



For Immediate Release
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Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrations Kicked Off at Buffalo & Erie County Public Library

BUFFALO, NY – Western New Yorkers were invited to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month September 15 to October 15. The full calendar of events (<http://www.hispanicheritagewny.org>) begun with recognition of the national holiday at the Buffalo & Erie County Library, One Lafayette Square, noon, Friday September 13, 2013.

The opening ceremony featured civic and community leaders from the NY State Governors Office; Elected Officials from Erie County and the City of Buffalo; Buffalo Schools Superintendent Dr. Pamela Brown and other dignitaries. Entertainment included a presentation by Grupo Variedad and a local dance group called the Latin Souls. More than twenty service organizations were available to offer information about programs specifically for Buffalo's Hispanic community.

“The Hispanic Heritage Council in collaboration with the arts and cultural groups of our region is proud to offer this full schedule of events. Every program planned is family friendly and culturally educational and informative,” said Casimiro D. Rodríguez Sr., Chairman of the Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY Inc. “We believe this month long celebration will be enjoyed by Western New Yorkers as we all embrace the diversity of our region and support its rich cultures.”

Citizens of Hispanic decent have lived in the City of Buffalo and WNY area since the late 1800s after immigrating from countries such as Spain, Mexico, Cuba, regions in South and Central America and the Caribbean including Puerto Rico. This growing population has made significant contributions to the WNY area.

Nationally, Hispanic Heritage Month recognizes the contributions of [Hispanic Americans](#) to the [United States](#) and celebrates Hispanic [heritage](#) and [culture](#). The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President [Lyndon Johnson](#) and was expanded by President [Ronald Reagan](#) in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988.

September 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the [anniversary](#) of [independence](#) of five [Latin American](#) countries: [Costa Rica](#), [El Salvador](#), [Guatemala](#), [Honduras](#) and [Nicaragua](#). They all declared independence in 1821. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.

For more information, visit <http://www.hispanicheritagewny.org>

The Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York Inc., is a nonprofit organization that fosters and inspires awareness, understanding and appreciation of the Hispanic community in the region. The organization is dedicated to preserving the history of Hispanic people living and working in Western New York for future generations. For more information or to submit information about upcoming events, visit www.HispanicHeritageWNY.org.