

EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO GALA 2025
HONORING ARTIST AND PATRON OF THE ARTS
TONY BECHARA (1942 – 2025)
WITH THE EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS AND OUTSTANDING PATRON AWARD
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2025 | THE POOL, SEAGRAM BUILDING

New York, NY, May 29, 2025— El Museo del Barrio will host its **annual Gala on Wednesday, June 11 at The Pool**, located in the iconic Seagram Building in New York City. This year's event will honor late artist and arts patron **Tony Bechara**, whose visionary leadership and extraordinary contributions helped shape El Museo into the national and international cultural institution it is today.

The annual Gala is El Museo's signature fundraising event. This year's Gala will bring together artists, philanthropists, and community members to celebrate Tony Bechara's extraordinary life and legacy. Proceeds support El Museo del Barrio's exhibitions, educational programs, and the preservation of its permanent collection.

The evening will include a **special musical performance by renowned Puerto Rican opera singer Larisa Martínez**, as well as an **auction** featuring exclusive artworks, with proceeds supporting El Museo's mission and programs.

El Museo's Gala Chairs are: **Estrellita and Daniel Brodsky, Victoria Espinosa, Agnes Gund, Karla Harwich, Karla Martinez de Salas, María Eugenia Maury, and Yolanda Santos.**

Notable attendees, in addition to the hosts, include: **Gabriela Hearst, Lucia Hierro, Carlos Picón, Claudia Peña-Salinas, Lee Quinones, Jean Shafiroff, Barbara Tober, Ruben Toledo, Jean-Pierre Villafañe, and Julián Zugazagoitia**, among others.

"El Museo del Barrio's Gala is a night to celebrate the transformative power of Latinx and Latin American art, and this year, we are deeply honored to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Tony Bechara," said **Karla Harwich, Chair of the Board of Trustees at El Museo del Barrio**. "Tony was not only an accomplished artist, but also a visionary leader whose unwavering dedication helped shape our institution. As a Trustee and longtime Chair of the Board, Tony championed our mission with passion, generosity, and brilliance. We are forever indebted to his commitment, and his legacy will continue to guide and inspire us for generations to come."

"Tony Bechara was a force of nature whose leadership transformed not only El Museo del Barrio, but the very fabric of New York's cultural life," said **Patrick Charpenel, Executive Director, El Museo del Barrio**. As an artist and longtime Trustee of El Museo, Tony's unwavering dedication shaped El Museo into the nationally and internationally recognized institution it is today, while amplifying the voices and stories of our communities. His absence

will be deeply felt, but his influence endures—etched into the city’s cultural institutions and into the very soul of El Museo del Barrio.”

El Museo’s Gala Vice Chairs are: **Bloomberg Philanthropies, Agustín Coppel Luken, Bechara Family, Gabriela Hearst, Carolina Herrera, COACH, Lisson Gallery, Morgan Stanley, Stanley Stairs and Leslie Powell, Maria Teresa Mata, Ramiro Ortiz Mayorga, Mac Schuessler, Barbara Tober, and Withers.**

El Museo’s Gala Host Committee comprises: **Candida Alvarez, Renata Alves de Paula, Adam Bartos, Gaily Beinecke, Grace Brea Pomeranc, Barbara Briones, Esteban Cabeza de Baca, Nicole Calderon, Perla Capriles, Gilberto Cárdenas & Dolores Garcia, Charlie James Gallery, Cristina Camacho, María Magdalena Campos-Pons, Danie Cansino, Ella Fontanals-Cisneros, Virginia Cowles Schroth, Christie’s, David Antonio Cruz, Olivia Cuissart de Grelle, EMBAJADA, Maria Luisa Ferré-Rangel and Cyril Meduña, Salomé Galib, Amanda Garcia Santana, Garth Greenan Gallery, Roberto Gil de Montes, Jeannette and, Francisco Gonzalez, Elmer Guevara, Maria Guzmán de Capron, Gabriela Hearst, Lucia Hierro, Hispanic Federation, Instituto de Vision, Isabel and Julio Nazario, Nazarian / Curcio, Anina Major, Carlos Martiel, Diane L. Max, Monika McLennan, Monique Meloche, Alfredo Mineo, Miranda Family Fund, Ward L. E. Mintz, Morgan Lehman Gallery, Carlos Motta, ORTUZAR, Maria-Leticia Ossa Daza, Laura de Paula Seripieri, Claudia Peña Salinas, Jorge Perez, P.P.O.W., PROXYCO, Encarnita and Robert Quinlan, Lee Quiñones, Carlos Reyes, Craig Robins, Armig Santos, Jean Shafiroff, Chaveli Sifre, Sotheby’s, Edra Soto, Elizabeth Steimberg and David Weiner, Swivel Gallery, TERN Gallery, Joey Terrill Pedro J. Torres & Cecilia Picón, Georgina Treviño, Jean-Pierre Villafañe, Vilma Vale-Brennan, Paul Vidich and Linda Stein, Carmen Rita Wong, and Julián Zugazagoitia**

ABOUT THE HONOREE

Tony Bechara (1942–2025) was born in Puerto Rico in 1942 and lived and worked in New York City for most of his life. He attended Georgetown Law School and New York University, and later studied at the Sorbonne in Paris and the New York School of Visual Art. In the 1970s and 80s, Bechara was included in exhibitions organized by the Boulder, Colorado based Criss-Cross pattern printing collective and featured work in the group exhibition ‘Islamic Allusions’ at the Alternative Museum in New York. In 1980 he received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. Bechara has had solo exhibitions at El Museo del Barrio, New York in 1988; Alternative Museum in 1988; Artists Space in New York in 1993 and el Museo del Arte Puerto Rico in 2008. Recently, Bechara has participated in exhibitions ‘With Pleasure: Pattern and Decoration in American Art, 1972-1985’, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA, (2019), which travelled to the Hessel Museum of Art, CCS Bard, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, (2021); ‘Point of Departure: Abstraction 1958-Present’, Sheldon Museum of Art, Lincoln, NE (2021); and ‘Artists Choose Parrish’, Parrish Art Museum, NY, (2023). His work can be found in numerous public and private collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY; El

Museo del Barrio, NY; Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico and the Sheldon Museum of Art, University of Nebraska, NE.

In addition to his work as an artist, Bechara was a devoted arts advocate and community leader. He served on the boards of many leading cultural organizations including the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Instituto Cervantes, and Studio in a School. His commitment to El Museo del Barrio was especially profound: he joined the Board of Trustees in 1993, became Co-Chair in 1997, and served as Board Chair from 2000 to 2015. In 2016, he was named Chairman Emeritus in honor of his exemplary service and steadfast dedication to the institution.

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ABOUT EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO

El Museo del Barrio is the nation's leading 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. The Museum is open Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 11:00am – 5:00pm. Pay what you can. To connect with El Museo via social media, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X](#). For more information, please visit www.elmuseo.org.

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