2016–2017 year at a glance
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.

The Latino Cultural Center (LCC) kicked off the academic year with its 40th anniversary celebration on September 14 and 15, 2016 to honor forty years of commitment to positive social change through art and culture. This two-day event engaged over 700 people with an open studio led by ten local Latina/o artists; musical performances; food tastings from the LCC’s 40 Recipes Cookbook; an artistic advocacy auction to support undocumented students; and the newly compiled LCC Archives project (1976-2016).

Beyond the 40th, the LCC accomplished its vision and mission through a series of educational public programs and initiatives which included: *Zona Abierta* (Open Zone), Civic Cinema, *Noche de Poetas* (Poetry Night), Telling Our Stories, Arts-Based Civic (ABC) Dialogues, and Artists in Residence. The LCC hosted the 25th annual UIC Chicago Latino Film Festival, piloted the ARTivism project to support creative practices to advance social justice, and presented its first official Earth Week with a series of public programs rooted in environmental advocacy. UIC classes attended ABC Dialogues with the topics of “Environmental & Climate Justice” and “Migration & Immigration.” Through these engaged learning experiences, students connected course materials to community assets and challenges, to imagine solutions together. In a new project called *Historias Monarca* (Monarch Stories), the LCC collaborated with several community partners to collect stories from Mexican communities in Chicago about their cultural connections to Monarch butterflies and increase their conservation practices.

In the aftermath of a highly charged and divisive 2016 presidential campaign and election, the LCC reaffirmed its collective purpose alongside the six other Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change (CCUSC). As safe and brave spaces, the CCUSC responded with a series of collaborative discussions including Know Your Rights and Tea Talks presented with the Heritage Garden Student Group. The later project was informed by a four-week collaboration with The Field Museum that provided research training for the interns to better understand diverse notions of urban wellness. The CCUSC’s Reimagining Masculinities Initiative launched a resource library with tools and articles to discuss issues in a climax of American masculinity and patriarchal culture.

The LCC received national recognition through presentations at the Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting in Santa Fe and The American Alliance of Museums Annual Meeting in St. Louis. At both conferences the LCC work demonstrated models connecting cultural diversity and social and environmental / climate justice.
Visitors who experienced the LCC’s interactive arts and cultural education programs reported new learning, greater understanding, and appreciation of diversity at UIC.

The LCC recorded a total of 16,845 visitations this year.

Presented 67 public programs
Facilitated 61 civic dialogues and tours
Convened our 37-member Ambassadors Group
Mentored 14 student interns and leaders
Worked with 1 graduate assistant
Employed 6 student educators
Presented programs with 19 faculty and staff
Collaborated with 32 community schools and organizations
LCC programs were co-sponsored by 15 UIC student organizations

What visitors attended:
3,027 attendees at LCC public programs 18%
1,360 arts-based civic dialogue and tours 8%
3,268 gallery space visits 19%
2,475 computer lab visits 15%
6,415 guest hosted for meetings/events via space reservations 38%
300 additional guests via programs held at community partners’ locations (Historias Monarca) 2%

Who attended LCC public programs:
African, African-American, Black 1%
American Indian/Alaska Native 1%
Asian and other Pacific Islander 2%
European Descent, White 8%
Latina/o 54%
Middle Eastern 5%
Mix Ethnicity 4%
No Response 25%

Staff: Mario A. Lucero, Assistant Director; Edith Tovar, Program Coordinator; Lena G. Reynolds, Civic Engagement Educator; and Dr. Rosa M. Cabrera, Director.
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.

*See back for details

September 14 & 15, 2016

You’re invited!
Arts-Based Civic Dialogues Initiative (ABC Dialogues) and Tours


Artist in Residence Initiative


Zona Abierta (Open Zone)


Heritage Garden


A special thanks to the LCC partners, supporters, and ambassadors

**UIC Campus Units:** African-American Cultural Center (AACC); Arab American Cultural Center (ARABAMCC); Asian American Resource and Cultural Center (AARCC); Campus Advocacy Network (CAN); Center for Public Safety and Justice (CPSJ); Center for Student Involvement; CHANCE Program; Chancellor’s Committee on the Status of Latinos (CCSL); College of Education; Dialogue Initiative; The Freshwater Lab; Department of Anthropology; Department of Art History; Department of English; Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies (DHIS); Department of Hispanic Literary and Cultural Studies; Department of History; Disability Resource Center (DRC); Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC); Gender and Women’s Studies Program (GWS); Great Cities Institute (GCI); Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement (IPCE); Jane Addams Hull-House Museum (JAHHM); Latin American and Latino Studies Program (LALS); Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services (LARES) Program; Museum and Exhibition Studies Department (MUSE); Native American Support Program (NASP); Office of the Chancellor; Office of Diversity; Office of Public and Government Affairs; Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Office of Sustainability; Orientation Program; President’s Award Program - Honors (PAP-H); Social Justice Initiative (SJI); Student Leadership Development and Volunteer Services (SLDVS); Wellness Center; and Women’s Leadership and Resource Center (WLRC).

**UIC Student Organization Co-Sponsors:** Anthropology Club; Black Student Union (BSU); Fearless Undocumented Alliance (FUA); Heritage Garden Student Group; Lambda Sigma Upsilon; Lambda Theta Phi; Latino Greek Council (LGC); Latino Planning Organization for Development, Education, and Regeneration (LPODER); Mexican Students de Aztlan (MeSA); Native American Student Organization (NASO); Political Science Student Union (PSSU); Students for the Advancement of Freedom, Equality and Human Rights (SAFEHR); Society of Black Urban Planners (SBUP); Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP); and Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS).

**Community, City-Wide, and Global Engagement:** Arise Chicago; Asian Americans Advancing Justice Chicago; Benito Juarez Community Academy; Boys and Girls Club of Chicago (BGCC); Cobra Verde; Chicago Access Network Television (CAN TV); Chicago Cultural Alliance (CCA); Cook County Board of Commissioners; Cristo Rey Jesuit High School; Enlace Chicago; Farmington Central High School; The Field Museum; Goshen College; Howard Brown Health; International Latino Cultural Center of Chicago (ILCC); International Coalition of Sites of Conscience; Invisible to Invincible: Asian Pacific Pride of Chicago (i2i); Johnson School of Excellence; La Voz de Los de Abajo; Lit & Luz Festival; Mujeres Latinas en Acción; Nahua Lessons; National Museum of Mexican Art (NMMA); Planned Parenthood; Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC); Spanish Public Radio (SPR); Stanford University’s Alternative Spring Break Program (ASB); United Faculty (UF); Universidad Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM); West Metro Education Program (WMEP); YMCA of Metro Chicago; and Yollocalli Arts Reach.

**LCC Ambassadors Group—2016-2017. See list at:** latinocultural.uic.edu/about/ambassadors

The Latino Cultural Center received grants from The Chicago Community Trust and the USDA Forest Service International Programs. The Heritage Garden’s paid internships program was funded by the UIC Sustainability Fee.