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Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrations Kick Off at Buffalo & Erie County Public Library

BUFFALO, NY – Western New Yorkers are invited to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month September 15 to October 15. The full calendar of events (<http://www.hispanicheritagewny.org>) begins with recognition of the national holiday at the Buffalo & Erie County Library, One Lafayette Square, noon, Friday September 14, 2012.

The opening ceremony will feature 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 will include a presentation by the students from the D'Youville Porter Campus PS#3 and traditional music & dance performances. More than twenty service organizations will be available to offer information about programs specifically for Buffalo's Hispanic community.

Dates of programs and events are listed below:

Friday, September 14

- 6:00 pm – Hispanic Music Youth Project: River Fest Park – Ohio Street Corridor

Saturday, September 15

- 10:00 am – Hispanic Veterans Memorial 5K Run and Family Walk: Canalside
- 11:00 am – Hispanic Heritage Family Day @ Zoo: Buffalo Zoo

Monday, September 17

- 4:00 pm – Hispanic Heritage Community Reception: Hohn Lecture Hall, Roswell Park Cancer Institute

Tuesday, September 18

- 6:30 pm – Overview of Hispanics in the Military: Niagara Branch Library

Friday, September 21

- 12:00noon – Hispanic Veterans PTSD/Vietnam War: Ring of Knowledge: Downtown Central Library
- 6:00 pm - Hispanic Heritage Film Festival: The BORINQUENEERS
Market Arcade Downtown Buffalo

Saturday, September 22

- 11:00 am – Hispanic Heritage in Science & Technology: Buffalo Museum of Science

Tuesday, September 25

- 6:30 pm – Traditional Cultural Performances: Niagara Branch Library Porter Avenue

Wednesday, September 26

- 6:00pm – Hispanic Identity in Arts & Culture: Buffalo Historical Society, Nottingham Terrace

Friday, September 28

- 12:00noon – Who was Jaime Nuno: Ring of Knowledge: Downtown Central Library
- 6:00pm - Hispanic Music Youth Project: River Fest Park – Ohio Street Corridor

Wednesday, October 3

- 6:00pm – Encuentro de las Guitarras: Buffalo Historical Society, Nottingham Terrace

Thursday, October 4

- 12:00noon – Overview on Hispanic in Military: Ring of Knowledge: Downtown Central Library

Friday, October 5

- 12:00noon – Celebrating Hispanic Heritage with Veterans: Veterans Medical Center, Freedom Hall
- 6:00 pm – Hispanic Heritage Council Community Reception: Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site

Saturday, October 6

- 11:00 am – Honoring Labor for Retirees & Families of Bethlehem Steel Plant / Railroad Industry Heritage Discovery Center: 100 Lee Street (Steel Plant Museum)
- 6:00pm – Citlali de Mexico: River Fest Park – Ohio Street Corridor

Tuesday, October 9

- 6:30 pm – Hispanics in the US and WNY: Niagara Branch Library Porter Avenue

Wednesday, October 10

- 6:00pm – Journey of Hispanics in WNY (Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY. Inc.,) Buffalo Historical Society, Nottingham Terrace

Friday, October 12

- 6:00pm - Hispanic Music Youth Project: River Fest Park – Ohio Street Corridor

Saturday, October 13

- 11:00 am – Hispanic Women’s League Scholarship Luncheon: Statler City, 107 Delaware Ave.

Friday, October 19

- 12:30 pm - Hispanic Heritage Month Finale: D’Youville-Porter School #3

“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 Rodríguez, 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.

Sponsors for the 3rd Annual Hispanic Heritage Month are the Arts Services Initiative of Western New York; Inc.; Erie Canal Harbor Development Corp; Buffalo Teachers Federation; AT&T, Buffalo Public Schools; City of Buffalo Common Council Members: Joseph Golombek Jr., Darius G. Pridgen, David A. Rivera, Demone A. Smith, and Christopher P. Scanlon; Citizens Bank; Home Depot; Goya Foods General Manager Carlos Pereira; Hiscock & Barclay Law Firm; Kaleida Health; KeyBank; Lou Santiago, Lombardo Funeral Home; Roswell Park Cancer Institute; Buffalo International Film Festival; UNYTS and Wegmans.

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 .