

EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO

39TH ANNUAL THREE KINGS DAY PARADE Wednesday, January 6, 2016 Event Info

PARADE INTRO AND SCHEDULE

11:00am–12:30pm, El Barrio

Parade begins at 106th St. and Lexington Ave. and ends at 115th St. and Park Ave. *El desfile comienza en la calle 106 y Avenida Lexington y termina en la calle 115 y Avenida Park.*

12:00pm–1:00pm, La Marqueta

Celebrate the end of the parade with traditional Puerto Rican music and food. Sponsored by Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, La Marqueta Retoña, Acacia Network, and the New York City Economic Development Corporation. *Celebra el fin del desfile con música y comida tradicional de Puerto Rico. Patrocinado por la Concejal Melissa Mark-Viverito, La Marqueta Retoña, Acacia Network, y la Corporación para el Desarrollo Económico de la Ciudad de Nueva York.*

1:00pm–2:00pm, El Museo

The festivities continue at El Museo with live music by Pablo Mayor and friends, and free admission to Las Galerías. *La celebración continúa en El Museo con música en vivo por Pablo Mayor y amigos, así como entrada gratuita a Las Galerías.*

HONOREES

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| Jesus ‘Papoletto’ Melendez King Emeritus Poet, Playwright, Performance Artist and long-time El Barrio resident | Long considered one of the original founders of the Nuyorican Movement, Meléndez addresses political, intellectual and linguistic topics in his work that remain relevant today. A New York-born Puerto Rican award-winning poet, playwright, teacher and activist, he began his career nearly 40 years ago as a poet-facilitator in public schools, working at workshop programs in California and New York. In 1974, Meléndez’s play, “ The Junkies Stole The Clock, ” was the first Latino play produced by the New York Shakespeare Festival, The Public Theatre’s Nuyorican Playwright’s Unit. Over the years, Meléndez has performed his poetry with his musical group “ Exiled Genius, ” with Eugene Mingus on piano, and M’Chaka Uba on bass, a trio that combined the tradition of jazz spontaneity and precision with the natural melody of the poetic voice in poetry/jazz collaboration. |
| KINGS | |
| J.W. CORTÉS Actor | J.W. Cortés is an award-winning actor, Marine combat veteran, singer, filmmaker and philanthropist. Born and raised in Sunset Park Brooklyn, to inspiring Puerto Rican parents, he developed an interest in the arts along with a desire to serve his community and country. Recognized for his drive, talent and positive attitude, Cortés has become one of the most respected prime-time Puerto Rican actors |

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| | on television today. |
| SONIA MANZANO Actor and Writer | Sonia Manzano has affected the lives of millions since the early 1970s, as the actress who defined the role of “Maria” on the acclaimed television series Sesame Street. Sonia has won fifteen Emmy Awards for her television writing. Manzano’s new book is a memoir, <i>Becoming Maria: Love and Chaos in the South Bronx</i> (Scholastic) which was distinguished as a Notable Book of 2015 / NYTimes. Manzano is also the author of several picture books, <i>No Dogs Allowed</i> , <i>A Box Full of Kittens</i> and most recently <i>Miracle on 133rd Street</i> (Simon and Schuster). Her first novel, <i>The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano</i> (Scholastic), was a 2012 Pura Belpré Honor Book and a Kirkus Reviews Best Books of 2012. People magazine has named Sonia one of America’s most influential Hispanics. She lives in NYC. |
| ARTURO O’FARRILL Musician and Educator | Arturo O’Farrill is a world-renowned, Grammy Award-winning pianist, composer, and educator. In 2002, he created the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra in order to bring the vital musical traditions of Afro Latin jazz to a wider audience and greatly expand the contemporary Latin jazz big band repertoire. In 2007, he established the nonprofit Afro Latin Jazz Alliance as a new institutional support for the Orchestra. A celebrated composer with a ground-breaking and forward- looking perspective, O’Farrill has received commissions from Meet the Composer, the Big Apple Circus, the Philadelphia Music Project, Symphony Space, and the Bronx Museum of the Arts. He is currently on the faculty at Brooklyn College and the Manhattan School of Music. O’Farrill is a Steinway Artist and Artist-in-Residence along with the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra at the Harlem School of the Arts and a member of the Board of Governors of the New York Chapter of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. |
| PADRINOS | |
| ARTHUR AVILES Dancer and Choreographer; Co- founder of the Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance | An award winning New York-Rican dancer and choreographer, Arthur is the recipient of several awards including a Bessie Award, an Arts and Letters Award from Bard College, the Creative Artist Image Award from NYC Comptroller Bill Thompson and the Mayor’s Award for Art and Culture. He is founder of Arthur Aviles Typical Theatre (AATT), which serves as the basis of the Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance. |
| GONZALO CASALS Director of Public Programs, Education and Community Engagement, Friends of the Highline | For the last decade, Gonzalo Casals, an aspiring neighborhoodist, has been exploring cultural production as a vehicle to foster empowerment, social capital, civic participation and community development. Casals joins the leadership of a generation of cultural workers that are working towards redefining the role of cultural organizations and their relationship with communities, neighborhoods and cities; through his work at El Museo del Barrio, Friends of The High Line and The Naturally Occurring Cultural Districts New York (NOCD-NY). Casal’s experience ranges from innovative programming design, authentic engagement strategies and progressive cultural policy. |
| DR. THOMAS HOWARD, JR. | With more than 25 years of experience in the field of education, with particular focus in working with students and teachers to put |

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| <p>Executive Director of Boys & Girls Harbor</p> | <p>education innovations into practice, Thomas has served as the Executive Director of Boys & Girls Harbor since 2010. He has a great interest in youth & education in East Harlem, and works closely with the Berklee City Music Network, a Harbor partner that has provided a number of students with summer arts program scholarships at the Berklee College of Music.</p> |
| <p>KHALIL GIBRAN MUHAMMAD Director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture Activist, scholar and author,</p> | <p>Khalil is director of Arturo Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture which today serves as a powerful cultural bridge between Harlem’s Latino/a and Black neighbors. He is the author of award-winning book “The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America.” Khalil is now working on his second book, “Disappearing Acts: The End of White Criminality in the Age of Jim Crow,” which traces the historical roots of the changing demographics of crime and punishment so evident today.</p> |
| <p>JOSE ORTIZ (DR. DRUM) Musician, and Co-founder and musical director of BombaYo!</p> | <p>A Bronx-native, Jose is a self-taught percussionist of Afro Caribbean rhythms. For the past 15 years he has taught at numerous schools throughout NYC and has developed original curricula for teaching percussion to young people. As co-founder and musical director of BombaYo Afro-Puerto Rican Youth Project, Jose’s work helps youth members develop a strong sense of identity and responsibility through actively exploring their cultural roots. He sees this art form as a vehicle for self-discipline, cultural affirmation, and healing.</p> |
| <p>JOHNNY RIVERA Democratic District Leader for the 68th Assembly District in East Harlem</p> | <p>Committed to community service from a young age, Johnny organized a successful protest at the age of 16, demanding that local elected officials stop blocking state funds to renovate an abandoned building to be used for affordable housing. This accomplishment won him the New Yorker Award from the Citizen’s Committee of New York City. Since then, Johnny has held leadership positions at Harlem RBI/DREAM Charter School and Mount Sinai Medical Center. Most recently, he was elected as the Democratic District Leader for the 68th Assembly District in East Harlem.</p> |
| <p>MADRINAS</p> | |
| <p>NENE ALI Poet/Musician</p> | <p>A young artist who uses poetry and spoken word to address issues of gang violence, child trafficking, hip-hop culture and self-worth, Nene has been the recipient of the Nelson Mandela “Community Activist Award” and others. Through her spoken word and music, she continues to uplift people.</p> |
| <p>ELSIE ENCARNACION Family and Community Engagement Coordinator, The Renaissance for Innovation Charter High School</p> | <p>Striving to empower families while connecting them to community resources, native East Harlemita Elsie, takes great pride in representing her diverse community and working towards its empowerment. Most recently, she began teaching a Young Women’s Leadership class to strengthen the leadership skills of at-risk girls at Innovation. Previously, she served as Director of Youth Services for Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, where she worked with District 4 schools in Manhattan. Currently, she is the Chair of the Education Sub – Group of the East Harlem Steering Committee, working to enhance opportunities for schools in the district.</p> |

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| <p>SANDRA MARÍA ESTEVES Poet-The Godmother of the Nuyorican Poets / Artist (Artist-Activist)</p> | <p>Bronx-native Sandra believes that creativity is the antithesis to violence. Focused on transformation and empowerment through reflection and analysis of real life issues, she has published several poetry collections, including <i>Bluestown Mockingbird Mambo</i> and her first book, <i>Yerba Buena</i>. Previously she served as Executive Director/Producer of the African Caribbean Poetry Theater. In addition, she has been a teaching artist for more than thirty-five years, and taught creative writing workshops for the New York City Board of Education, El Museo del Barrio, and many more.</p> |
| <p>ELENA MARTINEZ Artistic Director, Bronx Music Heritage Center, and Director of City Lore</p> | <p>For nearly twenty years, Elena has been a Folklorist at City Lore, and has been Co-Artistic Director of the Bronx Music Heritage Center since 2012. She co-produced the documentary, <i>From Mambo to Hip Hop: A South Bronx Tale</i>, which aired on PBS in September 2006. She is also a producer for the forthcoming documentary, <i>We Like It Like That: The Story of Latin Boogaloo</i>, which premiered at the SXSW Festival earlier this year. In the visual arts, Elena served as Assistant Curator for the exhibit, "Nueva York: 1613-1945" at El Museo del Barrio in 2010. She has been awarded a 2013 BOROMIX Puerto Rican Heritage Award and Comité Noviembre's Lo Mejor de Nuestra Comunidad 2013.</p> |
| <p>SOFIA QUINTERO Author and Activist</p> | <p>Self-professed "Ivy League homegirl," Sofia is a writer, producer, activist, educator, and speaker. Under the pen name Black Artemis, Sofia has written several hip-hop novels for adults including "Explicit Content," "Picture Me Rollin,'" and "Burn." Under her real name, she has published the award-winning young adult novel "Efrain's Secret" and numerous short stories and novelas. Her latest novel "Show and Prove" is set in New York City in the summer of 1983 was called a "powerful and thought-provoking... homage to a climactic hip-hop era."</p> |
| <p>POSTHUMOUS HONORS</p> | |
| <p>ELI S. ALVARADO Former President of La Casa de la Herencia Puertorriqueña (d. – January 30, 2015)</p> | <p>An accomplished visual artist, poet, and the author and artistic director of various play productions, Eli was also one of the most ardent proponents of our Puerto Rican culture. His paintings reflect the love he had for Puerto Rico, and many aspects of his life and culture. Eli devoted more than 20 years of his life to the development and preservation of La Casa de la Herencia Puertorriqueña.</p> |
| <p>LOUIS FELIPE NUÑEZ Former ASPIRA Director (October 31, 1931 – April 30, 2015)</p> | <p>Born in East Harlem to a Puerto Rican mother and Peruvian father, Louis was a staunch advocate of educational and economic opportunity for Puerto Ricans for more than three decades. After graduating from Morris High School in the Bronx and City College with a degree in business administration, and a short stint in the Army from 1953 to 1956, he went on to serve on New York City's Board of Higher Education; as national executive director of Aspira, a leadership development and educational counseling agency; as staff director of the United States Commission on Civil Rights; and as president of the National Puerto Rican Coalition. Louis served on the civil rights commission in various roles for nine years, including acting director during the administration of President Richard M. Nixon. He retired as president of the National Puerto Rican Coalition</p> |

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| | in 1994. |
| CARMEN M. PIETRI-DIAZ Former Executive Director of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe (d. – July 17, 2015) | Former executive director of the world renown, Nuyorican Poets Cafe, and co-administrator of the Pedro Pietri Benefit Fund, Carmen was publicly honored with the title of executive director emeritus of the Nuyorican Cafe in 2008. e metropolitan area. Pietri-Diaz sat on the boards of various cultural organizations, including the Clemente Soto Velez Cultural Center and the Federation of EasShe continues to be active in community and cultural affairs and was President and CEO of Zero Budget Productions. |
| ANITA VELEZ MITCHELL Founding Member of La Casa de la Herencia Cultural Puertorriqueña (February 21, 1916 – July 10, 2015) | A long-time advocate and protagonist in the arts, Anita performed the role of Anita in the 1963 production of “West Side Story” and coached the Sharks gang members a decade later in the Lincoln Center revival directed by Lee Theodore. She culminated her performing career in April 2015 at the age of 99, giving a stunning video performance in the Off-Off Broadway production of “Comida de Puta,” a new play by Desi Moreno-Penson. Anita is also the subject of the multiple award-winning documentary, “Anita Velez: Dancing Through Life,” by daughter and TV journalist Jane Velez-Mitchell. Her body of work is in the archives of the Puerto Rican Diaspora, Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños, Hunter College, CUNY in New York City. As a cultural arts representative, Anita addressed the UN General Assembly over nine times to protest the U.S. Navy’s bombing maneuvers on Vieques, Puerto Rico, which has resulted in birth defects and ecological damage to the island and its phosphorescent sea. |

TALENT

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| Abya Yala Arte y Cultura | Abya Yala Arte y Cultura, a New York-based non-profit cultural organization, presents diverse art projects that maintain Andean cultural expressions and promote cultural awareness. Their programs are community grounded, intergenerational and inclusive. Each year, Abya Yala presents and produces a season of events that include: educational and artistic workshops, art exhibitions, community forums, theatrical representations, and culinary and art festivals. Their mission is to present, promote and celebrate the cultural identity of the native communities of Peru, focusing on the Andean region and the diffusion of its living and thriving culture. |
| Annette Aguilar & The String Beans | Combining superb musicianship with unique string and percussion arrangements of Latin Brazilian jazz, contemporary jazz, classical and world music, Annette A. Aguilar & String-Beans are very Special Friends. Annette A. Aguilar, the band’s talented and versatile percussionist and musical director, produced, arranged and shared in the mixing of the tunes. She was also fortunate to have the constant support and consultation of well- known producer Frank Dorieti. A long-time friend of Aguilar, Dorieti has twice produced Grammy award winning recordings, for Latin jazz great Cal Tjader and the eminent jazz artist Art Blakey (Art Blakey & The Jazz Messengers.) |
| Yackez | Larissa Velez-Jackson is an independent choreographer, multimedia artist, dancer, and vocalist in NYC. For the past four years LVJ has |

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| | <p>embarked on a musical collaboration with her husband Jon Velez-Jackson called Yackez, “The World’s Most Loveable Hip Hop Duo.” Jon Velez-Jackson is a songwriter, writer and full-time journalist, and co-founder and co-creator of Yackez. He currently is a Senior Editor at The Week magazine, which he helped launch in 2001 and is also an avid pro-wrestling aficionado. She stage-directs their multi-cast ensemble works and has thoroughly enjoyed working with her Yackez dance collaborators at a recent residency at El Museo del Barrio in Winter ’14-’15. They have presented work at NYC venues such as: Dixon Place, Roulette, People’s Improv Theatre, New Museum of Contemporary Art, (the former) Dance Theater Workshop, Danspace Project Fall Platform ’10, and American Realness Festival ’11 at Abrons Arts Center.</p> |
| <p>BombaYo!</p> | <p>BombaYo, a youth project dedicated to preserving the rich Afro Puerto Rican tradition of Bomba. BombaYo emerges from the streets and schoolyards of the Bronx, where salsa and hip-hop were born. Under the direction of Jose L.Ortiz aka Dr.Drum and Melinda Gonzalez, BombaYo’s young people bring new energy to a centuries-old Afro Puerto Rican music and dance tradition. Bomba starts from within. In the spirit of Sankofa, BombaYo members draw from the bomba tradition to enrich their lives, embrace their cultural legacy, and share this gift with others. In a short time, the group had been invited to perform at schools, youth conferences, and Latino Heritage Month events across NYC.</p> |
| <p>Los Pleneros de La 21</p> | <p>Los Pleneros de la 21 is a non-profit community based organization and music ensemble located in the heart of El Barrio (Spanish Harlem). They are dedicated to fostering awareness, appreciation and understanding of the richness and vitality of Puerto Rican artistic traditions of African and Creole descent, as well as to promote their further development. Their goals are to present accessible public traditional music programming, to expose inner city youth and others to the cultural heritage of Puerto Rico and encourage their active participation in these traditions, and to perform a repertoire of works embedded in the rich tradition of Puerto Rican folk music to audiences everywhere.</p> |
| <p>Garifuna Folkloric Ballet</p> | <p>Chief Joseph Chatoyer Dance Group started in January of 2009 with the name Bodoma & Budari because it started with The Drums of Bodoma and the Dance of Burdari as a casual dancing a drumming over the weekends. Today, Chief Joseph Chatoyer Garifuna Folkloric Ballet has now 20 members all designated to showcase the Garifuna Culture Drumming, Singing and Dancing and revitalize the Garifuna culture by expressing pride and strength within the Garifuna American Heritage. Felix Gamboa who’s now the Director of the group saw the potential and took it a few steps further and organized a group and made it official. They have been performing in theaters, museums, schools, parks, indoor & outdoor cultural events to maintain the Garifuna culture alive in New York and the metropolitan and teaches Garifuna dance to sixth graders at PS 76 located at 220 west 121 street in Harlem New York.</p> |

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Navideño: Three Kings and Nativities from El Museo's Permanent Collection
On View December 1, 2015 to January 9, 2016

This special exhibition will lead to and coincide with one of the most important popular traditions in many Puerto Rican and Latin American cultures, Three Kings Day, celebrated on January 6. Since 1978, El Museo del Barrio has commemorated Día de los Tres Reyes by organizing a community parade through East Harlem. This exhibition highlights some of the Three Kings and Nativity-related objects from El Museo's permanent collection. A group of delicate wood-carvings by Puerto Rico's santeros, depicting The Three Kings, are juxtaposed with Nativity scenes from various Latin American countries. Objects like these are typically displayed in the homes of those who celebrate the tradition, from December 6 to the Epiphany, or Three Kings Day. Accompanying these objects are traditional holiday posters by artists Antonio Maldonado and Lorenzo Homar. Also featured is a painting on the Three Kings theme by artist Scherezade García, introducing a contemporary version of this historic iconography.

STEERING COMMITTEE

El Museo del Barrio would like to thank the following Steering Committee members for their tireless efforts and steadfast dedication to this year's Three Kings Day Parade celebration: Diana Ayala, Office of NYC Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito; Leenda Bonilla, Partnership for Parks; Jason Cruz, Office of Assemblyman Robert Rodriguez; Roberto G. Lebron, Office of the Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman; Christine Licata, Casita Maria, Inc.; Alberto Minotta, ProyectoBBRAVO; Emily Parkey, DREAM Charter School/Harlem RBI; Eric Rivera, Office of Senator Jose M. Serrano; Alicia Rodriguez, Institute for the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly, Inc.; Joe Rogers Jr., Total Equity Now; Nina Saxon, Office of New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer; Taina Traverso, Taina Touch Enterprize, Inc.; Carmen Vasquez, Community Advocate; and Danielle Weisbrot, Boys & Girls Harbor, Inc.

SPONSORS

The 39th Annual Three Kings Day Parade is made possible thanks to the generous support of Nissan Foundation, Associated Supermarkets, New York Yankees, Con Edison, Francisco X. Gonzalez, Tahl Propp/Manhattan North Management, Mount Sinai Health System, NBC Entertainment, Blumenfeld Development Group, The New York Academy of Medicine and Harlem RBI.

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