



November 15, 2023

State Representative Fue Lee
485 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Latino Arts Museum Letter of Support

Dear Chair Fue Lee and Minnesota House of Representatives Capital Investment Committee Members,

I am writing to express my full support for the establishment of a Latino Arts Museum within the City of Saint Paul in the historic Harriet Island Regional Park.

Saint Paul is home to a significant Latino population, and the establishment of a museum dedicated to showcasing their contributions to art and culture is long overdue. A museum will offer a space for social justice discussions, presentations, and exhibits of art, dance, literature, and music, and through it, we can support our community's cultural expression and history.

The Latino community significantly contributes to our city's cultural and economic landscape, through an array of Latin American restaurants, markets, festivals, and other enriching activities. The community also works hard to preserve its cultural traditions by organizing events to promote its heritage. Saint Paul embraces its Latino community as an essential part of our city's diverse identity.

Museums provide a vital platform to showcase our rich history and cultural diversity. It is also an important resource for education and inspiration, promoting lifelong learning and appreciation for the arts, sciences, and humanities. A future Latino Arts Museum within Harriet Island Regional Park will be a destination for individuals interested in exploring the rich history and cultural practices of Latino heritage within Saint Paul and the State of Minnesota.

I urge you to fully support the creation of the museum and to take the necessary steps to make this vision a reality. I have no doubt that it would be an invaluable asset to our already nationally recognized park system. If you have questions about our support for this request, please contact Eric Petersen, Intergovernmental Relations Associate at the City of Saint Paul, at eric.petersen@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Thank you for your time and dedication to our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melvin Carter", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mayor Melvin Carter
City of Saint Paul, Minnesota



March 26, 2025

The Honorable Fue Lee and the Honorable Mary Franson
Co-Chairs, Minnesota House Capital Investment Committee
Centennial Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Co-Chair Lee, Co-Chair Franson, and Members of the House Capital Investment Committee,

My name is Andy Rodriguez, Director of the City of Saint Paul's Parks and Recreation Department, which is nationally recognized as one of the top park systems in the country, boasting 185 parks and 26 community recreation centers.

On behalf of my department, we express our strong support for the design and construction of a Latino Museum within Saint Paul. This project will have a state-wide impact and will be a first for Harriet Island and the entire regional park system. Uplifting our community's art, culture, and history through this work is essential and we are eager to see this project move forward.

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation (SPPR) has regularly partnered with (Neo)Muralismos de México (NMM) to provide space and support for cultural events. In 2023, SPPR worked with NMM to provide space in our El Rio Vista Recreation Center for *Imaginando Futuros*, a pop-up art exhibit and market celebrating Latino culture and inviting the community to share their vision of a Latino Museum in Minnesota. This event highlighted the contributions of multiple Latino artists, provided residents with a unique opportunity to engage with Latino art & artists, and brought museum directors from around the country to Saint Paul in support of NMM's mission.

This summer, in collaboration with NMM, we are thrilled to present an Alebrijes art exhibit at Raspberry Island. The exhibit will feature ongoing community arts workshops and provide a wealth of cultural experiences in an area rich in Latino heritage. The project will also include the creation of large paper-mâché Alebrije creatures for everyone in our communities to enjoy and appreciate.

The museum is a grassroots initiative aimed at creating our state's first institution dedicated to the arts and cultural traditions of 400,000 Minnesotans of Mexican and Latin American heritage. It will be located in the historic West Side Flats, the Saint Paul neighborhood where Mexican immigrants first established a Latino community in our state more than a century ago. SPPR celebrates NMM's efforts



to bring art and cultural connections to Minnesota residents and supports their commitment to housing the Minnesota Latino Museum in this historically significant location.

Nationally, Latinos are falling drastically behind in terms of museum representation. While the Institute for Museum and Library Services estimates a total of 35,000 museums nationally, only about 25 (less than 0.1%) focus on Latinos. In 2017, the National Endowment for the Arts reported that Latinos ranked at the bottom in most indicators of arts access.

Since 2000, Minnesota's Latino community has grown by almost 3 times (288%), compared to the 16% growth rate of the state overall. Today, Latinos represent 10% of Minnesota's children. Mexicans are the largest immigrant community in the state by nationality.

For over 30 years there has been a request by Mexican and Latino community members in Minnesota to have a permanent cultural space where our artists and cultural workers can share their creativity and talents, and where families can pass on our traditions through the generations. The museum will be located on the banks of the Mississippi River at Harriet Island Regional Park. By reclaiming space for the Mexican and Latino communities on the historic West Side Flats, the Museum will provide a space to heal from the displacement of Mexican residents in the 1960s.

Sincerely,

Andy Rodriguez
Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Director

October 24, 2023

To whom it may concern:

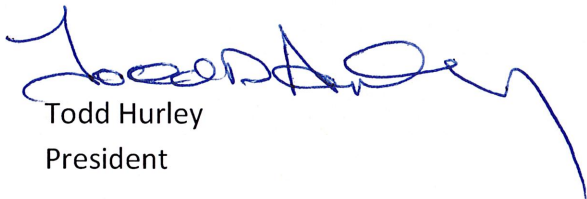
The Saint Paul Port Authority stands firmly behind the establishment and financing of the first Minnesota Museum of Latino Art. This initiative addresses a significant disparity at both the state and national levels. Latinos currently make up 6% of our state's population, ranking as the third-largest demographic group in Minnesota. And yet, Latinos are notably underrepresented across our cultural institutions. This discrepancy persists despite the growing population and noteworthy cultural and artistic contributions of Latinos nationwide.

Many talented Latino artists in Minnesota face barriers when trying to access creative spaces, secure funding, and tap into educational resources. By establishing a museum that specifically dedicates itself to Latino art, culture, and history, we can take a significant step towards dismantling these barriers and fostering a more inclusive and accessible arts environment for all residents of Minnesota. And as an economic development agency, we are encouraged by the project's potential to stimulate the local and state economies.

Furthermore, the museum will serve as a catalyst to education, understanding, inspiration, and unity. It will act as a bridge between communities, highlighting the beauty, strength, and resilience of Latino heritage, ensuring that every Minnesotan understands and appreciates the deep roots and vast contributions Latinos have made to our communities.

Thank you for your consideration. We strongly urge you to support the creation and funding of this much-needed space for our community.

Sincerely,



Todd Hurley
President

September 25th, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

The Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs (MCLA) supports the creation and funding of the first Minnesota Museum of Latino Art.

Latinos comprise approximately 6% of Minnesota's population, making them the third-largest demographic group in our state. Despite our community's significant presence, Latinos continue to be underrepresented in cultural institutions. This lack of representation is not only seen in Minnesota but also across the United States. This underrepresentation becomes all the starker when juxtaposed against the growing population and cultural-artistic contributions of Latinos across the country.

Latino communities have a rich and deep history in Minnesota. Art and culture have been central components of the community's contributions to the state. Yet, many Latino artists have faced barriers in accessing creative spaces, funding, and educational resources. Establishing a museum dedicated to Latino art, culture, and history would be a crucial step in overcoming these barriers and fostering a more inclusive arts environment for all Minnesotan residents, with the potential of spurring economic development.

The Minnesota Museum of Latino Art would be an asset to our state for a number of reasons.

- **Showcasing Latino Talent:** The museum would provide a critical platform for Latino artists and cultural producers, allowing them to display their work.
- **Educational Avenues:** Through its exhibits and programs, the museum would educate the public about the rich history, culture, art, literature, and contributions of Latinos in Minnesota.
- **Community Building:** It would serve as a unifying space where the Latino community can converge to celebrate their diverse heritages and forge deeper connections.

The Museum would provide a much-needed space to commemorate and honor the rich and diverse economic, cultural, social, and political lives of Latinos to Minnesota. But the creation of this museum is not just about commemoration; it is about education, understanding, inspiration, and unity. It will serve as a bridge between communities, highlighting the beauty, strength, and resilience of Latino heritage, ensuring that every Minnesotan understands and appreciates the deep roots and vast contributions of our community to the State.

Thank you very much for your consideration. We urge you to support the creation and funding of this much needed space for our community.

Sincerely,



Nicauris Heredia Rosario
Legislative and Policy Director



Rosa Tock
Executive Director

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

*Department of Chicano & Latino
Studies
College of Liberal Arts*

*19 Scott Hall
72 Pleasant St. S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455*

*Office: 612-624-6309
<http://chicano.cla.umn.edu>*

January 31, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Chicano and Latino Studies Department at the University of Minnesota, we write this letter in full support of the Minnesota Latino Museum. This state-wide project is critical to uplift our community's art, culture, and history.

As leading scholars in Chicana/o/x and Latina/o/x Studies with specializations in literature, art history, performance, and cultural studies, we know that arts and cultural spaces play a critical role in a community's quality of life. The arts reflect the rich diversity of the human experience and also provide visions for future ways of being. Currently, there is no state-wide space specifically for Latina/o/x exhibitions, performances, and arts-based education. The Minnesota Latino Museum would serve as a central location for Minnesota and national Latina/o/x artists to showcase their work and highlight the historical and contemporary contributions Latina/o/xs make to the state.

Nationally, Latina/o/xs are falling drastically behind in terms of museum representation. While the Institute for Museum and Library Services estimates a total of 35,000 museums nationally, only about 25 (less than 0.1%) focus on Latina/o/xs art and cultural representations. The National Endowment for the Arts reports that Latina/o/xs rank at the bottom in most indicators of arts access.

Since 2000, Minnesota's Latina/o/x community has grown by almost 3 times (288%), compared to the 16% growth rate of the state overall. Today, Latina/o/xs represent 10% of Minnesota's children. Mexicans are the largest immigrant community in the state by nationality. All the more reason to celebrate and have access to the rich and diverse artistic works they have produced. The Minnesota Latino Museum would only further enhance the state's reputation.

For over 30 years there has been a request by Mexican and Latina/o/xs community members in Minnesota to have a permanent cultural space where our artists and cultural workers can share their creativity and talents, and where families can pass on our traditions through the generations. The museum will be located on the banks of the Mississippi River at Harriet Island Regional Park. By reclaiming space for the Mexican and Latina/o/xs communities on the historic West Side Flats, the Museum will provide a space to heal from the displacement of Mexican residents in the 1960s.

We request that you support and fund the Minnesota Latino Museum.

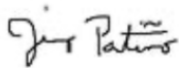
Sincerely,



Dr. Amelia María de la Luz Montes, Professor and Department Chair



Dr. Karen Mary Davalos, Professor



Dr. Jimmy Patiño, Associate Professor



Dr. Gabriela Spears-Rico, Assistant Professor



Dr. Jessica Lopez Lyman, Assistant Professor



Lisa Sass Zaragoza, Outreach coordinator



March 25, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am Nancy Brady, President & CEO of Neighborhood House, a 127-year-old social services non-profit headquartered on St. Paul's West Side.

I write in full support of the Minnesota Mexican & Latino Museum. This state-wide project is critical to uplift the Latino community's art, culture, and history.

The Museum is a grassroots effort to develop our state's first museum focused on the arts and cultural traditions of 400,000 Minnesotans of Latin American heritage. The Museum will be located in the historic West Side Flats, the St Paul neighborhood where the first Mexican and Latino immigrants settled in our state.

Neighborhood house has been working with St. Paul's Latino communities for many decades and has witnessed the hardships, triumphs, resilience and cultural vibrancy of Latino communities in Minnesota. Creating a museum here on the West Side Flats that celebrates and preserves Latino history and culture is an appropriate and overdue recognition of the contributions of Minnesota's Latino communities to the quality of life in our state.

Nationally, Latinos are falling drastically behind in terms of museum representation. While the Institute for Museum and Library Services estimates a total of 35,000 museums nationally, only about 20 (less than 0.1%) focus on Latinos. The National Endowment for the Arts reports that Latinos rank at the bottom in most indicators of arts access.

Since 2000, Minnesota's Latino community has grown by almost 3 times (288%), compared to the 16% growth rate of the state overall. Today, Latinos represent 10% of Minnesota's children. Mexicans are the largest immigrant community in the state by nationality.

For over 30 years there has been a request by Mexican and Latino community members in Minnesota to have a permanent cultural space where artists and cultural workers can share their creativity and talents, and where families can pass on our traditions through the generations. The museum will be located on the banks of the Mississippi River at Harriet Island Regional Park. By reclaiming space for the Mexican and Latino communities on the historic West Side Flats, the Museum will provide a space to heal from the displacement of Mexican residents in the 1960s.

I request that you support and fund the Minnesota Mexican & Latino Museum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Q. Brady". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Q. Brady
President & CEO



March 20, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am Rebecca Noecker, and I represent Ward 2 on the Saint Paul City Council, a ward which has a strong and vibrant Latino community. I am writing in strong support of the Minnesota Latino Museum, which would be located in Ward 2.

The Museum is a grassroots effort to develop our state's first museum focused on the arts and cultural traditions of 400,000 Minnesotans of Mexican and Latin American heritage. The Museum will be located in the historic West Side Flats, the St Paul neighborhood where Mexican immigrants first established a Latino *barrio* in our state over a century ago.

Nationally, Latinos are falling drastically behind in terms of museum representation. While the Institute for Museum and Library Services estimates a total of 35,000 museums nationally, only about 25 (less than 0.1%) focus on Latinos. In 2017, the National Endowment for the Arts reported that Latinos ranked at the bottom in most indicators of arts access.

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Please join me in support for this important project.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Noecker
Saint Paul City Councilmember, Ward 2



March 15, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) to support the establishment of a museum dedicated to showcasing the history and artistic contributions of Latinos in Minnesota. The creation of this much needed Museum will be instrumental for Latinos in Minnesota to collect and showcase our rich history and significant contributions to the State of Minnesota.

As the largest Latino-led non-profit in Minnesota, founded 44 years ago, we recognize the importance of cultural engagement as a form of healing and community-building. CLUES mission is centered on advancing social and economic equity and wellbeing for Latinos by building upon our strengths and cultures and uplifting community.

We endorse the development of the Minnesota Latino Museum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruby Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Ruby Lee
President & CEO

City of Austin
500 Fourth Avenue N.E.
Austin, Minnesota 55912-3773



Holly Wallace
Planning & Zoning Administrator
507-437-9952 / Fax 507-437-7101
Cellular 1-507-438-2380
Email: hollyw@ci.austin.mn.us

February 21, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the development of the Minnesota Mexican & Latino Museum.

In 2023, the City of Austin Culture and Arts Commission collaborated with (Neo) Muralismos de Mexico in creating a mural on the municipal pool building in Austin. Other key partners were Austin Area Arts and the Southeast Minnesota Arts Council (SEMAC). The mural celebrates the people of Austin including many Mexican immigrants living, working and raising their children in our community. Learn about the mural and how it was received by the community here.

Our commission found (Neo) Muralismos de Mexico and Aaron Johnson-Ortiz to be thoughtful, dedicated, creative partners with a high level of expertise in public art and engagement.

I heartily endorse (Neo) Muralismos de Mexico and Aaron Johnson-Ortiz as the best possible partner to launch the Minnesota Mexican & Latino Museum.

As you may know, the Museum is a grassroots effort to develop our state's first museum focused on the arts and cultural traditions of 350,000 Minnesotans of Latin American heritage. The Museum will be located in the historic West Side Flats, the St Paul neighborhood where the first Mexican and Latino immigrants settled in our state.

Nationally, Latinos are falling drastically behind in terms of museum representation. While the Institute for Museum and Library Services estimates a total of 35,000 museums nationally, only about 20 (less than 0.1%) focus on Latinos. The National Endowment for the Arts reports that Latinos rank at the bottom in most indicators of arts access.

Since 2000, our Latino community in Minnesota has grown 141%, almost ten times the growth rate overall. Here in Austin, considered 'rural' Minnesota, the overall population of Latinx people is 17% and our public-school students are 30% Latinx.

For over forty years there has been a request by Mexican and Latino community members in Minnesota to have a permanent cultural space where our artists and cultural workers can share their creativity and talents, and where families can pass on our traditions through the generations. The museum will be located on the banks of the Mississippi River at Harriet Island Regional Park. By reclaiming space for the Mexican and Latino communities on the historic West Side Flats, the Museum will provide a space to heal from the displacement of Mexican residents in the 1960s.

The Museum also has the potential to reach out and serve Latinx Minnesotans across the state. Arts

access continues to be a challenge for all residents of Greater Minnesota with additional challenges faced by Latinx Minnesotans.

I request that you support and fund the Minnesota Mexican & Latino Museum.

Sincerely,



Holly A. Wallace

Planning and Zoning Administrator and staff liaison to the Culture and Arts Commission



Aaron Johnson-Ortiz <aajohnsonortiz@gmail.com>

In support of the Minnesota Mexican & Latino Museum

Laura Helle - Austin Area Arts <director@austinareaarts.org>
To: Aaron Johnson-Ortiz <aajohnsonortiz@gmail.com>

Sat, Nov 18, 2023 at 8:06 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the volunteers and staff of Austin Area Arts, I write this message to encourage the development of the Minnesota Mexican & Latino Museum.

Austin Area Arts serves the Austin and Mower County area in southeast Minnesota and affirms the need to recognize and celebrate contributions of Mexican and Latinx people in our state.

Austin Area Arts has collaborated with (Neo) Muralismos de Mexico and Aaron Johnson-Ortiz since 2022. They have been a thoughtful, creative, reliable partner in presenting art-making community engagement activities and public art projects.

In 2023, Austin Area Arts supported (Neo) Muralismos de Mexico in creating a mural on the municipal pool building in Austin. Other key partners were the City of Austin Culture and Arts Commission and the Southeast Minnesota Arts Council (SEMAC). The mural celebrates the people of Austin including many Mexican immigrants living, working and raising their children in our community. [Learn about the mural and how it was received by the community here.](#)

I heartily endorse (Neo) Muralismos de Mexico and Aaron Johnson-Ortiz as the best possible partner to launch the Minnesota Mexican & Latino Museum.

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For over forty years there has been a request by Mexican and Latino community members in Minnesota to have a permanent cultural space where our artists and cultural workers can share their creativity and talents, and where families can pass on our traditions through the generations. The museum will be located on the banks of the Mississippi River at Harriet Island Regional Park. By reclaiming space for the Mexican and Latino communities on the historic West Side Flats, the Museum will provide a space to heal from the displacement of Mexican residents in the 1960s.

The Museum also has the potential to reach out and serve Latinx Minnesotans across the state. Arts access continues to be a challenge for all residents of Greater Minnesota with additional challenges faced by Latinx Minnesotans.

I request that you support and fund the Minnesota Mexican & Latino Museum.

Thank you for your service to our state.

Sincerely,
Laura Helle

Laura Helle
Executive Director
[Austin Area Arts](#)
300 N Main St
Austin, MN 55912

Phone: 507.434.0934



EL COLEGIO

4137 Bloomington Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407
612.728.5728, phone
612.728.5790, fax
www.el-colegio.org

January 26, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter in support of the Minnesota Latino Museum. As the Executive Director of El Colegio High School this museum would provide a vital educational foundation for students throughout the state of Minnesota.

El Colegio is in the Bancroft neighborhood of South Minneapolis. The school's mission is to "honor and build upon the talents of bilingual students and their diverse families to provide the academic rigor, leadership skills, career preparation and community connections necessary to fulfill their potential as change makers." The Minnesota Latino Museum would be instrumental in supporting the mission and vision of El Colegio. It will provide an opportunity for students to visit and learn about the historical and cultural legacy of Minnesota Latina/o/xs.

Most students enrolled in El Colegio come from Spanish-speaking, Latina/o/x, immigrant, and working-class families and qualify for Free and Reduced lunch. Latina/o/x students in Minnesota currently face one of the highest educational achievement gaps in the country in terms of graduation rates and post-secondary enrollment. The museum would be instrumental in showcasing the historical and contemporary knowledges Latina/o/xs have contributed to the state. When students can see themselves reflected in exhibitions, artist-led workshops, and public art their self-esteem increases and their inspiration to continue their education grows.

Currently there are no museums or cultural institutions in Minnesota that are state-wide and reflect the diversity of the Latina/o/x community. I encourage you to support the Minnesota Latino Museum.

Sincerely,

Katie Groh de Aviña

"Rooted in the Latino experience, El Colegio builds upon the talents of bilingual, bicultural students and their families to provide the academic rigor, leadership skills, college and career preparation, and community connections necessary to become lifelong leaders and change agents."



Hispanic Outreach of Goodhue County

Servicios a los Hispanos

P.O. Box 146 | Red Wing, MN 55066 | Tele: 651.301.2184

March 15, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am Lucy Richardson, the Executive Director of Hispanic Outreach of Goodhue County. I express my full support for the Minnesota Mexican & Latino Museum. Our non-profit organization provides programs and services that strengthen the Hispanic community's contribution to Goodhue County while growing Hispanic cultural awareness.

As someone deeply involved in the arts, I understand the importance of preserving and showcasing the rich cultural heritage of our diverse community. Additionally, having collaborated with (Neo) Muralismos de Mexico and worked alongside Aaron Johnson-Ortiz and other individuals involved in this project, I have witnessed firsthand the dedication and passion that drives this initiative.

The Museum is a grassroots effort to develop our state's first museum focused on the arts and cultural traditions of 400,000 Minnesotans of Latin American heritage. The Museum will be located in the historic West Side Flats, the St. Paul neighborhood where the first Mexican immigrants first established a Latino barrio in our state over a century ago.

Nationally, Latinos are falling drastically behind in terms of museum representation. At the same time, the Institute for Museum and Library Services estimates a total of 35,000 museums nationally, and only about 25 (less than 0.1%) focus on Latinos. In 2017, The National Endowment for the Arts reported that Latinos ranked at the bottom in most indicators of arts access.

Since 2000, our Latino community in Minnesota has grown almost three times (288%), compared to the 16% growth rate of the state overall. Today, Latinos represent 10% of Minnesota's children. Mexicans are the largest immigrant community in the state by nationality.

For over thirty years, there has been a request by Mexican and Latino community members in Minnesota to have a permanent cultural space where our artists and cultural workers can share their creativity and talents and where families can pass on our traditions through the generations. The museum will be located on the banks of the Mississippi River at Harriet Island Regional Park. By reclaiming space for the Mexican and Latino communities on the historic West Side Flats, the Museum will provide a space to heal from the displacement of Mexican residents in the 1960s.

I request that you support and fund the Minnesota Mexican & Latino Museum.

Sincerely,

Lucy Richardson
Executive Director of Hispanic Outreach of Goodhue County
1606 W 3rd St. Red Wing, MN 55066

www.hispanicoutreach.org | www.facebook.com/HOOGC | www.instagram.com/hispanicoutreachgc



February 23, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Mariusz Kujawski and I write this letter as Vice President at St. Paul Art Collective.

I write in full support of the Minnesota Latino Museum. This state-wide project is critical to uplift our community's art, culture, and history.

As the chair of the Communications and Programming Committee and organizer of the St. Paul Art Crawl, I've seen firsthand how art can unite communities. Supporting the establishment of our state's first museum dedicated to the arts and cultural traditions of Minnesotans of Latin American heritage is crucial to me. It aligns with my commitment to inclusivity and celebrating cultural diversity. I believe this initiative will enrich our city's cultural fabric.

The Museum is a grassroots effort to develop our state's first museum focused on the arts and cultural traditions of 400,000 Minnesotans of Latin American heritage. The Museum will be located in the historic West Side Flats, the St Paul neighborhood where the first Mexican and Latino immigrants settled in our state.

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I request that you support and fund the Minnesota Latino Museum.

Sincerely,

Mariusz Kujawski, Vice President at St. Paul. Art Collective, 308 Prince Street #206. St.Paul, MN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mariusz Kujawski', with a stylized flourish at the end.



To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of LatinoLEAD Minnesota, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the establishment of the Minnesota Latino Museum. As an organization dedicated to advancing the interests and well-being of Latino communities across our state, we recognize the immense value and significance of this initiative in celebrating our cultural heritage and fostering greater inclusion and understanding.

The vision outlined by the Minnesota Latino Museum to honor the arts, history, and cultural legacy of over 400,000 Minnesotans of Mexican and Latin American heritage resonates deeply with our organization's mission. We believe that the museum will serve as a vital platform for amplifying Latino voices, preserving our collective history, and promoting cultural awareness and appreciation among residents of all backgrounds.

As an organization deeply committed to advocating for greater cultural representation and equity within our state, we applaud the efforts of (Neo)Muralismos de México (NMM) and their collaborative partners in spearheading this important initiative. We are confident that the establishment of the Minnesota Latino Museum will not only fill a significant gap in our cultural landscape but also empower Latino communities to reclaim and celebrate their identities with pride.

By reclaiming space in the historic West Side Flats and integrating with the vibrant Downtown Cultural District, the museum will serve as a catalyst for community revitalization and healing, honoring the legacy of Mexican and Latin American immigrants while forging new connections and opportunities for future generations.

In closing, LatinoLEAD Minnesota stands in full support of the Minnesota Latino Museum and we urge all stakeholders to rally behind this transformative initiative and contribute to its success, ensuring that future generations have access to a vibrant and inclusive cultural landscape that reflects our state's diverse population.

Thank you for your dedication to this important cause, and we look forward to collaborating and witnessing the positive impact of the Minnesota Latino Museum.

In community,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Irma", written in a cursive style.

Irma Márquez Trapero
Chief Executive Officer
LatinoLEAD



Dear State Representative Fue Lee & State Senator Sandra Pappas,

On behalf of the Board of Directors at WSCO (West Side Community Organization), we are writing this letter to express our support for the proposed Latino Cultural Museum in St. Paul. As a non-profit dedicated to empowering and enriching the lives of residents in our city's West Side neighborhood, we firmly believe that this museum would be an invaluable asset to our community.

St. Paul's Latino population has been growing steadily over the past few decades, playing an integral role in shaping our city's vibrant cultural tapestry. However, there remains a glaring lack of dedicated spaces that highlight and celebrate the rich heritage, history, and contributions of our Latino community members. The establishment of a Latino cultural museum would fill this void, serving as a powerful symbol of inclusion, representation, and pride.

This museum would not only educate and enlighten visitors about the diverse cultures, traditions, and experiences of Latino communities, but it would also foster a deeper sense of belonging and identity for our Latino youth.

Moreover, the museum would serve as a hub for community-building, bringing together people from all walks of life to appreciate and celebrate the richness of Latino cultures. It would create opportunities for cross-cultural exchanges, promoting understanding, respect, and unity among our city's diverse populations.

At WSCO, we are committed to supporting initiatives that uplift and empower marginalized communities. The Latino cultural museum aligns with our mission and values, as it would provide a platform for storytelling, education, and cultural preservation – all essential components of a thriving, inclusive community.

We urge you to lend your support to this important project, as it has the potential to shape St. Paul into a more welcoming, culturally aware, and equitable city for all its residents. Together, we can create a space that honors the contributions of our Latino community and enriches the cultural fabric of the West Side.

Sincerely,

West Side Community Organization Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monica Bravo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Monica Bravo, Executive Director



111 East Franklin Ave. Suite 101
Minneapolis, MN 55404

address
city state zip code

+ 1 612 874 1920
+ 1 612 874 1912

telephone
facsimile

luis@unobranding.com
www.unobranding.com

e-mail
website

March 12, 2024

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to express my strong support for the establishment of the Minnesota Latino Museum. As the Co-Founder and Creative Director of UNO Branding, a design agency specializing in brand design and communications for the Latino community since 1999, I can attest to the immense importance of such an institution.

The Minnesota Latino Museum would serve as a vital cultural hub, celebrating and preserving the rich artistic heritage, histories, and traditions of Minnesota's diverse Latino populations. By creating a dedicated space to showcase Latino art, artifacts, and stories, this museum would foster cross-cultural understanding, educate the broader public, and instill a profound sense of pride within our community.

For too long, Latinos' vibrant contributions have been underrepresented and overlooked within Minnesota's cultural landscape. The Minnesota Latino Museum would rectify this oversight, providing a long-overdue platform to amplify the voices, experiences, and achievements of this integral segment of our state's populace. Such representation is critical not just for Latinos but for all Minnesotans, as it deepens our collective appreciation for our society's multifaceted tapestry.

Through its exhibitions, educational programs, and community outreach initiatives, the Minnesota Latino Museum would inspire current and future generations to embrace their cultural identities while fostering a greater sense of belonging and inclusion. It would serve as a beacon of pride, a repository of knowledge, and a catalyst for cross-cultural dialogue and understanding.

I wholeheartedly support the establishment of the Minnesota Latino Museum and urge all stakeholders to recognize the transformative impact this institution would have on our state's cultural fabric. By championing this project, we can collectively celebrate the rich diversity that makes Minnesota such a vibrant and dynamic place to live.

Sincerely,

Luis Fitch
Co-Founder and Creative Director
UNO Branding

[For more info on UNO.](#)



March 28, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Stivaliss Licona-Gervich and I write this letter as a community supporter, resident of Minnesota, artist, community leader, and Principal at Riverview Spanish/English Dual Immersion.

I write in full support of the Minnesota Latino Museum. This state-wide project is critical to uplift our community's art, culture, and history.

This year we have collaborated closely with Aaron Johnson-Ortiz and Gustavo Aboada from (Neo)Muralismos de México. About 80% of our school community at Riverview identify as Latino/a. Our focus is not just in bilingualism and biliteracy, but also for students to be bicultural. For the majority of our families, knowing more about their culture is a pivotal reason for why they chose our school. As part of this effort, Riverview has started collaborating with (Neo)Muralismos de Mexico and plans to continue collaborating in the future. We have done Alebrijes workshops for parents and students during conference time, our students in 4th and 5th grade have been working on creating their own Alebrijes with papel maché during a one week workshop. During the month of April we displayed three big Alebrije pieces in our Auditorium for all students and families to see. We are also planning on collaborating during the month of May to create a specific Alebrije piece for our school community, Riverview, that will be displayed during the Cinco de Mayo parade on the West Side. The impact of a Museum of our culture near Riverview grounds would be of tremendous impact for our school and community. We are in full support for this project and looking forward to ongoing collaborations.

The Museum is a grassroots effort to develop our state's first museum focused on the arts and cultural traditions of 400,000 Minnesotans of Mexican and Latin American heritage. The Museum will be located in the historic West Side Flats, the St Paul neighborhood where Mexican immigrants first established a Latino barrio in our state over a century ago.

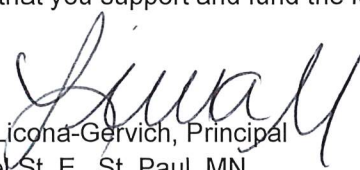
Nationally, Latinos are falling drastically behind in terms of museum representation. While the Institute for Museum and Library Services estimates a total of 35,000 museums nationally, only about 25 (less than 0.1%) focus on Latinos. In 2017, the National Endowment for the Arts reported that Latinos ranked at the bottom in most indicators of arts access.

Since 2000, Minnesota's Latino community has grown by almost 3 times (288%), compared to the 16% growth rate of the state overall. Today, Latinos represent 10% of Minnesota's children. Mexicans are the largest immigrant community in the state by nationality.

For over 30 years there has been a request by Mexican and Latino community members in Minnesota to have a permanent cultural space where our artists and cultural workers can share their creativity and talents, and where families can pass on our traditions through the generations. The museum will be located on the banks of the Mississippi River at Harriet Island Regional Park. By reclaiming space for the Mexican and Latino communities on the historic West Side Flats, the Museum will provide a space to heal from the displacement of Mexican residents in the 1960s.

I request that you support and fund the Minnesota Latino Museum.

Sincerely,


Stivaliss Licona-Gervich, Principal
160 Isabel St. E., St. Paul, MN



May 10, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with tremendous pleasure that I write this letter in support of the creation of a Latino museum in Minnesota. As the Founder of the National Museum of Mexican Art (NMMA) in Chicago, the largest Latino museum in the country and the first Latino museum accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, I can cite many reasons why this is a great idea.

To begin with, the new museum would be a great educational institution for the entire state of Minnesota, teaching everyone about all of the wonderful Latino arts contributions. Last year, The NMMA drew over 160,000 visitors, not only from Chicago, but throughout Illinois, the country, and international visitors. A Latino museum for Minnesota would become a great tourist destination for the state of Minnesota and would generate a lot of revenue for the state. Furthermore, museums generate a lot of jobs, which is also a big plus.

The Twin Cities has a great number of excellent museums, adding a Latino museum would be a very significant and important addition.

Furthermore, Aaron Johnson-Ortiz is the perfect individual to lead this effort. He is a proven arts leader.

I'm super proud of the effort to create a Latino museum in Minnesota and if you need anything, please don't hesitate to contact me carlos@nmmart.org or 312.371.6124.

Be well!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Tortolero".

Carlos Tortolero
President Emeritus & Founder
National Museum of Mexican Art



April 29, 2024

Dear Members of the Minnesota State Legislature,

As the Director of Programs for the U.S. Latinx Art Forum and a Minnesotan, I am writing to voice my emphatic support for the establishment of the Minnesota Latino Museum.

The U.S. Latinx Art Forum is a non-profit organization that champions visual artists and arts professionals engaged in research, studio practice, pedagogy, and writing. We generate and support national initiatives that advance the vitality of Latinx art, including grants and fellowships that offer support to Latinx artists at all career stages, public programming that takes place in partnership with seven world-class cultural institutions, and in-person events that allow members of USLAF's community to connect with each other through significant exhibitions of Latinx art.

Since USLAF's founding in 2015, an overarching goal of our work has been to render visible the robust constellation of Latinx artists and art professionals that spans the United States and Puerto Rico, and to bring visibility to artists working outside of the mainstream centers of the art world, such as New York and Los Angeles. In conjunction with this work, we recognize that our ability to do so builds upon the work of community-based cultural organizations that have established robust local infrastructures of support for Latinx artists.

Despite Minnesota being home to hundreds of Latinx creatives and artists, the significant contributions of this community are only just beginning to be recognized on a state and national level. For this to grow, there must be a dedicated, permanent space that supports engagement with and by Latinx artists in Minnesota. Without it, Minnesota's Latinx community will lack a critical cultural touchstone that can serve as a resource and reference point that not only serves a statewide community, but functions as a crucial juncture for introducing national audiences to the expansive history of Latinxs in Minnesota.

The establishment of the Minnesota Latino Museum marks a pivotal step toward sharing a more complete picture of the state's history and its people. This is especially urgent: at a time when the country lacks a national museum dedicated to Latino history and culture, the creation of the Minnesota Latino Museum is imperative to ensuring that the cultural and historical contributions of the Latinx community in the state are celebrated, recognized, and preserved for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Thomas", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mary Thomas, PhD
Director of Programs, US Latinx Art Forum
Resident, District 60A
mary@uslaf.org

April 30, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Fanny Guadalupe Blauer, and I write this letter as a leader of the non-profit organization Artes de Mexico en Utah, and as part of the Mexican Cultural Arts Alliance for which Neo-Muralismos is also a co-founder.

I write this letter to fully support the creation of the Minnesota Latino Museum. This Minnesota state-wide project is critical to uplift our country's art, culture, and history.

Our work in Utah is to create educational opportunities that acknowledge the contributions of Mexican and Latino people in the arts and cultures. Just like in Utah, the programs created and community engagement in Minnesota proves the need of having a museum specifically focused on the contributions of the Latino to see themselves represented in the cultural landscape. The creation of the museum would strength a sense of identity and belonging among Latino, promoting pride in their heritage by offering educational opportunities for people of all backgrounds to learn about the history, art, literature, music, and traditions of Latino cultures. This can foster greater understanding, appreciation, and respect for the contributions of Latinos to society. A Latino Museum can also be a safe space that address historical and systemic inequities by amplifying marginalized voices and offering a more inclusive narrative of American history and culture. Aaron Johnson-Ortiz, the creator and leader of (Neo)Muralismos de México has persisted for the creation of this museum and has demonstrated with the support of a large community on his side, the need to feel represented in a space that we can call "nuestro museo".

The Museum is a grassroots effort to develop our state's first museum focused on the arts and cultural traditions of 400,000 Minnesotans of Mexican and Latin American heritage. The Museum will be located in the historic West Side Flats, the St Paul neighborhood where Mexican immigrants first established a Latino *barrio* in our state over a century ago.



Instagram

@artesdemexicoenutah



Facebook

Artes de México en Utah



Web Site

<https://www.artesmexut.org/>



Nationally, Latinos are falling drastically behind in terms of museum representation. While the Institute for Museum and Library Services estimates a total of 35,000 museums nationally, only about 25 (less than 0.1%) focus on Latinos. In 2017, the National Endowment for the Arts reported that Latinos ranked at the bottom in most indicators of arts access.

Since 2000, Minnesota's Latino community has grown by almost 3 times (288%), compared to the 16% growth rate of the state overall. Today, Latinos represent 10% of Minnesota's children. Mexicans are the largest immigrant community in the state by nationality.

For over 30 years there has been a request by Mexican and Latino community members in Minnesota to have a permanent cultural space where our artists and cultural workers can share their creativity and talents, and where families can pass on our traditions through the generations. The museum will be located on the banks of the Mississippi River at Harriet Island Regional Park. By reclaiming space for the Mexican and Latino communities on the historic West Side Flats, the Museum will provide a space to heal from the displacement of Mexican residents in the 1960s.

I request that you support and fund the Minnesota Latino Museum.

Sincerely,

Fanny Guadalupe Blauer
Executive Director

[Artes de Mexico en Utah](#)
[Governor's Spirit of Service Award](#)



Sr. Aarón Johnson Ortiz.

Apreciable amigo,

Los integrantes del grupo Portales del Arte en Chiapas, A.C. estamos alegres de saber que los amigos de “(Neo) Muralismos de México”, del cual has hecho un magnífico trabajo, se está pensando en el proyecto de “Minnesota Latino Museum”, un espacio especialmente dedicado a la promoción del arte y la cultura mexicana y de los pueblos de Hispano-América en Minnesota, EEUUAA.

Portales del Arte en Chiapas, es un organismo dedicado enteramente a la difusión del arte que se factura en Chiapas, pero también hemos colaborado con Mexican Art Alliance, asociación de diferentes grupos culturales repartidos en varias ciudades de los Estados Unidos y con el apoyo del National Museum of Mexican Art, de Chicago Illinois.

Nosotros creemos fervientemente que la cultura y las artes salvan de muchos problemas a los pueblos de América y que la asociación natural, la cercanía y la potencialidad de la frontera debe ser visto como oportunidad de desarrollo y nunca como problema de separación social; por consiguiente, apoyamos grandemente el plan de inaugurar el “Latino Museum” por qué aportará gran desarrollo de los artistas, aparte de favorecer un sentimiento de hermandad entre los pueblos americanos.

FRATERNALMENTE

Mesa directiva:

Mtra. Dolores Peyrot De la Torre

Lic. Eduardo Marcial Corzo.

Artista plástico Juan Chawuk.

Lic. Marcos García Escobar

Arq. Sergio Hernández Moreno.



May 14, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Veronica Toscano de Leger, I'm the Director of Fundación Casa Guanajuato, I am writing to express my strong support for the opening of the Minnesota Latino Museum. As a Latino leader and a passionate advocate for cultural diversity and inclusivity, I firmly believe that the establishment of such a museum would be a significant milestone for the Latino community. The rich and vibrant Latino culture has greatly contributed to the fabric of our society. From art and music to history and traditions, the Latino community has left an indelible mark on Minnesota. However, it is essential to acknowledge that their contributions have not always received the recognition they deserve. The opening of the Minnesota Latino Museum would provide a dedicated space to showcase the diverse narratives, artistic expressions, and achievements of the Latino community. It would serve as a platform for education, celebration, and dialogue, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for Latino culture among residents and visitors alike. Furthermore, the museum would play a crucial role in promoting cultural exchange and fostering unity within our diverse community. It would serve as a bridge, connecting people from different backgrounds and promoting dialogue, understanding, and respect. I firmly believe that the establishment of the Minnesota Latino Museum would be a testament to our commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and cultural preservation. It would not only enrich our community but also attract visitors from near and far, boosting tourism and economic growth. I wholeheartedly support the efforts of the Minnesota Latino Museum Initiative and commend their dedication to making this vision a reality. I urge you to consider my endorsement and join me in advocating for the establishment of the museum. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I remain eager to contribute in any way I can and look forward to witnessing the positive impact the Minnesota Latino Museum will have on our community.

Sincerely,


Veronica Toscano de Leger

Executive Director - Fundación Casa Guanajuato

5641 Shamrock Ln.

Douglasville, Georgia. 30315