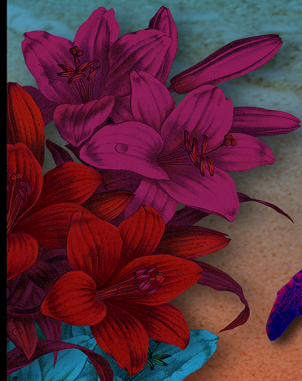
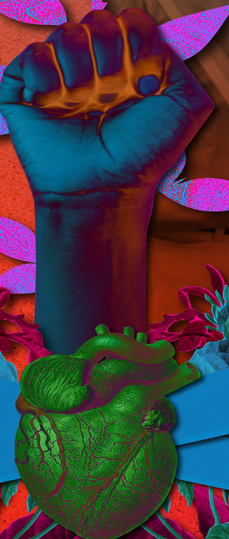
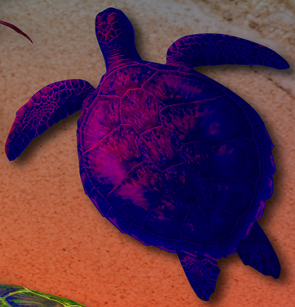
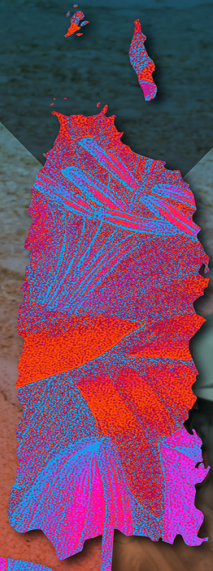
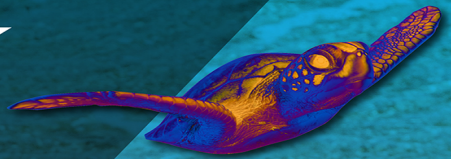


**¡PUERTO RICO NO SE VENDE...
SE AMA, SE PROTEGE Y SE DEFIENDE!**



**PUERTO RICO IS NOT FOR SALE...
ITS LOVED, PROTECTED, AND DEFENDED!**

PUERTO RICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2023

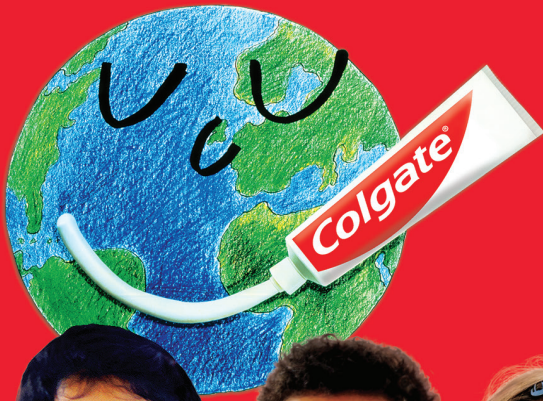
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NOVIEMBRE 2023
37th Anniversary

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COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE

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NOVIEMBRE 2023
37th Anniversary

MESSAGE ON BEHALF OF COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE

As we commemorate our thirty-seventh year of celebrating, promoting, educating, and acknowledging Puerto Rican culture, history and people and the outstanding contributions and impact on this nation and world, we ask, “Where is the respect?”

Where is the respect for the Puerto Rican men and women who have fought for this country and now in need of SSI assistance, and cannot receive? Where is the respect for the 4 million American citizens that live on the island and are leaving because they cannot afford to live in the home of their birth anymore? Properties and lands are being sold to developers, bitcoin billionaires, and people that are buying million dollars homes in cash and giving no real opportunity to Puerto Ricans to purchase. Where is the Respect for our national treasures, our natural resources, our beaches, forests, protected environmental, and indigenous lands? Respect is earned and Puerto Ricans here in the Diaspora and on the mainland unequivocally deserve it!

Our theme this year, “*Puerto Rico no se vende, se ama se protege y se defiende... Puerto Rico is not for sale. It is loved, protected, and defended,*” continues to be a call to action for all Puerto Ricans, and the Diaspora specifically who have the power to affect change by their vote!

Comité Noviembre’s annual educational and humanitarian trips to Puerto Rico have demonstrated clearly to us the poverty that exists on the island. According to the US Census, 41.7% of people, including 57.6% of children, live in poverty. These statistics are conservative according to Puerto Rican anti-poverty activists. In addition, this is nearly four times the US rate and Puerto Rican workers are getting deeper in poverty even while unemployment falls.

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.

The year 2023 has been a year of growth and expansion for Comité Noviembre all due to the strong partnerships and collaborations between the Puerto Rican Institute for the Development of the Arts, (PRIDA), the White Plains Puerto Rican Cultural Committee, and other cultural and social service organizations like ArtsWestchester, The White Plains Public Library, and others. By pooling our organizational resources, Comité Noviembre has expanded into Westchester County specifically Yonkers, White Plains, and the Lower Hudson Valley of New York bringing art exhibits, artisan fairs and promoting the Puerto Rican artists in these areas.

This 37th anniversary journal includes articles on the proposed selling of our beaches and protected environmental areas, highlights of our annual programs, the Dr. Antonia Patonja Centennial Celebration and the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women’s 50th Anniversary Celebration. On a lighter note, our section: “¿No me crees a mi... ¡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.

As always, the journal includes the inspiring stories of our 7 Lo Mejor de Nuestra Comunidad Award recipients, the profiles of our 18 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 17, 2023, 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 Isabel Abislaimán, Esq., Attorney at Law. Law Office of Isabel Abislaimán, San Juan, PR, Dr. Mildred Garcia, Chancellor, California State University. Ivan Enrique Rodriguez, Composer, Conductor & Comité Noviembre Ernesto Malave Scholar, and Belkis Moya, Pastor, Casa Amor, Fe y Esperanza. The Alma y Corazón Award will be awarded to Wallace Edgecombe, Arts Activist & Retired Director



of the Hostos Center for the Performing Arts. The National Puerto Rican Artisans Fair and Book Expo promises to be bigger than ever returning home to Hostos Community College on Saturday, November 18th.

Our commitment to feed the hungry will continue with our Day of Community Service on Sunday, November 19th. Additionally, Comité Noviembre continued its humanitarian work in Puerto Rico that we began in 2017. With donations from Ponce Bank and DC 37 Retirees Association, grants and donations were awarded this year to nonprofit organizations.

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 Cultura Nacional para la 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, and our members at large that are the backbone of this organization: Angel Santini Palos, Sandy Figueroa, Elba Cabrera, Suleika Cabrera Drinane, Lisa Rodriguez, Anita Rodriguez, María Román Dumén, Maria Diaz Santiago, Martha Laureano, Nydia Edgecombe and David Galarza.

Our running theme for the last few years has been, “Enough of the rhetoric. Unite and take action! Our past and recent victories have demonstrated that when all Puerto Ricans, regardless of economic status, religious or political affiliation, have stood strong, they are unwavering in their mission. As part of the Puerto Rican Diaspora, we need to love, protect, and defend Puerto Rico. Let this be our motto and battle cry going forward: *Nuestra patria no se vende. ¡Se ama, se protege y se defiende!*

For Comité Noviembre

Teresa A. Santiago, Chairwoman

POSTER ARTIST GARVIN SIERRA



Born in Ponce, Puerto Rico in 1977. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a concentration in Sculpture and Graphic Arts from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus. During his formative years, he worked as an assistant to prominent sculptors such as Ramón Berríos and Soucy de Perellano. Parallel to his work as a plastic artist, Sierra Vega currently works as a freelance graphic designer, exhibition designer, and set designer. His work has been exhibited internationally in countries such as Argentina, Colombia, Japan, Slovenia, Mexico, Portugal and the United States, among other places. He is part of a prestigious private and institutional collections at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Puerto Rico (MAC), Museum of Art of Puerto Rico (MAPR) and the Museum of History and Anthropology of the University of Puerto Rico (MHAA). His artistic production has been reviewed in important publications on Puerto Rican art that include: “Interconnections, curatorial readings of the MAPR collection”, “Careos/relays: 25 years of the museum of contemporary art of Puerto Rico,” and “Frescoes: 50 Puerto Rican artists under 35 years old.” He also designed the scenery of the play Maestro II. Some of the distinctions of which he has been deserving include: First Prize Poster for Return 1903-2003, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus and Honorable Mention in the Contest of Plastic Arts of the Puerto Rican Athenaeum (both in 2001); First Prize for Design Bombay Sapphire Cup (2003); First Collective Prize of Puerto Rican Artists 26th Biennial of Graphics, Ljubljana, Slovenia (2005) and Honorable Mention Young Art Contest Oriental Group (2009).

Photography: Rafael Collazo @rafacollazofoto
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Puerto Rico has 125 years of constant struggle and resistance against the colonial government of the United States. This established oppression is what leads me as an artist to capture the injustices and impositions of our country from a plastic aspect. This poster represents to some extent Puerto Rico in struggle for a better health system, for a decent education, in opposition to the sale of our beaches, in opposition to displacement, where we demand equity for all communities, where no more gender violence is demanded and above all the freedom of our country.

Long live the resistance!
Long live Puerto Rico Free!

Garvin Sierra Vega

Puerto Rico lleva 125 años de constante lucha y resistencia ante el gobierno colonial de los Estados Unidos. Dicha opresión establecida es la que me lleva como artista a plasmar las injusticias e imposiciones de nuestro país desde un aspecto plástico. Este cartel representa en cierta medida a Puerto Rico en lucha por un mejor sistema de salud, por una educación digna, en oposición a la venta de nuestras playas, en oposición a los desplazamientos, donde exigimos equidad para todas las comunidades, donde se exige no más violencia de género y sobre todo la libertad de nuestro país.

¡Que viva la resistencia!
¡Viva Puerto Rico Libre!

Garvin Sierra Vega

COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE

37th Anniversary

més 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 of 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
2. The Bello Family Scholarship
3. The Cordero Family Scholarship for Journalism
4. The Cabrera Drinane Family Scholarship
5. The Carlos R. Fernandez Scholarship for Music
6. The Figueroa Sisters Scholarship
7. The Figueroa Family Scholarship
8. The Santiago Carrasquillo Family Scholarship
9. The Thorve Family Scholarship
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 Rican Artisans Fair
- Puerto Rican Authors Book Expo
- Puerto Rican Institute for the Development of the Arts (PRIDA)
- 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
- Annual Artist competition
- Commemorative Poster
- 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

COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE YEAR IN REVIEW

**Celebrating & Giving Back to the Community on the Feast of the Three Kings
January 6th.**



On Friday, January 6, 2023, Dia de Reyes, Comité Noviembre's 3 Kings, Board member Raesha Cartagena, Julio Santiago, husband of Board Member Evelyn Santiago, and Comité Noviembre's Chair Teresa A. Santiago delivered winter weather items to 18 refugee families at Taller Boricua in Manhattan. Comité Noviembre adopted families from Venezuela, Afghanistan, and Ukraine provided by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York. A fundraiser conducted on Constant Contact raised a little over \$5000, which helped Comité Noviembre purchase the items needed. A special thanks to Bronx Care Health System which co-sponsored the event. Fifty-eight individuals in total, including children and grandparents, were gifted the items requested including coats, boots, sweaters, hats, gloves, scarves, socks, and other items.



After Taller Boricua the Three Kings traveled to Acacia's Carmen's Residence in the Bronx and delivered 203 toys to the children living in this homeless shelter. A total of 82 families received gifts which included children and young adults. Fifty-two percent of the families are headed by Latinas and 17% of the families have a history of domestic violence. The celebration continued on Saturday, January 7, 2023, when the kings traveled to the White Plains Library in White Plains New York to deliver over 50 additional toys to children.



The Three Kings Celebration at White Plains Library included a crown-making workshop, a storytelling time and a reading of Militeri Tucker Conception's book Bomba Puertorriquena, and a bomba dance lesson. Participants were treated to the traditional bizcocho rosca de reyes and other goodies.

COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE YEAR IN REVIEW

Comité Noviembre & Ponce Bank, Siempre Con La Comunidad Humanitarian Trip to Puerto Rico Tuesday, March 14, 2023 – Monday March 20, 2023



Comité Noviembre received a \$25,000 donation from Ponce Bank, el banco siempre en la comunidad, to deliver much-needed assistance directly to non-profits at the grassroots level, that are still struggling in the aftermath of Hurricane Fiona on March 14th to 20th, 2023. Comité Noviembre selected nonprofit organizations that are working with the island’s most vulnerable elderly, children, and individuals with health issues. With this contribution, Comité Noviembre and Ponce Bank was able to deliver donations to institutions in Arecibo, Ponce, Mayaguez, Guánica, and other towns on the west coast of the island. Donations ranged from beds, mattresses, air conditioners, fans, refrigerators, stoves, microwaves, to wheelchairs, toiletries, adult diapers and bags of food to the following nonprofit

organizations Acción Social de Puerto Rico, Inc. in Arecibo, Esperanza Para La Vejez, Inc. in Ponce, Asociación Mayagüezana de Personas con Impedimentos Inc. (AMPI), Casa Amor, Fe y Esperanza, Mezcolanza Inc., and Nuestra Familia LBTTT de Puerto Rico.

Comité Noviembre Puerto Rican Women Legacy, March 28, 2023

The National Conference of Puerto Rican Women received the Comité Noviembre Puerto Rican Women Legacy Award in commemoration of its 50th Anniversary.

COMITE NOVIEMBRE

In celebration of Women's History Month
is reinstating its
Puerto Rican Women Legacy Award

at a reception in honor of the
National Conference of Puerto Rican Women
50th Anniversary

Tuesday, March 28, 2023, 6PM

**El Barrio's Artspace PS109
Black Box Theater**
215 East 99th Street, New York City

Please RSVP by 3/22/23 by emailing
tascommunicationslc@gmail.com

You are also invited to view El Barrio Artspace 3rd Annual
WOMEN CELEBRATE WOMEN EXHIBITION
Showcasing over 75 women artist from New York

In partnership with Puerto Rican Institute for the Development of the Arts,
(PRIDA), and El Barrio Artspace

Artwork by Lynn Artesona, _Lartesonas@gmail.com

ART Exhibition

The Puerto Rican Community Through
Arts and Culture Art Exhibition

Featuring Art by:
Lynn Artesona, Joe Conzo, Jr.,
Luis Cordero Santoni, Ricky Flores,
David González, Milagros Lecuona,
Vivian Lopez-Dennis,
Sara Morales, Mercedes Morgado,
Felipe Rangel, José Ramón
Quiñones, Julio Rodríguez

Curated by: Elsie Deliz

ARTSW 31 Mamaroneck Avenue
ARTSWESTCHESTER White Plains, New York, 10601

Dates: May 3, 2023 to June 9, 2023
Reception: Thursday, May 4th 6 PM - 9 PM
Gallery Hours: Wed-Fri, Sun | 12-5pm Sun. | 12-6PM

Presented by: [Logos for Arts Westchester, Comité Noviembre, and Puerto Rican Institute for the Development of the Arts]

We are pleased to present the first Puerto Rican ARTSW art exhibition at ArtsWestchester

May 4, 2023 – June 9, 2023

The exhibit, “The Puerto Rican Community Through Arts & Culture,” curated by Puerto Rican Mix Media Artist, Elsie Deliz, was a partnership between the White Plains Puerto Rican Cultural Committee, the Puerto Rican Institute for the Development of the Arts, (PRIDA), and Comité Noviembre. This collaboration was the first for Arts Westchester and Puerto Rican artists. Over 100 people attended the opening reception where many of the participating artists spoke about their pieces.

COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE YEAR IN REVIEW



National Puerto Rican Day Parade 66th Anniversary Mass Sunday June 4, 2023, at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan. Comité Noviembre coordinates the Mass each year.

Comité Noviembre participates in the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, Sunday June 11, 2023

Comité Noviembre was proud and honored to have Maestro Antonio Martorell Cardona, National Medal of Arts recipient lead its contingent at the National Puerto Rican Day Parade. 150 marchers strong, Bombazo Dance Group, and a 50-person marching band from Cardinal Spellman High School rounded off Comité Noviembre's participation.



18th Educational, Cultural & Humanitarian Trip to Puerto Rico BUSCANDO NUESTRAS RAÍCES Wednesday, August 2, 2023 - Wednesday, August 9, 2023



This year over 30 people volunteered their time, energy, and money to make this trip a success and through our recent trips to Puerto Rico, we found, that food insecurity and basic human needs assistance for the elderly population is greatly needed. So, this year, trip participants conducted volunteer service at Centro Envejecientes Luisa Guadalupe in Vieques, El Mesón del Amor in Rio Piedras, and Fundacion Unidos Para Servir in Manati. Comité Noviembre also presented grants to 8 nonprofits that work with the elderly, feed the hungry, and provide other social services. The grant were made possible by DC 37 Retirees Association.

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.

David Aviles

Social Media Influencer

David Aviles is the founder & president of one of the fastest growing social media and networking group called “Puerto Rican Flags Up”. He has a following of over 39,000 members throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. His vision is to bridge and connect the Boricuas in the Diaspora back to the motherland of Puerto Rico through cultural awareness and education.

In 2015, David volunteered to serve as a member of the American Diabetes Latino Initiatives Committee in New York.

Through the conviction of his character, he brought excellent skills as the program director of a Youth Program when he accepted to volunteer as the Chair of the Youth Sub-Committee for the American Diabetes Association. He created community activities and established leadership initiatives to keep our youth engaged.



Even though Mr. Aviles was diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes, and there were times that he would find himself very ill, he never stopped his commitment to advocate for the Puerto Rican community. Through his social media platform, Puerto Rican Flags Up, he made a commitment to form a team to support the Step Out Walk. He has supported many walks, as well as played an active role in the Community Health Strategies Program of the American Diabetes Association.

Mr. Aviles continues to be an active volunteer in the community advocating and empowering others by strengthening organizations through cultural awareness.

Most recently, he has volunteered to serve on the board of “La Patria”, a grass-roots organization that addresses displacement and aims to improve the quality of life of underserved Puerto Rican communities on the island.

DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD

Celebrando lo Mejor

Awilda Cordero

Activist and Community Leader



Awilda Cordero is a lifetime activist, volunteer, and community leader in the South Bronx. She learned from personal experience about the obstacles faced by families in need of services. She became a family advocate very early in life championing causes like educational rights for children of color, housing, and other community issues for her immediate family and neighbors.

Ms. Cordero is a South Bronx native who has worked as a teacher's aide, a private investigator and a state legislator's assistant. Ms. Cordero has transformed herself over into one of the city's most visible and vocal advocates for immigrant victims.

Ms. Cordero has been a consistent presence at New York City's worst tragedies. From the fire on Woodycrest Avenue, to helping the family of Nixzmary Brown, the 7-year-old Brooklyn girl allegedly beaten to death by her stepfather, to collecting food, water, clothing, toiletries for people in need in the community. Her compassion and understanding of her community's pain makes her a hero. Awilda does all of this as a volunteer.

All of her community volunteer work and employments led her to establish in 1999, Emergency Rights, Inc., a non-profit business dedicated to helping those in need in the Mott Haven area of the Bronx. Emergency Rights, Inc. acts as an agent to inform residents of the many private and government resources available to them. Emergency Rights also helps people overcome the hurdles, fears, and misinformation about these public services. Staff and volunteers have helped resolve critical issues such as aiding fire victims, helping people who suffer from lead poisoning obtain medical care, and advocating for victims of crime and abuse. Emergency Rights has helped homeless residents, victims of fire, domestic violence, crime, and natural disasters.

Ms. Cordero, true to her strength and character, has always kept a volunteer service component through her company.



Her volunteer work includes conducting drives to collect and distribute food, water, clothing, toiletries, first aid items and basic human needs products for survivors of natural disasters, fires, domestic violence, crimes as well as the homeless in New York, Puerto Rico and wherever there is a need.

Ms. Cordero's legacy are the many people she has served. She has made a difference in their lives in very critical and tragic situations.

DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD

Celebrando lo Mejor

Jeannette Echeverri | Community Advocate and Trailblazer

As an APREE member since 2013, Jeannette Echeverri has voluntarily taken on a multitude of tasks in the organization, including serving as the organization's formal secretary for the past four years. She has utilized her technological skills to help the organization set up online telecommunications for weekly and monthly meetings, assisting in designing APREE's website, and participating very actively in the Education Advocacy Committee. In addition, she has contributed her time and efforts to activities and projects such as the 50th Anniversary Gala of the Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Department of Brooklyn College and the Brooklyn College Encuentro movie festival. She has also presented and promoted APREE's documentary "Making the Impossible Possible" to other groups and educational institutions. Moreover, she has represented APREE at the New York State Bilingual Education Conference and the New York State Legislative Conference.

Besides her many roles in APREE, Ms. Echeverri has been a member of activist organizations such as Latina Leadership, the New York State Association of Latino Administrators and Supervisors, Black Educators United, and United Volunteers for the Community. Her volunteer work in these key community organizations, alongside school and community-based stakeholders, has helped to keep her abreast of the most important topics, issues, and controversies faced in the Latino and Black communities. Within these groups, she has always maintained the needs of Puerto Rican youth at the forefront. It is often challenging to strive to promote the changes needed in the public school system and universities to integrate culturally sound and responsive instructional practices and policies affecting all children and youth. However, Ms. Echeverri is dedicated and passionate about giving the next generation the education and skills they need to be successful. She is a strong proponent of community engagement and provides firsthand information to make the necessary recommendations for our community. She has even undertaken projects such as working with the Participatory Budget Campaign in her community to join forces in supporting candidates that represent who we are and what we need.

Beyond her daily classroom duties, she has often volunteered to serve on various committees in her school to meet the needs of approximately 1,200 students. In addition, Ms. Echeverri has voluntarily presented multiple workshops to parents, teachers, and administration in and outside of her school on various topics. As part of her training with the Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility, she has been able to further promote and strengthen students' social and emotional skills and set up processes and tools to create more caring school communities. She has most recently acquired the administrative position of Assistant Principal for the New York City Department of Education at a Title I school as a result of her perseverance and desire to continue making a difference within her community. It is evident that navigating through a myriad of challenges and experiences has provided her with insight into becoming a stronger leader.

Currently, Ms. Echeverri is also empowering adult English language learners in the evenings in her neighborhood. While helping multi-level participants develop their English skills, she shares resources and assists them with information to meet their needs. She loves teaching English, yet building community among her students is more important. She constantly challenges herself to find innovative ways to improve their language acquisition via topics that will engage her students in participatory discussions about controversial topics such as race, politics, and school policies.



DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD

Celebrando Lo Mejor

Angel Luis Laboy

Award Winning Author



Angel Luis Laboy's passion for community engagement resulted in the creation of the Literary Collective Homoerótica in 2009 which fostered creative expression and inclusivity in our communities. In 2010, he established Erizo Press, a platform dedicated to promoting Hispanic-American voices in publications. In 2013, he founded the choral ensemble Aequitas Voces Oscuras, which celebrates Puerto Rican cultural heritage through music.

In 2015, during his time as a director of the Visual Arts Program of the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, he volunteered his time to promote Puerto Rican artistic talent creating a vibrant community through enrichment initiatives aimed at celebrating Puerto Rican culture.

From 2020 to 2022, he volunteered to work closely with the Evelina 100 committee culminating in a successful Evelina Antonetty's week-long centennial celebration.

In the Fall of 2022, he spearheaded efforts to celebrate the Tito Puente centennial celebration sponsored by the Center for Puerto Rican Studies/Hunter and Hostos Community College.

Angel Luis is an award winning writer, professor, editor and cultural administrator with more than 10 yrs of experience. Ángel Antonio has a degree in Comparative Literature from the University of Puerto Rico and an MFA from NYU. As Associate Director of Arts and Culture at CENTRO, he oversees the integration of arts to CENTRO's programming as well as the creation and acquisition of new cultural contents and programs.

DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD

Celebrando lo Mejor

Dr. Emily Lopez

Activist and Educator

Dr. Lopez has been a community activist, educator, and learner for over 38 years. She applies a multifaceted advocacy and leadership development approach to elevate community voice in her various roles.

As an Adjunct Professor at the City University of New York (CUNY), she taught Puerto Rican/Latino History in the United States and community organizing. In addition to her work in academia, she offers her leadership as Senior Director for Community Leadership Development at Graham Windham. At Graham Windham, she is responsible for an initiative that seeks to co-create and build community leadership through an appreciative inquiry lens. She is the Co-Founder and Board Co-Chair of Casa Atabex Aché (CASA), a nonprofit alternative healing organization created for Women of Color in the South Bronx.

Her work led her to obtain her doctoral degree. Before admission into the doctoral program, she inquired about the underrepresentation of Puerto Rican women in senior leadership within New York City nonprofit organizations. When she returned to academia, she soon learned that understanding the barriers and driving forces that Puerto Rican women face would help her delve deeper into their lived experiences. She is now working to organize a group that will help her write about and uplift the voices of Puerto Rican women Executive Directors/CEOs. The gathering includes women who began the storefront organizations during President Lyndon B. Johnson's "war on poverty" and those who keep these historical institutions thriving today.

The women who participated in the study asked Dr. Lopez not to forget them and called her to action. She has taken on the challenge. She called on other Boricua healers and life coaches to help facilitate this gathering. The Boricua women in senior leadership who attend are encouraged to co-create a safe space that builds connection and elevates their lived experience as leaders and mujeres poderosas in New York City.



DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD

Celebrando lo Mejor

The Brothers

Entrepreneurs and Media Influencers

The Ramirez Brothers: Anthony, Paul, and Derick

Since founding their company, From The Bronx, ten years ago, they have consistently developed their business ventures ensuring that they contribute to the economic development of their community by engaging in volunteer work with the local workforce and by sharing their resources to the fullest extent possible. Within their busy schedule, they find time to do volunteer work by offering talks, workshops, and seminars for young entrepreneurs who intend on starting locally focused and sourced businesses. Their knowledge, experience, and example have served as an inspiration to many.

The Ramirez Brothers have volunteered their services to the youth by working in projects and initiatives of organizations such as the Women's Housing and Economic Development Corp. (WHEDco), the Bronx Children's Museum, The Bronx Defenders, The Institute for Family Health, The Bronx Historical Society, Friends of Van Cortland Park, Bronx-Net, The Evelina 100 Committee, and the Point CDC.

In the process, Anthony, Paul, and Derick have shared with new, young entrepreneurial people in the community, their ingenious approach to business development based on "pop-up shops" or short-term retail spaces in landmark Bronx locations. The pop-ups serve to create a market for new products and services, while promoting community and Puerto Rican pride, and a positive business development environment.

As young entrepreneurs and through their volunteer work, the Ramirez Brothers have worked tirelessly to create a vibrant and positive image of The Bronx through their many initiatives aimed at celebrating Puerto Rican arts, culture, and history. In 2022, they made invaluable contributions of financial support and volunteer work to Evelina 100 (E100), the centennial celebration of the great Puerto Rican activist Dr. Evelina Antonnetty, founder of United Bronx Parents, Inc. Their company produced and marketed T-shirts and other promotional materials at no cost, which served to promote the E100 celebration while raising much needed operational funds. The brothers engaged their community friends and family members in the effort. They even enlisted their father to assist with promotion to raise funds for the E100 celebration. When asked what motivates them, the brothers responded, "This is what we do (volunteer work). It's what moves us. It's not all about the bottom line."



DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD

Celebrando lo Mejor

Iris Janette Soto

Advocate for Families With Disabled Children

Iris Janette Soto is a fierce advocate for disabled children. Iris has a daughter with Cerebral Palsy and had to navigate through an educational system that many times does not accommodate children with disabilities, to receive the services they need and deserve. Iris turned this personal challenge into a crusade to help other families receive the educational resources for their children with disabilities. She has held forums for parents with disabled children to empower them, bring awareness of available resources, and provide moral support.

In 2003, Iris established The Irida Rosa Abilities Awards to recognize disabled students who overcame adversity and were able to graduate and succeed. The award has recognized over seventy students in two Bronx schools totaling over \$18,000 in scholarships.

In 2013, Iris recruited and established her Soldados de Iris, Iris' Soldiers, to do volunteer work at the Casa Ronald McDonald of San Juan, Puerto Rico. Iris has brought volunteers to Ronald McDonald Houses in Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Florida. This is her way of paying it forward and honoring the people that helped her when her daughter was a recipient of the Ronald McDonald services in N.Y. In addition, she has raised money for the Special Olympics as a member of the Polar Bear Plunge. As a member she jumps into the icy cold waters of the Long Island Sound to raise funds. In 2016, she established the YES YOU CAN GALA that raises money for college scholarships for a disabled student.

A fire to her family home in 2013 left her family displaced for nine-months. During this time, Iris experienced an awakening. With a profound sense of gratitude, she followed her calling to explore other parts of the world and volunteer her skills to benefit people in need. Iris has done work in Thailand, India, Peru, Colombia, Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico, where she taught English, fundraised, and gave physical therapy to children with disabilities. She plans to continue this work in South Africa next year.

After Hurricane Maria in 2017, Iris volunteered with All Hands and Hearts, a disaster relief non-profit, for 25 days helping build rooftops in Baranquitas, P.R. Iris also created the 10 for 40 Rice Challenge. She put a call to her social media friends to collect 10 pounds of rice to feed men, women, and children in soup kitchens for Thanksgiving. Each year since then she feeds over eight thousand people within all the boroughs of N.Y.

Iris is currently a Coaching for Transformation graduate, a program accredited by the International Coaching Federation. Inspired by her own personal growth and E.P.I.C. coaching practice, she is a Certified Second-Degree Reiki and Sound Therapy Practitioner, End-of-life Coach and Wedding Officiant. Exceptional Person In Charge (E.P.I.C.), is a movement whose mission is to create an open-minded and inclusive culture where each individual is willing to explore what they ultimately will find in themselves. Iris supports her clients into shifting their lives to reflect their true power, creativity and authenticity through her E.P.I.C. Beach Journey, Experiential Workshops and Retreats. As a Transformational Coach, she welcomes the opportunity to do what she loves most, helping people use their experiences to heal, transform and connect with the magic of their essence and purpose.

Iris exemplifies the meaning of this award. She is making a difference in the Puerto Rican community at large and around the world. She has devoted her talents to empowering others and making a positive impact. Through her personal challenges, Iris found her resilience and strength of character in the service to others.



COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE
37th Anniversary
m e s d e l a h e r e n c i a p u e r t o r r i q u e ñ a

COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

For the past 37 years, Comité Noviembre 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 390 scholars are making an impact in the communities in which they live.

The 2023 scholars continue to honor this tradition of giving back to their community and making a clear impact and difference through their volunteer efforts. The caliber of students who have applied and ultimately received the scholarship, have demonstrated a desire to pursue their chosen fields and to pay it forward to the community in various ways that directly affect change. Many have shown a vision and maturity beyond their years even as they have faced setbacks and have overcome many challenges.

This year's recipients are all certainly making a difference in their community. We are inspired by these scholars and we are learning from their community service. In total, 20 scholarships have been awarded: 8 CN Scholarships for Volunteerism, 1 Richie Perez Scholarships for Peace and Justice, 7 Ernesto Malave Scholarship for the Arts, 3 Josefina Aguado for Single Parents and 1 Nolda Vivo for Bilingual Education

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 Co-chairs Lisa M. Rodriguez, MSW, education and youth advocate, and Elba Cabrera, community leader, Sandy Figueroa, retired business professor at Hostos Community College, and Nydia Edgecombe, retired, Hostos Community College. We want to thank them for their leadership, dedication, and commitment to the success of this program.

**Scholarship applications for 2024 will be available on CN's website:
www.comitenoviembre.org in January.**

SCHOLARS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE



CAMILA ARGUMEDO

Freshman, Stony Brook University/
SUNY

Major: Public Health

“It’s an honor that I can even be considered for an amazing scholarship. It is going to help my financial situation drastically for me and my family, and most importantly give me an amazing start to my academic career. Thank you Comité Noviembre.” ~ Camila Argumedo

MARIAH ODOM

Freshman, Eugenio María de Hostos
Community College/CUNY.

Major: Radiologic Technology.

“Thank you Comité Noviembre for this scholarship it will help me reach my educational goals.

It means a great deal to receive this scholarship for my volunteer work. I am committed to continuing my volunteerism in college.”



GIANNA PASCAL

Sophomore, Eugenio María de
Hostos Community College/CUNY.
Major: Early Childhood Education.

“I am incredibly grateful for being selected as the 2023 Comité Noviembre Scholarship recipient. As a sophomore, I am genuinely overjoyed and thankful for the generous opportunity. Your financial support will greatly assist me in covering my tuition costs, allowing me to focus more on my studies and better help my community. My goal is to become a teacher for the Board of Education, and this scholarship will help me get closer to achieving my dream. Your encouragement and support are invaluable, and I am honored to have been chosen for this award.” Gianna Pascal

SCHOLARS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE



LEAH QUINONES

Freshman, St. Thomas University,
Florida. Major: Nursing

“Receiving this scholarship means more than words can convey. This scholarship not only eases the financial burden of pursuing my education but also a powerful motivation for me to excel in my studies. I am inspired by the values and principles that Comité Noviembre stands for. With this support I will be able to follow in my mother’s footsteps and become a nurse.”

*Scholarship sponsored by The
Figueroa Sisters Scholarship
Ms. Dahlma Comadre Llanos-
Figueroa*



ANDRES ROMAN

Yale University

“I am grateful and honored to receive this scholarship from Comité Noviembre. The support will help me continue to serve marginalized Latino communities in New York and Connecticut.”
”

INSERT SCHOLARSHIP INFO

Freshman, The Culinary Institute

THE RICHIE PÉREZ SCHOLARSHIP FOR PEACE & JUSTICE AWARD



Photos by Joe Conzo, Jr.

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 2023 Richie Perez Scholarship for Peace and Justice



SERGIO RIVERA RODRIGUEZ

Graduate student, CUNY School of Public Health

Major: Community Health and Health Policy.

"Ser seleccionado como becario del Comité Noviembre es un honor que me llena de orgullo. Esta beca es un catalizador para mi crecimiento académico y profesional que continuará permitiéndome contribuir de manera significativa a la comunidad boricua. Este honor fortalece mi conexión con mi cultura, proporcionándome una plataforma para crear conciencia y celebrar nuestra rica herencia puertorriqueña." ~ Sergio Rivera Rodriguez

Scholarship sponsored by: Deacon Jaime Bello & Dr. Jane Bello

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.



TATIANA ISIS ARROYO ACOSTA

Graduate student, Manchester Metropolitan University, England.
Major: Fine Arts. .

“I am immensely grateful to Comité Noviembre and its dedicated committee for granting me this wonderful opportunity and aiding me to pursue my future. I will do everything possible to pay it forward to Puerto Rico: my home, my country, and my mother.” ~ Tatiana Isis Arroyo Acosta

Scholarship sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Cordero

THE ERNESTO MALAVE SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE ARTS



SOLANA MARTINEZ

Freshman, Point Park University,
Pittsburgh, PA
Major: Dance

"I'm so honored to be a Comité Noviembre Scholar because I value my education and it means a lot to me to be in a program that supports people of Puerto Rican heritage. This scholarship will help me to continue my four years in college, further my education, and lead me to a more successful path in my dance career." ~ Solana Martinez

Scholarship sponsored by Mrs. Suleika Cabrera Drinane



JULIANNA O'NEILL

Sophomore, Hunter College
-CUNY. Major: Studio Arts.

"Thank you to Comité Noviembre for this amazing scholarship and opportunity. With this scholarship, I'll be able to purchase the supplies I need to succeed in my art courses, get a head start in the industry, and represent the Boricua community." ~ Julianna O'Neill

Scholarship sponsored by Ms. Dolores Batista and Ms. Sally Alonzo



GABRIELA LONDOÑO

Sophomore, Manhattan School of
Music.
Major: Musical Theater.

"Ledoygracias a Dios por haberme regalado esta oportunidad para seguir promoviendo mi cultura a través de las artes, y extremadamente agradecida con Comité Noviembre por abrir las puertas y dar a nuestra comunidad los recursos para hacer eso posible!" ~ Gabriela Londoño

Scholarship sponsored by the Carlos R. Fernandez Scholarship for Music

THE ERNESTO MALAVE SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE ARTS



ALYSSA HILAIRE

Freshman, SUNY Purchase.
Major: Dance.

“I have many positive feelings about being a 2023 Comité Noviembre Scholar and representing the Boricua community. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity and proud of myself for receiving this scholarship!” Alyssa Hilaire

Scholarship sponsored by: Ms. Sandy Figueroa



DELVIN VALLE BONILLA

Senior, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, P.R.
Major: Fine Arts & Art Theory.

“Being one of the Comité Noviembre Scholar has been a true blessing. This award has helped me pay the tuition for my last year at the University and motivated me to pursue a master’s degree in painting. I really must thank all the Comité Noviembre Committee for this opportunity, and for the many other opportunities they have already given and will keep giving. ~ Delvin I. Valle Bonilla

Scholarship sponsored by: The Dr. Jerry Myer-Vito Marcantonio Scholarship sponsored by Mrs. Nydia Edgecombe



WIDNELIA RAGIN

Freshman, Borough of Manhattan Community College/CUNY
Major: Early Childhood Education.

“Thank you Comité Noviembre for awarding me this scholarship and helping me get closer to my educational goals. I am proud to represent Comité Noviembre as a scholar and I will continue to do my best.”

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.

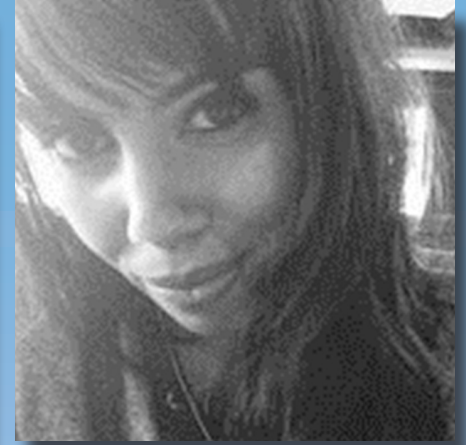


IMANI DUBOIS

Graduate student, The Chicago School

Major: Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

"Being selected as one of the 2023 Comité Noviembre Scholarship recipients has filled me with immense gratitude and motivation, significantly boosting my academic and career prospects toward becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor." ~ Imani DuBois



APRIL MARTINEZ

Junior, Lehman College/CUNY

Major: Sociology and Early Childhood Education.

"Being a 2023 Comité Noviembre Scholar is a true blessing, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and happiness, this not only helps with paying my education balance but also shows me and others that there is help. Believe it or not, there are ways to finish school and accomplish your goals and dreams, do not give up, and follow your dreams." ~ April Martinez

THE NOLDA VIVÓ SCHOLARSHIP



Nolda Vivó was raised by a Puerto Rican mother and Mexican father in the South Bronx, not far from where she and her Puerto Rican husband raised four children. After working as a lab technician, she realized her dream of becoming a kindergarten teacher, and for 24 years she taught bilingual kindergartners in the Bronx to honor their diverse languages and cultures, with loving guidance and creative lessons.

The Nolda Vivó Scholarship is awarded to low-income students pursuing a degree related to bilingual education. Recipient must be committed to advancing the educational attainment of K-12 grade students from low socio-economic backgrounds through humanizing and transformative educational approaches.

This scholarship is made possible by a generous donation from Mrs. Vevo's younger sister, Dr. Ana Celia Zentella. It is a five-year commitment.

The scholarship will be administered by Comité Noviembre.



AKEMI ALVAREZ

Graduate student, Lehman College/
CUNY.

Major: Early Childhood Education,
birth to 2nd grade, with a Bilingual
Extension.

“Being a 2023 Comité Noviembre Scholar gives me such pride, joy, and excitement. I am truly honored and grateful to be this year’s recipient and represent the Boricua community.” ~ Akemi Alvarez

EVELINA ANTONETTY SCHOLARSHIP FOR COMMUNITY ACTIVISM



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

The Comité Noviembre Evelina Antonetty Scholarship for Community Activism is awarded to a young person age 17 to 25, that has volunteered, advocated or has taken action to affect change in the Puerto Rican/Hispanic community for more than five years consecutively in the areas of social, humanitarian or social justice issues,



GEORGE DANIEL SANTIAGO

Freshman, The Culinary Institute of New York @ Monroe College.
Major: Culinary Arts

“Being a 2023 Comité Noviembre Scholar has been a goal of mine since I was a child watching all the past amazing Puerto Rican scholars. It’s amazing to now be part of the Comité Noviembre Scholar lineup, shows that I’m proud to be Puerto Rican and I plan on making a difference in my community.” ~ George D. Santiago

2023 Comité Noviembre's Scholarships Campaign in the Name of Families, Individuals or In Memory of a Loved One

For Comité Noviembre's 37th 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 us to sponsor additional scholars for five years. Comité Noviembre supporters 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 onetime 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 & 2023 Scholars Sponsored

The Josefina Aguado Scholarship for Single Parents, sponsored by Mr. William Aguado & Ms. Kathi Pavlick
2023 Scholars: Imani DuBois, Graduate student, The Chicago School. Major: Clinical Mental Health Counseling and April Martinez, Junior attending Lehman College – CUNY majoring in Sociology and Early Childhood Education.

The Cordero Family Scholarship for Journalism sponsored by Mrs. Rosa Cruz Cordero & Mr. Edwin Cordero
2023 Scholar: Tatiana Isis Arroyo Acosta, Graduate student at Manchester Metropolitan University, England. Major: Fine Arts.

The Virginia Barreto Scholarship sponsored by Ms. Dolores Batista and Ms. Sally Alonzo
2023 Scholar: Julianna O'Neill. Major: Studio Arts.

The Bello Family Scholarship, sponsored by Deacon Jaime Bello & Dr. Jane Arce Bello
2023 Scholar: Sergio Rivera Rodriguez, Graduate student, CUNY School of Public Health
Major: Community Health and Health Policy.

The Dr. Jerry Myer-Vito Marcantonio Scholarship sponsored by Mrs. Nydia Edgecombe
2023 Scholar: Delvin I. Valle Bonilla, Senior, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, P.R.
Major: Fine Arts & Art Theory.

Carlos R. Fernandez Scholarship sponsored by Ms. Carmen L. Fernandez
2023: Scholar: Gabriela Londoño, Sophomore, Manhattan School of Music. Major: Musical Theater

The Figueroa Sisters Scholarship sponsored by Ms. Dahlma Comadre Llanos-Figueroa
2023 Scholar: Leah Quiñones, Freshman, St. Thomas University, Florida. Major: Nursing

Sponsored by Suleika Cabrera Drinane
2023 Scholar: Solana Martinez, Freshman, Point Park University, Pittsburgh, PA Major: Dance.

Sponsored by Sandy Figueroa
2023 Scholar: Alyssa Hilaire, Freshman, SUNY Purchase. Major: Dance

**The information on the 2023 scholars appear in the scholarship section of the journal.*

**Scholarship applications for 2024 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.



Connect with us at:

HostosCC @HostosCollege

HostosCollege #Hostos50

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,
Founder and Executive Director

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(787) 725-2498 (f)

COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE

37th Anniversary

mes de la herencia puertorriquena

2022 ARTISANS FAIR & BOOK EXPO REVIEW

Photos by Edwin Pagan

Many artists from throughout the US and Puerto Rico participated in Comité Noviembre's 17th Annual National Puerto Rican Artisan Fair & Book Expo last year.

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 Teresa Santiago, Raesha Cartagena, Rosa Rosario, Riqi

Velez, and Felix Arocho, Director, Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture, along with many volunteers who have made this event the success that it has been for 17 years. The 2023 National Puerto Rican Artisan Fair and Book Expo will be the 18th annual event, and it will again be an in-person event on Saturday, November 18, 2023.



2022 ARTISANS FAIR & BOOK EXPO REVIEW



2022 ARTISANS FAIR & BOOK EXPO REVIEW



CUNY SPH congratulates this year's honorees

Isabel Abislaimán, Esq.

*Attorney, Emmanuel Rivera-Fuentes
and Gladys Fuentes' Social Security
Administration lawsuit*

Dr. Mildred Garcia

Chancellor, California State University

Ivan Enrique Rodriguez

*Composer, Conductor,
and CN Ernesto Malave Scholar*

Belkis Moya

Pastor, Mesón de Amor

Wallace Edgecombe

RECEIVING THE ALMA Y CORAZÓN AWARD

*Retired Director, Hostos Center
for the Performing Arts*

CUNY SPH is the top-ranked public school of public health in the tri-state region. We are committed to promoting and sustaining healthier populations in New York City and around the world through excellence in education, research and service.



PRIDA

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ASPIRA HISTORY

ASPIRA has a 62-year history as a non-profit recognized for its dedication to serving New York City youth, providing opportunities that would otherwise not be available to them, and serving as an effective advocate, fighting to improve education. ASPIRA of New York, Inc. was established in 1961 and officially incorporated as a not-for-profit organization on July 6, 1965. The mission of ASPIRA is 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 emphasize commitment to the community and pride in the Puerto Rican/Latino culture.

ASPIRA of New York, with the support of ASPIRA of America and the representation of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, filed a suit against the New York City Board of Education in 1972 that led to the ASPIRA Consent Decree. The decree, signed August 29, 1974, established the right of New York City public school students with limited English proficiency to receive bilingual education.

ASPIRA has served over 100,000 New York City children, youth, parents, schools, and other community based agencies, establishing a record of providing high quality, comprehensive programs and services. In New York City, nearly all of the students we serve come from low-income households. Often, they attend poor performing schools in under-resourced school districts and are first-generation college entrants. Currently, ASPIRA of New York provides a wide range of afterschool services and leadership development clubs to a diverse group of students within 30 schools throughout the five boroughs.



An Investment in Latino Youth

Dra. Antonia Pantoja

Puerto Rican educator, social worker, organizer, prolific author, and resilient social justice activist.

From a humble upbringing on the outskirts of San Juan, Barrio Obrero, Puerto Rico – Dr. Pantoja would emerge as one of the most vocal and passionate advocates for the Puerto Rican Diaspora, inspiring and guiding emerging leaders in NYC since the 1960's. Believing that education and cultural pride were crucial to healing and lifting the community out of poverty, she committed her life to the difficult and necessary awakening of public consciousness. She was a key figure in the fight to mitigate the educational and social injustices plaguing the Puerto Rican community in New York.

She received a teaching certificate from the University of Puerto Rico in 1942. In 1944, at the age of 22, she emigrated to New York City to pursue her education. She landed her first job as a factory worker where it wouldn't take long before she was instrumental in helping form a union and negotiate better work conditions for its employees. The seeds of grass-roots activism that she learned from her grandfather, a union organizer in a tobacco company, would become part of the basic tools for her future work.

Antonia graduated from Hunter College (1952) with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. She went on to earn a Master's Degree from Columbia University School of Social Work (1954) and her Ph.D. from Union Graduate School in Cincinnati, Ohio (1973).

Early organizing work led to the founding of the Hispanic American Youth Association (HAYA) in 1957 to address the unmet education, healthcare, and employment needs of within her community, renamed the Puerto Rican Association of Community Affairs (PRACA).

Sparked by the high dropout rates and low educational attainment of Puerto Rican children, Dr. Pantoja worked with ASPIRA of New York to sue the NYC Board of Education (1974). They were successful, and the resulting consent decree is considered a major landmark in the establishment of bilingual education in the United States.

Dr. Pantoja helped establish some of the most influential stateside organizations of the time including the National Puerto Rican Forum (1957), ASPIRA (1961), Universidad Boricua, the precursor of Boricua College (1970), and the Graduate School for Community Development (1978) in San Diego. In addition, she established Producir (1984) and Provienda (1985) in Puerto Rico.

Since its formation over 62 years ago, ASPIRA has grown from a small nonprofit agency in New York City to a national association with statewide Associate organizations in Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South, North Carolina, and the ASPIRA Association Office in Washington, D.C. as well as in Puerto Rico.

In 1996, she was recognized with the nation's highest civilian honor by President Clinton. Dr. Pantoja was the first Puerto Rican woman to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Dr. Antonia Pantoja died of cancer in NYC on May 24, 2002. She was survived by her longtime partner, Dr. Wilhelmina Perry.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

27th Annual Day of Community Service and Social Responsibility

Sunday, November 19, 2023

World Day of the Poor

“Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor.”



For the past twenty-seven 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. 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.

Comité Noviembre is proud that our Day of Community Service has coincided with World Day of the Poor which was started seven years ago

by Pope Francis, to care for the poor. No matter what your beliefs are, community service, social responsibility and caring for the poor are the strongholds of the Puerto Rican community.

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 six years, this partnership has distributed over 8000 turkeys to families in need feeding over 39,000 individuals during the Thanksgiving holiday. In total PCNY will donate over 20,000 turkeys to families throughout the NYC metropolitan and Westchester County area.

2022 Highlights

On November 20, 2022, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, 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. These volunteers worked hard and were full of energy as they unloaded the turkeys and produce off trucks, to greet the people, with smiles on their faces. 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 were among the non-profit organizations that benefited from this day.



This year the Comité Noviembre Day of Community Service and Social Responsibility will take place on the Sunday before Thanksgiving November 19, 2023 because this year more than ever, our communities need the assistance. Comité Noviembre and PCNY have committed to distribute the same amount of turkeys and food.

WAYS CAN YOU HELP!

- Participate in this weekend as a volunteer
- Donate and Support the Comité Noviembre Day of Community Service and Social Responsibility
- Donate to the 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



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



Click the QR Code for Membership Information.



The NACOPRW New York Chapter celebrates “50” years of community service and partnership with New York City’s Puerto Rican and Latino communities.

NACOPRW New York Chapter builds bridges that lead to equity, equality, and positive change.

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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.

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COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE ESTOY CON PUERTO RICO DISASTER RELIEF EFFORT

Five years to the date Hurricane Maria destroyed Puerto Rico, we were faced with Hurricane Fiona which left devastating results in her aftermath. Historic flooding, widespread power outages, mudslides, and water shortages. A need for humanitarian assistance were reported. Puerto Rico continues to experience crippling debt, continued effects of Hurricanes Maria and Fiona, earthquakes, and worldwide pandemic.

Comité Noviembre has partnered with many organizations and businesses to raise the funds that have supported Puerto Rico nonprofit organizations and micro businesses for the past five years. Most recently Ponce Bank and the New York City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (NYCHCC) are two of these partners. Ponce Bank contributed \$25,000 which delivered much-needed assistance directly to non-profits at the grassroots level in Arecibo, Ponce, Mayaguez, Guánica, this past March.

With a \$10,000 donation received by DC37 Union's Retiree to the Estoy Con Puerto Rico Disaster Relief Effort, the following non-profit organizations will be



awarded grants: Nuestra Familia LGBTT de Puerto Rico, Fundación Unidos Para Servir, One Stop Career Center of Puerto Rico. Hunger Corp., El Caney de Quinto Mondo, El Mesón del Amor, and Fundación Para La Cultura Popular.

CN will continue its humanitarian work in Puerto Rico which began in 2017. Over 130 organizations and micro enterprises were funded through its Estoy Con Puerto Rico Disaster Relief Effort. The initial amount raised was over half a million dollars. To date an additional \$50,000 has been raised and distributed.



ESTOY CON PUERTO RICO



COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE

XVII ANNUAL TRIP TO PUERTO RICO: BUSCANDO NUESTRAS RAÍCES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2023 – WEDNESDAY AUGUST 9, 2023

HIGHLIGHTS



Luisa Guadalupe in Vieques, El Mesón del Amor in Rio Piedras, and Fundacion Unidos Para Servir in Manati.

Participants embraced our Taino Ancestry with a sacred ceremonial blessings at the 300 year-old Ceiba tree in Vieques Puerto Rico. It was a spiritual, emotional and moving experience to commune with our Indigenous Ancestors.

For our annual Buscando Nuertra Raíces dinner, trip goers were treated to a wonderful criollo dinner sponsored by Embassy Suites by Hilton Hotel & Casino.

Seventeen years ago, through Comité Noviembre's, (CN) trip to Puerto Rico: "Buscando Nuestras Raíces," we embarked on an educational adventure into the richness of Puerto Rico's culture, ancestral roots and history. Over the years, we have surpassed our expectations making this trip not only an educational and cultural experience but an opportunity to support, sponsor and empower many humanitarian, environmental, cultural, and social justice organizations and issues.

Comité Noviembre also presented grants to 8 non-profit organizations that work with the elderly, feeding the hungry and other social services. The grants were made possible through a \$10,000 contribution made by DC37 Union Retirees Association and the Comité Noviembre Estoy Con Puerto Rico Disaster

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This year over 30 people volunteered their time, energy, and money to make this trip a success. For many, it was a life-changing experience that they will remember for many years to come. Through our recent trips to Puerto Rico, we found that food insecurity and basic human needs assistance for the elderly population is greatly needed. So, this year, trip participants conducted volunteer service at Centro Envejecientes



“BUSCANDO NUESTRAS RAÍCES”

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Relief Effort.

The Comité Noviembre Educational Trip to Puerto Rico: Buscando Nuestras Raíces continues to have a profound impact on the communities that participants

visit and serve. Let’s continue to invest, take action, and affect change for our beloved Puerto Rico!

Information on our 2024 trip will be posted on our website in April.



Puerto and Their Beaches: A Modern-Day Colonial Issue

By: Melissa del Carmen Gomez

Article retrieved from voicesofgenz published on April 16, 2022



Image retrieved from [TIME](#)

Earlier this month, thousands of Puerto Ricans protested the privatization of their country's beaches. It is a law that all the beaches in Puerto Rico should be accessible and publicly open. However, there has been a decade-long struggle as hotels and apartment condos have been built on the coasts of the beaches which have then become [privatized](#), ([Hundreds of Puerto Ricans Take Over 'Private Beach' in Dorado to Protest Access - Latino Rebels](#)).

These foreigners and property owners do not seem knowledgeable about the laws. For instance, on January 26, 2022, a video was posted on social media in which a couple who bought a property in Ocean Park tried to close off a section of the beach for themselves. When confronted by Puerto Ricans, they chose to insult them. "Buy a million-dollar house, then you can give your opinion here," the woman in the video said.

So, in response, a man named Wilmar Vázquez organized a protest with other Puerto Ricans: a "Beach Olympics" where beach block parties were hosted. The block party was hosted in front of the couple's house to illustrate that the beaches are not private property and are in fact open to the public, a law that has always existed in Puerto Rico and that will always [remain](#), ([Puerto Rican Protest Goes Viral After Attempt To Privatize Public Beach \(matadornetwork.com\)](#)).

Statistically, between December 2020 and December 2021, the cost to live in Puerto Rico rose to 7%, a record-breaking percent increase since [1981, 'Gringo go home!' Posters in Puerto Rico compare crypto millionaires Logan Paul and Brock Pierce to colonizers as the island's cost of living soars \(yahoo.com\)](#). Due to Act 22, a law stating that non-Puerto Ricans can move to the island and not pay taxes to the IRS, many from the mainland have come to Puerto Rico because of the low tax [rates](#), ([Could Moving to Puerto Rico Reduce Your Taxes? | Expensivity](#)). Influencers, such as Logan Paul, have moved to the island. This act does increase revenue but pushes people out of their neighborhoods as housing prices [increase](#). Puerto Ricans are being forced out of their own lands.

María Torres-López, a 38-year-old who moved out of Puerto Rico to Florida for better work and financial opportunities, discusses the issue: "If anybody needs to be moving and buying in Puerto Rico, it needs to be the Puerto Rican people who had no other choice but to leave. I didn't want to leave. I wanted more

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Puerto and Their Beaches: A Modern-Day Colonial Issue

continued from previous page

and my country wasn't able to give it to [me](#).” [How Puerto Ricans Are Fighting Back Against Using the Island as a Tax Haven | Time](#)



Image retrieved from [Yahoo!News](#)

Due to the overwhelming increase in population and gentrification of the public beaches, protests have been emerging regularly. Puerto Ricans held signs stating, “This is what colonizers look like!” and “Gringo go home!” with photos of Logan Paul or other non-Puerto Ricans who had brought large mansions near the beaches.

The impact of multiple construction projects has led to environmental-related issues as well. Late last year, Puerto Ricans protested in Rincón, a town on the island's west coast. The project itself destroyed a nesting site of a

hawkbill [turtle](#). ([Puerto Ricans Hold Beach Protest Against Privatization - Latino Rebels](#)) A petition has been made demanding that the Puerto Rican government “abides by the law that protects this land for agricultural and ecological purposes and prevents development that would be harmful to the [environment](#).” Petition can be found at [Petition · Protect Puerto Rico's land/Protejamos las tierras de Puerto Rico · Change.org](#)

This issue is also an example of modern-day colonization. An abolish Act 60 activist reported to TIME magazine saying, “Right now Puerto Rico looks like the apocalypse hit it because of the government neglect, it's a matter of who takes over from here: Puerto Ricans or tax-incentivized foreign entities? There's no excuse for them to create ‘opportunities’ by becoming owners of land our ancestors have inhabited for over 400 [centuries](#).” [How Puerto Ricans Are Fighting Back Against Using the Island as a Tax Haven | Time](#)

Inequality persists as native Puerto Ricans are being forced out of their neighborhoods and displaced into cheaper communities. On the other hand, wealthy, white Americans can simply buy the land for their own pleasure and paradise, not connecting with the Caribbean community. Puerto Rico, however, is not for sale, and its beaches are not for sale either. Puerto Rico is not “an attractive piece of real estate in the American [empire](#).” [Gentrification, Colonialism and Identity in Puerto Rico \(OPINION\) - Latino Rebels](#)

Puerto Ricans will continue to advocate and fight for their land. The government has failed them, but they are taking matters into their own hands. “The government's priority should be to adapt and protect what we have and not build new infrastructure in at-risk [areas](#),” ([A Turtle, a Pool and the Fight to Save Puerto Rico's Beaches - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)) Maritza Barreto, a study lead research implores. To stay informed on this topic, Tik Tok influencer and independent reporter Bianca Graulau creates content discussing this topic and the growing concern of the Puerto Rican population facing displacement within their own land. Access to her videos can be found at [Bianca Graulau \(@biancagraulau\) Official | TikTok](#).

Puerto Rico No Se Vende

By: Gabriela Aoun

Five years after Hurricane Maria, coastal land in Puerto Rico is being sold and developed at a dizzying pace. Puerto Ricans are taking the conservation fight into their own hands.

In the town of Isabela, in the northwest corner of Puerto Rico, there is a winding boardwalk that spans several miles

study later estimated the number to be closer to 4,600, due to the long-term lack of medical services, electricity, food, and clean water.

“After Maria, there was no one cleaning up,” Veronica Nieves, 36, project coordinator for the environmental group Conservación Costera (CoCo), told me as we surveyed the destroyed mangroves with CoCo cofounder Bernice Baker, 36, and Patagonia Surf Ambassador Otto Flores this past March. She was referring to the widely criticized inaction by the Puerto Rican and federal governments (Puerto Rico is a commonwealth of the United States—which to many Puerto Ricans is a misnomer for “colony”—they are US citizens, however, they do not vote for president) after the storm. Baker and her partner, Héctor Varela, founded CoCo in response, to educate the community on how to protect and restore the natural environment themselves. “Maria showed us it’s about community self-management,” Nieves said.

Today, that self-management is in full swing. CoCo is working to restore the mangrove forest. They’re also erecting signs along the boardwalk that inform passersby about the beaches, the wildlife that live there and how to steward the natural resources. The signs call the 3.5-square-mile area that the path traverses La Reserva Natural Comunitaria Mabodamaca, or The Mabodamaca Community Natural Reserve.

In truth, this land does not have an official reserve designation status from the government. Calling it one is an act of resistance, meant to impose pressure on the government to protect the land. Baker and Nieves fear that without formal protection, the area will eventually fall victim to development.

Just before Hurricane Maria, developers and wealthy investors were rapidly buying land and slating it for tourism infrastructure and high-end housing, often in violation of minimally enforced zoning regulations and environmental protections. Then the storm came, halting most projects. Now, there are signs all over the archipelago that development is ramping up again, threatening natural spaces like the Mabodamaca Reserve. But these projects are facing an ignited public who, neglected after Maria,

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Patagonia Surf Ambassador Otto Flores walks through a palm forest post-surf on Puerto Rico’s north coast. Photo: Jeremy Koreski

of undeveloped coastline. On the north side of the path is the ocean, boasting quality reef breaks, some hidden from view by sweeping sand dunes. Across from one of those spots, there used to be a thriving mangrove forest. Today, hundreds of leafless mangroves lay bare and tangled, their bark a lifeless grey. The scene resembles the aftermath of a wildfire, but the opposite happened—after Hurricane Maria, the old boardwalk stymied the natural drainage of the forest. The mangroves drowned.

Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico in September 2017 as a high-end category 4 hurricane with 155 mph winds. The average household went approximately 41 days without cell phone service, 68 days without water and 84 days without electricity. Some people did not have power for almost a year. After the storm, the Puerto Rican government said that only 64 people had died. A Harvard

Puerto Rico No Se Vende

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have little tolerance for environmental degradation, government corruption and outside influence.

“The hurricane was a reset for the whole island,” Flores told me. He spent much of the year after the storm coordinating clean water relief with Waves for Water. “There’s an awakening from el pueblo, or the people.”

Flores grew up in San Juan, Puerto Rico’s capital. When he was 12, professional surfer Jorge Nido drove him across the island to Wishing Well, a shallow righthand barreling wave about 10 miles west of La Reserva. “There were emerald-green, offshore, perfect rights for as long as I could see,” Flores said. “It was shocking to me that I lived in a place where the waves that I dreamed of were a drive away.”

For almost as long as Flores has been surfing those waves, many of them have been one construction permit away from destruction. Just before Maria, Flores joined protests opposing the Christopher Columbus Landing



CoCo project coordinator Veronica Nieves plants red mangrove seedlings as part of the restoration process in La Reserva Natural Comunitaria Mabodamaca. Photo: Diego Nieves Berríos

Resort, a massive proposed development on the land in front of a number of world-class breaks, including Wishing Well. The wide, grassy valley where the resort would be built is called Playuela. Locals come there to camp, ride horses and fly kites. The reef is frequented by green and hawksbill sea turtles and three species of coral on the endangered species list.

Kathy Hall, a surfer and environmentalist with a master’s degree in biological oceanography, has been fighting the

Columbus project since it was first proposed in 1993. Flores and I visited her at her hilltop home in Isabela. “It was going to use up every inch of that land,” she said. Early proposals for the resort included a 17,000-square-foot casino, 23,000 square-meter artificial lake, 300-room hotel, hundreds of condos and a shopping center. Hall said that sediment from construction, oil runoff from cars, chemicals on lawns and potentially faulty septic tanks are just a few of the ways the project would put the environment and wildlife at risk.

Hall showed us a scrapbook she keeps with court documents and news clippings from various past battles the community has waged against the resort. Many of the articles quote Flores. As his platform grew over the years, he used it to speak out against the project to any news outlet that would listen. The pages were browned and wrinkled from water damage. Hurricane Maria destroyed Hall’s house, which she had to rebuild.

In the mid-’90s, the environmental group that Hall cofounded, La Liga Ecológica del Noroeste, won several battles against the developers, but the Environmental Quality Board still accepted the development’s environmental impact study with only minor changes. When La Liga lost a final court case, Hall was devastated, but the efforts were not in vain. The years of community uproar scared off investors, and the project was shelved.

Around 2016, the land’s newest owner tried to start construction based on the original permits. La Liga Ecológica resumed their fight in court, arguing that a new environmental impact study must be conducted. Hall said the battle could reach Puerto Rico’s Supreme Court. I asked her what she hopes is done with the land. “It is so iconic to have a place on the coast like that,” she said. “I like it just the way it is.”

Gerardo Lebrón Laboy is a lawyer who has assisted in past disputes against the resort. “The storm slowed development,” he said, “but any day now they could turn on the machines.”

Lebrón Laboy isn’t waiting for a court decision to protect the coastline. He, Flores and other advocates are calling for the town of Aguadilla, where Playuela is located, to pass an ordinance that would legally protect the town’s surf breaks—the first law of its kind in Puerto Rico. The ordinance would mandate “effective and comfortable access to the wave,” prohibit “any obstacle that would affect the breaking of the wave” and prohibit any activity that would “damage the underwater topography.”

If the ordinance passes, Flores hopes it could serve as a blueprint for other local municipalities to protect their own surf breaks and, therefore, the coastlines. The ordinance would not ban new construction, but the restrictions would be stringent enough that no mega-hotel could possibly comply with them.

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Puerto Rico No Se Vende

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Mega-hotels, however, aren't the only danger to Puerto Rico's waves. Before Hurricane Maria, the Puerto Rican government was \$72 billion in debt. The crisis prompted the government to rigorously court outside investment by offering generous tax exemptions for newcomers, primarily those from the United States, who move to Puerto Rico. These tax exemptions, along with the rise of remote work during the pandemic, has resulted in a large number of non-Puerto Ricans moving to the archipelago, driving up real-estate prices.

About 10 miles south of Aguadilla along the west coast is Rincón, Puerto Rico's best-known surf town that's home to its famous big-wave break, Tres Palmas. Tres Palmas' waters are protected as a marine reserve, and by Puerto Rican law, all beaches are public. But about 20 acres of pasture-like land in front of the shoreline is up for grabs. A wealthy Puerto Rican family is selling it in subdivided lots, two of which are already under contract. Steve Tamar, vice chair of the Surfrider Foundation's Rincón chapter, said that a large construction project would cause unavoidable sediment runoff. "The death of the reef is pretty much guaranteed." Some locals hope that an NGO will purchase the land for conservation and co-manage it with the community. But the lots are believed to cost around \$1 million each—an unaffordable price for any local land trust.

With few options to stop the sale, the community is doing what it can to make its feelings known. A strip of land running through the property is technically owned by the public—the government bought it to make a bike path that was never built. Residents hired surveyors to help them precisely determine the path's location, which they have demarcated with a fence lined with Puerto Rican flags. "The people reclaimed it," said Tamar. Locals now have a walkway to access the beach, and they've sent a clear message to anyone thinking of building a beachfront mansion there.

Dr. Miguel Canals Silander, a professor of ocean science and engineering at the University of Puerto Rico, was one of the residents who led the bike path effort. He was encouraged when, last year, the Rincón community managed to stop a condominium complex from constructing a beachfront pool. The situation reached a boiling point when a video surfaced of a disoriented sea turtle trying to lay eggs in the construction site. A widespread uproar halted the effort, and in February a court ordered the condominium complex to demolish the construction within 120 days. (As of July, the condominium owners had still not removed the construction, and on July 4, a group of protestors tore down parts of a cement wall themselves, resulting in the arrest of a protestor).



Flores slips into something more casual at Punta Borinquen, Aguadilla, which in 2019 was protected as a World Surfing Reserve by the Save the Waves Foundation. Photo: Ryan 'Chachi' Craig

"The success really empowered Puerto Ricans throughout the island to raise awareness that beaches are public and that environmental and zoning laws must be respected," Canals Silander said. "Before, people might have been afraid to fight incorrect development, but now everybody is fired up and knows they can win."

Of course, Puerto Ricans aren't completely aligned about what should happen to spaces like Tres Palmas and Playuela. Some hope that more tourism and outside investment will lift Puerto Rico out of economic crisis. Others worry that all the activist attention on these areas will only attract more construction.

When we visited the mangrove forest, I asked Baker and Nieves how much development was too much. It depended on how it was done, they said. Tourism could empower the community, or it could displace it. It was late afternoon and the path was starting to fill with joggers and families riding bicycles. "Progress," Baker said, "does not have to come attached with concrete."

For further information about preserving green spaces on Puerto Rico's coastline and how to contribute head to *Conservación Costera and Surfrider Puerto Rico*.

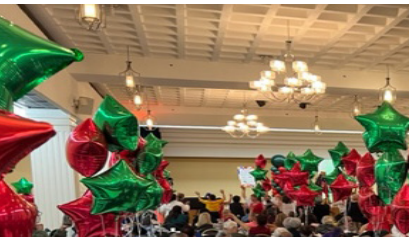
Gabriela Aoun is a writer, editor, producer, and surfer based in Encinitas, California. Her work aims to empower and inspire people to protect and thrive in the natural world.



About IPRHE / Acacia Network

The Institute for Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly (IPRHE) is dedicated to providing multilingual, culturally responsive services to the older adults population in New York City, and to celebrating the longstanding contributions of older adults in our families and communities. Founded in 1978, IPRHE became an affiliate of Acacia Network in 2016. Acacia Network is one of the leading human services organizations in New York City and one of the largest Hispanic-led nonprofits in the State, serving over 150,000 individuals through integrated programs in the areas of health, housing, social services, economic development, and cultural revitalization.

The Institute for Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly (IPRHE) serves thousands of mature adults ages 60 and older through six (6) Senior Centers in the Bronx, Queens, and Manhattan. Older adults enrolled in our programs benefit from a variety of services and resources – including wellness checks, daily meals, and recreational and wellness activities—and they gain valuable knowledge and skills through workshops and classes on a variety of topics. Our services include, but are not limited to, referrals, advocacy, entitlement assistance, case management, housing assistance, health and information workshops, socialization events, recreational trips, immigration assistance, short and long-term counseling, among other specialized support services, such as homecare services, caregiver support services, geriatric mental health referrals, translation services, among others. Our Older Adults Centers in New York City are supported by the NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA).



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People holding up the Puerto Rican flag during the Puerto Rican Day Parade. Carlos Ortiz Papers, 1940s - 2006

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Comité Noviembre celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the New York Chapter of the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women Awards Puerto Rican Women Legacy Recognition



For Women’s History Month this past March, Comité Noviembre honored and celebrated the 50 year accomplishments the pioneering organization the New York Chapter of the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women with a reception at El Barrio Artspace in Manhattan. NACOPRW NY has been in the forefront of so many important issues affecting women especially women of color.

Pictured front row left to right are: NACOPRW members, Miriam Gonzalez, Minerva Urutia, Maria Román Dumén, Ketty Domínguez, Rosemary Domínguez-Sotirios, President, NACOPRW NY, Yolanda La Guerre, Raesha Cartagena, Evelyn Santiago, Carmen Cruz, Second Row Teresa A. Santiago, Chairwoman of Comité Noviembre and the men behind the women.



(L-R) Ketty Domínguez, Rosemary Domínguez-Sotirios, President, NACOPRW and Maria Román Dumén. Background Teresa A. Santiago

NACOPRW is the primer organization that mentors and empowers young women to reach their full. NACOPRW is crucial when we hear of the sobering statistics of teenage girls and young women mental illness, depression and suicides. NACOPRW’s mission of support, empowerment and leadership development becomes even more important.

The Comité Noviembre Puerto Rican Legacy Award was instituted in 2014 to honor and pay tribute to the contributions Puerto Rican Women have made to this city, state, nation and

Maria Román Dumén (L) helps celebrate Julia Mandry, (center) 95th Birthday Teresa A. Santiago (R) proud daughter



beyond. The award recognizes Puerto Rican women whose pride in their heritage & strength of character has empowered themselves and inspired others to affect change, create a better world and inspire others especially young women to reach for the sky!

Puerto Rican Women are the backbone of our families and community they have created a legacy of strength, empowerment, and inspiration throughout the Diaspora and have left their unique imprint on the world.



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

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF ADVOCACY, SERVICE & FRIENDSHIP

The New York Chapter of the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women (NACOPW) 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 state-side and on the island of Puerto Rico.

"Preserving our heritage and rights through mentorship and leadership for a better tomorrow."

The National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc. (NACOPRW) was founded in Washington, D.C., in 1972, as a non-profit, non-partisan organization to promote the full participation of Puerto Rican and other Hispanic women in their economic, social and political life in the United States and Puerto Rico.

NACOPRW provides training, mentorship, and leadership development at the local and national level through workshops and institutes during the annual convention, and through chapter programs. We preserve our Puerto Rican and Latino heritage through cultural activities and events. We seek justice and give voice to the preservation of civil, health, educational and other rights through the dissemination of information, networking, collaboration and advocacy with other national and local groups, and through education, celebration, community and civil involvement.

The National Board of Directors, composed of the presidents and delegates of the local chapters, meets quarterly and constitutes NACOPRW's policy-making body. In addition, a seven-member Executive Committee, composed of the President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and the National Past President, meets several times a year to act on NACOPRW policy between board meetings. The Executive Committee also oversees the activities of the national office, evaluates the activities and accomplishments of the chapters, and provides direction on programs.

NACOPRW provides opportunities for advancement to its members through training seminars, education workshops, forums, information dissemination and networking. It also provides scholarships to Hispanic individuals at the national and local levels. The main education and networking vehicle is the annual conference, which includes the annual meeting, election of officers and a plenary session, where members ratify the newly elected officers and conference resolutions. The organization coalesces with other women's groups and national Hispanic organizations, therefore extending its visibility and outreach throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. Through its website, NACOPRW keeps its membership and friends informed of issues affecting Puerto Rican and other Hispanic women and the Hispanic community as a whole.

With headquarters in Washington, D.C., NACOPRW maintains a visible presence at the national and local levels through its chapters: Chicago, Indiana, Miami, Milwaukee, New York City, Northern Illinois, Philadelphia, and Southern California. Active members are women of Puerto Rican origin who subscribe to the goals of the organization and belong to a chapter. Institutional membership and membership-at-large are both available. The chapters in keeping with their community needs and interests conduct many activities. Anyone who supports the goals of NACOPRW may join as an associate member in a chapter or as member-at-large.



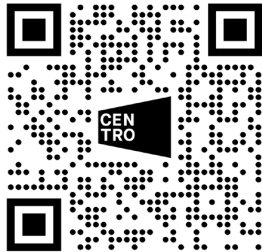
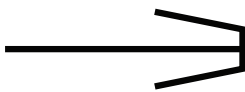
RESEARCHING, PRESERVING, AND SHARING THE PUERTO RICAN EXPERIENCE

If there is anything emblematic about being Puerto Rican, it is a rebellious spirit focused on caring for nuestra gente. CENTRO was founded in 1973 by Puerto Rican students deeply involved in our communities' fight for justice and civil rights in New York City.

The beginnings of CENTRO were community-oriented and intersectional, ensuring our collective stories were not only told but preserved for future generations. Its founding mission was to empower our own voices and experiences, to ensure that those historically underrepresented were included in academic research, and work towards dismantling barriers to higher learning and the preservation of the Diasporican experience.

Now located at Hunter College, CENTRO is the oldest and largest research institute, library, and archive dedicated to the Puerto Rican Diaspora. Our goal is to create insightful and accessible scholarship to strengthen, broaden, and reimagine the field of Puerto Rican studies.

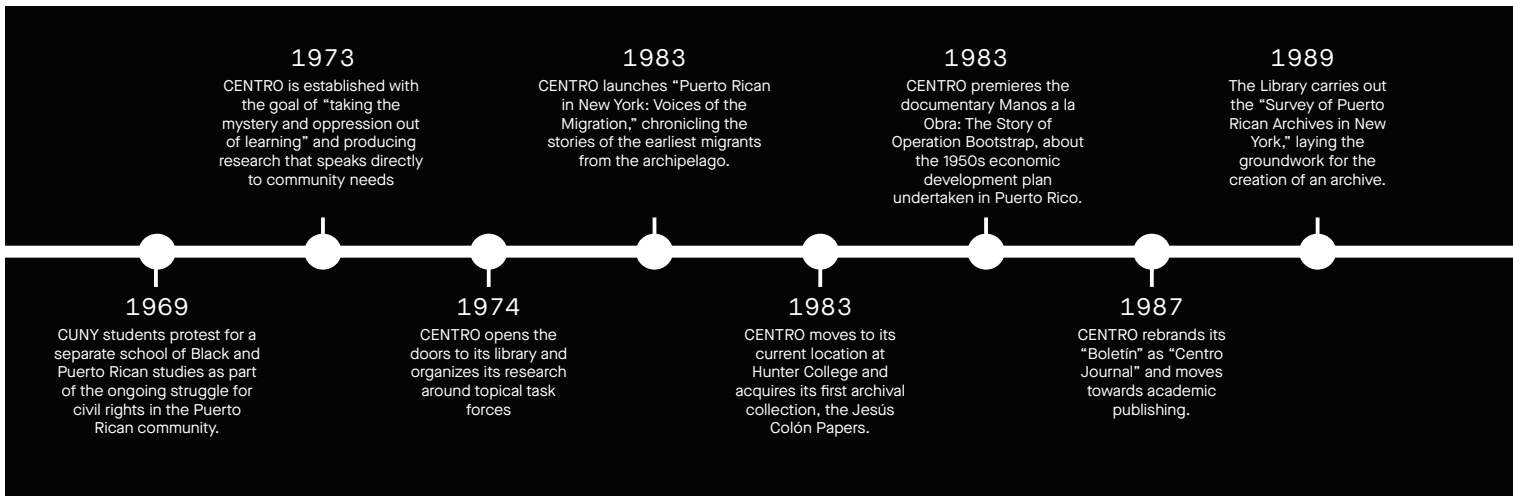
SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE



CENTRO'S FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

The fundamental principles of CENTRO were born out of a collaborative effort among CENTRO's founding researchers, staff members, and community leaders to reimagine academic practice in the service of our community. Although drafted half a century ago, they still guide and drive our mission to this day.

- CENTRO programming should be created through open and inclusive discussions among students, faculty, administrators, and community members to ensure it meets the needs of those we directly serve.
- Learning should be inclusive and welcoming to all members of the community. We must take the mystery and oppression out of learning, welcome the community into the university, and project the university outward in transformative ways.
- Puerto Ricans cannot rely exclusively on professional scholars or scientifically trained researchers in the pursuit of the kind of self-knowledge we seek. Everyone's intellectual talent and energy should be developed and mobilized. This means that traditional standards and obligations should not restrict people's capability for intellectual work.
- We seek to support and explore the possibilities of collective work and to develop new forms of relationships in the sharing and creation of knowledge. Intellectual work should be regarded as public knowledge for the benefit of as many as possible, not as private property.
- We reject any version of science that insists on isolation, detachment, exclusivism, hierarchy, immunity from criticism, and the universal right of any one to study us irrespective of purpose or desires.
- We are not attempting to mimic, catch up to, or reproduce other academic institutions. We mean to strike out boldly and experiment with modes of work that others in the university might also find useful.





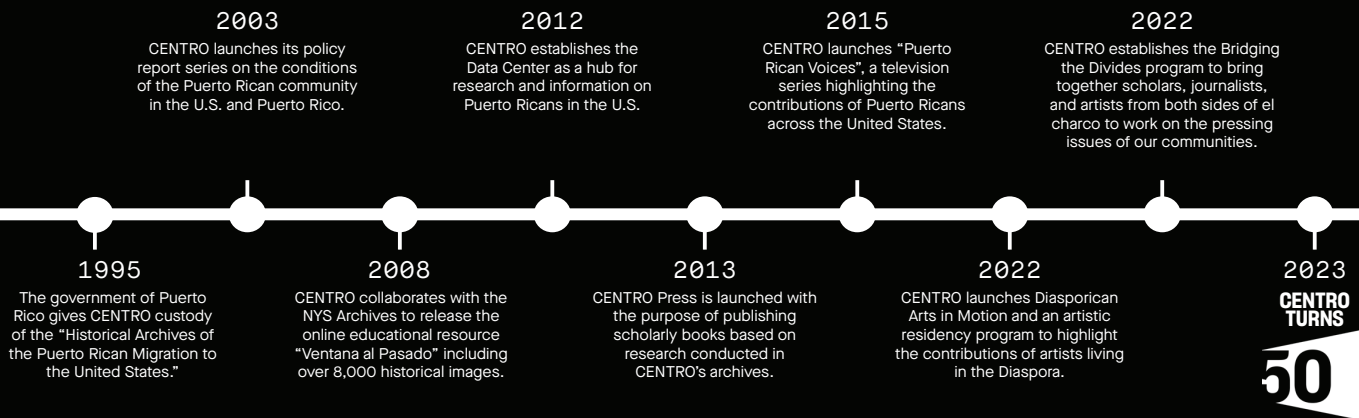
THE FUTURE OF CENTRO

Since Puerto Rico became a U.S. territory in 1898, many Puerto Ricans have migrated to the States in search of a sustainable life and future. One of the first migrations began in 1900 with around 50 Puerto Rican men traveling to Hawaii to work on sugarcane plantations. Despite constant challenges due to the effects of colonization and racism, Puerto Rican communities have thrived across the United States in places like New York, Florida, and throughout Hawaii, radically impacting local and national culture.

Today, iconic neighborhoods like El Barrio in New York, Paseo Boricua in Chicago, and El Centro de Oro in Philadelphia continue to stand as symbols of Puerto

Rican history, culture, radical activism, and community-oriented programs, enriching the lives of all surrounding residents.

As the Diaspora continues to grow, CENTRO is honoring our roots by improving and developing archival practices, making educational resources widely accessible, and offering more community-oriented programming. In the wake of gentrification, environmental and fiscal crisis, historic migration, and political tensions, we ask ourselves, What is needed in this moment?, how can we continue to shine a light on our collective experience while uplifting the immense joy and beauty that we have created together?



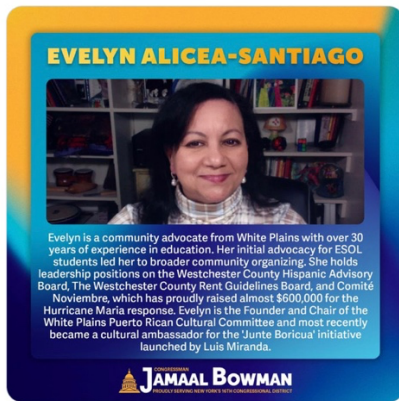


The White Plains Puerto Rican Cultural Committee (*WPPRCC*) was founded in 2020 by a group of community members from White Plains and the surrounding area. It is led by Chair **Evelyn Alicea-Santiago**, a veteran ESOL and Bilingual Education teacher with a 30-year history of activism in the Hispanic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

Westchester County, recently honored by **U.S. Congressman Jamaal Bowman** for her community advocacy and for working hard “to create cultural spaces for Puerto Ricans in Westchester.” 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, with a cultural focus on music, art, dance, and literature. In 2023, the *WPPRCC* became a registered charitable non-profit corporation.



Congressman Jamaal Bo... · 26m ...
We're wrapping up Hispanic Heritage Month by celebrating Evelyn, a community advocate who has worked hard to create cultural spaces for Puerto Ricans in Westchester. Thank you for all you do, Evelyn!



It is donations-based organization generously funded by members, donors, and allies. The *WPPRCC* organized the first-ever Puerto Rican flag raising event in White Plains in 2021. The incredible success of the flag raising event and the interest from the Puerto Rican community in White Plains has led the *WPPRCC* to plan 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 **Wayne Bass**, the commissioner of the *White Plains Recreation and Parks Department*; **Eddie Rodriguez**, a retired nuclear engineer from the *Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant*; **Griselle Feliciano**, the associate director of the *Unlimited Care* home care agency, who is also co-chair of the *Westchester for Puerto Rico Project*; **Luis Muñiz**, a 26-year retired White Plains Police Officer and Westchester community activist who organizes the *Yonkers Puerto Rican and Hispanic Parade*;

Maggie Raccioppo, the School Nurse Coordinator and Director of Health Services for the *White Plains Public Schools*; **Dolores Batista**, the first Puerto Rican woman to establish a thriving *AllState Insurance* business in the Bronx; **Millie and Elizardi Castro** a community activist couple who raised one of the first Puerto Rican families in White Plains; **Joe Maymi**, Real Estate Broker and Branch Manager of *Howard Hanna Rand Realty* in White Plains; and **Teresa Santiago**, the president of *Comité Noviembre*, the premier organization for Puerto Rican community advocacy.



Community Collaborations

In 2022, the *WPPRCC* partnered with *Comité Noviembre*, *PRIDA*, and the *White Plains Public Library* to host several “firsts” in White Plains. In December of 2022, we hosted the First Annual White Plains Puerto Rican Artisans Fair at the *White Plains Public Library*. We had about 200 visitors and we received a Proclamation from the City of White Plains! On January 7th, 2023, we celebrated Three Kings Day at *The Trove*, the beautiful Children’s section of the *White Plains Public Library*. Together with the staff at *The Trove*, we read a bilingual story to a group of children, made crowns, and celebrated gift-giving with The Three Kings! We also co-wrote a grant to hold the first-ever Puerto Rican art exhibit in the main gallery of *ArtsWestchester*! We look forward to what 2024 will bring. ¡Adelante!



celebrated gift-giving with The Three Kings! We also co-wrote a grant to hold the first-ever Puerto Rican art exhibit in the main gallery of *ArtsWestchester*! We look forward to what 2024 will bring. ¡Adelante!

ART *Exhibition*

The Puerto Rican Community Through Arts and Culture

ArtsWestchester - May 2023





La Casa de la Herencia Cultural Puertorriqueña, Inc.

La Casa de la Herencia Cultural Puertorriqueña, Inc. (La Casa) was developed in 1980 and incorporated in 1983, as a not-for-profit, Puerto Rican Heritage Library and Resource Center to promote, advance and preserve the rich Puerto Rican culture in the Diaspora. La Casa provides essential structural support for cultural and educational activities, serves youth and their families, students, professional and emerging artists, and works in collaboration with educational and non-educational institutions, and other community groups directly from El Barrio, the Tri-State-Area and Puerto Rico. La Casa houses the Puerto Rican Heritage Library, conducts a weekly Cuatro and Arts Instruction Program, co-sponsors Violeta Galagarza's KR3T's Youth Dance Company, Barrio Independent Productions, and this year, the Spanish Harlem Dance Fest 2023. Special events such as Cena de Monte Adentro and Fiesta de Reyes y Reinas are conducted on a yearly basis. For additional information, contact La Casa at: lacasahcp@gmail.com or at (646) 360 - 4126.



Event at La Casa during June 9, 2023. New York and Puerto Rico's Legislators Conference on "Health Needs and Opportunities for Puerto Rico." co-sponsored by La Casa with Wilson Nasario. With the participation of José Luis Dalmau Santiago President of the Senate of PR and Rafael Hernández Montañez President of the House of Representatives of P.R., Carlos Mellado López, Secretary of Health of P.R. and General Lester Martínez López, Secretary of Health Affairs of the US Department of Defense.



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: www.lacasapr.nyc
www.facebook.com/lacasapr
www.twitter.com/lacasapr
www.instagram.com/lacasapr

“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...



Dr. Mildred García appointed 11th California State University Chancellor, First-ever Latina appointed to lead the nation’s largest and most diverse four-year university system.



Dr. Martinez-Montemayor discovered and patented a compound in the Ganoderma lucidum mushroom variety that has an effect against breast cancer. This discovery has the potential to treat the most aggressive types of breast cancers, such as triple-negative breast cancer and inflammatory breast cancer.



Bad Bunny is Latin America’s number one recording artist. His ability to adapt to various styles of Latin music has led him in the conversation as a top artist in multiple genres, whether its Latin hip-hop, Latin trap, Latin pop, reggaeton, or even dembow music. Only a few years in, debuting in 2016 with “Soy Peor,” Bad Bunny’s success has quickly taken the world by storm.



Residente is one of the pioneering Puerto Rican rappers. He is viewed as one of the greatest Latin hip hop artists of all-time. The thought provoking Residente has always been a representation for the people and for his heritage and culture, since beginning with the group Calle 13. While making features and numerous guest appearances, the solo artist Residente began his journey in 2017 with his first official single “Somos Anormales.”



San Juan is the second oldest European established capital city in the Americas.

La Fortaleza is the oldest Executive Mansion in continuous use in the Americas.

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

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National Bird:
Spindalis zena portoricensis

Barceloneta in Puerto Rico has **the biggest pharmaceutical complex in the world** (14 industries). Wondering why? The water in Barceloneta is so pure that it requires very little treatment for use in the manufacture of pharmaceutical products.

Plaza Las Americas mall in San Juan is one of **the most profitable malls per square foot in the world**.

The **Bacardi Rum Factory (est. 1862) in San Juan, is the largest rum distillery in the world** (producing more 100,000 liters of rum every 24 hours).

Puerto Rican Citizenship: Juan Mari Brás was the first person to receive Puerto Rican citizenship. He received the citizenship certificate from the Puerto Rico Department of State on October 25, 2006. The government has since been granting Puerto Rican citizenship to people born in Puerto Rico and to those who have at least one parent who was born in Puerto Rico. Citizenship is also granted to those who have lived at least one year in Puerto Rico and are an American citizen.



National Tree: Ceiba.
300 year-old Cieba Tree in Vieques



Puerto Rico is home to **the largest living reptile in the world** – the leatherback sea turtle.

Puerto Rico is home to the World’s Largest Natural Bioluminescent Bay located in Mosquito Bay. This incredible bay glows with millions of tiny dinoflagellates, creating a beautiful blue-green light show that can be seen from the shore.

Puerto Rico has uninhabited islands. Puerto Rico is an archipelago and there are residents on three of its islands: Puerto Rico, Culebra, and Vieques. At the same time, there are nearly a handful of islands that are part of Puerto Rico where no humans live only animals. These islands include Isla de Mona, Cayo Icacos, Caja de Muertos, and Isla Palomino. These islands aren’t residential, but visitors can spend a day at these stunning locations which make for fun trips.



Flower: Flor de Maga



Legendary pirate Cofresi - The Robin Hood of Puerto Rico

El Pirata Cofresi is Puerto Rico’s most famous, real-life pirate as the legend goes. Born in the seaside town of Cabo Rojo, he was encouraged to dream about exploring the sea from sailors in town. As a pirate Cofresi would attack boats and share his spoils with the poor and as a result,



HELP COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE SUPPORT THE MAUI PUERTO RICAN ASSOCIATION

It's been over 3 months since the devastating wildfires in Maui. The situation is no longer on the evening news but our brothers and sisters suffering. The funds raised will go directly to the Puerto Rican cultural nonprofit organization, The Maui Puerto Rican Association the largest Puerto Rican organization in the state of Hawai'i.

There are approximately 50,000 Puerto Ricans living in the state of Hawai'i the majority in Maui. The Maui Puerto Rican Association (MPRA) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1980. Its mission is to preserve and perpetuate Puerto Rican cultural practices and traditions brought to Hawai'i in the 1900s by grandparents and great-grandparents. Their contributions to Hawai'i left a legacy the community is proud to maintain. In doing so, it fosters goodwill and social relationships among its members and with the community.

Puerto Rican migration to Hawai'i began when Puerto Rico's sugar industry was devastated by two hurricanes in 1899. The devastation caused a worldwide shortage of sugar and a huge demand for the product from Hawai'i. Consequently, Hawaiian sugarcane plantation owners began to recruit jobless, but experienced, laborers from Puerto Rico. In thirteen separate groups, 5883 Puerto Rican men, women, and children traveled by ship, train then ship again to begin their new lives in the sugar plantations. Puerto Ricans have been in Hawai'i for 124 years.

The Maui Puerto Rican Association; <https://www.maipuertoricanassociation.org>, <https://youtu.be/6qnI7OTjwz4>

Here's How To Donate

By check or money order:

Make check payable to Comité Noviembre and mail to:
Comité Noviembre Managing Office: C/O TAS Communications. LLC
45 East Hartsdale Avenue, Suite 3L, Hartsdale, NY 10530
On the memo section of the check please enter MAUI

By PAYPAL: Go to: Paypal.com

Follow the prompts to pay by email. Email: cnevents@comitenoviembre.org
Online: comitenoviembre.org/donate.

Thank you for your support!

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. JC is 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 JC prioritizes the development of the leadership of both youth and elders and strive to make organizing a multi-generational effort. JC builds 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
Loyda@justicecommittee.org

Yul-san Liem, Co-Director
Yul-san@justicecommittee.org

347.752.8070:
info@justicecommittee.org

50 YEARS OF HIP-HOP



Roseland Ballroom NYC "Cypher" 1982
© Joe Conzo, Jr.

Hip-Hop first became a part of the mainstream music industry in the early 1980s, but the true origins of one of the most powerful pop-cultural influences of the twentieth century are in the spontaneous and progressive musical culture that grew out of tough Bronx neighborhoods of the 1970s and led to a renaissance of poetry, music, and fashion.

Through the work of pioneering Hip-Hop photographer Joe Conzo, Jr., the man *The New York Times* calls “the chronicler who took Hip-Hop’s baby pictures” his work truly gives a unique introduction to an explosive and experimental period in music history. The long and perilous journey of his photographic images finally captured the gaze of mainstream America. Born and raised in the Bronx, Mr. Conzo acquired a passion for photography as a young boy attending the Agnes Russell School on the campus of Columbia University. He continued his formal artistic education at the School of Visual Arts (NYC). He also received certification as a Combat Medic. Later, he would join the New York Fire Department as an Emergency Medical Technician. It was his role as an EMT that delivered him to the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11, 2001. All the while, he continued his photography and published a seminal book on hip hop culture that has received worldwide acclaim — “*Born In The Bronx: A Visual Record of the Early Days of Hip-Hop*” (2007). In 2008, this entire collection of images became part of a permanent archive housed at Cornell University. The digitization of over 10,000 of Mr. Conzo’s film images has already begun—progress can be viewed at the Cornell University Library’s website. This collection is regarded by genre experts and academia as an important lens into the roots of Hip-Hop culture, the Urban NYC landscape of the 70’s and 80’s, and an integral source for any serious discourse on the movement.

50 YEARS OF HIP-HOP



The Popper Roseland Ballroom NYC
1982
© Joe Conzo, Jr.



BBOYS South Bronx
1980
© Joe Conzo, Jr.



Joe Conzo Selfie South Bronx
1979
© Joe Conzo, Jr.

50 YEARS OF HIP HOP



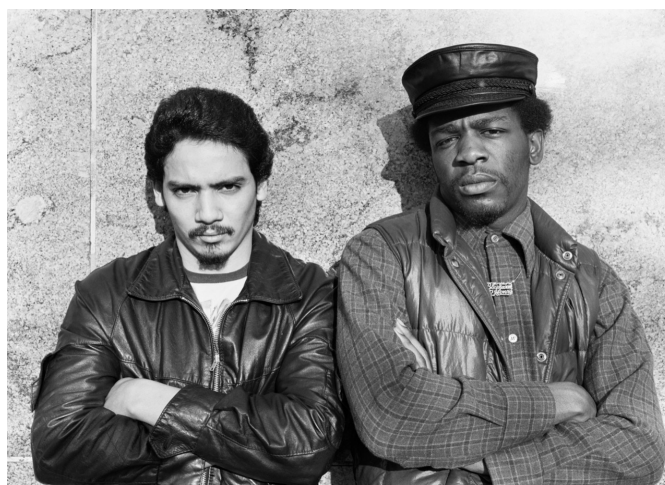
The Mean Machine 3rd Ave Hub
Outside Jam
1980
© Joe Conzo, Jr.



Dancing in The Streets 3rd Ave Hub
South Bronx
1980
© Joe Conzo, Jr.



DJ Charlie Chase at Negril Night Club NYC
1981
© Joe Conzo, Jr.



DJs Charlie Chase and Tony Tone
1981
© Joe Conzo, Jr.

IN MEMORIAM

This year, Comité Noviembre lost several dear friends and colleagues who shaped the organization's development and success in many ways.

Jose, Bobby, Robert and Valerie - thank you for your support of Comité Noviembre throughout the years.



Jose "Tito" Ramon Acevedo, (1960 – 2023) was a devoted advocate for the Puerto Rican and Hispanic community and a beloved member of his family and friends. He was an instrumental board member of Comité Noviembre dedicating his time to the educational, youth leadership development, volunteerism, and community service components of our mission. Tito was a graduate of Rutgers University with Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and a minor in Puerto Rican Studies. He was a testament to his commitment to understanding and preserving his cultural heritage.

Tito embarked on a fulfilling career in social work, community engagement, and corporate human resources. His journey began at ASPIRA Inc. of New Jersey, where he mentored and counseled Hispanic youth, leaving a positive impact on their lives. Over the years, he contributed his expertise to various organizations, including Verizon, the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration, Newark Department of Health, FOCUS-Hispanic Center for Community Development Inc., and the New Jersey Performing

Arts Center in Newark.

Among Tito's many accomplishments, he will be particularly remembered for his outstanding service to New Jersey's Puerto Rican community. As the chairman of Friends of the Hispanic Research and Information Center at the Newark Public Library, he tirelessly promoted lifelong learning within the Hispanic community and worked ardently to preserve its historical legacy in the state. Tito's passion extended to honoring the history and sacrifices of Puerto Rico's 65th Infantry Regiment, known as The Borinqueneers. This regiment was the only segregated Hispanic unit in US Army history.



Bobby Gonzalez, Author, Poet, (1952 - 2023) was born and raised in the South Bronx, New York. Bobby Gonzalez grew up in a bicultural environment. Bobby drew on his Native

American (Taino) and Latino (Puerto Rican) roots to offer a unique repertoire of discourses, readings and performances that celebrated his indigenous heritage. Bobby lectured at many institutions including Yale University, the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, the University of Mississippi, and many other educational institutions across the United States.

As a storyteller, he had the privilege of performing at Carnegie Hall, the Museum of Television & Radio, and the Detroit Institute of Arts. He gave poetry readings at the National Museum of the American Indian, the University of North Dakota and the Nuyorican Poets Café.

He was the author of several books including *"The Last Puerto Rican Indian: a Collection of Dangerous Poetry"* and *"Taino Zen."* For several years he was the event coordinator & master of ceremonies for the annual BRONX NATIVE AMERICAN FESTIVAL at Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx.

Bobby González sought to empower his audiences by encouraging them to embrace their heritage and use this knowledge to create a dynamic future. As an individual proud of his Native American, Latino, African and European ancestry, Bobby was a messenger of hope, pride, and love of diversity.

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IN MEMORIAM

(continued from previous page)



Robert Espier Ayala, Exhibited Photographer, Beloved Father, and Dear Friend

Exhibited Photographer since 1958, Robert's interest in photography dates back to his childhood. He had a passion for newsreels and photo reportage in popular magazines of the day. Over the years, Robert went on to participate in exhibitions presented by the Brooklyn Heights Camera Club, Manners Fine Art Photography, En Foco, the Dominican Community Development Center, and many more. Comité Noviembre will remember him for his work as a member of the Puerto Rican Institute for the Development of the Arts, PRIDA.

Throughout his life he was immersed in community issues and struggles and worked with community trailblazers such as Yolanda Sanchez.

Valerie Shirley Anne Deas, Artist,



(1950 – 2023)

Valerie Deas was born in the Bronx, raised in Harlem, and resided in the Bronx for more than three decades. She taught art professionally for over 25 years in public school classrooms and community workshops. Valerie was a multimedia artist whose work often combined painting and textiles to explore dimensionality and color. Her work also drew from the rhythms and lines of music and dance traditions.

Valerie participated in more than 25 group shows. Her work appeared in two international shows, Book Art in Brazil and the International Textile

Biennial: Beyond Category - Visions of Jazz in Fiber in San Jose, Costa Rica, curated by Carolyn Mazoolmi. Valerie's solo exhibition, Thread and Paints, took place at Gallery M in Harlem, New York. Her quilts toured with the African American Fiber Art Exhibition throughout the country. In 2021, Valerie was awarded a City Artist Corps Grant to bring some of her artwork to her community. Valerie was a Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA) Community Engagement Grantee for two consecutive years (2022 and 2023). In 2022, Valerie restored six Gee's Bends Quilts for SoHarlem's exhibition at the Malt House. In 2023, her artwork, The Three Women, was selected as the cover art for the 2nd edition of the novella, My Xanthi by author Stephanie Cotsirilos.

This past August, Valerie went on Comité Noviembre annual educational trip to Puerto Rico. She wanted to learn about the culture to teach her grandchildren who are half Puerto Rican about the history and beauty of the island. Comité Noviembre will always remember her for her contagious smile.



COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE

mes de la herencia puertorriqueña

Twenty-Seventh Annual Benefit Dinner

**Celebrating 37 Years Of
Puerto Rican Culture & History**

Buscando Nuestras Raíces

Friday, November 17, 2023

6PM

The Water Club

New York City

Empowering the Dreams of our Community
for over 30 years

SALSA HOSPITALITY



Off-Premise Catering



Catering To-Go



Corporate Cafeteria



Quick Serve Concept



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Thank You

Robert Sancho

&



For your continued support of
Comité Noviembre

Emergency Rights Inc.

Salutes

Comité Noviembre

*on its 37th Anniversary of
Celebrating Puerto Rican Culture & History in this Country*

&

Congratulates our very own

AWILDA CORDERO

*For her unconditional love and
support for her community truly
Lo Mejor de Nuestra Comunidad*





COMITÉ NOVIEMBRE

37th Anniversary
mes de la herencia puertorriqueña



18th National Puerto Rican Artisans Fair & Book Expo

Artwork by Migdalia Galarza, Graphic Design by Luis Cordero Santoni, Photo by Ana Alicea

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023

In-Person at Hostos Community College - 12PM On
Online at ComiteNoviembreVirtualFair.org



Co-sponsored by PRIDA





Celebrating Puerto Rican Heritage Month

Montefiore Einstein salutes Comité Noviembre. We are proud to support its 37 years of creating awareness of the rich contributions Puerto Ricans have made to our nation through arts, culture, language and history.

Montefiore Einstein