

LAZOS Detroit: Conmemoró Historia, Cultura y Comunidad

Por Juanita Zúñiga
 El domingo 8 de octubre, miembros de la comunidad, vendedores y empresarios locales se reunieron en Vallarta Live en el suroeste de Detroit para celebrar la rica y diversa comunidad de Detroit y recaudar fondos para la organización local One Michigan for Immigrant Rights.

En el evento se transmitió el documental Michoacán to Michigan, una producción que relata la historia de Valeriano y Martina Fraga y su viaje desde Morelia, Michoacán en 1919 hasta Michigan, durante la Revolución Mexicana.

Desde el viaje de los Fraga al “Pulgar de Michigan”, la Inmigración ha formado una comunidad, en el suroeste de Detroit, lo que hizo que la celebración fuera más íntima.

“Ellos (la familia Fraga) esperan que mediante el documental puedan inspirar a otras familias a contar su historia, con el objetivo de que la comunidad

inmigrante, principalmente los indocumentados, sepan que no tienen que vivir en las sombras”, dijo Brígida Espinosa.

cont. en la pág. 2



Members of Puente Cultural Integration and One Michigan for Immigrant Rights pause for a group photo with the event proceeds
 Photo by Alejandro Ugalde

LAZOS Detroit: Celebrating History, Culture, and Community

By Juanita Zuniga
 On Sunday, October 8, local community members, vendors, and local business members came together at Vallarta Live in

Southwest Detroit to celebrate Detroit’s rich and diverse community to raise funds for local organization One Michigan for Immigrant

Rights. The event, which showcased the screening of Michoacán to Michigan, a documentary film that recounts the story of Valeriano and Martina Fraga and their journey from Morelia, Michoacán in 1919 during the Mexican Revolutionary War to Michigan.

Since the Fraga’s voyage to the Thumb Region, Immigration and Migration has made a community here in Southwest Detroit. Which only makes this celebration more intimate.

“They [Fraga Family] are hoping through the documentary they can inspire other families to tell their stories, with the end result being that the immigrant community, especially the undocumented immigrant community, knows they don’t have to live in the shadows,” said Bridget Espinosa.

cont. on pg. 2

Local Hispanic Leaders Honored and Student Scholarships Awarded During Annual Celebration



In accepting her award remotely, local Southwest Detroit artist and community activist Mary Luevanos submitted the following comments:

I am elated to have been considered for the Community Arts Recognition. It is my estimation an award of this stature carries responsibility, power, recognition.

We, for me, Mexican families live in the pallet of colors reflecting our ancestors. The richness of our words are like the poems with which songs are made. The music, the ancient drum beats are celestial dances.

My “Pa’s” bucket beat or the thumps on the table; the drums reflect ancient Guanajuato. My abuelito’s stories of the 12 O’clock bull who suddenly became ferocious at that time for some reason no one knew; Maximillian’s soldiers; Pa’s eyes widened, his hair looked electrified recounting his youthful days in Michoacán and how his father’s family disowned him for marrying a Tarasco Indian.

There is so much more to tell, ART!!! The key to unlock the stories; the music; the dance of life. Community art unleashes the power for all of us.

Thank you for giving me this phenomenal recognition.
 Mary Luevanos

LANSING, Mich. – The Hispanic Latino Commission of Michigan (HLCOM) recently held their annual Hispanic Heritage Event where they awarded thirteen students with \$1,000 scholarships and honored six Latinx leaders for their contributions.

“The Commission is proud to convene our communities to celebrate ambitious Latinx leaders and students, and provide scholarships that ease the financial burden Hispanic and Latinx students may face amid their pursuit of higher education,” Office of Global Michigan Director Poppy Hernandez said. “By collaborating with and uplifting esteemed community members like those awarded this evening, our work continues to make Michigan a welcoming state. Global Michigan is committed to empowering and engaging the immigrant, refugee and international community as we make Michigan the home for

opportunity.” Each spring, the commission collects nominations for Latinx leaders to be recognized at the annual fall event. The following committee-selected leaders were honored for their contributions to the state in the areas of art, education, military service, community service, lifetime achievement and heroism:

- Educator of the Year Award: **Celery Quintino** of Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Unsung Hero Award: **Abby Teasley** of Grand Haven, Michigan
- Arts in the Community Award: **Mary Puentes Luevanos** of Southwest Detroit
- Veteran of the Year Award: **Jose Manuel Estrada** of Lansing, Michigan
- Lifetime Achievement Award: **Gilberto “Gil” Guevara** of Saginaw, Michigan
- Community Service Award: **Daniel “Dano” Oropeza** of Pharr, Texas/Kalamazoo, Michigan

“Since its establishment in 1975, the Commission has been charged with honoring Latinx Michiganders and their contributions across the state,” said HLCOM Commission Chair Jesse Bernal. “Every single individual recognized during our event is well-deserving of the prestigious award they received for their outstanding commitment to service in their community and beyond.”

The event included a vibrant display of artwork by Detroit and Dominican Artist Odette Duke and a diverse Latinx dance performance by Reflejos Latinos of Ann Arbor, which took guests on a tour of various parts of Latin America through dance. Event sponsors included: Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Ford Motor Co., Grand Valley State University, Western Michigan University, MI Latinx Coalition, HBN Building Services and Comcast.

cont on pg.3

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