

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

UIC Campus Units: African-American Cultural Center (AACC); Anthropology Department; Arab American Cultural Center (ARABAMCC); Asian American Resource and Cultural Center (AARCC); Campus Advocacy Network (CAN); Campus Housing; Center for Leadership and Student Engagement; Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Latinos (CCSL); College of Education; College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs; Disability Cultural Center (DCC); Disability Resource Center (DRC); English Department; FAST Center; Freshwater Lab; Gallery 400; Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC); Gender & Women's Studies; Global Asian Studies Program; History Department; Honors College; IGNITE Campaign; Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement (IPCE); Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy (IRPP); Institute for the Humanities Global Migration Working Group; Jane Addams College of Social Work; Jane Addams Hull-House Museum; Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS) Program; Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services (LARES) Program; Latin@s Gaining Access to Networks for Advancement in Science (L@s GANAS); Museum and Exhibition Studies (MUSE) Program; Native American Support Program (NASP); Office of Diversity; Office of Sustainability; Orientation Program; President's Award Program Honors (PAPH); Richard J. Daley Library; School of Art and Art History; School of Public Health; School of Theatre and Music; Social Justice Initiative; Summer College; The Freshwater Lab; TRIO Upward Bound; UIC Global; Undergraduate Student Government; and Women's Leadership and Resource Center (WLRC).

UIC Student Organization Co-Sponsors: Delta Psi Alpha; Fearless Undocumented Alliance (FUA); Heritage Garden Student Group; Jane Addams Advocacy Initiative; Mexican Students de Aztlán (MeSA); Lambda Theta Alpha; Lambda Theta Phi; Latina/o Graduate Student Association (LGSA);

Latino Planning Organization for Development, Education, and Regeneration (LPODER); Project Green Flame; Sigma Lambda Gamma; Sociology Club; 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:

After School Matters: Dancing with Class & YMCA Green Crew; Alianza Americas; Art Design Chicago; Calles y Sueños (CyS); CARA Family Detention Pro Bono Project; Casa Michoacán; Chicago Access Network Television (CAN TV); Chicago Cultural Alliance (CCA); Chicago Ideas Week; Chicago Religious Leadership Network of Latin America (CRLN); Clemente High School; DePaul University; Detention Watch Network; Enlace Chicago; Field Museum; Gary Elementary; Goshen College; Illinois General Assembly, 2nd District; Illinois House of Representatives; Juarez Elementary School; La Escuelita Bombera de Corazón; La Voz de los de Abajo; Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO); Maine West High School; Marwen; Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD); Morton East High School; Morton West High School; Mujeres Latinas En Acción; Nahua Lessons; National Museum of Mexican Art (NMMA); North Grand High School; Northern Illinois University; OPEN Center for the Arts; Puerto Rican Arts Alliance (PRAA); Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC); Red Feminista Antimilitarista; Salud Sin Papeles; Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center; Talman Elementary School; Translatin@ Coalition; Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) Chicago; Witness for Peace; and YMCA of Metro Chicago.

LCC Ambassadors Group — 2017-2018. See list at:
latinocultural.uic.edu/about/ambassadors

The Latino Cultural Center received grants from the USDA Forest Service — International Programs.
The Heritage Garden's paid internships program was funded by the UIC Sustainability Fee.

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2017.18

year at a glance



Rafael Cintrón Ortiz
Latino Cultural Center

Our mission

is to engage the UIC campus and local communities to deepen understanding of the diverse cultural heritages and identities of Latinxs, issues affecting their lives, and creative solutions they are using to improve community life.

During the 2017-2018 academic year, the Rafael Cintrón Ortiz Latino Cultural Center (LCC) continued flourishing as a hub of creativity and engaged learning. Staff worked to increase understanding of social and environmental issues affecting the lives of Latinxs and Latin Americans while making connections across diverse communities and identities.

This year’s LCC highlights include expansion of the Arts-Based Civic Dialogues & Tours Initiative, implementation of the ARTivism series, and involvement in the L@s GANAS Program. The Dialogues and Tours attended by UIC students connected course material to community challenges and solutions through themes like Migration & Immigration and Environmental & Climate Justice. The ARTivism series centered on creative practices to generate specific actions such as a postcard campaign in support of DACA and TPS (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and Temporary Protected Status) and the creation of a collective artwork in support of “Rescue, Relief, and Rebuild” of

Puerto Rico. The collective art piece was made up of twelve individual paintings, created by UIC students, which were auctioned during the “Hurricane Maria and the Crisis of Colonialism” Symposium at UIC. In the L@s GANAS Program, created through a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) STEM grant from the US Department of Education, the LCC designed and facilitated a series of dialogues that connected science and Latin American heritages to help students shape their identity as Latinx scientists.

Public programs continued strong and relevant with *Zona Abierta* (Open Zone), Civic Cinema, *Noche de Poetas* (Poetry Night), and Special Programs such as the 26th annual UIC Chicago Latino Film Festival and the 2nd annual Earth Week celebration. These programs brought diverse people together to advance understanding of local/global issues and action ideas that can advance positive change, especially in the lives of undocumented immigrants and other marginalized communities.

The LCC is one of seven Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change (CCUSC) under the Office of Diversity in Academic Affairs. The CCUSC continued to strengthen its presence on campus through collaborative programing such as the UIC Heritage Garden Internship Program, Reimagining Masculinities Initiative, and a year-long series that focused on mental health called “Spaces for Wellness.”

The LCC received national recognition through a two-year project with the Humanities Action Lab and in collaboration with the UIC Museum & Exhibition (MUSE) Program, Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, and community partner Alianza Americas.

Conference presentations included “Cities, Climate, & Migration” at the Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility, and “Supporting STEM Student Success with Cultural Dialogue” at Midwest HSI Conference.

Staff photo: (Left to Right) Edith Tovar, Assistant Program Director; Dr. Rosa M. Cabrera, Director; Lena G. Reynolds, Civic Engagement Educator; and Jocelyn Munguía Chávez, Program Coordinator.



Visitors who experienced the LCC’s interactive arts and cultural education programs reported new learning, greater understanding, and appreciation of diversity and inclusion.

The LCC recorded a total of 14,748 visitations this year.

Presented 63 public programs
Facilitated 97 civic dialogues and tours
Convened our 35-member Ambassadors Group
Mentored 18 student interns & leaders
Worked with 1 graduate assistant / 2 temporary staff
Employed 3 student educators
Presented programs with 12 faculty & staff
Collaborated with 39 community schools & organizations
LCC programs were co-sponsored by 15 UIC student organizations

What visitors attended:

2,656 attendees at LCC public programs 18%
1,998 arts-based civic dialogue and tours 13%
2,001 gallery space visits 14%
2,972 computer lab visits 20%
4,646 guest hosted for meetings/events via space reservations 32%
475 additional guests via programs held at community partners’ locations 3%

Who attended LCC public programs:

African, African-American, Black 5%
American Indian/Alaska Native 1%
Asian and other Pacific Islander 8%
European Descent, White 10%
Latinx 50%
Middle Eastern 3%
Mix Ethnicity 6%
No Response 17%

The LCC recorded a total of 1,998 attendees for Arts-Based Civic Dialogues & Tours.

UIC Courses & Seminars		Attendees
Summer Semester 2017	UIC Orientation (x2); New Students	50
	ENGL 161; Writing for Research & Inquiry	17
	SC; Summer College Seminar	14
	Office of Sustainability; Sustainability Interns	12
	TRIO Program; Elementary Students	14
	HON 101; PAPH Honors Students	31
	UIC LARES; Castellanos Academy	25
Fall Semester 2017	L@s GANAS (x4); Cultural Connections to STEM	88
	ART 212/213; Topics in Drawing	24
	UIC Open House (x3); Campus Visitors	75
	HON 201 (2x); Protest Pedagogies / Cultural Gardening	36
	ANTH 217; Environmental Anthropology	27
	ENGL 071; Introduction to Academic Writing	19
	ENGL 160 (x2); Writing in Academic & Public	51
	ED 100; Introduction to Urban Education	42
	US 130 (x3); Principles of Urban Sustainability	45
	LAS 110 (x6); Success in the City	97
Spring Semester 2018	HON 121; Superheroes & Cultural Mythology	26
	ED 151; College Connection	25
	LALS/HIST 290; Mexican American History	27
	LALS 286 (x3); Latin@s Shaping Identity	86
	UPPF IPCE; Urban Public Policy Fellows	22
	L@s GANAS (x4); Cultural Connections to STEM	64
	AH 542; Exhibition Practices & Public	37
	US 130 (x4); Principles of Urban Sustainability	60
	US/PUBH 390; Sustainability Internship	18
	SOCW 411 (x3); Critical Social Work	97
	UIC College of Education (x2); Elementary Students	64
	UI Health; Parents & Families	18
	Office of Diversity (x2); High School Student Panel	41
	POLS 209; Latinos and Politics	16
	UIC Global & Ignite; Campus Visitors	29
Tours	UIC MSAPH; Gary Elementary	22
	FAST Center; ELL Student Course	23
	EPSY 340; Self and Identity Development	16
	UIC LTA Sorority; Middle School Visitors	69
	Heritage Garden Tour (x15)	272
Total	K-12 Student Tour & Dialogue (x11)	246
	General Public & Community Org Tour & Dialogue (x7)	54
Total		1,998



Creating cultural responses to social & environmental conditions

The Latino Cultural Center's programs and initiatives draw on cultural heritage to address contemporary issues, connect social and environmental justice, and build partnerships across diverse students and communities for positive social change.



Arts-Based Civic Dialogues Initiative (ABC Dialogues) and Tours ABC Dialogues facilitated by LCC staff. Tours facilitated by LCC student educators. Reference page 2 for attendee breakdown.

ARTivism The Art of Political Cartoons — **Printmaking Open Studio**. September 28, 2017. Artist: Eric J. Garcia. **Stolen Lives / Vidas Robadas — Open Art Studio**. October 5, 2017. Artist: Esperanza Gama. **Unpacking the Im/migrant Journey — Theatre of the Oppressed**. November 16, 2017. Facilitated by Teresa Veramendi. **Primary Comics: Use your Voting Power! – Comic Making Studio**. March 7, 2018. Presented with Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (CLCE). Artist: Vicko Alvarez.

Zona Abierta (Open Zone) **Border of Dreams**. September 21, 2017. Presented with the Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS) Program. Presenter: Nick Oza. **Whose River? Culture, Condos and Controversy along Chicago's Waterway**. October 4, 2017. Presented with the Freshwater Lab. Presenters: Representative Theresa Mah, Commissioner Debra Shore, Kim Wasserman-Nieto, Edith Tovar, and Lena G. Reynolds. **Cultural Survival and Land Exploitation**. October 11, 2017. Presenter: Alexandra McNichols-Torroledo. **Constructing Peace in Colombia: A Feminist Vision**. October 24, 2017. Presented with Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America. Presenter: Carol Rojas. **Habana / Chicago – Cross Currents: Intercambio Cultural project**. October 26, 2017. Presented with the National Museum of Mexican Art (NMMA). Presenters: Alberto Aguilar, Carlos Barberena, Raquel Carrera, Humberto Díaz, Alejandro González, Rodrigo Lara Zendejas, Cesáreo Moreno, and Douglas Pérez Castro. **Public Art Projects as a Tool for Mexican Cultural Diplomacy**. November 7, 2017. Presented with UNAM Chicago. Presenter: Dr. Renato Gonzáles Mellon. **Defund Hate: Dismantling the Detention and Deportation Machine**. November 29, 2017. Presented with Detention Watch Network. Facilitators: Gabriela Marquez-Benitez and Cynthia Rodriguez. **We call them Baby Jails: Asylum Nightmare in a US Immigration Detention Center**. February 7, 2018. Presented with LALS Program. Presenter: Virginia Martinez. **Mercados y Cultura / Public Markets and Society**. February 15, 2018. Presented with LALS Program and Anthropology Department. Presenters: Dr. Joel Palka, Dr. Chris Hernandez, Alexis Figueroa, Andrew Kracinski, and Jackson Krause. **Movement for Justice in El Barrio**. March 21, 2018. Presenter: Juan Haro. **Sounds of Crossing: Music, Migration, and the Aural Poetics of Huapango Arribeño**. March 22, 2018. Presented with LALS Program. Presenter: Alex E. Chávez. **Indigenous Frames for Understanding Extraction, Mines, and Pipelines**. April 26, 2018. Presented with Freshwater Lab and Native American Support Program. Presenter: Burton W. Warrington.

Civic Cinema **The Delano Manongs: Forgotten Heroes of the United Farm Workers**. September 14, 2017. Presented with Global Asian Studies Program. Facilitated by Dr. Anna Guevarra. **Samuel in the Clouds**. September 27, 2017. Facilitated by Dr. Rosa M. Cabrera. **Free Havana / Habana Libre**. October 25, 2017. Presented with the Women's Leadership and Resource Center (WLRC). Facilitated by Maritxa Vidal. **A Song for You**. November 30, 2017. Facilitated by Sharon Karp and Silvia Malagrino. **Bruising for Besos**. February 20, 2018. Presented with WLRC & Gender and Sexuality Center. Facilitated by Iliana Figueroa and Dr. S. L. Simmons. **America Divided: Out of Reach**. March 14, 2018. Presented with *Salud Sin Papeles*. Facilitated by Janeth Vazquez.

Noche de Poetas (Poetry Night) Presented with Mexican Students de Aztlán (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). **Stand UP! Go Beyond the Streets.** September 14, 2017. Featured Poet: Magdalena Garcia. **Finding Joy.** October 12, 2017. Featured Poet: Sarah Rishq. **Disability Poetics 2.0: My Side of the Story.** November 9, 2017. Featured Poets: Stephanie Hernandez and Mariel Rancel. **LOVE in Times of Uncertainty.** February 8, 2018. Featured Poet: Keren Díaz de León. **Claim Your Fate!** March 8, 2018. Featured Poet: Tatiana Rodriguez. **Poetry in Motion.** April 19, 2018. Featured Poets: Ivelisse Díaz and *La Escuelita Bombera de Corazón*.

Special Public Programs LCC Open House Fall 2017. August 30, 2017. **LCC Affiliated Student Organizations' Open House Fall 2017.** September 13, 2017. Presented with Center for Student Involvement (CSI). **National Voter Registration Day.** September 26, 2017. Presented with CCUSC and CLCE. **// Day of the Dead 2017.** Presented with MeSA and Heritage Garden Student Group. **Communal Altar Installation.** October 30, 2017. **Calaveras, Cempazúchitl & Monarch Butterflies — Workshop.** November 1, 2017. **Communal Altar for Berta Cáceres.** November 1, 2017. Presented with NMMA. **Vida y Muerte — Ceremony and Dance.** November 2, 2017. Presenters: Nahua Lessons. **Opening Exhibit: Manos de Mexico.** November 2, 2017. Presented with Casa Michoacán. Artist: Esperanza Gama. **// Finals Week and Relaxing Activities.** December 11 to 14, 2017. **LCC Open House Spring 2018.** January 24, 2018. **LCC Affiliated Student Organizations' Open House Spring 2018.** January 31, 2018. Presented with CSI. **Valentines for Democracy.** February 14, 2018. **// 26th annual UIC Chicago Latino Film Festival.** Presented with the International Latino Cultural Center of Chicago. **Looking for a Boyfriend... for my Wife / Se busca novio... para mi mujer.** April 11, 2018. **Flight of the Guitar: Dreaming of Paco de Lucía / La Guitarra Vuela: Soñando a Paco de Lucía.** April 12, 2018. **// 2nd annual Earth Week: Environmental Justice for Puerto Rico.** April 17, 2018. Artist: Richard Santiago. **From Coal to Diesel in Little Village.** April 18, 2018. Presenters: Nancy Meza & Lilian Molina. **Marathon for Justice.** April 19, 2018. Facilitator: Dr. Antonio Lopez. **// Finals Week and Relaxing Activities.** May 7 to 10, 2018.

Heritage Garden Harvest Fest: The Seeds of Social Change. October 10, 2017. **Heritage Garden Spring Seed Swap.** April 8, 2018. Presented with Jane Addams Hull-House Museum. **Volunteer Days!** June 12, July 12, and August 6, 2018.

Reimagining Masculinities Initiative Presented with the Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change. **Reimagining Masculinities Kick-Off Event.** January 30, 2018. Facilitated by Dr. S. L. Simmons. **Englewood Boys.** February 22, 2018. Presented with CSI. Facilitated by Dr. S. L. Simmons and Julian E. Williams. **Masculinity in Language.** March 20, 2018. Presented with Alpha Chi Chapter of Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc. Facilitated by Dr. Mario LaMothe. **Masculinity & Emotions.** April 19, 2018. Presented with Counseling Center. Facilitated by Moises Villada.

Spaces for Wellness Organized by the Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change, and sponsored by Gender & Women's Studies and Office of Diversity. **Poetry Is Not a Luxury: Black Women Witnessing in Dangerous Times.** February 23, 2018. **Accessing Joy: Creative Strategies for Community Care.** March 7, 2018. **Erasing the Distance: Countering Stigma Through Storytelling.** April 4, 2018. Presented by the Latino Cultural Center and Disability Cultural Center. Presenters: Erasing the Distance. **Out of the Shadows: Challenging the Stigma around Mental Health in Arab and Muslim Immigrant Communities.** April 12, 2018. **Brave Spaces: Gender and Mental Health.** April 18, 2018. **Working in Intolerable Spaces/Times: Living Towards Justice in Academic Institutions.** April 23, 2018.



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