

A special thanks to our UIC partners and co-sponsors: Campus Housing, Center for Research on Women and Gender, Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Latinos, Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues, College of Nursing, Department of Anthropology, Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies, Department of Sociology, Department of Theatre and Music, Gender Women's Studies Program, Honors College, Hispanic Center of Excellence, Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy, Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, Latin American and Latino Studies Program, Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services Program, Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs, School of Art and Design, School of Public Health, Study Abroad, TCF Bank at UIC, Vice Chancellor for External Affairs. UIC Student Organizations Co-sponsors: Latino Association of Business Students (LABS), Latino/a Educators United for Change, Higher Education, and Action (LUCHA), Mexican Students de Aztlan (MeSA), Organization of Women Looking for Sisterhood in Corazones Unidos Siempre (O.W.L.S in C.U.S.), Pakistani Student Organization (POS), Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS).

2011–2012 EVENTS



ZONA ABIERTA (OPEN ZONE) SERIES

I Die in Juarez. Oct 4, 2011. Presented with the National Museum of Mexican Art

Immigration Nation: Raids, Detentions and Deportations in Post-9/11 America. Oct 20, 2011. Presented with Latin American and Latino Studies Program (LALS) and the Department of Sociology

Latino Series: Addressing Health Disparities in Our Latino Populations. Oct 27, 2011. Presented with the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Latinos (CCSL)

Justice Now! Human Rights in the Indigenous Communities of Chiapas. Nov 1, 2011.

Indigenous Writing in Oaxaca. Nov. 4, 2011. Presented with the Department of Anthropology

Justice in El Barrio. Nov 9, 2011. Presented with the Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS) and Mexican Students de Aztlan (MeSA)

DREAMING of Higher Education. Nov. 16, 2012. Presented with LALS and Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services Program (LARES)

Workers Unite to Combat Injustice and Inequality. Nov 17, 2012. Presented with the African-American Cultural Center and Latino Association of Business Students (LABS)

Transnational Encounters: Music and Performance at the U.S.–Mexico Border. Feb 9, 2012. Presented with LALS

Patient Citizens, Immigrant Mothers. March 12, 2012. Presented with LALS and the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy

CROSSED: Immigrant equals Mexican? March 29, 2012.

Latino Cultural Assimilation, Divided Loyalties, and the World Cup. April 10, 2012.

Environmental Justice in Pilsen. April 12, 2012. Presented with MeSA

Aqui y Alla: Art, Identity, and the Flight 587 Memorial. April 7 and 11, 2012. Presented with the Dominican American Midwest Association and the Puerto Rican Arts Alliance

“Bebeviejo” The Insignificant Other: The very old and the very young in our society. April 20, 2012. Presented with LALS

Education Reform and Educational Policy Priorities. April 25, 2012. Presented with CCSL

Radical Doula. April 26, 2012. Presented with the Center for Research on Women & Gender

CIVIC CINEMA SERIES

Immigrant Nation! The Battle for the Dream. September 7, 2011.

Woke Up Black. October 6, 2011. Presented with the Gender & Sexuality Center

Chungui, horror sin lágrimas. October 25, 2011. Presented with the Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies

Standing Silent Nation. November 8, 2011.

Maria en tierra de nadie. November 21, 2011. Presented with Casa Michoacán

Yo Soy el Army. February 1, 2012 Presented with the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy.

Shipibo. March 14, 2012.

The Interrupters. March 28, 2012

Precious Knowledge. April 24, 2012. Presented with Latino/a Educators United for Change, Higher Education, and Action (LUCHA)

NOCHE DE POETAS (POETRY NIGHT)

Presented with Mexican Students de Aztlan (MeSA), Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS), Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), and Pakistani Student Organization (PSO)

Reflections on 9/11 and the Impact of the Recession. September 8, 2011.

The Role of Safe Places in Shaping Identities. October 13, 2011.

Addiction: the Real Terrorist Threat. November 10, 2011.

What's Love Got to do with it. February 9, 2012.

Human Rights and Democracy. March 8, 2012.

Journey...the walk of millions. April 12, 2012.

TELLING OUR STORIES

Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) & Dia de Difuntos (All Saints' Day) Altar Installation. October 31, 2011 Presented with MeSA

Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) & Dia de Difuntos (All Saints' Day) Theater Performance. November 2, 2011.

Messages of Love Workshop. February 13, 2011. Presented with MESA and Organization of Women Looking for Sisterhood in Corazones Unidos Siempre (OWLS in CUS)

Stories of Love from Agosto and Other Months of the Year. February 14, 2011.

SPECIAL EVENTS

35th Anniversary Celebration. September 14, 2011.

Chicago Neighborhoods and Around the World. September 23, 2011 Presented with Study Abroad

Spring Open House. January 11 and 12, 2012.

20th Annual UIC Latino Film Festival. April 17-19, 2012. Presented with International Latino Cultural Center

RAFAEL CINTRÓN ORTIZ LATINO CULTURAL CENTER 2011–2012 ANNUAL REPORT



CELEBRATING 35 YEARS
Remembering the Past, Reflecting on the Present, Envisioning the Future.

Leading up to our 35th Anniversary celebration, Maestro Hector Duarte, who completed our mural *El Despertar de las Americas* (The Awakening of the Americas) in 1996, returned to the Latino Cultural Center to restore the original mural and add a new painting that highlights the transnational lives and global concerns of Latinas and Latin American women.

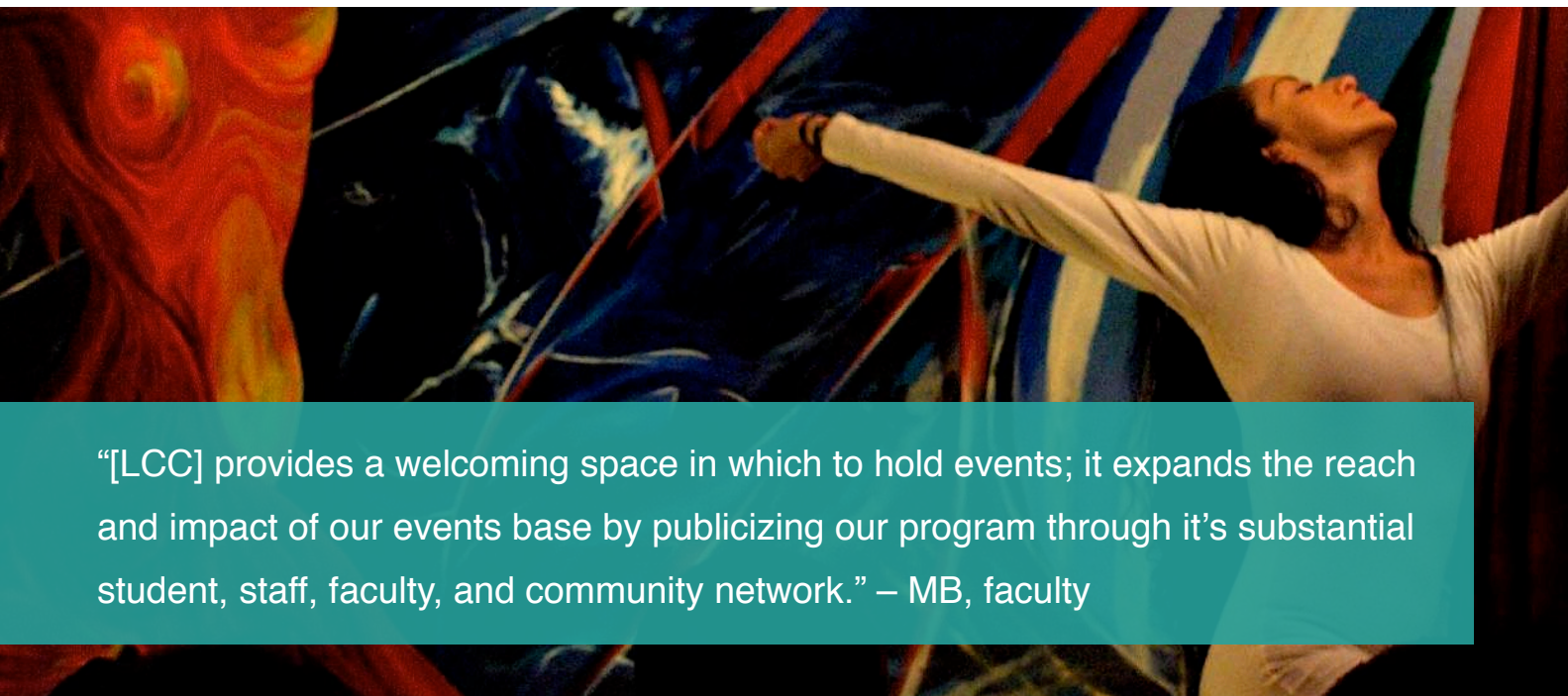


35 YEARS AND GROWING STRONG

Established in 1976, the Rafael Cintrón Ortiz Latino Cultural Center (LCC) was the first cultural center at UIC. Its founding was the result of visionary Latino/a students, faculty, staff and community members who fought tirelessly for a cultural center to support the academic growth of the increasing Latino/a student population on campus. On September 14, 2011 over 300 people helped us celebrate our 35th Anniversary with an open house, an alumni panel discussion, and a special theatrical performance based on the stories depicted in the mural about community identity, struggles, and resilience.

Our mission 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.

In 2011, UIC welcomed Dr. Rosa M. Cabrera as the new Director of the LCC to spearhead its growth in creative and effective ways. She earned her Doctorate in Anthropology and Bachelor of Arts in Design from UIC. For ten years she directed The Field Museum’s *Cultural Connections* program, a partnership of more than 25 ethnic museums and cultural centers in Chicago that formed the Chicago Cultural Alliance in 2006 under her leadership.



“[LCC] provides a welcoming space in which to hold events; it expands the reach and impact of our events base by publicizing our program through it’s substantial student, staff, faculty, and community network.” – MB, faculty



ENGAGING CAMPUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Visitors to the LCC came through the doors for a wide variety of reasons including attendance to our public events and meetings, to visit the gallery, to access the computer lab and study areas, to attend events or meetings hosted by student organizations and other departments/units, or to attend one of several classes that met regularly in the space. Visitors were from our campus, Latino communities, as well as citywide residents. We recorded **10,585 visits to the LCC** and learned that we are connecting visitors across diverse cultural heritages and identities.

WHAT THEY ATTENDED:

- 2,056 attendees at public events (19.4%)
- 3,088 gallery space visits (29.2%)
- 1,356 computer lab visits (12.8%)
- 3,860 guests hosted for meetings/events via space reservations (36.5%)
- 225 additional visits via events held at community partner locations (2.1%)

WHO ATTENDED:

- Latino/as 53%
- European descent 11%
- Mixed ethnicities 8%
- Asians and Asian Americans 5%
- African Americans 3%
- Middle Easterners 3%
- Other 17%

ACCOMPLISHING OUR MISSION

The Latino Cultural Center advances its mission through programs and projects that include: cultural and artistic expressions; intercultural and civic dialogues; scholarly, student and community presentations; and educational workshops. The LCC provides services to students on campus; builds student leadership; and supports student advocacy efforts, coalition building, and research to improve the lives of Latinos and local communities.

The Latino Cultural Center presented over 40 socially relevant public presentations led by faculty, graduate students, and community leaders. Programs included Civic Cinema, Zona Abierta (Open Zone), Noche de Poetas (Poetry





Night), and Telling Our Stories. We also presented the 35th Anniversary Celebration of the LCC, Chicago neighborhoods and Around the World Tour, Spring 2011 Open House, and the Chicago Latino Film Festival.

These programs and projects provide educational experiences for both the campus and local communities that deepen the understanding of Latino cultures, community issues and assets; and connect the talents, needs, and experiences of Latino/a students with others on campus and in local communities to build intercultural skills and collaborations for positive social change.

CONNECTING CAMPUS AND COMMUNITIES

Many of our public presentations were developed with various UIC, city-wide, and community partners and offered opportunities for greater community involvement and coordination efforts

“My LCC experience has helped me gain the cultural knowledge that is essential in the field that I am pursuing, which is immigration and international law. When reviewing my resume, my current employer was impressed about the fact that I had worked in an environment where diversity is valued.” – JTH, student intern



to do joint promotions and share financial resources. They also increased community awareness of the university as a vital asset that families can consider for their youth’s higher education and that organizations can draw upon for student internships and community research and action.

Community and city-wide partners included the American Indian Center, Casa Aztlán, Casa Michoacán, Chicago Cultural Alliance, Dominican American Midwest Association, The Field Museum, Institute of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, International Latino Cultural Center’s Chicago Film Festival, Midwest Workers Association, National Museum of Mexican Art, Pilsen Environmental Rights and Reform Organization, Puerto Rican Arts Alliance.



EXPANDING LEADERSHIP AND ACADEMIC SKILLS

We established an internship program during the Fall 2011 semester with three interns and grew to include opportunities for five interns during the Spring 2012 semester. Prospective interns were recommended from the Department of Psychology, Honors College, College of Liberal Arts, LARES, and CHANCE Program. Internship recipients were diverse, both in terms of ethnic background and areas of academic interest. They completed projects intended to build upon their academic and professional skills and to expand their intercultural capacity. One of the projects was an assessment of UIC Latino student

organizations to better understand their needs and find ways to deepen their engagement with the LCC. This report is available in our website: latinocultural.uic.edu/latinostudentorganizations/assessment/

BUILDING A TEAM OF SUPPORTERS

We established an Ambassadors Group to provide engaged support for the work and growth of the LCC. The Ambassadors represent a diverse group of UIC students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community members who met at the end of the fall semester to discuss their role as advocates of the LCC on campus, Latino communities, and in the City of Chicago.





HARNESSING DIVERSE EXPERTISE FOR POSITIVE SOCIAL CHANGE

The Centers for Diversity changed their collective name to the **Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change**. The Centers include the African-American Cultural Center, Asian American Resource and Cultural Center, Disability Resource Center, Gender & Sexuality Center, Rafael Cintrón Ortiz Latino Cultural Center, and Women’s Leadership and Resource Center.

The Centers are committed to positive social change grounded in the principles of inclusion, access, and equity. Our collective purpose is to expand understanding of the value of cultural diversity and connect diverse assets to find creative solutions for common challenges. This collective purpose draws upon the Centers’

“I was exposed to diverse ideas and was able to discuss with faculty, staff, and students issues that are often not represented in some of the classroom settings at UIC. The LCC has provided me with a safe space to grow as an individual and to use that growth in order to give back to my community.” – AZ, student



expertise in scholarship and practice to provide relevant support to our specific populations on campus and opportunities for intercultural engagement among students, faculty, staff, and Chicago communities.

DEVELOPING OUR STAFF CAPACITY

We hired a fulltime Program Coordinator, Claudia Lucero-Mead to oversee the gallery space logistics and work with Latino student organizations on campus to expand their leadership skills and engagement with the LCC. Claudia has worked extensively with the National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities (NALACC) and CONFEMEX, the Confederation of Mexican Federations. She was born in Durango, Mexico and immigrated to the United States in 1990. Claudia is a student in the Latin American and Latino Studies Program at UIC.



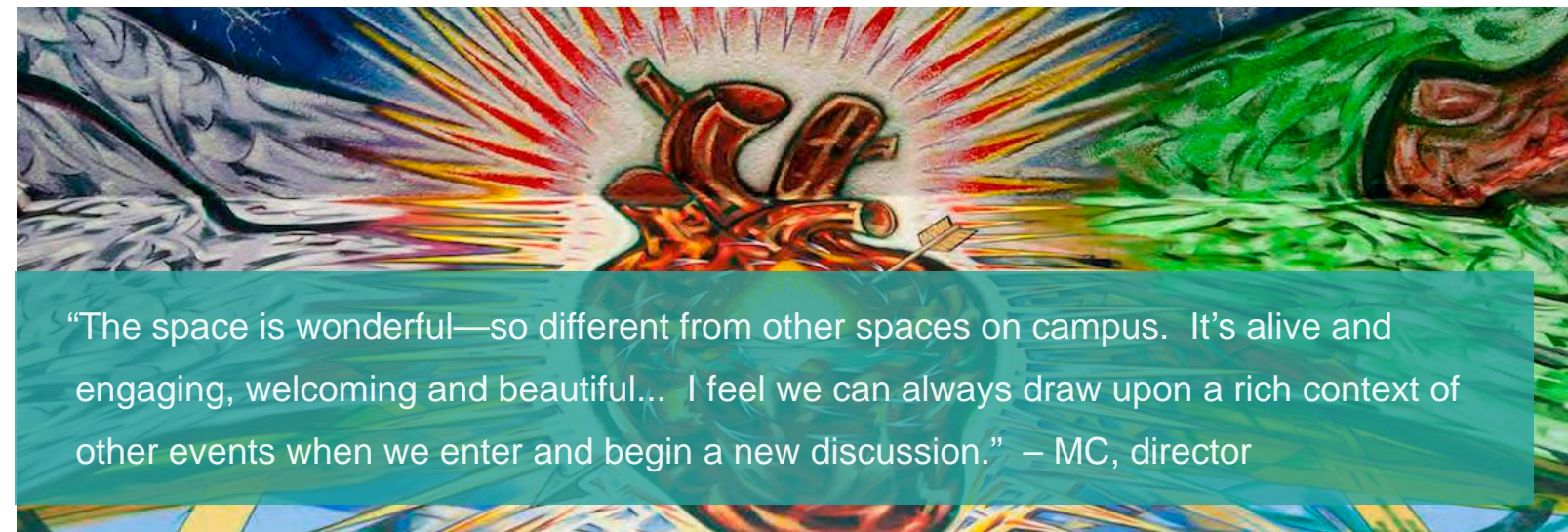
ASSESSING OUR WORK

We completed an assessment report of our programs and services to better understand our impact on campus and neighboring communities.

We wanted to know how our programs and services were 1) helping students, faculty/ staff and community members to deepen their understanding of Latino cultures, issues, and assets; 2) supporting the academic and professional growth of students in the areas of leadership development, civic engagement, and building intercultural skills; 3) supporting faculty scholarship and their engagement with students and communities; and 4) harnessing community knowledge and assets. Our staff collected all the data for the assessment and an independent evaluator analyzed it and helped write the report. This report is available in our website: latinocultural.uic.edu/archives/documents

UNDERSTANDING CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND ENGAGING IN CIVIC DIALOGUE

We taught three seminars focused on civic engagement and understanding cultural diversity for UIC students and various high school students including: Civic engagement seminar for a group of 40 students enrolled in the Urban Public Policy Fellowship program from The Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement; Cultural understanding seminar for 37 incoming students in the UIC Summer College; and Cultural understanding seminar for 56 high school students participating in the Latino Health Science Enrichment Program offered by The Hispanic Center of Excellence and Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services (LARES).



“The space is wonderful—so different from other spaces on campus. It’s alive and engaging, welcoming and beautiful... I feel we can always draw upon a rich context of other events when we enter and begin a new discussion.” – MC, director