

Our Future

Casa de la Cultura Kentucky has received a great response from the community. This feedback gives us not only satisfaction, but also a sense of commitment and responsibility to the community of Kentucky. We feel the need to continue creating and supporting more programs that will build a stronger and more united community founded on respect and acceptance between individuals, beyond cultural differences. To fulfill our calling we need your support and the support of our community. Casa de la Cultura Kentucky needs a Casa. We need a permanent place where we can keep growing and where we can make our home away from home.

**We expand the richness of our Latino cultures
in order to live it, feel it and enjoy it...**



Contact Us

For more information about Casa de la Cultura Kentucky, our programs, how volunteer or donate, please visit our website or contact us at:

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WHO WE ARE...

2016

Where are you From?



Isn't that a question that people always ask, especially if a person looks different, even if that person is a second- or third-generation immigrant, born in United States? How does a US-born child whose parents are from another country respond to that question?

Occasionally, and due to stigma and labels that our society still associates with ethnicity, some young people decide to renounce their cultural heritage in order to be accepted by their community. But that cultural heritage is a part of them and to deny it is to deny a part of what makes them who they are.

Acknowledging the Whole Self → Building Self-Esteem

We know that it is crucial for children and youth to value and take pride in their ancestry and culture. We believe it is important that they know about their roots, which helps to create a sense of wholeness that builds self-esteem and nurtures pride in their heritage. This provides the foundation in which the individual can construct his/her identity. For immigrants, the task of keeping our native culture and traditions alive for our children is hard work, especially on our own. We created **Casa de la Cultura Kentucky**, to promote Latino culture and encourage the learning and use of the Spanish language through various educational and creative programs and activities. We want our young people to learn about Hispanic culture and heritage, so they know who they are and where they come from.

Other programs

Plan to Go to the University



In collaboration with the BCTC office of Latino outreach services and University of Kentucky Latino Student Union, we were able to lead a workshop for parents and students where we provided information on higher education opportunities for students and how to get on the right path in order to reach their college dreams.

Cultural Pride Sashes



Since it is important to CCHL to promote Hispanic pride among youth, we began providing cultural pride sashes to graduating high school seniors who were active members of a Latino student organization in their school. In 2015, we were proud to provide these sashes to three seniors from Paul Laurence Dunbar's Latino Outreach Leadership. This year we have reached out to college students and have almost 20 seniors from UK's LSU, BCTC's Enlace and Paul Laurence Dunbar's LOL who want to wear these sashes when they walk during their graduation.

Know your Rights



We collaborated with the Maxwell Street Legal Clinic, Kentucky Dream Coalition, and the Village Branch Public Library to offer this informational presentation to the Hispanic community. We discussed immigrant rights in the case of detention or arrest by the police or Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Celebrating important traditions:



- Día del Niño (Children's Day)
- Día de las Madres (Mothers' Day)
- U.S.A. Independence Day
- Casa de la Cultura Hispana de Lexington's Third Anniversary Celebration
- 16 de Septiembre (Mexican Independence Day)
- Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)
- Posada (Mexican Christmas Celebration)
- Novena (Colombian Christmas Celebration)

Mothers' Day Festival



This event is a reminder of the importance of Mothers' Day celebrations in South American countries, but it is also a great opportunity to reach Latino women. We take advantage of having so many women together by sharing information of great importance for this sector of our population: information on women's health, domestic violence, higher education, early childhood education, etc.

During our second annual festival, in May 2015, we reached 200 moms who brought their families, about 500 people. This year, we want to increase that number with the help of our community, and local organizations and businesses.



Our Programs

Artisan Workshops / Talleres de Manualidades:

Since July 2013



Creating piñatas, foil embossing, corn husk crafts, Alebrijes, hammocks and other crafts...14 families participated during the first four months of workshops. For some participants, selling their creations become a way to generate extra income. The participants gained techniques and experience with different materials and tools, and increased their appreciation for hand-made crafts as

they realized the time and skills necessary to create quality works. In the beginning, one instructor taught the classes, but in 2015, we invited other community members to share their traditional skills as well.

Folk Dance Group / Grupo de Danza Folclórica:

Since August, 2013



Participants enjoy fun, physical activity together while learning traditional dance. Dancing promotes teamwork, and encourages family and friends to show support and help offstage during the dance

performances. We see mothers, fathers, daughters and sons learning dances together. This a fantastic way to promote pride in culture and roots, since all the participants can identify the country, region, and cultural significance behind each dance. There are three dance groups: ages 3 to 6, ages 7 to 11, and ages 12 and up. We practice almost every Thursday for three hours. During 2015 season, we had 48 dancers.

Spanish and English “Boot Camps”

Since April 2014



Upon hearing the needs and demands of our community, we have developed programs in which we give the opportunity for Spanish and English language-learners to practice their speaking and listening skills outside of the classroom environment. Participants build cross-cultural relationships with native speakers of the language they are learning. During 2015, we held one Spanish and one English Boot Camps

Artivism Camp (2014)



Casa de la Cultura and the Kentucky Latino Education Alliance helped the Kentucky Dream Coalition organize this three-day weekend camp. The camp taught artistic tools and methods for attendees to use to address the problems they face as Hispanic youth.

Culture Night



This is an annual reenactment of an event relating to Hispanic American history and culture. In 2015, we presented the Mexican Revolution. The goal of this event was to immerse participants in a reenactment of the Mexican revolution by creating a night of Mexican food, music, dance, and stories and testimonials. Culture Night was a fun way to teach about the social, political and cultural changes that accompanied this revolutionary movement that lasted more than a decade and marked a major historical change for all Mexicans. We look forward to presenting other historical events that highlight the breadth and diversity of the Hispanic culture.

In the Community

We work to bring out, spotlight, and share Latino culture around Lexington. Last year, we presented the Folk Dance Group and crafts workshop at various venues, including:

Educational venues and programs:

- Maxwell Spanish Immersion Elementary School
- Dixie Magnet Elementary school,
- Beaumont Middle School, Cultural Night
- BCTC, Latino Leadership and College Experience Camp
- Migrant Education Program, Summer Camp
- University of Transylvania, Spanish Class
- Village Branch Public Library
- Living Arts and Science Center

Cultural Festivals:

- Spotlight on Youth
- Migrant Network Coalition, Achieving Dreams Scholarship Celebration and Fundraiser
- Día del Niño (Village Branch Public Library)
- Latin Nights
- Latino Festival
- Bluegrass Fair
- 4th of July Festival
- Center College, Hispanic Festival
- Halloween Parade
- Living Arts and Science Center, Day of the Dead Festival



