

Rafael Cintrón Ortiz Latino Cultural Center at UIC Assessment Report for Academic Year 2011-2012

July 25, 2012

During the 2011-2012 academic year the Latino Cultural Center (LCC) completed an assessment of its programs and services to better understand its impact on campus and neighboring communities. We wanted to know how the LCC 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. LCC staff collected all the data for the assessment and Elise Fulara, an independent evaluator and owner of Fulara Consulting, LLC analyzed the data. Fulara is a cultural anthropologist who has taught college students and evaluated educational arts and culture programs at museums and cultural centers. Edith Tovar, LCC Assistant Program Coordinator and Elise Fulara wrote the final report.

Our Mission and Vision

At the Latino Cultural Center, 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 for accomplishing our vision. The Latino Cultural Center identifies, creates, and promotes opportunities to:

- Sustain and nourish the academic, personal, and professional growth of Latino/a students on campus so that they can graduate, join the work force, and become the next generation of leaders;
- Provide educational experiences for everyone on campus and local communities to deepen understanding of Latino cultures, community issues and assets;
- Connect the talents, needs, and experiences of Latino/a students with others on campus and local communities to build intercultural skills and collaborations for positive social change.

LCC fulfills its mission objectives through a public programming initiative, an internship program, seminars and acts as a valued resource that provides support to faculty/staff, a robust number of individual students, student organizations, and off-campus community organizations.

Public Programming Initiatives

LCC's 2011-2012 public programming included four initiatives: *Zona Abierta*, Civic Cinema, *Noche de Poetas*, and Telling Our Stories. During the 2011-2012 academic year LCC held a total of **40** public events which included:

- 17** *Zona Abierta* events
- 9** Civic Cinema events
- 6** *Noche de Poetas* events
- 2** Telling Our Stories events
- 6** Special Events

A complete listing of LCC's public events for 2011-2012 and a description of each of the four programs has been included at the end of this report.

Internship Program

LCC's internship program began 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 Program, CHANCE Program, or responded to campus-wide opportunity announcements publicized via campus mass-mail. Internship recipients were diverse, both in terms of ethnic background and areas of academic interest. Interns were assigned a specific project intended to build upon their academic and professional skills and to expand their intercultural capacity. Additionally, they were expected to contribute to the day-to-day operations of LCC which included set-up and clean-up of public events, event promotion and marketing, and tasks as assigned by LCC staff.

Intern projects during the course of the academic year included:

- Documenting Fall 2011 events with description and photos for LCC website.
- Mapping art and cultural organizations in Chicago's Latino communities.
- Assessing the needs of Latino student organizations and their engagement with LCC.
- Identifying prospective documentaries for the *Civic Cinema* initiative.
- Developing a catalog of *Civic Cinema* documentaries that had previously been screened at the LCC.
- Researching funding opportunities and developing a calendar for grant proposals.

Campus Support

Through its facilities, programming, and network LCC provides valuable support for UIC's students, student organizations, faculty, staff, campus departments, and units. LCC's gallery provides a unique, welcoming, and thought-provoking space on campus and departments, units, and student organizations alike regularly reserve the space for their meetings and events. The gallery is used regularly by LCC staff to help visitors make connections between the past, present and future and think critically about their role as agents of change. LCC hosted 24 events on behalf of 12 campus departments. Two Latin

American and Latino Studies classes were hosted in the gallery during the 2011-2012 academic year. LCC's murals were incorporated into course discussions for these classes, which encouraged students to think deeply about social justice issues.

Through its programming, LCC brought campus departments together to collaborate with student and community organizations during the planning and presenting of public events. Four UIC faculty and six outside faculty presented their work during LCC events. And, LCC supported the capacity of UIC student organizations and interns by expanding their academic, intercultural, and leadership skills. Student leaders were included in partnerships in 11 of the LCC's public events. As participants in these events, student leaders expanded their knowledge about local, national, and international community issues and assets and built their public speaking, organizational, and intercultural skills through collaboration with students of diverse backgrounds. LCC also supports students on an individual basis by providing quiet study areas and a computer lab for students.

Connecting Campus and Community

Through programs, LCC collaborated with six Latino community organizations during the 2011-2012 academic year: Casa Michoacán, Casa Aztlan, the Institute of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, The National Museum of Mexican Art, the Dominican American Midwest Association, and the Puerto Rican Arts Alliance. Collaborations occurred during the Chicago Latino Film Festival as well as during LCC public events. These partnerships offered opportunities for greater community involvement and coordination efforts 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 higher education and that organizations can draw upon for community research and action.

Assessment Methods

In order to obtain data on visitation throughout the 2011-2012 academic year, sign-in sheets were employed to determine visits to the LCC's gallery space and attendance sheets were requested from departments and organizations that had reserved space at LCC. However, LCC staff observed that visitor sign-in tended to be low, especially in open study areas such as the gallery which is frequented by students and members of the general public, but not proctored for portions of the day by LCC staff due to staffing limitations and arrangement of office space. Therefore, daily estimates were also indicated by LCC staff on sign-in sheets in order to more accurately represent LCC's visitation numbers on a daily basis. Actual and estimated numbers are indicated on the data tables below. At program events, a member of LCC's staff completed a manual head-count of the attendees in the audience.

In addition to manually accounting for the number of visitors to LCC, feedback was solicited via three separate survey forms. **536** total feedback surveys were collected during the 2011-2012 academic year. This includes:

- 505** Public Event Feedback Surveys (**24.5% response rate**)
- 6** Internship Exit Surveys (**75% response rate**)
- 29** Annual Assessment Surveys (**54.7% response rate**) for student leaders/faculty/staff, and community members

The goal of collecting this data was to elucidate event audience demographic/marketing information, to gauge the LCC’s impact, to aid in the identification of specific audience needs, and to gather feedback regarding areas for LCC improvement. Individuals that were solicited for their feedback included program attendees, LCC interns, student leaders, members of the University’s faculty and staff, members of the LCC’s Ambassador’s Group¹, and members of community organizations that the LCC worked with during the 2011-2012 academic year. The surveys contained a combination of closed and open ended questions, and were targeted according to audience (event attendee, interns, faculty/staff, etc...) A copy of each of the three survey forms employed has been included at the end of this report.

Assessment Results

Visitation

Visitors to LCC came through the doors for a wide variety of reasons including attendance at public events and meetings, to visit the gallery, to access the computer lab and study areas, or to attend one of several classes that met regularly in the space. LCC also partnered with six different community organizations during the 2011-2012 academic year for public events held at various locations throughout Chicago.

LCC’s gallery space is unique in that it can be reserved, and is one of only two spaces available on the UIC campus that can be reserved free-of-charge. Therefore, the space is employed frequently as a meeting and/or event space by individual faculty, staff, student organizations, campus departments, and community organizations.

Visitation Totals:

10, 585 total 2011-2012 visits to LCC were recorded which includes:

- 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%**)

¹ The Ambassador Group was established in the fall of 2011 to provide engaged support for the work and growth of the Latino Cultural Center. The Ambassadors represent a diverse group of UIC students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community members.

Visitation Breakdowns:

Fall 2011

Attendance - LCC Public Events					
Zona Abierta (8 events)	Civic Cinema (5 events)	Noche de Poetas (3 events)	Telling our Stories Altar, Workshop October 31' 2011	35th Anniversary September 14, 2011	Dia de los Muertos Theater Performance Nov., 2 2011
UG: 191 G: 37 F/S: 35 C/A: 43	UG: 93 G: 12 F/S: 14 C/A: 24	UG: 136 G: 27 F/S: 14 C/A: 42	UG: 69 G: 5 F/S: 10 C/A: 21	UG: 110 G: 30 F/S: 80 C/A: 30	UG: 25 G:6 F/S: 10 C/A: 8
Total: 305	Total: 143	Total: 219	Total: 105	Total: 250	Total: 49
Total LCC Event Attendance: 1,071					
Gallery Space Visitations to LCC			Computer Lab Visitations		
Undergraduate: 501 Graduate: 53 Faculty/Staff: 29 Community/Alumni: 37 608 estimated repeat visitations from students for class meetings Estimate for visitors who did not sign in: 214 Total Actual: 1,228/ Estimate: 1,442			Undergraduate: 658 Graduate: 5 Total: 663		
Guests hosted in the gallery for meetings/events being held by other organizations					
Undergraduate: 1,782		Graduate: 52		Faculty/ Staff: 138	
				Community: 277	
Total: 2,249					
Grand Total Fall 2011 Visitations to LCC: 5,425					

Spring 2012

Attendance - LCC Public Events 2012					
Zona Abierta (9 events)	Civic Cinema (4 events)	Noche de Poetas (3 events)	Telling our Stories Stories of LOVE from Agosto and other Months of the Year	Open House January 11- 12, 2012	Messages of Love February 13' 2012
UG: 253 G: 32 F/S: 54 C/A : 61	UG: 162 G: 20 F/S: 34 C/A : 49	UG: 113 G: 18 F/S: 15 C/A : 25	UG: 7 G: 2 F/S: 7 C/A: 3	UG: 75 G: 2 F/S: 5 C/A: 2 * + 20% estimate: 16	UG: 23 G: 1 F/S: 5 C/A: 1
Total: 400	Total: 265	Total: 171	Total: 19	Total: 100	Total: 30
Total LCC Spring 2012 Event Attendance: 985					
Spring 2012 Gallery Space Visitations to LCC			Spring 2012 Computer Lab Visitations		
Undergraduate: 421 Graduates: 336 UIC Faculty/Staff: 6 Community/Alumni: 67 816 estimated repeat visitations from student for class meetings			692 Undergraduate 1 Graduate		
Total: 1,646			Total: 693		
Guests hosted in the gallery for meetings/events being held by other organizations					
Undergraduate: 952		Graduate: 70		Faculty/ Staff: 183	
				Community: 406	
Total: 1,611					
Grand Total Spring 2012 Visitations to LCC: 4,935					

LCC Community Events 2011-2012				
Fall 2011	Spring 2011			
National Museum of Mexican Art Stella Pope: If I die in Juarez	Casa Aztlan <i>Yo Soy el Army</i>	Institute of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture Latino Film Festival (2 films)	Casa Michoacan Morir de Pie/ Die Standing Up	Puerto Rican Arts Alliance Aquí y Allá: Art, Identity, and the Flight 587 Memorial
90 community members	15 community members	50 community members total	30 community members	40 community members
225 Additional Attendees at Community Member Locations				

Feedback Analysis

Public Programming Impact

Feedback surveys asked respondents to rate the quality of their experiences at public events.

Responses are as follows:

Zona Abierta (n= 258):

A score of 4 tells us that you thought we did a great job. A score of 1 tells us you really didn't think we did all that well.				
Question	4	3	2	1
Overall, did the event meet your expectations?	219	36	2	1
Did this event expand your awareness and understanding about the topic we presented?	221	36	1	0
Would you recommend Latino Cultural Center events to a friend?	237	21	0	0

Civic Cinema (n=105):

A score of 4 tells us that you thought we did a great job. A score of 1 tells us you really didn't think we did all that well.				
Question	4	3	2	1
Overall, did the event meet your expectations?	90	14	1	0
Did this event expand your awareness and understanding about the topic we presented?	88	15	1	1
Would you recommend Latino Cultural Center events to a friend?	96	8	1	0

Noche de Poetas (n=119):

A score of 4 tells us that you thought we did a great job. A score of 1 tells us you really didn't think we did all that well.				
Question	4	3	2	1
Overall, did the event meet your expectations?	105	13	1	0
Did this event expand your awareness and understanding about the topic we presented?	89	28	2	0
Would you recommend Latino Cultural Center events to a friend?	113	6	0	0

Telling Our Stories (n=23):

A score of 4 tells us that you thought we did a great job. A score of 1 tells us you really didn't think we did all that well.				
Question	4	3	2	1
Overall, did the event meet your expectations?	20	3	0	0
Did this event expand your awareness and understanding about the topic we presented?	22	1	0	0
Would you recommend Latino Cultural Center events to a friend?	22	1	0	0

Open-ended survey responses collected with the question, “What stuck out in your mind as **something valuable to know from** today’s event?” are overwhelmingly positive and indicate that individuals attending LCC programs and events achieve a deeper understanding of Latino cultures, issues, and assets. Respondents regularly articulated that they learned something new as a result of attending an event, or that they were able to self-reflect/reframe their own personal experiences as a result of something new they learned. This was especially true of *Zona Abierta* and *Civic Cinema* events where the value seems to rest in the variety and quality of speakers/topics presented (ZA), or the dialogue after a presentation (CC). Responses to *Noche de Poetas* surveys indicate participants and audiences alike find value in the diversity of perspectives presented and collaborative nature of the events themselves.

Only one event garnered negative audience responses: *Yo Soy el Army* (CC-6). The discussion after the film seems to have been polarizing with a few (3) respondents indicating they felt the panel discussion afterwards was “biased” or that it needed to be “better informed.” However, an equal number of other respondents indicated they felt the perspectives presented by the panelists in the same discussion after the film to be valuable.

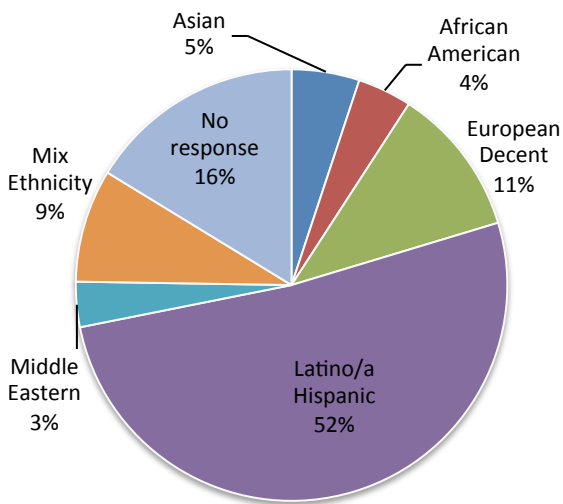
Excerpted comments from the feedback surveys are indicated in the table below:

Survey Question: What stuck out in your mind as something valuable to know from today’s event?	
Program Code	Comment
CC – 4	The dialogue after the movie was very educational.
CC – 5	The economics of migrants, I didn’t know how it affected the economy in the U.S. and organized crime by crossing.
CC – 7	Culture change can be ok, having pros and cons that ultimately advance a population/culture.
CC – 8	Pretty much everything. “The Interrupters” was excellent, and talking to the real guys was a great opportunity.

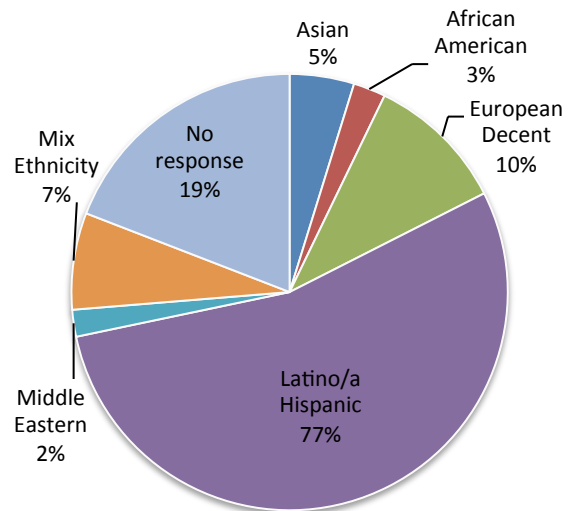
NP - 4	Different outlets/comfortable settings for students to be expressive.
NP - 4	Collaboration of organizations! Coming up events and the importance of participation as UIC students, staff, etc.
NP - 4	The environment was extremely friendly and many people should know that these events bring out the best in people.
TS - 1	I learned a lot about a culture that is no different than my own. I am starting a new tradition to share with my future family.
ZA - 1	The horrible acts done to the women of Juarez & the fact that things like this are not normally taught in regular history classes and I believe this is important.
ZA - 2	The pain that deportation cause to the family and children. How health care is defined and how families are afraid to even seek healthcare.
ZA - 3	Need to accustom research to different Latino groups.
ZA - 5	How early Mesoamerican writing really was. How really complex these different writings were.
ZA - 6	My first time here- most valuable thin(g) is that this place exists.
ZA - 13	Latinos are more likely to have lead in their blood due to pollution. Also, that due to pollution Latinos have a higher risk to have asthma.
ZA - 16	It was empowering and reminded me why I want to go into education.

Demographic Information

Fall 2011



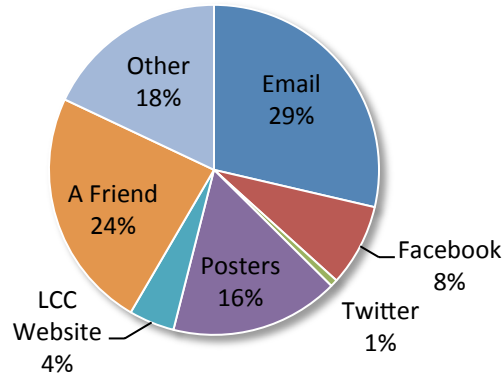
Spring 2012



Program attendees were asked to indicate their ethnic background via an open-ended response question. The responses indicate that LCC attracts an ethnically diverse audience for its public programs.

Event Marketing

How did you hear about this event?



Event attendees were asked to indicate on the feedback surveys, via a closed-ended question, how they learned about the LCC event they attended. Responses indicate that direct marketing via email or indirect marketing (i.e. a friend’s invitation) remains the primary manner that individuals learn about LCC events and programming. Interestingly, social media marketing such as Twitter and Facebook are not indicated as major sources of exposure for event promotion.

Impact Upon Interns

Exit surveys conducted with LCC’s 2011-2012 interns indicate that individuals found the experience valuable and they acquired skills that will translate into their professional futures. 100% of the responding interns indicated they believe they will be able to apply the skills they learned while at LCC to their educational and professional plans. On the exit surveys, interns indicated the following regarding skills acquired while interning at LCC:

Question: What are some of the skills that you learned in this internship?
I think that I improved my research skills. I learned how to go through local facets in order to access organizations that may not be as popular. I also became bolder about connecting with those organizations.
Mostly I feel like I developed some confidence in being in a professional environment I learned about business/professional communication and how organizations interact and support each other.
How to build resources that can benefit you in your future, and how to become a more responsible individual.
One of the skills that I learned in the internship was about the website as well managing the listserve.
This internship among other things allowed me to develop my critical thinking skills. Through the examples of Dr. Cabrera, I have become aware of the various forms of collaboration and networking. I have observed how one builds working relationships with other institutions.

For example, the Civic Cinema event for Standing Silent Nation was initially introduced to the center by a UIC Alumni. In the process of getting co-sponsors, I thought of the Native American Support Program (NASP) on campus, but Dr. Cabrera also thought of the American Indian Center. I thought of co-sponsorship only on campus, but Dr. Cabrera explained to me that sometimes collaboration can also be in the form of support and hosting by organizations for delegations visiting the campus.

Skills that I learned were how to conduct an interview, conduct a meeting to convene Latino student organizations and be able to identify solutions for organizations. These solutions will be linked with Latino Cultural Center to engage Latino organizations to continue learning and doing hands on with LCC programs. The most valuable skill that I learned was civic engagement of Latino organization and cultures.

Interns were additionally given a follow-up question via email to respond to in order to assess whether or not their LCC internship helped them in their academic, professional and/or personal life. Four responses were received. Replies included:

Question: How do you think your LCC experience will help you in your academic, professional and personal life?

“The Latino Cultural Center is a unique space within the UIC campus. Although it serves as a different function for each person, it is a space that can be shared amongst students with similar interests and/or concerns. This same space is where I was, not only, able to complete my internship during the Spring 2012 semester, but also, learned just how the center is able to reach out to students in aiding their college career and personal concerns. I witnessed just how much of a small and large impact the LCC made on students on a daily basis, especially commuting students. Academically, I now know just how much of a resource the LCC can be, and how I can meet other students that are just as eager as I am to succeed. My internship also opened a door to view the specifics of development and funding, even though I am unsure of my career, this experience has allowed me to work in other places, where such research experience is needed. Lastly, the LCC staff and regular visitors are such diverse, accepting, and helping people. The events coordinated by the staff have re-acknowledged my belief in the ability of a passionate message to be transmitted to a community, small or large. The LCC has, overall, helped me view the simple benefits of a small space and appreciate what each person contributes, even if it's just their presence.”- *Vivian Delgadillo*

“I think that 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. She wanted to learn more about the programs that we held at LCC as well as my responsibilities at the Center. I think in addition the experience I had at a refugee center, LCC helped to boost my credentials.” - *JT Harrison*

“The internship at LCC got me to get a great job opportunity. During the semester while interning at LCC, I applied at the Cardiologist office and was accepted to work/intern with him as a personal assistant. This is a great opportunity for me as I see myself doing the same thing in my near future. He was very pleased to see LCC as a place that I interned at on my resume. It is not something of my field; however, he was happy to see something outside the ball on my resume, which makes me stand out and be able to do more overall than other candidates. Also, being able to speak two languages before Spanish, as well as being able to speak Spanish, was something that got me to get the job.”- *Mahroo Khan*

“LCC has helped me develop stronger relationships with UIC community among professors, staff and student leaders. Having the opportunity to interact with students and staff at LCC has expanded my knowledge in intercultural components. Even though I am from Mexican decent, I was able to learn about other Latin America issues.

I know that what I experienced at LCC during my internship, I will take with me throughout my career and will utilize strategic planning over all, since that was a major concept at LCC. On regards to my personal life, I value everyone else's culture as much as I value mine and I am determine to educate others whom are eager to learn. My passion to help and explore organizations needs grew stronger every time I interviewed student leaders.” *Eduardo Muñoz*

Support of Students and Student Organizations

Survey responses from student leaders indicate students, in general, view LCC as a welcoming campus space and that they would like LCC to achieve a higher level of visibility on campus. As previously mentioned, a large number of student organizations reserve the space at LCC for their regular meetings and events, as well as participate in programs, and attend events at LCC. 76% of responding student leaders also indicated that they use the space at LCC as a study area and space for socializing with their peers.

Several students indicated that their experiences at LCC could be improved with newer computers in the computer lab. Several respondents also said that they appreciated the food provided during finals week.

Question: Can you please tell us how you (and/or your students) benefited from your engagement with LCC?
We held a meeting at LCC and everyone enjoyed the space.
Learning about all the Latino organizations at UIC
Perfect study area and best computer lab
The program and service the LCC provides are phenomenal. Space availability and support for our organization is/has been very important.
The Center provided me with a place to study in, read a book, write papers, and socials with

people of different backgrounds.
The programs were extremely informational and eye opening.
It expanded my knowledge on Latino issue and further my understanding in conjunction with my LALS classes. The space is great for studying.
During a UPPF seminar, they explained the murals painted on the wall.
It gave me a place to study or hang out between classes.
Cultural and political awareness. A stronger connection with the staff.
I benefited from the engagement in many ways. I was exposed to diverse ideas and was able to discuss with faculty, staff, and students about issues that are often not represented in some of the classroom settings at UIC. I was able to express myself more comfortably in the LCC space because the space itself is more welcoming to discussing “sensitive” issues than other spaces. I also benefited from the LCC because I was able to meet many people from all over (UIC, surrounding Chicago communities, and other universities) where I was able to network. These networks helped me find out “how” to get where I want to be after I graduate. It was valuable information not only in the career sense but also in the personal growth sense. The LCC has provided me with safe space where I can grow as an individual and use that growth in order to give back to my community.
It is a common place for many of my friends and I to study and spend time.
They were able to focus more on their studies and they learned about Latinos in the field they were interested in.

Support of Faculty/Staff

Responses from faculty/staff and department administrators were overall positive and indicate that engagements with LCC occurred through a variety of channels: faculty/staff may be engaged as presenters, as co-sponsors, or as event attendees. LCC programming provides important instructional support for faculty looking for ways to enrich their classes, and the gallery space itself is an important resource for campus departments and organizations. Two faculty members indicated they held their regular class meetings in LCC. Additionally:

- 77%** of respondents recommend their students attend events at LCC
- 69%** of respondents work for a unit/department that has held meetings at LCC
- 30%** of respondents indicated they have advised students to seek internships with LCC

Suggestions for improvement mainly involved suggestions for improving marketing and also several requests for new/improved AV equipment.

Question: Can you please tell us how you (and/or your students) benefited from your engagement with LCC?
Professor John Hagedorn and I (Professor Cintron) conducted a weekly seminar on ethnographic methods at LCC. The total # of students was in the low 30s, I think. The seminar included graduate and undergraduates.
LCC has expanded our programming in multiple ways: it 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; and staff members are reliable, well-organized partners who are a pleasure to work with. In addition, all LCC events have provided important insight into issues and intellectual questions that are central to IRRPP's mission and programming.
I loved the environment, the murals, the traditions of struggle represented by the LCC
It has allowed the Department of Hispanic Studies to firm up academic relationships and exchanges with the Center. As far as DAMA is concerned, the Center has acted as bridge to introduce this community organization to student and faculty so they can become knowledgeable about cultural aspects and presentations by renowned personalities unknown to them, such as the painter Freddy Rodriguez, and Dede Mirabal, one of the Mirabal sisters.
The programs were good for students. And, there were a lot of them so it gave them many choices.
My students participated in the LCC as part of their internship experience. The experience permitted them to put into practice the theories and concepts they learned in a prerequisite course.
The space is wonderful – so different from other spaces on campus. It's alive and engaging, welcoming and beautiful. The SGC events that took place at LCC were enhanced by the physical surroundings and the skills of the LCC staff to provide a unique and dynamic environment for learning and discussion. The space is also easy to use – equipment works (you can't assume that in other spaces) and the seating is comfortable, etc. All of this makes it easy to plan to be there. Also, because of the other programs that take place there, I feel we can always draw upon a rich context of other events when we enter and begin a new discussion.
It's a great place for UIC Latino students, staff and faculty to come and meet and engage in many educational initiatives pertaining to all cultures and the external community.
Aside from the space usage, we sent students to events hosted by the Center and saw how one of our students was able to see value in the internship he completed with the Center.
The Latino Cultural Center is an ideal place to hold events. The space is ample enough to host a large event, the art seems to make students feel welcome and at home. Also, I enjoyed the novel presentation and discussion held at the Latino Cultural Center. These sessions gave me a new insight to the Latino Community.
Cultural and social enrichment.
First and foremost working with the LCC and having them as host/co-sponsors of our events meant that they would help me with set-up – sometimes with refreshments, and of course whatever technical stuff I needed it was provided. This type of assistance made my work a lot easier. I truly appreciate this type of support.
I benefit from LCC by attending its cultural and educational events that provide me with new knowledge.

Responses from Community Members

Question: Can you please tell us how you (and/or your students) benefited from your engagement with LCC?
As a life-long member of the Alumni Association and a former Trustee, I support the mission of the Rafael Cintrón Cultural Center and value the opportunity to share my experience, work with students, and faculty. I benefit from the exchange of ideas and learning how the Center is enriching the campus in general.
It is always good to learn how other <i>centros</i> are working with the Latino Communities and to

better understand the students/youth perspectives. We have shared audiences.

As an Alumni from UIC, the Latino Cultural Center was always a space I held dear to my heart. It is where I learned about my culture, but also where I found a safe space on campus. I do so much programming at the Latino Cultural Center and felt that I have helped to support this beautiful space on campus. I continue to try to connect the LCC with the communities around it with partnering with them on events. I feel as being their Ambassador is the least I can do to give back to a space that gave me so much and has contributed to my identity as a young person in this city.

Analysis

Survey responses indicate that LCC is achieving the goal of deepening understanding of Latino cultural issues and assets for UIC faculty, staff, and students. Its programs are highly rated by audiences, with 83% of respondents indicating their awareness and understanding of the topic presented greatly increased as a result of attending an LCC event.

Surveys also indicate LCC is valued as a campus resource offering the opportunity to extend learning outside of the classroom through programming and/or internships and that LCC serves as a unique campus location where faculty/staff, student leaders, interns, and community organizations interact in ways they find valuable.

And finally, LCC's facility itself is a valuable campus resource; the largest portion of events held at LCC during the 2011-2012 academic year (36.5%) are events or meetings LCC hosted on behalf of another organization/department. Students, student organizations, faculty, and staff all indicated that the space availability of LCC's gallery serves to support the capacity of their organization, teaching, or department and many respondents described the space as "safe" and "welcoming" and stated they valued the diversity of information and perspectives found at LCC.

We also learned about challenges confronting LCC. First, students asked LCC to provide additional services such as workshops on writing, time management, financial aid, and supporting students that are parents. While most of these services (if not all) already exist on campus they clearly are not reaching out to many of our students. A possible solution would be for LCC to partner with units and departments that are already offering such services to develop better strategies to reach Latino/a students and perhaps even develop Latino/a student workshops. A challenge to this, however, is that LCC does not currently have the staff capacity to do this.

A second challenge is the maintenance and management of the gallery space, which is a significant asset in that it is free to all on campus. During the last academic year, the space was in high demand and booked nearly every Monday through Thursday. The LCC program coordinator spends at least 50% of her time managing the gallery including space reservations, cleaning and setting up the space every morning, and setting AV equipment for events and meetings. In addition, the wear and tear of the gallery including its AV equipment gets remediate under the LCC budget (except some for this year).

Finally, students depend heavily on the LCC computer lab and they have pointed out the sad and inefficient condition of the computers and printer, which have been inherited from other departments in the past. Currently, LCC does not have a budget to replace this equipment.

Suggestions for next year's goals from evaluator:

- Continue to focus on Latino/a student success – especially building their intercultural skills and connecting their heritage with the present and future.
- Increased focus on student organizations especially in terms of leadership development.
- Increased focus on impacting faculty scholarship – especially community-engaged scholarship.
- Develop and harness the Ambassadors Group.

APPENDIX

List of public events during the academic year 2011-2012

Zona Abierta This initiative highlights the intersection of arts, humanities, science, culture and civic life with presentations by local, national and international artists, scholars and community leaders about pressing social issues affecting the lives of Latinos and Latin Americans while making connections to other communities.

If I Die in Juarez. Oct 4, 2011

Guest speaker: Author Stella Pope Duarte

Partner: National Museum of Mexican Art

Community Engagement: Event also held at the National Museum of Mexican Art

Co-sponsors: UIC's Honors College and Women's Leadership and Resource Center

Immigration Nation: Raids, Detentions and Deportations in Post-9/11 America. Oct 20, 2011.

Guest speaker: Tanya Golash-Boza, Author and Assistant Professor of Sociology at University of Kansas

Partner: UIC Latin American and Latino Studies.

Co-sponsors: Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS) Program and the Department of Sociology

Latino Series: Addressing Health Disparities in Our Latino Populations. Oct 27, 2011.

Guest speaker: Juana Ballesteros, Executive Director of the Greater Humboldt Park community of Wellness.

Partner: UIC Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Latinos.

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

Guest speaker: Priscilla Ruiz Guillén, Attorney at the Fray Bartolomé Center.

Partners: UIC Department of Anthropology and Latin American and Latino Studies.

Co-sponsors: Department of Anthropology and the Latin American and Latino Studies Program

Indigenous Writing in Oaxaca. Nov. 4, 2011.

Guest speaker: Sebastián van Doesburg, Senior Advisor to the Alfredo Harp Helú Foundation, and a member of the Mexican Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) of UNESCO.

Partners: Department of Anthropology and Latin American and Latino Studies.

Justice in El Barrio. Nov 9, 2011.

Guest speaker: Juan Haro, member of the Movement for Justice in El Barrio in East Harlem and beyond.

Partners: the Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS) and Mexican Students de Aztlan (MeSA).

Co-sponsors: Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Latinos

DREAMing of Higher Education. Nov. 16, 2012.

Panelists: Rigo Padilla & Carla Navoa, UIC students;

Fred Tsao & Monica Starczuk, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, (ICIRR);

Natalia Delgado, Associate General Counsel Office of the Governor;

Chikh Diop, United African Organization;

Liz Barajas, UIC's LARES;

Facilitator: Amalia Pallares, Latin American and Latino Studies Program.

Partners: Latin American and Latino Studies and Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services Program (LARES).

Co-sponsors: African American Cultural Center, AARCC, Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Latinos, Honors College, and the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy

Workers Unite to Combat Injustice and Inequality. Nov 17, 2012.

Guest speakers: Midwest Workers Association.

Partners: UIC African-American Cultural Center, Latino Association of Business Students.

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

Panelists: Ignacio Corona, Ohio State University;

Lillian Gorman, University of Illinois at Chicago;

José E. Limón, University of Notre Dame;

Ramón H. Rivera-Servera, Northwestern University;

Facilitator: Alejandro Madrid, Latin American and Latino Studies.

Partner: Latin American and Latino Studies Program

Co-sponsors: Department of Theatre and Music

Patient Citizens, Immigrant Mothers. March 12, 2012.

Guest speaker: Alyshia Galvez, Assistant Professor of Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies at Lehman College.

Partners: Latin American and Latino Studies, Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy.

Co-sponsors: Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Latinos, Department of Anthropology, Department of Sociology, Gender and Women's Studies Program and School of Public Health

CROSSED: Immigrant Equals Mexican? March 29, 2012.

Teatro Luna's original play followed by a discussion with cast.

Co-sponsors: Department of Theatre and Music, Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Latinos, College of Nursing, Honors College, and Latin American and Latino Studies Program

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

Guest speaker: Brandon Valeriano, Professor, UIC Department of Political Science.

Environmental Justice in Pilsen. April 12, 2012.

Guest speakers: Jerry Mead Lucero and Leila Mendez, founding members of Pilsen Environmental Rights and Reform Organization (PERRO).

Partner: Mexican Students de Aztlan (MeSA).

Aqui y Alla: Art, Identity, and the Flight 587 Memorial. April 7 and 11, 2012.

Guest speaker: Artist Freddy Rodriguez.

Partners: Dominican American Midwest Association and the Puerto Rican Arts Alliance.

Community Engagement: Event held at the Puerto Rican Arts Alliance on April 7, 2012

Co-sponsors: Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies and Latin American and Latino Studies Program

"Bebeviejo" The Insignificant Other: The very old and the very young in our society. April 20, 2012.

Guest speaker: Maestro Antonio Martorell.
Partner: Latin American and Latino Studies Program

Education Reform and Educational Policy Priorities. April 25, 2012.
Guest speaker: Sylvia Puente, Executive Director of the Latino Policy Forum.
Partner: Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Latinos.

Radical Doula. April 26, 2012.
Guest speaker: Miriam Zoila Perez founder of Radical Doula.
Partner: Center for Research on Women & Gender.
Co-sponsors: College of Nursing, Women's Leadership & Resource Center, Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy, and Latin American and Latino Studies

Civic Cinema This initiative shows documentary films to engage different voices on campus and neighboring communities in dialogue about pressing social issues. Documentaries are identified to link to academic research on campus and community concerns and leaders that are addressing these issues. A dialogue facilitated by these scholars and community experts follows each documentary film.

Immigrant Nation! The Battle for the Dream September 7, 2011.
Guest speaker: Film Director Esaú Meléndez

Woke Up Black October 6, 2011.
Guest Speaker: Mary F. Morten.
Partner: Gender & Sexuality Center
Co-Sponsors: Campus Housing, Chancellor's Committee on the Status of LGBTI, Honors College, Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy, Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs

Chungui, horror sin lágrimas October 25, 2011.
Guest Speaker: Margarita Saona, Dept. of Hispanic and Italian Studies
Partner: Hispanic and Italian Studies
Co-Sponsors: UIC Department of Anthropology

Standing Silent Nation November 8, 2011.
Guest Speaker: White Plume Family from the Pine Ridge Reservation of South Dakota.
Co-Sponsors: American Indian Center

Maria en tierra de nadie November 21, 2011.
Guest Speaker: Director Marcela Zamora, visual artist Cristian Pineda Flores and Father Alejandro Solalinde, director of Albergue de Migrantes Hermanos en el Camino, Oaxaca, Mexico.
Co-Sponsors: Latin American and Latino Studies Program, Casa Michoacan

Yo Soy el Army February 1, 2012.
Guest Speakers: Brian Galaviz, counselor El Cuarto Año High School
Camilo Maya, U.S. Army E4 Specialist and UIC student
Annette Uriostegui, U.S. Army Sergeant and UIC student
Jesus Palafox, American Friends Services Committee

Illiana Silva, counselor Social Justice High School / Little Village Lawndale High School Campus

Moderator: Erica Meiners, Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy.

Partner: The Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy

Community Engagement: Casa Aztlan

Co-Sponsors: Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services Program (LARES)

Shipibo March 14, 2012.

Guest Speaker: Alaka Wali, The Field Museum

Co-Sponsors: UIC Department of Anthropology and Latin American and Latino Studies

The Interrupters March 28, 2012

Guest Speakers: CeaseFire Violence Interrupters featured in the film, Ricardo "Cobe" Williams and Eduardo "Eddie" Bocanegra.

Co-Sponsors: Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services Program (LARES) and the School of Art and Design

Precious Knowledge April 24, 2012.

Guest Speaker: Cynthia Brito, a graduate student from the Latin American and Latino Studies Program.

Partners: Latino/a Educators United for Change, Higher Education, and Action (LUCHA)

Co-Sponsors: Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services Program (LARES)

Noche de Poetas This initiative brings together students and community members from diverse backgrounds to share and compare their life experiences through their own poetic words. Each event is organized around a theme and features a poet from a local community. This program is in partnership with three student organizations: MeSA (Mexican Students de Aztlan, UPRs (Union for Puerto Rican Students) and SJP (Students for Justice in Palestine).

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

Feature Poet: King Keith.

Partners: Mexican Students de Aztlan (MeSA), Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS), & Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)

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

Partners: Mexican Students de Aztlan (MeSA), Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS), & Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)

Addiction: the Real Terrorist Threat November 10, 2011.

Feature Poet: Hip Hop artist Olmeca from L.A.

Partners: Mexican Students de Aztlan (MeSA), Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS), & Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)

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

Featured Poet: UIC student Luis Pasillas (TheZenOne).

Partners: Mexican Students de Aztlan (MeSA), Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS), & Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)

Human Rights and Democracy March 8, 2012.

Featured Poet: Jessie Fuentes, director of El Batey Urbano.

Partners: Mexican Students de Aztlan (MeSA), Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS), & Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)

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

Featured Poet: Tampico. Partners: Mexican Students de Aztlan (MeSA), Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS), & Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)

Telling Our Stories This initiative collects “first voice” stories about universal concerns that Latinos and people around the world share. From personal stories we can help understand each other, learn about creative solutions to solve common problems, and connect our aspirations and actions for a sustainable world. Stories about specific concerns are being collected through our website and public programs using the following themes: Honoring the Dead, Love and Peace, Passing down Family Recipes, and Migration and Adaptation.

Dia de los muertos (Day of the Dead) & Dia de Difuntos (All Saints’ Day)

Altar Installation Date: October 31, 2011.

Theater performance: Skulls, Rosaries, and Cempazuchitl by Laura Crotte and Yolanda Nieves Date: November 2, 2011

Partners: Mexican Students de Aztlan (MeSA)

Co-sponsors: Chancellor’s Committee on the Status of Latinos, Department of Anthropology, Honors College, and Latin American and Latino Studies Program

Messages of Love

Workshop: February 13, 2012. *Stories of Love from Agosto and Other Months of the Year:* February 14, 2012. Speaker: Mónica Flores Correa

Co-sponsors: Honors College and School of Art and Design

2011-2012 Special Events

35th Anniversary Celebration September 14, 2011

Co-sponsors from UIC include: the Chancellor’s Committee on the Status of Latinos, Hispanic Center of Excellence, Honors College, Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, Latin American and Latino Studies, Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services, Office of the Vice Chancellor for External Affairs, and the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs. Our external co-sponsors include: Brigandi and Associates, Inc., National Museum of Mexican Art and TCF Bank.

Chicago Neighborhoods and Around the World September 23, 2011.

Partners: UIC Study Abroad.

Co-Sponsors: Honors College and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for External Affairs

Spring 2012 Open House January 11, 2012.

20th Annual UIC Latino Film Festival

Semi Toasted / Semi Tostado- Date: April 17, 2012

Community Engagement: Saturday April 21, 2012 at Institute for Puerto Rican Arts and Culture
The Color of the Guayaba / El Color de la Guayaba- April 18, 2012

Community Engagement: Saturday April 21, 2012 at Institute for Puerto Rican Arts and Culture
Die Standing Up / Morir de Pie- April 19, 2012

Community Engagement: Friday April 20, 2012 at Casa Michoacán

Co-Sponsors: Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Latinos, College of Nursing, Hispanic Center of Excellence, LARES, and LALS

Event Feedback Form

Event: *Title*
Month/Date/Year

What follows is a series of questions designed to get a better understanding of how well today's experience worked FOR YOU and what you gained from participating in this event.

A- Please circle the number below that best reflects the quality of the experience for you. A score of 4 tells us that you thought we did a great job. A score of 1 tells us you really didn't think we did all that well.

1. Overall, did the event meet your expectations?

FULLY MET 4 3 2 1 NOT MET

2. Did this event expand your awareness and understanding about the topic we presented?

VERY MUCH 4 3 2 1 NOT AT ALL

3. Would you recommend Latino Cultural Center events to a friend?

VERY MUCH 4 3 2 1 NOT AT ALL

B- Other comments

4. What stuck out in your mind as **something valuable to know** from today's event?

5. How did you hear about this event? (circle all that apply)

email facebook twitter posters LCC website a friend other: _____

6. Any suggestions on how to make the **(Initiative)** series better?

Please continue on reverse side

C- About yourself (circle one)

UIC Undergrad UIC Grad other student UIC faculty/ staff Community Member/
Alumni

Ethnic background(s)

If you are not receiving email event announcements from us, would you like to share your email?
(We do not share our email database) _____

Please return this form at the end of the event. Thank You!

**UIC Latino Cultural Center (LCC) Annual Assessment Feedback Form
Fall 2011-Spring 2012**

You are receiving this Assessment Feedback Form because you (and or your students) have engaged with the LCC in some ways. Please take a few minutes to fill it out and return it by June 30th. You can email it to Edith Tovar, Program Assistant at **etovar4@uic.edu** Thank You!

Name: _____ Date: _____

Circle one: Faculty Staff Student Leader Community Member Non-UIC Presenter

UIC Department/Unit or Name of Organization:

1. What was your engagement with LCC? Please check all that apply:

- _____ Partnered and/or co-sponsored LCC events
- _____ Presented at the LCC
- _____ Attended various events presented by the LCC
- _____ Recommended my students to attend LCC events
- _____ Held my class lectures at the LCC
- _____ Advised students to obtain their internship at the LCC
- _____ Member of the LCC Ambassador group
- _____ The department/unit that I work for has held events at the LCC
- _____ My organization holds its weekly meetings at the LCC
- _____ I use the gallery space as a study area
- _____ Other: If so, explain

2. Can you please tell us how you (and or your students) benefited from your engagement with the LCC?

3. Do you have any suggestions to improve your engagement with LCC?

UIC LCC Intern Survey
Academic Year 2011-2012

1. What did you like best about your internship experience with LCC?

2. What are some of the skills that you learned in this internship?

3. How do you think you can use these skills in your educational and professional plans?

4. What did you like least about your internship experience?

5. (optional) Additional Comments