

LATINO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM

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If your agency or your Neighborhood Resource Team needs help or support with any service provided by the Latino Community Engagement Team in the city of Madison, please contact us to see if we can help:

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Medellín, Colombia

by Angela Puerta

~ Where hardworking people believed in the unbelievable ~

Have you ever put a foot in a *comuna* (slum)? Or a place with the highest crime rates, terrorism, and corruption on earth? Imagine a place like that, but with the richest person on earth living there. A blighted city, virtually ruled by the biggest drug lord of all time: el señor Pablo Escobar Gaviria. Yes, the same that appears in TV shows and hundreds of “documentaries” (quotation marks because some of these “documentaries” are just feeding you with scandals and misrepresented scenarios). Medellín, Colombia was the most violent city in the late 80’s and early 90’s, mainly due to the hate and love towards dirty money. I say hate because it mostly came from people that were murdered, extortion, drug addiction, kidnapping, you name it.



A comuna in Medellín, Colombia. The orange roofs are public escalators that facilitate faster commuting among Medellín neighborhoods.

We Invite You to Celebrate

by The LCET

The Latino Community Engagement Team and the City of Madison are recognizing, celebrating and creating awareness during this month and we would like to invite you to be part of this celebration. During this month, we encourage you to talk with a Hispanic/Latino colleague, assist to a local event, learn more about a country or culture that interests you, or visit a local Latino restaurant. You may also start planning a visit in the near future to one of the Spanish speaking countries in the world (they have much to offer), and learn more about the heritage and culture of Hispanics/Latinos who have a profound and positive influence in the City of Madison.

Medellín, Colombia:

*“a city recognized
for its advances in
respect for life”*

Undoubtedly, this city addressed unique situations like no other, and it is impressive for me to see how it has been totally transformed. It was actually chosen as the “Innovative City of the Year” in 2013 by Urban Land Institute, *The Wall Street Journal* and Citi’s “City of the Year” competition. Once the world’s most dangerous city it became accessible, and safe. Outperforming cities like New York, Medellín has been able to show to the world that Colombians are highly capable of working together towards purposes other than illegal activities. Because of one person, Colombia’s image plunged to the point that when I say I am from Colombia I have to deal with comments that no longer apply to what my country was almost three decades ago.

As a City planner and advocate for equitable cities, I am thrilled to see how Medellín, the second largest city of Colombia with approximately 2’500,000 inhabitants, has focused on people first, regardless of their income. Medellín started its transformation in 1995 by building the metro, a rapid transit rail system accessible to all. Subsequently, Medellín opted to build



Downtown Medellín, Colombia

public libraries, parks, and schools in poor hillside neighborhoods. Medellín increased its transportation choices to the *comunas* that exist on steep hills by building infrastructure for cable cars, and public escalators. “Medellín went from being one of the most violent cities in the world to being today a city recognized for its advances in respect for life,” Anibal Gaviria (Mayor of Medellín 2012-2015).

After reflection and while writing this article, I asked myself: if Medellín’s City planners, policy makers, and residents were able to believe in their dreams and make them a reality of inclusivity, can Madison residents better embrace the financially poor, the person of color, and the “different”? For example, I think that it

is easy to say that Madison needs affordable housing and better treatment for the homeless, but what happens when we see a project that fulfill that ambition, but it will be built close to my home? Are we really being inclusive when we say that we do not want more people living in our neighborhoods? Are we, Madison residents, believing in the positive transformation of people and accepting that Madison is growing and therefore, it is ok to have changes in our urban landscapes? We all know that the word inclusion goes beyond putting these nine letters together. It is about taking action and embracing these changes in our own Madison communities.

[Click here to read more about Medellín.](#)

The Ventisquero San Rafael in Chile

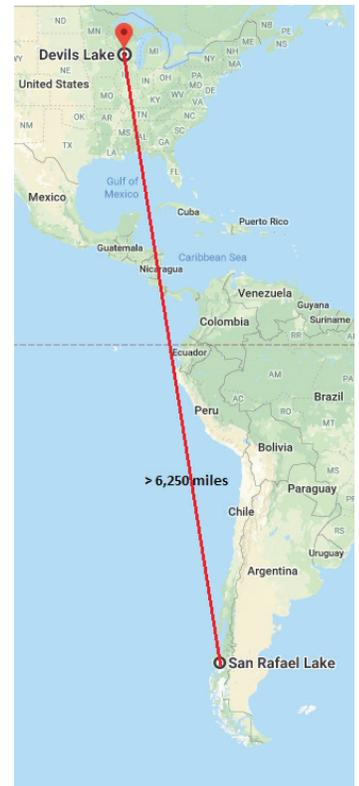
by JoseMaria Donoso

One of my favorite places in Wisconsin is Devil's Lake. I imagine that place thousands of years ago when the glaciers formed it, and this makes me think about Chile. There is a place there, more than 6,250 miles south of Devil's Lake, called "Ventisquero San Rafael."

The "Ventisquero" is the closest glacier—that reaches the sea level—to the equatorial line. It is located in San Rafael Lake, which is an ocean inlet. The front of the glacier is about 1/6 miles wide by 200 feet high. When you visit the Laguna San Rafael on a boat, you can see the huge icebergs. It is possible to observe enormous ice sheets separating from the glacier and falling into the lake. The ice traveled thousands of years – for around nine miles – from the top of the San Valentin Mount (around 13,300 feet high) until it reached the water. The view of white and blueish ice in the waters of the lagoon is one of the major attractions granted by nature. Without a doubt, it is a unique show. Unfortunately, as many places in the world, the "Ventisquero" is also affected by the global warming.

On the way to the "Ventisquero", you will be visiting Puerto Montt, a beautiful port city where you can eat the typical dish "Curanto". You should also visit the small towns of Frutillar and Puerto Varas that have spectacular views of Lake Llanquihue and the Osorno volcano. You could also visit the National Park Vicente Perez Rosales on your way to Bariloche, Argentina. If you prefer to stay near Chile's capital, Santiago, you should visit one of the ski resorts.

Due to the long and narrow shape of this country, you can find deserts, mountains, volcanos, islands, glaciers and much more. Even though I am not from Chile, I recommend you visit this spectacular country.



By: JoseMaria Donoso

Our Projects

by The LCET

The Latino Community Engagement Team (LCET) was busy during the last year collaborating with different City agencies, and here are some examples:

- » With Department of Civil Rights: two of our members are part of the Language Access Plan Steering Committee.
- » With Clerk's Office: members are participating as Election Officials during Election Days in poll centers.
- » With Human Resources: we are helping different agencies during their hiring process, as they need it. We served as interview panelist (in person and telephone), and we helped reviewing Spanish questions in job applications.
- » City agencies have the opportunity to have English and Spanish articles in the Northside News. The LCET does not offer translation services, but we coordinate submissions. If you are interested in having an article translated to Spanish, please contact the Department of Civil Rights.
- » We did a Spanish Language Audit to see how much support city agencies give to Spanish speaking callers. We shared the results with the Mayor's office and Department of Civil Rights.
- » We are celebrating the Hispanic Heritage Month with two newsletters like the one you are reading.

As you can see, the LCET is committed to helping all city agencies and the Latino community in Madison. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need assistance reaching our community.

Translation Services:

"If you are interested in having an article translated to Spanish, please contact the Department of Civil Rights."

Common Council Resolution

JoseMaria Donoso from The Latino Community Engagement Team (LCET) on the Common Council meeting on September 4, 2018, received a copy of the resolution that recognize September 15, 2018 through October 15, 2018 as Hispanic Heritage Month. The LCET thank you Mayor Paul Soglin, all sponsoring Alders and all the Alders who voted and passed the resolution.

Please check the following link to see the [Common Council Resolution](#).



About Us

The Latino Community Engagement Team (LCET) was created in September 2015. All of our team members are City staff, bilingual in Spanish, with a main goal of supporting the City agencies in their initiatives to build trust and strong relationships with the Latinos who live and work in the City of Madison. Our ongoing collaboration will give City agencies the support needed when providing services, opportunities, and advocacy to Latinos.

Our mission is "to make the city of Madison a more livable environment for our Spanish speakers" and our vision is "to support and improve the services provided by different City agencies in an equitable way, focusing on Spanish speaking communities".

The Latino community is one of the fastest growing groups in Madison. With this in mind, we are working to make our city a place where good quality of life is available and accessible to all the Latinos, intending to be as inclusive as possible. We look forward to continue helping and supporting all city agencies.

Our Mission:

"Make the City of Madison a more livable environment for our Spanish speakers."

Upcoming Events

Madison Latino Car Show

Saturday, September 15, 2018
10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Madison Labor Temple, 1602 S. Park St.

Mexican Fest 2018

Saturday, September 15, 2018
10:00 am – 10:00 pm
Madison Labor Temple, 1602 S. Park St.

Viva Mexico Festival

Sunday, September 16, 2018
Breese Stevens Field, 917 E. Mifflin St.
La Movida Radio invites you to the great Mexican independence day celebration with car parade, music, food, contests, and more.

Bilingual Art of the Picture Book

Monday, September 17, 2018
3:00 – 4:00 pm
Pinney Library, 204 Cottage Grove Rd.
Kids ages 5-10 are invited to a bilingual storytime with great books and hands-on activities.

Spanish Storytime and Sweets

Saturday, September 22, 2018
10:30 – 11:15 am
Join us for stories and songs in Spanish, and enjoy yummy treats! For kids of all ages and families.

Book Talk: Collected Works of Meg Medina

Monday, September 24, 2018
7:00 pm
Presented in partnership with the Friends of the Cooperative Children's Book Center, Meg Medina will be at the Wisconsin Book Festival to discuss her books for kids of all ages.

Live Latin Music and a Colombia story with Angela Puerta

Tuesday, September 25, 2018
12:00 – 1:00 pm
City County Building, Room 354
LIVE music and a story about Colombia with Angela Puerta from the Planning Department. This event is in collaboration with MAC (Multicultural Affairs Committee).

Book Talk: Meg Medina, author of Burn Baby Burn

Tuesday, September 25, 2018
12:00 pm
School Visits

While violence runs rampant throughout New York, a teenage girl faces danger within her own home in Meg Medina's riveting coming-of-age novel. Meg Medina is an award-winning Cuban American author of picture books, middle grade novels, and teen fiction.

Centro Hispano 29th Annual Celebration

Friday, September 28, 2018
5:30 pm
Park Hotel Madison, 22 S. Carroll St.
Gala & Award Ceremony. Presenting the: Ilda Conteris Thomas Leadership Award, Roberto G. Sanchez Award & Marcus S. Miles Volunteer Award.

YWCA Racial Justice Summit

Tuesday, October 2, 2018 and
Wednesday, October 3, 2018
Monona Terrace Convention Center
1 John Nolen Dr.

The Summit focuses on institutional racism and involves nationally-known keynote speakers and researchers, as well as local experts and advocates. Through an environment that encourages learning from and supporting each other in our common goals, the Summit provides a platform for action planning and community dialogue.

Latino Art Fair

Saturday, October 6, 2018
5:00 – 9:00 pm
Overture Center, 201 State St.

Celebrate the rich roots of Latino art in culture at the sixth annual Latino Art Fair, organized and sponsored by the Latino Chamber of Commerce of Dane County in partnership with Overture Center. Talented artists from throughout South Central Wisconsin will exhibit and sell their artwork, including paintings, photography, pottery, jewelry, music and more. This year we will feature the art of spoken word and Afro-Peruvian performance by "Golpe Tierra"!

Indigenous Peoples Day

Friday, October 10, 2018

Book Talk: José Olivarez, author of Citizen Illegal

Thursday, October 11, 2018

7:00 pm

Central Library, The Bubbler, 201 W. Mifflin St.

Citizen Illegal is a revealing portrait of life as a first generation immigrant, a celebration of Chicano joy, a shout against erasure, and a vibrant re-imagining of Mexican American life. José Olivarez is the son of Mexican immigrants. He is a co-host of the podcast, The Poetry Gods. A recipient of fellowships from Poets House, The Bronx Council On The Arts, The Poetry Foundation, and The Conversation Literary Festival, his work has been published in The BreakBeat Poets and elsewhere. He is the Marketing Manager at Young Chicago Authors.

Book Talk: Natalia Sylvester author of Everyone Knows You Go Home

Saturday, October 13, 2018

4:30 pm

Central Library, The Bubbler, 201 W. Mifflin St.

From the acclaimed author of Chasing the Sun comes a new novel about immigration and the depths to which one Mexican American family will go for forgiveness and redemption. Born in Lima, Peru, Natalia Sylvester came to the United States at age four. As a child, she spent time in Florida and the Rio Grande Valley in Texas before her family set down roots in Miami, where she received a BA in creative writing from the University of Miami.

Racial Equity & Social Justice Initiative (RESJI) Distinguished Speaker Series

Monday, October 15, 2018

1:00 pm

Room 354, City County Building

All are welcome. Presentation by Jessica Cavazos, President and CEO of the Latino Chamber of Commerce.

Bilingual Art of the Picture Book

Monday, October 15, 2018

3:00 – 4:00 pm

Pinney Library, 204 Cottage Grove Rd.

Kids ages 5-10 are invited to a bilingual storytime with great books and hands-on activities.

The Other Side of the Border opening event with Las Hormigas Bordadoras

Friday, October 19, 2018

6:30 – 8:30 pm

Central Library, 201 W. Mifflin St.

Kids in the Rotunda - Angela Puerta

Saturday, October 20, 2018

9:30 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm

Overture Center, 201 State St.

www.overture.org/events/angela-puerta

Spanish Storytime and Sweets

Saturday, October 20, 2018

10:30 – 11:15 am

Pinney Library, 204 Cottage Grove Rd.

Join us for stories and songs in Spanish, and enjoy yummy treats! For kids of all ages and families.

Saturday Family Movie Matinee: Coco

Saturday, October 20, 2018

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Alicia Ashman Library

733 N. High Point Rd.

Aspiring musician Miguel, confronted with his family's ancestral ban on music, enters the Land of the Dead to find his great-great-grandfather, a legendary singer.

Día de los Muertos Performance/Fundraiser

Saturday, November 10, 2018

4:30 – 8:00 pm

East High School

2222 E. Washington Ave.

East High School's Latinx Student Union and Ballet Folklórico de María Díaz presents: Día de los Muertos Annual Fundraising event. Tickets required.
