Latinos Arts – Exciting News and Events

This fall, Latinos Art welcomed a new Managing Artistic Director, Jacobo Luo. After teaching art at Bruce-Guadalupe Community School for 16 years, Jacobo joined the Latino Arts with energy and ideas to continue Latino Arts strong traditions and building upon those for new programs. This fall, Latino Arts held a variety of successful events including performances by Mariachi Flor de Tocahoe and Gabriela Olaya Afro-Peruvian Sextet and celebrated Day of the Dead with the annual Dia de los Muertos exhibit and ofrenda workshops. In addition, we partnered with the Sam & Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies to present Sarah Arosee, an artist of Latino music, an ancient Judeo-Spanish language. Sarah presented a matinee, evening show and unique Sing’Talk Luncheon which was enjoyed by new visitors to Latino Arts.

Among some of these seasonal activities, Latinos Art also piloted a new event called, "Pinto con Tinto." This painting class, taught by Managing Artistic Director Jacobo Luo, was a huge success! Guests enjoyed tapas, wine and dessert while painting their very own masterpieces inspired by Dia de the Dead imagery. Stay tuned for more "Pinto con Tinto" events!

This spring we look forward to an exciting list of events including our fourth annual International Guitar Festival presented by the Latino Arts Strings Program. This festival will feature a youth guitar competition and master classes. In addition, Proyecto Bembe, an Afro-Latino percussion-based performing arts group will be hosting performances and workshops.

We will be trying out another new program "Café con Arte." Guests will be joined by our knowledgeable staff in the gallery for insight into the art exhibitions. Interesting, historical, sometimes humorous anecdotes will be accompanied by coffee and churros.

We are excited to continue to engage the community with our unique Latino Arts programming. Check out our website for all the details: www.latinartsincc.org

Salud a la Vista

Studies show Latinos have a higher rate of diabetes compared to the rest of the population, which can lead to vision loss, blindness, and great diseases. In an effort to prevent these health complications, a partnership between the United Community Center, Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), Milwaukee Department of Health, Carroll University, and Marquette University is creating a new eye disease screening system using mobile technology to improve the eye health of the Latino community in Southeastern Wisconsin.

Thanks to the Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program (HWPP) responsive component grant, MCW and UCC will continue to expand their community partnerships and efforts to utilize telemedicine to detect early diabetic retinopathy among the insured and uninsured minority populations of Milwaukee and Wausau areas. Using a mobile retinal camera that is easy to transport, project leaders hope to create an ongoing program that is community driven. This project partnership also aims to create a diverse and community friendly workforce composed of health science students, public health nurses, and community center staff that can deliver eye screenings to minority populations. The project named Salud a la Vista: mobile SafetyEye Health (mSHE), will commence in the new year.

Latino Milwaukee: A Statistical Portrait

This year the Greater Milwaukee Foundation commissioned a study by UWM’s Center for Economic Development for the first ever, in-depth analysis of social and economic conditions in Milwaukee’s Latino Community. “Latino Milwaukee: A Statistical Portrait” provides comprehensive data which examines how Latino Milwaukee has changed through the years and how it compares to other demographics and metro areas. Most importantly, it shines a light on the significant role that the Latino community will play in the future of our city and the region. Below are some of highlights, to read the full report please visit: http://www.greatermilwaukeefoundation.org/newsroom/recent-news/latinosurvey/

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS:
• 79.5% of Milwaukee’s Latino community are U.S. citizens. 72.8% were born in the U.S.
• Latinos have accounted for over 90% of the net population growth in metro Milwaukee and all of the net population growth in the city of Milwaukee since 2000.
• Without the surge in Latino population since 1990, the city’s population would have declined by 16 % between 1990 and 2014.
• Latinos accounted for 25.9% of the City of Milwaukee student enrollment for the 2013-2016 school year.
• Between 2007 and 2012, Hispanic-owned businesses in Milwaukee grew by 82.3%, the 10th highest increase in the 50 largest metropolitan areas.
Students get glimpse into nation’s history on unforgettable trip!

This October, forty 8th grade students from Bruce-Guadalupe Middle School had the chance to get up close and personal with our nation’s history during a trip to Washington, D.C. Their five day adventure was generously funded by U.S. Senator Herb Kohl with a gift from Herb Kohl Philanthropies. Students explored everything from museums and monuments to George Washington’s home at Mt. Vernon, filling each day with exciting experiences.

Students spent the first day of the trip visiting several historic sites, including, the Washington Monument, the World War II Memorial, and the Holocaust Museum. Students reflected on our nation’s history at the Smithsonian Museum of American History, saw the beauty of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial at night, and learned to navigate the city on the metro.

On day two, they were taken on a guided tour of the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, followed by a visit to the Library of Congress. Students saw the documents that formed our nation at the National Archives, getting up close to the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. They ended the evening in style with a private dance party at Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, where students danced the night away surrounded by past presidents and celebrities!

The final day of the trip brought our nation’s history full circle. Students spent the morning at Mt. Vernon, George Washington’s home, learning more about the life of our founding president. From there students headed to the White House, getting a look inside the building that houses our President and is a steadfast reminder of country’s past, present, and future.

Students headed home with a new understanding of our nation’s history, it’s struggles, triumphs, and the people who played an integral role in its creation. The memories that were made along the way will be treasured, as it truly was a week that students will never forget.