



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO ANNOUNCES
SPRING 2019 GALA TO CELEBRATE
50TH ANNIVERSARY HONORING
ELLA FONTANALS-CISNEROS, RAPHAEL MONTAÑEZ
ORTÍZ, AND CRAIG ROBINS**



Honorees (Left to Right): Ella Fontanals-Cisneros, *Outstanding Patron of the Arts*;
Raphael Montañez Ortiz, *Excellence in the Arts*; and Craig Robins, *Outstanding Patron of the Art & Design*

MAY 2, 2019 | THE PLAZA HOTEL | NEW YORK CITY

New York, NY, March 4, 2019 - As part of its 50th anniversary celebration, El Museo del Barrio will host their 26th annual Gala on Thursday, May 2, 2019, at The Plaza Hotel in New York City. The Gala is the museum's single most important fundraising event of the year, and provides critical support for the museum's mission and to increase the awareness and relevance of Latinx and Latin American art and culture locally, nationally and internationally. This spectacular event brings together over 500 luminaries from the worlds of fashion, entertainment, business, society, and politics.

This year, El Museo's 2019 Gala will honor the brilliance and pioneering spirit of: philanthropist, entrepreneur and collector **Ella Fontanals-Cisneros**; artist, one of the founders and the first Director of El Museo del Barrio **Rapahel Montañez Ortiz**; and entrepreneur, real estate developer and art collector **Craig Robins**.

Past honorees of El Museo del Barrio's annual Gala include acclaimed artists Carmen Herrera and Marta Minujín; fashion and design power-couple Ruben and Isabel Toledo; Jumex Collection founder Eugenio López Alonso; tenor and conductor Plácido Domingo; Latin music duo Gloria and Emilio Estefan; and *Hamilton* creator and star Lin-Manuel Miranda. MetLife Foundation; Time Warner, Inc.; Ford Foundation; and MAC Cosmetics have previously been celebrated as corporate philanthropic honorees.



EL MUSEO GALA 2019 HONOREES

ELLA FONTANALS-CISNEROS, *Outstanding Patron of the Arts*

Ella Fontanals-Cisneros is a philanthropist, an entrepreneur, businesswoman, and a collector of contemporary art. She began collecting art in the 1970s and her collection has an international profile with emblematic figures of modern and contemporary art, with a focus on Latin American art. As the Ella Fontanals-Cisneros Collection has grown and developed, its scope has broadened. There are four main areas of interest that have been systematically increasing in recent years: geometric abstraction from Latin America; contemporary international and Latin American art; contemporary video; and modern and contemporary photography. Today the collection has more than 2,500 works. In 2002, Ella Fontanals-Cisneros established the non-profit Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation (CIFO) to support and foster cultural understanding, and educational dialog among Latin American artists and global audiences. CIFO is a platform for emerging, mid-career and established Latin American artist through the Grants & Commissions Program, the CIFO Collection, and other related art and cultural projects in the United States of America and internationally.

RAPHAEL MONTAÑEZ-ORTÍZ, *Excellence in the Arts*

Raphael Montañez Ortiz is one of the founders and the first Director of El Museo del Barrio. For over 60 years, his legendary contributions to the art and culture of Latinos and Latin Americans in the US have served to embrace, enhance, and advance the careers and visibility of the Latinx community. In 1966, Ortiz participated in the first Destruction in Art Symposium (DIAS) – a world-renowned event that continues to define and influence his art. He created the performance process dubbed Physio-Psycho-Alchemy in 1979, which is inspired by dream images, symbols, and processes. For decades, Ortiz's performances, videos, and installations have been exhibited throughout the world in museums such as Whitney Museum of American Art, El Museo del Barrio, Musée d'Art Contemporain in Montreal, Museo de Arte Moderno in Buenos Aires, and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. In 2017 he was awarded the UCLA Medal. Ortiz was born in 1934 in Brooklyn, NY. He holds a B.S. and M.F.A. from Pratt Institute, Ed. M. Masters and Ed. D. Doctorate from Columbia University Teachers College. He is currently a distinguished Professor of Art at Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of The Arts.

CRAIG ROBINS, *Outstanding Patron of the Art & Design*

Craig Robins is an entrepreneur, real estate developer and art collector based in Miami, Florida. As the CEO and President of Dacra, the real estate development company he founded in 1987, Robins focuses on developing creative communities that integrate art, design and architecture to accelerate asset value creation and enrich urban life. Twenty years ago, he began acquiring property in the once-abandoned Miami Design District, and in 2000 set about transforming the neighborhood into one of the most important global centers for cutting-edge design, fashion, food and art – a position it occupies today. In 2005, the neighborhood's rapid renewal inspired the creation of Design Miami/ and subsequently Design Miami/ Basel, design fairs that have evolved into the world's premier global forum for collectible design. Robins is the Chairman of the show, which he owns in partnership with MCH Swiss Exhibition, the producers of Art Basel.



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GALA 2019 CHAIRS

Tony Bechara | Maria & Alberto de la Cruz | Veronica Gonzalez Powell | William A. Haseltine | Maria Eugenia Maury

SPONSORS

El Museo del Barrio's Gala 2019's Premiere Underwriter is Tony Bechara, with additional support provided by Bancredito International Bank & Trust and Maestro Dobel Tequila.

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/Latinx 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. Admission is suggested.

For more information on El Museo del Barrio, please visit www.elmuseo.org. To connect with El Museo del Barrio via Social Media, follow us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/elmuseo](https://www.facebook.com/elmuseo), Instagram at [Instagram.com/elmuseo](https://www.instagram.com/elmuseo), and Twitter at [Twitter.com/elmuseo](https://twitter.com/elmuseo).

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