puerto Ricans. Recovery is just one step forward in the process for reimagining a more sustainable and sovereign Puerto Rico.

Many elements of the island's infrastructure have yet to recover, let alone make progress towards a more sustainable and climate-sensitive strategy. Any development has been the result of community-driven mutual aid on the island and throughout the diaspora, local municipal efforts, and not through the central government nor through the federal government. In July 2019, the collective power of the people of Puerto Rico made clear their ability to converge across political ideologies, identities, and generations to reject business as usual that perpetuates colonialism and corruption at their expense.

With the recent White House announcement of releasing \$13 billion from the relief package already owed to Puerto Rico just weeks before the general election, we advance the following recommendations with a focus on long-term, substantive policy that centers self-determination, self-actualization, and self-reliance:

- Direct all aid to local units of government and community-based organizations and not through the central government.
- Conduct a complete and independent audit of the illegal debt that continues to place a stranglehold on the



Puerto Rican economy. Puerto Ricans should not be responsible for a debt that has not been independently verified as true and accurate.

• Dismantle the fiscal control board installed through PROMESA as members have direct ties to the corruption that landed Puerto Rico in its current fiscal crisis, and the enacted austerity measures have continued to gut pensions and undermine essential services.

• Repeal the Jones Act, a federal archaic policy, that requires any products imported to or exported from Puerto Rico to take place on a U.S. made and staffed vessel, which is substantially more expensive than other alternatives. This imposition places an economic burden on the consumers by passing along the increased cost of importing goods to Puerto Ricans.

• Secure a final solution to Puerto Rico's long-standing challenges through the Puerto Rico Self Determination Act of 2020 introduced by Congresswomen Nydia Velázquez and Alexandria Ocasio Cortez.

The Puerto Rican Agenda of Chicago is a non-profit organization comprised of local Puerto Rican leaders that informs policy leading to self-determination of Puerto Rican Chicago, the diaspora, and Puerto Rico.

PUERTO RICAN AGENDA BEGINS 4TH YEAR OF RESCUE, RELIEF, REBUILD CAMPAIGN AFTER HURRICANE MA- RIA

In response to the Hurricanes, the Puerto Rican Agenda of Chicago articulated a strategy from the beginning to advance our work under the 3Rs for

Puerto Rico: Rescue, Relief, Rebuild campaign. Each element of the campaign has operated out of a framework of solidarity and not charity. Our collective success is evidenced by our community and allies raising funds to send the first plane filled with essential supplies from a stateside community to Puerto Rico five days after Hurricane Maria and bringing 300 people back, distributing thousands of pounds of food and supplies through local Puerto Rican businesses and partners, creating a full-service resource center to welcome displaced individuals and families to Chicago, rebuilding a community center in Loíza in collaboration with the Illinois Institute of Technology, constructing a new home for a displaced family, seeding the development of a Community Hurricane Oasis Center in Comerío, and administering nearly \$600K in micro-grants to nearly 50 towns including those affected by earthquakes earlier this year.

As the Agenda continues to partner with groups in Puerto Rico, on this third anniversary we are particularly proud of a partnership with Y No Había Luz, a theater company that has produced independent pieces to evoke imagination through puppetry, masks, performances and workshops to spur discussion and action about environmental justice, affirming cultural identity, and sparking social responsibility for the past 15 years.

Starting in 2020, Y No Había Luz has addressed educational and social emotional challenges presented through the earthquakes and pandemic by launching educational workshops for children. Our partnership extends that work by supporting the English publication of their book, The Mango Tree Sentinel, and a Latin American educational initiative that introduces young learners to concepts and tools for transforming climate change and decolonizing education. For more information about how to get involved, go to: www.PuertoRicanChicago.org.

CLEMENTE HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS FIRST COMMUNITY AND CULTURE SERIES: "CLEMENTE CULTURE 101"



by F. Sergio Mojica

As a legacy school, we know our role in this community is vital. We recognize that many of our staff were born and raised in different areas and in different cultures, thus they may be a little disconnected from the culture of the community that informs their students' understanding of the world.

To grow our school's awareness and appreciation of its place in the community, we invited Dr. José López to our inaugural "Clemente Culture IOI" series, which this first year was held virtually. Dr.



López laid out the relevant history of the early 1970s, just before the school came into being. That tumultuous history includes startling parallels to today's racial unrest. Beginning with his experience as a teacher at Tuley High School (the precursor to our Roberto Clemente H.S.), Dr. López took us on a journey that included the school's long history of social justice practices, and he ended with a challenge to our staff to continue to explore our community beyond the school's parking lot. Despite not being able to meet in person, it was a delight to have

Dr. López share with us his first-person perspective on the work the community has done with Clemente H.S. through the years.

PRCC CONGRATULATES JUAN M. CALDERÓN'S APPOINTMENT TO ILLINOIS COMMISSION OF ELIMINATION OF POVERTY



by Roberto Sanabria

The Puerto Rican Cultural Center is excited to announce the appointment of our Chief Operating Officer, Juan Calderón, to sit on the Illinois Commission on the Elimination of Poverty. This commission of experts engages in research and advises the Illinois General Assembly on how to utilize the resources of the State of Illinois so that it would

target and reduce food insecurity, expand much needed mental health services, and make it easier to receive crucial child care assistance, among other strategies designed to uplift severely resource strapped communities around the state.

This high-level, statewide assignment is a natural progression for Calderón who has worked in the Puerto Rican/Latino community for more than a decade creating programs and initiatives that have successfully employed dozens and served thousands of poor community residents. Calderón celebrates his intersectional pedigree as he identifies as Afro-Puerto Rican, Mexican, part of an immigrant family struggling with no documentation, gay, gender non-conforming, and formerly homeless. Each of these realities plays a real and profound role in Calderón's life, and the intersection of their experiences inform his understanding of the complexity of the struggle to eliminate poverty.

JOSÉ E. LÓPEZ PARTICIPATES ON PANEL AT VIRTUAL NLG CONVENTION

by PRCC staff

On Tuesday September 28th, 2020 the National Lawyers Guild Convention held a workshop on political repression, in which the PRCC Executive Director, Jose E. Lopez, participated in a workshop where he presented on the issue of grand jury and political repression against the Puerto Rican Independence Movement.

The NLG described the workshop in the following manner:

"Movements are under attack, subpoenas for grand jury testimony, legal observer work product, and Guild training materials are threats to our safety and protest legal support infrastructure. Come learn from activists and practitioners facing off against these challenges and tips on how you can best resist these risks and support mass defense organizing in your community." The workshop featured several well-known activists, among them was Carol Sobel, Rachel Lederman, and Nash; hosted by Mickey Ellinger-Locke.

More than 100 attendees participated.



LANZAN CAMPAÑA POR EL “NO” A LA ESTADIDAD “PLEBISCITO” 3 DE NOVIEMBRE EN PUERTO RICO

A la iniciativa, de la organización Boricuas Unidos en la Diáspora, se han unido varias figuras de la política local que sostienen la consulta no representa una verdadera alternativa de descolonización para el país.

Por Leysa Caro González

La organización Boricuas Unidos en la Diáspora lanzó hoy, jueves, una campaña a través de sus diversas plataformas sociales a favor del

“No” en el referéndum estadidad sí o no que se celebrará el próximo 3 de noviembre.

En el vídeo -de aproximadamente dos minutos- la organización detalla lo que, a su juicio, son las razones para votar por el “No” en la consulta de

das del 2016, así como fragmentos de las manifestaciones del “Verano del 19” en reclamo de la salida de la gobernación de Ricardo Rosselló.

La cuña termina con un llamado a votar por el “No” en voces de algunas de las figuras que se han integrado a la organización. “Estadidad sí o no, no es un proceso serio o vinculante para resolver ese problema colonial, pero sí los resultados van a ser utilizados para generar opinión pública en Washington”, sostuvo Edil Sepúlveda, cofundador

de la entidad que surge desde el voluntariado.

El Colegio de Abogados y Abogadas de Puerto Rico, en Santurce, sirvió de escenario para el lanzamiento de la campaña la que se han integrado figuras de la política local, entre ellas el candidato a comisionado residente en Washington por el Partido Popular Democrático (PPD), Aníbal Acevedo Vilá; y el representante y candidato al Senado por esta colectividad,

Luis Vega Ramos.

“Este plebiscito es un engaño por que no hay ningún compromiso del Congreso, ningún compromiso del gobierno federal, todo lo contrario. Todas las expresiones que se han hecho lo que demuestran es esa falta de compromiso”, sostuvo el exgobernador.

Vega Ramos, por su parte, extendió el llamado a un voto por el “No” a todos los estadistas sinceros y genuinos que “se les quiere tomar el pelo” con un proceso que ha sido rechazado

por el Departamento de Justicia federal. “Lo que no sirve se descarta y la manera de descartarlo y abrir la puerta a procesos que puedan darse en el futuro es votando que no para que, entonces, podamos buscar un vehículo que de verdad comprometa al Congreso de Estados Unidos y al presidente con lo que es su obligación moral que es un proceso de descolonización justo”, señaló.

Eva Prados, portavoz del Frente Ciudadano por la Auditoría de la Deuda, por su parte cuestionó como en momentos en que el país está atravesando su peor crisis fiscal, se asignen millones para un plebiscito que no va a generar un verdadero proceso de descolonización. “Me uno a esta campaña como ciudadana preocupada y que entiende que ahora mismo la prioridad en los fondos públicos debe estar en nuestra recuperación y en atender nuestra economía que ha estado tan afectada por el tema del COVID”, expuso Prados al aclarar que se integraba como ciudadana y no en representación de ningún organismo.

La portavoz del Movimiento Independentista Nacional Hostosiano (MINH), Wilma Reverón, sostuvo que la estadidad no es sinónimo de igualdad. Señaló que si así fuera en Estados Unidos no habría sobre 500,000 personas sin hogar, como evidencian números del Departamento de Vivienda federal (HUD), ni el 27% de los niños estaría en riesgo alimentario, según datos del Departamento de salud y Servicios Humanos (HHS).

“Estamos entre los cinco países más desiguales del mundo después de 122 años de colonialismo bajo la administración de Estados Unidos, así que es una mentira que la estadidad va a traer la igualdad para los puertorriqueños. Esto es asunto del derecho de la autodeterminación de un pueblo, de una nación”, expuso.

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estatus. “Puerto Rico dice no. ¡Con mi bandera sigo yo! A los corruptos dile no”, son varias de las frases que integra la campaña.

Junto al mensaje se incluyen una serie de momentos que -sin duda- son y han sido de orgullo para el pueblo puertorriqueño, como cuando el baloncelista boricua Carlos Arroyo agarró su camiseta y la sacudió en el triunfo sobre el Dream Team de Estados Unidos en los Juegos Olímpicos de 2004. Se observa, además, el momento en que la tenista Mónica Puig ganó la medalla de oro en las olimpia-

THERE ARE MANY REASONS TO VOTE “NO” ON STATEHOOD FOR PUERTO RICO



by Paul Lippert Figueroa

The United States' political relationship began with Puerto Rico in 1898, when the United States Armed Forces invaded the island during the Spanish-American War. Our relationship was not one of mutual friendship but of colonial conquest. Under military rule, the United States turned control of agricultural land owned by thousands of small farmers over to just four US corporations, while prohibiting trade with other countries and locally sustainable means of production, creating an economic dependency on the US that exists today, through federally-backed austerity laws like PROMESA. For generations, the US used Puerto Ricans as medical experiments, sterilized us, and injected us with cancer cells. They made Spanish illegal in schools, and drafted our youth into the army as means of forced assimilation. Political leaders and private citizens who disagreed with the United States were fiercely persecuted, imprisoned, and often killed. To justify these actions they granted Puerto Ricans citizenship in 1917, and gave us limited self-governance in 1952. However, even today in 2020 all issues related to Puerto Rico go through the House and Senate Committees on Natural Resources. Moreover, the Supreme Court ruled “Puerto Rico is not the United States, nor party of the United States, but pertains to the United States”. For all intents and purposes, Puerto Ricans are still legally nothing more than US property.

Granting Puerto Rico statehood would at first glance be the logical solution to reconciling the abuses of the past, and the inconsistencies of this relationship. However, statehood poses many difficulties. Before becoming a state Puerto Rico would have to first become an incorporated territory where we would pay federal taxes without representation. The new federal taxes under statehood

would cause the US companies in Puerto Rico to flee their Caribbean tax haven causing massive unemployment and increased poverty, while putting an increased tax-burden on Puerto Rico's ever-shrinking middle class. The local government would have to cut essential services to decrease



the tax-burden, meaning an increased dependence on federal programs. We must ask ourselves: what does real decolonization look like? Will statehood resolve the inequities of Puerto Rico's relationship with the United States? Does statehood grant Puerto Rico the tools to rebuild and become sustainable?

It would appear that Puerto Rico could answer that question on November 3rd in a “Statehood Yes or No” Status referendum. However, that referendum has already been rejected by the Federal Government even before voting starts. The referendum itself, also doesn't explain the merits of statehood as compared to other non-territorial, non-colonial status options, such as independence, which I support. A simple “Statehood Yes or No” referendum oversimplifies the complex issue of status and takes away power from the Puerto Rican people to decide our future. The referendum was created in such a way so the pro-statehood government currently in power can manipulate public opinion in the United States and Puerto Rico, while turning out their base in an electoral environment that is increasingly hostile towards their policies. Policies

that go against the interests of the poor, workers, immigrants, and the LGBTQ+ community and favor the rich and big corporations, military-industrial complex, and the far right. While pro-statehood politicians try and manipulate their way into power, and impose statehood on the Puerto Rican people, they forget a very important fact that the United States must also consider. Puerto Rico is already a nation, and as a nation must decide its own future in a fully binding, democratic, and participatory process.

Despite over a century of U.S. political domination, colonialism, and assimilation tactics Puerto Rico is still a nation. Not only does Puerto Rico have linguistic and cultural differences with the United States, but historical ones. Puerto Rico was Puerto Rico long before the United States ever existed. Our legal system not only is based on the American system, but it inherits many laws and practices from the Spanish Parliament. We have our own political parties and institutions separate from the United States, and “Democrat” and “Republican” are often secondary labels to us. For example, only 7,022 Puerto Ricans voted in the 2020 Presidential Democratic Primary, but 494,477 voted in our local Gubernatorial Primaries under our local parties.

Aside from the external aspects of Puerto Rican nationhood such as language, tradition, and culture, or the practical aspects like institutional and political differences, as a community leader who repatriated to Puerto Rico, I have found that our nationhood goes far beyond that. Puerto Ricans have a fundamentally different way of understanding the world and of organizing ourselves. The collectives of sustenance farmers in the Eastern mountains of Aguas Buenas, the environmentalists preserving land and pushing for energy independence in the central mountains of Adjuntas, the community encampments fighting against pollu-

tion and toxic waste in the coastal towns of Salinas or Peñuelas, the artist collectives looking to revive Puerto Rican art and literature and make it accessible to the masses in urban Santurce; I have seen all of these communities, and our perceptions of the world, our collective visions and ways of building community, are often parallel to the United States. This is not to say that this “difference” is bad, or one is better than the other, it is to simply state that it is there, and in this diversity, of immeasurable quality and value, that must be preserved, and that reaffirms Puerto Rico’s nationhood.

In the early 2000s, Puerto Ricans came together to demand the end of the US military occupation of Vieques. In 2019, an estimated million Puerto Ricans took to the streets demanding the resignation of Gov. Ricardo Rosselló, and won. In these first two decades of the 21st Century, Puerto Rico has proven that we can take control of our political

future and decide the fate of our nation. It is time the United States grants us the power to do that. Unfortunately, this November’s plebiscite does not allow such an opportunity.

Puerto Rico, legally recognized or not, is a nation, and must decide its own future. Could any American imagine Canada or the UK deciding the United States’ political future for them? Probably not. The United States needs to get serious about Puerto Rico. Will the U.S. make Puerto Rico a state despite the obvious challenges and problems it will create to reconcile their insidious past on the island? Or will it finally allow Puerto Rico to become independent, opening it up to the rest of the world and become sustainable, even if that

may seem contradictory to the U.S.’ best interests? Whatever they decide, it must be in agreement with the will of the Puerto Rican people, recognizing our humanity, collective voice, and identity as a na-

tion. The United States needs to get behind a fully binding, democratic, and inclusive mechanism to resolve our status, and let the Puerto Rican people decide their own future as a nation and a people. Unfortunately, this November’s referendum is not it. Therefore, we call on Puerto Ricans to vote “no” on the referendum and be in favor of a real decolonization process. And we call on the United States to analyze its role in Puerto Rico’s future, and open the door for us to make that decision for ourselves.

Paul Lippert-Figueroa is a community activist in Puerto Rico, a candidate for San Juan City Council under the democratic-socialist Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP) and a leader in the campaign “There Are Many Reasons to Vote No” calling on people to vote no in this November’s status referendum.

In Memoriam



ENRIQUE “KIKE” CÓRDOVA

21 de enero de 1937 – 3 de octubre de 2020

Enrique Córdova nació en San Juan, Puerto Rico en el año 1937 y vivió hasta sus 38 años en Ciales, Puerto Rico. Allí, se dedicaba a la cosecha de café y al trabajo que más le apasionaba – la agricultura. Estando en Ciales, conoció a Brunilda y contrajeron matrimonio en el

año 1963, estando 57 años casados hasta el día de su fallecimiento.

En 1975, Enrique Córdova (38 años) y Brunilda (27 años) se mudaron a Chicago, Illinois en búsqueda de mejores oportunidades de trabajo y mejor calidad de vida.

Aquí, Enrique junto a su esposa estuvieron constantemente involucrados en asistir a la comunidad puertorriqueña de Humboldt Park. Enrique Córdova es sobrevivido por su esposa Brunilda, sus 4 hijos: Maribel Córdova (56) Enrique “Pito” Córdova Jr. (50), Miguel Córdova (47), y José Córdova (45). En adición, a Don Enrique lo sobreviven 17 nietos y 12 bisnietos.



NOEL “NOLLIE” GERENA

February 2, 1972 – September 16, 2020

The Puerto Rican Cultural Center wishes to express its deep condolences to Digna Gerena and her family on the passing of her beloved nephew, Noel Gerena. Born February 2, 1972 and passed September 16, 2020, Noel was a constant and treasured presence in his aunt Digna’s life. He loved the Puerto Rican community, and never missed the Fiesta Boricua or the People’s Parade on the Paseo Boricua. Noel, or “Nollie” to his friends and family, was born in Chicago and attended Kelvyn Park High School. Noel served in the US Marines for eight years and was an engineer. Until his death, he was a first responder who drove an ambulance for the Superior Ambulance Company. Noel is survived by his two children Gabriel Gerena (28) and Serenity Gerena (20).

¡WEPA! AND ESMERALDA'S COCKTAIL BAR JOINTLY HOST REGGAETONEROS JBRO BUGATTI & MARCE UNVEIL "DIASPORIC RICAN" MURAL

by Nadya Henríquez

¡WEPA! Community Pop Up and Esmeralda's Cocktail Bar entertained a socially distanced group on Paseo Boricua. They presented reggaeton singers JBro Bugatti, Marce, and artist Cristián Roldán's "Diasporic Rican" mural.

DJ Lugo Rosado livened the evening with his Tropical Beats, and set the stage for the "reggaetoneros". Rosado said that the singers (both in their 20s) reminded him of the struggle he endured when starting as a Latino DJ in Chicago. He said he is always happy to pave the way for new talent, especially from Humboldt Park.

Artist Cristián Roldán introduced his mural "Diasporic Rican" situated adjacent to Esmeralda's. The imagery recounts key migrations of Puerto Ricans to the US. It is a dazzling display of colors and forms depicting: Puerto Rican migration to Hawaii in 1900, after two hurricanes devastated the island; the migration of workers to steel mills in Chicago; the brain drain of the 80s when US companies hired Puerto Rican professionals out of college to work in the U S, and two natural disasters that triggered another wave of migrations - Hurricane Maria (2017), and the earthquakes (2019 - 2020). The mural ends with a Taino moon and a quote from Juan Antonio Corretjer's poem "Boricua en La Luna", which concludes, "Yo sería borincano hasta si naciera en la luna" (I would be Boricua even if I were born on the moon).

PRCC Business Initiatives Director, Carlos Bosques, welcomed Esmeralda's owner, Dino Vulpitta, to the Paseo. Vulpitta described his upbringing in Humboldt Park and his continued love of the community and the people. He is now partnering with the PRCC to sponsor an entrepreneurial program for youth, likely to begin in the spring of 2021.

PRCC CONGRATULATES NATHALIE TIRADO ON HER MARRIAGE TO HER BEST FRIEND CASSANDRA PÉREZ

The Puerto Rican Cultural Center congratulates our Associate Director of Public Health Initiatives and Coordinator of Trans Chicago 2.0, Nathalie Tirado, on her marriage to her long-time friend Cassandra Pérez. Nathalie and Cassandra met as students at Pritzker High School, then reconnected a few years after their graduation. Nathalie and Cassandra have been an inseparable pair for the past five years.

On September 27, 30 attendees celebrated the couple's nuptials wearing masks made and monogrammed N / C by Nathalie's mother and wedding planner, Sara González. The wedding and reception took place Downtown and was joyfully interrupted by a spontaneous drag queen performance put on by Nathalie's friends. The Puerto Rican Cultural Center wishes Nathalie and Cassandra a long shared life of love, growth, and spontaneous fun.



Centro de Bienvenida LA RAZA

NUEVO CENTRO DE BIENVENIDA OFRECE SERVICIOS EN CUATRO LOCACIONES

HUMBOLDT PARK
 Adalberto United Methodist Church
 2716 West Division St.
 Chicago, IL 60622
 Sin cita previa lunes 9-1pm o con cita
 Contactor a Roxana Joachin
 773 407 3008 - 773 847 7282

PILSEN
 Iglesia Metodista Unida Lincoln
 2009 W 22nd Pl
 Chicago, IL 60608
 Sin cita previa martes & jueves 9-1pm
 o con cita, contactar a Roxana Joachin
 773 407 3008 - 773 847 7282

HERMOSA PARK
 Robles de Justicia
 4013 West Armitage
 Chicago, IL 60639
 Sin cita previa miércoles 9-1pm o con cita
 Contactor a Roxana Joachin
 773 407 3008 - 773 847 7282

BELMONT CRAGIN
 The Puerto Rican Cultural Center
 6009 West Diversey Ave
 Chicago, IL 60634
 Sin cita previa martes-sábado 10:30-7pm
 o con cita, contactar a Jessica W. Gutiérrez
 (773) 417-7776

OFRECEMOS

- Servicios de capacitación y búsqueda de trabajo
- Pruebas semanales de VIH, ETS, COVID-19 y rastreo en la unidad de prevención médica
- Colegio / Certificados
- Reembolso de matrículas

REFERENCIAS DE SERVICIOS SOCIALES

- Distribución de comestibles y EPP
- Clases para la ciudadanía
- Asistencia DACA
- Referencias basadas en inmigración
- Programa de asistencia para la energía
- Educación
- Alojamiento
- Servicios de salud
- Programa de empleo juvenil

Atendemos a inmigrantes latinos y comunidades de refugiados

laraza@prcc-chgo.org
 www.prcc-chgo.org
 (773) 417-7776

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THE PUERTO RICAN CULTURAL CENTER
 www.prcc-chgo.org

COMMENTARY/COMENTARIO by/por Roberto Sanabria

VOTE TO LOWER TAXES VOTE "YES" ON AMENDMENT

As early voting gets under way in Illinois, constituents weigh in on the fate of the "Fair Tax Amendment" -- a core principle of today's Democratic Party. The formula is elegant; however, despite this clarity, its messaging has become a gunfight, and the Democrats are arming themselves with spoons. Currently, all Illinoisans are expected to pay taxes at the same rate. The single mom with two jobs pays an equal portion of her income as does a senior vice president at Commonwealth Edison. In fact, she pays a higher percentage than he does if he avails himself of tax loopholes enshrined into law by his caste.

While Democrats appeal to our better angels and talk about fairness (spoon in hand), the Republicans have come loaded for bear. Illinois' wealthiest individual, hedge-fund operator Ken Griffin, is bankrolling an all-out attack on the amendment that would raise his taxes while simultaneously lowering the taxes of 97% of the rest of us. Griffin's efforts go for the jugular by appealing to our primal instincts. "What does this mean for me?" His staggering wealth has paid for ads that mislead taxpayers. Senior citizens are warned that their pensions are under attack. Although the amendment would have zero effect on our pensions, the ads do not let the facts get in the way of a sleazy story. Those in favor of a more humane tax distribution must put away their kitchen utensils and punch the bully in the nose. Say what it means for nearly all of us. Don't call it a fair tax amendment. Let's call it a "Lower My Tax Amendment".

VOTA PARA BAJAR LOS IMPUESTOS, VOTA SÍ A LA ENMIENDA

Ahora que la votación anticipada ha comenzado en Illinois, los electores opinan sobre el destino de la "Enmienda de Impuestos Justos" - un principio fundamental del Partido Demócrata actual. La fórmula es elegante; sin embargo, a pesar de esta claridad, su mensaje se ha convertido en un tiroteo, en el cual los demócratas se están armando con simples cucharas. Actualmente, todos los residentes de Illinois tienen que pagar la misma tasa de impuestos. La madre soltera con dos empleos paga la misma porción de su sueldo que un vice presidente de Commonwealth Edison. En realidad, ella paga una tasa mayor que él siempre que éste se aprovecha de lagunas fiscales consagradas en la legislación por los de su casta.

Mientras los demócratas apelan a los ángeles buenos de nuestra naturaleza y hablan de justicia (cuchara en mano), los republicanos han llegado armados hasta los dientes. El individuo más rico de Illinois, el operador de fondos de inversión Ken Griffin, está financiando un ataque frontal a la enmienda que aumentaría sus impuestos al tiempo que bajaría los impuestos del 97% restante. Los esfuerzos de Ken Griffin van directo a la yugular apelando a nuestros instintos más primarios. "¿Qué significa esto para mí?" Su increíble riqueza ha financiado propaganda engañosa hacia los contribuyentes. En ella se advierte a los ancianos que sus pensiones están en peligro. A pesar de que dicha enmienda no tendría ningún efecto en nuestras pensiones, esos anuncios no dejan que los hechos arruinen su sórdida historia. Los partidarios de una distribución fiscal más justa deben guardar sus utensilios de cocina y darle al villano en plena cara. Expresar lo que realmente significa para casi todos nosotros. No lo llamemos la enmienda de impuestos justos. Llamémoslo la "Enmienda de Baja Mis Impuestos".

Traducción al Español: Jesús Mazo i Macià

LA VOZ DE PASEO BORICUA ENDORSEMENTS



JOE BIDEN/KAMALA HARRIS
PRESIDENT/VICE-PRESIDENT



RICHARD DURBIN
U.S. SENATE

IRIS MARTINEZ
COOK COUNTY CLERK



THOMAS KILBRIDE
JUDGE FOR RETENTION



EVA DINA DELGADO
3RD DIST. REPRESENTATIVE



KIM FOXX
STATE'S ATTORNEY



DELIA RAMIREZ
4TH DIST. REPRESENTATIVE



HAUNTED PASEO BORICUA

CELEBRATING LIFE AND REMEMBERING THE DEAD
DURING THE TIME OF THE COVID-19 EPIDEMIC



- **CHILDREN**

FOR TRICKS & TREATS VISIT
OUR 20 OUTDOOR STATIONS
(MAINTAINING SOCIAL
DISTANCE)

- **PARENTS**

SHOP AND SUPPORT
OUR **WEPA** VENDORS

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 31, 2020
11AM TO 5PM