



INAUGURAL SEASON



Chicago
Latino Dance
Festival 2023

PRODUCED BY

THE INTERNATIONAL LATINO CULTURAL CENTER OF CHICAGO



Chicago Latino Dance Festival 2023

We are proud to present this new addition to Chicago's vibrant cultural scene.

Even though this is a city rich in cultural events, there are still gaps. The Chicago Latino Dance Festival was created to address one of those gaps: a showcase for the many styles of dance you will find in Latin America and Spain. In this festival, you will enjoy performances from 37 Chicago-area groups, 36 of which are Chicago-based, ranging from Puerto Rican bomba and plena, Brazilian samba, flamenco, Belizean punta, Haitian traditional, Chilean cueca, indigenous dances from the Quechua, Purepecha and Zapotec nations, tango, and contemporary dance.

Most of these groups are community based and local to Chicago. Some represent countries that sometimes are left out of our conversations about Latinos.

For these groups, what they do is a labor of love born from the desire to share their culture with the city at large, sometimes at their own expense. Much like the Chicago Latino Film Festival, the Chicago Latino Dance Festival will take audiences on a journey throughout the Americas.

This Festival could not have been possible without the knowledge and vision of our Deputy Executive Director, Mateo Mulcahy, and the support of DCASE, our community partners and our funders.

Pepe Vargas

Founder & Executive Director



International
Latino Cultural Center
of Chicago

Welcome to the Chicago Latino Dance Festival!

The **International Latino Cultural Center of Chicago** proudly presents the first ever **Chicago Latino Dance Festival**, a four-week celebration of the rich variety and versatility of Iberoamerican dance and of Chicago's thriving dance scene.



"The Chicago Latino Dance Festival provides an opportunity to experience and expose traditions that are critical to the culture and identity of so many communities that exist within Chicago. We also want to elevate and raise the profiles of the artists and traditions of these countries while fostering cross-cultural exchange and providing a cultural outlet for artists outside of their communities. We hope to turn this Festival into an annual event".

Mateo Mulcahy,
Deputy Executive Director
International Latino Cultural Center



Table of Contents

Logan Center for the Arts • Sunday, Sept. 17th

Ensemble Español (Spain)	05
Unidos Por Guilá (México).....	05
Eduardo Villalba and Fernanda Ghi (Argentina).....	06
Grupo Folclórico Viva Panamá (Panamá).....	06
Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre (Pan-Latino).....	07
Intermission • 4:30-5:30pm	
Clinard Dance (Spain).....	08
Chicago Int'l Salsa Congress (Pan-Latino)	09
Patiperros Dance Group (Chile).....	10
Victor Alexander/Hedwig (Cuba).....	10

Old Town School of Folk Music • Saturday, Sept 23rd

Iré Ilese Abure (Cuba).....	13
Kichwa Runa (Ecuador).....	13
Ballet Folclórico de Chicago (México).....	14
Dill Costa Samba Group (Brazil).....	14
Tierra Colombiana Dance Ensemble (Colombia).....	15
Corazón Boliviano (Bolivia).....	15
Casa De La Cultura Guatemalteca (Guatemala).....	16
Tuwamari Folkloric Dance (Ecuador).....	16

Great Peace Picnic • Saturday, Sept. 30th

The Mexican Folkloric Dance Company of Chicago (México).....	17
Mariachi Perla De México (México).....	17
Chicago Samba & Samba (Brazil).....	17
Center for Peruvian Arts & SolAndino (Perú).....	18
Bomberxs D'Corá (Puerto Rico).....	18
Tamboula Ethnic Dance (Haiti).....	19
Laruni Hati Garifuna Dance Group Of Chicago (Belize).....	19

Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center • Thursday, Oct. 12th

AfriCaribe (Puerto Rico).....	20
Raíces De Mi Tierra (Colombia).....	20
Latin Street Dancing (Pan-Latino).....	21
Tata Cepeda (Puerto Rico).....	22

VISIT US ONLINE @ LatinoCulturalCenter.org

Venues & Supporting Organizations



The Logan Center for the Arts is located on the Campus of the University of Chicago at 915 E 60th Street. The Logan Center for the Arts is a partnering sponsor of the CLDF.
Visit: <https://www.logancenter.uchicago.edu/>



The Old Town School of Folk Music is located at 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. The Old Town School is a respected and celebrated organization dedicated to music and dance.
Visit: www.OLDTOWNSCHOOL.ORG



The Global Peace Picnic is an annual event produced by the City of Chicago (DCASE) as part of the World Music Festival Chicago at Humboldt Park. The Chicago Latino Dance Festival will present on the Súbelo stage during this event.
www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/wmf.html



The Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center is located at 4048 W. Armitage Ave. SRBCC realizes its mission to preserve and promote appreciation of the culture and arts of Puerto Rico and Latin America, with a focus on its African heritage
Visit: segundoruizbelvis.org



This project is partially supported by a **CityArts Project** grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events.



The International Latino Cultural Center's year-round programming is made possible with support from the following:

Chicago's Cultural Treasures • The Illinois Arts Council • The Reva & David Logan Foundation • Art Works Fund • Equity, and the Arts at Prince • Chicago DCASE • The Joyce Foundation • Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelly Foundation • The Paul M. Angell Family Foundation • The League of Chicago Theatres & ComEd • The Field Foundation of Illinois

SCAN FOR ONLINE EVENT DETAILS

ENSEMBLE ESPAÑOL (Spain)

2:00pm



Founded in 1976 by Dame Libby Komaiko, the Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director Irma Suárez Ruiz and Executive Director Jorge Pérez, is the premier Spanish Dance Company and Center in the United States in-residence at Northeastern Illinois University's Department of Music and Dance.

EDUARDO VILLALBA & FERNANDA GHI (Argentina)

2:40pm



Eduardo Villalba is an Argentine tango teacher currently giving dance lessons in his dance studio located in the Chicago area. Fernanda Ghi is a true legend in the world of Argentine tango. Celebrated for her elegant style, unique interpretation and powerful command of the stage, she has toured internationally for over two decades.

GRUPO FOLCLÓRICO VIVA PANAMÁ (Panamá)

3:05pm



Founded in July 1996 by Migdalia Barton, the Grupo Folclórico Viva Panamá performs a wide variety of Panamanian folkloric dances that are the product of the fusion of Spanish (particularly Andalusian), indigenous and West African cultures as well as the Caribbean islands of Barbados, Trinidad, Jamaica and Saint Lucia.

UNIDOS POR GUILÁ (México)

3:30pm



Based in West Chicago, Unidos por Guilá has, since 2000, preserved and presented the cultural and linguistic traditions of the Zapotecan community of San Pablo Guilá through their performances. They also support their hometown community in Mexico by donating resources for the saints' festivities, sporting, civic events, and infrastructure projects, among others.

CERQUA RIVERA DANCE THEATRE (Modern/Pan-Latino) 4:00pm



Cerqua Rivera is a Latino led company that inhabits a unique niche in Chicago—intentionally multicultural, unapologetically expressive of timely and specific narratives, focused on impacting our community through high quality art. Every piece they make is centered on a personally and culturally specific narrative, seeing the value and imperative of diversity in staying true to those narratives.

INTERMISSION

Program will have a one-hour intermission between 4:30pm and 5:30pm.

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TO POETRY:
YOU WANT
TO BE HERE.

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915 E 60th St • Chicago
loganUChicago

CLINARD DANCE (Spain)

5:30pm



Clinard Dance began their Flamenco Quartet Project in 2014. Led by an open minded spirit of collaboration, the Project engages contemporary culture through vibrant performances that honor traditional flamenco and their shared passion for music and dance discovery. The unique camaraderie within the group retains the intimacy and spontaneity unique to small ensemble work. This is a combined music and dance performance.

DANZA JOSKUA (México/Indigenous/Michoacán)

6:10pm



Danza Joskua is a group made up of members of the indigenous Purepecha community from Cheranástico, Michoacán and the surrounding region. The group specializes in the traditional dances of these indigenous people.

Visit [LatinoCulturalCenter.org](https://www.LatinoCulturalCenter.org) for more information about our upcoming Latino music, dance, theatre and film events!

CHICAGO INT'L SALSA CONGRESS (Pan-Latino)

6:30pm



The Chicago International Salsa Congress (CISC) is the longest, continuously running salsa congress in the Americas. This spectacular showcase of Latin and Afro-Caribbean dance, music and culture is produced by *Cultural Expressions Productions*, which was founded by Rosita and Saladeen Alamin over 34 years ago.

SALSA CONGRESS WILL SHOWCASE EIGHT PERFORMANCES

Adrian Tenorio & Daniela León (Salsa)

Bachata All-Stars (Bachata)

Jairo Ortiz & Jaqueline Aguado (Pan-Latino/Chicago)

Latin Rythms Futuro Dance Co. (Multiple Disciplines)

Mayambo (Samba On2)

Salsabrositas (Salsa)

Sam & Robinson with Mayambo (Salsa On2)

Tun Bere (Salsa/Mambo)

PATIPERROS DANCE GROUP (Chile)

7:05pm



Founded by a group of friends from Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Mexico, the Patiperros Dance Group performs a wide variety of folk dances from the central region of Chile as well as the island of Rapa Nui.

VICTOR ALEXANDER / HEDWIG (Cuba/Modern)

7:30pm



In-Residence at the Ruth Page Center, Hedwig Dances' bold, interdisciplinary collaborations combine poetic choreography, projected images and haunting original music. They will be performing *Among Us* by Cuban choreographer Victor Alexander, a piece that underlines the conflict of assimilation into a new culture.

SAVE THE DATES...

April 11th - 21st, 2024

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From the popular **Chicago Latino Film Festival** to the fast growing **Chicago Latino Music Series** and the brand new **Chicago Latino Dance Festival**, theatre performances to exhibitions, the **International Latino Cultural Center** has been producing multidisciplinary arts programming across the Chicago metro area for nearly 40 years.





Visit our new and improved website to keep up to date on all our news and events!

LatinoCulturalCenter.org

You can also follow us on social media

 facebook.com/intllatinoculturalcenter

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 twitter.com/LatinoChicago



IRÉ ILESE ABURE (Cuba)

12:00pm



Iré Elese Abure is a performance ensemble steeped in the dance, song, and drumming traditions of Afro-Cuban folklore. The name, Iré Elese Abure, comes from the Yoruba culture that took root throughout the Americas, meaning “goodness from the hands of our brothers and sisters.”

KICHWA RUNA (Ecuador)

12:30pm



Comunidad Kichwa Runa is a group of Indigenous Kichwa people from Ecuador, living in Chicago. They share stories about their heritage through music and art. They dance to traditional instruments such as the zampoña, quena, charango, and rondador to rescue traditional melodies from the province of Imbabura such as “San Juanito.”

BALLET FOLCLÓRICO DE CHICAGO (México)

12:50pm



The Midwest's largest and most inclusive *ballet folclórico* organization, their goal is to provide affordable cultural and artistic programming for the community and to preserve traditions for future generations and improve the community's involvement in the arts. The Ballet cultivates and invests in future generations and helps students achieve higher education goals by awarding college scholarships and maximizing leadership opportunities.

DILL COSTA SAMBA GROUP (Brazil)

1:15pm



Raised in Rio de Janeiro, Dill Costa is a performer who represents authentic Carnival music. Dance Performer and Brazilian Dance Instructor at Old Town School Of Folk Music since 2004, she has been part of the team of instructors at the International Samba Congress since 2017. In 2018, she presented the first Brazilian musical created in Chicago, *The Heartbeat of Brasil*, in partnership with the Choreographer Fabio Barros and Capoeira Master Marisa Cordeiro.

TIERRA COLOMBIANA DANCE ENSEMBLE (Colombia)

1:40pm



Founded in 1992 by Guilibaldo “Gil” Criollo, Martha Jiménez and Gabriel Rodríguez and under the artistic direction of Edgar Serna, the Tierra Colombiana Dance Ensemble celebrates Colombia’s diverse cultures through traditional dances, music and cultural events.

CORAZÓN BOLIVIANO (Bolivia)

1:55pm



Founded in 2000 by Julieta Bolívar, Corazón Boliviano’s mission is to preserve and promote Bolivian culture in Chicago through classes and performances. In 2010, Bolívar spearheaded a global Caporal (a traditional dance from the region of the Yungas in Bolivia, which honors Afro-Bolivian identity and culture) featuring groups, families and anyone who wanted to join in the dance for one day.

CASA DE CULTURA GUATEMALTECA (Guatemala)

2:15pm



Since 2004, Casa de la Cultura Guatemalteca has promoted the culture, dances and traditions of Guatemala in Chicago through their participation in such events as the Thanksgiving Day Parade in downtown Chicago.

TUWAMARI FOLKLORIC DANCE (Ecuador)

2:35pm



Tuwamari was founded in 2005 with the goal of sharing the roots of kwichua culture through music and traditional dance. Under the direction and expertise of Miriam Fernández, an alum of Ecuador's Dance Institute in Quito, Tuwamari takes pride in its group as a worthy ambassador of the culture and folklore of the people of Ecuador.

Great Peace Picnic · Sept. 30th

MEXICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE CO. CHICAGO

(México) with **MARIACHI PERLA DE MÉXICO**

1:00pm



Since its founding in 1982, the Mexican Folkloric Dance Company of Chicago has strived to showcase the splendors of Mexican art and culture in diverse, thrilling, and inspiring folkloric dance works. Performances reflect Mexico's rich history, which shaped the traditional arts, culture, and values of the nation over centuries.

SAMBA 1 WITH CHICAGO SAMBA (Brazil)

1:30pm



Directed and choreographed by Edilson Lima, Samba1 has for over 20 years brought happiness and fun to every special event with the most gorgeous and talented dancers in Chicago. They enjoy sharing their passion and commitment to Brazilian culture.

Great Peace Picnic • Sept. 30th

CENTER FOR PERUVIAN ARTS /SOLANDINO (Perú)

3:00pm



The Center of Peruvian Arts connects audiences and students to the Indigenous cultures of Peru through performances, educational programming, and participatory workshops. Through these practices, the organization is committed to promoting Indigenous Peruvian knowledge and wisdom and cultivating skills in collaboration, coexistence, and social awareness.

BOMBERXS D'CORA (Puerto Rico)

3:30pm



Product of *La Escuelita Bombera de Corazón*, Bomberxs D'Corá is a collective of Bomba practitioners committed to the preservation of Bomba. Bomba is Puerto Rico's oldest surviving music and dance forms established by the island's African descendants. *La Escuelita Bombera De Corazón* was founded in 2009 by Ivelisse Díaz.

Great Peace Picnic · Sept. 30th

TAMBOULA ETHNIC DANCE CO. (Haiti)

5:00pm



Tamboula, a professional Afro-Haitian dance company, provides intercultural experiences for people throughout the United States and beyond. In addition to traditional Haitian dances such as Yanvalou, Kongo, Nago, Ibo, Dahomey and Mayi, the company incorporates contemporary jazz and ballet techniques in its repertoire.

LARUNI HATI GARIFUNA DANCE CO. (Belize)

5:30pm



Formed in 2010, the Laruni Hati Garifuna Dance Group Of Chicago consists of drummers, singers, and dancers who specialize in several cultural dances: Hunguhungu (usually danced at opening of the performance), punta (most popular), chumba (almost like salsa), and a combination (mixture of hunguhungu and punta).

AFRICARIBE (Puerto Rico)

7:30pm



Created in 2000 by Evaristo Tito Rodríguez, AfriCaribe provides Chicago with a means to celebrate the African influence in Puerto Rico and other Caribbean lands. AfriCaribe seeks to accomplish its mission by developing a performance ensemble utilizing dance, music, theater, and other artistic forms with which to celebrate cultural traditions.

RAÍCES DE MI TIERRA (Colombia)

8:05pm



Raíces de mi Tierra's mission is to represent the different folkloric dances that identify each region of Colombia, exposing the origins and history of each one of them. As part of their social commitment to their national identity, the group intends to represent, educate and carry on the legacy of their country's traditional dances through generations to come in addition to recognizing the importance of inclusion and diversity within age, gender and persons with disabilities.

LATIN STREET DANCING (Multidisciplinary) • (Pan-Latino)

8:30pm

For 25 years, Latin Street Dancing has been the premier Latin dance studio and entertainment company in Chicago. Latin Street has cultivated long-standing relationships with some of the industry's most renowned Latin artists, world-champion dancers, Grammy-nominated producers and musicians, passionate instructors, and DJs allowing them to provide exceptional entertainment for various occasions.

Latin Street Melao' Salsa

(2 Performances)

Established in 2017, MELAO' stands as the distinguished representative of the Latin Street dance studio. The team has garnered notable acclaim through captivating performances at esteemed events.



Latin Street Cubanacán

(Rueda de Casino)

Inaugurated in mid-2022, the Latin Street Cubanacán Rueda Team stands as the sole and pioneering rueda dance ensemble in the city of Chicago.



Latin Street Melao' Junior

(Bachata)

Born from the collaboration of Mia Inés Meneses and Tlanextli Sánchez in 2022, Melao' Jr. has swiftly matured into an assembly of emerging talents, primarily of teenagers affiliated with the Latin Street establishment.



TATA CEPEDA (Puerto Rico)
9:00pm

Tata Cepeda (born Margarita Sánchez Cepeda) is widely known and respected in Puerto Rico as “La Mariposa de la Bomba” (*the Butterfly of Bomba*). Today she’s considered one of the most important and influential Afro-Puerto Rican folklorists of our time. Tata Cepeda has taught Chicago-based youth and teaching artists at Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center in various events and residencies,



2023

Chicago Latino Music Series

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