

a special thanks to our partners and supporters

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UIC student organization co-sponsors Alpha Psi Lambda, Ballet de Colores, Fearless Undocumented Alliance (FUA), FUEGO, Gamma Phi Omega, Heritage Garden Student Group, Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement (HACE), Lambda Theta Alpha, Lambda Upsilon Lambda, Latina/o Graduate Student Association, Latino Association of Business Students (LABS), Latino Educators United for Change (LUCHA), Mexican Students de Aztlán (MeSA), Omega Delta Phi, Organization of Women Looking for Sisterhood in Corazones Unidos Siempre (O.W.L.S. in C.U.S.), Sigma Lambda Beta, Sigma Lambda Gamma, Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), Students for the Advancement of Freedom, Equality and Human Rights (SAFEHR), Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS), and the United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS).

Community and city-wide engagement ASPIRA Mirta Ramírez Computer Science High School, Ballet Folklórico of St. Edwards University of Austin Texas, Casa Michoacán, Chicago Cultural Alliance, Chicago GEAR UP from Curie Metro High School, Chicago GEAR UP from Theodore Roosevelt High School, Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), Contratiempo, CultureStrike, Department of Latina/Latino Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Divine Chocolate, Elk Grove High School, The Field Museum, Ford Foundation, The Futuro Media Group, Illinois Humanities Council, Immigrant Youth Justice League (IYJL), Instituto Cervantes of Chicago, International Dreamers Club from Benito Juarez Community Academy High School, International Latino Cultural Center of Chicago, J. Sterling Morton High School District through Northeastern Illinois University, J-Def Peace Project, John Hope College Prep, Latin American Studies Association, Little Village Lawndale High School Campus, Morton College, MOSTRA Brazilian Film Series, Namaste Charter School, National Museum of Mexican Art, One Book, One Chicago, One Earth Film Festival, Puerto Rican Arts Alliance, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Student/Farmworker Alliance, Uprising Youth Program, and the Washington and Lee University Department of Music.

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center

2013-14
year at a glance

UIC RAFAEL CINTRÓN ORTIZ
LATINO CULTURAL CENTER

engaging campus and local communities

During the 2013-2014 academic year, the Latino Cultural Center (LCC) presented over 60 public programs that addressed pressing social issues and offered the opportunity to connect diverse voices and assets on campus and neighboring communities. The LCC continued to be a welcoming place of teaching, learning, empowerment, and creativity for guests who attended our public programs, mural dialogues and tours; gathered for meetings and class in our Gallery; or had study sessions in our Student Computer Lab. Program series presented included *Zona Abierta* (Open Zone), Civic Cinema, *Noche de Poetas* (Poetry Night), and Telling Our Stories. We also organized Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 Open Houses, hosted the 22nd Annual UIC Chicago Latino Film Festival, embarked on a weekly journey of Kundalini yoga *en Español*, featured a series of programs collecting stories on migration and immigration to support our undocumented students, and provided structured experiential learning to interns in the UIC Heritage Garden Internship Program. Visitors partook in presentations, dialogues, lectures, tours, and creative workshops that inspired self-reflection, cooperation, innovation, and action. We recorded a total of **14,707 visitations this year.**

The LCC received support throughout the year from faculty and staff, students, and community leaders who engaged in public programs that reflected their interests and expertise. The Ambassador Group came together in early 2014 to provide feedback on goals, set by the LCC director, for the next academic year and to reaffirm their commitment to support the LCC. Their collaboration continued to be instrumental in the work and growth of the LCC through advocacy on the UIC campus, in Latino communities, and throughout the city.

We presented **61 public programs**
We facilitated **18 civic dialogues and tours**
We convened our **40-member Ambassador Group**
We mentored **22 student interns and leaders**
We worked with **4 Graduate Assistants**
We employed **4 student workers**
We presented events with **19 faculty**
We collaborated with **37 community schools and organizations**
Our programs were co-sponsored by **21 UIC student organizations**

strengthening our foundation

The Latino Cultural Center is one of six Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change (CCUSC) under the Office of Diversity in Academic Affairs. This year, the Office of Diversity welcomed Dr. Tyrone Forman, Vice Provost for Diversity and Senior Advisor to the Chancellor. The CCUSC fortified its presence on campus and its commitment to inclusion, access, and equity through expertise scholarship, intercultural engagement, and collaborative programming. The LCC expanded its staff capacity by hiring an Assistant Director, Mario Lucero, and a Program Coordinator, Yehimy Montes.

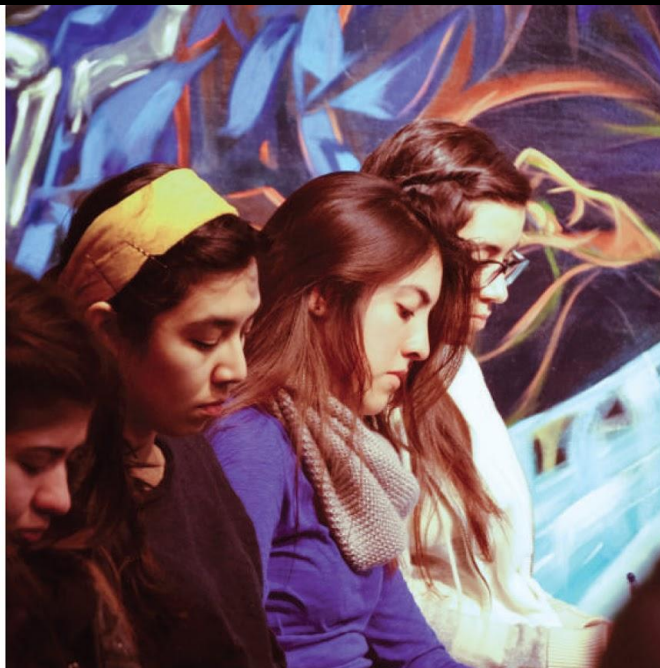


Who attended

African, African-American, Black 4.2%	Latino/a 53.7%
American Indian/Alaska Native 0.4%	Middle Eastern 4.6%
Asian/other Pacific Islander 4.6%	Mixed Ethnicity 4.2%
European Descent, White 7.3%	No Response 21%

What they attended

2,483 attendees at LCC public events 17%
2,779 Gallery space visits 19%
749 arts-based civic dialogues/mural tours 5%
2,504 computer lab visits 17%
6,042 guests hosted for meetings/events via space reservations 41%
150 additional visits via events held at community partner locations 1%



our vision

is a world in which the distribution of resources is equitable, and Latinos, Latin Americans, and all other members of the world are healthy and secure.

our mission

therefore, is to expand the appreciation for - and understanding of - Latino cultures on campus and throughout local communities, as well as to ensure that Latino/a students have a positive self-defined identity and practical tools to help them graduate, join the work force, and become the next generation of leaders.

LCC staff (left to right): Yehimy Montes, Program Coordinator; Dr. Rosa Cabrera, Director; Edith Tovar, Program Coordinator; Mario Lucero, Assistant Director.



latinocultural.uic.edu

creating cultural responses to social conditions

When animated to link the past and present, we believe, cultural heritage provides people with grounded cultural references for self-definition and mobilization to create a better future. Over the last year, LCC programs addressed several social issues affecting Latino and Latin American communities and drew connections across diverse communities and intersectional identities. Major themes were focused around immigration, citizenship, and climate change, which were presented through academic and community presentations, storytelling, arts-based civic dialogues, mural tours, and the UIC Heritage Garden Internship Program.

affirming diverse identities and advocating change

Under the theme "Migration and Transformation," shared by the CCUSC to explore the human experiences of moving across local and transnational borders and adapting to new environments, the LCC stood in solidarity with undocumented and immigrant students and families through arts and cultural activities such as:

The creation of an interactive postcard campaign that featured 30 UIC students photographed holding the painted butterflies that were displayed in the UIC Heritage Garden Satellites the previous summer. The intention of the butterfly art project was to drive home the message that migration is natural and universal regardless if those migrating are people or monarch butterflies crossing international borders. Each postcard was captioned with the students' self-definition of their identity and support for the immigrant and undocumented communities. We used the butterfly postcards to collect stories about "Migration and Transformation" during public programs and shared these on our website: latinocultural.uic.edu.

"Shadows then Light: Cultural Citizenship on the Ground," a public program that invited guests to experience the creative processes and practices the immigrant rights movement uses to build an active community while adding to the vibrancy of U.S. society. Guests learned how undocumented students and community activists challenge ideas of citizenship and identity through music, photography, spoken word, and storytelling.

"UndocuLOVE Messages," an art-making and storytelling program to create St. Valentine Day cards with messages of love for family and friends, and to share our support for immigrant and undocumented communities with stories written on the butterfly postcards. The postcards were mailed to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees to demonstrate that they were not alone and forgotten, and/or to people that can help improve the lives of immigrant communities.

We united efforts with StoryCorps to collect, record, share, and preserve stories on the topics of citizenship, immigration, and belonging. Our Gallery was converted into a recording studio so stories by UIC community members and their invited guests could be archived for future generations. The participants varied in age, national origin, citizenship status, gender identity, and relationship to each other. The results were vibrant testimonies that are now a part of the American Folklife Center at The Library of Congress.

"Citizenship, Immigration & Belonging," a conversation between UIC student and DREAM 9 activist, Lulú Martínez and internationally acclaimed NPR award-winning journalist, Maria Hinojosa. They discussed women's leadership and activism in social movements that claim identity, space, and rights. The event was live streamed on The Futuro Media Group website: latinousa.org/2014/03/21/citizenship-lulu-martinez/.

We partnered with Casa Michoacán to continue presenting the outdoor portrait project titled "I Define Myself: Undocumented and Unafraid." The photo exhibit featured undocumented activists and traveled from several UIC locations to Casa Michoacán in the Pilsen community this summer. The exhibit was presented with a panel discussion organized by UIC student leaders followed by an auction of the painted butterflies. The funds raised during the auction were donated to the UIC student organization Fearless Undocumented Alliance (FUA).



growing sustainable practices through a heritage garden

The Latino Cultural Center continued to address the issues of climate change and environmental sustainability through public presentations, dialogues, and particularly the UIC Heritage Garden, a collaborative project between the CCUSC. The UIC Heritage Garden is a hands-on learning project where students, in collaboration with faculty, staff, and community members, engage in horticultural and educational activities that connect themes of sustainability, diversity, and social justice. Six satellite gardens are located on the East Campus at UIC. The garden project features a paid internship program, which was awarded funding through the UIC Green Fee, and provides paid internships for student leaders and interns. They oversee the planting of the garden with program infrastructure provided by the Latino Cultural Center.

As part of the summer curriculum, developed and taught by several of the CCUSC directors, the LCC commissioned artist in residence Alfonso "Piloto" Nieves Ruiz to create the "Birds of Migration" exhibit to promote the power of collective responsibility to the earth while honoring Mesoamerican ancestral roots. The artist and garden interns worked together to create sculptures of birds using plastic waste materials and tree branches. The "Birds of Migration" project continued to highlight the parallels between the migration of people, birds, and monarch butterflies to find better environments to live and survive.



engaging in dialogue through the arts

The Latino Cultural Center staff facilitated arts-based civic dialogues and mural tours using the LCC mural, *El Despertar de las Americas* (The Awakening of the Americas). Neighboring elementary and high school students participated in these dialogues and tours alongside their parents, counselors, and teachers. Local college and UIC students, staff, and faculty also participated in dialogues and considered ways to apply their skills, talents, and experiences to spark ideas for action. We developed an Arts-Based Civic Dialogue (ABCD) Guide, funded by the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, with step-by-step instructions, that can be used by anyone who wants to lead their own dialogue using our mural. The ABCD Guide can be accessed through our website.

Furthermore, the LCC coordinated campus and community efforts to create an artistic canvas titled "Our Freedom Dreams" which reflected visions for a just world. The canvas was displayed at the UIC Social Justice Initiative's "Freedom Dreams, Freedom Now" conference to support the event's spirit of awakening collective consciousness and inspiring action for positive change.

Civic Affairs

Citizenship, Immigration & Belonging:

a conversation with
Lulu Martínez and Maria Hinojosa

Presented by the UIC Latino Cultural Center and the Futuro Media Group, partners of Latino USA.

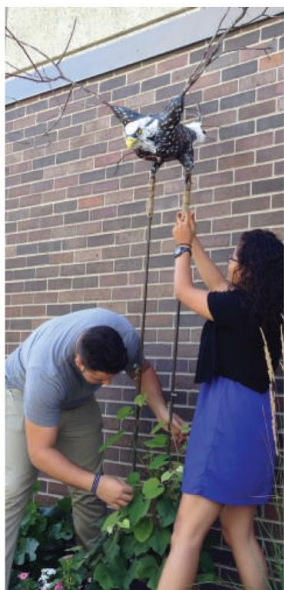
Join us for a powerful conversation with **Lulu Martínez**, an award-winning journalist, and **Maria Hinojosa**, one of the 2013 "20 Youngest of the Year" and NPR's award-winning host. They will address issues of citizenship, immigration, and belonging with compelling stories, including the art auction to reconstruct the open-city, closed, and just. Be a part of the dialogue! Tickets and stories in story on latinousa.org.

12:00pm - 1:30pm

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 16, 2014

12:00pm - 1:30pm

UIC
LATINO CULTURAL CENTER
LECTURE CENTER



Civic Cinema
THE NEW ENVIRONMENTALISTS
 From Chicago to the Karoo
 Presented by the UIC Latino Cultural Center and Office of Sustainability



The New Environmentalists show a common goal—sustaining the Earth's natural resources from exploitation and pollution, while fighting for environmental justice in their communities around the world. The film features six remarkable and dedicated activists to illustrate how and why people are working to make big change—these small victories, that often seem very small, are the backbone of Peace and Life's Work, where the light shines. "Small Victories" and "For a Better Tomorrow" are the films that inspired this film. Screening followed by discussion facilitated by Rosa M. Caldera, UIC Director, UIC Environmental Justice Institute and UIC Chicago and Beyond.

WEDNESDAY
 MARCH 5, 2014
 7:30pm - 4:30pm
 UIC LATINO CULTURAL CENTER
 LECTURE CENTER 02



2013-2014 public programs

ZONA ABIERTA (OPEN ZONE)

Harvesting Justice for Farmworkers 10.9.2013 • Ladies' Bar & Ilopango Prison: Stories of Women Living in Captivity 10.16.2013 • Intersectionality: Feminism & Activism 10.23.2013 • The Schooling of Boricuas and Mexican@s: Language, Race, and Resistance 11.7.2013 • From the Mines to the Streets: A Bolivian Activist's Life 11.12.2013 Presented with the Study Abroad Office • migration is beautiful 11.13.2013 Presented with the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum (JAHM) • Cracking the Note 2.20.2014 • Dancing in the Borderlands 3.12.2014 • Citizenship, Immigration & Belonging: a conversation with Lulú Martínez and María Hinojosa 4.16.2014 Presented with The Futuro Media Group • Chicagoaxaca 4.17.2014 • Illegal: Reflections of an Undocumented Immigrant 4.22.2014 Presented with the Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies and the Department of Philosophy • Women's Strategies in Riparian Communities in Sonora, Mexico in the Face of Increasing Precarization of Farming and Food Processing Livelihoods due to Climate-Water Challenges 4.24.2014 Presented with the Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS) Program • The Making of a *Vejigante* 4.30.2014 Presented with the Puerto Rican Arts Alliance

CIVIC CINEMA

Salt of the Earth 9.11.2013 • Milagros Made in Mexico 9.25.2013 Presented with LALS • *Tierralismo: Cultivating Change* 10.3.2013 • food patriots 10.10.2013 • *Serra Pelada, A Lenda da Montanha de Ouro* (Naked Mountain, The Legend of the Mountain of Gold) 11.6.2013 Presented with LALS and MOSTRA Brazilian Film Series • The Dark Side of Chocolate 2.12.2014 • The New Environmentalists: From Chicago to the Karoo 3.5.2014 Presented with the Office of Sustainability and One Earth Film Festival

NOCHE DE POETAS (POETRY NIGHT)

Presented with the Mexican Students de Aztlan (MeSA), Students for the Advancement of Freedom, Equality and Human Rights (SAFEHR), Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), and Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS). Flowing Across Borders 9.12.2013 • Capitalism: The New Democracy? 10.10.2013 • Dispersed Peoples New Identities 11.14.2013 • Now You See Me 2.13.2014 • Journeys of Reflection, Growth, & Gratitude 3.13.2014 • Bridging Communities 4.10.2014



TELLING OUR STORIES

Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) - Communal Altar Installation 10.30.2013 Presented with the Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change (CCUSC) and student organization MeSA • *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) - Remembering Pioneers of Peace 11.1.2013 Presented with CCUSC • Shadows then Light: Cultural Citizenship on the Ground 11.20.2013 Presented with CCUSC • *UndocuLove Messages* 2.13.2014

SPECIAL EVENTS

Kundalini Yoga *en Español* with Tej Dharam Mondays Fall semester • Fall Open House 8.29.2013 • What's Good & Growing on campus? 9.9.2013 Presented with the Heritage Garden Student Group • National Voter Registration Day 9.24.2013 Presented with CCUSC • Honoring Mandela: An open forum for remembrance, education, and celebration 12.12.2013 Presented with CCUSC and the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Blacks • Spring Open House 1.22.2014 • Writing is Freedom, *Escribir es libertad* 2.28.2014 Presented with the Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies, LALS, and the Social Justice Initiative (SJI) • Eating Healthy with Chef Cordell 3.14.2014 Presented with the Heritage Garden Student Group • Getting Personal! with Scholarship Personal Statements 4.4.2014 Presented with the Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services (LARES) Program • The 22nd Annual UIC Chicago Latino Film Festival 4.8.2014 - 4.10.2014 Presented with the International Latino Cultural Center of Chicago • Transcending Masculinity Initiative Kickoff 4.8.2014 Presented with the Asian American Resource and Cultural Center, Campus Advocacy Network, and the Gender and Sexuality Center • Our Freedom Dreams 4.26.2014 & 4.28.2014 In collaboration with CCUSC, JAHM, LARES, and SJI • What's Good & Growing? Breaking the Soil 4.28.2014 Presented with the Heritage Garden Student Group • Butterfly Milkweed and the DREAM 9: Connecting Environmental and Cultural Sustainability 5.28.2014 Presented at The Field Museum • I Define Myself: Undocumented & Unafraid / *Yo me defino: sin papeles y sin miedo* 6.14.2014 Presented at Casa Michoacán • Migration, Arts & Story Time 8.3.2014 Presented with JAHM • UIC Heritage Garden Meet 'n Greet 8.12.2014 Presented with the Heritage Garden Student Group and CCUSC