



A Guide to Selected Research Materials
Relating to the Latino/a/x Communities in
Washington, DC

Compiled by Mariana C. Barros-Titus
in partnership with the DC History Center
and the University of the District of Columbia

May 2021

DCHistory.org

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Building a Resource Network

This guide is the result of a 16-week independent research project developed by Mariana C. Barros-Titus, an undergraduate student at the University of the District of Columbia, to meet a research services challenge faced by the DC History Center's Kiplinger Research Library.

The challenge: Where can a researcher currently find records and collections that reflect DC's vibrant and diverse Latino/a/x community? How can we encourage new research and amplify their stories? While we have published related new research in our magazine, *Washington History*, we know our library holdings are slim. So where could we direct interested researchers to find additional materials?

With invaluable guidance from assistant professor Amanda Huron, Mariana worked with Kimmi Ramnine, our research services librarian, and me, to craft a community engagement plan to gather information about currently publicly available archival resources. This involved contacting professional library and archives colleagues to see what they had cataloged, but also researchers and scholars, who in turn introduced Mariana to members of the community. We're exceedingly grateful to all who helped in the creation of this guide, both those specifically named and those who preferred to remain unacknowledged.

While this guide aims to offer a robust selection of available resources, it does not claim to be exhaustive. Most materials documenting the local Latino/a/x community remain in the hands of the community. We hope that through this initial effort, repositories will be encouraged to build trusted relationships within the community as they identify and seek to preserve additional resources, and that more privately held collections may one day be made publicly available for scholarship and celebration. Please see the *Next Steps* at the end of the resource guide.

Mariana's independent study has concluded. However, the DC History Center considers this an initial phase of a much longer commitment to amplifying the voices and stories of Latino/a/x DC. Please email the DC History Center's Kiplinger Research Library at library@dchistory.org with any additions or clarifications to be included in future iterations of this resource guide.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Anne McDonough
Deputy Director

May 2021

Scope and Limitations

In July 2020, the DC History Center made a series of [public collections commitments](#) as we continue to examine how the organization, founded in 1894, has contributed over time to injustices that Black Americans and other people of color face every day. We have found that we need to change how we collect, describe, and provide access to the materials we hold in trust for the public.

Ideally, we ask a series of questions to guide our decisions regarding potential donations of historical material. *What are the circumstances surrounding the creation and maintenance of the materials? Are we the right organization to take charge? Who are the other players? If we decide to not collect, or to do so selectively, then: Will the story's absence be a gap in our collection that will be seen as an indictment of the value of the story—that our institution felt the story wasn't worth collecting? Or will that gap be identified as purposeful, a decision made to avoid additional harm?* Regardless of intent, the default to collect without thoughtful community engagement results in extractive practice which perpetuates harm.

In that spirit, this project was consciously designed as an information-gathering exercise, rather than a collecting initiative. In an endeavor to practice ethically, we aim to better understand the landscape of collections in the area and the needs of the local Latino/a/x community rather than presume it is our responsibility to collect materials. The resulting guide is for researchers interested in DC history. By identifying available resources, there is an opportunity to provide historical context and better understand the contributions of local Latinos, as well as the challenges they face.

Latinos comprise nearly 12% of DC's population, but truth be told, there is no monolithic Latino/a/x identity. For the Washingtonians who moved here from El Salvador, Mexico, Guatemala, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Honduras, Colombia, Nicaragua, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Panama, their nationalities and their class and race differences, not to mention their varying reasons for leaving behind their homeland, are often stronger markers of identity than commonalities of language. In addition, while Mount Pleasant, Adams Morgan and Columbia Heights have long been strongly identified with Spanish-speaking immigrants, gentrification has changed the landscape, pushing many outside the District's borders into Maryland and Virginia.

Mariana generated a survey to compile information about how to access printed materials, historical documents and archival resources that reflect DC's Latino/a/x communities. This survey was sent out to 35 organizations, including traditional archival repositories as well as non-collecting community and service-based organizations that are engaged in work

related to DC history in general and/or Latino/a/x history in particular. In addition, this survey was sent to a dozen key community contacts, researchers, and scholars who are actively engaged in the collecting, preserving, and/or amplifying of DC's Latino/a/x history.

The survey was also announced via the DC History Center's standard communication tools, including via blog post, DC History at Home newsletter, and social media. The reach of these communications includes more than 11,000 newsletter subscribers and thousands of social media followers. Audiences at the DC History Center's two March 2021 online public programs, focused on the local Salvadoran and Afro Latino communities, were also alerted to the project, and encouraged to contribute.

The format of the intake survey relied on respondents to self-report the contents of their collections. Certain barriers became immediately evident. While initially released in English only, the survey and call for participation were translated by Mariana into Spanish as well. The relatively short turnaround between survey dissemination and the deadline for submission may have contributed to a low response rate. To alleviate this time constraint, we welcome continued follow-up from repositories and individuals alike.

For collections in private hands, not customarily made publicly accessible, requesting technical information about how the materials are arranged or described might have posed a barrier. Also, and crucially, the many individuals who hold personal papers and guard family stories may not want to be identified in a document intended for a wide public audience.

It is also presumed that relevant historical artifacts, documents, and/or collections have been missed because they are not explicitly cataloged or otherwise identified as related to the Latino/a/x community or experience.

It quickly became clear that if a researcher interested in exploring the history of DC's Latino/a/x community restricted themselves to materials found in traditional repositories, a radically incomplete picture would emerge. And for the limited materials found within repositories, there is less *of* or *by* Latinos themselves, than materials *about* them.

Notes on Language

This resource guide uses the term Latino/a/x to encompass the male/female pronouns (o/a) found in the Spanish language, and to be inclusive of identities outside binary gender parameters (x). While Latinx is considered more inclusive for some, others do not use the term to identify themselves. As a rule, this guide respects and follows the language used by collections descriptions and individuals who self-identify using a particular term such as Hispanic, Latino, Latina, Latine, Latinx or any combination therein.

In addition, it's important to note that this guide is focused specifically on Latino/a/x populations in the city of Washington. Often, terms like Hispanic, Latino, and Latin American are used interchangeably. However, these terms are not interchangeable. It is worth taking the time to dispel the differences. Hispanic populations encapsulate Spanish speaking populations, so this includes Latin American populations in South and Central America, the Caribbean, and Spain.

Latin American populations have roots in South and Central America and the Caribbean. For the purposes of this guide, this would also include non-Spanish speaking nations such as Brazil, and Haiti. Latino/a/x populations are specifically rooted in the United States and descend from Latin America. While the first phase of this exercise only captured collections from Hispanic Latino communities in Washington, it is the hope that as the project expands, it can capture historical resources from other non-Hispanic Latino populations as well as Latin American communities that are rooted in Washington, DC.

The Latino/a/x population in Washington, DC is distinguishable from other US Latino concentrations in that it is incredibly diverse, both in terms of national-origin and socio-economic status. While a large portion of Latino community members stem from El Salvador, increasingly, there are Latino migrants from other nationalities moving into the area. The diversity present in Latino populations also applies to education levels and socio-economic status. While using Latino/a/x as a starting point to group populations with some shared experiences and cultures, the guide intentionally avoids claiming monotheism within that Latino/a/x experience.

Mariana's Perspective and Acknowledgements



I took on this project as a Senior in the Political Science program at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). UDC is the only public higher education institution in the nation's capital and the only one which primarily serves a working-class, non-traditional student population. As such an institution, it is focused on the hyper-local experience of Washington's residents. The first iteration of our institution was the Miner Normal School for Colored Girls, which was established in 1851 with a vision of training young black children to become the teachers who would educate the impending free African American population. This ethos—to this day the guiding framework for the university's programs—is rooted in the betterment of oneself in service to one's community. It has shaped my development as a scholar and member of my community.

As a woman of color who is an immigrant and comes from a working-class background, I have had to forge my own path in many ways. As a young girl and teenager, I often felt stuck in between two worlds – not truly belonging “here” and yet not being able to identify with my home country either. This double consciousness, to borrow from W.E.B. DuBois, was indeed a strange experience; and it was further exacerbated by lessons I was learning in school and in the media I was consuming (whether consciously or subconsciously). I couldn't see people who *felt* like me. Depictions of Latino communities often lacked nuance and, in my opinion, failed to capture the totality of our humanity. I believe this remains true today. Back then, however, I tended to denounce everything that made me different in the desperate hopes of assimilating into my environment, including my culture, my native language, my brown skin, and my curly hair.

Attending an institution like UDC has given me the language that I needed to be able to identify the root of the dissonance I had experienced my whole life. Much like the diagnosis of disease, it has enabled me to contextualize that experience and empowered me to address the access barriers to integration that immigrant communities are battling.

Archival silences, or the gaps in collection patterns within historical records, have tangible impacts both on Latinx communities and non-Latinx ones. The lack of coverage on such communities leads to the erasure of their presence and contributions—in essence, a devaluing of their existence. This creates an incomplete history that gets passed down to future generations. I believe this is especially tragic for future Latinx children, who much like myself, in the absence of understanding the triumphs of past generations and thus the capacity of current ones, could end up denouncing the very things that make them unique, admirable, and beautiful. So, I engage in this type of public history work in the hopes of

providing a starting place for anyone who is interested in learning a more-complete history of the city of Washington, but especially for future generations of young Latinx scholars for whom this tool can also serve as a mechanism to gain pride in oneself and one's heritage and people.

In the process of creating this guide, I leaned on many scholars and community leaders and members who helped me shape this into a tool that could be accessible to a wide audience. There are too many for me to acknowledge in this short section, but I wanted to highlight those who were pillars of strength for me during this process.

I want to give special thanks to my mentors at UDC, Dr. Amanda Huron and Dr. Jasmine Yarish, for serving as guiding lights throughout this project and my time at UDC. I also thank "the giants" whose shoulders I stand on, including Olivia Cadaval, Patrick Scallen, and Ana Patricia Rodríguez, whose past work and guidance in the beginning stages of this project was absolutely instrumental in the conceptualization of this tool.

I want to give special thanks to Manuel Mendez, whose guidance around the Afro-Latino perspective and the intentionality required to disrupt past patterns of additional marginalization within already marginalized communities has changed how I will forever approach this work. Special thanks to Kristy LiPuma and José Centeno-Meléndez, not only for their guidance in how to properly access Latinx communities in Washington, but also for their advice in how to take care of myself as a scholar and a woman engaged in work that is aimed at uprooting white-centrism in historical and political practices.

Lastly, I want to thank my project team at the DC History Center, Anne McDonough and Kimmi Ramnine, whose guidance and whose willingness to listen gave me the confidence to believe that this work was important and valuable.

The main purpose for this project was to provide a launching pad for future scholars, researchers, and members of the community who were interested in learning about local Latinx history via archival resources. My hope was to be able to take the time to gather this information, so that they could go on to tackle bigger, more complex questions. However, in the process of locating these resources, it became evident that most of this history is not found in traditional historical repositories. Indeed, most of this history lives in the hands of individuals, families, and community hubs. As such, as much as it will serve as a launching pad for future researchers, it also has pointed me in the direction of future endeavors for myself. In such endeavors, I hope to be able to empower Latinx communities to ensure the proper collection of their own histories, while also working to find avenues to amplify such histories in non-extractive ways.

Mariana C. Barros-Titus

May 2021

DC History Center Resources

801 K Street NW

www.dchistory.org

library@dchistory.org |202-516-1353 x302

The DC History Center is a community-supported nonprofit organization and is the only educational nonprofit solely focused on DC history. Founded in 1894 as the Columbia Historical Society and renamed the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. in 1988, it became known as the DC History Center in 2020. Neighborhood-focused resources in the photograph, manuscript, and vertical file collections address Mount Pleasant, Adams Morgan, and Columbia Heights, but may or may not specifically reference the Latino/a/x experience. The following resources, including articles about the Latino/a/x community published in the DC History Center's Washington History journal, can be accessed via the organization's Kiplinger Research Library, which is open to all.

Washington History articles

Anyone can access the full run of [Washington History](#) magazine through JSTOR by registering for a free account that allows online-only access to a certain number of articles per month. DC History Center members have unlimited access via JSTOR through their membership accounts. In addition, DCPL library cards provide access. Print issues of *Washington History* are available via the DC History Center's [online store](#).

["Becoming 'Wachintonians'": Salvadorans in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area,](#)" by Ana Patricia Rodríguez, *Washington History*, 28-2 (2016).

["Tirarlo a la Calle/Taking It to the Streets": The Latino Festival and the Making of Community,](#)" by Olivia Cadaval and Rick Reinhard, *Washington History*, 4-2 (1992).

["Yes, It Can Be Done': A Photographer's Record of Latino Washington, D.C.,"](#) by Rick Reinhard, *Washington History*, 29-1 (2017).

["1991: Mount Pleasant,"](#) by Patrick Scallen, *Washington History*, 32-1/2 (2020).

["Review: Anacostia Museum Exhibition: Black Mosaic:"](#) Community, Race and Ethnicity among Black Immigrants in Washington, D.C., by Jeffery C. Stewart, *Washington History*, 7-1 (1995).

["Carlos Manuel Rosario,"](#) by Amber N. Wiley, *Washington History*, 30-1 (2018).

The [2019 issue of Washington History](#) offers a special package on the significant role Mount Pleasant plays in the Latino/a/x community based on an oral history/photo exhibit centered on La Esquina, where Mt. Pleasant Street meets Kenyon Street NW. Olivia Cadaval presents the

project in **“About La Esquina / The Corner,”** followed by Rick Reinhard’s photo essay, *“La Esquina Gallery.”* In **“A Third Citizenship,”** poet and performer Quique Avilés offers his personal narrative of living in the neighborhood.

Context for Today

This [Context for Today: Salvadorans in the DMV](#) web page focuses on contextual resources relating to the largest Latino/a/x group in DC, including a video of the March 18, 2021 DC History Center program with *Ana Patricia Rodríguez, PhD, José A. Centeno-Meléndez,* and Abel Nuñez. The page also features a reading list developed by *Rodríguez and Centeno-Meléndez further exploring Salvadoran and other specific DC-area Latino/a/x communities, including Afro-Latino Washingtonians.*

Ephemera

Festival LatinoAmericano ephemera, [E 1036](#)

Following a significant undercounting in the 1970 census, the first to try to identify individuals of Hispanic origin or descent, the Latino Festival was established to bring together disparate communities with a common goal: literally to show the city and its government that they existed. That celebration continues more than 50 years later as [Fiesta DC](#). Programs from several iterations of the festival, 1 folder.

GALA Hispanic Theatre ephemera, [E 1741](#)

GALA (Grupo de Artistas LatinoAmericanos) Hispanic Theatre is a National Center for Latino Performing Arts in the nation’s capital founded in 1976. Materials from the 25th anniversary, 1 folder.

Latin American Youth Center ephemera, [E 1749](#)

Founded in 1968 in response to the lack of educational and vocational activities available for Latino children and youth, LAYC remains a stronghold among community-based organizations. Materials include a booklet, 1 folder.

Latino GLBT History Project ephemera, [E 1826](#)

The Latino GLBT History project, founded in 2000, was “an active community that is actively collecting documentation of the history, culture, heritage, arts, social and rich contributions of the Latino/a LGBT community in metropolitan Washington, D.C.” As of 2020, the collecting initiative is maintained by founder and community member Jose Gutierrez (see **Jose Gutierrez Archives**). Materials include posters, postcards, and mission statement, 1 folder.

Carmen Torruella Quander ephemera, [E 1827](#)

A first-generation Washingtonian of Dominican descent, Torruella Quander is an internationally recognized artist, curator, and educator who grew up in Adams Morgan. Materials include resume card with art, 1 folder

Manuscripts and Oral Histories

Columbia Historical Society oral history project collection, [MS 0892](#)

Oral history initiative of the Columbia Historical Society, conducted in the 1980s. The Columbia Historical Society (founded 1894) became the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. in 1989 and is now known as the DC History Center. Collection includes a transcript of an oral history interview with Daniel Flores, inspector, D.C. Metropolitan Police. Flores served as coordinator of the police force relations with the Latino community in the 1970s, 1 interview.

Thomas L. Lalley Pilot District Project files, [MS 0885](#)

The Pilot District Project (1967–1973), or PDP, a community policing program which operated only in Washington, D.C., was conceived by the federal Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) as a model for improving the relationships between police departments and the inner-city residents they served. Thomas L. Lalley, a researcher, tracked the Pilot District Project for over 4 years. While there is most likely additional relevant material, specifically see Box 13, folder 189, Spanish Community, 1969–1971, 1 folder

Robert Shellow Pilot District Project files, [MS 0907](#)

One of the initiatives of the Pilot District Project included Spanish language training for police officers, advocated for by Puerto Rican immigrant and community leader Carlos Rosario. The collection includes a pin (2018.018.1) intended to be worn by a police officer to indicate that the officer spoke Spanish, 1 item.

Printed Materials

"Our Voices in the Nation's Capital": Creating the Latino Community Heritage Center of Washington, D.C., by Olivia Cadaval and Brian Finnegan, *Public Historian* (2001) [P 7387](#)

"Hispanic Migration and Urban Development: Studies from Washington, D.C.," edited by Enrique Pumar, Emerald Books (2012) [P 7386](#)

"Hispanic organizations of the Washington Metropolitan Area : an analytic profile : a study of private, secular, local Hispanic organizations based in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area," by Tia Ann Murchie-Beyma, Occasional Paper Series, *Center for Washington Area Studies* 8, George Washington University (1990) [P 0333](#)

"Hispanic organizations of the Washington area: an annotated directory: a directory of private, secular, local Hispanic organizations based in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area" by Tia Ann Murchie-Beyma. Occasional Paper Series, *Center for Washington Area Studies* 9, George Washington University (1991) [P 2645](#)

"The Latino DC History Project: 2009–2010 synopsis" by Elaine A. Pena (Smithsonian Institution 2010) [P 5030](#)

"Street, stage, and school: Teatro Nuestro, GALA Hispanic Theatre, and LatiNegro: ten years of Latino community theatre in Washington, D.C.," by Judith A. Weiss (s.n., c1989). [P 6628](#)

"The Latino community : A reference bibliography," by Sandra Barrone (1991) [P 7116](#)

Creating A Latino Identity in the Nation's Capital: The Latino Festival, by Olivia Cadaval (Garland, 1998). [GT4811.W37 C33 1998](#)

Waiting on Washington: Central American Workers in the Nation's Capital by Terry A. Repak (Temple University Press, 1995). [HD8085 .W183 R46 1995](#)

Latinos in the Washington Metro area by Maria Sprehn-Malagon (Arcadia Publishing, 2014). [F205 .S75 L38 2014](#)

Latino Immigrant Youth: Passages from Adolescence to Adulthood by Timothy Ready (1991). [LC2675 .W18 R43 1991](#)

Selected Publicly Available Resources at Other Local Repositories

Below is a list of institutional repositories that house relevant documents and collections. In addition to the resources submitted via the survey, we've included selected resources identified through independent research, with thanks for the guidance of community members consulted throughout the process. Also noted is a selection of theses and dissertations and other academic papers available through online databases (accessible with public library cards and academic login credentials), including key humanities contributions by local scholars Olivia Cadaval and Patrick Scallen.

DC Public Library, The People's Archive

901 G Street NW

<https://www.dclibrary.org/thepeoplesarchive/appointments>

Peoples.archive@dc.gov | 202-727-1213

The People's Archives, formerly known as Special Collections, encompasses the Washingtoniana Collection and DC Community Archives, Black Studies, and Peabody Collection (in the Georgetown Branch) of the DC Public Library. The People's Archive is located in the library system's flagship location, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library.

Columbian Newspaper Research Collection [30](#)

Latino community in the Adams Morgan neighborhood in the 1970s

The collection consists of background research materials gathered for issues of the Columbian Newspaper. Included in the materials are correspondence, clippings, press releases, photographs, government documents, publications, reports, flyers, legal pleadings, and handwritten notes. The folders are arranged alphabetically by topic. – 7 boxes

Latino Youth Community History Oral History Project [OHP005](#)

Latino community members, 1981-1982

From 1981 and 1982, the Latin American Youth Center in Washington, D.C. conducted approximately 47 oral history interviews with Latino community members, of which 24 were donated to the Library. The project's directors were Lisa Wheaton and Lesley Rankin-Hill. The project was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and all interviews were conducted by high school students. Indexes are in English and Spanish; taped interviews are in Spanish. Collection contains notes on interviews and transcripts which were not transferred to the Library at the time of donation. – 24 interviews

El Latino [Periodicals](#)

Issues in our Periodicals Collection. – select issues, 1977 to 2006

Tiempo Latino [Periodicals](#)

Issues in our Periodicals Collection. – 2003 –2206

[Mount Pleasant Riots Oral History Project](#), 10 interviews

The Mount Pleasant Riot Oral History Collection contains 10 audio interviews of people who were members of the Mount Pleasant, D.C. community during the riot of 1991.

George Washington University Special Collections Research Center

2130 H Street NW

<https://library.gwu.edu/scrc>

<https://library.gwu.edu/scrc/contact> | 202-994-7549

The Special Collections Research Center at The George Washington University was founded in 1969 and includes a strong Washingtoniana collection. The SCRC is housed in the Estelle and Melvin Gelman Library on the University's Foggy Bottom campus.

George Washington University Publications collection [RG0154](#)

Series 8: Center for Washington Area Studies Collection, Box 1, Folder 7.

“Hispanic organizations of the Washington area : an annotated directory : a directory of private, secular, local Hispanic organizations based in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area by Tia Ann Murchie-Beyma.” 1 folder.

David A. Clarke papers [MS2010](#)

Series 1, Subseries 1, Box 34, Folder 4 [MS2010](#)

“Council of Hispanic Community and Agencies.” 1 folder.

Series 1, Subseries 1, Box 42, Folder 7 [MS2010](#)

“District of Columbia Government Hispanic Employees Association.” 1 folder.

Series 1, Subseries 1, Box 66, Folder 23 [MS2010](#)

“Hispanic Theatre.” 1 folder

Series 1, Subseries 1, Box 50, Folder 7 [MS2010](#)

“El Latino – newspaper.” – 1 folder

Series 1, Subseries 1, Box: 22, Folder: 32 [MS2010](#)

“Commission on Latino Community Development.” – 1 folder

Nadine P. Winter DC City Council papers [MS2188](#)

Series 4, Subseries 1, Box 69, Folder 17 [MS2188](#)

"DC Government Hispanic Employees Association." 1 folder
Series 2 Subseries 3, Box: 43, Folder: 17 [MS2188](#)
"Commission on Latino Community Development." – 1 folder
Series 2 Subseries 3 Box: 48, Folder: 5 [MS2188](#)
"Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs." – 1 folder
Series 6 Box: 116, Folder: 10 [MS2188](#)
"Upper Cardoza Advisory Neighborhood Commission." – 1 folder
Series 6 Box: 116, Folder: 9 [MS2188](#)
"Upper Cardoza ANC." – 1 folder

Washington D.C. published material about education and community life - [MS2206](#)

Box 5, Folder 1
"Survey of Hispanic Businesses." – 1 folder

Walter E. Fautroy papers, part 1 –

Series 1, Box 1, Folder 35 [MS2070](#)
"Speech, "Alliance, Participation and the Latino Community", Prisma." – 1 folder

Walter Fautroy Papers Part II

Box 471, Folder 1 [MS2310](#)
"Hispanic Issues." – 1 folder
Box 471, Folder 31 [MS2310](#)
"Hispanic Health Report." – 1 folder
Box 103, Folder 3 [MS2310](#)
"Campaign- Hispanic Targets." – 1 folder

Grace Cavalieri papers [MS2007](#)

Series 1, Box: 18A, Reel: 324 [MS2007](#)
"Poetry from the City: M.L.K. Library; Hispanic American Poets Gloria Mercedes Anthony, Magdalena Flores, Mara Lyon reciting the poetry of Perez Gomez." – 1 folder NOTE: This collection is open for use; however some material may be copyrighted or restricted. Audio tapes from this collection may need to be digitized first before they can be used for research.
Series 1 Box: 73, Reel: 652 [MS2007](#)

"The Poet and the Poem: Hispanic poets." – 1 folder

NOTE: This collection is open for use; however some material may be copyrighted or restricted. Audio tapes from this collection may need to be digitized first before they can be used for research

Washington Blade Lou Chibbaro senior reporter files - [MS2245](#)

Box 18, Folder 19
"Gay hispanic group enlace link." – 1 folder

Polly Shackleton papers – [MS2031](#)

Series 2, Box 2, Folder 1

“Newspaper clippings.” – 1 folder

Frank Smith, Jr. papers [MS2182](#)

Box 4, Folder 4 [MS2182](#)

“Latino projects.” – 1 folder NOTE: These records are not fully processed and may take more time to use for research. Some material may be copyrighted or restricted.

Box 27, Folder 2 [MS2182](#)

“EOFULA/Latino list.” – 1 folder NOTE: These records are not fully processed and may take more time to use for research. Some material may be copyrighted or restricted.

Jim Graham papers [MS2013](#)

Series 1 Subseries 7, Box 11 Folder 3 [MS2013](#)

“Latino Coalition I.” – 1 folder

Series 1 Subseries 7, Box 11 Folder 4 [MS2013](#)

“Latino Coalition II.” – 1 folder

Series 1 Subseries 3, Box: 24, Folder: 11 [MS2013](#)

“Latino Operating Committee.” – 1 folder

Series 1 Subseries 3 Box: 30, Folder: 4 [MS2013](#)

“Office of Latino Affairs.” – 1 folder

[“Ethnic Entrepreneurship and Latino Placemaking in Suburban Washington: The Case of Langley Park, Maryland,”](#) by Alexander Rupp Stewart, (2011).

NOTE: Available digitally through GW ScholarSpace.

[“Experiences of Mexican Immigrant Women Living in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area,”](#) by Claudia Williams, (2012).

NOTE: Available digitally through GW ScholarSpace.

[“Acéptame,”](#) by Andrea Garcia, (2019).

NOTE: Available digitally through GW ScholarSpace.

[“U.S.-Born Salvadoran American Women with Learning Disabilities in Transition to Adulthood.”](#) by Deanna Marie Ortiz, (2010).

NOTE: Available digitally through GW ScholarSpace.

[“Patchwork House: A Neighborhood Gathering.”](#) by Tatiana A. Dumcheva, (2015).

NOTE: Available digitally through GW ScholarSpace.

[“Community Health Care Service Awareness and Use Among the Washington Metropolitan Area Latino Population,”](#) by Lindsey Lee Withers, (2009).

NOTE: Available digitally through GW ScholarSpace.

[“The Rescaling of US Immigration Policy: A Socio-spatial Analysis of Enforcement in Herndon, Virginia,”](#) by Nicole Prchal Svajlenka, (2010).

[“Trauma and Stress Among Central American Immigrants Living in Langley Park, Maryland,”](#) by Leonardo Flores Andrade Jorge Benavides, Mark Edberg, and Rosalie Mattiola, (2018).

[“United By Music: Latino Musicians in the D.M.V.”](#) by Daniel Martinez Gonzalez, (2017).

Hola Cultura

1111 Columbia Rd NW

<https://www.holacultura.com/>

holacultura@gmail.com

Hola Cultura is a nonprofit organization in Washington, DC that chronicles local Latino culture.

[“D.C. Latino history tapes now online,”](#) by Patrick Scallen (March 2016).

[“D.C.’s Native Languages + Cultures,”](#) by Pavithra Suresh.

Highlights from our oral history project celebrating the diverse native languages spoken in Latin American—and the Washington, D.C., area.

[D.C. Latino History Archives,](#) by HOLA Cultura.

Interviews with D.C. residents and learn more about the city’s Latino history. Maps illustrating how D.C. is changing and how these changes are affecting the Latino community. Readings on how the role housing costs have played in determining where Latinos live in D.C.

[“Muralism DC,”](#) by HOLA Cultura (November 2014)

Muralism DC / Muralismo DC is a short “webumentary” (15 min) on Washington D.C.’s rich Latino mural making tradition. The program documents murals on the streets of the nation’s capital and chronicles the history of Latino mural making in interviews with the artists and other experts.

Jose Gutierrez Archives

Webpage in progress

<https://www.facebook.com/josegutierrezarchives/>

josegutierrezdc@aol.com | 202-705-2701

Extensive, privately held collection created and collected by community member Jose Gutierrez to preserve the history of the DC Latinx LGBTQ community. Materials include photographs, posters, ephemera. Access to materials can be granted upon request.

Smithsonian Institution, Anacostia Community Museum

1901 Fort PI SE

<https://anacostia.si.edu/collection/>

(202) 633-4820

Founded as the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum in 1967, the Anacostia Community Museum was initially envisioned as an outreach effort by the Smithsonian to the local African American community. As the mission evolved, the museum's exhibitions and public programs have explored the impact of historical and contemporary social issues on urban communities, always based on direct collaboration with communities and often with a DC-specific focus or significant component.

Black Mosaic: Community, Race, and Ethnicity among Black Immigrants in Washington, D.

C. exhibition records, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution

(1994-1995) [ACMA.03-027](#)

Exhibit curated by the Anacostia Community Museum's supervisory curator Portia James. The exhibition explored the immigration of people of African descent from South America, Central America, and the Caribbean to the Washington Metropolitan Area. Records include administrative records, publications, research files, floor plans, exhibit text drafts, oral history transcripts, and project files. 21.6 Cubic feet (17 cartons, 2 oversized boxes.)

Gateways/Portales exhibition records, Anacostia Community Museum Archives,

Smithsonian Institution (1954-2017) [ACMA.03-102](#)

Records of the exhibition presented by the Anacostia Community Museum (2016-2018, with an extension at the Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School in 2019) and curated by Ariana A. Curtis. Focused on four urban areas in the United States: Washington, DC, Baltimore, MD, Raleigh-Durham, NC, and Charlotte, NC. Materials include research files, subject files, scholarly articles, artist files, exhibit texts, object lists, and audio and video digital files from

oral history interviews conducted in conjunction with the exhibition. Collection is in English and Spanish, with some material in French. 2.84 Linear feet (3 boxes)

A Right to the City exhibition records, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution (2016–2018) [ACMA.03-119](#)

Records of the exhibition presented by the Anacostia Community Museum and curated by Samir Meghelli. Exhibition explored the history of neighborhood change and civic activism in the nation's capital and specifically in Adams Morgan, Anacostia, Brookland, Chinatown, Shaw and Southwest. Relevant records include oral history interviews conducted 2016–2018, including with Arturo Griffiths and Juan Picado.

Smithsonian Institution, Smithsonian Latino Center and DC Latino Project

600 Maryland Ave SW

<https://learninglab.si.edu/profile/latinocenter>

<https://latino.si.edu/latino-center>

www.latino.si.edu

The Smithsonian Latino Center preserves a growing collection of diverse stories and experiences that reflect Latino presence in the nation's history and culture, and convenes conversations, inclusively, about the stories and connections that continue to inspire generations to come. The Latino DC History Project is an initiative of the Latino Center to research and exhibit the history of Latinos in Washington and its suburbs. In 2022, the Smithsonian Latino Center will open the Molina Family Latino Gallery at the National American History Museum, making the gallery the very first dedicated museum space on the National Mall celebrating the U.S. Latino experience.

[“Art for Social Change: Conversations on Protest and Police Brutality,”](#) by Smithsonian Latino Center learning lab. ([Spanish version](#)). Summary and timeline of the 1991 Mount Pleasant uprisings.

[“Remembering the 1991 Disturbances in Mt. Pleasant,”](#) by Smithsonian Latino Center, (May 2011).

The panelists and audience reflected how the 1991 events affected Mt. Pleasant and surrounding neighborhoods and the organization of the local Latino community. Panelists included Sharon Pratt, mayor of Washington from 1991 to 1995; former chief of police Isaac Fulwood; Smithsonian curator and Mt. Pleasant resident Olivia Cadaval; former head of the Latino Civil Rights Task Force and local resident Pedro Avilés; local poet, activist and Mt. Pleasant resident Marcos Del Fuego; former publisher of La Nación newspaper José Sueiro.

University of Maryland Libraries Special Collections and University Archives

Hornbake Library North

University of Maryland at College Park

College Park, Md.

<https://www.lib.umd.edu/special>

AskHornbake@UMD.edu

Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) at the University of Maryland Libraries supports the educational and research mission of the University. Collections are open to the general public.

University of Maryland Posters and Broadsides collection - [0157-UA](#)

Latino/a/x student groups at UMD, College Park

Posters and broadsides collected from various academic programs, administrative offices, and student groups (1926–present). – 36 linear feet in total

NOTE: Open to the public for use in the reading room.

Graciela Nemes papers - [0202-UA](#)

Latin American writers

Books, poems, papers, and other materials from Nemes, a UMD professor who helped shape the current study of Spanish and Latin American literature. – 31.75 linear feet

NOTE: Open to the public for use in the reading room.

University Publications collection - [0480-UA](#)

Latino/a/x student groups at UMD, College Park

Publications related to current and historical UMD student organizations: Coalition of Latinx Student Organizations (CLSO); PLUMAS (Political Latinxs United for Movement and Action in Society); Latino Student Union; Latino Honors Caucus; Latino Business Society; Association of Latino Professionals for America; Latinos United in Christ; La Voz Latina; Lambda Upsilon Lamba (La Unidad Latina) (Phi Chapter); Latina/o Graduate Student Association; Hispanic Student Union; Hispanic Heritage Coalition. – 125 linear feet in total

NOTE: Open to the public for use in the reading room.

William Emory papers - [0081-MDHC](#)

Mexico and Mexican community

Correspondence of William Emory, a white Marylander who served in the Mexican–American War and describes the perspectives toward Mexico and Mexicans in the DC–Maryland area circa late-1800s. – 1.5 linear feet

NOTE: Open to the public for use in the reading room.

Suburban Maryland Fair Housing (SMFH), Inc. records - [0238-MDHC](#)

Fair housing organization in Montgomery County, MD

Records from a non-profit organization addressing racism in Maryland housing practices and promoting fair and affordable housing; Includes reports (circa 1970s) on Latino/x communities. - 21.5 linear feet

NOTE: Open to the public for use in the reading room.

Children's Television Workshop records - [0073-MMC-NPBA](#)

Children's Television Workshop (Sesame Workshop)

Children's Television Workshop, now Sesame Workshop, received funding from the federal government to research and develop television programming for children. Includes some materials related to Latin communities and children's broadcasting. - 456 linear feet

NOTE: Open to the public for use in the reading room.

National Federation of Community Broadcasters (NFCB) records - [0178-MMC-NPBA](#)

Member stations of the National Federation of Community Broadcasters

Includes paper materials and audio content related to member stations, including some broadcasts on Latin American communities and histories. - 94 linear feet in total

NOTE: Open to the public for use in the reading room.

Action Langley Park records - no object ID assigned yet

Community of Langley Park and non-profit group Action Langley Park

A more recent accession; Document community-led efforts and immigrant owned small businesses. - not available yet.

NOTE: Unprocessed; available for research but must be screened by staff first.

Latinos in the Washington Metro area - [F205.S75 L38 2014](#)

Latinx communities in DC area

From the Images of America series (2014); photographs and descriptions. - book

NOTE: Open to the public for use in the reading room.

Hispanics in the Washington region: findings from the 1990 census and a 1994 update - [F205.S75 H57 1997](#)

Latinx communities in DC area

From Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (1997). - published folio

NOTE: Open to the public for use in the reading room.

The Latino student resource book: 2001-2002 - [UPUB M42.001 2001-2002](#)

Latinx communities at UMD

University publication from UMD Office of Multi-ethnic Student Education (2001). - book

University of the District of Columbia University Archives

<https://udc.libguides.com/>

Chris Anglim, canglim@udc.edu | 202-274-5843

The focus of UDC archives is to collect, preserve, provide access to, and interpret archival records documenting the history of the University of the District of Columbia.

Resources available upon request.

Selected Dissertations and Theses

With thanks to George Washington University student Jade Darling, these academic papers relating to the DC-area Latino/a/x community were identified through searches in online databases such as EBSCO Open Dissertations, and GWU Dissertations and Theses Online. While it is not an exhaustive list, those listed may be helpful in identifying further areas of research. See also the **DC History Center** entry in this guide for additional peer-reviewed articles.

Bensabat-Ott, Mary Miglio. 2000. "**Portuguese-English code-switching: The Brazilian community in the greater Washington, D.C. area.**" Diss. Georgetown University.

"This study examines the functional and formal aspects of code-switching among eight Portuguese/English bilingual Brazilians between the ages of 15 and 55, residing in the Greater Washington, DC, area. It was conducted within an ethno-sociolinguistic framework, utilizing a combined methodology of participant observation and a set of interviews."

Brandli, Elizabeth Jane. 2019. "**What's Spanish for Aids?: Latino Activism against Racially Exclusive HIV/AIDS Healthcare Outreach in Washington, D.C., 1981-1995.**" MA Thesis. University of Maryland.

"This research examines the racially exclusive health outreach practices in Washington, D.C. during the HIV/AIDS crisis that created barriers to healthcare for Latino residents. After analyzing the ways in which mainstream organizations failed to disseminate educational materials within Latino communities, this thesis turns to the ways in which Latino activists combated exclusion and performed healthcare outreach within their communities."

Byrom, Jamilah L. 2021. "**Perceptions of Acculturative Stress and English Language Learning in Latino Immigrants.**" Diss. Walden University.

"This study examined the perceptions of the experiences of young adult Latino immigrants who completed an English language learning program in the Washington, DC Metropolitan area. A generic qualitative study using face-to-face virtual interviews inquired about first-generation, young adult Latino immigrants' perceptions of acculturative stress relative to experiences in adult ELL programs."

Cadaval, Olivia. 1989. "**The Hispano-American Festival and the Latino community: Creating an identity in the Nation's Capital.**" Diss. George Washington University.

"Building on previous scholarship in cultural history, ethnic studies, cultural anthropology, and ethnography of experience, this study examines the cultural dynamics of a very recently emergent multiethnic community in an urban society as manifested by an annual community celebration. Through the celebration of the Hispano-American Festival, also known as the Latino Festival, the Latino community in Washington, D.C. records its nascency

and its growing multiethnic composition, stakes its claim in the city and federal government, enacts its emergent group dynamics, and culturally marks and defines its living space."

Cantor, Guillermo Ruben. 2008. "**Breaking into the public sphere: Temporality, context, and innovation in the politicization of Latin American immigrants.**" Diss. University of Maryland.

"To elaborate on this idea of politicization as well as to bring history, context, and in particular, temporality, to the center of this research, I look at two major events that crystallized the most critical landmarks in the recent political history of Latinos in the Washington D.C. area: the Mount Pleasant Riots of 1991 and "La Marcha" of 2006. In order to disentangle the process of politicization in each of the events analyzed, I examine the interplay of context (including demographic, political, and organizational features of the local Latino community), episodes of contention, attribution of opportunities and threats, social and organizational appropriation, and innovation. I then reconstruct these cases by inscribing them in their contexts and analyzing how, why, and when different consequential actions were performed."

DeLorenzo, Maribeth. 2001. "**American dreams: Latino immigrants' homeownership experiences in the nation's capital.**" Diss. University of Pennsylvania.

"This study builds on existing ethnographic work (Rather, 2990, examining the home purchase process of Latino immigrants in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area. Twenty-six Latino immigrant households participated in qualitative, semi-structured interviews regarding their process and strategies of home purchase, and the meanings they attribute to "home."

Ehrmann, Nicholas. 2010. "**Yellow Brick Road: The roots of academic underperformance in Washington D.C.**" Diss. Princeton University.

"This dissertation takes a longitudinal, mixed-methods approach to exploring internal variation in academic achievement among a cohort of 49 black and Latino high school students in Washington D.C., tracing divergent educational expectations and achievement levels from the fall of 2000, when I was their fourth grade classroom teacher, to the spring of 2009, when they were scheduled to graduate from high school."

Fulgencio Perez, Natalie. 2016. "**Beyond The Pupuseria: Creating and Inviting Exhibition about Salvadoran Immigrants and The Pursuit of Home in Mt. Pleasant, Washington, D.C.**" MA Thesis. George Washington University.

"An exhibition proposal and feasibility study regarding exhibition design that uses available resources in the Salvadoran immigrant community of Mt. Pleasant. The exhibition's goal is to enable long-lasting relationships — re-establishing and fostering dialogue between communities. The exhibit looks at Salvadoran culture; the communities' stories of migration, displacement, and the pursuit of home. It is intended for young adults living in the DC metropolitan area."

Landolt Marticorena, Patricia Andrea. 2000. **"The causes and consequences of transnational migration: Salvadorans in Los Angeles and Washington D.C."** Diss. Johns Hopkins University. "The study identifies the conditions in El Salvador and the US that combine to make the maintenance of transnational household relations central to the Salvadoran settlement process. It also examines the formation of transnational migrant identity and the social construction of migrant institutions. The study is based on two primary data sources: (1) guided interviews conducted with key informants in El Salvador, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.; and (2) a structured survey questionnaire applied to Salvadoran heads of households and transnational actors in D.C. and LA."

Luna, Ronald Wilfred. 2008. **"Transforming espacios culturales into cultural spaces: A study of how the Salvadoran community is establishing Evangelical Protestant Churches as transnational institutions in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area."** Diss. University of Maryland.

"The Salvadoran Evangelical Protestant Churches in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area serves as case study to examine how the transnationalism process occurs. Key findings include understanding first how transnational communities are established in the host country, as well as how transnational institutions such as Salvadoran Evangelical Protestant Churches began their process of transnationalism in the home country. Furthermore, the Salvadoran Evangelical Protestant Churches reflect and parallel the overall transnational Salvadoran historical and demographic trends. In addition, Salvadoran Evangelical Protestant Churches reinforce the process of transnationalism in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area through memory, ethnic identity, transmigration, networks, and cultural space."

Lunn, Maxine Pitter. 2006. **"Community at a crossroads: Latino community participation in agenda setting in Washington, District of Columbia."** Diss. George Mason University.

"The Latino community in Washington, D.C. is at a crossroads in its political development, and in what defines the "Latino" voice that contributes to the policy agenda. Since this is a very distinct Latino community, in that it is not dominated by one national group, such as the Puerto Ricans in New York or the Mexicans in San Antonio, this study concentrates on what has determined the Latino voice over time in the local community."

Mantilla, Bryanna. 2014. **"Suffering in the Shadows: 'Undocumented' Latin American Immigrants, Inequality, Embodiment and Health."** Diss. University of Illinois.

"This study utilizes the idea of embodiment to examine the social processes that "undocumented" Latin American migrants undergo and how these social processes affect their health. Embodiment refers to how our bodies and minds literally incorporate, from conception to death, the material and social world in which we live (Krieger, 2001b). The study uses a critical intersectional lens and an adapted grounded theory approach to analyze 31

original qualitative in-depth interviews with nationally diverse “undocumented” Latin American migrants from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area” University of Illinois

Pinnock, Georgina Nicole. 2011. **“Adapting an image: Transforming urban built heritage to [re]claim + [re]present an inherited cultural identity.”** MA Thesis. University of Maryland. “By providing infrastructure for Caribbean nationals active in their shared culture and facilitating continued connections with the wider community, this proposal seeks to innovatively transform a parcel of Washington, DC’s built heritage to reclaim and represent an inherited Caribbean identity.”

Ramirez, Rosa Maria. 2014. **“‘Were you here? Estuviste aqui?’ Celebrating the history and legacy of Centro de Arte.”** Diss. George Washington University. “This project explores the history and legacy of Centro de Arte, a Latino Art Community Center that functioned from 1976 to 2001 in the Mount Pleasant and Columbia Heights neighborhoods of NW Washington DC. This exhibition proposal aims to recover, preserve, and celebrate an important yet forgotten part of the Latino history of Washington DC. Centro de Arte or El Centro, as it was affectionately known, was established by a group of South American artists living in Washington, DC. The center served as a gathering point for the Latino community of Mount Pleasant, Columbia Heights and Adams Morgan neighborhoods....The majority of the information gathered for this study comes directly from revealing interviews conducted with former members of El Centro that still live in the area. Therefore, this thesis is a compilation of available information, interviews and images, which provide a starting point in the reconstruction of the history of Centro de Arte and the Latino community of Mount Pleasant.”

Scallen, Patrick Daniel. 2019. **“‘The Bombs that Drop in El Salvador Explode in Mount Pleasant’: From Cold War Conflagration to Immigrant Struggles in Washington, DC, 1970–1995.”** Diss. Georgetown University. “Part of the Latino immigrant community in the District of Columbia that emerged as Washington became the capital of world capitalism following World War II, Salvadorans had carved out a space for themselves as a small but notable ethnic minority when civil war erupted, displacing hundreds of thousands of their countryfolk.”

Stewart, Alexander Rupp. 2011. **“Ethnic Entrepreneurship and Latino Placemaking in Suburban Washington: The Case of Langley Park, Maryland.”** MA Thesis. The George Washington University. “Since the 1970s, the foreign-born population of the Washington, D.C. region has more than quadrupled, with the majority of immigrants settling directly in suburban areas. In contrast to culturally homogeneous urban ethnic enclaves and ghettos, Washington’s immigrant population lives in semi-isolation from one another in diffuse residential neighborhoods.

Displaying traits of heterolocalism, many of Washington's ethnic communities converge on ethnic businesses housed within aging suburban shopping centers."

Tremura, Lucilia V. 2011. "**Transnational migrant Brazilian women in "pink collar jobs" in the Greater Washington D.C. area.**" Diss. American University.

"The study of transnational migrant Brazilian women in "pink collar jobs" in Washington D.C. metropolitan area comprises thirty-four Brazilian women who chose the United States as their place to be called home. It is termed transnational because of the permanent ties connecting these women to their country of origin, Brazil, and their country of adoption, the United States. The expression "pink collar jobs" indicates low paid jobs, mainly performed by women, no expertise necessary, in the service sector."

Verdaguer, Maria Eugenia. 2002. "**Class, ethnicity, gender and Latino entrepreneurship: Salvadoran and Peruvian networks in greater Washington D.C.**" Diss. American University.

"Through a case study on Washington Salvadorans and Peruvians, this research investigates the effect of Latino immigrant social relations on economic action. Specifically, it explores how immigrant class, ethnic, and gender-based networks interact with the local opportunity structure to mediate Latino entrepreneurial outcomes. In particular, it examines these questions: How do Latinos belonging to distinct immigrant groups leverage qualitatively distinct economic, social and cultural resources from each other in pursuing business ventures?"

Viteri, Maria-Amelia. 2008. "**Seeking a relevant queerness: Sexual, racial and nationalist negotiations of identity amongst the Latino immigrant community in Washington, D.C.**" Diss. American University.

"Based on ethnographic work conducted between 2004 and 2006 with LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Latino community members living in the D.C. metro area, as well as summer research conducted in Ecuador and El Salvador during the summers of 2005 and 2006 respectively, I ethnographically map throughout this Anthropological research project how U.S. identity categories such as 'queer,' 'Latino,' 'American' are not stable categories but are constantly translated and as such reinvented and politicized according to diverse constructions of race and sexuality where notions of space are blurred with narratives from the 'homeland.'"

Williams Soberanes, Claudia. 2012. "**Experiences of Mexican Immigrant Women Living in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area.**" Thesis. George Washington University.

"This project is a first step towards understanding their challenges and opportunities, but it is also an effort to learn more about what brought them to the United States capital, a question that is especially interesting because Mexicans are less likely than other Latin American groups to settle in Washington."

Additional Leads for Identifying Key Community Contacts

Documentary Films and Digital Stories

Lamanpleasa: An Uprising Remembered

<https://www.lamanplesafilm.com/>

This documentary examines activism in Mount Pleasant following the 1991 uprising. Specific contributors include activists and artists from within the Latino/a/x community, as well as documentarians entrusted with their stories: Quique Avilés, Pepe Gonzalez, Lilo Gonzalez, Sami Miranda, Ronald Chacon, Pedro Aviles, Lori Kaplan, Lupi Quinteros-Grady, Roland Roebuck, Jackie Reyes-Yanes, Arturo Griffiths, Ellie Walton, Cindy Centeno, Max Aviles, Magee McIlvaine, Sonya Robbins Hoffman, Sabiyha Prince, Eddie Becker, Rick Reinhard, Lance Kramer, Gabriella Garcia Pardo, Leigh Johnson. As of May 2021, this film was not yet released; a preview (4:23) is available.

40 Years and Still Running

<https://vimeo.com/522559736>

Documentary addressing the Latino presence in and contributions to Washington, D.C. Includes interviews with community figures such as Quique Avilés, Carlos Parada, and José A. Centeno-Meléndez. As of May 2021, this film was still in production; a preview (8:33) is available.

Documentaries by Cintia Cabib

DC-based documentarian Cintia Cabib, a native of Argentina, has produced several films in partnership with the local Latino/a/x community.

The Woodcuts of Naúl Ojeda (1995) 9 minutes

<https://vimeo.com/454759335>

Uruguayan artist Naúl Ojeda discusses his evolution as a printmaker and demonstrates the creation of his striking woodcuts. In Spanish with English subtitles.

Here to Stay: Young Immigrants from El Salvador (1991) 29 minutes

<https://vimeo.com/455112263>

Salvadoran teenagers living in Washington, D.C. who have left their war-torn country talk about their struggles and experiences as they start a new life in the United States.

The Murals of Jorge Somarriba (1989) 5 minutes

<https://vimeo.com/470254106>

Nicaraguan artist Jorge Somarriba describes the creation of the colorful outdoor murals he has painted in Washington, D.C. In Spanish with English subtitles.

Digital Stories under the direction of Ana Patricia Rodríguez, PhD

Dr. Rodríguez, associate professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and U.S. Latina/o Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park, teaches courses in Latin American, Central American, and U.S. Latina/o literatures and cultures. Her students' coursework often engages the local Latino/a/x community and captures original storytelling.

Los 30: Thirty Years of Salvadoran Migration to Washington, D.C. (2010) 12 minutes
Collaborative community-based research/performance project between Quique Avilés, Professor Ana Patricia Rodríguez, and SPAN 408 and USLT 202 Students at the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD). Documentary produced by Marissa Lang as final project in USLT 202.

<https://vimeo.com/123544642>

Digital Stories of Transnationalism and Transmigration: El Salvador to DC (2014) 5 minutes

Collaborative digital story produced in SPAN 408i (UMD) by Ryan Amstrong, Leandra Bitterfeld, Elise Marengo & Ana Ventura.

<https://vimeo.com/93495413>

DC Latino Tour 2011 (2011) 10 minutes

Tour of Latino Landmarks in Washington, D.C. produced by students in USLT 202.

<https://vimeo.com/78822642>

Lejos de la comunidad by Nataly Cruz-Castillo (2014) 1 minute 30

Digital story produced in Span 408i, University of Maryland, College Park.

<https://vimeo.com/111288811>

Places, spaces, and organizations associated with the Latino/a/x community

Collaboratives, individuals, and community and service-based organizations that engage directly with DC's Latino/a/x communities may be avenues for further research, including the following.

CARECEN

(formerly, Central American Resource Center and Central American Refugee Center)

1460 Columbia Road NW, Suite C-1

<https://carecencdc.org/>

Founded in 1981 this community-based direct services organization focuses on housing, citizenship, immigration, and civic engagement.

Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School

(formerly, Carlos Rosario Career Center, Carlos Rosario Adult Education Center, Gordon Center, and Program of English Instruction for Latin Americans)

1100 Harvard St. NW

<https://www.carlosrosario.org/>

While its roots date to the establishment of the Program of English Instruction for Latin Americans (PEILA) in 1970, the Carlos Rosario Adult Education Center became the first adult Public Charter School in the nation when chartered as such in 1998, and in 2006 merged with the Carlos Rosario Career Center to become the Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School. The center offers English language classes, skills courses, workforce development and support services for adult immigrants from all over the world, with a plurality of Latino/a/x students.

Center for Latin American & Latino Studies

4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW

Spring Valley Building Room 521

A current project of this American University center, the DC-Metro Latino Research Initiative, focuses on issues such immigration status and gang activity, community cohesion, neighborhood satisfaction, changing inter-ethnic relations, and entrepreneurship.

Centro de Arte

1470 Irving Street NW

El Centro De Arte Inc.

Cultural performances, other cultural, and historical activities related to Latinx communities in DC.

CentroNia

(formerly Calvary Bilingual Multicultural Learning Center)

1420 Columbia Road, NW

Washington DC, 20009

Founded in 1986 and headquartered in Columbia Heights, CentroNia currently has five locations, reflecting the expansion of the Latino/a/x and other immigrant communities into Montgomery County and Prince George's County, Maryland. The bilingual, multicultural educational organization provides early childhood education; professional development to educators; and family support services.

DC Afro Latino Caucus

<https://twitter.com/DCAfroLatino>
afrolatinocaucus@gmail.com

The DC AfroLatino Caucus is a collaborative whose mission is to bring visibility and improve the quality of life to Afro Latinos in Washington, DC—issues of concern identified by a 2016 initiative from the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs. An early focus of the Caucus was to document the contributions of Afro-Latinos through panel discussion and oral history.

DC Latino Caucus

2853 Ontario Road NW
<https://www.dclatinocaucus.org>
<https://www.dclatinocaucus.org/contact>

The DC Latino Caucus serves as a channel for the participation and involvement of Latinos in civic engagement and political activities within the greater Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

FiestaDC

<https://fiestadc.org/>

Fiesta DC manages the on-going annual celebration of Latino/a/x heritage and culture, first launched as the Latino Festival in 1970.

GALA Hispanic Theatre

3333 14th St NW
info@galatheater.org | (202) 234-7174

GALA (Grupo de Artistas LatinoAmericanos) Hispanic Theatre is a National Center for Latino Performing Arts in the nation's capital. Since 1976, GALA has been promoting and sharing the Latino arts and cultures with a diverse audience, creating work that speaks to communities today, and preserving the rich Hispanic heritage for generations that follow.

La Clinica del Pueblo

2831 15th St NW

<https://www.lcdp.org/>

info@ldp.org | (202) 462-4788

In 1983, Salvadoran immigrants and United States health advocates founded La Clínica del Pueblo in response to the emergent health needs of Central American immigrants displaced by the civil wars in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. Since then, La Clínica del Pueblo has grown from an all-volunteer, free weekly clinic, to a multi-site organization working in DC and Maryland.

Latin American Youth Center (LAYC)

1419 Columbia Rd NW

<https://www.layc-dc.org/>

info@layc-dc.org | (202) 319-2225

Founded in 1968, LAYC provides bilingual programs and opportunities in academics, arts and recreation, job readiness, safe housing, and health and wellness. LAYC has since served more than 70,000 youth and families. In recent years, their footprint expanded, with their Maryland Multicultural Youth Centers (MMYC).

Mary's Center

2333 Ontario Road, NW

<https://www.maryscenter.org>

(202) 483-8196

Mary's Center is a community health center serving over 60,000 people of all ages, incomes, and backgrounds in the Washington, DC metro area for over 30 years with an integrated model of health care, education, and social services. Like many other organizations serving immigrant communities, its Adams Morgan headquarters is now complemented by locations outside of the neighborhood and in Maryland.

Mayor's Office of Latino Affairs

2000 14th St NW

<https://communityaffairs.dc.gov/mola>

communityaffairs@dc.gov | (202) 442-8150

MOLA focuses on establishing partnerships, engaging residents in all eight wards, and disseminating information to the District's Latino residents to increase their knowledge of and access to vital programs and services.

Next Steps

We're decades past "[Willful Neglect](#)," the 1994 report of the Smithsonian Institution Task Force on Latino Issues that offered a damning appraisal of the Smithsonian's lack of recognition of Latinos nationwide. National recognition is moving ahead: On December 20, 2020, federal legislation established the **National Museum of the American Latino**. What about the local stories?

The goal for Mariana's project was to create a tool that could give researchers a starting point from which to research Latino/a/x Washingtonians. But the cumulative lack of significant materials in our library and that of other repositories is sobering—and calls for questioning why there are so few materials in our holdings relating to such a significant local community.

Is it lack of outreach? Is it perceived overreach?

Both, we'd wager. On the former, our collections only grow through donations by organizations and individuals; if organizations and individuals don't know that we're interested in documenting their community, *why would* they come to us? There was a significant collaboration between the Latin American Youth Center, the Smithsonian, and the Historical Society in the 1990s, as detailed "[Our Voices in the Nation's Capital: Creating the Latino Community Heritage Center of Washington, D.C.](#)" by Olivia Cadaval and Brian Finnegan (*Public Historian*, 2001), but we were explicitly approached for that collaboration to empower the community to maintain and present their own stories. In the years since, while the DC History Center has hosted public programs related to Latino/a/x DC, there has not been specific outreach to add to the collections.

As for overreach: Under the traditional terms that accompany collections donations, once materials become part of our holdings they are freely available to any and all researchers, but no longer belong to their creator. The intention of this sort of policy is to permit the repository to allow access to the materials by the broadest possible public. However, it removes agency from the creator in favor of the institution. Historically marginalized communities have identified how, in practice, these terms can be exploitative and are a deterrent to contributing original materials to largely White-run institutions. We are currently reexamining our rights structures to address harm wrought by traditional donation agreements.

Is it due to language?

We do not currently hold any Spanish language materials, nor do we have the specialties to provide adequate accessibilities to such materials. However, we do have a potential model within our current collection for how we could address these gaps. The few non-English language materials in our holdings are in German, reflecting in large part a long affiliation between our organization, and the German Heritage Society of Greater Washington, D.C., which was founded in 1984 to educate the people of Washington about the historical, cultural and economic influence of the German-Americans in this area.

In the 1990s, the German Heritage Society formed a partnership with the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. (now DC History Center) to encourage individuals, businesses and other organizations, such as churches and cultural groups, to donate their archives to us. Not all German materials we hold have come through the German Heritage Society, but the relationship accounts for most donations as well as for any translations that we can provide. Current library staff cannot read German, so researchers must decipher those foreign language records on their own when encountered.

So while we collect almost exclusively in English, and challenges remain in terms of description, cataloging, and accessibility, there is precedent to collect selected non-English materials.

Is it an issue of trust?

We also cannot ignore that we have not dedicated significant resources to building trust with Latino/a/x communities. Here again, we have a model for next steps. Since 2008, we have had a partnership with the Rainbow History Project, which seeks to collect, preserve, and promote an active knowledge of the history, arts, and culture relevant to sexually diverse communities in metropolitan Washington DC. The organization was founded in 2000 when a search revealed a lack of collections in repositories that documented the LGBTQ community.

To combat this erasure from the historical record, the volunteers of the Rainbow History Project actively solicit collections from members of their community. Their public programs and oral history initiative support these efforts to build relationships that lead to collections. Members of the LGBTQ community are welcome to donate materials directly to us, and they do. These materials join our collections just as any other individual donations would rather than be described under the [Rainbow History Project collection](#). But for those who prefer to work with community members who intrinsically and intimately understand the nuances of their records, including privacy concerns, the Rainbow History Project is at the ready.

So while we always welcome relationships with individuals, having an official partner organization in the community goes a long, long way to creating meaningful relationships with donors, distributing the outreach efforts, and building significant sources of research material in one place. While no one repository will ever hold all of the records of a community, having a critical mass of materials in one place is a huge help for researchers, leading to more thoroughly researched, representative scholarship.

Many off-the-record conversations held during the course of producing the resource guide indicated that privacy concerns, particularly from undocumented Washingtonians, along with a mistrust of official institutions, contributed to individuals holding private collections wishing to remain anonymous.

While the circumstances are indeed different, the German Heritage Society and the Rainbow History Project have served as trusted emissaries to encourage their respective communities to preserve their records with the DC History Center, in order to have their heritage and contributions reflected in the broader histories of Washington, D.C.

If these barriers of outreach, legal custody, language, and trust could be surmounted – and I believe with active, continued community engagement they can – could a similar partnership with an existing or to-be-formed organization help to do the same for records of the local Latino/a/x community?

We'd love to explore this idea. Please reach out to the DC History Center at library@dchistory.org if you would like to share your thoughts.

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