

LATINIDAD IN NEW YORK CITY



RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS AND FAMILIES

The curated list of resources below, suggested by experts across the city, includes educational materials about Latinidad in NYC for educators, students, and families. We selected these materials based on availability, accessibility, and relevance to Latinidad and NYC communities' histories. The first section lists resources produced by research centers and institutes, such as the Center for Puerto Rican Studies (CENTRO) and the City University of New York (CUNY) Dominican Studies Institute. Their digital resources and lesson plans are publicly available. The second section focuses on museums and their educational projects. We included resources from museums like El Museo del Barrio and the Hispanic Society of America. The third section compiles resources about Latina, Latino, and Latine leaders in NYC.

1. RESEARCH CENTERS AND INSTITUTES



1.1. *CENTRO at Hunter College*

Their website hosts resources and exhibitions that include lesson plans for grades 6-8, 9-10, and 11-12. Their educational resources are downloadable. For example:

- **Antonia Pantoja: A Founder**

Dr. Antonia Pantoja was a Puerto Rican educator and activist who worked closely with the Puerto Rican Diaspora, founding multiple institutions like the Puerto Rican Forum and the Boricua College. This exhibition offers lesson plans for grades 6-8, 9-10, and 11-12 as part of their educational resources. centropr.hunter.cuny.edu

- **Evelina Antonetty: The Hell Lady of the Bronx**

Evelina worked to protect Puerto Rican children of the South Bronx. She made bilingual education accessible in the South Bronx through the United Bronx Parents, food activism, and free lunch school programs. centropr.hunter.cuny.edu

- **Ida y Vuelta: Experiencias de la Migración en el Arte Puertorriqueño Contemporáneo**

An exhibition of 19 Puerto Rican artists on their experience of migration: Abdiel Segarra Ríos, Adál Maldonado, Anabel Vázquez Rodríguez, Anaida Hernández, Antonio Martorell, Brenda Cruz, Carlos Ruiz Valarino, Edra Soto, John Betancourt, José Ortiz Pagán, Máximo Colón, Marta Mabel Pérez, Mónica Félix, Nayda Collazo Llorens, Norma Vila Rivero, Osvaldo Budet Meléndez, Pedro Vélez, Quintín Rivera Toro, Víctor Vázquez. Curated by Laura Bravo, PhD, with Assistant Curator Donald Escudero. centropr.hunter.cuny.edu

- **On Both Sides of the Lens: Documenting the Puerto Rican Diaspora**

An exhibition by 33 photographers portraying the legacy of Frank Espada, Hiram Maristany, Sophie Rivera, Charles Biasiny-Rivera, Roger Cabán, Felipe Dante, and others. They have a catalog and more digital information about the exhibition's content. centropr.hunter.cuny.edu

- **The Fires: Hoboken 1978-1982**

This exhibition is presented in partnership with the Hoboken Historical Museum, Diaspora Solidarities Lab, and New Jersey Council for the Humanities and features the work of Christopher López, a Puerto Rican Lens-Based Artist, Educator, and Public Historian. centropr.hunter.cuny.edu

LATINIDAD IN NEW YORK CITY



- **The Diasporican Ed Program**

Formerly known as the Cultural Ambassadors Program, this curriculum teaches the social history of Puerto Ricans from the Taínos, Indigenous peoples of the Caribbean, to eras of Puerto Rican migration to the US. It is geared toward undergraduate students, educators, and a more general audience and meant to highlight the involvement of the Puerto Rican community in important social movements. centrop.hunter.cuny.edu

- **La Meriendita**

This program was inspired by Pura Belpré, the first Puerto Rican librarian at the NY Public Library and an advocate of storytelling. It creates a space for children to interact with authors, hear stories reflective of themselves and their cultures, and to learn about their heritages and histories. It is also meant to inspire a love of narrative and research among children. centrop.hunter.cuny.edu

Additional databases and tools about Puerto Rico are available at centrop.hunter.cuny.edu



1.2. CUNY Dominican Studies Institute

Digital Resources

- **First Blacks in the Americas/Los Primeros Negros en las Américas**

This digital platform tells the story of the first Black African inhabitants to arrive in the Americas. A bilingual tool, it “has a collection of 71 archival packages containing documents and manuscripts from sixteenth-century La Española.” firstblacks.org

- **16th-century La Española: Glimpses of the First Blacks in the Early Colonial Americas**

Part of the long-term project First Blacks in the Americas listed above, this exhibit features archival documents of Black Africans and their descendants born in La Española, the first European colony of the Americas. dsi.ccnydigitalscholarship.org

- **The Spanish Paleography Digital Teaching and Learning Tool**

This is an open-source, interactive digital educational platform that teaches how to read and understand the handwriting styles of 16th and early-17th-century manuscripts from La Española. spanishpaleographytool.org

- **We Choose Freedom: Samaná, Dominican Republic**

Here you can view documents, such as birth, marriage, and baptismal records, from African Americans who emigrated in 1824 from different ports along the Eastern US to what was then the Republic of Haiti (1822-1844). Many of these new immigrants were given land and established communities in Puerto Plata, Santo Domingo, and Samaná in what is today the Dominican Republic. jstor.org

- **A History of Dominican Music in the US**

This website, a first to curate an educational history of Dominican Music in the US, features an interactive, multimedia platform that documents Dominican artists, venues, and genres from 1910 to 2010. dominicanmusicusa.com

- **Dominican Artists in the US**

In this digital collection, you can search the work of artists including Josefina Baéz, Doris Rodríguez, Nicolás Dumit Estévez Raful, Carlos Jesús Martínez Domínguez, Yelaine Rodríguez, Moses Ros, and Bryan Fernandez. jstor.org

LATINIDAD IN NEW YORK CITY



- **The Musician and the Painter/*El Músico y el Pintor*: An Exhibit Documenting the Lifetime, Work, and Artistic Trajectory of 2 Early 20th-Century Dominican Artists in NY**
“Documents, photographs, musical scores, and paintings from the Dominican Archives collections that highlight the careers of musician Rafael Petitón Guzmán (1894-1983) and painter Tito Enrique Cánepa (1916-2014).” [jstor.org](https://www.jstor.org)
- **Dominican Historic Neighborhoods: Washington Heights**
“An interactive map showcasing the geographic boundaries of a proposed Dominican historic district in Washington Heights.” dominicanhistoricneighborhoods.com
- **The CUNY Dominican Studies Institute Recorded Lectures Digital Project 1992-2001**
This collection from the institutional archive is digitized, making images, documents, audio tapes, and video recordings available to shed light on culture, politics, and diasporic dynamics. [jstor.org](https://www.jstor.org)



Educational Resources

Fighting for Democracy: Dominican Veterans from World War II

This curriculum is based on an exhibition (dsi.ccnydigitalscholarship.org) that focuses on the experiences of Dominicans as US veterans, both pre- and post-war. It includes 3 units that can be used in history, government, civics, and social studies classes to teach both Dominican-specific material and more general themes, such as resistance to oppression. dsi.ccnydigitalscholarship.org

- **Participation of Dominican Veterans in World War II:** An Overview. ccnydigitalscholarship.org
- **Challenges Faced by Dominican Veterans in World War II:** Stephen Hottesse and José Adrián Trujillo. ccnydigitalscholarship.org
- **Global Impact of Dominican Veterans in World War II.** ccnydigitalscholarship.org

A History of Dominican Music in the US

Part of the website listed above, each of these 5 educational profiles include: A Biographical Essay, Discussion Questions, Activities, and a set of defined terms that educators can use to create lesson plans for high school and undergraduate students. dominicanmusicusa.com

- **Eduardo Brito:** “Active in NYC during the 1920s, this Dominican singer performed many operatic arias as well as tropical songs such as Lamento Esclavo.” dominicanmusicusa.com
- **Proyecto Uno:** “Founded in NY in 1989, this ensemble pioneered the groundbreaking sound of merenhouse, a fusion of African American dance music with Dominican rhythms.” dominicanmusicusa.com
- **The Malagon Sisters:** “A Dominican all-female trio that emerged publicly in 1949. They were one of the first Dominican musical groups to successfully cross over into the wider American music scene during the 1950s.” dominicanmusicusa.com

LATINIDAD IN NEW YORK CITY



- **Monica Boyar:** “During the 1939 NY World’s Fair, Boyar taught icon Arthur Murray how to dance merengue. After World War II, Boyar contributed to the anti-Trujillo movement by recording two songs against the dictatorship.” dominicanmusicusa.com
- **Milly Quezada:** “Known as ‘the Queen of Merengue,’ Milly grew to fame and stardom for her revolutionary, feminized adaptation of the merengue genre. She has earned countless musical awards, including 4 Latin Grammys.” dominicanmusicusa.com

Dominicans in NY: An Exhibit from the Dominican Archives and Library Collections

A display of experiences and contributions of the NY Dominican population. It includes documents from the Dominican Library. jstor.org

- **Lesson Outline** - Exhibit Curriculum for Dominicans in NY. jstor.org
- **Lesson Overview** - Exhibit Curriculum for Dominicans in NY. jstor.org

Condition: My Place Our Longing/*Condición: Mi Lugar Mi Anheló*

These lesson plans were created based on an exhibition about the work of Dominican immigrant artists living in NY and the Dominican Republic: Julianny Ariza and Leslie Jiménez. It showcases artwork about living in between two worlds. jstor.org

- **Condition/Condición** - Planning and Overview. library.artstor.org
- **Condition/Condición** - Lesson 1. library.artstor.org
- **Condition/Condición** - Lesson 2. library.artstor.org

CUNY Manifold: Dominican Bachata Music

An online collection of resources on Dominican bachata music that can be used to create lessons. cuny.manifoldapp.org

Teaching and Learning Spanish at CUNY: Public Language Education through Archival Resources

A peer-mentoring project for Spanish to foster changes in the Spanish class curriculum, integrating the CUNY Latino archives. cuny.manifoldapp.org



1.3. The Institute of Latin American Studies, Columbia University

- **Greater Caribbean Studies Program at Columbia University**
Report with resources and information about the program. ilas.columbia.edu

LATINIDAD IN NEW YORK CITY



- **ILAS K-12 Outreach Program**

This program “strives to enhance the professional capacity of teachers in New York City’s multicultural environment and promote the inclusion of Latin American history and culture into students’ classrooms and daily lives.” They have produced a number of professional development guides and resource/curricular guides. ilas.columbia.edu



1.4. The AfroLatin@ Forum

The AfroLatin@ Forum, a “a research and resource center that centers Blackness within Latinidad,” runs a workshop series on understanding AfroLatinidad. www.afrolatinoforum.org



1.5. The Afrolatinizamos Initiative

Afrolatinizamos is a collective run by the California State University, San Bernardino Anthropology Museum. It has a searchable repository of educational resources that enable exploration of Afrolatine histories, cultures, and identities. <https://sites.google.com/csusb.edu/afrolatinizamos>



1.6. New York Public Library (NYPL)

- **Visibility & Resistance: New Acquisitions, Contemporary Afro-Mexican Photography**

This exhibition celebrates the recent acquisition by NYPL of a collection of contemporary Afro-Mexican photography. It aims to amplify the work of those participating in the movement to increase Black visibility and cultural pride in Mexico. www.nypl.org



1.7. The Afro-Latino Education and Arts Collective

This collective is a nonprofit committed to uplifting Afro-Latino voices and grassroots action. Their educational resources include profiles of notable Afro-Latinx figures in sports, music, and arts & culture. www.afrolatinoeducation.org

2. MUSEUMS



2.1. National Museum of the American Latino (Smithsonian)

This museum’s resources include:

- **Bilingual materials.** latino.si.edu
- **Literacy program series.** latino.si.edu
- **Nuestra América/Our America site.** latino.si.edu
- **Nuestras Voces/Our Voices series.** latino.si.edu
- **Día de Muertos/Day of the Dead materials.** learninglab.si.edu

LATINIDAD IN NEW YORK CITY



- **Latinas Talk Latinas resources.** latino.si.edu
- **Latino Patriots in American Military History.** learninglab.si.edu
- **The Hispanic Heritage Month.** latino.si.edu
- **“Presente: A Latino History of the US.”** latino.si.edu



2.2. Casita Maria Center for Arts and Education

This arts, culture, and educational organization is located in the Hunts Point/Longwood section of the South Bronx. Its educational resources include a coloring book about *Las Tres Hermanas*, 3 sisters who moved from Puerto Rico to NY and who impacted the lives of children, families, and artists in the Bronx. www.casitamaria.org



2.3. El Museo del Barrio

This museum offers digital resources about:

- **“Nuyorican Histories and Puerto Rican Vanguard.”** www.elmuseo.org
- **The Día de Muertos.** www.elmuseo.org
- **The Three Kings Day Celebration.** www.elmuseo.org



2.4. Whitney Museum of American Art

The Whitney museum developed a guide about the Cuban-American artist Carmen Herrera, who was based in NYC. whitney.org

They also created an exhibition about Hurricane Maria, which severely impacted the Puerto Rican community, and published related educational resources in English and Spanish. whitney.org



2.5. Hispanic Society of America

The Education Department at the Hispanic Society offers the Museum in the Classroom initiative, in which “docents will visit schools to talk about The Hispanic Society Museum and Library collections in the classroom.” They also have two lesson plans about the maps of the Hispanic Society. hispanicsociety.org

3. LATINX LEADERS IN NYC

• **Celia M. Acosta Vice**

Businesswoman and civic leader of the early 20th century concerned with community development in Brooklyn; a disseminator of publications about Puerto Rican heritage; and the first female grand marshal of the Puerto Rican Day Parade. centroarchives.hunter.cuny.edu

LATINIDAD IN NEW YORK CITY



- **María Magdalena Campos-Pons**

Visual artist whose work examines Afro-Cuban identity and the African diaspora. gallerywendinorris.com

- **Richard Carranza**

Advocate for urban education who served as the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, the largest school system in the nation, where he was responsible for 1.1 million students in over 1,800 schools.

www.aasa.org

- **Jesús Colón**

Author from Puerto Rico who migrated to Brooklyn in 1917 and leader of the Nuyorican movement. He wrote books like *A Puerto Rican in New York and Other Sketches*, *The way it was*, and *other writings: historical vignettes about the New York Puerto Rican community*, and *Lo Que El Pueblo Me Dice*. www.ebsco.com

- **Amanda Farías**

Majority Leader of the New York City Council and a lifelong Bronxite and second-generation Afro-Latina of Puerto Rican and Dominican descent. She is a proud product of local schools and community institutions with a passion for community service, activism, and empowerment. council.nyc.gov

- **Juan Flores**

Was a scholar and professor, as well as director of Latino Studies at New York University. He was “a pioneer in the field of ‘Nuyorican’ culture, the arts, and language of Puerto Ricans in NY who toggle culturally between the city and the Caribbean island.” www.nytimes.com

- **Jessica González-Rojas**

NY State Assembly Member who represents the 34th Assembly District, which includes the diverse communities of Astoria, Corona, East Elmhurst, Elmhurst, Jackson Heights, and Woodside in Queens County. She is dedicated to fighting for abortion justice, immigrant rights, racial justice, LGBTQ liberation, health care access, labor power, and gender equity. nyassembly.gov

- **Luiz Guzmán**

Puerto Rican actor raised in Greenwich Village and the Lower East Side and based in NYC. www.imdb.com

- **Sandra Guzmán**

Journalist and writer advocating for women’s issues, gender equality, and cultural representation in the media. www.sandraguzman.com

- **Miriam Esther Jiménez Román**

Was a professor, editor, archivist, curator, social theorist, author, and activist from Puerto Rico. She co-founded and was executive director of the Afro-Latin@ Project, later the AfroLatin@ Forum (2007). www.blackpast.org

- **Jennifer Lopez**

Singer, actress, businesswoman, and philanthropist working to empower Latina women through charitable initiatives. www.britannica.com

LATINIDAD IN NEW YORK CITY



- **Eugenio María de Hostos**

Was an educator, writer, and early advocate of self-government for the island of Puerto Rico as well as of progressive causes in the US. www.britannica.com

- **Carlos Martiel**

Performance artist known for addressing issues of race and identity in contemporary Cuba. www.elmuseo.org

- **Luis Miranda Jr.**

Puerto Rican political strategist and philanthropist.

- His book: "Relentless: My Story of the Latino Spirit that is Transforming America." hispanicexecutive.com
- A documentary about him by HBO Max called "Siempre Luis." hbo.com

Additional videos of different lengths where he talks about the book and his trajectory:

- Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College. www.youtube.com (1h 6 min)
- Hispanic Executive. www.youtube.com (6 min)
- ABC News. www.youtube.com (5:30 min)
- The Latino Majority Podcast. hispanicexecutive.com (42 min)

- **Iris Morales**

Activist and educator involved with movements for racial equality, women's rights, social and climate justice, and the decolonization of Puerto Rico. As the founder of Red Sugarcane Press, she publishes books about the culture and history of Puerto Rican, Latinx, and Afro-diasporic communities. northstarfund.org

- **Rita Moreno**

Actress, singer, and dancer from Puerto Rico based in NYC. www.womenshistory.org

- **Lisette Nieves**

The President of the Fund for the City of New York (FCNY), an institution charged with developing and helping to implement innovations in policy, programs, practices, and technology to advance the functioning of government and nonprofit organizations in NYC. steinhardt.nyu.edu

- **Francisco J. Nuñez**

Composer, conductor, visionary, leading figure in music education, and the Artistic Director/Founder of the Young People's Chorus of NY (YPC), renowned worldwide for its diversity and artistic excellence. MacArthur Fellow and Musical America's 2018 Educator of the Year. ypc.org

- **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**

In 2019 she became the youngest woman and youngest Latina ever to serve in Congress. Born and raised in NY, she represents its 14th district in the US House of Representatives. ocasio-cortez.house.gov

- **Antonia Pantoja**

Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1922, she was a grassroots activist and organizer who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996. She established the Hispanic Young Adults Association, which eventually became the Puerto Rican Association for Community Affairs (PRACA). wams.nyhistory.org

LATINIDAD IN NEW YORK CITY



- **Jessica Ramos**

New York State Senator born in Elmhurst and raised in Astoria, fighting for working families, advocating for labor, and organizing her local community; she served as Director of Latino Media for the City of New York and now lives in Jackson Heights. www.nysenate.gov

- **Carlina Rivera**

A New York City Council member representing the 2nd district who began her career in afterschool programming and organizing for older adults and homeless New Yorkers. council.nyc.gov

- **Diana Reyna**

Former Deputy Brooklyn Borough President for Brooklyn (2014-2017), and a former New York City Council Member for the 34th Council District (2001-2013). Reyna was the first Dominican American woman elected to public office in New York State. www.vanalen.org

- **Antonio Reynoso**

Brooklyn's 20th Borough President. The son of two Dominican immigrants, Antonio was born and raised in Los Sures, Williamsburg, just three blocks down from where he lives today with his wife and two sons. In 2021, Antonio became the youngest Borough President elected to a four-year term, the first Latino to hold the office in the borough, and the first Dominican to be elected as a Borough President in NYC. www.brooklynbp.nyc.gov

- **Margarita Rosa**

Served for 20 years as executive director of Grand Street Settlement, a historic comprehensive human service agency in Manhattan, and as the commissioner of the NY State Division of Human Rights at the height of the AIDS crisis. Has also led the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute and the National Center for Law and Economic Justice. nywf.org

- **Betty A. Rosa**

Commissioner of Education and President of the University of the State of New York. She is the first Latina woman to serve in the position. She has more than 30 years of instructional and administrative experience with an expertise in inclusive education, cooperative teaching models, student achievement, and policy implementation. www.nysed.gov

- **Elizabeth Yeampierre**

Puerto Rican civil rights attorney born and raised in New York City and Executive Director of UPROSE, Brooklyn's oldest Latino community-based organization. www.uprose.org