

**LATIN LIFE DENVER**

*Year End*

*Review*

**2015**

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# LETTER FROM EDITOR

2015 was a year of celebration and accomplishment in Denver's Latino Community. There was so much going on that it requires more than a hundred pages of this digital magazine just to highlight some of the best of what took place in 2015. Take your time, kick back with a cup of coffee, a glass of wine or whatever and enjoy the journey through the year that was. Click on the links to read more and see photos. I bet you or others you know are featured.

I believe you will find yourself proud of all the great and wonderful activities we take part in. From culture, politics, business to festivals and car shows, we Latinos know how to live life to the fullest. Enjoy this look back and let it serve as motivation going forward. After all how many times have you heard it said, "Latinos are the future of this country".

Have a prosperous, happy and productive New Year!

**Joe Contreras**

**President/CEO**

**Latin Life Denver Media**



Joe Contreras  
President/CEO  
Latin Life Denver Media

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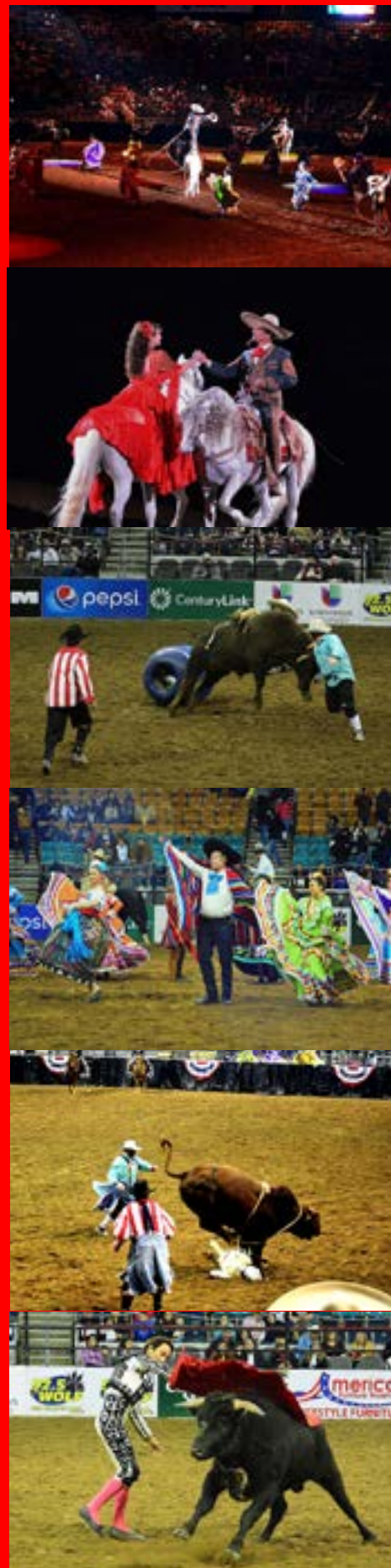
## Mexican Rodeo Wows Crowd at National Western Stock Show

Several thousand peoples turned out for National Western Stock Shows Mexican Rodeo on a cold January night in Denver, Colorado. The audience was treated to a night Filled with cultural pageantry, the Mexican Rodeo Extravaganza featured Mexican style bull riding, bareback riding, trick roping and Mariachis, and Mexican dancers all choreographed by Jerry Diaz, a fourth-generation champion charro.

A Charro (pronounced Cha 'ro) is a skilled Mexican horseman whose origins date back to the 17th century. The charro, who developed customs, dress, music and equestrian skills later borrowed by the American cowboy, dress in traditional costume and are skilled in horsemanship, bull riding, horse and steer roping and trick roping.

Charro Gerardo 'Jerry' Diaz is a fourth generation charro, continuing the traditions that originated with his great grandfather over 150 years ago. Jerry is recognized around the world for his expertise in horsemanship and dedication to the Charro traditions. He is a director and lifetime member of the National Western Stock Show which features his productions, The Mexican Rodeo Extravaganza and the Evening of Dancing Horses. In 2004 Jerry Diaz was inducted to the Texas Trail of Fame.

The Diaz family lives in New Braunfels, Texas, where they operate Three Mile Creek Ranch, a 50-acre horse operation. They host several presentations and clinics throughout the year for both private and public groups at their Indoor Arena.



Latin Life Denver

## RAW Visionary

Fashion, Art, Music & More Kicks of 2015 in Style!

RAW VISIONARY transformed City Hall on Broadway in Denver with an explosion of fashion, art, dance, film and music Thursday, January 22nd. Latin Life Denver joined over 40+ artists covering several artistic mediums. RAW produces bi-monthly showcases in over 72 cities in the US, with locations in Australia, Canada, the UK and creates a worldwide platform for local artists to feature their work.

There is always a special anticipation as I make my way downstairs to await what is to come on the runway. This go around, it took a bit longer than usual as I stopped to check out the glow in the dark chicas covered from head to toe. Not sure how that

Read more and see photos [HERE](#)



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## Remembering Our Roots, Colorado Hispanic Bar Association 2015 Annual Banquet

It was a festive evening as a sold out crowd of more than 350 people turned out to the Ritz Carlton in Downtown Denver on January 24th to honor six award recipients and celebrate the growth of the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association (CHBA) membership as well as support the CHBA Foundation – Scholarship Fund.

The night began with a cocktail reception and silent auction with entertainment provided by Mariachi Vargas.

Many old acquaintances were renewed and new connections were made as the room filled up with many prominent and up & coming legal professionals as well friends and family.

Among those recognized was Judge M. Arguello with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Arguello, who was inducted into the The Colorado Women’s Hall of Fame in 2014 also was the first Latina from Colorado admitted to

Read more and see photos [HERE](#)



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## CHAC's 16th Annual Milagros Del Corazon Fundraiser Bringing The Love Back Home

Dozens of guests filled The Space Gallery at 772 Santa Fe Drive Friday evening February 13th to support this 16th Annual "Milagros del Corazon, Bringing The Love Back Home" fund raiser hosted by The Chicano Humanities and Arts Council of Denver (CHAC).

Volunteer artists were asked not design the heart as a valentine, but to make it a representation of their....Read more and see photos [HERE](#)



By Michelann Cordero  
Photos by Shannon Garcia



## Reggaeton Sensation Tony Dize Electrifies Denver Crowd

Reggaeton sensation Tony Dize electrified a standing room only crowd at Casselman's Bar & Venue Saturday night. Tony Feliciano Rivera, better known by his stage name Tony Dize, or his other nickname, "La Melodía De La Calle", is a reggaeton artist born in Boston, Massachusetts of Puerto Rican descent.

Reggaeton (reggaetón, reguetón) is a form of urban music that became popular with Latin American youth in the early 1990s. After its mainstream exposure in 2004, it spread to...Read more and see photos [HERE](#)





# Chicano Power! “El Movimiento” Exhibit Stirs Memories & Inspires A New Generation

What a wonderful evening... Everyone, it seemed, had a story to tell at the “El Movimiento, The Chicano Movement in Colorado” exhibit at the Colorado History Museum Friday night.

Hundreds turned out to reminisce and to find old friends from way back when. For many it was like a Chicano Movement reunion for others it was a learning experience. Many young people in attendance were able to see and read about what a generation or two before them had done to open doors of opportunity for so many.

Shouts of “Viva la Raza!” & “Si Se Puede” could be heard throughout the large hall while the La Familia Coca sang “De Colores” and Yo Soy Chicano”.

The exhibit itself contains a variety of memorabilia including...Read more and see photos [HERE](#)

By Joe Contreras



# Cultural, Community Pride Overflows At Grand Opening Of Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales Branch Library

Community & cultural pride overflowed at the grand opening of the Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales Branch Library, Saturday February 28th as more than 3,000 residents as well as many community & political leaders turned out for a day of celebration and commemoration to mark the opening of Denver’s second largest library.

The Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales Branch Library is part of the \$550 million Better Denver Bond package approved by Denver voters in November of 2007.

U.S. Senator Michael Bennett told the audience that “Corky Gonzales started a movement in Denver called the Crusade for Justice. That phrase gives us a glimpse into the man for whom this library is named for. Working for justice encompassed all of what Corky did from his politics, to the school he founded to his poetry.

Bennet stated, “I am tired of people treating the children in this country as if they are somebody else’s children, they are not somebody else’s children they are our children. We can’t allow a 30 million word gap to persist. Our work is not done when first grade students cannot...Read more and see photos [HERE](#)

By Joe Contreras





## Miami's Calle Ocho Festival Vs. Denver Latino Festivals?

Denver has several Latino cultural festivals starting with Cinco de Mayo, the Taste of Puerto Rico, the Peruvian Festival, Venezuelan Festival, Chilean Festival, the Central American Festival brings together the countries of Honduras, El Salvador, Panama, Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Nicaragua and then there is the Fiesta Patrias celebration of Mexican Independence day in September. All these festival take place over several days throughout the summer bringing together thousands of people for food, fun, music and cultural awareness.

In Miami it is all crammed into one 8 hour day in the Cuban neighborhood know as Little Havana. More than a million people gather along the 20 block stretch of Calle Ocho, (Eighth Street) for a wild and crazy day celebrating Latin cultural from all over Latin America. Latin Life Denver was there as Cubans, Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, Dominicans,, Chicanos and any other Latino types you can think of were there for this one day happening. Among the celebrities performing were Pitbull, Daddy

Read more and see photos [HERE](#)





# 8th Annual Cesar Chavez Dinner & Dance Inspires

Latin Life Denver was proud to be a media sponsor for the 8th annual Cesar Chavez Awards Dinner Dance March 28th at the Denver Police Protective Association Event Center. Elizabeth Gonzales received the first ever Tim Flores Scholarship. Julie Speer won The Fred Ross Award. Representative Crisanta Duran got The 2015 People's Award and Ramona Martinez won the 2015 Cesar Chavez Award. Chicano Heat had the crowd on it's feet for the rest of the night with their New Mexican brand of musica...See photos [HERE](#)





## Cesar Chavez Statue Unveiled In Denver Celebration!

It was a beautiful day as Mayor Michael B. Hancock and the César Chávez Peace & Justice Committee of Denver unveiled a new statue today commissioned by the Committee to recognize the ideals and the legacy of César Chávez. The unveiling followed the 14th annual march to honor the American hero.

The bronze bust of the civil rights leader by local artist Emanuel Martinez is now installed at Denver's César Chávez Park, 4131 Tennyson St. The Mayor talked about the legacy of Chavez followed by chants of Si Se Puede! "César Chávez knew firsthand the high cost of....Read more and see photos [HERE](#)





## Hispanicize 2015 Brings More Than 2,000 Latino Trendsetters To Miami

In Miami's beautiful Intercontinental Hotel , a medley of Latino media trendsetters, including professionals in video, blogging, music, public relations and journalism met for the sixth annual Hispanicize 2015 conference on March 16-20. Latin Life Denver was pleased to return for a second year to cover this incredible media movement. The event, founded by public relations expert and entrepreneur Manny Ruiz, enabled more than 2,000 participants to meet with influencers and pick up new skills to apply to online media.

Legendary Chilean television host Mario Luis Kreutzberger, better recognized in most Spanish-speaking households as Don Francisco, also received a coveted Latinovator award. The television enthusiast has been recognized by the Guinness World Records for ...Read more and see photos [HERE](#)

By Lyanne Alfaro



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## Denver Latina Wins Positive Impact Award At Miami Hispanicize 2015

When Irene Martinez Jordan arrived in Miami, Florida last March with her husband, Dick Jordan, she was not really sure what to expect. She knew she was there to receive national recognition and accept a Positive Impact Award at the Hispanicize 2015 media conference but she told Latin Life Denver, who was also there to cover the conference and the awards gala, that she felt a bit overwhelmed by it all. "There are so many people that do so many great things that I am almost embarrassed to be here for such an honor."

Thursday evening was Irene's night, her turn to take the spot light, She walked the red carpet along with the other four winners pausing for interviews with local and national media reporters wanting to get her story. Then it was off to the elegant ballroom of Intercontinental Hotel in Downtown Miami for the Gala in her honor.

The Positive Impact Awards were hosted by the reigning Miss USA, and Miss Universe 2nd runner up Nia Sanchez and longtime Hollywood movie actor Luis Guzman who presented Irene her award along with top executives from...Read more and see photos [HERE](#)



## Selena, Selena, Selena...20 Years After...Selena Lives! On!

Selena Lives! on in the hearts and memories of Denver's Chicano Community. CHAC Art Gallery at 7th & Santa Fe Drive was filled with people celebrating the opening of the opening of the Selena art exhibit.

The Selena look-a-like contest at CHAC on Santa Fe Dr. was a lot of fun as contestants posed, sang, danced and answered questions.

Who's got your vote? Selena, Selena, Selena...The Selena car show hosted by the Viejitos Car Club wrapped up nearly a month long celebration and commemoration of the beloved singers life.

There was dozens of pieces of art of Selena hanging throughout the CHAC Gallery on 7th & Santa Fe. A candle light vigil, receptions, a look alike contest, various performances and more..





# Latina/o Advocacy Day 2015

The 9th Annual Latina/o Advocacy Day brought together nearly 100 predominately Latino youth from across the state on March 2nd to provide hands-on training to Coloradans on bills that have emerged from the 2015 state legislative session that will impact Latino communities.

Lt Governor Joe Garcia talked to the participants the importance of quality education for Hispanics in Colorado. He told them that while Colorado ranks second in the nation with people who have a post-secondary education with 53% of those being White, only 18% are Hispanic. That is a huge gap but it is slowly narrowing," he said.

The biggest challenge Garcia said is in...[Read more and see photos HERE](#)



# 8th Annual Lalo Delgado Poetry Festival Brings Out The Best!

Metropolitan State University of Denver, Chicana/o Studies Department held the 8th Annual Lalo Delgado Poetry Festival Tuesday April 21, 2015 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. at the St. Cajetan's Event Center, on the Auraria Campus, Denver. This year's theme, "From the Sword to the Pen", centered on activism through poetry.

"Are there any questions?" Asked Baca at the end of his presentation. When none of the students had a question, Baca reminded them of the sacrifice their ancestors had made to build the St. Cajetan's church and the community that once had surrounded it. He also told them of the struggle many had gone through to insure that Chicanos would...[Read more and see photos HERE](#)





# We Want Them Alive!

## Families of the 43 Missing Mexican Students Arrive in Colorado

There they were on the steps of the Colorado State Capitol, thrust into the international spotlight, hundreds of miles from their homes, doing the last thing any parent would want to be doing, emotionally pleading for the return of their missing children.

One by one, the parents of some the 43 students who went missing in Ayotzinapa, Guerrero, Mexico, in the city of Iguala told the crowd of their anguish and frustration with the inability of the Mexican government to find their children or hold anyone accountable for their disappearance.

“We want the alive!” was the chant that reverberated on the Capitol grounds as they parents talked of...Read more and see photos [HERE](#)  
Photos by Teddy Gomez



## That's A Wrap! Denver Chicano World Cinema Festival Provides Laughs, Tears and Lots of Fun!

The 17th Annual XicanIndie Latino World Cinema Film Festival wrapped up Sunday evening after a weekend long series of films that left audiences laughing, crying and mystified.

Among the favorites were “Tapia” that left many in tears praising the movie as one of the best documentaries they had ever seen. The film is the true story of 5-time world boxing, Johnny Tapia, from Albuquerque, New Mexico whose life turns to drug addiction brought on by the rape and murder of his mother when he was eight years old. His wife, Teresa Tapia, was at Su Teatro for the showing of the documentary.

Several celebrities were on hand to mingle and take photos with everyone who wanted to know more about the films they represented.

Rising star Johnny Ortiz, of the ABC hit drama “American Crime”, and star of “Strike One” captured everyone’s hearts with his....Read more and see photos [HERE](#)





## Capuchin Poor Clare Sisters at St. Patrick's Church Seeking Your Help

A Reverse Raffle, Silent Auction, Dinner and Dance was held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 with over 200 people in attendance. We will coordinate additional events to raise the funds necessary to build Our Lady of Light Monastery.

The Capuchin Poor Clare Sisters came to Denver on November 17, 1988 to start the Monastery of Our Lady of Light. The Sisters established the Monastery that is connected to St. Patrick's Church located at 3325 Pecos Street, Denver, Colorado 80211. The sisters are a cloistered, contemplative order that live in a hidden life of prayer and poverty. They support themselves by

Read more and see photos [HERE](#).



## Servicios Gala



It's always one of the funnest galas of the year. The Third Annual Servicios de La Raza "Raices Latinas, the Roots of our Community" Gala brought out more than 600 guests for a night of socializing, great food, honoring some amazing people and partying.

Britt Moreno, CBS4 morning news anchor was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. She not only looked spectacular but did a great job in keeping the evening flowing. Ask a Mexican "Gustavo Arrellano" was the...Read more and see photos [HERE](#).

Photos by Teddy Gomez





# Honoring a Denver Legend; Richard T. Castro Memorial Celebration

In some ways it was like a class or family reunion, in others in was like a memorial service with loved ones and community coming together to honor and remember the life of a special person who made a significant difference in their lives, careers and the society they live in.

They were all graduates of sorts of the Richard T. Castro School of Opportunity if in fact there had been such a school. Many had not seen each other for years. There was food and mariachis. Irv Lucero and Freddy Rodriquez Jr. played some of Castro’s favorite songs.

It was a who’s who of Colorado politicians, past and present who came together in one room for one night to talk about the impact Richard T. Castro had on their lives and careers.

Former U.S. Secretary of the Interior and Colorado Senator Ken Salazar, former Secretary of the Interior and Denver Mayor Federico Pena, Former Denver Mayor Wellington Webb, former State Representative Polly Baca-Barragan, Senator Don Sandoval, Lt. Governor Joe Garcia, Representative Crisanta Duran, James Mejia, John Soto, Kenny Maestas, Normando Pacheco, Phil Gallegos all talked about the legacy of Richard T. Castro who died suddenly in 1991 at the age of 44 from a

Read more and see photos [HERE](#)



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# Carnival 2015, Manuel Molina Puts On A Show!



It was billed as the “Best Carnival in Denver” and it certainly lived up to its billing as Manuel Molina y Su Gran Orquesta presented “Carnaval 2015” on April 25th at the Doubletree Hilton’s Greystone Castle in Northglenn, CO.

The evenings performance was a homage to the late and great timbalero Tito Puente. The crowd enjoyed and danced to Salsa, Mambo, Bachata, Merengue, Cumbia. See more photos [HERE](#)  
Photos by Teddy Gomez



Latin Life Denver

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# Cinco de Mayo 2015 Always a Cultural Blast!

More than 200,000 festival goers turned out for two days of food, music, and fun at the 27th annual Cinco de Mayo celebration in Denver's Civic Center Park. The Denver celebration, produced by NEWSED, a non profit Community Development Corporation is considered the largest in world and featured top name local bands and performers. Latin Life Denver was pleased to again be a media sponsor for this year's Cinco de Mayo happening.

Even Denver Mayor Michael Hancock cruised the State Capitol in a beautiful metallic brown low-rider. The grand stands were located in the middle of Lincoln between Colfax and 14th in front of the state capitol building where the crowds gathered to take in the spectacle. The Chihuahua Races and the Taco Eating Contest were a big hit as was the USBL Amateur Boxing matches. The children's Carnival offered a variety of rides for just a dollar. The Low Rider Car Show was again a crowd favorite as the love these car enthusiasts have for Read more and see photos [HERE](#)  
Photos by Teddy Gomez





# Tortilla Time for Tepeyac Health Clinic

It was a good time had by all at the Tortillas for Tepeyac fundraiser held May 8th at the National Western Arena Complex. A variety of celebrities tried their hand to see who could roll the best tortilla.

The judging was tough but in the end last runner up Rod Tafoya of Mission Yogurt won the grand prize. Tafoya beat out second place winner Gregg Moss of 9News, who tried to win the judges over with his heart shaped tortilla, and Dave Aguilera of CBS4 who took third place.

Other contestants of the Masa-Rolling Throwdown included....Read more and see photos [HERE](#)







## A Taste of Puerto Rico 2015, Delicious Fun!

With a generous helping of salsa the 10th Annual Taste of Puerto Rico was delicious fun for the more than 10,000 people who joined in the buffet of festival food, music and fun at Denver's Civic Center Park on Sunday June 14th. Conjunto Colores, Quemando, Orquesta La Brava, Los Lunaticos and others provided the music as salseros danced the day away despite a hot afternoon sun. Barrio E featured Ni~na Trovadora for the 1st time at the festival, followed by Bomba on the stage & Plena competition that drove the crowd into a frenzy. Latin Life Denver was a proud media sponsor for the fourth year in a row.

This year's festival was a tribute to Salsa legend, the late Frankie Ruiz, who is best known for his hits like Mi Libertad, Bailando, Vuelvo a Nacer, Desnude Mujer and many others. Frankie Ruiz' brother, Nelson Ruiz paid homage to his late brother at this year's celebration.

Many others made their own shade and camped out under tents and umbrellas. The rhythmic sounds of congeros doing their own thing could be heard throughout the park while games of Dominos were played. Food vendors had long lines of people wanting to taste some Puerto Rican favorites such as Pinchos, a barbequed beefsteak with onions (carne frita con cebolla), veal (ternera) a la pamesana, and roast leg of pork, fresh ham, lamb, or veal, a la criolla.

These roasted meats are cooked in the Créole style, flavored with adobo. Arroz con pollo (chicken with rice) was another favorite. Many people brought their own buffet spread of their personal cuisine to share with friends and family.

Although Puerto Rican cooking is similar to both Spanish, Cuban and Mexican cuisine, it is a unique tasty blend of Spanish, African, Taíno, and American influences, using such indigenous seasonings and ingredients as coriander, papaya, cacao, nispero, apio, plantains, and yampee. Locals call their cuisine "cocina criolla".

Organizer and promoter of the Taste of Puerto Rico Alvino Velazquez told Latin Life Denver that he was pleased with the event. "We have nearly 10,000 people here all having a great time, dancing eating and socializing". Vasquez said the event continues to grow each year and he hopes to expand it to a two day festival hopefully by next year. See more photos [HERE](#)  
Photos by Teddy Gomez





# Diversity Abounds at Culture Jam 2015



Photos by Teddy Gomez

The annual Culture Jam Fest val in Longmont, Colorado was again an incredible evening dance, music, food and fun as hundreds turned out to see performers from seven countries and four continents.

Despite two days of non stop rain and a tornado that destroyed several homes in Longmont the skies cleared for what turned out to be a beautiful evening to enjoy the music of the 2014 Grammy-award winning band “La Santa Cecilia”.

Salsa sensation Quemando had the crowd dancing earlier in the evening as did the Brazilian Samba troupe. The evening also featured African Drums, Native American, Mexican and Nepalese Pop dance performers.

The annual concert and cultural display is a family-friendly event of world class music, dancing and community arts to benefit Intercambio Uniting Communities, the Left Hand Foundation and Nepal earthquake survivors.

The event was presented by Left Hand Brewing as an evening to celebrate the rich diversity of the Longmont community and also to support Intercambio , a local nonprofit that provides cultural integration and English classes to immigrants, and for the Longmont YMCA.

Josh Goldberg, promoter and community coordinator for the Longmont based Left Hand Brewery said that it his ambition to bring great shows to the Longmont area. “I want to have people start thinking about Left Hand and Longmont as a rad place to see music,” Goldberg said. see more [HERE](#)

Latin Life Denver





## IMAGINATION GONE WILD: CIRQUE DU SOLEIL “KURIOS, CABINET OF CURIOSITIES”



Photos by Teddy Gomez

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls may I direct your attention to big top at the center of the Pepsi Center parking lot in downtown Denver, Colorado.

The Circus is in town but it's not just any circus it's the Cique Du Soleil (Circus of the Sun) production of “Kurios, Cabinet of Curiosities” a show that will daze and amaze you challenging you to trust your imagination and creativity as you are taken on a ride that can best be described as a cross between TV's Twilight Zone and The Outer Limits.

The introduction to this circus show could have easily read, “You're traveling through another dimension — a dimension not only of sight and sound but of mind. A journey into a wondrous land whose boundaries are that of imagination.

That's a signpost up ahead: your next stop: “Kurios, Cabinet of Curiosities” And that is what this circus show is all about, an alternative reality, or is it a fantasy? Or is it both? You will find yourself questioning, Is that for real and how do they make that happen? This circus show is about a “Seeker” who is the “Master of the House” and his two curio cabinets filled with unusual objects collected over the years. The “Seeker” believes that there exists a hidden world, an invisible world where the craziest ideas and grandest dreams await those who dare to close their eyes to see what lies just beneath the surface. See more photos [HERE](#)





## What A Show! American GI Forum Honors 10 Hispanic Veterans

Tom Brokaw argues in his book The Greatest Generation that “the men and women of World War II were the greatest generation any society has ever produced. This generation was united not only by a common purpose, but also by common values--duty, honor, economy, courage, and service, love of family and country, and, above all, responsibility for oneself.”

You would get no argument from the crowd who gathered at the American GI Forum Mile Hi Chapter on June 19th to honor and pay tribute to ten (10) living Hispanic WWII veterans. The Greatest Generation was on full display as the Mile Hi Players led by Director Ricardo La Fore took to the stage in song, dance and verse to sing the praises of these honorable men who ranged in age from 88 to 100. The honorees are....Read more and see photos [HERE](#)  
Photos by Teddy Gomez



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# Biennial of the Americas Celebration Unites

The City & County Building at Denver's Civic Center Park was all aglow with dancing lights for the closing the third Biennial of the Americas. Hundreds came out to celebrate the culmination an international festival of ideas, art and culture.

The week event brought together more than 200 experts for clinica on a variety of topics , symposiums with world re-known panelists debating the most challenging issues facing the Americas, entrepreneurs from throughout North & Latin America pitching their innovative ideas to investors as well as 100 artists & performers, 20 world class speakers, two presidents, 3 mayors and two incredible out door festivals.

Learn more and see photos [HERE](#)

Photos by Teddy Gomez





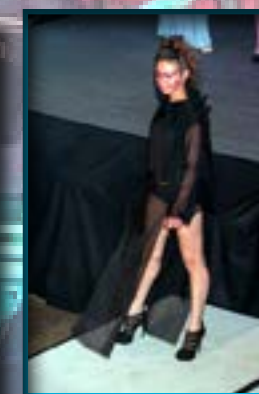
# RAW SENSORY

RAW a diverse range of views in art, photography, fashion, music & more packed the house at City Hall on Broadway in Denver and represented a diverse range of views in art, photography, fashion, music, accessories and more.

Latin Life Media joined a mixed crowd of all ages as the DJ spun new and old vinyls with a “gotta dance” flavor. These showcases are an ongoing effort to provide independent artists of all creative genres with the tools, resources and exposure needed to inspire & cultivate creativity. Artists on Thursday, May 21st included an array of individuals representing their love of....Read more and see photos [HERE](#)



Photos by Teddy Gomez





# Lost In A Garden of Roses Fashion Show Overflows With Elegance

It was an evening of elegance in the gardens as some of Denver’s top fashion designers showed their work amidst the roses of Hudson Gardens in Littleton, CO. More than 150 attendees were treated to the styling of Gino Velardi designs, Gabriela Designs-Gabriela Martinez, LRE Couture- Lisa Ramford Elstun, D’Lola Couture- DeeDee Vicory and Accessories by Estaine by Dr. Zofia Wosinaka.

The show was produced in part by Jessica Montour of Fashion Forward. Jessica Montour is also a fashion writer for Latin Life Denver Magazine. The evening was emceed by Leanna Lisa host of the Latin Life Denver Radio Show. Latin Life Denver was pleased to be a media sponsor for the event.

Read more and see lots more photos [HERE](#)

Photos by Teddy Gomez





# Denver Knows How To Party! Mayor's Inaugural Community Celebration

Despite the threat of rain hundreds of Denver residents came out to Denver Botanic Gardens to celebrate the inauguration of Michael Hancock as Denver's 43rd Mayor.

Jazz great Gerald Albright got the party started with some wonderful music followed the old school hip hop sounds of Bell Biv Devoe. The crowd was treated to a variety of free food and drink from several Denver restaurants, caters and breweries.

See many more photos [HERE](#)

Photos by Teddy Gomez





# A Delight for the Senses: Sabor in the Gardens

It was a sensory delight for the soul with good food, lots of drink and a great time amidst Denver’s Botanic Gardens. It was Hispanic Chamber of Metro Denver’s 8th Annual Sabor event. The evening brought out hundreds of attendees who enjoyed the cuisine of a variety of local restaurants and the beverages of several distributors. See lots of photos [HERE](#)





# Fiesta Cookout Sizzles With Food, Music & Fun!

The annual Sevicios de la Raza “Fiesta Cookout” was again lots of fun as hundreds came out to celebrate community through a day full of fun activities, free food, resources, and great entertainment!

Along with the great free food that included sirloin burgers, bratwurst, watermelon and more there was a car and motorcycle show with nearly 300 entries, wellness treatments, healing gardens, community health services, a carnival for the kids and much more! Read more and see many more photos [HERE](#)





# “Viva La Diva”, Alive & Well at 17

Like a curious teenager wondering about her sexuality as well as her place and rights in society the “Viva la Diva” event turned 17 this year with an incredible party that brought out nearly two hundred women and men to the beautifully refurbished Holiday Theater at 32nd & Clay St. in North Denver.

They were there to to help celebrate the annual event that has become the party for those wanting to support women’s rights and the organization that represents many of them.

Guests showed up in their best 70’s attire with flower power dresses and some pimped out dudes.

There was even a Frieda Caldo look-alike posing in a dress made out of condoms.

The program began with the ABBA theme “Dancing Queen” followed by a tribute to sponsors for the Celia Cruz impersonator, Felicia Gallegos Pettis. The 70’s costume contest got the crown going followed by a live raffle that had most everyone pulling out their wallets to help support the extensive work done by COLOR.

Victoria Gomez Betancourt, COLOR Communications and Development Director, told Latin Life Denver she was Read more and photos [HERE](#)  
Photos by Teddy Gomez





## Summer Toast Sizzles with Networking Fun, Food & Drink!

The 13th Annual SummerToast lived up to its billing as Denver's largest networking event as hundreds of marketing and business professionals turned out to the Exdo events center for an evening of making dozens of new connections, sampling some great complimentary food and lots of fun beverages.

The organizing committee managed by Sandra Murray and Paige Conklin – with Contagious Media did an incredible job bringing the dozens of business together under one roof and an outdoor beach area complete with sand and volley ball court. Latin Life Denver was pleased to be a media sponsor for the third consecutive year.

See many more photos [HERE](#)  
Photos by Teddy Gomez





# KUVO Live at the Vineyards Delights Nearly 2,000

Nearly 2,000 people packed the grounds at Balistreri Vineyards August 8th to celebrate our 30th anniversary of KUVO Radio with an all-inclusive evening of wine, gourmet food, dancing, and of course – live music!

KUVO's annual "Live at the Vineyards" event would not be complete without its annual splash of rain which always seems to fall on cue at the same time each year. The sudden downpour quickly gave way to clear skies and a colorful rainbow.

Besides the great food , fabulous wines and great company the evening featured 5-time Grammy winner Dianne Reeves and her quartet. The party kicked-off with the H2 Big Band 16-piece Orchestra and special guest vocalist Kevin Mahogany.

Photos by Teddy Gomez





## Midnight Star Shines in North Denver Concert

Midnight Star brought down the house at the Oriental Theater in North Denver this past August. The band which has been around since the early 80's had the packed house jammin and dancin to their many old school hits. "No Parking on the Dance Floor", "Operator" "I wanna be Rich" "Freak-A-Zoid were just a few of many hits the performed by electro-funk band. Leanna Lisa, host of Latin Life Denver Radio Show MC'd the festivities. See many more photos [HERE](#) Photos by Teddy Gomez



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And many others...



# Celebrating Latinas in the Media Inspires & Informs

It was a very special night as Latinas and Latinos from various media organizations came together to celebrate the advancement of Latinas in the newsroom and in other areas of media management. They all gathered recently at the Channel 9 studios for an evening of networking and sharing stories of their lives in the media business.

Anne Trujillo, News Anchor from 7News, Lynne Valencia from 9News, Elaine Torres from CBS4, meteorologist Belen De Leon of Channel 9, and many others joined Author and Latina Circle of Leadership founder Juana Bordas in welcoming keynote speaker Minerva Perez. Perez was one of the first Latina television anchors in the U.S. anchoring in both Houston and Los Angeles. She recently...[Read more and see photos of this special evening HERE](#)

By Joe Contreras, Photos by Teddy Gomez





# El latir de Mexico Celebrates Mexican Independence In Style

More than two thousand people came out the the Boettcher Concert Hall to enjoy “El Latir de Mexico” celebrating the 205th anniversary of the Independence of Mexico.

The evening featured a concert with the Colorado Symphony performing along with Mariachi “Sol De Me Tierra” and tenor Jose Luis Duval. A civic ceremony preceded the concert with the Mexican Consul General Carlos J. Bello reenacting the symbolic ringing of the bell and the Grito (shout) of Viva Mexico.

The fourth annual El Latir de Mexico concert commemorates the independence of Mexico and celebrates Mexican culture and its many contributions to our history and our society. This celebration honors that after 300 years of Spanish rule, a group of Mexicans of native and European descent, led by priest Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla called the people to join the fight for liberty on the night of September 15, 1810. See more photos [HERE](#)

By Joe Contreras, Photos by Teddy Gomez





## El Grito 5K Run A Shout for Joy & Independence

Hundreds of runners came out to celebrate the El Grito 5K run commemorating the “Shout for Independence” when Father Miguel Hidalgo uttered his famous cry for the independence of Mexico (the Grito de Dolores) there in the early hours of September 16, 1810, in front of his parish church.

Dolores Hidalgo is the name of a city and the surrounding municipality in the north-central part of the Mexican state of Guanajuato. After Mexico achieved independence, the town was renamed Dolores Hidalgo in his honor. On September 28, 1810, Hidalgo's forces killed more than 500 Spaniard and Creole loyalist soldiers during the battle for Dolores; 2,000 Indigenous Mexicans died in the fighting.

Latin Life Denver was proud to Patron Sponsor for 22nd Annual 5K run which takes place in the heart of the West Side of Denver. The area has changed dramatically and surprised some runners who had not been in the area for a while.

“Wow, said one participant I remember when...Read more and see lots of photos [HERE](#)  
Photos by Teddy Gomez





## Bernie Valdez Awards Dinner Honors Latino Trailblazers

Fifty-one years of Colorado's Latino history were celebrated at the 23rd Annual Bernie Valdez Awards (BVA) Dinner sponsored by the Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy, and Research Organization (CLLARO), September 19th at the Grand Hyatt Denver.

The theme for this year's Awards Dinner was "Celebrando Tiempo y Cultura." Approximately 300 individuals from small businesses, government agencies, civic and community organizations, and sister non-profits and many other well wishers attended the ceremonies.

Former Mayor Fredrico Pena asked at the close of the Dinner to have all Colorado Latinos march on the...[Read more and see photos HERE](#)

See relate article: The Passion of our People... The love of our community; [HERE](#)

Photos by Teddy Gomez





# Pueblo Chile & Frijoles Festival A Smokin Hot Time!

The Pueblo Chamber of Commerce says this year’s Chile and Frijoles Festival set attendance records. An estimated 140,000 to 150,000 people came to the Steel City for the three day event. “It was absolutely unbelievable. It was the best festival we think that we’ve ever had.,” Chamber President and CEO Rod Slyhoff.

In addition to the strong attendance, food vendors and chile roasters also reported sales that were up from 2014. Even better news for Pueblo, many of the festival patrons came from out of town.

“People tell us that are traveling here from out of town that once they’ve started coming they... Read more and see lots of photos [HERE](#)



# Richard Castro Visiting Professorship Luncheon & Evening Concert; Honors Ervin Lucero, Musica Mezclada: Jamming on the Borderlands

West Denver’s iconic St. Cajetan’s hall on the Auraria Campus of Downtown Denver served as the venue for the Luncheon and Keynote address by Ervin Lucero at the 2105 Richard T. Castro Distinguished Visiting Professorship Honor. Lucero’s band The Mood Express has opened for such celebrities as Gloria Estefan, the late Tito Puente and WAR. Recently he was inducted into the 2014 Colorado...[Read more and see photos HERE](#)





## From Denver's North Side to the end of Mexico 59 Year Old Woman to Compete in World's Most Dangerous Open Road Race

With just two races under her belt, Renée Brinkerhoff prepares to return south of the border to compete in Mexico's legendary race, La Carrera Panamericana (LCP).

Dozens of well wishers gathered at La Loma Mexican Restaurant, 2527 W 26th Ave, in Denver last night to send off 59 year-old Renée Brinkerhoff on her dream car race adventure. The restaurant was shutdown for the evening as Rene and her co-pilot,, Roberto Mendoza arrived in an Arta Tequila helicopter. Arta Tequila is a Colorado based company and are supporters of her race team. Rene is the wife of the owner of La Loma restaurant, a very popular Mexican eatery in Denver's north side.

Renée is taking on La Carrera Panamericana— a grueling, weeklong, 2,000-mile rally race, consisting of numerous, daily speed stages, that traverse Mexico from south to north. The race started in 1950, and, for the first five years, was an absolute death trap: twenty-seven people—racers, navigators, spectators—lost their lives during this time period. It shut down in 1955 amidst worldwide criticism. In 1988, organizers revived the race, “Friends suggested weekend “races” with other enthusiasts, cars and Coffee outings, but I wanted more of an adventure – I wanted to try the real thing,” said Renée Brinkerhoff, piloto in La Carrera Panamericana.

Never having raced a day in her life, Renée made history in her

Read more and see photos [HERE](#)

Photos by Teddy Gomez

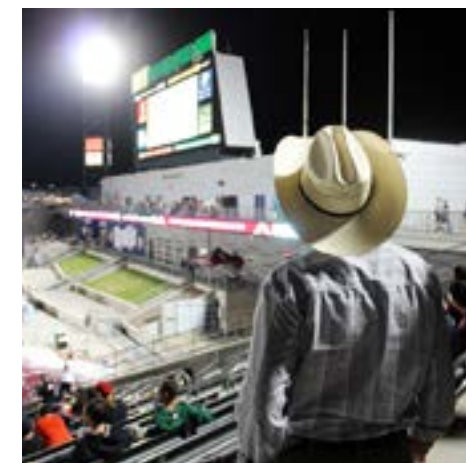


Latin Life Denver

## Hispanic Heritage Night with Colorado/Mexico Soccer Legends Scores Big!

It was a night to remember, on Saturday September 11th, as hundreds of soccer fans enjoyed celebrating Hispanic Heritage Night with the Colorado Rapids by watching – Rapids Legends Marcelo Balboa, Claudio López, Brian Mullan and Terry Cooke along with selected fans, face off against Mexican National Team Legends Ramón Ramírez, Luis Hernández, Claudio Suárez and Luis García

Many fans had the opportunity to participate in an exclusive  
Read more and see many photos [HERE](#)



Latin Life Denver



## Rally in Boulder “My Country, My Vote” Campaign Seeks to Fight Back against Hateful Rhetoric and Hold Candidates Accountable on Immigration, Women’s Rights, Healthcare & the Environment

As anti-immigrant attacks and xenophobic vitriol continue to permeate much of the rhetoric heard on the 2016 campaign trail, a group of Colorado Latino leaders are fighting back.

On Wednesday, October 28th, Latino leaders and immigration reform supporters gathered at the Farrand Field on CU campus in Boulder to both respond to the latest stream of anti-immigrant attacks and launch “My Country, My Vote,” an unprecedented 12-month voter registration campaign to mobilize Colorado’s Latino, immigrant and allied voters.

In addition to demonstrating the political power of one of the nation’s fastest growing demographics, leaders will also call on the next President and Congress to make passage of fair and comprehensive immigration reform a priority during the first 100 days of the next presidential term. According to Federico Pena, former Mayor of Denver and a former US Secretary of Transportation and Energy, who’s spearheading this effort: “Immigrants have made

Read more see more photos [HERE](#)

Photos by Juan Escalante



## “If We Don’t Vote The Haters Win,” Dolores Huerta, Colorado Latino Leaders and Voters Speak Out Against Republican Candidates

“If we don’t vote the hater’s win” said civil rights leader Dolores Huerta today in Denver, echoing the settlements of a group of community leaders who had gathered for a round table forum to discuss the negative positions Republican presidential candidates have taken toward on issues that impact Latino and women living in the United States.

The round table was organized by the People For the American Way (PFAW) organization. Dolores Huerta is a board member of PFAW and came to Denver to join Latino leaders and voters for a conversation on how all of the GOP candidates have rejected or ignored priorities of Colorado Latino voters. Rep. Joe Salazar and Denise Maes led the conversation.

“It appears that it is a race to bottom to see who can demonize who the most and what issues they can demonize for maximum effect” said Denise Maes.

The forum was in advance of the next Republican debate in Boulder, Colorado on Wednesday and the expected large Latino rally that will take place on the CU campus. Participants talked about on how the GOP candidates have, especially in the last two GOP debates, rejected or ignored priorities of many Colorado Latinos, such as making higher education more affordable, protecting DREAMers and families from deportation, fighting climate change, and more.

“This conversation is so important because all the Republican candidates – Bush, Rubio, Trump, all of them – must know that they’re completely out of...Read more and see photos [HERE](#)

Photos by Joe Contreras





## Dead Action! Dia de los Muertos at Botanic Gardens

The action was anything but dead at this year's Clavera Ball at the Denver Botanic Gardens celebrating Dia de los Muertos. The evening was hosted by 9News meteorologist Belen de Leon and included lots of Mexican food, face painting, a live auction and great music by Sambadende.

Two lounges with drinks and beer donated by Dos Equis kept everyone's spirits high throughout the night. A costume contest was among the many highlights throughout the evening. See many more photos [HERE](#)  
Photos by Joe Contreras



## North Denver Halloween Haunt Scary Fun

Anne Trujillo from 7News was part of the fun at the annual Halloween Haunt held in North Denver "Highlands" on 32nd Ave between Clay & Zuni St. Trujillo served as MC and judge for the Halloween contest that featured so many great costumes she left up to the audience to decide the winners. Several vendors, bounce houses, horse carriage rides and tons of candy were available for the kids and adults. Two bands and Marachis kept the crowds entertained throughout the day.

See many more photos [HERE](#)





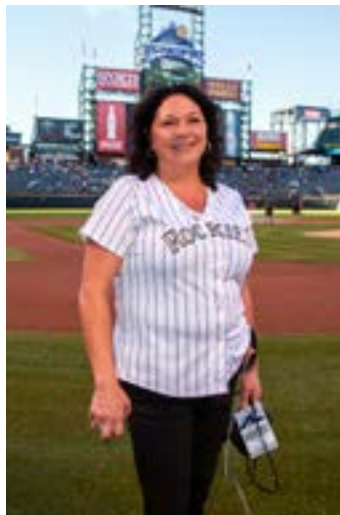
## Colorado Rockies Honor Latino Leaders All stars!

Man, what a night, what a feeling! There they were standing just behind home plate at Coors Field just before the Rockies game. The stadium lights beaming down upon them, cameras and reporters from local media vying for position to capture the moment

Their names and pictures up on the Jumbo-tron screen with the stadium announcer blaring out each of their names and bios.

They were all there to see who would be named the winner of the Colorado Rockies Adult Leadership Award for 2015. One by one their names were announced, then to everyone's surprise it was....Read more...see who won and see photos [HERE](#)

Photos by Teddy Gomez



## Largest Americas Latino Eco Festival Kicks Off In Denver

Latinos are more likely to live in polluted neighborhoods and suffer the ill effects of working in agricultural fields and polluting industries. Latinos are three times more likely to die from asthma than the general population. More than half of the Latinos living in the U.S. live in regions that regularly violate clean air standards. In Denver, Hispanic neighborhoods like Globeville and Swansea can attest to a legacy of pollution. Commerce City with all its refineries is the most polluted zip code in Colorado.

The 3rd Annual Americas Latino Eco Festival kicked off its three day event October 15th at St. Cajetan's Church on the Metropolitan State University campus with a  
Read more and see photos [HERE](#)



**Biennial of the Americas Opens With Ideas, Art, Culture, Music & A Street Party!**

The third edition of the Biennial of the Americas officially kicked off in Denver Tuesday July 11th with a press conference where Governor John Hickenlooper proclaimed that the past two Biennials have put Denver on the world the stage and that this third edition would be the best yet. The Governor said the the Biennials have helped establish Denver and Colorado as places of international...Read more and see photos [HERE](#)



**Because Advocates Must Come Together: ALEF Gala**

The Spring Hill Suites Marriott on the Auraria Campus in Downtown Denver was the perfect venue for Americas Latino Eco Festival Gala. Guests socialized amidst the backdrop of golden paper birds

Themed “Because Advocates Must Come Together” the gala recognized critical members of the conservation community and the growing Latino environmental movement passionate about improving our stewardship of the earth.  
Photos by Teddy Gomez





# NEWSED 2015 Civil Rights Awards Celebrates Humanity

It was a great evening full of fun and pride. Despite forecasts of a major blizzard that was supposed to hit Denver, hundreds turned out for the 24th Annual Civil Rights Awards. The Seawell Grand Ballroom at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts was packed Tuesday night to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of this year's honorees.

The evening was MCd by husband and wife Federico and Cindy Pena who had fun stepping on each others lines and correcting one another on the the facts of the event. Each of the honorees gave impassioned speeches of appreciation for the award but moreover..Read more and see photos [HERE](#) Photos by Teddy Gomez





# 7th Annual Red Ball



Ignites Awareness for World AIDS Day December 1st.

Local members of the fashion industry produced another phenomenal Red Ball Event at the Exdo Event Center in Denver.

This event is presented by The Colorado AIDS Project to, "Ignite Awareness for World AIDS Day".

The event once again was an ultra chic event that combines high-end fashion from local designers, cutting edge hairstyles and unique make up artistry.

15 top local designers were featured including Gino Velardi and Gabriela Martinez.

The evening included a....Read more and see many more photos [HERE](#)

By Jessica Montour, Fashion Forward  
Photos Teddy Gomez





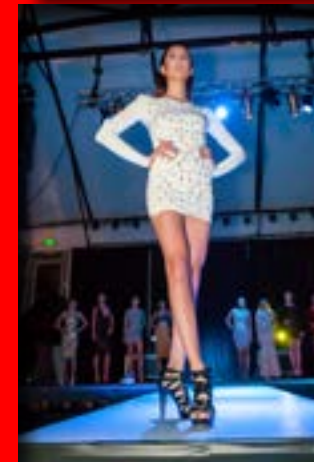
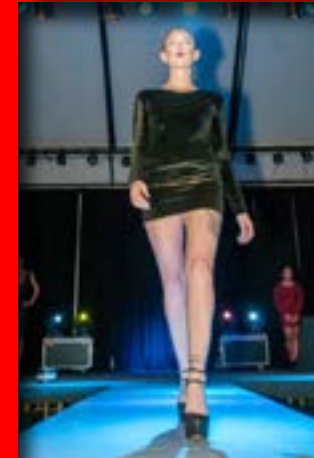
# RAW Finishes 2015 in Style!

RAW closed 2015 at City Hall on Broadway in Denver and represented a diverse range of views in art, photography, fashion, music, accessories and more.

Latin Life Media joined the energetic crowd as the DJ spun vinyls with that “deep bass” flavor. These showcases are an ongoing effort to provide independent artists of all creative genres with the tools, resources and exposure needed to inspire & cultivate creativity. Artists on Thursday, November 19th included an array of individuals representing their love of jewelry making, wall art, photography, sketch, hair and fashion.

With “ready to buy” art available, live performances and a runway show attendees can canoodle and purchase from local artisans on the spot.

Stay tuned for a full year of RAW showcases in 2016. Fashion Editor Jessica Montour and Latin Life Media will be there to celebrate the underground and you should too! See everyone in 2016. See many more photos [HERE](#) Photos by Teddy Gomez





# Ask A Mexican's "Border Town" A Hit With Denver Audience

It was a lot of laughs at Su Teatro as Gustavo Arellano, the Ask A Mexican columnist, gave advance screening of his latest project "BorderTown" an animated comedy that will debut at 9:30-10:00 PM ET/PT. A satirical look at the cultural shifts taking place in America, the series explores family, politics and everything in between.

The comedy centers on two very different families living in a fictional Southwest desert town on the U.S. – Mexico border and stars Hank Azaria, Alex Borstein, Judah Friedlander, Nicholas Gonzalez and Missi Pyle.

Read more and photos [HERE](#)  
Photos by Teddy Gomez





## Tis The Season for Vino & Chocolate and Giving!

The 17th annual Vino y Chocolate was a festive gathering of many community members with such a purpose. Dozens brought children's gifts and gathered at the Waterfront events center in Lakeside, CO to benefit the Latina Safehouse of Denver.

Along with delicious wines, pastries and food attendees were treated to an array of exquisite table settings each uniquely designed for the holidays. Several of the tables were part of a silent auction to help raise funds. The event was hosted by Romaine Pacheco, Sr. Alicia Cuaron and the Teamsters Local 455.

Latina Safehouse works to meet the needs of Latina Domestic Violence victims by removing barriers through culturally and linguistically competent services through advocacy and education. See many more photos [HERE](#)



## Thousands Celebrate "Our Lady of Guadalupe" Feast Day in North Denver

By Joe Contreras...Photos by Latin Life Denver Media

It was a very spiritual experience for the more than two thousand people came out to North Denver's Our Lady of Guadalupe Church last night to celebrate the Feast Day of the church's namesake. December 12th has become the most important spiritual day for those of Mexican decent. More significant than Easter or Christmas. It is recognized as a national holiday in Mexico.

Parishioners showed up early to serenade the Virgin Mary with traditional songs like, "Buenos Dias Paloma Blanca, La Guadalupana, Amor Eterna and dozens of others. At midnight Mariachis strolled in singing "Las Mananitas" as parishioners joined in culminating a beautiful evening. Thousands of roses were placed throughout every alter inside and out of the church by those attending.

The church was packed to capacity as was a makeshift tent parish that was constructed on the Church's parking lot and stretched for more than a half block. Still hundreds of others were left outside watching on huge video screens that were brought in to accommodate the overflow.

The outdoor ambiance took on the feel of a summertime church bazaar as many vendors sold everything from statues, framed photos and other keepsakes of the Virgin to tacos, tamales, candy, champurada and toys. Read more and see photos [HERE](#)





# Christine Marquez-Hudson Bids Farewell to Mi Casa & Hello to Denver Foundation

Mi Casa friends and supporters gathered for a farewell party honoring Mi Casa CEO/Executive Director Christine Marquez-Hudson, Friday, Dec 11. Gov Hickenlooper honored Christine with an official proclamation recognizing her community service and leadership.

Incoming Board Chair Christiano Sosa announced that the Boettcher Foundation has honored Christine with \$50K donation to Mi Casa and will name the board room to Mi Casa's new building in her honor. In January 2016, Christine Marquez-Hudson will take over the Denver Foundation as its new CEO.

Marquez-Hudson's departure from Mi Casa is bittersweet. She...  
Read more and see photos [HERE](#)



# Las Posadas Continues A Mexican Tradition In West Denver

Las Posadas Alive & Well In Denver's West Side The Mexican Christmas tradition of Las Posadas was alive and well yesterday in Denver's West Side as a unique gathering of participants walked through the neighborhood knocking on residents doors in an reenactment of Joseph and Mary seeking shelter during their pilgrimage. The residents who answered their doors were more than surprised to see a donkey and several carolers at their front door. Celebrating Las Posadas is a must when enjoying Christmas in Mexico or in the U.S. among Mexicans.

In Mexico Christmas starts shortly after "la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe" or Our Lady of Guadalupe, and Las Posadas start on December 16th and end on..Read more and see photos [HERE](#)

