

EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO ANNOUNCES A TRANSFORMATIONAL SEASON: NEW EXHIBITIONS AND PROGRAMMING, COMMUNITY INITIATIVES, AND ADDITIONAL SPACE

NEW YORK, NY, November 7, 2019 – In celebration of El Museo’s 50th anniversary, the institution is delighted to launch the fall season with a multitude of new announcements and critical initiatives, including an exciting exhibitions schedule; a new Latinx programming series in El Teatro; community engagement initiatives; a new Museum Trustee; an innovative \$5 membership offer; El Museo’s return to Frieze; the upcoming release of publications on contemporary Latinx artists; and an expansion of the El Museo’s physical footprint.

“This year we have had the opportunity to reflect on our rich history, and also hear from artists, East Harlem residents, and visitors on our importance and legacy as the first Latino cultural institution in the United States. Today, we are invigorated by this passionate energy and delighted to announce a robust schedule of exhibitions and programming in the coming months, strives in community engagement, and our newly acquired space in the building. We are confident that these initiatives will provide us with the opportunity to further unpack the Latinx experience in this country.” Said Patrick Charpenel, Executive Director, El Museo del Barrio.

FALL 2019 – SPRING 2020 EXHIBITIONS

El Museo recently announced its exhibition schedule for the Fall 2019 – Spring 2020 season, which begins with *An Emphasis on Resistance: 2019 CIFO Grants & Commissions Program Exhibition* (On view now through February 2, 2020), a collaboration with the Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation (CIFO) highlighting award-winning artists that address issues of resistance throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, followed by a solo retrospective titled *Zilia Sánchez: Soy Isla (I Am an Island)*, organized by The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC (Opening November 20, 2019). In the spring, the Museum further reflects on the importance of the Nuyorican arts movement with an exhibition dedicated to the history and legacy of the Puerto Rican workshop, Taller Boricua, as well as its relationship with El Museo, through *Taller Boricua: A Political Print Shop in New York* (Opening March 4, 2020). El Museo will also explore the role of the NYC Subway system in inspiring creativity and prompting artistic discourse across artistic disciplines in *Underground/Elevated: Art and the New York City Subway* (Opening April 29, 2020).

EL MUSEO LAUNCHED ‘EL TEATRO PRESENTS’, A NEW THEATER PROGRAMMING SERIES WITH RUBEN BLADES

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Celebrating the recent \$5.3 million renovation, funded by the New York State Dormitory Authority, El Teatro hosts a new programming series entitled 'El Teatro Presents.' The new series includes intimate conversations, live performances, and talent showcases, aiming to highlight the diverse talents and dynamic perspectives of leading Puerto Rican, Latinx and Latin American, artists, entertainers, scholars and thought leaders. This past month, the series launched with legendary singer, songwriter, actor, activist, and politician Ruben Blades, in conversation with Associate Professor in the Department of Performance Studies at New York University, Alexandra T. Vazquez.

Coming up 'El Teatro Presents,' *A Very Merry Barrio Holiday Comedy Show*, a fun-filled night of comedy, dance and music hosted and directed by **Suni Reyes** (*Billions*). To be held on Saturday, December 14th at 8pm, the evening will feature Stand Up comedian, **Sara Contreras**, The Latin Diva of Comedy (*HBO Latino, Showtime*), and a magnificent cast composed by: **Suni Reyes** (*Comedy Central*), **Sol Crespo** (*New Amsterdam*), **Kristen Gonzalez** (*Amazon Prime Video*), **Lou Gonzalez** (*UCB*), Cedric Leiba Jr. (*High Maintenance*), **Will Martinez** (*Disney+*), **Christine Piñeiro** (*MTV*), **Marc Reign** (*HBO's New York Latino Film Festival*), and music by **Bombayo!** Hosted and directed by Suni Reyes. For more information and tickets, please visit www.elmuseo.org/events.

FORMATION OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC)

As part of the institution's efforts to establish platforms for on-going dialogue and engagement with local community members, El Museo is delighted to announce the formation of the 'Community Advisory Council' (CAC). Comprised of East Harlem residents and recognized leaders in the cultural sector throughout New York City, the CAC will convene on an on-going basis to discuss happenings and ways to strengthen relationships with local constituents in El Barrio (East Harlem) and beyond.

MONICA TAVARES JOINS EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

El Museo continues to expand and diversify the Board of Trustees with the recent appointment of Monica Tavares, Associate Vice Chancellor at the City University of New York (CUNY). A native of Dominican Republic, and an East Harlem resident, Tavares has a long-standing relationship with the institution, having served in an in-house government and community affairs capacity in the early 2000s. Prior to this, she was Vice President of External Affairs at Hispanic Federation.

This recent appointment is part of a larger institutional initiative to strengthen the relationship with its local community. Additional Trustees will be announced in the coming months.

NEW 'PRESENTE PASS' MEMBERSHIP

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El Museo is pleased unveil an innovative Membership program, the PRESENTE PASS for only \$5. The new plan offers visitors free admission for one, 10% off at La Tienda, invitations to exhibition openings for one, and discounts at select events at El Museo. Created to increase accessibility, encourage support, and establish a sense of belonging, the new program can be purchased online at www.elmuseo.org or on-site at La Tienda.

The PRESENTE PASS joins El Museo's existing membership levels, including Individual (\$50), Dual (\$100), Supporter (\$250), Enthusiast (\$500), and Benefactor (\$1000), many of which offer gradual benefits and reciprocal programs with museums around the country. For more information on Membership at El Museo, visit www.elmuseo.org/membership.

EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO TO HOST 'DIALOGOS' SECTION, ONCE AGAIN, AT LEADING ART FAIR, FRIEZE NEW YORK 2020

El Museo will once again partner with Frieze New York in 2020 to present the critically acclaimed themed section *Diálogos*. Working with galleries from throughout the United States and Latin America, the section will feature presentations by both established and emerging Latinx and Latin American artists who represent the next generation of leading cultural voices. The section will be curated by the Museum's Executive Director Patrick Charpenel, Chief Curator Rodrigo Moura, and Curator Susanna V. Temkin.

NEW EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO PUBLICATIONS

As part of its on-going efforts to expand the art historical cannon to include the contributions of Puerto Rican, Latinx and Latin American artists, El Museo is presenting new publications dedicated to two leading artists: Raphael Montañez Ortiz and Liliana Porter. Both publications will be published and available to the public in early 2020.

Best known as the founder and first director of El Museo, Montañez Ortiz is a pivotal figure in the Destruction movement and in 1966, participated in the first Destruction in Art Symposium (DIAS) – a world-renowned event that continues to define and influence his art. For decades, Ortiz's performances, videos, and installations have been exhibited throughout the world.

Recently enjoying a solo show, organized by SCAD at El Museo, Liliana Porter cofounded the New York Graphic Workshop with artists Luis Camnitzer and José Guillermo Castillo, when she moved to New York in 1964. Since then, Porter has worked in a variety of media including painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, assemblages, video, installation and, more recently, theater.

MUSEUM ACQUIRES ADDITIONAL SPACE TO BE USED FOR EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMMING

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El Museo is delighted to announce the acquisition of a new space in the building dedicated to experimental programming aimed to provide museumgoers with an additional entry point into Puerto Rican, Latinx, and Latin American art and culture. Totalling a modest 2,200 square feet, the new area will host panel discussions, performances, film screenings, archival and documentation presentations, and rotate site-specific artist interventions. The new space will be inaugurated in 2020.

ABOUT EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO

El Museo del Barrio, founded by a coalition of Puerto Rican educators, artists, and activists, is the nation's leading Latino and Latin American cultural institution. The Museum welcomes visitors of all backgrounds to discover the artistic landscape of these communities through its extensive Permanent Collection, varied exhibitions and publications, bilingual public programs, educational activities, festivals, and special events.

The Museum is located at 1230 Fifth Avenue at 104th Street in New York City, and open Wednesday to Saturday from 11:00am - 6:00pm, and Sunday from 12:00 to 5:00pm. Pay-what-you-wish.

To connect with El Museo via Social Media, follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. For more information, please visit www.elmuseo.org.

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