

Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee
Latino Heritage Celebration Ad Hoc Subcommittee Report

September 26, 2023 Meeting

Members of the Latino Heritage Ad Hoc Subcommittee: Chair Carlos Valverde and members Jezenia Aguirre, Ayla Moses and Rebecca Rona.

Purpose

The purpose of this event is to celebrate and shine a spotlight on our Latino residents' past, present and future, their achievements, cultures, and challenges.

Policy Impact

Culver City's celebration of Latino Heritage Month is a unique opportunity and responsibility to foster a sense of inclusivity and equity by building better human relations with Latino residents. The festive and celebratory nature of the event promotes greater awareness and civility among all people in our community. In addition, with our advertisements and part of the programming in Spanish, the event helps address the greater need for more bilingual programming in the City of Culver City. More than simple translation efforts, the integration of bilingualism sends a powerful message to the community that the City of Culver City honors, respects and foster greater cultural inclusion.

Date & Location

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 the Teen Center at Veterans Memorial Building, from 7-9 pm.

The program will include:

Taco meals -

Free taco dinners from a taco truck (in the adjacent parking lot) or caterer will be provided to the first 100 attendees. The attendees will receive a ticket upon arrival where they redeem at the taco truck. If catered, the same ticket will be redeemed at a distribution table by volunteers.

Refreshments -

Some community members and local businesses have agreed to donate coffee, pan dulce, and other baked goods. In addition, we have received a donation of Mexican flavored drinks known as “aguas.”

Art Display -

Local Latino artists will be invited to display their art. In addition, artwork is being collected from Culver City High School students and La Ballona Elementary School.

Culver City Historical Society Table -

The Culver City Historical Society has agreed to set up an informational table or display.

Speakers -

we will invite dignitaries to speak and welcome the public. This will include the mayor, vice-mayor, Council members, and community leaders who would like to address the audience in honor of Latino Heritage Month. The Chair, Carlos Valverde, will serve as MC.

Folclorico dancers -

from the Mar Vista Family Center and Venice High School. We are also exploring the possibility of having a second Panamanian folclorico group.

A Reading -

The leaders of Culver City High School’s La Fuerza club will introduce their Essay and Poster Contest winners. The winners will be invited to share their essay or poster with the audience. The winners will also be given gift baskets with donated items.

Storytelling Panel by Latino residents -

Storytellers, telling their stories in either English or Spanish, with interpreters translating (TBD). This will also include a facilitator. Discussion and Q&A. The storytellers will be encouraged to discuss their experiences with each other, and audience members invited to ask questions

Performances -

we are currently seeking additional performances. This may include community-sponsored performances by musicians.

Volunteers

The subcommittee is recruiting local volunteers from the high school and the City to assist in the set-up, operations and clean-up of the event. We are collecting the required waiver forms from the volunteers. The volunteers will be coordinated by the ad hoc subcommittee members.

Supplies

The subcommittee met with Facility Coordinator and requested the layout and needed equipment for the event. Other decorations will be provided by ad hoc subcommittee members.

Funding

Last year, the City Council recommended that the subcommittee members seek donations for the Latino Heritage Month Celebration. Thus far, we have received a pledged donation of the aguas frescas, refreshment items, \$500 from the Culver City Lions Club, and \$200 from Eaglesports and Awards. These funds will be used to cover performance costs. We request from the EHRAC the allocation of \$1800 from the EHRAC budget to cover any additional costs (i.e, insurance, permits, etc.).