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¡HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH SEPT 15 - OCT 15!



SO YOU'RE AGAINST IMMIGRATION? SPLENDID! WHEN DO YOU LEAVE?

Hispanic Heritage Month puts diversity and culture at the forefront

By FERNANDA FIGUEROA Associated Press

Sept 15, 2024 (AP): Huge celebrations across the U.S. are expected to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, an annual tradition that showcases the awe-inspiring diversity and culture of Hispanic people.

Celebrated each year from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, the month is a chance for many in the U.S. to learn about and celebrate the contributions of Hispanics, the country's fastest-growing racial or ethnic minority, according to the census. The group includes people whose ancestors come from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

There are more than 65 million people identified as ethnically Hispanic in the U.S., according to the latest census estimates.

Heritage week embraces the sprawling histories of Latinos

Before there was National Hispanic Heritage Month, there was Hispanic Heritage Week, which was created through legislation sponsored by Mexican American U.S. Rep. Edward R. Roybal of Los Angeles and signed into law in 1968 by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

The weeklong commemoration was expanded to a month two decades later, with legislation signed into law by President Ronald Reagan.

"It was clustered around big celebrations for the community," Alberto Lammers, director of communications at the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Institute said. "It became a chance for people to know Hispanic cultures, for Latinos to get to know a community better and for the American public to understand a little better the long history of

Latinos in the U.S."

The month is a way for Hispanics to showcase their diversity and culture with the support of the government, said Rachel Gonzalez-Martin, an associate professor of Mexican American and Latino Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.

Sept. 15 was chosen as the starting point to coincide with the anniversary of "El Grito de Dolores," or the "Cry of Dolores," which was issued in 1810 from a town in central Mexico that launched that country's war for independence from Spain.

The Central American nations of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica celebrate their independence on Sept. 15, and Mexico marks its national day on Sept. 16, the day after the cry for independence.

Also during National Hispanic Heritage Month, the South American nation of Chile observes its independence day on Sept. 18. *Indigenous Peoples' Day*, previously known as Columbus Day, is observed in the U.S. on the second Monday of October.

Over the past decade, the month has grown due to the larger Latino consumer base in the U.S., Gonzalez-Martin said. Gonzalez-Martin said visible support from the federal government, including celebrations at the White House, has also made it easier for Hispanics to celebrate.

"Hispanic Heritage Month was a way in which to be Hispanic and Latino but with official blessing," Gonzalez-Martin said. "It was a recognition of belonging and that became really powerful."

The four-week period is about honoring the way Hispanic populations have shaped the U.S. in the past and present, Lammers said.



"It gives us a chance to acknowledge how Latinos have been part of this nation for so many centuries," Lammers said. "I think that's what is great about this. It has allowed us to really dig deeper and a chance to tell our stories."

Not everyone who is Hispanic uses that label

Hispanic was a term coined by the federal government for people descended from Spanish-speaking cultures. But for some, the label has a connotation of political conservatism and emphasizes a connection to Spain. It sometimes gets mistakenly interchanged with "Latino" or "Latinx."

For some, Latino reflects their ties to Latin America. So some celebrations are referred to as Latinx or Latin Heritage Month.

Latin Americans are not a monolith. There are several identifiers for Latin Americans, depending largely on personal preference. Mexican Americans who grew up during the 1960s Civil Rights era may identify as Chicano. Others may go by their family's nation of origin such as Co-

lombian American or Salvadoran American.

Each culture has unique differences when it comes to music, food, art and other cultural touchstones.

Celebrations are planned throughout the month

From California to Florida, there will be no shortage of festivities. The celebrations tout traditional Latin foods and entertainment including, mariachi bands, folklórico and salsa lessons. The intent is to showcase the culture of Mexico, Puerto Rico, Venezuela and other Latin countries.

Events highlighting Hispanic culture include a quinceañera fashion show in Dallas on Sept. 14, the New York Latino Film Festival, ran from Sept. 17-22, and the Viva Tampa Bay Hispanic Heritage Festival on Sept. 28-29.

The Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., is offering a slate of activities elevating Hispanic heritage, including a celebration of the life of Celia Cruz and exhibits of art made in Mexico.

Ofrendas: Celebrating el Día de Muertos at Detroit Institute of Art September 28 – November 3, 2024

In celebration of Dia de Muertos, the Detroit Institute of Arts, in partnership with Detroit’s Mexican Consulate, the Southwest Detroit Business Association and Mexicantown CDC, invite you to explore a community exhibition of ofrenda altars. In Mexico, and other Latin American countries, the Day of the Dead is the time of the year to celebrate the lives of close relatives, friends or community members who have passed away.



Objects important to lost loved ones, such as favorites foods, drinks, mementos and pictures, are collected and incorporated into elaborate displays that include pan de muerto (bread of the dead), sugar skulls, candles, flowers, papel picado (paper cutouts) and other decorations.

Descripción de la exposición

En celebración del Día de Muertos, el Instituto de Artes de Detroit en colaboración con el Consulado de México en Detroit y la Asociación de Negocios del Suroeste de Detroit te invita a explorar una exposición comunitaria de ofrendas. En México y otros países latinoamericanos, el Día de Muertos es una época del año en la que se celebran las vidas de familiares

cercanos, amigos o miembros de la comunidad que han fallecido.

Para ello, se recolectan y exponen objetos importantes para el fallecido, como comidas y bebidas favoritas, recuerdos y fotos. Los altares incluyen pan de muerto, calaveritas de azúcar, velas, flores, papel picado y otras decoraciones.

Free with general admission

*General museum admission is FREE for residents of Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties.

Ofrendas in image: Chabelo, Consulate of Mexico in Detroit; Family Tree, Maritere De La Fuente

Source: <https://dia.org/events/exhibitions/ofrendas-celebrating-el-dia-de-muertos-2024>

Latin legends El Flaco and El Mimoso bring night of Banda music to De Vos

Grand Rapids: Regional Mexican artists *El Flaco* (Luis Ángel) and *El Mimoso* (Luis Antonio López) will blend their incredible banda sounds for an exciting show at DeVos Performance Hall on Sunday, April 13, 2025. Tickets went on sale Friday, September 13 at 10AM at DeVos-PerformanceHall.com.



Luis Ángel, better known as “El Flaco,” has been one of the most distinguished voices in banda music for more than two decades. With his charismatic voice, he marked the era of one of the most transcendental bands of the genre until he launched his solo career in 2020.

His first single “Reflexión” gained great popularity among audiences in Mexico and the U.S. He went on to record several songs with Grupo Firme: “El Tiempo no perdona,” “Para ti papa,” and “El que te amó,” which reached nearly 100 million views on YouTube, in addition to the success of “Hasta la miel Amarga,” which has more than 356 million views on YouTube and more than 125 million downloads on Spotify.

He’s also collaborated with other prominent regional Mexican artists

such as Pancho Barraza, Banda Cuisillos, and more. In 2022, “El Flaco” premiered “Y si se quiere ir,” a song that catapulted his career with more than 151 million views on YouTube.

“El Mimoso” (Luis Antonio López) joined various bands such as La Original Banda Limón, Banda Gallo, and Banda Nueva Ilusión. As a member Mexico’s famous La Banda Recodo, his star continued to rise.

In 2009, the singer went solo under the name “El Mimoso” and released his debut album *ÁMAME*, which climbed Mexico’s Monitor Latino charts. Since then, “El Mimoso” has continued to record and has written for artists such as Jenni Rivera, Julio Preciado and Saul “El Jaguar” Alarcón.

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Trans-Siberian Orchestra brings *The Lost Christmas Eve* Tour to Van Andel Arena

Grand Rapids – This year, multi-platinum rock group *Trans-Siberian Orchestra* (TSO) brings their monumental winter tour to *Van Andel Arena* on Sunday, December 8, 2024 for two show times at 3:00PM & 7:30PM. The tour marks a triple celebration: 20 years of their beloved rock opera “THE LOST CHRISTMAS EVE,” reaching their 20 millionth concertgoer, and surpassing a phenomenal \$20 million donated to charity.

Presales for TSO fan club members began on September 5 with additional presales starting September 12. The public on sale began on Friday, September 13 at 10AM at *VanAndelArena.com*. Beginning with the public on sale, special \$49.99* tickets will be available for one week or while supplies last. For more details on tour dates and ticket sales, visit *www.trans-siberian.com*.

TSO remains true to the vision of their late founder, Paul O’Neill, by being one of rock’s most generous bands. This year, the band will surpass a staggering \$20 million donated to charity, a testament to their ongoing

commitment to philanthropy. This generosity is fueled by their tradition of donating at least \$1 from every ticket sold. That means with their 20 millionth fan attending a show on this tour, TSO will be hitting not just a concert attendance record, but a charitable milestone as well.

TSO’s music director and lead guitarist, Al Pitrelli said, “When I was working on *Lost Christmas Eve* with Paul O’Neill, we talked a lot about time. He said that losing money or things wasn’t as bad as losing time. Material losses can be recovered, but you can never get time back. That’s why he always thought it was never too late to change. Never too late for forgiveness. People can make things right, forgive each other, and reconnect. *The Lost Christmas Eve* is about that hope: it’s never too late for any of us.”

This year’s tour marks the grand return of “THE LOST CHRISTMAS EVE” to the stage for the first time since 2013. Expect an all-new, dazzling spectacle packed with pyrotechnics, lasers, and the incredible




storytelling synonymous with TSO. The celebration continues with a high-energy second set featuring the group’s greatest hits and fan favorites.

“THE LOST CHRISTMAS EVE” is a product of the imagination of and based on TSO’s double-platinum CD of the same name. The plot is one that resonates with people deeply over the holiday season. Alone on Christmas Eve, a bitter old businessman wandered New

York City. Once a rising star, he’d traded love, family, and joy for a life of solitude and regret. The tragic loss of his wife hardened his heart, pushing him away from his infant son and into decades of isolation. Then, a chance encounter with a mysterious girl led him to a life-altering phone call. His son, who he abandoned decades ago, was alive, a gentle soul caring for troubled newborns in a maternity ward. After seeking him

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Michigan helps more than 30,000 individuals Learn More and Earn More through Adult Education Programming

Michigan provides employment services to more participants than any other state in the Midwest and is #2 in the nation for helping adults get employed

LANSING, Mich. — Michigan provides employment services to more participants than any other state in the Midwest and is #2 in the nation for helping adults get employed. These services and resources include providing Adult Education programming to more than 30,000 Michiganders annually. Governor Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) celebrated these individuals during National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week Sept. 16-20.

It's simple. The more you learn, the more you can earn. Michiganders with a high school credential can earn more than \$7,600 more per year than those without one. And those with a two-year degree can earn more than \$4,180 more

per year than those without. There are many pathways by which to learn more. LEO offers more than 100 free or low-cost adult education programs across the state.

“By breaking down barriers and providing tailored support, we enable adult learners to pursue education pathways that lead to better job opportunities, greater pay and more economic stability and independence so they can provide for their families,” said LEO Director Susan Corbin. “Education is a lifelong endeavor, and LEO is dedicated to ensuring that every Michigander has access to the resources and skills they need to create a better future.”

A strong economy requires a pool of talented individuals. Michigan has a goal of increasing the number of

working-age adults with a skill certificate or college degree to 60% by 2030. LEO’s Adult Education programs serve as a critical bridge to opportunity for thousands of Michiganders who are eager to improve their lives, enhance their skills, and contribute more fully to the economy and their communities.

“We are offering access to adult education programs for those who need it, providing them with the tools to advance their skills and improve their lives,” said Erica Luce, Manager of Adult Education. “These opportunities don’t just benefit the individuals; they also support local employers by creating a more skilled and trained workforce. When our residents have access to quality education and training, they

are better equipped to meet the demands of today’s job market.”

“Adult education programs are pivotal in addressing the skills gap and preparing Michiganders for the demands of a dynamic job market,” said Stephanie Beckhorn, Director of LEO’s Office of Employment and Training. “By fostering innovation, collaboration and partnership, we’re not just providing education; we’re empowering individuals to secure better jobs, contribute to their communities, and drive the economic vitality of our state.”

Want to find a program near you that offers free or low-cost adult education services? Use the *Adult Education Services Locator* at www.michigan.gov to find a program near you.



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