

*Nuestro  
Futuro  
Our  
Future*

**LATINO  
CENTER**

 Smithsonian



Twenty nineteen marked a banner year for expanding Latino representation at the Smithsonian—more and diverse research projects, exhibitions, collecting, public and educational programs, and web-based content. Remaining strong has been our commitment to the development of emerging scholars, museum professionals, scientists, and community leaders—*nuestro futuro*. The Latino Center is actively laying the groundwork for a more diverse museum workforce and a working environment where our people can thrive and deepen the representation that our varied communities richly deserve.

Twenty nineteen also saw foundational progress towards the establishment of the Molina Family Latino Gallery, slated to open at the National Museum of American History in spring 2022. We have assembled a top-flight creative and technical team for the task at hand and have raised unprecedented levels of funds to get the job done. Sincerest thanks to Latino Center staff for their leadership and the Smithsonian National Latino Board for its enthusiastic generosity.

We invite you to join us in taking these next big steps forward.

*Juntos Haciendo Historia*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eduardo Díaz', written in a cursive style.

Eduardo Díaz, Director

SMITHSONIAN LATINO CENTER



INSIDE FRONT COVER

***Director's Letter***

PAGE 2

***Board and Staff***

PAGE 3

***Who We Are***

PAGE 4

***Museum Studies Program***

PAGE 5

***Internship Program***

PAGE 6

***Young Ambassadors Program***

PAGE 7

***Family Program Series***

PAGE 8

***Hispanic Heritage Month***

CENTER INSERT

***Molina Family Latino Gallery***

PAGE 9

***Public Programs***

PAGE 11

***Digital Immersion and Outreach***

PAGE 12

***Latino Initiatives Pool***

PAGE 15

***Our Donors***

PAGE 17

***Ways to Give***



## **Smithsonian National Latino Board and Center Staff**

The Smithsonian National Latino Board is a volunteer advisory board that advises the director of the Smithsonian Latino Center and other Smithsonian leaders. Through its 19 members and alumni network, the National Latino Board members contribute their advice and service through committees and ad hoc working groups. They have shown their extraordinary commitment to philanthropy through gifts and pledges totaling \$3.4 million, which fueled the momentum of the Molina Family Latino Gallery campaign.

### **Leadership**

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*\*Alumni of the Young*

*Ambassadors Program*

*\*\*Alumni of the Latino Museum*

*Studies Program*

## / Who We Are /

### Mission

The Smithsonian Latino Center unlocks dynamic U.S. Latino stories that shape our national experience and identity.

### Vision

The Smithsonian Latino Center empowers a greater understanding and deeper appreciation for the enduring contributions of Latinos to our country. It preserves a growing collection of diverse stories and experiences that reflect Latino presence in our history and culture, and convenes conversations, inclusively, about the stories and connections that continue to inspire generations to come.

### About the Smithsonian Latino Center

The Smithsonian Latino Center is the *corazón of Latinidad* at the Smithsonian. It works toward preserving Latino history and culture, engaging Latino communities, and advancing Latino representation in the United States. Since 1997, SLC has successfully ensured that the contributions of the Latino community are celebrated and represented throughout the Smithsonian.

The Center works collaboratively with Smithsonian museums and research centers, ensuring that the contributions of



the Latino community in the arts, history, national culture and scientific achievement are explored, presented, celebrated and preserved. We support scholarly research, exhibitions, public and educational programs, web-based content and virtual platforms, and collections and archives. We also manage leadership and professional development programs for Latino youth, emerging scholars and museum professionals.

In 2022, the Smithsonian Latino Center will open the Molina Family Latino Gallery at the National American History Museum, making the gallery the very first dedicated museum space on the National Mall celebrating the U.S. Latino experience.



## / Latino Museum Studies Program /



The Latino Museum Studies Program (LMSP) provides a national forum for graduate students to share, explore, and discuss the representation and interpretation of Latino cultures in the context of the American experience. It offers a unique opportunity to meet and engage with Smithsonian professionals, scholars from renowned universities, and with leaders in the museum field.

The first component consists of a series of lectures, workshops, and behind-the-scenes tours at the Smithsonian. Curators, researchers, and other museum professionals, as well as guest lecturers, lead interactive tours and discussions, providing participants a unique opportunity to see and hear first-hand the best practices in museums and cultural centers.

The second component consists of a practicum project within a selected Smithsonian museum or Center. LMSP matches applicants to a practicum based on their background and experience, and how well the project aligns with their future goals.

The 2019 program hosted 12 students from across the United States. They are currently pursuing masters or doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois at Chicago, California State University, University of California Los Angeles, University of Michigan, University of Houston, Harvard Divinity School, City University of New York – Graduate Center (2), University of Arizona, the University of Maryland (2), and Stanford University.

Practicums supported the upcoming Molina Family Latino Gallery, upcoming exhibitions (*Girlhood – It's Complicated* and *Entertaining America* at the National Museum of American History and *¡Printing the Revolution! The Rise and Impact of Chicano Graphics, 1965 to Now* at the Smithsonian American Art Museum), as well as the Smithsonian Year of Music initiatives. External visits included a talk and tour of the Organization of American States Museum and a conversation with Julio Ricardo Varela of Latino USA at the National Public Radio headquarters in the District of Columbia.

## *East Los Angeles College Museum Studies Internship Program*

During January, three students from East Los Angeles College (ELAC) spent four weeks at the Smithsonian as part of their museum studies internship program. The intensive program was made possible through a partnership with the Smithsonian Latino Center and ELAC's Vincent Price Art Museum.

Despite the 2019 federal government shutdown, the participating students were able to complete their internships at the Smithsonian Latino Center, Archives of American Art, and the Smithsonian Digitization Program Office.

The ELAC museum studies internship program is for Latina and Latino students interested in the museum field. The program gives interns work opportunities to mirror and expand upon their experience at the Vincent Price Art Museum.



## Young Ambassadors Program



The Smithsonian Latino Center welcomed 18 graduating high school seniors from across the country to participate in the Young Ambassadors Program (YAP) for young Latinas and Latinos. Through the support of Ford Motor Company Fund, the program offers a unique opportunity for young Latinos to become community-conscious leaders and lifelong learners.

The program kicked off on June 24 with a week in Washington, D.C., for a behind-the-scenes look at the Smithsonian. During YAP Washington Week, students participated in workshops with preeminent Latino scholars, leaders, and innovators, such as Laura I. Gómez, entrepreneur and CEO of Atipica, a Silicon Valley technology company.

After their week in Washington, participants completed a four-week internship at a Smithsonian partner or affiliate cultural or science museum in one of 17 cities across the U.S. and Puerto Rico. This unique opportunity allows students to gain valuable work experience and learn how to apply those skills to improve their communities. Students also participated in a community outreach activity, leading storytimes in partner libraries across the country, promoting childhood literacy, and

giving back to their home communities. Participants received a \$2,000 stipend towards college expenses after completing the five-week intensive program.

YAP has a close-knit network of over 280 alumni who refer to themselves as *nuestra familia*. This global network provides alumni with continuing education, professional development, and community connections.

In November, YAP hosted its ninth annual Post-Collegiate Seminar, which provides alumni with career and academic mentoring and skill development. The seminar was made possible, in part, through support from the Peralta Correa Family Fund and the Corvias Foundation.



## / ¡Descubra! Family Program Series |

Throughout 2019 the Latino Center shared Smithsonian education resources across the nation via our *¡Descubra!* Family Program Series. *¡Descubra!* is the Latino Center's national public education program for kids, teens, and families, promoting Latino arts and culture as well as STEM education, with a focus on Latino youth. These intergenerational experiences build both science skills and cultural awareness. Through the support, in part, of Comcast NBCUniversal Telemundo, the Smithsonian Latino Center was able to travel our *¡Descubra!* Family Program Series, hosting events in Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia.

This year, *¡Descubra!* celebrated Hispanic Heritage days, celebrating community Latina musicians and art makers in Philadelphia, and art and animation as part of the BoldPas Festival in Pasadena, California, with the creator of *La Borinqueña*, Edgardo Miranda-Rodriguez. *¡Descubra!* also featured Meet the Science Expert days, exploring the science behind the art with New York conservator Gloria Velandia in Houston and climate phenomena with scientist Astrid Caldas in Chicago. While science was

at the core, these days also celebrated the intersections of art and science with featured artists, including Houston and Chicago muralists Angel Quesada and Katia Pérez Fuentes YAP '13 and Rhode Island recycled art maker Aymar Ccocupaty. All our events featured *¡Descubra!* Create-it! Activities, *¡Descubra!* local collaborating organizations, and our national collaborator, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. With our partners, we were able to serve over 27,450 visitors across the United States (including the Washington, D.C., metro area).

*¡Descubra!* Partner Museums and Cultural Centers:

- Adler Planetarium  
Chicago, Illinois
- Armory Center for the Arts  
Pasadena, California
- Children's Museum of Houston  
Houston, Texas
- National Museum of American History  
Washington, D.C.
- National Zoological Park  
Washington, D.C.
- Taller Puertorriqueño  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



## / Hispanic Heritage Month /



The Smithsonian Latino Center celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month at the Smithsonian through our *¡Descubra!* Feature Events celebrating Latino contributions to art, music, and science.

### ***¡Descubra!* at ZooFiesta**

In collaboration with the National Zoo, the Latino Center kicked-off Hispanic Heritage Month on September 21, exploring Smithsonian science efforts on protecting species and habitats worldwide. *¡Descubra!* featured scientist Karina Herrera, YAP '09, who shared her research and work at the Environmental Protection Agency. Collaborating organizations Latinos@NOAA, the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) shared resources and ways to get involved in conservation.

### **Latino Arts, Beats, and Culture: A *¡Descubra!* Feature Event**

In collaboration with the National Museum of American History, the Smithsonian Latino Center celebrated U.S. Latino music from mambo to reggaeton through hands-on activities, on-stage conversations, objects out of storage, performances, and the inventor-in-you activities with the USPTO. The future home of the Molina Family Latino Gallery was activated with community art featuring students from the Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School and salsa, samba, and tango dance lessons. DJ Turmix and Daniel del Piélago took visitors through the Golden Age of Latino Music from bugalú to salsa and mambo. Latinos in Hip Hop were highlighted through intergenerational performances by Maria Isa, Puerto Rican Minnesotan Hip Hop artist, and Brooklyn the Kid of Words, Beats, Life.

*¡Descubra!* is made possible in part through program support provided by NBCUniversal Telemundo Enterprises. A portion of the travel of the Smithsonian Latino Center and the 2019 *¡Descubra!* Hispanic Heritage Event was generously provided by Southwest Airlines.





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The Smithsonian Latino Center will open its first gallery space, the Molina Family Latino Gallery, in spring 2022 at the National Museum of American History (NMAH). The Molina Family Latino Gallery will be the leading interpretive gallery devoted to exploring the richness and diversity of Latino history, culture, and identity in the United States. This unique gallery will offer exciting temporary exhibitions and engaging educational and cultural programs over 10 years, making it an integral part of NMAH.

The gallery will be flexible enough to accommodate the changing needs of programs and special events, such as readings, podcasts, and book launches.



All content in the gallery—graphics, media, and audio—will be fully bilingual in English and Spanish. It will also be accessible to all public, taking into consideration all possible requirements to offer a vibrant and inclusive experience for people with different types of physical and learning abilities.





### **Gallery Threshold and Entrance**

Upon approaching the gallery, visitors will see a distinct threshold that distinguishes “The Molina Family Latino Gallery” from other galleries in the museum. Panels flanking the threshold will recognize donors and benefactors.

The exhibition’s title is *¡Presente! A Latino History of the United States*. A brief curatorial introduction will help draw visitors to enter the gallery.

### **Exhibition Areas**

Once inside the gallery, visitors will find a lively and active space framed by four large-scale interpretive cases along the walls. Each case has a distinct theme, each presenting key moments in Latino history that have shaped the United States over time. This rich and complex history comes to life in these cases through relevant artifacts (borrowed from the Smithsonian collection and

other museums), revealing documents, moving personal stories, and interpretive graphics.

The exhibition’s first theme is *Spanish Colonization: Roots/Resistance*. Three significant moments are highlighted:

- The Spanish trespassing on native lands
- Colonization strategies for control
- The life of settlers in distant lands



The relationship between the colonizers and native peoples, as well as racial hierarchies, is illustrated by a series of historical documents, photographs, and contemporary artwork. Personal audio stories punctuate each case and reveal a human aspect to the content displayed within them.

Adjacent to this case, visitors find an interactive table that expands on topics addressed in the thematic section, using videos, animated maps, and additional information.

Visitors may continue along the perimeter of the gallery to explore three other themes:

- *War and New U.S. Citizens*
- *Immigration Stories*
- *Creating Community*

Each theme will be anchored by an introductory nook and case, featuring a vibrant and careful arrangement of objects, graphics, and documents to illustrate historical moments. Audio stories also underscore each case to bring personal stories to life.

### **Foro**

At any time, visitors can step into the *Foro*, a lively media space at the center of the gallery that evokes a plaza, to explore Latino stories. The *Foro* is composed of eight interactive digital storytellers in which visitors encounter Latinos talking about different aspects of their lives. In each storyteller, visitors may search and select personal stories according to their thematic or geographic interest.

### **Learning Lounge**

The Learning Lounge, a discrete and flexible multifunction space for different types of visitors, is embedded deep inside the Latino Gallery. Educators may gather various kinds of groups to participate in activities about topics treated during the encounter. This space may also host presentations and hands-on activities to give visitors sensorial experiences that further explore the specific issues presented in the exhibition. When needed, the Learning Lounge can convert into a gathering space appropriate for storytelling and large-group activities, such as book presentations, podcasts, and lectures.






# LATINO CENTER


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FRONT COVER

Chita Rivera: © Adál. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution; acquisition made possible through the Smithsonian Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the Smithsonian Latino Center



### Pride Celebration

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, the Smithsonian Latino Center and the National Museum of African American History and Culture collaborated on a public program featuring a talk, performance, and dance party. The onstage conversation featured TV personality Karamo Brown in dialogue with Big Freedia, the celebrated Queen of New Orleans Bounce music. Big Freedia's performance was followed by a contemporary Afro-Latinx dance party with DJ Bembona.

### AAM Latino Network Mixer

The Smithsonian Latino Center and the Latino Network of the American Alliance of Museums collaborated on an annual mixer to promote museum careers and connect emerging and veteran museum professionals. The mixer coincides with the Latino Museum Studies Program and was open to area Latinx museum staff and emerging museum professionals.

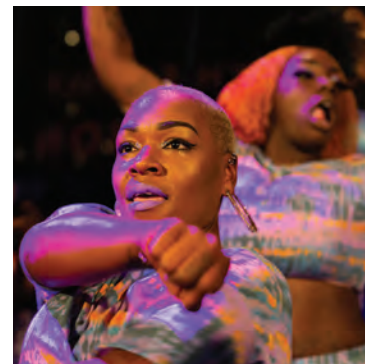
### Day of the Dead

#### Concert

The National Museum of the American Indian and the Smithsonian Latino Center collaborated on *illumiNations*, a free intergenerational event celebrating *Día de Muertos*. The event featured hands-on activities for all ages, mezcal samplings, exclusive access to the galleries, and dancing with local DJ Kristy la rAt. The all-women, GRAMMY-winning mariachi group Flor de Toloache performed special mariachi arrangements of contemporary songs from across Latin music genres.

#### Ofrendas

The Latino Center also joined with UnidosUS to celebrate Day of the Dead. The SLC digital team installed an augmented reality altar in the lobby of the UnidosUS headquarters so guests could celebrate life and honor deceased loved ones. Xanath Caraza, a long-time friend and collaborator of SLC, presented traditions and blessings through "Blessings to the Four Directions: The Meaning of the *Ofrenda*," which was broadcast live on Facebook.







**LATIN**  
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**STORIES**



A proven leader in digital audience engagement, the Smithsonian Latino Center kicked-off its digital strategy for the Molina Family Latino Gallery in 2019. The plan builds on the Center's past successes to develop digital immersion experiences that enrich the gallery's exhibition content and creates a truly unique visit. The design and production teams are taking a holistic approach and designing the audiovisual and digital media elements to be sustainable for 10 or more years.

At the end of 2019, the digital concept and design process was 45 percent complete. Rapid prototyping has been essential to the development of the digital storytelling components and the integration of inclusive design. Prototyping included visitor entry points, visual cues, and other inclusive design features such as a universal keypad to aid in accessibility.

During the year, our digital curatorial team completed research and content development for four signature media elements that will showcase contemporary perspectives throughout the gallery. These perspectives will add layers to the historical exhibition content by engaging visitors with complex questions about

*Latinidad*, including identity, community, and representation. Inspired by the *New York Times* article "A conversation with Latinos on Race," the exhibit's contemporary layers explore how personal identity reflects the diversity of the Latino experience.

The Smithsonian Latino Center is also diversifying museum storytelling by telling Latino stories via first-person accounts and demographic snapshots of Latino communities across the United States.

Contemporary content produced in 2019 includes:

- Fourteen oral histories for a commissioned video that will address questions such as "Who are we as Latinos?" and "Who are we as Americans?"
- Eighteen Latino profile user interface-content scripts for the digital storyteller experiences.
- Five statistical portraits and three community snapshots for the interactive contemporary map experience.



### Uncaged Art: Tornillo Children's Detention Camp

One example of a community snapshot story is the community documentary the Latino Center produced in partnership with the University of Texas at El Paso College of Liberal Arts on stories of creativity and resilience, featuring the exhibition "UnCaged Art: Tornillo Children's Detention Camp." The Molina Family Latino Gallery will highlight conversations with regional scholars and historians, such as Dr. Yolanda Leyva and Dr. David Romo. This documentary aims to capture the borderland realities and our communities' resilience and hope expressed through the eyes of children via art.



### Latino Curatorial Initiative

The Latino Curatorial Initiative is a cohort of Latinx content experts throughout the Smithsonian. The Latino Initiatives Pool provided nearly \$600,000 of funding in 2019 for Smithsonian museums to hire professionals, particularly curators and archivists, in Latino history, art, and culture. These individuals conduct research, organize exhibitions and public programs, inform educational programs and web content, and build collections and archives that reflect the contributions of Latinos to the United States.

Since 2018, the Latino Initiatives Pool has provided contracts for emerging museum professionals to support Latino projects throughout the Smithsonian Institution. These curatorial assistants work closely with members of the Latino Curatorial Initiative and non-Latino colleagues who are spearheading Latino projects. Three of the curatorial assistants are alumnae of the Smithsonian Latino Museum Studies Program.



LIP provided federal funds for *¡NOSOTROS GENTE!*, an event featuring performers and panelists from the United States and Colombia.

The Latino Initiatives Pool, a \$2 million federally-funded pool managed by the Smithsonian Latino Center, provides financial support to Smithsonian units for research, exhibitions, collections, conservation, archival work, public and educational programs, and professional development programs such as internships and fellowships. Funded projects must further the understanding and appreciation of U.S. Latino contributions in the areas of science, history, art, and culture.

Acting on the recommendations of a review panel, the Latino Center directs funds to

programs and projects that demonstrate the greatest public impact and represent and highlight the U.S. Latino experience. The Provost/Under Secretary for Museums, Education, and Research makes the final decision on the awards.

In the 2019 fiscal year, LIP distributed \$1.7 million in support of 28 projects throughout 14 Smithsonian museums and centers. Those projects included four upcoming exhibitions, eight collecting initiatives, five academic programs, and seven public programs, among other areas of support.

## Smithsonian Latino Initiatives Pool

### Funded Proposals in Fiscal Year 2019

#### Archives of American Art

- Oral History Interviews with Latino Artists

#### Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage

- Brazil in DC: The Social Power of Music
- *Mi Lengua Materna*/My Mother Tongue
- *Tradiciones: Música Latina* Documentation/Presentation Initiative

#### Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum

- *Diseño* Series

#### National Museum of American History

- Borderlands *Curanderismo*: Healing in the U.S. Southwest
- DACA Collecting Initiative
- *Escúchame!*: Spanish Language Broadcast History
- Latinos and Baseball: In the *Barrios* and the Big Leagues
- Lowrider Culture(s): Research and Collecting Initiative
- Nation of Sanctuary: A History of America
- Stewarding the Asian Pacific American Collection at NMAH
- War and Latinx Philanthropy Collecting Initiative



#### National Museum of the American Indian

- *Día de los Muertos*: Celebrating *La Catrina*

#### National Postal Museum

- Stamps & Baseball Come Alive, *Sellos Postales y Beisbol en Vivo*

#### National Portrait Gallery

- Conservation of Latino Artworks for 1898: The American Imperium
- Conservation of Rubén Salazar by Rupert García

#### Smithsonian Office of Internships and Fellowships

- Smithsonian Latino Initiatives Internship to Fellowship Program

#### Smithsonian American Art Museum

- Judy Baca's *The Uprising of the Mujeres* (1979) mural
- Predoctoral Fellowship for the Study of Latinx Art
- Research in Support of SAAM's Chicana Graphic Art Collection

#### Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory

- Latino Initiative Bridge: Fostering Collaborative Science and Outreach between the Smithsonian and the Fisk-Vanderbilt Bridge Program

#### Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute

- *¡ERES!* Early Research Experience for Students UCSB-SI Scholars Program

#### Smithsonian Center for Learning and Digital Access

- Supporting the Innovative Teaching of High School Level Ethnic Studies Courses in Texas

#### Smithsonian Libraries

- Unstacked Outbox: Latino Stories Made Accessible

#### Smithsonian Latino Center

- Latino Art Now! Houston 2019
- Latino Museum Studies Program





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The Latino Center gratefully acknowledges those donors who made gifts, pledges or pledge payments during calendar year 2019.

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#### \$5,000 to \$9,999

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The Walt Disney Company Foundation

#### \$2,500 to \$4,999

Ms. Velia Rivera

#### Less than \$2,500

Mr. Gaspar Enríquez

Ms. Janie González

Mr. Daniel Campos

“

*I believe strongly in the Latino Center. I was privileged to serve on the board, and now I am proud to join the Schomburg Circle to help bring the Latino Gallery to the nation's museum. The time has come for Latino Americans to have their history celebrated for the part we played in our nation's story. I am personally thrilled to play a small role in bringing this great dream closer to reality.”*

—VIRGINIA HOUGH



Rita Moreno: © Adál. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution; acquisition made possible through the Smithsonian Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the Smithsonian Latino Center; 2017 Portrait of a Nation Prize Recipient



310 - LA PLACITA - 310

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**G**enerous support from people like you has brought the Smithsonian Latino Center to where it is today. Gifts support *Latinidad* at the Smithsonian and help showcase the U.S. Latino experience in the nation's museum. Your gifts power our impact.

### Online Giving

Donating to the Smithsonian Latino Center is fast, easy, and secure.

Make your tax-deductible gift at:  
<https://latino.si.edu/support/donate>

### Schomburg Circle

The Arturo Schomburg Circle includes members from across the nation and provides support for the Molina Family Latino Gallery campaign and the Smithsonian Latino Center mission. Those who join the Circle pledge \$25,000 to the Latino Gallery (\$5,000 over five years) and will receive recognition in the future Latino Gallery.

The Schomburg Circle is named for the Afro-Puerto Rican intellectual and book collector who pioneered the concept of the African Diaspora. To join the Schomburg Circle, please contact the individual giving officer at the Latino Center.

### Planned Giving

Those who provide for the Smithsonian Latino Center through their estate plans or life-income gifts build a secure future for the Center. Your legacy gift to the Latino Center ensures that future generations can find their stories reflected in the nation's museum. There are many ways to make a planned gift to the Latino Center.

Contact the individual giving officer to explore the best giving opportunity for you and your family.

### Corporate and Foundation Giving

Corporations and foundations play a vital philanthropic role for the Smithsonian Latino Center in supporting its mission, public programs, exhibitions, family programming, and leadership/professional development. We work closely with our corporate partners to create tailored sponsorship packages, providing prominent recognition, access, and promotional benefits.

To learn more about how a partnership with the Smithsonian Latino Center can complement your corporate and foundation goals, contact the institutional giving officer.



### For More Information

To learn how you can support the Smithsonian Latino Center and the Molina Family Latino Gallery, please contact the Smithsonian Latino Center's Office of Advancement at:

#### Individual Giving

Sarah Sosa-Acevedo  
202-633-3667

#### Institutional Giving

Jennifer Pichardo  
202-633-8711

[SLCgiving@si.edu](mailto:SLCgiving@si.edu)

<https://latino.si.edu/support>





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MRC 512 PO Box 37012  
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Fiesta DC Latino Festival: Susana Raab/Anacostia Community Museum, Smithsonian Institution

Jean-Michel Basquiat: © Nick Taylor. National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution

La Placita: Justo A. Marti Photographic Collection, 1948-1985. Center for Puerto Rican Studies Library & Archives, Hunter College, CUNY

#### BACK COVER

Day of the Dead: © Ronal Villasante

César Chávez: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division