



For Immediate Release  
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## Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrations Set to 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, Monday September 15, 2014.

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; representatives from the Buffalo Schools and other dignitaries. Entertainment include a presentation by Evah Rodriguez an 8 year old. She is an actress, dancer, singer, and a New York State Karate Champion, music 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 a full schedule of events. Every program planned is family friendly and culturally educational and informative. *"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"* said Casimiro D. Rodríguez Sr., Chairman of the Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY Inc. Featured events include a free concert at the Kleinhans Music Hall with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra called "Salsa Meets Symphony" on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm and the opening of the Hispanic History Exhibit at Buffalo History Museum, **Echando Raices: Hispanics Building a Life and Legacy** in Western New York on September 24 at 5:00pm.

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](http://www.HispanicHeritageWNY.org).