creating cultural responses to social conditions

our vision
is a more inclusive campus, where we can respectfully challenge each other to uphold principles of human dignity and ensure the nourishment and protection of cultural diversity

our mission
is to engage the UIC campus and local communities to deepen understanding of the diverse cultural heritages and identities of Latinos, issues affecting their lives, and creative solutions they are using to improve community life
During the 2015-2016 academic year, the Latino Cultural Center (LCC) reaffirmed its role as a hub for social change and a forum for democracy in action. The LCC has accomplished this through a rich series of educational public programs, civic dialogues and tours, and an internship program. Students, faculty, staff, and community members increased their understanding of social and environmental issues affecting the lives of Latinos and Latin Americans while making connections across diverse communities and identities.

The Latino Cultural Center’s programs and initiatives featured cultural and artistic expressions, intercultural and civic dialogues, scholarly presentations, and first-voice stories, drawing on cultural assets to address contemporary issues. Program series included Zona Abierta (Open Zone), Civic Cinema, Flaque de Poetas (Poetry Night), and Telling Our Stories. The LCC hosted the 24th annual UIC Chicago Latino Film Festival, broadened its civic dialogues initiative to address environmental and climate justice, and strengthened its mural tours by training new student facilitators. The LCC initiated an Artist in Residence Initiative to support creative expressions of students’ intersectional identities, struggles, successes, and hopes for the future.

The Latino Cultural Center is one of six Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change (CCUSC) under the Office of Diversity in Academic Affairs at UIC. The CCUSC’s collective purpose is to expand understanding of the value of cultural diversity, and connect diverse assets to find creative solutions for common challenges. With the other CCUSC centers, the LCC launched a year-long Peace Project, continued to expand the UIC Heritage Garden and Internship Program, and further developed the Reimagining Masculinities Initiative.

The Latino Cultural Center continued to work closely with faculty, staff, students, and community leaders to reflect their expertise and leadership in support of the arts and culture as tools for learning, self-expression, and social empowerment. Along with the support of the LCC’s Ambassadors Group, the LCC staff continued to heighten and disseminate the LCC’s work locally and nationally. This year, the LCC broadened its national visibility through presentations by the director in the “New Community Visions” – a three-year national initiative from Americans for the Arts and the American Alliance of Museums Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Visitors who experienced these interactive programs, dialogues, tours, and initiatives reported new learning and greater cultural understanding and appreciation of diversity at UIC. The LCC recorded a total of 14,383 visitations this year.

Presented 56 public programs
Facilitated 56 civic dialogues and tours
Convened our 47-member Ambassadors Group
Mentored 17 student interns and leaders
Worked with 1 graduate assistant
Employed 4 student educators
Presented programs with 12 faculty and staff
Collaborated with 34 community schools and organizations
LCC programs were co-sponsored by 21 UIC student organizations

What visitors attended
2,647 attendees at LCC public programs 18%
2,577 Gallery space visits 19%
2,131 arts-based civic dialogues and tours 15%
3,663 computer lab visits 25%
2,665 guests hosted for meetings/events via space reservations 19%
600 additional guests via programs held at community partners’ locations 4%

Who attended LCC public programs
African, African-American, Black 5%
Asian and other Pacific Islander 2%
European Descent, White 5%
Middle Eastern 4%
Latina/o 53%
Mix Ethnicity 8%
No Response 23%

Staff photo: (top image, left to right) Mario A. Lucero, Assistant Director; Dr. Rosa M. Cabrera, Director; and Edith Tovar, Program Coordinator.
Not shown, Paula Bui, Program Coordinator. Students photo: (bottom image, left to right) Alonzo Zamarrón, Graphic Design Assistant; Ian Torres, Student Educator; Lena G. Reynolds, Graduate Assistant; James Esparza, Student Educator; and Jocelyn Munguia Chávez, Student Educator.
Arts-Based Civic Dialogues Initiative (ABC Dialogues) and Tours

The Latino Cultural Center piloted a new dialogue project with a grant from the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (Coalition), titled “What’s culture got to do with climate change?” This project was designed to create links between environmental and climate justice, cultural heritage, and pressing community concerns to foster broader engagement and incite climate action. The LCC collaborated with Casa Michoacán to engage the Pilsen community and support their interest in environmental issues. Ultimately, the LCC created two “How to” Guides with different dialogue models — one for Coalition members like museums, cultural centers, and historic sites, and the other for Casa Michoacán in Spanish so that they can train additional staff and sustain the dialogues. These guides are available at latinocultural.uic.edu/dialogues-and-tours. Simultaneously, the LCC staff boosted its mural tours capacity by adding and training more student educators to lead the tours.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP ABC DIALOGUES:

Open Theme. September 11, October 8, and November 6, 2015.
Activism for Public Education. March 2, 2016.

ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE JUSTICE ABC DIALOGUES:


ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE JUSTICE OBJECT-BASED CIVIC DIALOGUES:

Environmental & Climate Justice. February 24, 2016 — 3 sessions.
IPCE Civic Engagement Days with CPS: Kelvyn Park, Alcott, Lakeview, and Uplift.

This year, the Latino Cultural Center devoted more time and resources to expand its Arts-Based Civic Dialogues Initiative (ABC Dialogues) and Tours of its mural, El Despertar de las Americas (The Awakening of the Americas), as well as its Artist in Residence Initiative.

2015 / 2016 initiatives and public programs
ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE JUSTICE THEME-BASED CIVIC DIALOGUES:


LCC MURAL TOURS
Fall 2015: 12 tours / Spring 2016: 19 tours / Summer 2016: 4 tours
Total: 35 mural tours / 1,524 participants

Artist in Residence Initiative
In the Spring of 2016, the LCC Gallery was turned into an open studio to host two local artists: muralist Hector Duarte and sculptor Alfonso “Piloto” Nieves Ruiz.

Mobilizing with Art for Social Transformation. February 3 to 19, 2016. Under the tutelage of Maestro Duarte, students and other members of the UIC campus created a collective art piece about the everyday realities of undocumented people and immigrant communities in the US. The canvas was titled, “Awakening Hearts, Changing Lives,” and designed as a traveling mural in collaboration with the UIC Asian American Resource and Cultural Center and the Fearless Undocumented Alliance student group as part of the CCUSC Peace Project. The traveling mural will move around different public spaces to spark dialogue about contemporary issues, foster a sense of belonging, and imagine a more inclusive society.

Ayotzinapa Lives, the Struggle Continues. April 5 and 6, 2016. The Latino Cultural Center hosted sculptor Piloto for a two-day workshop, “Ayotzinapa Lives, the Struggle Continues.” This program was part of the Fifth Biennial Latino Art Now! Conference by the Inter-University Program for Latino Research (IUPLR) and the Smithsonian Latino Center: it explored the relationship between the 43 student teachers disappeared in Ayotzinapa, Mexico and Chicago’s undocumented students and allies. Through the use of clay and repurposed trash, Piloto worked with participants to create casts of their faces for an art installation.

Heritage Garden
The Heritage Garden and Internship Program is a collaboration between the CCUSC with program infrastructure provided by the Latino Cultural Center, funded by the UIC Sustainability Fee. Student interns sustain eight satellite gardens, including the Monarch Habitat in front of the LCC. Interns make explicit connections between environmental sustainability, cultural diversity, and social justice through activities like gardening, collecting community stories and recipes, researching the cultural significance of plants, and offering public programs.


Heritage Garden

Get down and Dirty! November 18, 2015.

Reimagining Masculinities Initiative
The Reimagining Masculinities Initiative is a collaboration between the CCUSC that strives to cultivate, support, affirm, and create male allies and advocates. Through dialogues, films, workshops, and personal stories, this initiative unpacks what it means to be masculine and explores issues of masculinity and gender.

Reimagining Masculinity Kickoff! September 15, 2015.


Zona Abierta (Open Zone)


Civic Cinema


Noche de Poetas (Poetry Night) Presented with the Mexican Students de Aztlán; Students for the Advancement of Freedom, Equality and Human Rights; Students for Justice in Palestine; and Union for Puerto Rican Students.


Telling Our Stories
Presented with Mexican Students de Aztli, and Heritage Garden Student Group.

Special Public Programs
Open House — Fall 2015. August 26, 2015.

UIC Chicago Latino Film Festival. Presented with the International Latino Cultural Center of Chicago:
In the Game / En El Juego. April 12, 2016.
Dad / Pa ¡Por mis hijos lo que sea! April 13, 2016.

In Memory of Pulse — June 14, 2016. Presented with the Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change.

Peace Project
A year-long initiative presented with the Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change. Together, the CCUSC committed to catalyzing dialogue and shifting language and actions toward peacemaking through the arts. #UICPeaceProject
a special thanks to LCC partners, supporters and ambassadors

UIC campus units:
- African-American Cultural Center (AACC)
- Asian American Resource and Cultural Center (AARCC)
- Campus Advocacy Network (CAN), Chancellor’s Committee on the Status of Latinos (CCSL)
- Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies, Department of History, Freshwater Lab, Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC), Gender and Women’s Studies Program (GWS), Global Learning Community (GLC), Institute for the Humanities, Inter-University Program for Latino Research (IUPLR), Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS) Program, Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services (LARES) Program, Native American Support Program (NASP), Office of Diversity, Office of Sustainability, School of Literatures, Cultural Studies and Linguistics, School of Public Health (SPH), Social Justice Initiative (SJI), Study Abroad Office, and the Women’s Leadership and Resource Center (WLRC).

UIC student organization co-sponsors:
- Alpha Psi Lambda, Amnesty International, Fearless Undocumented Alliance (FUA), Health Oriented Latino Association (HOLA); Heritage Garden Student Group, Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement (HACE), International Club; Lambda Theta Phi; Latino Association of Business Students (LABS); Lambda Gamma; Students for the Advancement of Freedom, Equality, and Human Rights (SAFEHR); Latino Educators United for Change (LSUC); Latino Planning Organization for Development, Education, and Reparation (LPODER); Feminists United; Latino Pre-Medical Student Association (LPMSA); Mexican Students of Aztlan (MeSA); Minority Students for the Advancement of Public Health (MSAPH); Peer Health Exchange (PHE); Pride, Public Health Student Association (PSPSA); Sigma Lambda Gamma; Students for the Advancement of Freedom, Equality, and Human Rights (SAFEHR); Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP); and Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS).

Community, city-wide, and global engagement:
- Alcott High School; Altia American; Casa Michoacan; Chicago Fair Trade; Chicago Coalition of Household Workers; Chicago Cultural Alliance; Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America (CRLN); Chicago Votes; City Colleges of Chicago - Harold Washington; Dr. Pedro Albizu Alcott High School; Alianza Americas; Casa Michoacan; Chicago Fair Trade; Chicago Coalition of Hispanic Organizations (COHOR); City Colleges of Chicago - Truman College; Elgin Community College; Enlace Chicago; Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO); Enjoy Life Foods; The Field Museum; Garrett College; Great Cities Institute; Institute for the International Education of Students (IES Abroad), International Latino Cultural House, Household Workers; Chicago Cultural Alliance; Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin American and Latino Studies (LARES) Program; Native American Support Program (NASP); Office of Diversity, Office of Sustainability, School of Literatures, Cultural Studies and Linguistics, School of Public Health (SPH), Social Justice Initiative (SJI), Study Abroad Office, and the Women’s Leadership and Resource Center (WLRC).

Latino Cultural Center Ambassadors Group — 2015-2016:
- Ada N. Lopez, Former UIC Trustee
- Alicia J. Rodriguez, Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE)
- Amalia Paltares, Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS) Program
- Ana I. Ruiz, Undergraduate student
- Andrea Carrillo, Undergraduate student
- Ana Alfonsú, Dept. of Biological Sciences
- Andy Rafael, Undergraduate student
- Aubrie E. Snavely, Enlace Chicago
- Cesáreo Moreno, National Museum of Mexican Art
- Churu Thakral, Office of Diversity
- Cynthia Klein-Banai, Office of Sustainability
- Cynthia Soto, Native American Support Program (NASP)
- Emily Williams, Social Justice Initiative (SJI)
- Hugo Teruel, Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services (LARES) Program
- Ian Torres, Undergraduate student
- Irina Zadov, Jane Addams Hull-House Museum
- Ivan Arenas, Institute of Research on Race and Public Policy (IRRRP)
- James Espana, Undergraduate student
- Javier Villa-Flores, LALS
- Jocelyn Munguia Chávez, Undergraduate student
- Joe Hoereth, Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement (IPCE)
- Joel Paika, Dept. of Anthropology and LALS
- Jorge Felix, Puerto Rican Arts Alliance
- Karina Reyes, Dept. of Psychology
- Kendall Parker, CHANCE Program
- Lorena Garcia, Dept. of Sociology
- Mark Martell, Asian American Resource and Cultural Center (AARCC)
- Marta Apala, LALS
- Marty Gutierrez, Public & Government Affairs
- Melissa P. Hernandez, College of Medicine
- Molly Oano, Dept. of Anthropology
- Nilda Flores-Gonzalez, Dept. of Sociology and LALS
- Paul Callejas, UIC Alumni
- Phoenix Chen, Undergraduate student
- Priscilla Vasquez, Graduate student
- Rosana Delgado, Undergraduate Student
- Ruben Bautista, Undergraduate Student
- Sarah Vogt, Disability Resource Center (DRC)
- Silvia Malagrin, School of Art and Design
- Sofia Halim, Undergraduate student
- Synene L. Summers, Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC)
- Teresa Córdova, Great Cities Institute
- Therese Quinn, Dept. of Art History/Museum Studies
- Veronica Armola, WISE Program
- William Rodriguez, Student Affairs
- Xochilt Bada, LALS
- Yolanda Zoraya Aciel, Casa Michoacan

The Latino Cultural Center received grants from the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience and USDA Forest Service International Programs. The UIC Heritage Gardens received grants from the UIC Sustainability Fee and the USDA Forest Service International Programs.

Rafael Cintin Ortíz Latino Cultural Center
University of Illinois at Chicago
803 S. Morgan Street
Chicago, IL 60607-7028
312.996.3095
lcc@uic.edu

Printed on Recycled Paper