

LA VOZ

DEL PASEO BORICUA



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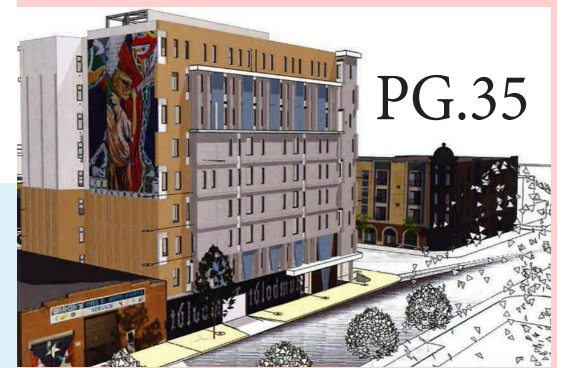
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43RD PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE'S DAY PARADE: A JOYOUS CELEBRATION OF RESILIENCE, CULTURE & HOPE



PG.35

GENTRIFIERS ATTACK **ALD. MALDONADO**, HISPANIC HOUSING & AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN HUMBOLDT PARK



PG.36

THANKS **SEN. AQUINO**, **SEN. PACIONE- ZAYAS** & **REP. RAMÍREZ** PUERTO RICO TOWN LEGISLATION AWAITS GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE



PG.7

VEA SECCIÓN ESPECIAL 43^{RA} DESFILE DEL PUEBLO



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.

MEET OUR PRODUCTION TEAM



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UN INOVADOR ESPACIO PARA NUESTROS ARTISTAS ABRIRÁ EN PASEO BORICUA

Por Eduardo Arocho

La demolición de cuatro edificios que antes eran ocupados por el Ashland Sausage Company, ha comenzado en el 2700 de la calle Division, haciendo espacio para el nuevo proyecto de viviendas Paseo Boricua Arts Building. Barricadas se han puesto en la acera y la parte sur de la calle cerca de la avenida Washtenaw, y estarán puestas hasta el fin del proyecto.

El Paseo Boricua Arts Building es un proyecto de El Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño y Brinshore LLC. Michael Roane, Vicepresidente de Brinshore dice que, "Este proyecto es único para Brinshore porque crea viviendas asequibles en un área de la ciudad que está pasando por un desplazamiento intenso. Proveyendo la opción de viviendas asequibles en el Paseo Boricua, le dará la oportunidad para residentes de largo plazo, de quedarse en el vecindario y no ser desplazados por el aumento de renta." Michael Roane también indicó que el proyecto estará completado para el otoño del 2022.

El Paseo Boricua Arts Building va a tener 24 apartamentos para artistas y sus familias. También contará con un nuevo teatro

de multiusos con 99 sillas. El teatro será la futura localización del UrbanTheater Company que por dieciséis años están haciendo producciones teatrales en el Paseo Boricua. Iván Vega, Director Ejecutivo de la compañía de Teatro Urbano, está emocionado por el nuevo proyecto.



Foto: Eduardo Arocho

"Estamos entusiasmados por la oportunidad del UrbanTheater Company para ser el ancla del Paseo Boricua Arts Building. Humboldt Park es nuestra casa y la comunidad que servimos. En el nuevo espacio vamos a fortalecer la capacidad de nuestros programas para promover el vecindario. También queremos ser la compañía de teatro que cuente los cuentos de la ciudad de Chicago, de su pasado, presente y futuro, para documentar momentos históricos de nuestra comunidad y de los residentes de Humboldt Park."

Antes de su fallecimiento, Nancy Franco Maldonado contribuyó al

proyecto con la idea de establecer una cantina de vinos y bebidas de latinoamérica en la parte comercial del edificio. Ella y su esposo, el concejal del distrito 26, Roberto Maldonado, han apoyado este proyecto desde el principio. En 2017, renombraron el proyecto Nancy Franco Maldonado Paseo Boricua Arts Building en su honor.

"Este proyecto es una gran victoria para todos en la comunidad. Va a crear una conexión entre la cultura y la comunidad de Humboldt Park. Vamos a seguir invirtiendo en nuestra juventud y los artistas locales." Dijo Iván Vega.

CONGRATS GRADS

Congratulations to our local graduates from Sunshine Enterprises Community Business Academy Spanish Cohort 69. Second Spanish Business Cohort performed in partnership with The Puerto Rican Cultural Center. Sharon Osinaike - Dr. Herbal's Organic & Vegan Hair Cares (*), Cedric Salone - Butters RX (*), Janellie Rodriguez & Moises Hernández- Janellie's Kitchen & Sweets (*), Virgen Milagros Abril - Creations by Angel Boutique, Jenny Dominguez - Jenny Dominguez Group, Miriam Aguilera - Fasinarte Artesanías Mexicanas (*)

(*) Are participants of el ¡WEPA! Mercado del Pueblo.

UPDATES FROM COMMUNITY AS A CAMPUS

DR. RAQUEL ORTIZ VISITS CHICAGO TO SHARE HER LOVE OF BOOKS AND READING



By Marvin García
Renowned author of children's books

with Puerto Rican themes visited Chicago to read in classrooms at Yates Elementary and at Centro Infantil. Dr. Ortiz conducted several readings in classrooms at Yates using

her recent publication, "Vicki and a summer of Change, Vicki y Un Verano de Cambio" An accompanying coloring book was also provided to each student.

CLEMENTE COMMUNITY CLAIMS VICTORY AS PRINCIPAL UNANIMOUSLY RETAINED FOR ANOTHER 4 YEARS

By: Mojica for Clemente Committee

Congratulations to Principal Sergio Mojica on his new four-year contract. Now the Clemente Community— LSC, CBOs, parents, faculty, staff, but most of all students— can continue with the work that helps to realize our school's mission— facilitating academic and personal growth through culturally relevant and responsive pedagogy housed within an anti-racist, de-colonizing framework, inspiring internal motivation and developing problem-solving skills in all students. It also means that continuity is maintained in our policies and practices addressing our students' well-being, including physical, social, and emotional health.

This victory is a result of an intense, sometimes heated struggle. On the evening of March 24, the Clemente community was stunned when the Local School Council (LSC) voted not to offer Principal Mojica another four-year contract after having rated Mojica as proficient in his yearly evaluation. A collective outcry was heard from the Clemente community during public participation. Several dozen people made comments that decried the LSC's decision while others urged the LSC to reconsider that decision.

Clemente has long advocated and has succeed-

ed in creating academic fairness and inclusion to ensure that every child has the culturally-relevant resources, teachers, interventions, and supports they need to thrive. In fact, its earliest reform dates back to 1989 when the CARC (Committee Against Racism at Clemente later called Action Committee to Reform Clemente) was formed. CARC was made up of parents, students, educators, and community leaders, who collectively initiated sweeping reforms in the best interests of students.

Out of this wave of reforms comes a multicultural curriculum that was created by Clemente teachers with guidance from experts recommended and hired by the LSC using Title I funds (formerly known as Chapter I). This multicultural curriculum reflected the school's diverse population and was infused with the histories and identities of its students. The reform period also included The Parent/Safety Committee where eight security guard positions were replaced with 50 parents. Because of this, the school experienced a dramatic decrease in disruptive behaviors. Other programs included The Parents' Institute, the Cimarrón Cultural Program, a project to integrate cultural programs into the school curriculum, a Student-Leadership Program, a Cultural Immersion program that funded trips

WELCOME NEW SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS COORDINATOR: EMELY ZAMUDIO



By Marvin García
Emely Zamudio is the new Puerto Rican Cultural Center Sustainable Community Schools (SCS) Coordinator at Richard Yates Elementary School. As the SCS Coordinator, Emely

provides Yates students and families with quality out-of-school programming and resources relevant to their needs. She hopes to strengthen and expand the SCS program at Yates. Emely has dedicated the past six years to working alongside children and families in both school and non-profit settings to further holistic growth.

She has a deep passion for disrupting the systemic inequalities that face Black and Brown families and communities throughout Chicago. Emely graduated from DePaul University in 2018 with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. In her free time she enjoys reading, baking, and spending time with loved ones.

for students to Puerto Rico and Mexico, The Small Schools Concept, and much more. These programs were all intended to instill self-love and pride in different identities, and addressed the needs and aspirations of Clemente students. These reforms helped to empower students, parents, teachers, and all other stakeholders in taking ownership of their education and future.

The efforts, during the reform period, to transform Clemente into a school that dignified and honored students' cultural backgrounds and experiences was threatened when a detestable article published in February 1997 in the Chicago Sun

Humboldt Park Boathouse Gallery Presents

Pandemic Photos

by Elias Carmona



OPENING RECEPTION
Friday, Jun. 18, 2021
5pm to 7pm

CLOSING RECEPTION
Friday, Aug. 27, 2021
5pm to 7pm

Mask Required
Limited Capacity

Humboldt Park Boathouse Gallery
1301 N Sacramento Blvd.
Chicago IL 60622
FB.COM/HUMBOLDT-PARK-BOATHOUSE-GALLERY

ANTHONY RIVERA
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(Continue on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)



-Times accused the school of mismanaging Chapter I

funds. The same reform efforts that are the norm in economically wealthy schools were criminalized at Clemente, and without due process, Chicago Public Schools' central administration criminalized the school reform process at Clemente and took control of the school. During the same period of reform at Clemente, an underground publication called "El Pito" published inflammatory stories using caricature drawings of community leaders denouncing and criminalizing the reform efforts at Clemente proving that there was a concerted effort to destroy the humanizing and transformative work taking place at Clemente. Many individuals during the campaign against Clemente in the 1990s and a similar set today, seek to spread the same vicious attacks in the form of gossip and innuendo: "Don't trust José López, don't trust The Puerto Rican Cultural Center."

This is not the first time in Clemente's 48-year history that challenges had to be met to maintain stability in our beloved community school. As a result, a group of supporters (which included alumni, teachers, support staff, community members and other stakeholders) decided to organize in favor of Principal Mojica. Alumni created the hashtag #MojicaforClemente and shared personal stories on social media. Nearly 140 people signed a petition demanding that the LSC reconsider its vote and shared memories and words of support for Mr. Mojica. At every LSC meeting since the March 24 vote, dozens of supporters spoke out in support of Mojica during public participation. In a survey where a combined 60% of teachers and support staff responded, the results showed that 87.5% supported the renewal of Principal Mojica's contract. The support was there. We just needed the LSC to listen with open ears and open hearts as the future of Clemente and the community rested in their hands.

Although in the end, our organizing efforts were successful, organizers were frustrated at times. The re-vote was delayed for a second time due to unex-

pected resignations. Nonetheless, supporters and advocates persisted and seized the time to continue garnering a wider net of support for Principal Mojica.

On May 10, the LSC reconvened to vote on the new community rep and to take another vote on Mojica's contract. According to the report back by the LSC Chair, the group discussed addendums they want to see added to Principal Mojica's contract. After the reviewing of the addendums, the retention vote followed. After almost two months of organizing and advocacy work, all eight voting LSC members voted to renew Mojica's contract for another four years. While some attendees erupted into loud cheers and clapping, others sighed a breath of relief knowing that the future of Clemente and our community was stabilized.

Principal Mojica is committed to continue uplifting and sustaining the legacy of Roberto Clemente Community Academy by challenging popular beliefs and advocating for the continued progress and uplifting of all students - our youth, the future of our community- at Clemente.

To all the students, staff, teachers, and community leaders, thank you for your activism and passion. Thank you for advocating on behalf of justice and consistency. A special thank you to the LSC members for listening to what the Clemente community had to say about the school's future and also for meeting with Mojica to scrutinize his decisions and being open to continuous dialogue and finally reaching a productive compromise. This process was not easy for either side, but a productive outcome has guaranteed a working unity for the next four years. That effort is much appreciated.

As the entire Clemente community continues to move forward, let us engage in healing practices by working together and communicating factually. Let us redouble our efforts in reflecting and communicating our differences in approaches so that we can agree on resolutions that work for us all. There is a power that we must realize in restorative justice. Our goal is to create community, a culture of calm and camaraderie. ¡Sí se puede!

Clemente's accomplishments under Mojica's leadership made the advocacy work to retain him for another four years much easier. Many of the

programs that were imagined and created in the 90s are still in place but with stronger support to ensure equity, adequacy, and sustainability. Principal Mojica's most recent accomplishments include:

- ***Adopting Restorative Justice as a school-wide approach to addressing the culture and climate of the school.***
- ***Creating alternatives to in-school suspensions (El Bohío) where students are met with restorative practices that focus on repairing harm through inclusive processes that engage all involved.***
- ***Voting to remove SRO's from school in favor of a community approach to dealing with student infractions.***
- ***Fostering an inclusive school environment that centers students' voices and experiences, which has developed/inspired the BLAC (Born Leaders Amazing Creators) Love Club and Gay-Straight Alliances.***
- ***Increasing graduation rate from 76% in SY17 to 84% in SY19.***
- ***Increasing college enrollment rate from 44% in SY17 to 51% in SY19.***
- ***Doubling student scholarship dollars from \$3.6 million to \$7.1 million.***
- ***Expanding after school clubs from 5 to 18 expanding student involvement in after-school programming.***
- ***Adding eSports teams, El Cocuyo Film Festival that include community workshops on filmmaking, and El Coquí Literary Magazine to publish and highlight students' poems, essays, artwork and other written works presented at an honors level.***
- ***Recruiting highly qualified teachers and staff, many of whom are Clemente Alumni.***
- ***Stabilizing the teacher turnover rate- from 57% (SY16) to 73% (SY20).***
- ***Developing and nurturing partnerships with UIC and NEIU dual enrollment programs.***
- ***Partnering with other area high schools to extend dual enrollment opportunities for CPS students enrolled in different schools.***

CANTA MI PUEBLO: EN EL JOLGORIO DE SALSA Y MÁS...

Por ZAEED

Aunque no tengo la longevidad que tienen muchos de los residentes de Humboldt Park, puedo empatizar con el mismo profundo dolor que sienten muchos cuando alguien de este barrio pierde su hogar a favor de alguien con más recursos. Nuestro barrio nunca fue perfecto - había violencia de pandillas, teníamos calles feas, nuestras escuelas faltaban apoyo económico - pero estábamos enérgica y hacíamos todo lo posible para crear una comunidad de mucho amor y orgullo.

La gentrificación es horrible. Eso no es opinión. Muere un pedazo de mi infancia cada vez que veo un nuevo condominio con gente que no son de aquí. Muere un pedazo de mi infancia cada vez que veo una nueva tienda que dedica sus negocios a los que tienen los bolsillos más llenos. La realidad es que tengo miedo de que mi barrio no existirá en cinco años.

Estos sentimientos y preocupaciones me animaron "Humboldt." Nunca tuve la intención de incluir este tema en mi proyecto "Desamor y Jaqueo" pero una semana antes de nuestra presentación en el WEPA Mercado, encontré las palabras correctas para expresar lo que siento. Fue difícil expresar no solamente lo que está pasando aquí en Humboldt Park, sino también de lo que está sucediendo en Puerto Rico con respecto a la conversación de convertirse en un estado. Similar a lo que siento sobre Humboldt Park, Puerto Rico está viendo muchos cambios en la isla a causa de la economía global. Pero parece que estos cambios benefician a todos menos al pueblo de Puerto Rico. Deberíamos de estar pendientes de lo que está pasando. De lo que he leído y escuchado, muchos



negociantes extranjeros y negocios turísticos se han aprovechado de muchos lugares de la isla, que al final del día, como ya mencioné, no beneficia al pueblo. La gente de Puerto Rico, así como las personas de Humboldt Park, tienen el derecho de usar sus voces

como instrumentos para decidir lo que quieren para el futuro de sus hogares y familiares. Ningún negociante o político tiene el derecho de quitarnos ese privilegio, y eso es exactamente de lo que se trata el sencillo "Humboldt."

"Canta Mi Pueblo y así vamos a ganar, este barrio no es de ellos, y te lo voy a jurar, que si queremos, Humboldt Park y Puerto Rico

siempre estarán."

Mi objetivo con este coro era comunicar a mis

oyentes que nuestras voces tienen bastante poder. Sé que a veces nos podemos sentir pequeños o inferiores a los políticos o grandes organizaciones, pero la historia de nuestras raíces nos han enseñado



ALL ARE WELCOME HERE



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Transitional Living Program

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WHO

18-24-year-old
LBGTQIA+
Latino and African-American
youth

WHERE



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CELEBRATING THE 43RD ANNUAL
PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE'S DAY
PARADE

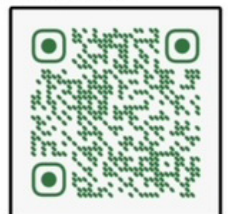
que unidos, podemos exigir cualquier cambio que queramos. No espero que esta canción cambie lo que está pasando en Humboldt Park o en Puerto Rico, pero espero que por lo menos pueda dar un poco de confianza al pueblo en el poder de sus voces.



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SCAN ME

ALERTA DE JURAKÁN EN CHICAGO: NUEVA PELÍCULA CELEBRARÁ 50 ANIVERSARIO DE CENTRO CULTURAL Y LA ESCUELITA

Por Gonzalo Mazzini y Rosa Emmanuelli Gutiérrez

Desde el cerro de Tepoztlán en México y el archipiélago caribeño, vinieron dos cineastas a conectar con sus compatriotas en Chicago. A pesar de vivir separados por fronteras de metal y océano, nos unen lazos de tierra y memoria. En esta página, las mentes detrás del documental Jurakán: Nación en Resistencia, que documenta la lucha histórica de Puerto Rico, comparten la historia de cómo se origina la idea de su nuevo proyecto sobre la historia del Paseo Boricua.

Hacer cine es un trabajo colaborativo. Grabar Jurakán: Nación en Resistencia fue posible gracias a fotógrafos, músicos, ingenieros de audio, familia y amistades que creyeron en el proyecto. Una vez terminada la película pensamos que la colaboración creativa había terminado y lo único que quedaba era presentar la película, pero sólo fue el comienzo. Jurakán tuvo más de 100 presentaciones en 49 pueblos y ciudades en Puerto Rico y Estados Unidos. Las giras fueron todo un éxito y ante nuestra sorpresa el evento no terminó en los créditos. La película abrió un espacio maravilloso de diálogos con el público. La gente nos compartió historias personales y reflexiones; nos dieron abrazos llenos de gratitud, e hicieron observaciones críticas que nos obligaron a profundizar y analizar las conclusiones que habíamos sacado de grabar Jurakán. A través del diálogo con el público surgió la idea de grabar las secuelas de Jurakán. El segundo tomo de la serie Jurakán se titula En el ojo de Jurakán; ésta sigue a cuatro comunidades en Puerto Rico que fortalecen sus barrios ante la presión de tormentas coloniales y climáticas, motivadas por el deseo de un mejor Puerto Rico. El tercer tomo de Jurakán se sitúa al otro lado del Atlántico.

Dentro de las giras de Jurakán en Estados Unidos, visitamos a boricuas en Boston, Worcester, Holyoke, Nueva York, Philadelphia, Willimantic, y Chicago. Las historias que nos contaban sobre vivir en dichos lugares eran sumamente parecidas: discriminación, segregación, violencia y la necesidad de luchar por su derecho a una vida digna era una constante. La comunidad en Chicago nos asombró

por la fuerza que tiene su organización, la valentía de su lucha y los innumerables proyectos que han logrado construir a lo largo de los años gracias a su autogestión. La historia de la comunidad boricua en Humboldt Park es un reflejo de la experiencia que ha vivido la Diáspora en general, y por eso decidimos




De izquierda a derecha: Gonzalo Mazzini, Rosa Emmanuelli Gutiérrez, José E. López

enfocar el tercer tomo de la serie Jurakán en esta comunidad. Jurakán: Chicago, Puerto Rico (título tentativo) seguirá a un grupo de estudiantes de la Pedro Albizu Campos High School que tienen la oportunidad de reimaginarse dentro de los salones donde la historia de boricuas en Chicago cobra vida.

Las estrellas se alinearon para la creación de una película que rememora las vivencias, luchas y tradiciones de la comunidad en el Paseo Boricua. La película documentará las memorias históricas de personas que con su esfuerzo y sacrificio hicieron y hacen lo que es Puerto Rico Town hoy. La migración forzada, las condiciones de vida de boricuas en Chicago, las

rebeliones de la calle División, la razón de ser de el Desfile del Pueblo Puertorriqueño, la fundación de la Pedro Albizu Campos High School, la gentrificación, y las campañas por la excarcelación de prisioneros políticos son algunos de los temas que se explorarán en el documental. Queremos que esta película honre la memoria y esfuerzos de esta comunidad extraordinaria, denuncie las injusticias que vive nuestra gente, y que la película inspire a públicos a lo largo y ancho de Las Américas (y el mundo) como ustedes nos han inspirado a nosotros.

El tomo 3 de Jurakán será particularmente especial ya que formará parte de las celebraciones que se llevarán a cabo para el 50 aniversario de la Pedro Albizu Campos High School y el Puerto Rican Cultural Center. Por nuestra parte, una puertorriqueña de pura cepa y un mexicano chilango, nos enorgullece ver a nuestra gente construyendo futuro con sus propias manos. Ustedes son nuestra inspiración. Asumimos con humildad el reto de regalarles una película que les enorgullezca. El mayor honor para nosotros será que Jurakán 3 inspire a nuestra gente, donde sea que estén, a no bajar la guardia ante el coloniaje, y siempre luchar por la vida digna que merecen nuestros pueblos.

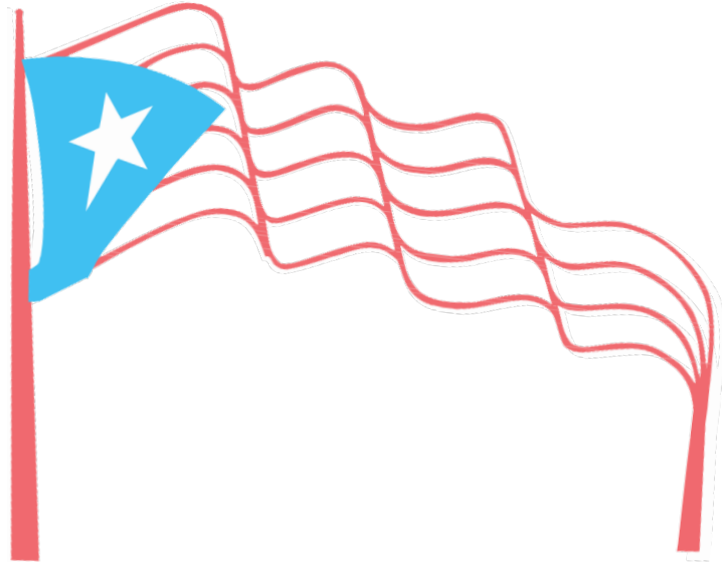


**Humboldt Park
Community
as a Campus
Education Initiative**
Salutes the Puerto
Rican Community as
we Celebrate the
**43rd Annual Puerto
Rican People's Day
Parade.**

Promoting a Culture of Educational Excellence

SPECIAL PEOPLE'S DAY PARADE 2021 INSERT

SAT.
JUNE 19



43RA DESFILE DEL PUEBLO PUERTORRIQUEÑO



PARADE COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE:

Welcome to the 43rd Puerto Rican People's Day Parade on Paseo Boricua celebrating:

- The 50th Anniversary of the Crucifixión de Don Pedro Mural (on North Ave. and Artesian)
- The 40th Anniversary of Juan Antonio Corretjer's epic Poem; "Boricua en la Luna"
- Our Community's resilient response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Puerto Rico's right to Self Determination

We encourage our entire community to celebrate responsibly following all federal, state, and city guidelines for safety as we proudly celebrate more than four decades forging culture in Chicago's Puerto Rican community. The celebration of culture and heritage that is Chicago's annual Puerto Rican People's Day Parade will return in person for its 43rd year on Saturday, June 19th, 2021. The Parade's step off time is 2:00 p.m. on the corner of Division Street and Western Avenue; proceeding west on Division St. through the heart of the Puerto Rican commercial and cultural space- Paseo Boricua in Humboldt Park- culminating on Sacramento and Division.

During the past four decades the Parade has

grown into one of the largest cultural celebrations in this community, which proudly showcases our rich cultural heritage. This year it will include nearly 75 distinct groups with floats, marching bands, vejigantes, dancing/ musical performances, and will bring together areas of businesses, political figures, religious institutions, cultural centers, schools, community groups, and bike clubs

The Parade is annually co-sponsored by The Puerto Rican Cultural Center and Alderman Roberto Maldonado of the 26th Ward. I am excited to invite you, new and current community members, back to our traditional in-person 43rd Puerto Rican People's Day Parade. Please join us as we celebrate our beautiful people, culture, and our collective power. I also want to thank you for your resiliency during the pandemic; we look forward to sharing with you in the Parade. A special thanks to every single participant that has supported the Parade this year and previous years, and I would be remiss if I did not mention every single PRCC staff member and program, and La Voz production team. The Puerto Rican People's Day Parade is a treasure for every Puerto Rican living in Chicago.

- Leony Calderón
Coordinator Puerto Rican People's Day Parade

PARTICIPATING FLOATS AND GROUPS

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| • THE PUERTO RICAN CULTURAL CENTER Float & Los Pleneros de Don Segundo Ruiz Belvis | CAMPUS | • HIGH SCHOOL ROBERTO CLEMENTE COMMUNITY ACADEMY |
| • 43rd. People's Parade Lead | • Bernhard Moos Elementary | • Hispanic Housing Redevelopment Corp. |
| • Banner and Flags | • Frederic Chopin Elementary School, | • PRCC Business Initiatives y El Mercado del Pueblo y los Weperos |
| • Dignitaries/ Honored Guest-Marching | • Sabin Dual Language Magnet School | • CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO |
| • ALDERMAN ROBERTO MALDONADO | • Richard Yates Elementary School, | • BUILD |
| • CENTRO INFANTIL CONSUELO LEE CORRETJER | • Jose de Diego Elementary School, | • AUNT MARTHA'S HEALTH AND WELLNESS |
| • VIDA/SIDA / CACICA/CACIQUE | • Alfred Nobel Elementary School, | • WEST TOWN BIKES/CICLO URBANO |
| • Trans Chicago/2.0 | • James R. Lowell Elementary School, | • EL GRAN FESTIVAL COLOMBIANO |
| • Mental Health Service/Esperanza | • West Park Academy of Fine Arts, | • Made U Look Car Club |
| • Ryan White | • Erie Elementary Charter School, | • Los Anormales Car Club |
| • PreParate | • Esmeralda Santiago, Uno Charter, | • Crucial Car Club |
| • AFC | • New Life Academy | • Uprise Car Club |
| • Community Development Program | • Chicago High School for the Arts | • BMS Car Club |
| • La Bodega del Barrio Food Bank | • Association House H. S. | • Los Reales Car Club |
| • El Rescate and The Humboldt Park Youth Employment Empowerment Program | • West Park STEAM Academy | • Wass Up Car Club |
| COMMUNITY AS A | • Harriet Beecher Stowe Elementary School | • Las Cuchifritas Car Club |
| | • DR. PEDRO ALBIZU CAMPOS | • Chi-Trucks Car Club |
| | | • LATIN AMERICAN MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION |



**The Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos H.S. Board of Directors
Salutes the Puerto Rican Community as we Celebrate the 43rd
Annual Puerto Rican People's Day Parade**



Evelyn Rivera



Mike Staudenmaier



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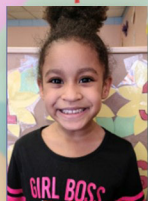
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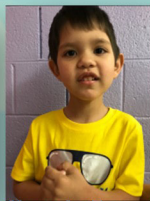
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WAITLIST OPENING DATES

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"Congratulations to the Puerto Rican Cultural Center on its 43rd Puerto Rican People's Parade, and profound thanks to the founding members whose cultural commitment transcended four decades of Puerto Rican progress in Chicago."

--- Hipólito "Paul" Roldan
President & CEO
Hispanic Housing Development Corporation
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**The Chicago Cancer Health
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The Chicago Cancer Health Equity Collaborative (ChicagoCHEC) is a National Cancer Institute comprehensive cancer partnership led by the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, Northeastern Illinois University, and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Funding support for ChicagoCHEC is provided by the National Cancer Institute (grants U54CA202995, U54CA202997, and U54CA203000). The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

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A scenic view of the Chicago skyline across Lake Michigan. The Willis Tower is the central focus, surrounded by other skyscrapers. In the foreground, a person is rowing a yellow kayak on the water. Lush green trees line the shore on both sides.

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West Park Academy of Fine Arts and Technology Awarded a STEAM Designation by CPS



Congratulations to the staff of West Park STEAM Academy!

A special acknowledgement to Principal Karime Asaf for her determination to promote academic excellence. A “shout out “ to a dedicated team of teachers and staff led by Dr. Wynter Rose, a founding teacher of the school since 1997 achieved this great milestone. The big winners are the students and families of the school!





Café Colao salutes the 43rd annual Puerto Rican Peoples Day Parade.
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IB CP
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CTE
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IB MYP HONORS	IB MYP HONORS	IB MYP HONORS	IB DP HONORS	IB DP HONORS
IB MYP HONORS	IB MYP HONORS + CTE	IB DP + CTE	IB DP + CTE	
IB MYP	IB MYP + CTE	CTE	CTE	
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The COVID-19 Pandemic revealed the societal inequities in terms of healthcare and services for marginalized communities of color. Thus, the Promotores de Salud are created to ensure that vulnerable communities and in particular that LatinX population be provided the fair share of equity in healthcare and medical services that has been denied to them for decades.

Promotores de Salud empower and support our communities in need by:

- Performing Street Outreach in vulnerable communities to distribute the latest COVID-19 information, education and prevention materials.
- Social Media Campaign to reach the younger generations and people across our communities.
- Pop-Up tables in designated areas of high traffic susceptible to COVID-19 such as Humboldt Park, Hermosa, Pilsen and Belmont Cragin. Distribute information, related to COVID-19 provided by Center for Disease Control, Chicago Department of Public Health, and Illinois Department of Public Health.
- Assist and staff Chicago's COVID-19 Vaccine Pods.
- Provide registration and appointments for the COVID-19 Vaccine to vulnerable communities including the elder population as well those with physical challenges.
- Provide community businesses with informational flyers of COVID-19 and Personal Protective Equipment, (PPE).
- Provide referral to other essential services such as insurance enrollment, housing and food needs, youth services and medical and behavior health care services.
- Will set up informational COVID-19 booths in all PRCC major events including the Fiesta Boricua, Haunted Paseo, Three Kings and the People's Puerto Rican Parade.
- Will established COVID-19 informational services in four designated areas of Alfresco Chicago.



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EXCLUSIVE LA VOZ INTERVIEW WITH AUNT MARTHA'S CEO, RAÚL GARZA

Por Roberto Sanabria

Q. For our readers who may be unfamiliar with Aunt Martha's, give us a brief description of your organization and the work it does.

A. Aunt Martha's is the only federally qualified health center in the state of Illinois that is licensed by DCFS. That's important because it's allowed us to take our health care expertise and bring it into the child welfare system and provide an integrated approach to care. My predecessor had the vision to take us into healthcare. It was my vision, as long as we were getting into healthcare, to create a model that mirrored the Mayo Clinic, The Cleveland Clinic, Kaiser Permanente – that centered on integrated care. My vision was to integrate the services across the organization, including the child welfare work.

We have 900 employees. One thing I'm really proud of is the diversity of our staff. Frontline staff in health care organizations are traditionally people of color, but as you go up the ranks, you find diversity decreases, and then at the leadership level you see no people of color leading the organizations. At Aunt Martha's, not only are most of our frontline staff people of color, but as you go up the chain of leadership, 2/3 of our leadership are also people of color. People say they can't find qualified African Americans and Latinos to be in positions of leadership; I don't buy that. That's a choice. Obviously if that were the case, Aunt Martha's would not be as diverse as it is at the leadership level.

Q. Tell us a little bit about yourself and the path that led you to become the President and CEO of Aunt Martha's?

A. Both my parents are from Mexico; I was born on the south side of Chicago. My parents moved us to Sauk Village when I was in grade school. After high school, I enlisted in the US Air Force and served 10 years. I took night courses and got my undergraduate degree.

My brother worked at Aunt Martha's as a crisis counselor. He saw a job on the bulletin board for project coordinator. I remember going in for the interview. It seemed like a bunch of hippies walking around in Birkenstocks – really friendly. I said, "Man this is the anti-military!" I'm going to love this

if I get a shot at it. Two months later I got the job. My work was to open group homes for children in the child welfare system. Often communities would be oppositional to these homes. They felt the kids were delinquents, criminal offenders. I had to get thick skin. I'd go to village hall meetings and have community members yell at me. I began to work with our attorney. We took 5 communities to federal court, (Chicago, Will County Park Forest, Riverdale and Chicago Heights) for violating the Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. We prevailed every time.

My background in the Air Force and my undergrad degree were in finance. I was eventually promoted to Chief Financial Officer, and served in that role for 9 years. Later, I was recruited by a search firm that was looking for a CFO. I was offered the job, but my CEO asked me what would it take to make me stay. I told him I wanted to go into operations. I wanted this because I was deeply influenced by my experiences helping my grandmother. She spoke only broken English, so as a teenager I would travel to Little Village and help her navigate medical appointments. I saw first hand how the health system mistreated her.

My first year in this role, I visited the Cleveland Clinic to get a sense of what it meant to be integrated. It was a professional life changing experience.

Q. Can you give an example of what it means to be integrated?

A. Basically, we're seen by various providers as patients.

I might have a therapist, a psychiatrist, a primary health provider. It's where they're all sharing the same information about my care. There is no prescribing that's going on that affects

me adversely with my overall health. And if there are other needs - employment needs, food insecurities, the people who are taking care of you have a common language for working with you to provide that support. I'm proud of that model. In 2002, I was promoted to COO and I built on that vision. I created a relationship with Columbia University in New York. They came in and mentored Aunt Martha's to screen for depression among children and adolescents in a primary care setting. If a child came in with a cold or

a flu, we screened that child for depression because it was prevalent in communities of color. Once we screened and confirmed a diagnosis, we began to treat those kids. A year later we expanded to adults. Years after that, we got into tele psychiatry – tele health. In 2009, Gary announced he was retiring and he wanted me to step in as CEO – that was always the succession plan. In 2012, Gary also stepped down as President and so I became President and CEO.

Q. Why did Aunt Martha's begin to offer services in the Humboldt Park community?

A. That's a full question that deserves a full answer.

I moved into Humboldt Park about 3.5 years ago, so I live in the community. My wife and I found a home that just spoke to us. Then I discovered the park itself and spent time there. I always knew of Norwegian Hospital. I knew of José Sánchez. I had met him a year after I moved here, met him professionally. We started talking about partnering. The lease was going to be up on the previous tenant that was providing healthcare, and José wanted to go into a different direction. He called me in the winter of 2019, and asked, "Would you consider opening a clinic in the hospital?" I said I would be proud to have an Aunt Martha's clinic in the community I lived in. But because of the pandemic, the conversation stalled. This past summer he reignited the conversation with me and with other providers. He got back to me in October, and decided to go with us based on our integrated approach to care.

(Continue on page 30)



(Continued from page 29)

I just love living in Humboldt Park. I love Nellies on Divison St., the park itself, the businesses west of Kedzie.

Q. Do you have any goals for Aunt Martha's in Humboldt Park?

A. José has been great at bringing community providers together around the transformation initiative – bringing hospitals together. We want to be integrated seamlessly with the great work already happening in the community. Be complementary. We want to bring in that psychiatric capacity that the community needs. Also, we've designated the Humboldt Park clinic as a family planning site. It's about connecting with women when they're early on in pregnancy so they and their baby have a healthy experience. Other goals include growing the clinic and bringing focus on mental health services that are integrated. That is key – it has to be integrated meaning the primary care doctor, the family doctor, have to know what's going on with the psychiatrist so the patient is not at risk because the care is fragmented.

Q. Given that The PRCC and Aunt Martha's have a Memorandum of Understanding, talk about the synergy you envision will develop between our two organizations moving forward.

A. Aunt Martha's is the most geographically diverse of all 50 FQHCs in the state. We're in Peoria, Danville, Watseka, Kankakee, etc. – why that's important to the question you're asking is because we know how to adapt to the communities we go in. We know how to be respectful; we know how to be complementary, especially in the Humboldt Park community that has such deep Puerto Rican roots. I've learned that just living here for the past 3.5 years. This is a very proud culture - as it should be. They're a hard working people, working class, and who better to help navigate Aunt Martha's but these partnerships in the community that have done so much in the community. We're not trying to reinvent the wheel. We're looking to come in and provide a unique approach to health care - we can't do it alone. We can't do everything for everybody. Establishing a strong relationship with The Puerto Rican Cultural Center is a must, or we will fail. We won't be effective. At the end of the day, the people who work in that clinic

need to be from the community. We've been looking for outreach workers who are from Humboldt Park. They have to be from the community. People have to trust you – as in any relationship. We have to work to earn that trust. Our brand may work in Danville or Aurora. But that doesn't give us a pass to come into this community and say well it's going to work here too. There's work that has to happen in order for that to happen, and it starts with the relations we have with the community providers.

Q. Several years ago, the renown epidemiologist, Dr. Steve Whitman of Mount Sinai Hospital, published results of extensive research he and his team conducted in this community. Their findings demonstrated that Puerto Ricans in Humboldt Park/West Town are the most afflicted in the US with diabetes. Moreover they suffer extreme disparities with asthma and other debilitating illnesses. What role & resources can Aunt Martha's bring to help alleviate these realities?

A. Our expertise is in care coordination. When the care coordinator picks up the phone and tries to connect with the patient – that's not effective or sustainable. We have to go into the community and meet the patient where they're at. Then connect the patient and navigate them to get the services. I'm not foolish enough to think Aunt Martha's can do that on its own. It's going to take a lot of advocacy, and calling out the lack of resources from a Latino/Puerto Rican lens. We're fortunate enough that we contract with County Care and do our own care coordination with patients as opposed to insurance companies doing it. The most effective care coordination happens when the provider does it. We're coming at it from a provision of care perspective versus an insurance perspective. We build a road map that takes a patient from understanding the serious underlying condition – to treatment. If there were enough resources to serve Puerto Rican diabetic patients, you wouldn't be asking this question. The study wouldn't have revealed what it did. We're going to have to be stronger at advocacy, and really demanding

that there are resources in these disparately resourced communities and within disproportionate populations. It starts with the work I've been doing challenging entities that don't embrace diversity because these are the people making decisions about resources. Our voices have got to be in the room and at the table. I won't say we can't do anything without resources, if I have to be leaner at the executive level and put more resources on the street, I will. Last year the government was great at providing resources – Aunt Martha's got \$12.2 million. We couldn't use that for capital investment – it had to be in services. No expansions. Technology yes. We took 1/4 of that money and approached insurance companies. I said to CEOs, "If we put in 2.5 to 3 million dollars are you willing to match it so we can treat the most acute patients, like diabetic patients? Then we put our skin in the game and you put your skin in the game, and the patients become better for it." We made this a focus for the Humboldt Park clinic. Aetna was the first to jump in. They gave \$600,000, we put in \$400,000. So we turned 400k and got a million to patients who are chronically ill. Meridien will do this as well. The new CEO of the County Health System, Israel Rocha is interested in this. This is what creating value is about.

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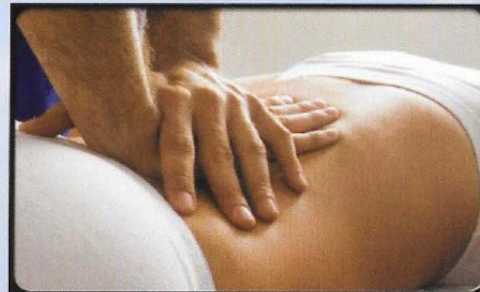
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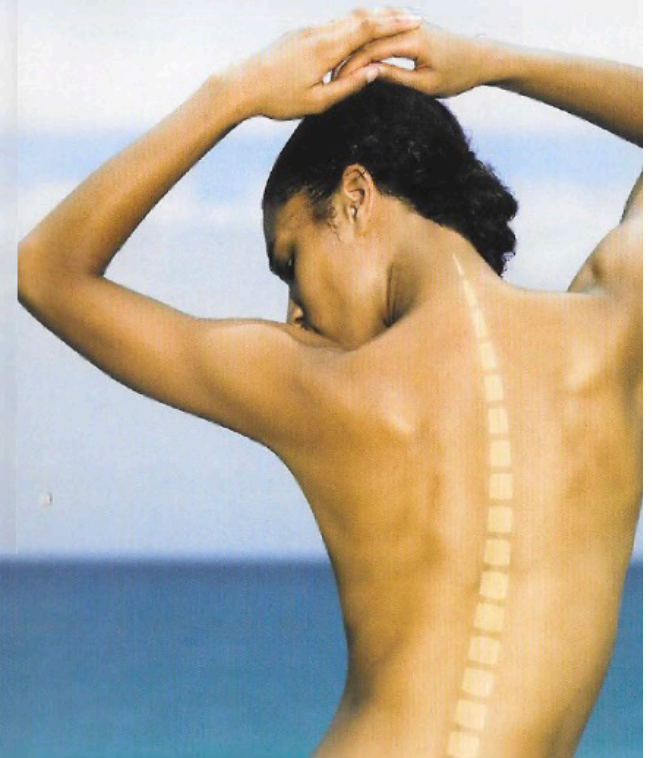
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GENTRIFIERS ATTACK ALDERMAN MALDONADO, HISPANIC HOUSING, AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN HUMBOLDT PARK

By *Xiomara Rodríguez*

In May it was announced that Alderman Maldonado and the CEO of Hispanic Housing, Paul Roldán, were moving forward with the building of a new 9-story affordable housing Complex. This complex is part of Hispanic Housing Development Corporation's "Preserving Paseo Boricua" development strategy, which is working to bring affordable housing to our community so that longtime residents can afford to continue living in the community they have called home for generations.

Immediately after it was announced that the plan for the affordable housing complex was moving forward, a Block Club Chicago article came out centering the voices and discontent of a group who calls themselves the "East Humboldt Park Neighborhood Association". According to the article, this group "opposes the project because of the lack of community involvement in the decision making process and because they think the building is too tall for the area". However, this article fails to mention the fact that this affordable housing complex plan came out of a mandate given to community leaders. This mandate was articulated in a summit sponsored by the Puerto Rican Agenda at Chi Arts High School with the participation of nearly 300 community members and community organizations including: LUCHA, Hispanic Housing, Casa Norte, Bickerdike, The Puerto Rican Cultural Center, Logan Square Neighborhood Association, and Association House. The fact that this "East Humboldt Park Neighborhood Association" went to the press about how upset they were about a lack of community involvement in the decision making process, while completely disregarding the fact that community members came together to mandate this affordable housing complex, makes it pretty clear that the way the "East Humboldt Park Neighborhood Association" defines their community is exclusive of their neighbors who support affordable housing.

This "East Humboldt Park Neighborhood Association" describes themselves on their facebook page as "a diverse neighborhood on Chicago's west side that is bordered by North Avenue, Western,

Division Street, and California." As someone whose family, according to their partitioning, has lived in so-called "East Humboldt Park" for more than five decades, I was shocked and disturbed by this neighborhood association's blatant disregard for the lives and well being of their neighbors who are being priced out of the community.

Nonetheless, the East Humboldt Park Neighborhood Association's response to this affordable housing complex is more than an isolated act of ignorance and selfishness. Their response speaks to the systemic violence our community has faced in the battle to survive colonialism, capitalism, and White-Supremacy. When a representative of the



"East Humboldt Park Neighborhood Association" by the name of Max Collopy is quoted saying, "The adjacent buildings are either one story or four stories. There's no building within the vicinity that's nine stories, let alone facing the park", he is not just saying that the view he is able to see from the park is more important to him than families having access to housing, he is acting from an awareness that we live in a world that values the voices of people who can afford housing over people who cannot.

Moreover, we cannot take this response by "East Humboldt Park Neighborhood Association" to

an affordable housing complex out of the context in which it was made. Firstly, the area that the "East Humboldt Park Neighborhood Association" has partitioned as 'their' neighborhood is one of the areas in Greater Humboldt Park that has experienced some of the worst gentrification and price hikes. Additionally, the Hispanic Housing Development Corp's "Preserving Paseo Boricua" development strategy comes out of an acknowledgement of the decades of gentrification Puerto Ricans, specifically, have struggled against in Lincoln Park, Lakeview, River North, and now Humboldt Park. The struggle to find affordable housing has become central to the story of Puerto Ricans in Chicago, but the ways in which people have attempted to dispossess us from our housing hasn't only been through Block Club Chicago articles. If you walk to the corner of Rockwell and LeMoyne in so-called "East Humboldt Park" you will see a mural depicting a Brown woman calling for help from a burning building, there are hands breaking chains, and on one of the chains it says "Housing is Still the Issue". This mural is referencing the many Puerto Rican families we lost in Humboldt Park because their landlords were conducting arson for profit. Arson for profit was an attack on the lives of our community members who were viewed as worthless by more wealthy landlords. This article in Block Club Chicago is an attack on our community members whose lives are seen as worthless by more wealthy neighbors who do not have a need for affordable housing.

It is incredibly dangerous to view this article and attack on the Hispanic Housing affordable housing complex as an isolated incident. My family and all Puerto Rican families in this community are here as a direct consequence of settler colonialism. Humboldt Park's existence is a direct result of the process of settler colonialism during which French and British settlers violently disappeared, murdered, and dispossessed Indigenous Bodéwadmikiwen, Kiikaapoi, Myaamia, Ochéthi Sakówin, and Peoria people. Similarly the Puerto Rican community is in Humboldt Park because of the same disgusting process of settler colonialism, because the United

(Continue on page 36)

NMPRAC TO CELEBRATE BARRIO ARTS FEST 2021

By Alyssa Corrigan, NMPRAC

This summer, The National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture (NMPRAC) will bring back its signature Barrio Arts Fest (BAF) after a year of being closed due to COVID-19. The free weekend-long event has been celebrated annually since the founding of the museum in 2000, but was canceled in 2020 to ensure the safety of our community. Featuring a wide variety of Puerto Rican artists and artisans, local food vendors, live musical performances, and family-friendly workshops, BAF showcases the vibrancy of our creative communities in Humboldt Park and beyond. Being that 2020 marked the Museum's 20th Anniversary as a

cultural institution, NMPRAC is excited to relaunch BAF bigger, better, and safer than ever with a special emphasis on "All Things Humboldt Park" to honor the triumphs of our rich neighborhood and our collective resilience.

In the past, NMPRAC has hosted mask-making workshops, theatrical plays, children's book readings and activities, bomba dance lessons, master classes with professional artists, and more. During the event, the entire museum property is utilized with exhibitions remaining open, vendors stationed throughout our courtyard and large lawn, and special attractions located in our parking lot, which have included classic cars shows and Shedd Aquarium's mobile aquarium. In

2019, BAF showcased 40 Puerto Rican artists and welcomed more than 2,500 visitors. Being that artists are among the hardest hit by the unexpected pandemic, we are anticipating even more vendor participants and guests, especially now that the vaccination campaign is well underway, and the city is beginning to open back up safely.

The 2021 Barrio Arts Fest will take place on Saturday, July 10 (10:00AM-6:00PM) and Sunday, July 11 (10:00AM-5:00PM). NMPRAC will follow all updated city guidelines for COVID-19. If you are interested in being a vendor at this year's event, please email info@nmpprac.org for more information. We hope to see you there



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THANKS TO EFFORTS OF SEN. AQUINO, SEN. PACIONE-ZAYAS, AND REP. RAMÍREZ PUERTO RICO TOWN LEGISLATION AWAITS GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE

By La Voz Staff

A plan introduced by State Senator Cristina Pacione-Zayas (D-Chicago) and State Representative Delia Ramírez (D-Chicago) to allow the designation of cultural districts in Illinois cleared its final vote in the Illinois General Assembly Saturday, sending the Governor the measure to affirm the identity of communities in Illinois and preserve their distinct legacies.

"Communities in Illinois should proudly reflect the identity, contributions, and history of the people

who have helped build them," Pacione-Zayas said. "This allows the state to designate up to 15 sites as cultural districts, giving them a chance to pursue community-driven economic opportunity initiatives that ensure our neighborhoods preserve their unique cultures and continue to build legacies."

An initiative of the Puerto Rican Agenda, the legislation would allow the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to establish the necessary criteria and guidelines

to designate such cultural districts. Five such districts could be designated per year, up to a total of 15. The process would be overseen by an advisory board, which the legislation specifies must be

made up of a racially, ethnically, and geographically diverse group of board members.

House Assistant Majority Leader Delia Ramírez sponsored the measure in the Illinois House.

"As we move into economic recovery from the pandemic, it is imperative that we recognize and invest in the rich cultural heritage of Illinois' diverse communities," Ramírez said. "This initiative will allow DCEO to help communities foster and preserve their distinct cultural legacies."

The Illinois Senate approved the House's amendments to Senate Bill 1833 late Sunday night. It awaits the Governor's signature to become law.



(Continued from page 35)

process of settler colonialism, because the United States, as a settler colonial nation-state, also operates as an empire utilizing external forms of colonization. The invasion and economic devastation of Puerto Rico by the U.S. forced the spatial deconcentration of dispossessed Puerto Ricans, like my grandparents, lured by the hope of low-wage employment to abandon their homes and family to occupy and settle on seized Indigenous land. The gentrifiers of Humboldt Park's actions are informed by this gruesome legacy of settler colonialism with their latest attempt at dispossessing their low income neighbors of the only housing many of us can afford, and disappearing the culture/community we have cultivated out of necessity for generations replacing it with "co-living" apartment complexes geared towards millennials".

ALFRESCO: ABRE CAMINO PARA PUERTO RICO TOWN HARA EL PASEO BORICUA MÁS CAMINABLE

Por Nadya Henríquez

El pasado 30 de mayo de 2021, Lori Lightfoot, Alcaldesa de Chicago, anunció a los beneficiarios de la primera ronda del Programa Alfresco. Dicho programa es una iniciativa innovadora con la meta de promover el turismo en los barrios. El objetivo es fomentar el turismo en el barrio mediante el uso de áreas comunes mediante la creación de espacios atractivos y vanguardistas. Las áreas públicas albergarán eventos culturales, espacios artísticos y, cenas al aire libre, revitalizando así la vida en la comunidad. Se crearán una serie de estructuras arquitectónicas de madera que exhibirán su excelencia en su diseño artístico.

El Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño (PRCC) fue una de las quince organizaciones comunitarias seleccionadas por Chicago Alfresco para recibir \$250,000. El programa, bajo la jurisdicción del Departamento de Transportación de Chicago (CDOT), ha sido generosamente patrocinado por Choose Chicago y Diageo North America.

“A través de este premio, la ciudad está reconociendo, no solamente lo que ya es parte de la personalidad de Paseo Boricua, como las dos banderas gigantes de acero de Puerto Rico, el Salón Paseo Boricua de la Fama de la Música, los diseños de hierro

forjado con elementos puertorriqueños y los coloridos murales que decoran muchos de los edificios en la calle División, sino que también el trabajo de las organizaciones como PRCC, La Asociación de Desarrollo de Negocios de Division Street (DSBDA por sus siglas en inglés), la Agenda Puertorriqueña (PRA), el Museo Nacional de Arte y Cultura Puertorriqueña (NMPCR), tanto como el trabajo del ex-concejal Billy Ocasio y el concejal actual Roberto Maldonado,” “quien por casi 50 años han contribuido al desarrollo económico y la preservación cultural de la comunidad puertorriqueña en Humboldt Park,” dijo José López, Director Ejecutivo de PRCC.

El programa Chicago Alfresco, que se espera comience en el verano, incluirá la programación de actividades que darán vida a las estructuras arquitectónicas que se instalarán en las aceras del Paseo Boricua. STLArchitects y Studio ARC, fueron las firmas arquitectas seleccionadas para conceptualizar el “Pueblo Paseo Boricua,” en la calle División entre las avenidas Western y California, y están encantados de ser parte de esta “hermosa iniciativa,” según Luis Collado, director de STLArchitects.

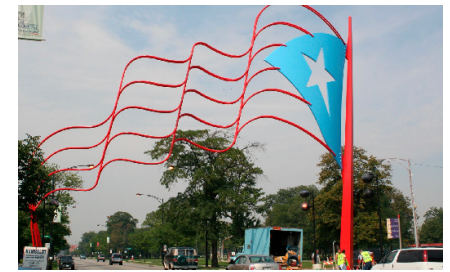
Artistas comunitarios formarán parte de esta propuesta, para conectar ambos lados de la calle con murales coloridos en el pavimento para el disfrute de

los peatones y conductores de automóviles que ingresan al corredor.

Los artistas convertirán la calle División en una exhibición de arte de conducción.

El Programa Alfresco de Chicago pavimentará el camino para el desarrollo del “Municipio Puerto Rico” como un distrito y santuario cultural, resolución que fue aprobada recientemente por la Asamblea General de Illinois para proteger el patrimonio cultural de los vecindarios de Chicago e Illinois.

Las actividades del programa serán coordinadas y programadas por El PRCC en conjunto con los negocios locales y las partes interesadas. Si desean obtener más información sobre el programa Alfresco de Chicago en Humboldt Park, comuníquese con Nadya Henríquez en nadyah@prcc-chgo.org o 773-217-0676



NEW NOVEL BY HUMBOLDT PARK AUTHORS ADDS NEW DIMENSIONS TO CHIRICAN LITERARY TRADITION

By La Voz Staff

Humboldt Park born and Clemente graduate Milton Tanco along with his sister, Megan Tanco Quiñones, have co-authored a unique young adult novel, *Wooden Hearts*. Written under the pen name T.Q Lightyears, *Wooden Hearts* is the tale of a 1920s dystopian society called *The New Kingdom*. Marc, an orphan, is kidnapped then later recruited by a revolutionary

faction known as the Animals. Marc discovers why he, like thousands of other Products, has been isolated from society. The reason is sinister. With war imminent between the Animals and the Cian, led by a tyrant holy king, Marc's very soul is essential to the fate of the Products and of the entirety of *The New Kingdom*. Milton and Megan are both graduates of Columbia College-Chicago with backgrounds in



film and journalism. They work with inner-city Chicago youth and are driven to inspire a more compassionate world one heart at a time. *Wooden Hearts* aims to instill the theme of empathy for others within readers to create internal harmony in otherwise chaotic times.

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PRCC Mourns The Physical Loss of the Following Beloved Members of our Community:

Matilde Montañez: Matriarch of a Prominent Puerto Rican Family

By Carlos Flores

On June 1, 2021 my mom, Matilde Montañez Flores (a.k.a. Doña Mato), passed away. For over the last 5 years she had been dealing with Dementia, and on May 24, 2021, she suffered a severe stroke. She passed away peacefully and comfortably at her home surrounded by immediate family and friends - who deeply CARED & LOVED the matriarch of our family.

"Doña Mato", along with her late husband ("Charlie"), leaves behind a wonderful family legacy in Chicago's Puerto Rican community, by not only raising her own family, but also opening our home as a "safe haven" for many foster children. She was born and raised in the San Lorenzo - Patillas area in Puerto Rico, and arrived in Chicago in the mid-1950s with her husband, and three of their five children.

She did not receive a formal education, but this lady was one of the strongest, most courageous, smartest people I have ever met, who dedicated her life Protecting, Loving, and Raising her family. Being raised in poverty in Puerto Rico, she was always open to helping others in need, and that was the one lesson that she taught her family - always treat others with respect, and never turn your back on them. That lesson was well learned, adopted, and applied by her children/grandchildren.

She was also a very feisty person who would not allow anyone to disrespect her or her family.

I am so proud of my sisters (Mirna, Carmen, Rosa, my late sister Elizabeth, and my brother Rafael), for ensuring that Doña Mato was cared for and LOVED until her last breathe in her own home surroundings. A promise made and kept to my late father.

Doña Mato, I am so proud and grateful that you had the opportunity to visualize and experience the success you and your husband had in raising a successful family that included sons/daughters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, foster children, as well as acquaintances and strangers.

You can finally rest, and I am so glad you experienced the LOVE your family had for you. I am also glad that the entire family was able to spend their last Sunday with you, just this past weekend. So sorry if we were a little too loud, but that is the way our family rolls - just the way you taught us! JOB WELL DONE, Y SE ME CUIDA!!!!



Jimari Williams

By Luis Muñoz

As a former participant of our Youth Employment program, Jimari was the example of a youth who strived to do what was right and make something of himself. It was his personality and willingness to participate that brought him into the work of The Puerto Rican Cultural Center. Having been a part of the UrbanTheater Company and its performances last summer, Jimari brought so much positivity in a time when most of us were dealing with the ills

of the pandemic by simple improv street performances on Paseo Boricua. Having been one of the only African American youth participating in the company he never shied away from being himself and gave his audience something beautiful about who he was to a community outside of his own. Having been a longtime resident of Bronzeville, where he lived, worked, and had friends and family, he was unfortunately a victim of violence as he was on his way to work from home. His



life was cut short one month before walking the stage for his high school graduation. An honor roll student and active youth with big dreams was tragically taken from us like so many youth here in Chicago. Although his life was short lived, his effect on those around him will forever be an imprint of his positivity and resilience.

PEACE MARCH IN HUMBOLDT PARK/ COMMUNITY SAYS STOP THE VIOLENCE

By Adrian Rodríguez

The goal of the Peace March was to steer the community's energy in a different direction before summer arrived. Many don't believe peace marches are effective and I believe that with the right leaders of the community marching, we can really begin to see change. Peace doesn't come overnight but we must first heal our hearts so that we can help heal the hearts of others who are committing

these crimes and acts of violence in our streets. People have cried for help to stop the violence but it takes a village and I hope as our community continues to grow and become enriched in

the people of our community to take advantage of. I also wanted to give a special thanks to all the organizations who were involved in making this a successful day. Thank you to our



its culture, people can gain a new perspective of Humboldt Park. That it is a safe place to congregate and there are so many opportunities for

guest speakers and everyone who lended a helping hand. Without everyone in attendance this day wouldn't have been half of what it was, and I appreciate everyone's passion and efforts. This is only the beginning to creating a new "norm" in our community.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF PRCC SCaN PROGRAM

By La Voz Staff

Jenise Santiago, was born and raised in Humboldt Park, a community she calls home. Jenise graduated from Northeastern Illinois University with a bachelor's in Justice Studies and a minor in Latino Latin

American Studies.

For the past six years Jenise has worked with school age children in a variety of roles. Jenise currently works for The PRCC and serves as a Program Coordinator for the SCaN model program. Jenise has a passion to work with



youth at risk and is hoping to make an impact on many lives and a difference within the community.

Annette Flores, is driven to inspire unity, implement accountability and spread love. Annette Flores is focused on creating

purposeful and life altering relationships to support youth and young adults. Annette Flores engages in the challenges of

high risk youth to bring them validation and self-worth to achieve their ambitions and goals.



Michael S Tosado Jr, A Case Manager with SCaN at The Puerto Rican Cultural Center. Michael was born and

raised in the Humboldt Park community, Michael has chosen to come back to help guide and mentor our youth.



EL CENTRO DE LA RAZA IN BELMONT CRAGIN REGISTERS 1,000+ VACCINE APPOINTMENTS



By Kathy Bezares
Since August 2020, The PRCC- Belmont

Cragin office/ La Raza Covid Welcoming Center has been working tirelessly to help the residents of the Belmont Cragin community during these difficult times with resources like giving away more than 2,500 masks and sanitizers,

connecting local food banks with those in need of food, scheduling more than 1,000 vaccine appointments, and so much more! They will continue to work for the community and provide resources to anyone in need.

WE STAND WITH PALESTINE : PALESTINA LIBRE

By La Voz Staff

The Puerto Rican Cultural Center, Juan Antonio Corretjer stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people and denounces Israeli violence and domination as we have for the past 50 years. The settler colonization of Palestine must come to an end now. The Israeli state and settlers must end the dispossession of Palestinian land, the brutal assault on the Gaza Strip, and system of racial apartheid that structures Israeli society. While there exists contested perspectives to the final solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, almost all of the world's nations and people's recognize a two state solution as an answer-- in which the state of Palestine is truly sovereign And, like many across the world, we also support the Palestinian right of return and self-determination. We are horrified by the Israeli bombing of apartment buildings, orphanages, medical centers, and media towers in Gaza.

So many lives have been lost as a result of this conflict; deepening decades of pain and suffering. Despite it all, the Palestinian people have continued to resist and have voiced their support for the liberation of all people, including the Puerto Rican people. As colonized people, we will continue to



struggle for a free Puerto Rico and a free Palestine.

Reflexiones sobre solidaridad boricua con Palestina: El 12 de mayo, un grupo de jóvenes de El Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño fue a mostrar su apoyo a Palestina y oponerse al apartheid en una protesta organizada por la Coalición por la Justicia en Palestina

de Chicago. Durante décadas, puertorriqueños y palestinos se han solidarizado unos con otros contra el enemigo común del apartheid. La mañana de la protesta comenzó a circular un video de Juan Antonio Corretjer, la persona que lleva el nombre de El Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño, en 1980 dando un discurso de solidaridad con Palestina en nombre de las presas políticas boricuas. Antes de irnos a la protesta por parte del Director Ejecutivo de El Centro Cultural Puertorriqueño, José López, incluso nos enseñó un cántico que solía usar en las protestas con palestinos y puertorriqueños que decía "Puerto Rico, Palestina; una lucha muchos frentes ". Durante las acciones recientes para condenar las atrocidades cometidas por la ocupación israelí, continuamos esta larga tradición protestando y exigiendo el fin de la ocupación israelí de Palestina. Seguiremos luchando hasta que Palestina, Puerto Rico, y todos sean libres.



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