



## **Casa de las Américas** End of Year Report 2022/2023

### 1. Casa de las Américas Mission

TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES for Latinx, Latin American, & Caribbean community members to enter, advance, and excel in multifaceted professional arenas for career and economic upward mobility.

TO FOSTER UNDERSTANDING of the historical forces that have contributed to the exclusion of the various groups that comprise Latinx, Latin American, & Caribbean heritage.

TO SUPPORT ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES in the fields of Latinx, Latinx American, and Caribbean Studies.

### 2. President Adams Attestation

I am writing this attestation to express my support and recognition of the continuing value that Casa de las Américas brings to La Guardia Community College. Casa de las Américas has consistently demonstrated its significance as a cultural hub, fostering educational growth and enriching experiences for our students.

Casa de las Américas is a vibrant hub of cultural exchange, bridging the gap between various Latin American cultures and our College campus. La Casa is pivotal in promoting cultural diversity, inclusivity, and intercultural understanding within our College campus. It provides a platform for students from diverse backgrounds to come together, exchange ideas, and celebrate the richness of Latin American culture. Through various programs, events, and initiatives, Casa de las Américas has created a vibrant community that encourages dialogue, fosters mutual respect, and broadens perspectives.

The educational impact of Casa de las Américas cannot be understated. It offers a range of educational opportunities, including lectures and cultural events that expand students' knowledge and appreciation of Latin American and Caribbean history, literature, arts, and social issues. These experiences enhance students' academic growth and nurture their personal development, promoting global citizenship and a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Furthermore, La Casa serves as a catalyst for student engagement and leadership development. It provides students a platform to actively participate in planning and organizing events, creating an inclusive environment where they can develop their organizational, communication, and teamwork skills. By empowering students to take on leadership roles, Casa de las Américas instills confidence and a sense of ownership among its members, positively impacting their college experience.

As the College President, I recognize the importance of sustaining and supporting Casa de las Américas. Its presence enriches our campus, fosters cultural exchange, and promotes educational growth among our students. I strongly believe that Casa de las Américas contributes to creating well-rounded individuals equipped to thrive in an increasingly diverse and interconnected world. La Casa is an indispensable asset that enriches the fabric of our College and serves as a shining example of our commitment to diversity, equity, and global engagement.

Therefore, I urge all members of our college community to appreciate and actively engage with the valuable resources, programs, and opportunities that Casa de las Américas offers. Together, we can contribute to fostering an environment that celebrates cultural diversity and promotes educational growth.

### 3. Director's Statement of Progress

During the 2022/23 academic year, the role of leading La Casa was shared between Dr. Sonia Alejandra Rodríguez (English) and Dr. Ryan Mann-Hamilton (Anthropology). As Co-Directors, we led the first year of La Casa programming and formulated some of the future plans for the Center. During our first months, we secured and helped design our office space, developed promotional materials, crafted staff and students positions to help support the day-to-day management of La Casa, worked with the campus entities to establish a branding and network of collaborators on campus and in the community. In addition to the initial work of setting up the Center, we were tasked with conducting fundraising and submitting grant proposals to support our year-long programming and to supplement our budget to pay for staffing needs throughout the year.

In La Casa's first year we were able to have a multitude of events ranging from author visits to film screenings and musical performances. We were also able to have versatility in modality with a mixture of online, on-campus, and outdoor events. Reflecting on our first year as Co-Directors we are immensely proud of the work that we have done and the impact on both the campus and community. Through data we collected at our various events, we were able to reach 2,741 people through our events. One of our initial desires was to collaborate across campus and to develop transformational gathering and events that have an impact on our students. Throughout the year, we organized and supported over 36 events and collaborated with over 31 offices and groups.

Our focus for the 2023/2024 academic year will be to continue expanding La Casa's relationship to the campus and community and continue seeking collaborations to improve our services and expand our audiences. Some of our goals for the year include developing a CTL Seminar for faculty and staff on Latin American & Latin Studies; expand our partnerships with Community Based Organizations; continue to organize annual cultural programming; expand the La Casa Art Exhibitions; further develop La Casa's Fundraising Plans; and apply for grant opportunities identified during first year.

### 4. Staffing Plan

The successful work that La Casa engaged in throughout the 2022/2023 academic year would not have been possible without the hard work and support of our Office Manager, Stefania Gonzalez, and the engagement of our La Casa Student Ambassadors and Art Fellows. For the 2022/2023 academic year, we were able to hire, train and mentor four LaGuardia Community College students who became the La Casa Ambassadors, helping to promote the Center to the campus community. Additionally, we hired four Art Fellows who under the guidance of Professor Arianne Fernandez (Humanities) and Dina Pizarello (Humanities) created a mural for La Casa, assisted with the installations of a Día de los Muertos Altar, and created and curated art for the La Casa's office space. These student positions were funded through the LaGuardia Foundation, and we have requested additional support from the Foundation for next year.

During the 2023/2024 Academic year we will be expanding our hours of service from 20 to 35 hours a week, and to do so we have secured additional funding to increase the hours of our Office Manager from 20 to 35 a week, as well as continuing our La Casa Student Ambassador Program, to help support us throughout the year. In addition to the increased hours of operation, there will be a voluntary change in the leadership structure. For

the Fall 2023 semester Dr. Ryan Mann-Hamilton and Dr. Ingrid Veras (Natural Sciences) will be Co-Directing La Casa and in Spring 2024 Dr. Sonia Alejandra Rodríguez and Dr. Ingrid Veras will be Co-Directing.

## 5. Description of Current and Projected Activities

We have already begun planning for the 2023/2024-year activities and have secured funding to support some of that preliminary programming. To determine those projected activities, we have engaged in a process of reflection and evaluation of past events, the pitfalls experienced and what worked well for us and our participants. In doing so we have decided to focus on more specific themes and collaboration for our second year as a Center. We hope to continue our collaborations with other Centers across CUNY and strengthen the relationship between La casa and the Wagner Archives at LaGuardia College.

### Past Events

#### Fall 2022 Events:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b># of Attendees</b>
09/28/2022	Open House / Grand Opening	91
10/07/2022	Reading & Signing w/ Christine Kandic Torres	39
10/12/2022	Casa Film Screening - Adios Momo	3
11/02/2022	Dia de los Muertos Event	66
11/16/2022	PTK Event – Casa Participation	13
11/14/2022	Latinx in STEM	30
11/10/2022	The Radical Impact of Ethnic Studies Panel (Zoom)	30
11/18/2022	Reading & Signing w/ Cleyvs Natera	29
11/22/2022	COIL Program Recipe Book Presentation (Zoom)	25

#### Spring 2023 Events:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b># of Attendees</b>
02/22/2023	Migrations & Black Erasure (Zoom)	75
02/27/2023	Reimagining the Black Archive: From Samana to the Americas (Zoom)	120
03/08/2023	Spring Open House	41
03/14/2023	First Generation Student Support Circle (Zoom)	6
03/16/2023	Science for All: Tales of the Colombian Scientific Diaspora	50
03/24/2023	Dutch Oil, Dominican Sugar, and the Back Doors of the Caribbean Diaspora, 1910-1970 – Graduate Center	30
03/29/2023	Spring Fest x Casa	300
03/30/2023	La Casa Ambassadors Game Night – First Gen Bingo	8
04/18/2023	First Generation Student Support Circle (Zoom)	10
04/19/2023	Wikipedia/Chat GPT Transla-a-thon for Earth Day	20
04/20/2023	La Casa Ambassadors Game Night – UNO	12
04/21/2023	Author Visit: Tanya K. Hernandez	30
04/26/2023	The Different Faces of Blackness (Zoom)	18
05/03/2023	Casa Film Screening – Madan Sara	8
05/05/2023	Author Visit: Christopher Gonzalez (Zoom)	42
05/10/2023	Latinx in STEM: Sharing Stories	25
05/11/2023	La Casa Ambassadors Game Night – Pictionary	7
05/12/2023	Author Visit: Daphne P. Andreades	58
05/16/2023	First Generation Student Support Circle w/ Angy Rivera (Zoom)	10

05/18/2023	Islands & Rivers - Little Theater Event	65
05/24/2023	Hispanic Federation Resource & Job Fair – Plaza	700
05/26/2023	Author Visit: Lorraine Avila (Zoom)	33
05/31/2023	Dr. Mariaelena Huambachano: Food Sovereignty	18
05/31/2023	La Casa at La Plaza	700
05/02/2023	Author Visit: Bushra Rehman	25
05/06/2023	First Generation Student Support Circle	3
05/08/2023	La Casa Ambassadors Game Night – Jenga	1

## Collaborators

This year La Casa had the privilege of collaborating with numerous departments, centers, and foundations both on and off campus.

- Campus Life (on-campus)
- COIL Program (on-campus)
- Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
- Afro-Latino Forum
- DC Afro Latino Caucus
- Café con Libros
- International Society of Black Latinos
- Center for the Humanities, CUNY Graduate Center
- Engaging the Senses Foundation
- CUNY Dominican Studies Institute
- Women’s Center (on-campus)
- Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies, CUNY Graduate Center
- Clubs de Ciencia Colombia
- LGBTQIA Safe Zone Hub (on-campus)
- CUNY LGBTQIA+ Consortium
- New York City Council
- LaGuardia and Wagner Archives (on-campus)
- Office of Academic Affairs (on-campus)
- Black Lives Matter Summit
- Wikimedia New York City
- Project Conexion (on-campus)
- Project Sembrar (on-campus)
- Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Committee (on-campus)
- Hispanic Federation
- Tampu Project
- LaGuardia Cares (on-campus)
- NYC Open Streets
- The Connected Chef
- Fine Arts Club (on-campus)
- Climate Reality Club (on-campus)
- LaGuardia Community College Greenway (on-campus)

## 6. Current and Projected Budget

Casa’s events during the 2022/2023 academic year have been made possible through funding from several grants/donations:

### **M&T Bank: \$10k**

Funds from M&T Bank were used for office and event supplies. Things like an in-office water cooler, refrigerator, and Casa branded tablecloths and staff t-shirts were made possible by these funds. Additionally, supplies that were used for our Dia de los Muertos display case, La Casa’s commissioned mural, and more.

### **BRESI: \$38K**

Funds from BRESI were used for personnel, conference travel, event supplies such as books and food, and honorarium for guest speakers and performers.

**LaGuardia & Wagner Archives: \$10K**

The LaGuardia and Wagner Archives funds were used for art supplies that will help bring to life the Pride Month show case that will be on display throughout June and July of 2023. Funds from the archives were also used to purchase books for student attendees and honorarium for guest authors.

**LaGuardia Community College Foundation: \$18K**

LaGCC Foundation was responsible for the funding of La Casa’s Ambassadors and La Casa’s Art Fellows. The Foundation funded \$12K for 4 ambassadors during the 2022-2023 Academic year with each Ambassador receiving \$1,500 per semester.

Additionally, the LaGuardia Foundation funded \$6K for 4 La Casa’s Art Fellows who oversaw creating a mural for La Casa’s office space as well as selecting the permanent art works of the office. Each ambassador received \$1,500 for their participation.

For the 2023/2024 academic year we have received the following funding and applied to additional funding sources to increase our annual budget. We aim to increase our budget by working with the Laguardia Foundation and the Grants Office to secure additional grant funding. With the direction of President Adams, we now have a seven-person Advisory Board whose work will be to seek and secure additional funding that will cover both short term and long term needs for La Casa.

**Confirmed Budget 2023/2024**

Ledger 9 Funds:	\$12,000
Engaging the Senses (Donation)	\$6,000
Center for the Humanities (Donation)	\$2,000
BRESI (October)	\$2,000
LaGuardia Foundation	\$12,000

**Potential Funding Sources in Progress 20223/2024**

College Funding Association	(Requested)	\$4,500 (Fall)
LaGuardia and Wagner Archives		\$10,000
TD Bank		\$10,000
Perkins Grant		\$4,500
US ED Title V Grant		\$5,000