

2022 Puerto Rican Heritage Month



ASPIRA of New York • Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños Hunter College/CUNY • El Museo del Barrio
Eugenio María de Hostos Community College/CUNY • Institute for the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly, Inc.
La Casa de la Herencia Cultural Puertorriqueña, Inc. • Fundación Nacional para la Cultura Popular • Justice Committee: NCPRR
National Conference of Puerto Rican Women-NY Chapter • Puerto Rican Institute for the Development of the Arts (PRIDA), Inc.
White Plains Puerto Rican Cultural Committee

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De la comunidad En la comunidad Para la comunidad.

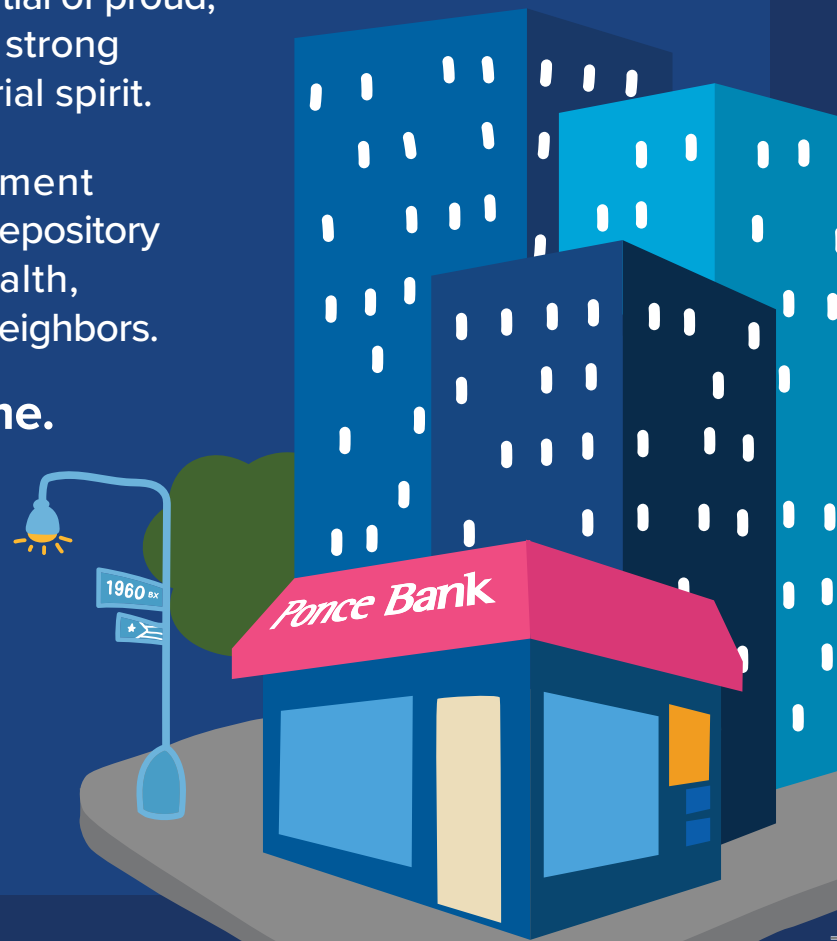
We are proud to stand with **Comité Noviembre** in their mission to provide educational & leadership opportunities to Puerto Rican and Latino youths.

Ponce Bank was born in The Bronx in 1960, where our Puerto Rican founders saw the potential of proud, diverse neighborhoods, anchored by a strong immigrant work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit.

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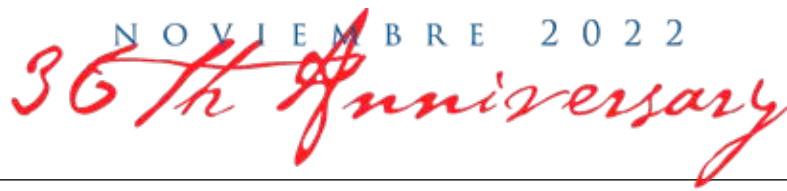
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MESSAGE ON BEHALF OF COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE

The past two years have been extremely intense, filled with anxiety and uncertainty. The world as we knew it changed in ways that will leave powerful marks on all our lives. Slowly but surely, we are getting back to the “new normal”. And so Comité Noviembre is excited to move forward with our annual events in person, following New York City’s vaccinated events mandate and CDC protocols.

Our theme this year, “Fewer Words. More Action. Enough is Enough! Equality & Justice for Puerto Rico Now!” is a clear call to action to all Puerto Ricans but especially to the Diaspora around the world, who have the power to affect change. Enough of the rhetoric, enough of the broken promises, enough of the second-class citizen treatment. It is time to leave our egos at the door and, as one unified nation, demand action. Obtain equal SSI benefits for all Puerto Ricans, abolish the archaic Jones Act, stop the selling of our protected lands to developers, give Puerto Ricans a real opportunity to buy their homes and not sell to bitcoin billionaires who don’t care or respect us or our country. Our past victories have demonstrated that when all Puerto Ricans, regardless of economic status, religion or political affiliation have stood strong they are unwavering in their mission. It is time, right here and right now to do the same.

The hurricanes, earthquakes and pandemic have made all Puerto Ricans realize that they have the strength, resilience, and power to make the change that must happen in this country to achieve respect, equality, and justice for the 8 million Puerto Ricans that live on the island and the United States. But it demands action from the Diaspora! Each one of us needs to be fully engaged and active in demanding and achieving justice for Puerto Rico.

This 36th anniversary journal includes articles on the discriminatory exclusion of SSI to Puerto Rico by attorney Isabel Abislaimán the attorney representing plaintiffs in Rivera-Fuentes, et al v. Commissioner of Social Security Administration, and the Dr. Evelina Antonetty 100th Anniversary Celebration. On a lighter note, our section: “No me creas a mí...Guguléalo...Don’t Believe Me... Google It” has been well received and will remind every Boricua, through trivia and special stories, of our uniqueness. This section celebrates the incredible contributions Puerto Ricans have made to this country and the world.

And as always, the journal includes the inspiring stories of our 8 Lo Mejor de Nuestra Comunidad Award recipients, the profiles of our 16 outstanding scholars, a synopsis of all of CN’s programs, our continued work in Puerto Rico, and our upcoming events. Our benefit dinner will take place on Friday, November 18, 2022 at the iconic NYC landmark The Water Club. Comité Noviembre will continue to pay tribute to individuals that have gone beyond the call of duty to assist the Puerto Rican community here and on the island. Our honorees are Elizabeth Velez, President, Velez Organization, Ignacio Cortés Gelpi, President, Chocolate Cortés and Barbara Herr, LGBTQ+ leader and activist.

The Annual Artisans Fair and Authors Book Expo promises to be bigger than ever returning back home at Hostos Community College as an in-person event on Saturday, November 19th. This year during the Fair we are conducting a “Conversatorio” #2 entitled: A Call to Action for the Puerto Rican Diaspora. This “conversation” will be a continuation of an event that was held during our trip to Puerto Rico this past August. The discussions had were the catalyst to our theme this year. The panelists are Dr. Ángel M. Muñoz Alicea, Assistant professor, Department of Psychology, College of Behavioral Sciences and Community Affairs, Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico; Isabel Abislaimán, Esq., the attorney representing plaintiffs Rivera and Gladys Fuentes on their SSI case; Hermann Ferré, Esq., attorney, Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle, LLP and others.



Our commitment to feed the hungry will continue with our Day of Community Service on Sunday, November 20th. Additionally, Comité Noviembre will continue its humanitarian work in Puerto Rico that we began in 2017. Comité Noviembre has reinstated the Estoy Con Puerto Rico Disaster Relief Fund to now assist survivors of Hurricane Fiona.

It is important to understand that Comité Noviembre is a volunteer non-profit organization with limited resources. To be able to continue our annual programs, scholarships and our work in Puerto Rico is truly a testament to its members: ASPIRA of New York, Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños, Hunter College/CUNY, El Museo del Barrio, Eugenio María de Hostos Community College/CUNY, Institute for the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly, Inc., La Casa de la Herencia Cultural Puertorriqueña, Inc., La Fundación Nacional para la Cultura Popular, Justice Committee: NCPRR, the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Puerto Rican Institute for the Development of the Arts and the White Plains Puerto Rican Cultural Committee, Our members at large are the backbone of this organization: Angel Santini Palos, Lili Santiago Silva, Sandy Figueroa, Elba Cabrera, Suleika Cabrera Drinane, Lisa Rodriguez, Anita Rodriguez, María Román Dumén, Maria Diaz Santiago, and David Galarza.

Our running theme for the last few years has been unite and, take action. We are stronger than ever, as a community resilient, powerful in our acts and in our words, even defiant ... so let us act! Enough is Enough! The time is NOW!

For Comité Noviembre

Teresa A. Santiago, Chairwoman

COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE

36th Anniversary

mes de la herencia puertorriqueña

ABOUT COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE

Established in 1987, Comité Noviembre, is a nonprofit organization that commemorates and pays tribute to the contributions Puerto Ricans have made to this nation. Its mission is to create educational opportunities for youth through college scholarships, as well as promote, acknowledge, and create awareness, of the importance of young people knowing their rich culture, language, and history. Comité Noviembre creates open forums to discuss critical issues affecting the Puerto Rican community specifically in the areas of education, youth leadership development, and civic involvement.

Comité Noviembre is the only collaboration of its kind in the United States that brings together the collective talents and resources of some the oldest and most prestigious Puerto Rican organizations: ASPIRA of New York, Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños Hunter College/CUNY, El Museo del Barrio, Eugenio María de Hostos Community College/CUNY, Institute for the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly, (IPR/HE), La Casa de la Herencia Cultural Puertorriqueña, Inc., La Fundación Nacional para la Cultura Popular-PR, Justice Committee: NCPRR, National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, (New York Chapter), Puerto Rican Institute for the Development of the Arts, Inc. (PRIDA) and the White Plains Puerto Rican Cultural Committee. This coordinating body plans and promotes Comité Noviembre's annual programs and events.

Comité Noviembre Programs

Educational/Youth Leadership Development

Four Scholarship Programs

1. CN Scholarship Awards Program
2. The Richie Perez Scholarship for Peace & Justice
3. The Ernesto Malave Scholarship for the Arts
4. The Josefina Aguado Scholarship for Single Parents
5. The Dr. Evelina Antonetty Scholarship for Community Activism

Annual Scholarship Campaign

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. The Virginia Barreto Scholarship | 6. The Figueroa Sisters Scholarship |
| 2. The Bello Family Scholarship | 7. The Figueroa Family Scholarship |
| 3. The Cordero Family Scholarship for Journalism | 8. The Santiago Carrasquillo Family Scholarship |
| 4. The Cabrera Drinane Family Scholarship | 9. The Thorve Family Scholarship |
| 5. The Carlos R. Fernandez Scholarship for Music | 10. The Nolda Vivó Scholarship for Bilingual Education |

Annual Leadership Development

Day of Community Service & Social Responsibility & Food Drive

Puerto Rican Artist Development

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| • National Puerto Rico Artisans Fair | • Puerto Rican Institute for the Development of the Arts (PRIDA) |
| • Puerto Rican Authors Book Expo | • Poster Traveling Exhibit |

Cultural Development

- Educational Trip to Puerto Rico, "*Buscando Nuestra Raíces*"
- Three Kings celebration
- Cultural and community involvement related workshops, forums, and events.

Annual Puerto Rican Heritage Month Celebration

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Commemorative Journal | • Commemorative Poster |
| • Annual Artist competition | • Selection of a spokesperson |

Annual Awards Events

PRHM Kick-Off celebration/Lo Mejor de Nuestra Comunidad Award

Annual Benefit Event/Puerto Rican Heritage Award

Estoy Con Puerto Rico Disaster Relief Effort

POSTER ARTIST

ISMAEL CARRASQUILLO



Ismael Carrasquillo grew up in the Bronx, NY as the first of five children, taking pride in his Puerto Rican heritage from a young age. After leaving college, he worked his way to a sales position in a major corporation.

Carrasquillo contemplated going to art school but then life happened, and he took a different path. He always maintained an interest in

art over the years and painted when he had the opportunity. Although he has taken art courses occasionally, he is mostly self-taught. Now in his retirement he finds enormous pleasure to be able to dedicate more time to his art.

But even while working fulltime, Ismael wanted to remain active in his community. He sponsored events such as the Hispanic 116th Street Festival and worked with his company to sponsor Latino scholarships and arts programs.

After retiring, Ismael continued to find new ways to broaden his impact—most recently by becoming involved with the mental health organization NAMI. After seeking help from them when his son was diagnosed with schizophrenia, he became President of his local chapter. From there, he's established the Grupo de Apoyo Familiar—the first support group in North Carolina to provide NAMI resources entirely in Spanish. He continues to lead the charge in ensuring that mental health services and education are available to his local community.

ABOUT THE POSTER

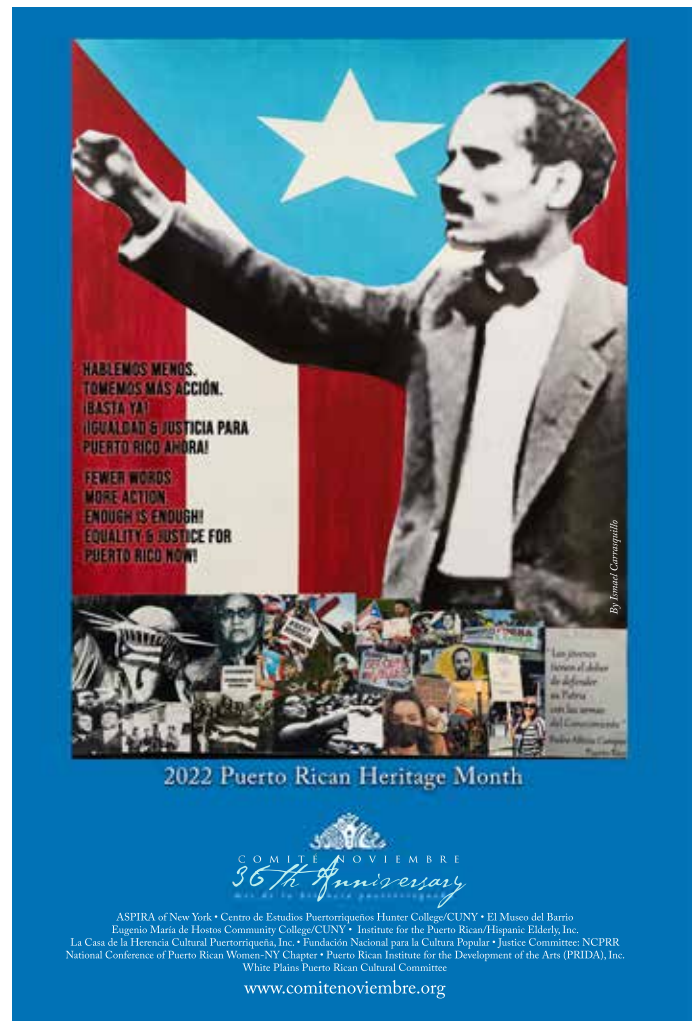
My interests in art began when I was very young. I always was able to color with crayons within the lines in the coloring books. When I was growing up, Marvel comics was all the rage. I used to spend hours doodling comic characters, making up villains and comic book adventures.

When I was informed by that I was a candidate to produce this year's Comité Noviembre' poster I was deeply moved and honored to be part of that process. I want to thank Comité Noviembre's Board of Directors not only for the opportunity to produce the poster but for choosing my piece to represent this year's theme.

This year's theme "Less Talk, More Action....Enough is Enough, Equality and Justice for Puerto Rico Now!

brought back memories of the Movements of the 60's and 70's for social change.

I remember the Young Lords taking to the streets to bring food to children, medical care to the sick and cleaning the streets which the city had neglected, that's where social change happened. Of course, there were other social change pioneers like Evelina Antonetty who championed



bi-lingual education. Teresa Ortiz Fernandez who successfully sued the Board of Elections to have voter's information in Spanish.

We have a rich history of many heroes and activists dating back to our national hero Albizu Campos. Today we have a new generation of heroes and activists that continue the fight to make a difference and create change. This was my inspiration for the poster. The fight is not over, Despierta Boricua!!

DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD

Celebrando Lo Mejor

Through LO MEJOR DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD award, Comité Noviembre recognizes outstanding individuals who are the unsung heroes of our community.

Puerto Ricans whose pride in their heritage and strength of character have empowered themselves and inspired others to make a significant impact on the community.

Comité Noviembre chose 8 individuals from the nominations that were submitted by you, the community.

Neyda Martinez

Independent Producer



Neyda Martinez is an independent producer whose films examine culture, equity, and social justice. Documentaries in production include *Bartolo*, *A Chasm in Chinatown*, and *The People vs. Austerity*. Past producer credits include *Lucky* and *Decade of Fire*; she is also co-executive producer of *Acuitzeramo*, currently on HBO, and also associate producer of the 2020 and 2022 editions of *Habla* also for HBO. As an Associate Professor of Media Management in the School of Media Studies at The New School, Neyda is presently serving as Director of the Media Management Graduate Program and Co-Director of the university-wide Impact Entrepreneurship Initiative. Neyda is a Sundance Institute Documentary Producing Lab Fellow and a Heilbroner Capitalism Fellow at the New School for Social Research, both from 2022 to 2023. Active in her community, Neyda's board service includes NYU's Latinx Project, South Bronx dance company, PEPATIAN; Sunset Park's oldest Puerto Rican-founded social and climate justice organization, UPROSE, and the nonprofit organization Women Make Movies, the world's leading distributor of independent films by and about women.

Apart from her professional responsibilities, Neyda is a member of several boards and volunteers for a number of projects including: Creative Justice Initiative with Dr. Marta Moreno Vega, Chicago's Puerto Rican Agenda, Art and Education Committee, Women Make Movies - board member, Metropolitan Museum of Art - Advisory Committee on Cultural and Community Engagement, Good Pitch Puerto Rico, Papatian - board member, South Bronx Artist Collective, UPROSE - board member, Film North, Knight Foundation Regrant, Midwest/Minneapolis, Committee for Mid-Career Filmmaker Award, Spotify

NEOYORQUINOS Podcast, pro-bono counsel to executive producers Vice-Versa Magazine and Timeline Digital, co-curator and co-producer of the late Michelle Materre Creatively Speaking film series from 2002 to 2010, elevating the work of BIPOC filmmakers, Creative Capital committee for grant award, Diana R Gutierrez with the Vieques Film Festival - Puerto Rico, Advisor to filmmaker/director Kelly Anderson with her documentary *Industry City* (forthcoming) about the Sunset Park redevelopment debacle, Sonia Fritz on impact/engagement - Puerto Rico, Cristina Tzuntzun Ramirez on strategic development - Texas and Kristal Sotomayor, short documentary "Expanding Sanctuary" - Philadelphia.

Neyda gives of her heart, mind and soul, elevating our aspirations to make art in the struggle for justice. As a role model and mentor, Neyda teaches us that documenting and preserving the Puerto Rican experience is sacred - that our stories can be powerful lessons of resistance, respect and love. Her commitment, intelligence and cultural wisdom has forged access and opportunities for individuals and organizations in media arts (and the arts in general) who aspire to empower ourselves and our community toward healing and self-determination.

DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD

Celebrando lo Mejor

David Gonzalez

New York Times Journalist & Photographer

David Gonzalez is co-editor of The New York Times Lens blog and does the biweekly “Side Street” photo-essay feature for the paper’s Metro Section.

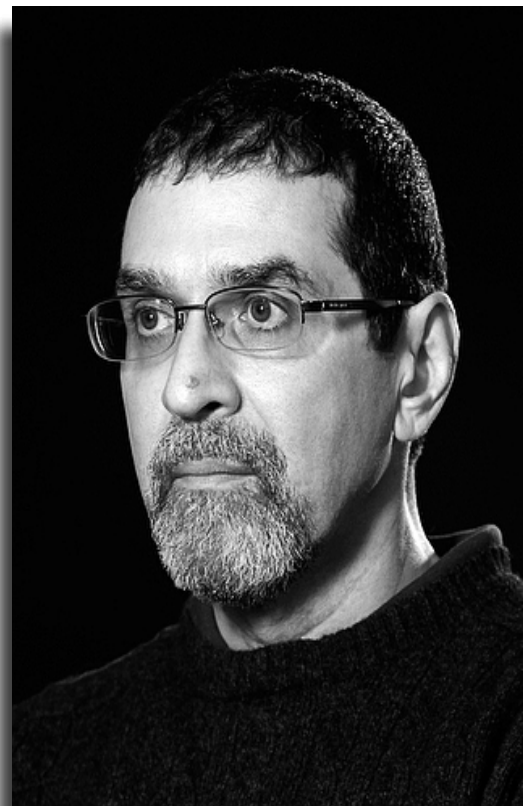
Since arriving at The Times in 1990 from Newsweek Magazine – where he had been a national correspondent in Detroit and Miami – he has served as The Times’s Bronx Bureau Chief, Metro Religion writer, About New York columnist and the Central America/Caribbean Bureau Chief. More recently, he wrote the biweekly Citywide feature column, as well as having published a year-long look at the life of an undocumented family in New York City. As a long-time member of the Metro desk of The New York Times, his work has often focused on the city’s neighborhoods and how they reflect the larger social and cultural issues in American society.

In more recent years, he has returned to his photographic roots as a founding member of Los Seis del Sur, a collective of Nuyorican photographers who documented the South Bronx in the 1980s. The group had a highly successful exhibit at the Bronx Documentary Center in January of 2013, accompanied by several panels on issues ranging from the borough’s legacy of social activism to the role of the arts in its community.

His prizes include a 2008 Distinguished Writing Award from the American Society of Newspaper Editors for “House Afire”, a groundbreaking three-part series on the life of a struggling Pentecostal storefront church, which was accompanied by an online component that marked the Times’s first foray into bilingual multimedia. His feature writing has been honored twice by Columbia University’s Workshops on Race and Ethnicity. He also was awarded Columbia University’s Mike Berger Award in May 1992 for his coverage of New York City and its neighborhoods. In 2013, he was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

David has accomplished many things for which he should be applauded. However, he does not seek accolades. He does his volunteer work quietly and without fanfare mentoring young photographers of color. He also takes time of his busy schedule to serve on a number of Boards. He is a Founding Fellow of News Literacy Project.

Gonzalez was born and raised in the Bronx, where he attended Cardinal Hayes High School. He earned a B.A. from Yale University in 1979 and an M.A. in Journalism from Columbia University. He lives in the Bronx with his wife, Elena Cabral, and their children, Sebastian and Paloma.



DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD

Celebrando Lo Mejor

Billy Ocasio

President and CEO of the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture



After putting up the world's largest monument to a flag, the Puerto Rican Flag on Division Street in 1995, Billy Ocasio wanted to develop a museum that Puerto Ricans could call their own. Collectively, Billy and his community of Puerto Rican arts activist, professionals, artist worked on this vision for over 22 years, from its inception to its grand opening on a volunteer basis.

The National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture in Chicago, Illinois, is the only arts institution in the United States dedicated solely to Puerto Rican arts and culture outside of Puerto Rico. Creating the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture was a true labor of love on the part of its Board of Directors and Trustees.

Creating the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture was not easy, but in 2000 Ocasio raised sufficient funds to begin the renovation of the historic Humboldt Park Stables. For the past nine years as the President and CEO, he has been dedicated to innovation in the arts, building partnerships, securing equitable funding and resources, and creating an inspirational space that is welcoming to all who want to learn about Puerto Rican history, art and culture. His hope is that the Museum encourages the next generation to celebrate and keep our Puerto Rican arts, culture, and traditions alive; to continue to 'plantar bandera' wherever they are.

Ocasio is a lifelong resident, volunteer and community activist of Humboldt Park community. Born to Antonio, a pipeline factory worker for over 40 years, and Gladys, a lunch lady for the Chicago Public School system, Ocasio attended Von Humboldt Elementary School and graduated from Roberto Clemente High School. After graduation, Billy attended the University of Illinois at Urbana and received a bachelor's degree from Northeastern University. He began his career in public service working at various nonprofit, community-based agencies in the fields of education, affordable housing, youth programs and economic development.

He is a former senior advisor to Illinois Governor Pat Quinn appointed to work on social justice issues. He began his appointment on June 1, 2009. Prior to his appointment, Ocasio served as the 26th Ward alderman in the Chicago City Council. Ocasio was appointed alderman in 1993 by Mayor Richard M. Daley to fill the unexpired term of Luis Gutierrez, who was elected congressman. As alderman, Ocasio fought for the construction of the new Ames School; helped bring a YMCA to the 26th ward; and worked for the construction of the Humboldt Park Public Library. Ocasio also led a \$16 million rehab for Humboldt Park which included renovating the boat house and lagoon.

DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD

Celebrando Lo Mejor

Edgardo Miranda

Creator, La Borinqueña

Edgardo Miranda-Rodriguez is a writer at Marvel Entertainment, Editor-in-Chief at Darryl Makes Comics LLC, Art Director/Owner at Somos Arte and Studio Edgardo creative services, and creator of La Borinqueña, an original comic book character that has grown into a cultural phenomenon and a nationally recognized symbol of Puerto Rican patriotism, social justice, and equality.

In 1992, he met Iris Morales, a community organizer in East Harlem who had been a leader in the Young Lords, the 1970's Puerto-Rican political movement. She was a lawyer and he helped organize the first conference produced by the Latin American Student Organization at Colgate University.

Soon after graduating, he worked for Luis Garden Acosta the founder and executive director of El Puente, an organization founded in the spirit of liberation theology and rooted in the legacy of the Young Lords. In this environment, Miranda-Rodriguez was able to nurture his activism.. He curated culturally and socially conscious works, producing and promoting events such as El Puente's poetry slams in the early 1990s. He also co-founded and ran the annual conference '¡Muévete! The Boricua Youth Conference' for almost ten years. During this time Miranda-Rodriguez would be reunited with his mentor, Iris Morales, who sought him out to be the Artistic Director for her award-winning PBS POV documentary, ¡Pa'lante, Siempre Pa'lante![]

After leaving El Puente, Miranda-Rodriguez founded Somos Arte Creative Arts Services, a design studio that focused on graphic design, web development, artwork/video production, and branding. Somos Arte's work attracted the attention of high-end clients such as Pantene, Marvel Comics, and HBO.

In 2013, Miranda-Rodriguez convened other comic book artists to create depictions of the cultural history of East Harlem, El Barrio. Their work was presented in an app commissioned by the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute(CCADI) to preserve the history of the community. The app debuted with the opening of CCADI's new location in 2015. Called, Mi Querido Barrio, the app presented Miranda-Rodriguez and the other artists' work as markers in a virtual tour of the community.

The National Puerto Rican Day Parade committee wanted to honor him for his work with Marvel and DMC. Seeing the Parade as a unique platform, Miranda-Rodriguez proposed an original comic book to be introduced at the 2016 Puerto Rican Day Parade in NYC. With the name La Borinqueña taken from the Puerto Rican national anthem, Miranda-Rodriguez sought to integrate the history and indigenous traditions of Puerto Rico with the modern day sensibilities demanded by the multiple crises facing its people.



DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD

Celebrando Lo Mejor

Maria Aviles

Volunteer Extraordinaire



For over 30 years, Maria has been an incredible volunteer and leader of Holy Cross Church in the Bronx. She is a Eucharistic Minister and lector. She has managed the Church's bookstore and gift shop since 2012. For 10 years, she has been a member of the Church's development committee and its leader since 2015. Since taking over the Committee's responsibilities for fundraising, she has successfully grown the revenue and activities. Through the annual church-wide activities, the annual carnival and card parties, the events have been hugely successful. She also plans and manages the annual Feast of the Holy Cross: Three Kings Feast Day celebration for children and families.

Last year was the 100th anniversary of Holy Cross, and Maria has led the additional activities which included the sale of 100th anniversary mementos, anniversary Mass in a neighborhood Park, weeklong celebration in 2021, the centennial Mass with Cardinal Dolan, the development of and selling of ads for the 100th anniversary journal and gala that took place on September 9th with great enthusiasm and grace. It is important to understand that Maria does all this work as a volunteer. It is truly a labor of love and God's work in action!

Maria's parents came from Puerto Rico in 1947 and they instilled the desire for education as the means to self-improvement and success. She attended St. Athanasius Grammar School and Cardinal Spellman High School in the Bronx. She graduated from Fordham University with a BA, Hunter College with a MA and College of New Rochelle with a Certificate in Administration and Supervision. She started teaching in East Harlem right out of college in 1977. She taught Bilingual Education, Science and Art for 20 years at PS 72 and served one year as AP at PS 72. She served as Principal of MS 45 in East Harlem for 11 years. Her philosophy of education "Educating Students...one child at a time." She served the East Harlem community for 33 years and retired in 2010.

DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD

Celebrando lo Mejor

Joe Conzo

Photographer

Joe comes from a family with generations of social activism and civic engagement; with a mother like Lorraine Montenegro and grandmother Evelina Antonetty, he proudly continues their legacy. He is a retired EMS medical technician for the FDNY and has been actively involved in union and labor politics serving in leadership roles as well as helping to establish The World Trade Center Registry Program for members of the FDNY.

Joe is a well-known photographer of music and the arts, but especially for the hip hop—era in the Bronx. He has been called “the man who took hip hop’s baby photos”—being one of the first to document this genre created from the Black and Puerto Rican experience. His photos have brought him acclaim but also given him a platform to discuss issues related directly to the Bronx and the Puerto Rican community.

He is a member of a photo collective, Seis del Sur, which is comprised of Nuyorican photographers from the South Bronx, who’s work emphasizes a side of the Bronx and the Puerto Rican communities that is rarely seen in mainstream imagery, thus showing the power of arts and culture in resistance and speaking truth to power.



Invites you to

Conversation #2: A call to Action for the Puerto Rican Diaspora.
Conversatorio #2: Un llamado a la Acción para la Diáspora Puertorriqueña

The Annual Puerto Rican Artisans and Authors Fair

November 19, 2022, 11AM

Eugenio María de Hostos Community College, Black Box
500 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York 10451

This “conversation” will be a continuation of an event that was held during Comité Noviembre’s volunteer service trip to Puerto Rico this past August. The discussions that were had were the catalyst for our 2022 theme

“Fewer Words. More action. Enough is Enough! Equality & Justice for Puerto Rico Now!”
“Hablemos Menos. Tomemos más Acción. ¡Basta Ya! ¡Igualdad y Justicia Para Puerto Rico Ahora!”

Panelists

Isabel Abislaíman, Esq.

Representing Plaintiffs in *Rivera- Fuentes, et al. v Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, et al.*, Civil No. 20-cv-01444 (FAB)

Dr. Ángel M. Muñoz Alicea

Assistant professor, College of Behavioral Sciences & Community
Affairs
Pontificia Catholic University of PR

Hermann Ferré, Esq.

Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle, LLP.

DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD

Celebrando Lo Mejor

Juan Sánchez

Professor of Art at Hunter College, CUNY



Born in 1954 in Brooklyn, New York to working-class Puerto Rican parents, Juan Sánchez is an influential American visual artist, and one of the most important Nuyorican cultural figures of the latter 20th century. Maintaining an activist stance for over forty years, he establishes his art as an arena of creative and political inquiry that encompasses the individual, family, the communities with which he engages, and the world at large.

Sánchez emerged as a central figure in a generation of artists using diverse media to explore ethnic, racial, national identity and social justice in 1980s and '90s. While Sánchez first gained recognition for his large multi-layered mixed media collage paintings addressing issues of Puerto Rican identity and the struggle against U.S. colonialism, his work has evolved to embrace painting, photography, printmaking, and video installations.

A long-time mentor to a whole new generation of Puerto Rican, Latinx, U.S. and artists from around the world, his service and commitment to the community is deserving of recognition. Specifically, he has been pivotal in his mentorship and guidance of visual artist Miguel Luciano. He has helped countless organizations and individuals with his gifts, such as donating artwork and images raise funds for a myriad of educational, cultural and community issues.

Juan is part of a generation of artists who in the 1980s to 1990s explored questions of ethnic, racial, and national identity in their work, be it through painting, video, performance or installation. Sánchez specifically became known for producing brightly hued mixed media canvases that addressed issues of Puerto Rican life in the U.S. and on the island. Of his work, critic Lucy Lippard once wrote: “it teaches us new ways of seeing what surrounds us.”

Sánchez combines painting and photography with other media clippings and found objects to confront America’s political policies and social practices concerning his parents’ homeland of Puerto Rico. Sánchez often specifically addresses Puerto Rico’s battle for independence and the numerous obstacles facing disadvantaged Puerto Ricans in America.

Sánchez’ work has shown in several solo and group exhibitions throughout the United States, Latin America, Europe and Africa. His art is in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and El Museo del Barrio, The Smithsonian Museum of American Art, Washington, DC; El Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico and El Centro Wilfredo Lam in Havana, Cuba, among others.

He has been awarded grants and fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the Joan Mitchell Foundation, New York Foundation for the Arts, the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

He is the recipient of the 2020 CUAA Augustus Saint Gauden Achievement in the Visual Art Award and is inducted into The Cooper Union Hall of Fame.

DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD

Celebrando Lo Mejor

Sonia Velazquez

Program Director/Outreach Specialist, YNCCA, Inc.

Sonia Velazquez, Program Director/Outreach Specialist, Your Neighborhood Caring Community Advocate. YNCCA, Inc.

After Hurricane Maria leveled Puerto Rico, destroying 90% of the island's infrastructure and leaving millions of US citizens without power and sustenance access, thousands of families fled to the mainland US, including large numbers who came to New York. In the days following this catastrophic event, NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio and NY Governor Andrew Cuomo welcomed these evacuees, pledging support and assistance.

Unfortunately, the rhetoric has not matched the reality, resulting in hundreds of displaced families navigating a system rife with uncertainties, miscommunication, and even exploitation and discrimination while the outpouring of support for the island from NYC communities was incredible, with donations and products gathered by city officials and countless community organizations. It became clear that for those evacuating from Puerto Rico to New York, much more was needed. Even before the monster storm made landfall, a group of community advocates and organizations based in Brooklyn began preparing.

In the vanguard for these relief efforts, Sonia Velazquez joined a team to Puerto Rico in that first week the airport reopened. Seeing the abject devastation of her birthplace, Ms. Velazquez knew that the displaced might not ever be able to return. She and her team created Your Network Caring Community Advocate (YNCCA) to respond to the needs of those arriving from Puerto Rico to the mainland. Thousands of Puerto Ricans, their families on the mainland, and other organizations contacted her and team, seeking aid for housing services, medical assistance, counseling services, and job search & placement assistance.

YNCCA, Inc. identified and assisted nearly 230 families displaced by Hurricane Maria in securing FEMA Transitional Sheltering Assistance. In July 2018, the organization successfully placed and relocated an elderly couple, once shuffled monthly from shelters to hotels, into their new apartment home in Albany, NY. For YNCCA and Sonia Velazquez, this was the first victory of many needed permanent resettlements. Together with many amazing volunteers Sonia placed 343 Evacuees into affordable housing and jobs within NYC and NY state.

Additionally she volunteers weekly at a food pantry and during the pandemic she provided Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), food, and supplies to anyone in need with a special focus on seniors.

Her steadfast commitment and unwavering dedication to being a voice to the voiceless is invaluable. She goes above the call of duty to assist constituents and address issues/concerns in the community-at-large.





COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

For the past 36 years, CN has developed programs geared to the support of educational opportunities and leadership development for Puerto Rican and Hispanic youth. These programs are firmly rooted in the belief that, in order, to succeed in life, you must pursue a higher education, give back to your community through volunteer efforts, and know your cultural roots. Each one of our over 370 scholars are making an impact in the communities in which they live.

The 2022 scholars continue to honor this tradition of giving back to their community and making a clear impact and difference through their volunteer efforts. CN is extremely excited about the future of our community and our young people. The caliber of students who have applied and ultimately received the scholarship, have demonstrated a desire to pursue their chosen fields and given back to the community in various ways that directly affect change. Many have shown a vision and maturity beyond their years; and there are others who have already faced and have overcome many challenges.

This year's recipients are all certainly making a difference in their community. We have been inspired by these scholars and are learning from their community service. In total, 16 scholarships have been awarded: 8 CN Scholarships for Volunteerism, 1 Richie Perez Scholarships for Peace and Justice, 5 Ernesto Malave Scholarship for the Arts and 2 Josefina Aguado for Single Parents.

Over the years, CN has selected leaders from various sectors of the community who have demonstrated interest in the educational excellence and leadership development of our youth to serve on the selection committee. The scholarship selection committee is headed by Lisa M. Rodriguez, MSW, education and youth advocate, and Elba Cabrera, community leader who jointly co-chair the committee, and Sandy Figueroa, Business Professor at Hostos Community College, now retired. We want to thank them for their leadership, dedication and commitment to the success of this program.

**Scholarship applications for 2023 will be available on CN's website:
www.comitenoviembre.org in January.**

SCHOLARS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE



VALERIE CANDELARIA

Valerie Candelaria is a junior at The State University of New York at Oswego, majoring in Accounting.

Valerie has showed her commitment to her campus community by participating in a number of service projects. At SUNY Oswego she has become involved in the school's environmental awareness campaign which makes sure the campus is kept clean and environmentally protected. Additionally, she creates a sense of community for staff and students during the campus field day and, one of her most favorite and rewarding volunteer efforts is collecting textbooks to donate to students in need.

"I am very thankful to be selected as a Comité Noviembre Scholar. This award will help me finance the materials I need for my studies."



VICTORIA CANDELARIA

Victoria Candelaria is a freshman at The State University of New York at Oswego. Victoria is currently majoring in Occupational Therapy.

Victoria's clear mission is to protect and conserve the environment. She has participated in a community service trip to the Dominican Republic where she has cleaned a beach and the ocean; she also learned about the marine life of the area and how it interacts. One project most gratifying to her was helping to build a water aqueduct to provide clean running water to communities in need.

"Being a 2022 Comité Noviembre Scholar brings joy and achievement to not only me but my family. This scholarship will allow me to continue furthering my education."



SHYAN FERRER

Shyann Ferrer is a freshman at the Borough of Manhattan Community College CUNY. Shyann is majoring in Liberal Arts and she is interested in a career in Business and Teaching.

Shyann played an instrumental service role at her high school Bronx Studio School for Writers and Artists. Shyann was a peer leader and mentor assisting students by helping to resolve student conflicts in a peaceful manner and assisting the incoming 9th-graders transitioning into high school.

"Thank you to the Comité Noviembre Scholarship for helping make my dreams become a bit more of a reality by removing financial burdens. I look forward to representing myself as a Boricua committed to my family and my community."

SCHOLARS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE



BRENDAN KELLEY

Brendan Kelley is a freshman at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Brendan is currently majoring in Business.

Through the United Way, Brendan volunteered to the upkeep and beautification of parks by rebuilding walkways and painting old houses within the park. Brendan learned to mix cement to build new pathways and clear fields, so children had clean and safe places to play.

"I am so happy to be a part of this year's Comité Noviembre Scholar. This award has made me strive to be a better student and overall, a good human being and Boricua!"



SARAH TORRES

Sarah Torres is a freshman at Syracuse University majoring in Political Science and Magazine News Digital Journalism.

Sarah has tutored students and helped them with their homework, distributed food to people experiencing food insecurity, and helped in cleaning up parks. However, the most important community service work that Sarah completed was volunteering with the Bronx Community Board #3, where she gained a greater understanding of policies and the impact they have on the community.

"I am extremely grateful to be a 2022 Comité Noviembre Scholar and having won this award, I feel much more capable as a student and confident that I have earned my place here at Syracuse University. This award gave me flexibility with my financial needs, which is especially helpful in my first semester of freshman year."



STELLA CANEZ VAZQUEZ

Stella Canez Vazquez is a freshman at Cornell University majoring in Animal Science (pre-vet) with a minor in Government.

During COVID-19, Stella participated in an online tutoring program in math and grammar basics for a native Spanish speaker student. In addition, Stella volunteered at the San Augustin Veterinary clinic. Stella became involved in this activity as a way to further her educational goals with animal science.

"This scholarship has helped me in tremendous ways. This award has contributed to my career advancement by creating less of a financial burden on my academic tuition. Thus, helping me feel more relieved about continuing my education as a veterinarian."

SCHOLARS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE



TATIANA LYN VAZQUEZ

Tatiana Lyn Vazquez is a senior at SUNY Binghamton University majoring in Biological Sciences.

Tatiana is a member of “Puerto Rico Lacrosse” which introduces lacrosse to Puerto Rican youth on the island. Puerto Rico Lacrosse runs clinics in New York City and Puerto Rico, teaching children how to play the sport. In addition, Tatiana volunteers at the New York Blood Center sanitizing blood donation areas, providing food, and guiding donors through the donation process.

“I am honored and grateful to be selected as one of this year’s scholarship recipients. This award will allow me to purchase the materials needed to be a successful medical student during the next chapter of my studies.”



CAYLA CECILIA CHICO

Cayla Cecilia Chico is a senior at Northeastern Illinois University majoring in Physical Education.

Cayla has invested a lot of time in giving back to the Puerto Rican community by beautifying the Humboldt Park and West Garfield Park communities. Cayla helped paint two influential murals addressing the displacement of Boricuas and other community members due to gentrification.

“I am so grateful and overwhelmed with joy that Comité Noviembre provided me the opportunity to further my education and express their faith in me and my future as a teacher. Thank you so much for this opportunity to continue my degree in Physical Education. I’m forever grateful.”

THE RICHIE PÉREZ SCHOLARSHIP FOR PEACE & JUSTICE AWARD



In 2004, the Puerto Rican community lost an ally, advocate, community leader and urban warrior. Richie Pérez was a beloved activist and leader in the fight for social justice and human rights. These included the struggle for racial justice and against police brutality, Puerto Rican independence and universal human rights. Richie wrote and lectured extensively on the Puerto Rican urban experience. As a professor in the CUNY system he taught classes in mass media, US social policy and the history of the labor and civil rights movements. Richie believed greatly in the power and potential of young people to create social change. He personally mentored many youths and believed, that the torch of the movement for justice had to be passed on to the next generation. In his memory, Comité Noviembre established the Richie Pérez Scholarship Award in 2005. The scholarship award recognizes Puerto Rican young people for their commitment, activism, and achievements in any of the areas of human rights and social justice. This scholarship promotes the advancement of new leaders in the movement for peace and justice and provides support for their education and political development.

Congratulations to the 2022 Richie Perez Scholarship for Peace and Justice



TATYANA GONZALEZ

Tatyana Gonzalez is a junior at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. Tatyana is majoring in Spanish & Religion with a minor in Medicine, Health & Culture.

Tatyana's social justice platform centers on anti-human trafficking where her passion for policy, public health, education, and advocacy emerged. Following the COVID-19 pandemic and her personal experiences, Tatyana has become extremely passionate about holistic health, mindfulness, and wellness. After college, Tatyana will pursue a Masters in Divinity, as well as become a therapist, working in public health, ministry, human services, and education.

"It is more than a privilege and honor to receive a scholarship unique to Puerto Ricans like myself. Thank you, Comité Noviembre for the opportunity and continuous resources!"

THE ERNESTO MALAVE SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE ARTS



Ernesto Malave was the Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance at The City University of New York, whose bottom line was keeping CUNY affordable for the most economically vulnerable of students. Mr. Malave was instrumental in making the Annual Comité Noviembre Artisans Fair a reality by providing funding and resources in 2005. In 2016, in his honor, CN established the Ernesto Malave Scholarship for the Arts for his contribution, support, and commitment to making the CN Artisans Fair a reality.

The award recognizes Puerto Ricans pursuing a higher education majoring in the Arts. The candidates must be majoring in either of the following artistic disciplines: literature, performing arts, media arts, and visual arts. This annual award will promote the advancement of new artists and invest in their continued growth by providing support for their ongoing education and artistic development.



SOFIA BENITEZ

Sofia is a sophomore at the College of New Jersey. Sofia is currently majoring in Art Education.

Sofia states, "There are many ways of keeping Puerto Rican culture alive. As a future art teacher embedding Boricua culture into the curriculum is very important. Puerto Ricans need to identify and understand where they come from and feel the immense pride of the rich contributions that our heritage has brought to our society and how it represents one part of the diversity in our schools and society."

"The 2022 Comité Noviembre Scholarship is an incredible opportunity that allows me to advance my career in the education world much more easily and I am so grateful for it! Recently financial struggles and going to a costly university, this scholarship gives me room to breathe and focus on what is important." Thank you so much for the acceptance!

THE ERNESTO MALAVE SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE ARTS



JOSHUA GUZMAN

Joshua is a freshman at Queensborough College, CUNY, majoring in Art Education.

Joshua states, “To be a Boricua is to be proud of your heritage and the people who came before you. It also means that you are willing to fight for what is right, even if it means making sacrifices.” Joshua’s dream is to one day open their own gallery where people can come to see their work while learning more about the history of Puerto Rico and its culture.

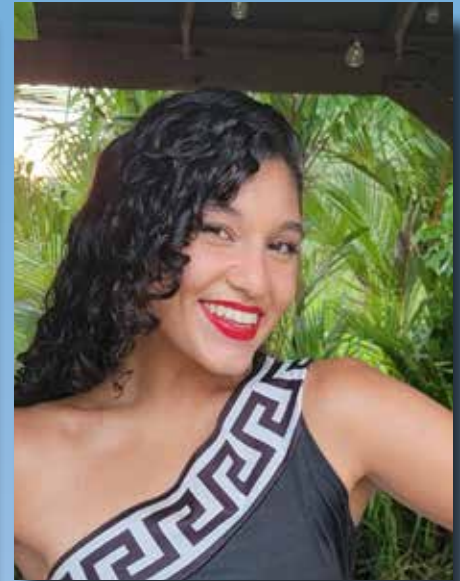
“Thankyou Comité Noviembre! Art is my passion and this scholarship will allow me to continue training in developing to be a greater artist, and the best representation of the Boricua community.”



ELIZABETH MERCADO

Elizabeth is a sophomore at Kingsborough Community College, CUNY majoring in Liberal Arts. Elizabeth is interested in pursuing a dance education so that she can become a teacher and open a dance school that will help to provide opportunities for Puerto Ricans and minorities alike to experience the freedom, joy, and therapeutic value of the art of dance. Representation is vital, as Elizabeth did not see this as she trained in classical ballet and various styles of modern dance.

“While the award granted to me will help to lighten financial burdens in my studies as a dancer and college student, it certainly represents so much more. This scholarship is the voice of encouragement supporting the pursuit of a dream that would otherwise seem nearly impossible. I am most grateful.”



LAURA ISABEL VELEZ

Laura is a sophomore in The University of North Carolina in Charlotte majoring in Exercise Science and Applied Dance.

As a dancer originally from Puerto Rico, Laura understands the scarcity of resources that exist on the island for artists. Laura’s mission is to break the stigma of how dancers (especially Latino dancers) should train and eat, as well as how our bodies are supposed to look to be considered worthy dancers.

“I am incredibly honored and grateful to be one of the recipients of this award among so many talented and young artists. This award is very special to me, and I am thankful for the opportunity!”

MALAVE SCHOLARSHIP



GEORGINA SANTIAGO

Georgina is a freshman at Lehman College, CUNY majoring in Theater.

Georgina identifies as a Puerto Rican artist that was very active in all her high school theater performances such as Grease and High School Musical at Bronx Studio School for Writers and Artists. In addition to performing, Georgina made the most impact in her senior year by volunteering with Peer Group Connection (PGC), a peer-mentoring program for the incoming 9th-grade class as they transition into high school from middle school.

"Thank you Comité Noviembre for this scholarship! My career goal is to use my passion for theater and calling to teach leadership and help Puerto Rican youth explore their identities throughout their formative years."

THE JOSEFINA AGUADO SCHOLARSHIP FOR SINGLE PARENTS



The Josefina Aguado Scholarship for Single Parents is awarded to single mothers and fathers pursuing a college or graduate degree. This scholarship is made possible by a generous donation from the husband-and-wife philanthropist team of Bill Aguado and Kathi Pavlick. The scholarship is a five-year \$10,000 commitment. The scholarship is named in honor of Mr. Aguado's mother to honor the sacrifices parents make on behalf of their families.

THE JOSEFINA AGUADO SCHOLARSHIP FOR SINGLE PARENTS



CORINE PERDOMO

Corin is a junior at City College of New York, CUNY majoring in History.

Corin's return to college was not an easy decision for a mother of three beautiful children. However, it was the best decision and Corin worked hard to maintain a 3.6 GPA. In addition to returning to school and being a mom, Corin helped create multiple fundraisers at her church to help rebuild a church devastated by Hurricane Maria in Camuy, Puerto Rico.

"I am highly honored to be a 2022 Comité Noviembre Scholar. This award will help me in acquiring resources for my College career. I am so thankful and blessed to be recognized by this respected organization. As a single Boricua mother, I look forward to becoming a role model for other women and especially single parents in helping them realize they can be anything they want as long as they work hard."



ELIZABETH SOTO

Elizabeth is a student at Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College, CUNY majoring in Liberal Arts and Sciences. She will be graduating this winter 2022.

Elizabeth is a single mother to a beautiful 13-year-old daughter. Elizabeth endured many hardships such as housing and financial insecurities. However, Elizabeth understood she needed to focus on school to create a better future for her and her daughter. Education was the only way out and into a secure future. Elizabeth credits the strong women in her family for being role models in determination and grit, especially her Boricua great-grandmother Matilde Torres.

"Being awarded the CN scholarship will allow me to keep working to have a better academic performance this semester. Thanks to your generosity, I am living a full college experience, which I thought was never going to be possible because of my socioeconomic status and being a single parent. Muchísimas gracias!"

2022 Comité Noviembre's Scholarships Campaign in the Name of Families, Individuals or In Memory of a Loved One

For Comité Noviembre's 35th Anniversary a scholarship campaign was launched to identify more opportunities for the community to sponsor scholarships in individual's name, family's name or in memory or honor of a loved one.

Comité Noviembre is asking for a commitment of \$1,000 per year for 5 years, which will allow the us to sponsor additional scholars for five years. Comité Noviembre supporter and friends, however that choose to be part of this exciting campaign can choose the parameters of the scholarship they choose to sponsor. It can be a on-time only donation or for the number of years you choose to donate the \$1,000 scholarship.

The Scholarship Campaign's inaugural year surpassed our expectations with 15 individuals and families committed to sponsor scholarships:

Scholarship Campaign Donors & 2022 Scholars Sponsored

The Josefina Aguado Scholarship for Single Parents, sponsored by Mr. William Aguado & Ms. Kathi Pavlick, 2022 Scholars: Corine Perdomo & Elizabeth Soto, 2021 Scholars: Carmen Martinez & Mercedes Perdomo

The Cordero Family Scholarship for Journalism sponsored by Mrs. Rosa Cruz Cordero & Mr. Edwin Cordero, 2022 Scholar: Sarah Torres, 2021 Scholar: Juliana Tes

The Virginia Barreto Scholarship sponsored by Ms. Dolores Batista and Ms. Sally Alonzo
2022 Scholar: Brendan Kelley

The Bello Family Scholarship, sponsored by Deacon Jaime Bello & Dr. Jane Arce Bello
2022 Scholar: Tiana Lyn Vazquez, 2021 Scholar: Adriana Villafañe

The Dr. Jerry Myer-Vito Marcantonio Scholarship sponsored by Mrs. Nydia Edgecombe
2022 Scholar: Valerie Candelaria

Carlos R. Fernandez Scholarship sponsored by Ms. Carmen L. Fernandez
2022: Scholar: Cayla Cecilia Chico

The Figueroa Sisters Scholarship sponsored by Ms. Dahlma Comadre Llanos-Figueroa
2022 Scholar: Georgina Santiago

The Figueroa Family Scholarship sponsored by Ms. Sandy Figueroa
2022 Scholar: Victoria Candelaria

The Santiago Carrasquillo Family sponsored by Ms. Teresa A. Santiago
2022 Scholar: Shyann Ferrer

Mr. & Mrs. Sam Thorve sponsored the Richie Perez Scholarship for Peace and Justice
2022 Scholar: Tatyana Gonzalez

The Nolda Vivó Scholarship for Bi-lingual Education sponsored by Dr. Ana Celia Zentella
2022 Scholar: Stella Canez Vazquez

**The information on the 2022 scholars appear in the scholarship section of the journal.*

**Scholarship applications for 2023 will be available on CN's website:
www.comitenoviembre.org in January.**

Hostos Community College

Eugenio María de Hostos Community College is an educational agent for change, transforming and improving the quality of life in the South Bronx and neighboring communities since 1968. Hostos serves as a gateway to intellectual growth and socioeconomic mobility, and a point of departure for lifelong learning, success in professional careers, and transfer to advanced higher education programs. The College's unique "student success coach" program, which partners students with individualized guidance, is emblematic of the premier emphasis on student support and services.

Hostos offers 28 associate degree programs and 2 certificate programs that facilitate easy transfer to The City University of New York (CUNY) four-year colleges or baccalaureate studies at other institutions. The College has an award-winning Division of Continuing Education & Workforce Development that offers professional development courses and certificate-bearing workforce training programs. The Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture (HCAC) is one of the pre-eminent Latino arts centers of the northeast. The HCAC has distinguished itself for showcasing traditional art forms as well as emerging and internationally renowned artists.

Hostos Community College is part of CUNY, the nation's leading urban public university serving more than 500,000 students at 25 colleges.



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www.hostos.cuny.edu



Fundación Nacional
PARA LA CULTURA POPULAR

PUERTO RICO • 1996

La Fundación Nacional para la Cultura Popular, (The National Foundation for Popular Culture), is a non-profit organization incorporated in August 1996. The mission of the La Fundación is to advance the development of Puerto Rican popular culture through study, research, promotion and sponsorship of events specifically geared to cultural interest and performers.

La Fundación's goals are to research, study, file, produce publications, catalogue, disclose, compete, conserve, produce, promote, exhibit, exchange and disseminate information, knowledge and the history of Puerto Rico's popular, classical and folkloric culture.

La Fundación's archives hold and preserve an extensive collection of records in all formats, including radio recordings, interviews, photos, negatives, videos in various formats, advertising propaganda, magazines, works of art, paintings and other popular culture collectibles.

In line with its objectives, the organization encourages and promotes the knowledge of popular culture, serving as a resource for research and source of information to artists, musicians, students, teachers, communicators in all branches (including journalists, publicists and public relations), writers, scriptwriters, producers of shows, historians, sponsors as well as governmental and educational organizations.

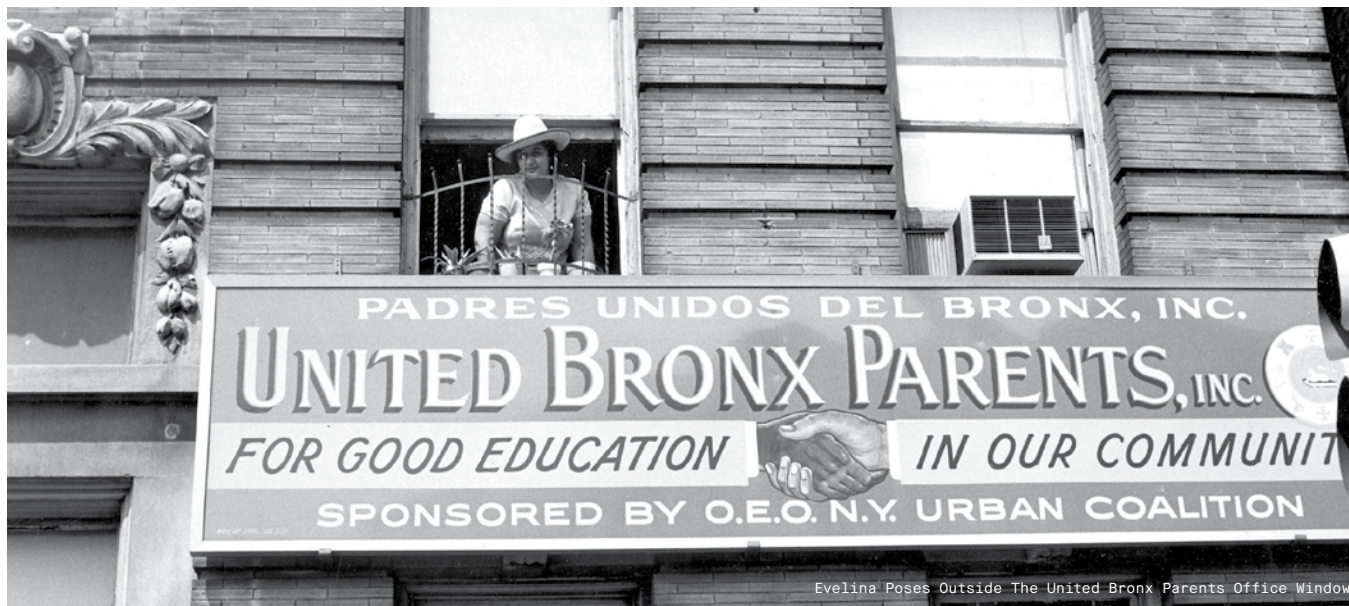


Javier Santiago,
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ON VIEW AT CENTRO LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES UNTIL JANUARY 2023

VISIT CENTRO'S NEW EXHIBITION: “THE HELL LADY OF THE BRONX”

Evelina Antonetty was born in 1922 in Salinas, Puerto Rico, and migrated to East Harlem in 1933. One could say that forces of adversity shaped Evelina as she faced prejudice in the New York City School System as a Spanish-speaking new arrival. Evelina struggled to find acceptance among the faculty and her classmates. She struggled to find respect and compassion for all students in East Harlem.

Evelina Antonetty's activist career is said to have begun with the founding of United Bronx Parents in 1965. However, in Dr. Essie E. Lee's work "Women of Distinction", Dr. Antonetty describes her first protest within the New York City School System in response to neglect and improper adolescent medical care. "Two Jewish, one Black girl and myself decided to stay away from school until changes were made," says Evelina. "Well [,] we won. A nurse was hired for the medical room." Young Evelina Antonetty and her classmates made history staging the first strike in the history of the school.

Among Evelina Antonetty's personal effects, we find portraits of Evelina from which we can interpret a layered identity of an activist, thinker, socio-political strategist, wife, mother, sister, and Titi. These photos give us an unobstructed look behind Evelina, the community leader, and the "Hell Lady from the Bronx". At first glance, these photos of Evelina offer us one specific perspective rarely addressed and for which we quote Dr. Nydia Edgecombe, who said, "She was beautiful. She could have been anything; instead, she chose to help the community."

Several documents and images of Evelina's period serve as the material outline of Evelina's historical trajectory as a community leader. The materials chronicle Evelina's support of labor movements recognizing the complexities of urban Puerto Rican and Black workers. In addition, they are a surviving record of Evelina's career in education reform and as an instructor at Hunter College. Overall, the papers pertinent to the life and times of Evelina Antonetty mainly showcase Dr. Antonetty as the founder and executive director of the United Bronx Parents, a Puerto Rican grassroots organization working for community improvement, with a special emphasis on educational reform in the South Bronx area[...] in 1965.

Evelina earned "The Hell Lady from the Bronx" moniker because of her radical persistence and strategies, which led to several campaigns and programs that set a precedent for how we care for our neighbors and address

the community needs today. In her lifetime, Dr. Evelina Antonetty created grassroots community-service programs to address child hunger, poverty, adult education, child abuse in schools, and bilingual education. She secured specialized funds for child development/daycare programs for children ages 2-5. She addressed substance abuse, crime, women's issues and joblessness through the creation of youth employment programs, the infamous school lunch initiative, and the summer lunch program. Her dedication to tackling foodlessness is a precursor to what we commonly refer to as food activism. The distribution of fresh food and canned goods to the South Bronx and Harlem communities from commercial trucks and vans during the various stages of the NYC pause in response to the COVID-pandemic strikes an uncanny resemblance to the image of a well-dressed Evelina distributing perishable goods to the community with her hands on her hips.

The figure of Evelina was known for her stylish hats and mink stole. Her sunglasses especially grab one's attention in a world where women are not allowed to be both modern and effective or revolutionary. Yet Evelina taunted the boundaries of gender and colonial imposed decency in that way. Therefore, characterizing Evelina Antonetty through a wide lens of style and grace is a disservice to her memory. Evelina was indeed the Hell Lady from the Bronx. Her life's work was devoted to changing the community's hell in a ray of hope that heaven was possible.

The Evelina Centennial "The Hell Lady from the Bronx" exhibition produced by the Centro Library and Archive to showcase images and documents support a convergence of life experiences that only make up a portion of Evelina Antonetty's life story. The papers that document the life and career of Evelina Antonetty are spread among the United Bronx Parents Records, The Lillian Lopez Collection and The Elba Cabrera Collection where we find several images which document Dr. Antonetty's personal life, her community service and activist career. We, the Center for Puerto Rican Studies, invite you to visit our library and archive to view the primary source documents that memorialize Dr. Evelina Antonetty as well as other notable Puerto Ricans leaders.

— MELISSA SWINEA,
Critical Pedagogy Educational Researcher,
Center for Puerto Rican Studies

IN HER OWN WORDS



"We Will Never Stop Struggling Here In the Bronx"
Duration: 00:51

EVELINA TEACHING MATERIALS MEDIA & FULL CENTRO PRESENTATION

For educational materials on the exhibit (teaching guide, downloadable exhibit and audio bites please visit our website)



Evelina tool center in CENTRO website
Different materials



"The Hell Lady of The Bronx"
Complete presentation
Sept. 15, 2022
YOUTUBE

CENTRO Library and Archives
Silberman School of Social Work
2180 Third Avenue and 119th Street

By appointment only.
No need to be CUNY affiliated to visit.

Hours:
Monday – Friday
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Schedule an appointment:



centropr.hunter.cuny.edu/



ABOUT CENTRO

Founded in 1973 by a coalition of students, faculty, and activists, the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College (CENTRO) is the largest university-based research institute, library, and archive dedicated to the Puerto Rican experience in the United States. We provide support to students, scholars, artists, and members of the community at large across and beyond New York. We produce original research, films, books, and educational tools and are the home of The Centro Journal—the premiere academic journal of Puerto Rican Studies. Our aim is to create actionable and accessible scholarship to strengthen, broaden, and reimagine the field of Puerto Rican studies.

OUR HISTORY

Rooted in the political projects of the 1960s and 1970s, the origins of CENTRO were collaborative and community-facing. Among its founding principles was the desire to “take the mystery and oppression out of learning,” to bring the community into the university, and to “project the university outward in new ways.”

This formula was radical and necessary. CENTRO called for radical changes to the way in which Academia conducts itself, views itself, and how it recognizes or assigns leadership. It was clear to many of the founders that the production of knowledge about Puerto Ricans in the diaspora must be guided by and responsive to our communities' needs. There was a strong commitment to producing research and knowledge analyzing the Puerto Rican experience in the USA in its rightful context: as subjects expelled from a colonized country and forced into labor migration, confronting linguistic

challenges, low pay employment with substandard workplace conditions, in communities abandoned by the government.

OUR VISION

Developing a shared vision for Centro was and continues to be a collective process. We will continue expanding our efforts to collect, preserve and provide access to archival and library resources documenting the history and culture of Puerto Ricans. But we must do it in broader inclusive ways to be able to integrate, support and encourage interdisciplinary research into new emerging subjects that are traditionally invisible to researchers, as well as emerging issues that are dramatically changing our lives and ways of living today.

CELEBRATING EVELINA ANTONETTY 100TH ANNIVERSARY



Evelina Antonetty was many things to many different people: precocious child, model grade schooler, generous and caring neighbor, labor organizer, meticulous strategist, master diplomat and tactician who could analyze any situation and move people thoughtfully and spiritually, charismatic advocate of bilingual education and parents' rights, mentor to a cadre of young people who would impact New York in the arts, politics and social service...and she was a patriot.

Indeed, she was a force to be reckoned with, one of the most effective and impactful leaders of the Puerto Rican diaspora of the twentieth century. She started her public life as a union organizer and aide to progressive elected officials. Then, as a mother, she immersed herself in parental oversight of schools and founded United Bronx Parents, a parent advocacy agency that gained national attention serving as a model for other efforts from coast to coast.

Evelina Antonetty lived through perhaps the most pivotal period in Puerto Rican history, often acting as one of the principal movers and agents of change in her time. Consider the following:

She lived her early childhood in the 1920's on the southern coast of Puerto Rico where the sugar industry, with its cyclical nature and volatile market, shaped the lives of tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans. At that time, she witnessed and lived in the midst of a flowering of Afro-Puerto Rican culture.

She was one of the pioneers of New York's fabled El Barrio (East Harlem) where, as a teenager, she expertly navigated the shoals of the Great Depression helping fellow Puerto Ricans and others weather the economic storm and the shock of confronting an alien culture. helping fellow Puerto Ricans and others weather the economic storm and the shock of confronting an alien culture. The forties and early fifties saw her become a labor leader honing her skills as an organizer and developing an informal but highly effective approach to activism, crafting a style and persona – an aura – uniquely hers. In the sixties, she developed close relationships with Martin Luther King, Jr and other leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, continuing to establish important links between Puerto Rican and African-American communities. (Appropriately, UBP's logo included two shaking hands--one brown, one black.)

During the sixties, she founded and built United Bronx Parents

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CELEBRATING EVELINA ANTONETTY 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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destroyed it around us. We (will) pitch tents if we have to rather than move from here... And, after me, my children will be here to carry on... I have very strong children...and very strong grandchildren.”

Her life was cut short, much too short when she passed away in 1984. The loss, bitter as it was, turned out to be much greater than originally realized. Indeed, there is a sense even today, 38 years after Evelina’s passing, that things might have gone differently had Evelina given us twenty more years of her activism.

As Dr. Ignacio Olazagasti, distinguished scholar at the Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Puerto Rico y el Caribe, said recently during the presentation of a doctoral dissertation, “I confess I didn’t know much about Evelina Antonetty until I became a member of this panel. Now it’s clear to me that, if Puerto Rico had had ten Evelina Antonetty’s, all its problems would be solved.”

By: Wallace I. Edgecombe, co-chair, Culture & Arts Committee, Evelina 100

(UBP) into a social service agency of national reputation. Indeed, UBP’s programs, publications and special projects became models emulated throughout urban America. Also, in the sixties, Evelina Antonetty was the principal force behind the founding of the first fully bilingual school in the nation. In the seventies, she witnessed a great crisis threatening the American inner city, especially her beloved South Bronx. In the process, she became a national voice and the conscience of urban America. In an interview/photo session with photographer Frank Espada in 1980, she proclaimed: “We will never stop struggling here in the Bronx even though they’ve



DR. EVELINA ANTONETTY SCHOLARSHIP FOR COMMUNITY ACTIVISM



On September 17, 2022 Comité Noviembre culminated a weeklong celebration of the legacy of Dr. Evelina Antonetty with “Un Bembé de Cumpleaños Para Evelina” a birthday celebration for her centennial. Comité Noviembre announced the establishment of the Dr. Evelina Antonetty Scholarship for Community Activism and recognized the lifelong work and contributions of Elba Cabrera.

The selection process for the Dr. Evelina Antonetty Scholarship will be competitive and documented community service and activism will be key to be selected.

To be eligible to receive the scholarship applicants must be of Puerto Rican descent, have a minimum of one-year of volunteer community service experience., be enrolled in a full-time

undergraduate degree program in an accredited college or university upon receipt of the award for the Fall of that year, have a minimum Grade Point Average (G.P.A.) of 2.75 or better, undergo a virtual interview with the Selection Committee (in English or Spanish), be between the ages of 17 and 25.and cannot be a former CN scholarship awardee of any CN Scholarships.

Candidates must write an essay, biographical sketch, have documented volunteer community service and activism statement, one letter of recommendation, academic transcripts (for College Students), High School transcript (for High School Students) and a headshot photo.



The letter of recommendation should come from individuals that have witness the candidate’s community activism and should highlight the candidate’s volunteer community service, how long has the person known the candidate, and the specific contributions the applicant has made to the community.

The letter of recommendation must be written on organizational letterhead with a contact phone number of the person writing the recommendation letter. The first Dr. Evelina Antonetty Scholarship for Community Activism will be awarded in 2023.



TEACHING EVELINA EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM



Comité Noviembre also introduced the “Teaching Evelina” educational program that will highlight the “Images of Evelina”* exhibit artwork to develop lesson plans and classroom activities to introduce future generations to the work and legacy of Dr. Evelina Antonetty.

“Images of Evelina” is a visual arts exhibition of specially commissioned work celebrating the life and times of Evelina Antonetty that was organized by the Evelina 100 Celebration Committee.

Comité Noviembre has gathered an outstanding group of current, past, and retired educators, to assist in the development of these classroom lesson plans and activities.

Committee Members

Dr. Ana Celia Zentella, Professor Emerita, UCSD Department of Ethnic Studies

Debbie Battiste, English language teacher, Leonardo da Vinci I.S. 61Q

Lisa Marie Rodriguez, MSW, Bronx High School for the Arts

Raesha Cartagena, President, Puerto Rican Institute for the Development of the Arts

Evelyn Santiago, Evelyn Santiago, MS, ESOL, Soc Studies, and Ed Tech, White Plains Middle School Eastview Campus (retired)

Melba Olmeda

Maria Domínguez, Artist and Arts Educator

Georgina Santiago Reis, MA, Multicultural Ed. & Ed.S, Language Arts teacher, Cima Middle School, Tucson, AZ (retired)



The committee will develop lesson plans for 1st to 5th grade, 6th to 8th and high school 9th to 12th. Lessons should be general and not complicated. The timeline was to create lesson plans in mid-September and the end of October. The first Teaching Evelina “pilot” lesson will take place sometime during November at a elementary, middle or high school.

Not all of the art pieces will work for the lesson plans so the following pieces are being suggested to begin the process:

1. *Evelina* by Siuko Garcia
2. *Para que no me olviden* by Marcos Dimas
3. *Antonetty 100* by Sara Morales
4. *Mujer Latina* by Star Angel

COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE

36th Anniversary

mes de la herencia puertorriqueña

2021 ARTISANS FAIR & BOOK EXPO REVIEW

Photos by Edwin Pagan

Many artists from throughout the US and Puerto Rico participated in Comité Noviembre's 16th Annual National Puerto Rican Artisan Fair & Book Expo last year. The COVID pandemic limited the number of artists to 20 when we would normally have up to 80.

Comité Noviembre transforms Hostos Community College into a haven for Puerto Rican art and literature.

Comité Noviembre's National Puerto Rican Artisan Fair was produced by the CN Artisan Fair Committee composed of: Raesha Cartagena, Rosa Rosario, Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture theatre manager Felix Arocho and many volunteers who help make the event the success that it has been for 16 years now.

The 2022 Artisan Fair and Book Expo will be the 17th annual event, and it will again be an in-person event on Saturday, November 19th 2022.





PRIDA

is a proud co-sponsor of the
2022 Comité Noviembre
National Puerto Rican
Artisan Fair & Book Expo

If you are a Puerto Rican artist or organization and want to join the movement to promote, preserve and protect Puerto Rican arts and culture then become a member of PRIDA today!

You can go to our website:

WWW.PRIDA.ORG

**Puerto Rican Institute for the Development of
the Arts – P.R.I.D.A.**

2127 Third Avenue, #9, NYC 10035

www.prida.org | info@prida.org

#WeArePrida



HISTORY

ASPIRA was founded in New York City in 1961 by Dra. Antonia Pantoja to combat the exorbitant dropout rate among Puerto Rican high school youth and became incorporated in New York State on May 24th, 1965. In 1968, ASPIRA of America (today known as the ASPIRA Association now based in Washington, D.C.) was created. Since then, the ASPIRA movement has grown and established additional SASPIRA associate offices in Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Puerto Rico.

MISSION

To foster the social advancement of the Puerto Rican/Latino community by supporting its youth in the pursuit of educational excellence through leadership development activities and programs that emphasizes commitment to the community and pride in the Puerto Rican/Latino culture.

VISION STATEMENT

To be the premier Latino youth-serving organization in New York, to the 38%, roughly 1.1 million New York City public school students who are Latino, aspire to improve their lives and community by exercising their leadership skills and by achieving educational excellence.

ABOUT ASPIRA OF NEW YORK, INC.

ASPIRA of New York, Inc. serves over 8,000 Latino youth and families annually in the areas of youth development, educational achievement, leadership and parent engagement. ASPIRA's current menu of program services, incorporate both in-school and after school programs with over 85% of all services being delivered on school grounds. These programs and services include:

- Over 25 ASPIRA leadership clubs in High Schools
- Drop-out prevention and attendance improvement services in high schools and middle school
- SAT preparation courses
- College counseling and other advisement services
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers
- After School neighborhood based services in the Mott Haven and Kingsbridge sections of the Bronx
- ASPIRA volunteer Initiative Program which links corporate and individual volunteers as mentors and role models for ASPIRA Youth

ASPIRA OF NEW YORK, INC.
15 West 36th Street, 15th Floor,
New York, NY 10018
(212) 564-6880, (212) 564-7152 (f),

Carmen Diaz-Malvido, *Chief Executive Officer*

ASPIRA: "to aspire"

WWW.ASPIRANY.ORG

YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

26th Annual Day of Community Service and Social Responsibility



For the past twenty-six years, Comité Noviembre has set aside the Sunday before Thanksgiving as a day of community service and social responsibility in commemoration of November 19th, traditionally known as Puerto Rican discovery day or as we like to call it Puerto Rican “encounter” day. The purpose of the day is to show the spirit of commitment and the power of action. Community service and social responsibility are the strongholds of the Puerto Rican community. Throughout the years our experience has demonstrated that when we dedicate ourselves to improving the quality of life of those around us, we build a more unified and stronger society. Over the years, this event has been a great success and organizations throughout the city have benefited from this collaboration, including homeless and battered women’s shelters and senior centers as well as individual families.

In 2017, Comité Noviembre partnered with Precision Concierge New York, (PCNY), a high-end concierge service company which involves its clients in charitable activities. In five years, this partnership has distributed over 7000 turkeys to families in need feeding over 35,000 individuals during the Thanksgiving holiday. In total PCNY will donate over 20,000 turkeys to families throughout the NYC metropolitan and Westchester County area.

2021 Highlights

On November 22, 2020, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic 1000 turkeys and bags full of potatoes, onions, sweet potatoes, apples, and peppers were distributed to communities in Yonkers, the Bronx, and East Harlem by a cadre of young volunteers. Adhering to CDC protocols the distribution occurred outside on the street. The day was rainy, and cold but each one of these volunteers worked hard, were full of energy and had big smiles on their faces as they unloaded the turkeys and produce off trucks, greeted the people. The following non-profits benefited from this day: Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, Westchester in Yonkers; the Charter School for Educational Excellence in Yonkers; Hope Worldwide, Inc., and the New York Church of Christ both in the Bronx and other organizations received turkeys at 114th Street and Pleasant Avenue in East Harlem.



the Charter School for Educational Excellence in Yonkers; Hope Worldwide, Inc., and the New York Church of Christ both in the Bronx and other organizations received turkeys at 114th Street and Pleasant Avenue in East Harlem.



This year the CN Day of Community Service and Social Responsibility will take place on the Sunday before Thanksgiving November 22, 2022, because this year more than ever our communities need the assistance. CN and PCNY have committed to distribute the same amount of turkeys and food once again adhering to social distancing and CDC rules.

WAYS CAN YOU HELP!

- Participate in this weekend as a volunteer.
- Donate and Support the Comité Noviembre Day of Community Service and Social Responsibility
- Thanksgiving Turkey Fund. The goal is to raise \$2,000. Please make out a check to: Comité Noviembre and include Turkey Drive in the memo section of your check. Mail check to: Comité Noviembre C/O TAS Communications, LLC, 45 East Hartsdale Avenue – Suite 3L, Hartsdale, NY 10530, Attn: Teresa A. Santiago or Donate through PAYPAL by logging onto our website at www.comitenoviembre.org and follow PAYPAL directions. Please remember to earmark your donation to: 2022 Thanksgiving Turkey Fund.

For more information contact: Teresa A. Santiago at tascommunicationsllc@gmail.com, (914) 263-6599.

COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE REINSTATES ESTOY CON PUERTO RICO DISASTER RELIEF EFFORT TO HELP SURVIVORS OF HURRICANE FIONA

Our Patria Needs Our Help!

Five years almost to the day, Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, Hurricane Fiona has left devastating results in her aftermath. Historic flooding, widespread power outages, mudslides, water shortages, and a need for humanitarian assistance have been reported.

Puerto Rico continues to experience a crippling debt, the continued effects of Hurricane Maria, earthquakes, a worldwide pandemic, and now Fiona!

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Comité Noviembre will be accepting donations through its

ESTOY CON PUERTO RICO DISASTER RELIEF EFFORT

As in the past with Hurricane Maria all donations will go directly to non-profit organizations in Puerto Rico.

Please view our Estoy Con Puerto Rico Impact Report:

https://www.comitenoviembre.org/_files/ugd/25abd0_7f40980218c54677bb150a57ea5c2c22.pdf

OPTIONS TO DONATE

BY PAYPAL

Go to: PayPal

Follow prompts to pay by email.

Email: cnevents@comitenoviembre.org

Please state in the memo section that your donation is for ESTOY CON PUERTO RICO

BY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER

Make check/money order payable to:

Comité Noviembre Estoy Con Puerto Rico and mail to:

Comité Noviembre Managing Office

C/O: TAS Communications, LLC.

45 East Hartsdale Avenue, Suite 3L

Hartsdale, NY 10530

ATTN: Teresa A. Santiago

Through our partner Catholic Carities

[Support Catholic Charities - Catholic Charities \(archny.org\)](http://SupportCatholicCharities.org)

Please make sure that you earmark your donation to ESTOY CON PUERTO RICO under “gift comments”

Comité Noviembre Non-profit Status Information

Federal Tax ID No.: 56-2525337 NYS Charity Registration No.: 41-35-14

For more information please call 914 263-6599

Thank you for your support

COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE'S EDUCATIONAL AND HUMANITARIAN TRIPS TO PUERTO RICO: "BUSCANDO NUESTRAS RAÍCES"

Sixteen years ago, Comité Noviembre's, (CN) educational trip to Puerto Rico: "Buscando Nuestras Raíces," embarked on an educational adventure into the richness of Puerto Rico's culture, ancestral roots, and history. Over the years, it has surpassed our expectations mak-

de Puerto Rico y el Caribe. Most importantly, Comité Noviembre wanted to support the economy of the places it visited as well as lend its voice to the current key issues and initiatives on the island, empower organiza-



ing this trip not only an educational and cultural experience but an opportunity to support, sponsor, and empower many environmental, humanitarian, cultural, and social justice organizations, and issues.

The establishment of "Buscando Nuestras Raíces" has ensured the development of strategic partnerships with organizations in Puerto Rico that has led to the Diaspora being involved in issues that directly affect the island. Partnerships with Coalición Pro Corredor Ecológico del Noreste, Fundación Agenda Ciudadana, Paz Para Viques, the Senate of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and Mesón del Amor have enabled Comité Noviembre to assist in ongoing struggles in Puerto Rico but also inform the Diaspora of the issues.

Additionally, Comité Noviembre has promoted cultural exchanges and partnerships with el Festival de la Palabra, Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico, Fundación para la Cultura Popular, and Centro de Estudios Avanzados

tions with its support, act when needed and give back through actual community service projects. Since its inaugural trip, CN has been in the forefront of many issues.

On this year's educational and volunteer service trip participants conducted volunteer service at Para La Naturaleza, preparing the soil for planting, pruning, and planting trees as well as nourishing seedlings in its nursery at Las Cabezas de San Juan in Fajardo; and, distributed non-perishable food with Ministerio Buen Samaritano MARC in Vega Baja in partnership and contribution made by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York. Additionally, participants visited and gave donations to Casa La Providencia in Old San Juan, a residential rehabilitation facility for women, and made Comité Noveimbre's annual food donation to El Mesón del Amor. Both efforts were in partnership with the San

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“BUSCANDO NUESTRAS RAÍCES”

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Juan Marriott Resort / Stellaris Casino and Salud Integral en la Montaña. All projects, however, have been proudly funded by Comité Noviembre’s Estoy Con Puerto Rico Disaster Relief Effort.

During the trip a *CONVERSATORIO: Un llamado a la Acción para la Diáspora Puertorriqueña*/A call to Action for the Puerto Rican Diaspora took place with panelists: Lorel Cubano, executive director, Old San Juan (OSJ) Heritage Foundation; Dr. Ángel M. Muñoz Ali-

cea, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Psychology, College of Behavioral Sciences and Community Affairs, Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico; and trip participants at La Fundación Nacional para la Cultura Popular. It was one of the most impactful events of the trip as we heard from experts on the current situation in Puerto Rico.

Comité Noviembre is thankful for the volunteer service done by the trip participants. It will have a profound impact on the communities that were visited and served.





La Casa de la Herencia Cultural Puertorriqueña, Inc.

La Casa de la Herencia Cultural Puertorriqueña, Inc. (La Casa) is a multidisciplinary, nonprofit organization that provides essential structural support for cultural, and educational activities to preserve and present Puerto Rican history, culture, and the arts. La Casa works in collaboration with educational, and non-educational institutions, artists, community groups and organizations directly from El Barrio, the Tri-State-Area and Puerto Rico to honor and celebrate the contributions made by the Puerto Rican Diaspora, and beyond.



Leticia Rodriguez

Executive Director

La Casa de la Herencia Cultural Puertorriqueña, Inc.
215 East 99th Street, Suite 18.2
New York, NY 10029

Tel: 646) 360 - 4126

Website:

<http://lacasahcp.wixsite.com/lacasadelaherencia>
www.Facebook.com/lacasapr

EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO

For over 50 years, El Museo del Barrio, New York's leading Latino cultural institution, has welcomed visitors of all backgrounds to discover the artistic landscape of Puerto Rican, Latino, and Latin American cultures. With over 8,000 objects in our permanent collection, El Museo puts forward cutting-edge exhibitions and provides free educational and public programs. An anchor of the East Harlem community, El Museo is a center of cultural pride on New York's Museum Mile.

1230 5th Avenue at 104th Street
New York, NY 10029
212-831-7272 | info@elmuseo.org

www.elmuseo.org



“DON'T BELIEVE ME...GOOGLE IT! - ¡NO ME CREAS A MI...GUGULÉALO!”

From trivia, to the frivolous, to important and significant accomplishments this section was created to demonstrate the ingenuity, resilience, intelligence, and downright awesomeness of our Puerto Rican people and culture. It is a section that we hope will fill our hearts with pride like our friend and inspiration for this section El Boriciao Jesus Omar Rivera would say: ... "que se nos hinche el corazón,"

DID YOU KNOW...

Biologist Says Puerto Rican Women Possess Ideal Genotype Of The ‘Perfect’ Human Via DNA Ancestry. Puerto Rican women are considered the “perfect” human, says Berkeley biologist, Lior Pachter because they have the closest genetic information to the ideal genotype. As a computational biologist working in genomics at the university, he believes the perfect human, genetically speaking, is a Puerto Rican woman, due to her DNA ancestry that allows her to possess the ideal genotype. [Biologist Says Puerto Rican Women Possess Ideal Genotype Of The ‘Perfect’ Human Via DNA Ancestry \(medicaldaily.com\)](http://medicaldaily.com)

The Coffee of Popes & Kings Puerto Rico’s Alto Grande Super Premium coffee.

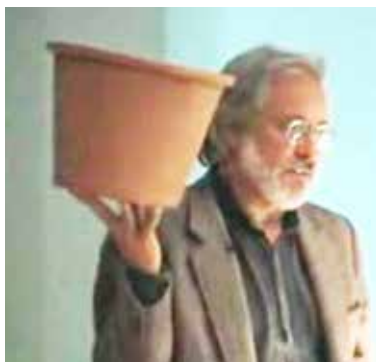
A Super Premium coffee is born in Puerto Rico – 1839 Coffee arrived to Puerto Rico in 1736. In the 19th century coffee became the first agricultural product of the island. By the end of the century, Puerto Rico was the sixth largest exporter of coffee in the world. In 1839, Alto Grande became a reality. Since then, it has delivered unparalleled quality and taste to the Royal Courts of Europe, the Vatican in Rome, and to the rest of the world. *Experts enthusiastically describe Alto Grande as a “rare and exotic Puerto Rican coffee with a very bright, sparkling flavor and a sweet pointed aroma.”*

Alto Grande Super Premium Coffee is known as “the very best” because of its unique Arabica beans grown in the most ideal soil, climate conditions, and processed to precise standards.

The Hacienda Alto Grande was established in 1839 in the Buenos Aires and Santa Isabel sectors of Lares, Puerto Rico, and since the early 19th century has been producing one of the world’s finest coffees.



Ronald “Ron” Rivera (1948–2008) invented an inexpensive ceramic water filter used to treat gray water in impoverished communities.



He established community-based factories to produce the filters around the world.[115] The filter has been cited by the United Nations’ Appropriate Technology Handbook, and tens of thousands of filters have been distributed worldwide by organizations such as International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Doctors Without Borders, UNICEF, Plan International, Project Concern International, Oxfam and USAID.

José Leandro Montalvo Guenard (born 1885) – a native of Mayagüez. In 1939, Montalvo Guenard invented an instrument that allowed eye surgeons to securely hold and greedily manipulate the eye lens in operations of cataracts. He was issued US Patent 2,224,575.

Ángel Rivero Méndez (1856–1930) was a soldier, in the Spanish American War, writer, journalist and a businessman. In 1902, a few years after the end of the Spanish-



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American War, Rivero Méndez founded *El Polo Norte Fábrica de Sodas* (The North Pole soda factory) where he created Kola Champagne, which became a popular soft drink in Puerto Rico. While developing the drink he worked on his book, *Chronicle of the Spanish-American War in Puerto Rico*. Now, Kola Champagne is manufactured and sold in the United States, Columbia, Jamaica and Mexico.

Monserate Román is a scientist in NASA who helped NASA build part of the International Space Station. She is the Chief Microbiologist for the Environmental Control and Life Support System project who determines how microbes will behave under different situations and in different locations, such as the nooks and crannies of the Space Station. Roman was a member of the team that built the International Space

Station. The Station was designed with materials that are microbe-resistant. Temperature and humidity are controlled to discourage microbe growth. Roman must study an international, multicultural group of the microbes, since crewmembers, visitors, experiments and hardware hail from 15 Station partner countries and comes with his or her own unique set of microbes.



Iliana Sánchez invented a book for the blind that brings together art and braille. Ms. Sanchez used a new technique called TechnoPrint and TechnoBraille. Rather than punch through heavy paper to create the raised dots of the Braille alphabet for the blind, these techniques apply an epoxy to the page to create not only raised dots but raised images with texture. The epoxy melds with the page, becoming part of it, so that you can't scrape it off with your fingernail. The images are raised so that a blind person can feel the artwork and in color, not just to attract the sighted family who will read the book with blind siblings or children, but also for the blind themselves. The book "Art & the Alphabet, A Tactile Experience" is co-written with Rebecca McGinnis of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Met has already incorporated the book into their Access program.



Olga D. González-Sanabria contributed to the development of the

"Long Cycle-Life Nickel-Hydrogen Battery" that helps enable the International Space Station power system; Mercedes Reaves contributed to the design of a viable full-scale solar sail and the development and testing of a scale model solar sail; Pedro Rodriguez invented a portable, battery-operated lift seat for people suffering from knee arthritis; Felix Soto Toro developed the Advanced Payload Transfer Measurement System (ASPTMS) (Electronic 3D measuring system) and Juan R. Cruz contributed in the development of entry, descent, and landing (EDL) systems for robotic and human exploration missions.



The Justice Committee/NCPRR...*Building safer sustainable communities in NYC*



The Justice Committee (JC) is a grassroots organization founded by social justice activist urban warrior, Young Lord Richie Perez, dedicated to building a movement against police violence and systemic racism in New York City and empowering low-income Latino/as and other people of color to address these issues. Recognizing that true power can only be exercised by unified communities we prioritize developing the leadership of both youth and elders and strive to make our organizing a multi-generational effort. By building solidarity with other anti-racist, immigrant and people of color-led organizations, we seek to contribute to a broad-based movement for social justice.

As our name suggests, the long-term vision of the Justice Committee is a world in which the voices and needs of all become the imperative, a world not governed by the most “powerful” and materially wealthy. We seek to contribute to a coordinated global movement that will attain this world by building a New York City in which people are not victimized by systemic racism and other forms of oppression and do not suffer or fear killings and abuse at the hands of the NYPD and other forms of law enforcement. The work of the Justice Committee will be complete when NYC’s marginalized communities have the power and mechanisms to hold the authorities accountable, are empowered to determine by what principles and methods the city is managed and kept safe, and have built meaningful ties to others communities organizing for justice throughout the United States and the

PROGRAMS

Case support & families organizing aims to provide to the families of people killed by NYPD and survivors of police violence. This support includes helping families navigate the system, training and skills development, direct action campaign’s, and healing and emotional release.

Community Defense and Training focuses on developing safety mechanisms and projects that decrease reliance on law enforcement and increases our skills and abilities to build sustainable communities. This includes all training and our Cop Watch project.

Training & Education provides a variety of internal and external trainings. It also engages in community art projects like our Know Your Rights and Cop Watch murals Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and the South Bronx.



ONGOING CAMPAIGNS

The Justice Committee also has on-going campaigns seeking justice, these include Justice for Eric Gardner, Justice for Delrawn Small, Special Prosecutor, a successful campaign that made the Attorney Generals office special prosecutor by Executive Order; Repeal 50 A: The repeal of 50a would allow public disclosure of police records relating to misconduct and Committees United for Police Reform, (CPR)

For more information or to become a member contact:

Loyda Colon, Co-Director

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THE DEGREE OF DEVASTATION IN PUERTO RICO IS DUE TO THE DISCRIMINATORY EXCLUSION FROM SSI



During the Covid-19 pandemic in August 2020, Emanuel Rivera-Fuentes filed a class action suit claiming the rights of the entire SSI-eligible population in Puerto Rico: *Rivera-Fuentes v. Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, et al.*, Civil No. 20-cv-01444. Emanuel's case was stayed pending the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *U.S. v. Vaello-Madero*, but Emanuel actively urged for immediate effect of the lower court decisions in favor of *Vaello-Madero*, even appearing through an Amicus Brief before the U.S. Supreme Court. In the *Vaello-Madero* case, the U.S. Government sued a U.S. citizen who had moved from New York to Puerto Rico demanding reimbursement of \$28,000 in benefits received while he resided in Puerto Rico, on the basis that an SSI recipient cannot be "outside of the country" longer than 30 days.

It is worth noting that during the Covid pandemic, the Social Security Administration admitted in another case that it continued to systematically apply the SSI exclusion and demanded reimbursement from SSI recipients who stayed in Puerto Rico longer than 30 days because they were unable to fly due to the pandemic restrictions. Even when the whole world was paralyzed, the U.S. Government did not impose a moratorium on this irrational and discriminatory rule, especially considering specially people with pre-existing conditions, like many of the disabled SSI-eligible persons, could not travel anyway.

Last April 2022, in the case of *Vaello-Madero*, the U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) decided that because Puerto Rico is a Territory, Congress can discriminate against Puerto Rico if it has a "rational basis". The SSI law is silent about any rationale to exclude individuals who reside in Puerto Rico, but SCOTUS assumed that Congress had made a "burdens and benefits"

analysis according to which if Puerto Rico did not pay "enough taxes" (as of yet undefined what "enough" is), its residents could not receive SSI, even if eligible. SCOTUS, however, omitted noting that the *Vaello-Madero* opinion by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit that Puerto Rico explicitly clarified that residents of Puerto Rico, in sum, directly or indirectly, actually pay more federal taxes than 6 states and the Northern Mariana Islands, whose residents are eligible to receive SSI.

The SCOTUS majority opinion in *Vaello-Madero* omitted the year 1917 from the chronology of relevant historic facts, and practically "airbrushed" the individual U.S. citizen sued by the U.S. Government from the island. The optics of the decision, uniquely through the narrow lens of the Territorial Clause, instead focused on the political relationship between governmental entities. A judicial narrative and constitutional analysis that omits the individuals' citizenship is incomplete, unilateral and simply unfair.

Emanuel and ten other plaintiffs, in representation of the entire class of SSI-eligible persons, are asserting that their rights as U.S. citizens are not diminished by the Territorial Clause. In March and May 2022, ten more disabled or elderly U.S. citizens residing in Puerto Rico joined Emanuel as plaintiffs in the plight for SSI and moved to add other claims that their citizenship rights protect them from discrimination and that the Territorial Clause does not diminish their constitutional rights, privileges and immunities as U.S. citizens. The Biden DOJ opposed their claims, following the same line of arguments as the DOJ under the Trump Administration during the *Vaello-Madero* litigation.

The Biden DOJ argues that disabled and poor people in Puerto Rico add no value to the U.S. Treasury that warrants extending SSI assistance to them. In essence, the U.S. Government argues that hopeless, helpless and unemployable citizens and non-citizens in the 50 states and the Northern Marianas who suffer cerebral palsy, spastic quadriplegia, severe retardation, or spina bifida hydrocephalus syndrome, just to name a few medical conditions similar to Emanuel's and other plaintiffs', are substantially linked to the livelihood of the Nation, in a way that similarly hopeless, helpless and unemployable U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico are not, and therefore, those citizens and non-citizens who receive SSI do not lose their constitutional rights for their "failure" to contribute to the livelihood of the Nation, while U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico do. This convoluted math is

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DISCRIMINATORY EXCLUSION FROM SSI

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discriminatory and irrational. It is unfathomable that the U.S. Government continues to defend distinctions between similarly disabled, poor and racially or ethnically othered people.

Let it be clear that SSI is a program of last resort and anyone who qualifies for SSI is so destitute that is not, by definition, adding to the U.S. Treasury. From the outset, the law took into consideration that SSI recipients would be those “safely unemployable.” That is, Congress acknowledged that there is a segment of the population that, like in all other countries, will not be able to lead productive lives, as they cannot even take care of themselves. Therefore, the DOJ argument singling out Puerto Rican elderly and disabled poor people as non-taxpayers is discriminatory and irrational.

In her dissent in *Vaello-Madero*, Justice Sotomayor added “Equal treatment of citizens should not be left to the vagaries of the political process. Because residents of Puerto Rico do not have voting representation in Congress, they cannot rely on their elected representatives to remedy the punishing disparities suffered by citizen residents of Puerto Rico under Congress’ unequal treatment.” It is worth noting that many people are doubly punished by the SSI exclusion, since an estimated amount of over 100,000 members of the SSI-excluded population are mentally disabled and poor U.S. citizens who cannot vote at all.

Disabled and low-income U.S. citizens who reside in Puerto Rico have not been eligible for SSI, a uniform national program since 1972. As of 2011, the U.S. Congress estimated there are 300,000- 350,000 people in Puerto Rico who meet SSI criteria, and this represents \$1.2 - \$1.4 Billion a year. Not receiving SSI means Puerto Rico since 1972 represents no less than \$50 billion of direct assistance to individuals, since it functions similarly to the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), that never



entered the Puerto Rico economy.

By contrast, 400,000 to 800,000 non-citizens receive SSI. There is no indication in the legislative history that Congress calculated how much non-citizens paid in federal taxes or performed a “benefits and burdens” analysis when extending SSI to non-citizens. There is no evidence that Congress contemplated a requirement that non-citizens have a tax-paying history when extending SSI assistance to people who meet the criteria. That is because SSI is widely known to be a program for “the poorest of the poor”. An SSI-eligible person is so destitute that he or she is not a taxpayer. Unlike other programs, individual federal income tax contributions are irrelevant to eligibility. Thus, applying a non-existing tax-paying requirement to U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico makes no sense.

The U.S. Government uses euphemisms and pretexts to describe the reality of the cruel discrimination based on race, ethnicity and ancestry of the U.S. citizens who reside in Puerto Rico. Since the *Vaello-Madero* litigation, the U.S. government has been misusing the term “geography”, referring to Puerto Rico as a purely spatial concept, to negate discrimination, which is a concept applied to people. The Biden DOJ is still laying out the same geography argument as the Trump DOJ. Geography, however, is a social science which means it is the interface between people and spaces. Unless the territory is literally uninhabited, a national law whose purpose is to assist individuals cannot rationally subtract people and their constitutional rights from the equation when the territory is indeed populated. SSI does not apply to mountains or rivers. It applies to people. Thus, the government’s “geography” terminology is not acceptable and does not rationally support that legislating over a territory does not inherently take into account the characteristics of the population in it, including its ancestry, racial and ethnic makeup.

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DISCRIMINATORY EXCLUSION FROM SSI

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By excluding citizens residing in Puerto Rico from SSI, the U.S. Government is “airbrushing” the people out of the island, as if Puerto Rico were an uninhabited territory with palm trees and beaches only; as if there were no citizens with rights living there. By contrast, Palmyra, an uninhabited little coral island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, enjoys the full protection of the Constitution. This is not “rational”.

What’s more, Puerto Rican soldiers are U.S. citizens who fight U.S. wars and serve in U.S. military interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq. Ironically, Iraqi and Afghani non-citizens, refugees as a result of those very same operations, can receive SSI in the 50 States, but the SSI-eligible relatives of the very same Puerto Rican soldiers cannot, because they reside in Puerto Rico. This means there are families in Puerto Rico whose members, all U.S. citizens, live under two different citizenship regimes in the same household, living under the same roof. This is not “rational.”

The problems caused by Hurricane Maria have remained largely unsolved, yet another storm has been brewing, tearing at the social fabric in Puerto Rico. With less food stamp assistance and higher inflation, it has become public that elderly people have been increasingly stealing bread and coffee at supermarkets as well as getting evicted from their homes. This segment of the population is eligible for SSI and \$841 per month would make a big difference in their lives, but the U.S. Government is still denying them the assistance.

Petty theft may seem like a negligible problem, but over time, supermarket losses from stolen goods could result in food supply chain problem for the entire population of an island that is dependent on imports, as only about 10% of the food supply is produced locally.

Absence of SSI also takes a toll on the healthcare system. Day by day, many people confront the choice between buying their medication or paying basic expenses. Many end up splitting doses, not getting medicated as prescribed, just to be able to pay electricity bills, which are particularly expensive on the island.

Meanwhile, hospitals in Puerto Rico estimate \$400 Million in yearly losses for expenses they are simply unable to recover. SSI is a key component of hospital financing and capital structure and unlocks access to other federal funds. Unlike hospitals in the 50 states, Puerto Rico hospitals cannot rely on an income stream from SSI beneficiaries. Also due to lack of SSI funds, Puerto Rico is undergoing a severe talent exodus of doctors and medical professionals. No SSI is black hole in the financial set-up of hospital operations.

The Biden Administration values science. Well, hospitals in Puerto Rico need their patients to have access to SSI, so that hospitals can continue updating their equipment and investing in medical technology. A weak healthcare system ultimately affects the entire population of Puerto Rico.

Then, in September 2022 came Hurricane Fiona with the fury of torrential rains. Had the U.S. Government acknowledged the rights of U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico and accepted its responsibility over three years ago, over 400,000 individuals would have started receiving \$841 a month, with which they might have had the opportunity to prepare in advance and mitigate the catastrophic scale of Hurricane Fiona’s impact. This disaster could have been less tragic, if the U.S. Government had owned up already. Without SSI, the disabled and poor U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico are trapped in an unsurmountable daily vortex that a one-time emergency assistance does not even begin to cover.

Ultimately, the direct cause of the degree of devastation is the sheer, inexplicable U.S. Government refusal to extend the SSI safety net. Lacking this structural foundation has a negative compounding effect throughout the Puerto Rican social and economic structure. Depriving SSI-eligible U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico of SSI creates a humanitarian crisis that has a ripple effect throughout all of Puerto Rico.

Emanuel Rivera Fuentes is a U.S. citizen born on February 19, 1986 in Bayamón, Puerto Rico. Since birth, Emanuel suffers severe impairments from cerebral palsy, paralytic syndrome, hypothyroidism, hypothalamic dysfunction, among other conditions, that confine him to live in his bed. He cannot engage in any substantial gainful activity and is unable to take care of himself.

Emanuel was adopted by Abraham Rivera Berrios and Gladys Fuentes Lozada when doctors assured he wouldn’t live longer than 3 weeks. Today, he is 36.

His mother, Gladys, is a U.S. citizen who was born on November 13, 1955 in Toa Baja, Puerto Rico. Gladys is disabled as a result of diabetes, high blood pressure, gout, chronic renal disease, loss of vision, sleep apnea, and diabetic neuropathy. She is a dialysis patient, who receives treatment four hours, three times a week. She also has a tracheotomy due to complications of respiratory arrests. Due to her conditions, she cannot engage in substantial gainful activity. She also confronts serious limitations in her role as caretaker of Emanuel. Gladys, herself disabled, is the aging parent of an adult disabled person who cannot fend for himself.

Emanuel’s father, Abraham, 70, is still strong, but it’s only a matter of time before Abraham’s strength is also not enough to take care of Emanuel. Abraham made multiple unsuccessful attempts to obtain SSI for Emanuel. Like them, there are many other fragile family structures in which more than one member of the family is eligible for SSI.

#ssipacuando

Isabel Abislaímán, Esq. is the attorney representing Plaintiffs in Rivera- Fuentes, et al. v Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, et al., Civil No. 20-cv-01444 (FAB).



IPR/HE – ACACIA NETWORK values the long-standing contributions of our seniors, celebrating their role in families and communities. Our goal is to address their needs and empower them for an independent future. IPR/HE – ACACIA NETWORK does through a series of programs and events throughout our adult centers and facilities. A primary concern is the access, acquisition, and protection of senior rights and entitlements under law. Our programs address a wide range of senior needs such as abuse, domestic violence, housing, nutrition, education, and recreation. The adult center programs in NYC offer bilingual, culturally meaningful social services, advocacy, information, and counseling in a welcoming and friendly environment. Staff is highly skilled to advise, reassure, encourage, and support seniors and their families, ensuring services and benefits. Individual interviews are conducted in a private setting and confidentiality is guaranteed to all seniors and their families.



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300 East 175 Street | Bronx, New York 10457 | 347 614-2519

www.acacianetwork.org



National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc. New York Chapter

The New York Chapter of the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women (NACOPRW) was established in 1973 and is one of New York City's historical women's organizations dedicated to the Puerto Rican and Latino communities.

The New York Chapter's leadership consists of women of Puerto Rican heritage from diverse backgrounds working together to create a forum to empower, educate and advocate for the full participation of Puerto Rican women both stateside and on the island of Puerto Rico.

Rosemary Domínguez-Sotirios
President
NACOPRW New York Chapter



The White Plains Puerto Rican Cultural Committee (WPPRCC) was founded in 2020 by a group of community members from White Plains and the surrounding area. It is led by Chair Evelyn Alicea-Santiago, a veteran ESOL and Bilingual Education teacher with a 30-year history of activism in the Hispanic community of Westchester County. The mission of the White Plains Puerto Rican Cultural Committee is to highlight and celebrate the contributions of Puerto Ricans and Hispanics in White Plains and throughout Westchester County.

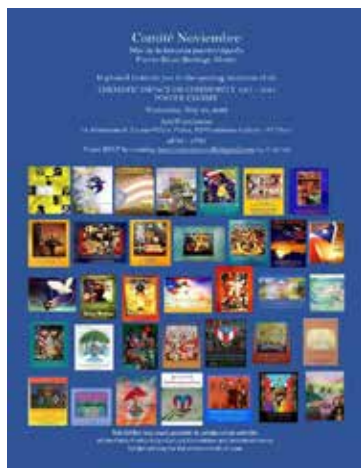
The WPPRCC originally met to organize the first ever Puerto Rican flag raising event in White Plains. However the success of the flag raising and the interest from the Puerto Rican community in White Plains has led the WPPRCC to plan and engage in a variety of activities designed to engage the entire White Plains community.



WPPRCC members hail from a variety of backgrounds and occupations. Current members include the commissioner of the White Plains



Recreation and Parks Department; a retired nuclear engineer from the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant; the associate director of a Bronx home care agency who is also co-chair of the Westchester for Puerto Rico Project; a 26-year retired White Plains Police Officer and Westchester community activist; the School Nurse Coordinator and Director of Health Services for the White Plains Public Schools, the first Puerto Rican woman to establish a thriving business in Westchester County; a community activist who raised one of the first Puerto Rican families in White Plains; and our very own Teresa Santiago, president of *Comité Noviembre*.



This year WPPRCC partnered with *Comité Noviembre*, *ArtsWestchester*, and the *White Plains Public Library* to host the CN traveling poster art exhibit, "*Thematic Impact on Community: 1987-2022*". One highlight of this exhibit was having Mrs. Santiago's ESOL students from the Eastview School visit the exhibit and share their own artistic interpretations of their favorite posters. Several important events are being planned by the White Plains Puerto Rican Cultural Committee and its partners. In December 2022, the WPPRCC will partner with *PRIDA* and the *White Plains Public Library* to host the First Annual White Plains Puerto



Rican Artisans Fair. On January 7th, 2023, a celebration of Three Kings Day, will take place hosted by WPPRCC and *Comité Noviembre* at the White Plains Library that will include readings, arts, and crafts for children.

The United Federation of Teachers
Salutes
COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE
on its
36th Anniversary Benefit Dinner

We join in celebrating the rich contributions
of the Puerto Rican community
to our city and country and
congratulate the 16 scholarship winners
for their volunteerism and commitment
to the cause of
social justice and the arts.



United Federation of Teachers
A Union of Professionals
Michael Mulgrew, UFT President
www.uft.org



Doris Cordero is a Bronx native and a resident of Riverdale for over 35 years. Her childhood years were spent both in Puerto Rico and the Bronx; a journey between two languages and two cultures. Doris is a graduate of Art & Design High School. She obtained a degree in Studio Art and



Elementary Education from Fordham University; and received a Master's Degree from Fordham University and Bank Street College. Her career trajectory includes Bilingual educator, Elementary Art educator and serving as an Art Administrator for New York City Public Schools.

Doris has been exhibiting her artwork since the 80's, where she was part of group exhibition entitled *Comadres at El Museo del Barrio*, featuring women artists. Her work has been featured as part of Riverdale Art Association group exhibitions with at the Grinton I. Will Public Library; Riverdale—Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture; and Gallery 18 at the Riverdale YM-YWHA. Doris has also collaborated in group exhibitions at the Blue Door Art Gallery, Riverfront Gallery; KRVC's Gallery 505; as well as PRIDA's sell out group exhibitions at El Barrio's Artspace PS109 and throughout New York City.

Today, Doris is a proud member of the Puerto Rican Institute for the Development of the Arts (PRIDA). She is also the current President of the Riverdale Art Association.

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www.DorisCordero.com



Nuestro Café (2019)
Silkscreen, 12x15

IN MEMORIAM



Diego Castellanos was one of Comité Noviembre's loyal and faithful trip participants from the very first trip in 2007 to 2019 he never missed one! His knowledge of Puerto Rican history and culture was amazing, insightful and added to the educational trip experience. We will always remember our "Mr. Rogers," with his Puerto Rican guayabera instead of cardigan sweater, with much admiration and gratitude.

Diego Castellanos was born in Guayama, Puerto Rico in 1933 and started his broadcasting career in 1954. Spending the majority of his life in the Delaware Valley, Castellanos got his start in broadcasting by hosting a Spanish-language radio show for 1310 WCAM in Camden, New Jersey. Castellanos received his training in journalism at Milwaukee's Marquette University. He earned his master's degree from Montclair State University, and later his doctorate in Education from Fairleigh Dickinson University thereafter.

Within Philly's Puerto Rican community, Castellanos addressed the needs of the community with the help of his media platforms. Castellanos' program Puerto Rican Panorama ran for nearly 50 years, spanning between 1970 and 2018. The program's conclusion coincided with Castellanos' retirement. With the program, Panorama became the longest-running English-language television program in the world to focus on Latin American and Hispanic cultures. The community leader and broadcaster was also a pilot, author,

musician, activist, academic, teacher, producer, director, father, and husband. Castellanos was the host of Philly's Puerto Rican Day Parade. He authored *The Best of Two Worlds*, and served as a commissioned officer in the New Jersey National Guard, where he learned to fly. In 2002, he was inducted into the Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia Hall of Fame. Castellanos passed away in May 2022.



On Comité Noviembre's first humanitarian trip to Puerto Rico in December of 2017, Jimmie Morales was with us doing parrandas and as altos to the places we were bringing food and aid to its residents. Jimmie with his energy, compassion and love of people and music brought happiness to a otherwise devastated community. You will never be forgotten! Gracias!

Jimmie Morales was one of Puerto Rico's most prolific percussionists. Highly respected as a live performer as well as a studio musician, Morales had a long and celebrated association with Gilberto Santa Rosa. He appeared on more than 250 recordings, primarily as a conguero. His signature sound was a defined slap — known by players as golpe seco (dry stroke) — that's is used to keep time within the repetitive patterns known as tumbaos. Because of this trademark, he became known by a nickname, "Mr. Slap."

Morales first came to public attention with the orchestra of famed bandleader and timbale player Willie Rosario, where he spent eight years performing all over Latin America and stateside. Rosario had a reputation for a rhythm section that ran like a well-oiled machine. With Morales in the conga chair, the orchestra achieved great success on albums now considered classics, like *From the Depth of My Brain*, *El Rey Del Ritmo*, and *Nuevos Horizontes*.

Morales worked locally — with vocalist Tito Allen, Beto Tirado's *la Predilecta* and others — while studying to become an orthopedic technician. Then bassist Edwin Morales, the leader of *Mulenze*, asked him to record a conga track for the tune "No Hay Manera Filomena." Three others had failed before him, and his performance opened the door to eventually become the most sought-after conguero on the island. Morales also brought a rhythmic intensity that was the perfect match for Rosario's disciplined sense of tempo. To this the orchestra would eventually add two singers who would become salsa icons: Tony Vega and Gilberto Santa Rosa.

As Jimmie's reputation increased, he was asked to contribute to other artists' productions. His technical studies with David "La Mole" Ortiz, and his growth as a sight-reading musician, further enhanced his unique gift to serve the music. Mr. Slap would soon find himself working with almost every salsa vocalist of note: Pellín Rodríguez, Andy Montañez, Frankie Ruiz, Eddie Santiago, Ismael Miranda, Oscar D'León, Marc Anthony and more. In 1986, Morales left the Willie Rosario Orchestra to join "The Gentleman of Salsa," Gilberto Santa Rosa, with his own band. Santa Rosa would rise to become the most important vocalist in salsa, selling out performances at Carnegie Hall and establishing a global gold standard for production in the studio and live performance. Morales was a core collaborator: their musical relationship lasted up until his death in March 2021.

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IN MEMORIAM

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Morales was associated with the Latin Percussion and Remo brands, designing his own line of Remo congas. He did the same for TOCA Percussion, traveling worldwide as a clinician. When Jimmy Morales' name is mentioned in musician circles, his work ethic, professionalism, and musicality are always implicit. But the quality treasured most by those close to him is his humility and gratitude. He is survived by his wife, Noemi, and a daughter, Amanda Nahir.

"The people of Vieques and the Puerto Rican nation, in the archipelago and in the diaspora, with help from thousands of people throughout the world, peace-loving people, without firing a single shot, defeated the most powerful military force in history." Robert Rabin

Comité Noviembre is honored to have known such a fierce warrior. For over 40 years he fought for the removal of the U.S. Navy from Vieques, then for the clean-up of toxic waste left by the military exercises and always for the health, environmental, and social justice rights of the residents of Vieques. Comité Noviembre worked from the Diaspora with Robert to bring light to this situation and will never forget the trips to Camp Garcia and the Museum of Historical Memory of Vieques. But over 10 years later the struggle for quality healthcare, environmental protections and cleanup continues. As

members of the Diaspora we must honor Robert Rabin's legacy by never forgetting and helping Vieques when they call upon us to act!

Robert Rabin was a founding member of Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques and the preeminent leader in the struggle to remove the U.S. Navy from Vieques. He was one of the organizers of the Justice and Peace camp for Vieques and was one of those who blocked the entrance to the military base at Camp Garcia. Rabin went to Vieques, Puerto Rico, from Boston in 1980, with the idea of spending only three weeks on the island municipality, but he never returned to the United States again. He spent six months in prison for participating in the mass civil disobedience campaign that helped pressure the U.S. Navy to end its bombing exercises in Vieques, a separate island eight miles east of Puerto Rico and a municipality of the commonwealth.

He served for more than three decades as coordinator of the Fuerte Conde de Mirasol Museum. He was also the founder of the Historical Archive of Puerto Rico and the Museum of Historical Memory of Vieques. Earlier this year the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture paid tribute to Rabin by dedicating a room to him in life in the Fuerte Conde de Mirasol Museum, which he loved. In December 2020, the University of Massachusetts, his alma mater, conferred to him an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Nancy Segarra was a volunteer for Comité Noviembre for over 5 years. She was instrumental in the planning of the annual National Puerto Rican Day Parade Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The word "NO" or "It can't be done," did not exist in Nancy Segarra's vocabulary. If you needed help, she was always there to say presente! And most importantly she did not ask for anything on return. She just humbly did what was needed to be done for her community. For the past 15 years she was a volunteer with the National Puerto Rican Day Parade doing various tasks. She was a veteran volunteer and many of the younger helpers



including her children looked to her for direction and guidance.

For 18 years, Nancy took great pride in the work she did at St. John Chrysostom's Church in the Bronx. She was a religious instruction teacher, Eucharistic minister, lector and a coordinator of the church's annual street fair. Nancy took these responsibilities seriously and by her actions and example truly showed her family, friends, and community the true meaning of giving back and doing God's work.

At Lincoln Hospital where she worked, she organized and hosted special events for the community including for Hispanic Heritage Month and the Diwali Hindu Festival of Lights Celebration and the annual Toy give away during Christmas. Nancy passed away on October 14, 2022.

Hector "Tito" Matos, a master of Puerto Rico's indigenous music forms, bomba and plena, died on Jan. 18, at his home in the city of Santurce, Puerto Rico. He was 53.

As cofounder of the band Viento De Agua, Matos helped modernize the bomba and plena traditions with the addition of trap drums and keyboards; elements of funk, rock and jazz harmony; and arranging techniques that have influenced every subsequent group in the styles today.

A virtuoso percussionist, vocalist, composer, and bandleader, Matos was also a committed educator who was passionate in his preservation and propagation of the island's African-rooted music forms, es-

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Teresa A. Santiago
President & CEO
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Salutes

Comité Noviembre
On its Thirty-Sixth
Anniversary

&

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Lo Mejor de Nuestra
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&

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IN MEMORIAM

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pecially plena. Whereas bomba is rooted in Bantú Congolese rhythms played on barrel drums covered with goat skin, accompanied by a large maraca and two sticks known as the *cuá* striking any wood surface, the plena is a separate art form with its own history and rhythmic language.

Matos was acknowledged as the premier requinto player (the pandereta that improvises) of his day, both on the island and in the diaspora community of New York City, while also simultaneously being able to sing the lead voice. He first came to prominence in 1997 with *Viento de Agua* (Wind of Water), the group he formed with saxophonist-arrangers Ricardo Pons and Alberto Toro.

The group's debut release, *De Puerto Rico al Mundo*, showcased the forward-thinking approach of its co-leaders, with Matos at its heart and soul as chief vocalist and requinto player. The New York Times listed it as one of the Top 10 CDs in World Music for 1998. The formation of the group itself wasn't born in a vacuum. Said Matos: "We drew a lot of inspiration from two albums that Rafael Cortijo recorded, *El Sueño Del Maestro* and *Cortijo's Machina Del Tiempo*." Both works pointed to a 21st vision of what bomba and plena could become.

At eight years old his maternal grandfather, changed his life, presenting him with his first pandereta as a Three Kings Day gift. By 16, Matos had begun also singing while being able to simultaneously play the requinto. He began playing professionally with five groups — Los Pleneros Del Almendro, Pleneros Del Pueblo, Sapos Del Caño, Pleneros Del Coqui, and Pleneros De La 23 Abajo. But he crossed a Rubicon with his move to New York City in 1993, to study engineering at New York University, and later at City College. Soon after arriving in New York he began playing with Los Pleneros De La 21."

Subsequent work and recordings with his other groups, La Machina Insular and Viento De Aqua Unplugged, as well as luminaries like Eddie Palmieri, Ricky Martin, David Sánchez and others, cemented his reputation. But his work with Puerto Rican saxophonist Miguel Zenón on the critically acclaimed 2009 album *Esta Plena* displayed his virtuosity in full force as both a percussionist and vocalist. So much so that current students of the genre have begun transcribing his solos.

Comité Noviembre also remembers the following great Puerto Ricans that transitioned this year: Efrén Arroyo Broadcast journalist, TV & radio newscaster; Juan "Johnny" Ramón Báez, Elite Basketball Player; Dora Pizzi Campos, Entertainment journalist; Myrna de Casenave, Actress, comedian, TV, film producer; Muñeca Géigel, Author, columnist, motivational speaker; Paquito (Frank) Guzmán Géigel, Internationally renowned salsa Singer; Norberto González, Entrepreneur and bookstore owner; Anita Lallande, Olympic swimmer; Hiram Maristany, Photo-journalist & documentarian; Iluminado Dávila Medina, Legendary Cuatro Player; and, José Morales, Promoter of independent, Puerto Rican art & culture.



CONGRATULATES

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At its 26th Anniversary Gala

Celebrating 36 years of Puerto Rican Culture, History
and contributions to this City, State and Nation

We also commend the ***Honorees*** and the
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COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE

36th Anniversary

mes de la herencia puertorriqueña



17TH NATIONAL PUERTO RICAN ARTISANS FAIR & BOOK EXPO

Vejigante Mask by: Migdalia Galarza. Graphics by: Rigel Vélez & Luis Cordero Santoni. Photos by: Edwin Pagan

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2022

Proof of COVID-19 vaccination, social distancing, and masks required

Join us for the workshop on "A Call to Action for the Puerto Rican Diaspora" (11-12:30pm)

In-Person at Hostos Community College (12-6PM)

For more information contact info@prida.org

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COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE

Twenty-Sixth Annual Benefit Dinner

*Celebrating 36 years of
Puerto Rican Culture & Heritage*

**2022 Puerto Rican Heritage
Nuestro Orgullo Award**

Honorees

Ignacio Cortés Gelpi, President, Chocolate Cortés

Barbara Herr, LGBTQ+ Leader & Activist

Elizabeth Velez, President, Velez Organization

Friday, November 18, 2022

The Water Club

500 East 30th Street, New York City

6PM Cocktail Reception 7PM Dinner 6PM – 9PM Silent Auction

Make reservations by November 7, 2022. Guest attending this event must be fully vaccinated.

Proof of vaccine and ID will be required

The proceeds from this event goes towards Comité Noviembre scholarship & youth leadership development programs as well as our continued work in Puerto Rico.

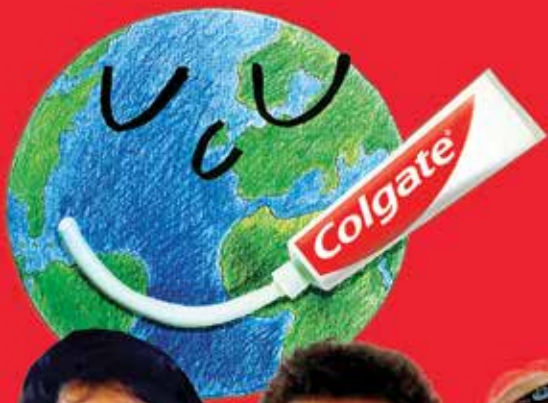
For more information or to make a reservation please contact:

Teresa A, Santiago, CN Chair @ tascommunicationsllc@gmail.com or 914 263-6599 or Angel

Santini Palos, Benefit Chair @ angelsantinipalos@gmail.com or 646 477-0659

Invitation artwork: Amarilis II, 2017, Watercolor, 17X14

by Doris Cordero, www.doriscordero.com, www.instagram.com/doriscorderoart/



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