

Living in America: The Mexican Community

The Mexican community is one of the fastest growing in the New York metropolitan area, with many immigrants arriving from the Mixteca region (the states of Puebla, Guerrero, and Oaxaca) as well as from Mexico City. They have settled throughout the five boroughs, especially in East Harlem, Manhattan, Corona and Jackson Heights, Queens, and Sunset Park and Williamsburg, Brooklyn, where they have established a thriving cultural presence that is shaping the economic and artistic landscape of New York. *Living in America: The Mexican Community* celebrates the contributions that Mexican immigrants are making to the cultural life of New York City while sharing with audiences the experience of Mexicans living in the United States.

Living in America: The Mexican Community
is copresented with

The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York and the Center for Traditional Music and Dance (use logos / see flyer design)

The Museum Shop features a special selection of Mexican arts and crafts.

The Mexican Immigrant Experience Saturday and Sunday, January 11 and 12

As Mexicans continue to cross the border to work in cities and towns in the United States, individual stories of travel, alienation and interpersonal conflict are shared among community members through songs, storytelling, and letters to family and friends. *Música norteña*, a topical, narrative song tradition that vividly embraces these themes is one of the many Mexican artistic expressions presented and illuminated this weekend. A roundtable made up of community members brings many of these stories to life.

Workshop: Norteño Dance

Saturday and Sunday, January 11 and 12

12:00–1:00 p.m.

Rose Center Classroom, second floor

Limited to 20 participants, ages 8 and up

\$5

Program Code: EK011103(Sat)/EK011203(Sun)

Learn dance forms associated with *música norteña* like the *huapango norteño*, polka, and *paso doble*. **Juventina Durán**, Director of the **Ballet Folklórico**

Mexicano de Nueva York, leads the workshop along with members of her acclaimed dance group. *See their free performance on Saturday, January 25.*

Performance: Música Norteña

Saturday, January 11

1:15–2:15 p.m. and 4:15–5:15 p.m.

Kaufmann Theater, first floor

The Bronx-based *música norteña* group, **Los Diamantes de Puebla**, performs songs rarely heard outside of Mexican community-based celebrations. The group is a traditional trio with accordion, *bajo sexto*, 12-string Mexican bass-rhythm guitar, and *tololoche*, handmade upright bass. Audience members are invited to dance!

Lecture/Demonstration: Música Norteña

Saturday, January 11, 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 12, 1:00–2:15 p.m.

Linder Theater, first floor

Cathy Ragland, ethnomusicologist and Mexican immigrant music specialist at the Center for Traditional Music and Dance, and brothers **Santiago** and **Pablo Javier** of **Suspenseo del Norte**, a Queens-based *norteña* ensemble, discuss the centrality of this musical genre to the Mexican immigrant experience.

Workshop: Piñata-Making

Saturday, January 11, 3:45–5:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 12, 12:00–2:00 p.m.

Calder Lab, second floor

Limited to 20 participants, ages 8 and up

\$5

Program Code: EK011103B(Sat)/EK011203B(Sun)

Piñatas are a distinctive symbol of Mexican culture worldwide. A colorfully decorated hollow vessel, filled to the brim with candy or other treats, is suspended from the ceiling and struck with a stick by a blindfolded player. The *piñata* has been a staple at community celebrations and life cycle events in Mexico since the 16th century. *Piñata* maker **Aurelia Fernandez** of Yonkers teaches her craft in this workshop.

Roundtable: Voices from El Barrio: Testimonies of Mexican Migrants in New York

Sunday, January 12

2:30–3:45 p.m.

Linder Theater, first floor

Four migrants from Mexico engage in a discussion about their personal struggles, achievements, challenges, and experiences coming to and living in the United States. **Erika Vilfort**, Director of Academic Programs at the Mexican Cultural Institute of New York, facilitates this roundtable.

Film Program

SEEN, BUT NOT HEARD

Sunday, January 12

4:00–5:45 p.m.

Linder Theater, first floor

Crónicas de Manhatitlán/The Manhatitlán Chronicles*

(Felipe Galindo. U.S./Mexico. 2000. 7 min.)

This animated flight of fancy transposes elements of Mexican culture onto the cityscape of Manhattan.

** This short will also be screened on January 19 and 26. Filmmaker is present on January 19.*

Seen, But Not Heard

(Calogero Salvo. U.S./Mexico. 2002. 56 min. In Spanish with English subtitles)

This film follows the lives of four Mexican women whose undocumented husbands and partners lost their lives in the tragic events of 9/11. Shot in New York and Mexico, this film traces the personal, social, and economic repercussions of this act of terrorism on their lives and their families. A discussion with the filmmaker and special guests follows the screening.

The “Great Manhatitlán”: Mexican Indigenous Culture in New York

Saturday and Sunday, January 18 and 19

Most Mexicans living and working in New York are related to two indigenous cultures—Náhuatl and Mixteca—and come from the states of Puebla, Oaxaca, and Guerrero. Many Americans are not aware of the regional and cultural diversity of Mexico or that Mexicans from specific towns and regions tend to migrate to the same areas in the United States. This weekend’s activities introduce Museum visitors to the roots of New York’s Mexican population.

Workshop: Oaxacan Woodcarving

Saturday and Sunday, January 18 and 19

12:00–3:00 p.m.

Calder Lab, second floor

Limited to 20 participants, ages 8 and up
\$5
Program Code: EK011803D(Sat)/EK011903B(Sun)

Isidoro Cruz splits his time between Albany, New York, and Oaxaca, Mexico, and is an expert carver of *alebrijes*, the brightly painted and whimsical wooden animal sculptures produced in the Oaxacan valley. Cruz shares the history of this tradition, demonstrates carving techniques and designs, and offers hands-on painting instruction.

Performance: Mixteca and Náhuatl Songs and Dances

Saturday, January 18
1:15–2:15 p.m. and 4:30–5:30 p.m.
Kaufmann Theater, first floor

One of New York's finest Mexican dance groups, **Estampas y Tradiciones** (Images and Traditions), performs indigenous dances from Guerrero and Puebla in local costume. Singer and voice teacher **Guadalupe Ross** performs songs from the region in the Náhuatl language.

Workshop: Mixteca and Náhuatl Dance

Saturday, January 18, 2:15–3:15 p.m.
Sunday, January 19, 12:00–1:00 p.m.
Leonhardt People Center, second floor
Limited to 20 participants, ages 8 and up
\$5
Program Code: EK011803C(Sat)/EK011903(Sun)

Angeles Valencia, Director and Choreographer of the **Estampas y Tradiciones** dance ensemble, and troupe members discuss, demonstrate, and teach indigenous dance traditions of Guerrero and Puebla.

Lecture: Mixteca Migration in New York: History and Perspectives

Saturday, January 18
3:30–4:30 p.m.
Linder Theater, first floor

Robert Smith, Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Barnard College, discusses Mexican migration to New York from Puebla and its enduring impact on both sides of the border. Smith was one of the first researchers to identify and analyze migration patterns from Puebla and, more recently, Guerrero and Oaxaca.

Film Program

GENERATION MEX: MEXICAN FILM AND VIDEOMAKERS LIVING IN NEW YORK

Sunday, January 19

2:30–5:30 p.m.

Linder Theater, first floor

Crónicas de Manhatitlán/The Manhatitlán Chronicles

(Felipe Galindo. U.S./Mexico. 2000. 7 min.)

See Sunday, January 12. A discussion with the filmmaker follows today's screening.

Night Magic

(Bernardo Ruiz. U.S. 2002. 17 min.)

José has one dream: to become a magician. Despite the daily humiliations of a supervisor, the teasing from his domino partners, and even the cruelty of a reality-TV magician, José endures in pursuit of his dream.

Dirty Laundry

(Cristina Ibarra. U.S. 2000. 15 min.)

This short film offers humorous look at border culture, Catholicism, puberty, and the hidden pleasures of the spin cycle.

La Milpa/The Cornfield

(Patricia Rikken. Mexico/U.S. 2001. 27 min.)

Angela reminisces about her youth during the Mexican Revolution, a time when myths, sensuality, war, and pain were part of everyday life.

Neto's Run

(Alfredo de Villa. U.S. 1999. 16 min.)

Neto struggles in vain for two years to save enough money to bring his family from the Dominican Republic to New York City. It becomes apparent that a local drug lord may be the only person capable of helping him in his quest.

Panel: A Discussion with Mexican and Mexican-American Film and Videomakers

Bernardo Ruiz, Cristina Ibarra, Patricia Rikken, and Alfredo de Villa, four talented Mexican and Mexican American filmmakers living in New York City, talk about their careers, issues of national identity, film narratives, and the

opportunities available to Mexican filmmakers. **Carlos A. Gutiérrez**, Cofounder and Codirector of Cinema Tropical, moderates this panel.

Mexican Family Weekend

Saturday and Sunday, January 25 and 26

The old traditions of Mexico remain close to Mexican Americans' hearts even as they embrace a new life in the United States. Seasonal, religious, and life cycle celebrations within the Mexican community are an important part of maintaining social ties, constructing identity, and keeping families connected.

Workshop: Papel Picado

Saturday and Sunday, January 25 and 26

12:00–2:00 p.m.

Calder Lab, second floor

Limited to 20 participants, ages 8 and up

\$5

Program Code: EK012503(Sat)/EK012603(Sun)

The *papel picado* (cut paper) tradition is an enchanting popular art form with roots in Mexico's ancient cultures. Mexicans of all ages use this artistic tradition to create quick and economical decorations for numerous occasions. Local artist **Miguel Angel Cossio** instructs children and adults in this dynamic and ephemeral Mexican folk art tradition.

Performance: Festive Mexican Music and Dance

Saturday, January 25

1:15–2:15 p.m. and 4:15–5:15 p.m.

Kaufmann Theater, first floor

The Mexican *mariachi* and *ballet folklórico* traditions are known throughout the world. These urban folk traditions are popular within the Mexican immigrant community because they represent a unified Mexican expression of patriotic pride and cultural identity. The well-known Queens-based group **Mariachi Real de Mexico** joins **Ballet Folklórico Mexicano de Nueva York**—the oldest Mexican dance group in the city—for a performance of classic favorites.

Conversation with El Mariachi: A Family Tradition

Saturday, January 25, 2:15–2:45 p.m.

Sunday, January 26, 12:00–1:30 p.m.

Kaufmann Theater, first floor

A conversation with three members of the Ponce family who perform with **Mariachi Real de Mexico** explores the importance of passing on the mariachi tradition within families and the impact that immigration to the United States has had on this musical tradition. **Cathy Ragland**, ethnomusicologist and Mexican immigrant music specialist at the Center for Traditional Music and Dance, moderates this panel.

Workshop: Ballet Folklórico Mexicano

Saturday, January 25

3:00–4:00 p.m.

Leonhardt People Center, second floor

Limited to 20 participants, all ages welcome

\$5

Program Code: EK012503B(Sat)

Learn Mexican regional dances typical of the *ballet folklórico* repertoire, such as the *huapango*, *jarabe*, *zoropo*, and more. **Ballet Folklórico Mexicano de Nueva York's** Director, **Juventina Durán**, and members of the group, teach these spirited dances.

Workshop: Calaveras

Saturday, January 25, 3:30–5:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 26, 3:00–5:00 p.m.

Calder Lab, second floor

Limited to 20 participants, all ages welcome

\$5

Program Code: EK012503C(Sat)/EK012603C(Sun)

The *calavera* (skull) is an important icon for the annual *Día de los muertos* (Day of the Dead) celebrations on November 1 and 2. Home altars dedicated to deceased loved ones are stacked with handmade *calaveras* and other figurines made from a sugar and water paste, along with favorite foods, photographs, candles, and flowers. In this hands-on workshop, **Delia Aponte**, originally from Puebla, Mexico, teaches how to make and decorate *calaveras*, a women's long tradition.

Performance/Workshop: Cuentos: Tales about Mexicans in the United States

Sunday, January 26

1:00 –2:30 p.m.

Leonhardt People Center, second floor

Limited to 50 participants, ages 7 and up
\$5
Program Code: EK012603B(Sun)

Listen to storyteller **David González** weave inspiring tales and stories about Mexicans who left their homeland to find a better life in America. Learn about their adventures and challenges adapting to a new home in the United States. These stories are filled with positive messages and lively music.

Film Program

LA CIUDAD: CUATRO AÑOS DESPUÉS/THE CITY: FOUR YEARS LATER

Sunday, January 26

2:30–5:30 p.m.

Linder Theater, first floor

Crónicas de Manhatitlán/The Manhatitlán Chronicles

(Felipe Galindo. U.S./Mexico. 2000. 7 min.)

(see Sunday, January 12)

La Ciudad/The City

(David Riker. U.S. 1999. 88 min. B&W. In Spanish and English with English subtitles)

La ciudad, the feature film debut of writer/director **David Riker**, is a dramatically photographed collection of stories about love, hope, and loss, and an affecting portrait of disenfranchised Latin American immigrants living in New York today. *The screening is followed by a panel discussion.*

Panel: Media and Empowerment: La Ciudad Four Years Later

This panel reflects on the impact of the film four years after its original release discussing questions such as: Has it started a conversation about the immigrant experience of Latin Americans in New York? Has it raised awareness of the living and working realities of immigrants? Has it helped to empower immigrant communities? This panel includes filmmaker **David Riker**, and some of the actors who appeared in the film. **Alejandra Leal**, doctoral candidate in anthropology at Columbia University, moderates this panel.

All programs are subject to change.

Registration Procedures

Registration is required for all workshops. To register or make payment call 212-769-5200, weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Refer to the program code.

All non-workshop programs are free with suggested Museum admission. Neither tickets nor reservations are required. Seating is limited and is on a first-come, first-served basis.

For further information, call the Museum's Department of Education at 212-769-5315 weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., or visit www.amnh.org/livinginamerica.

A three-story parking garage is open daily during Museum hours; enter from 81st Street. For public transportation information, call 212-769-5100.

Performances, workshops, lecture/demonstrations, and migration lecture were programmed by **Cathy Ragland**, Project Director, Center for Traditional Music and Dance (CTMD).

Film series and panels are presented in association with Cinema Tropical and programmed by **Carlos A. Gutiérrez**, Cofounder and Codirector, Cinema Tropical.

Migrant roundtable discussion and storytelling workshop programmed by **Erika Vilfort**, Director of Academic Programs at the Mexican Cultural Institute of New York.

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