



CENTRO CULTURAL CUBANO

Celebrating 50 years



**Sunday, September 21, 2025
Four Points by Sheraton, Norwood, MA**

**Honoring our Legacy, Culture, and
Community!**

www.centroculturalcubanoma.org

WELCOME LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends and Supporters of the Centro Cultural Cubano,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this celebration of our vibrant Cuban heritage and culture. The Centro Cultural Cubano has long been a place where our community comes together to honor our traditions, foster creativity, and support the growth of our members through education, art, and shared experiences.

As we reflect on the achievements of our past and look forward to the opportunities ahead, we are reminded that our strength lies in our unity and the passion each of you brings to our community. From cultural programs and educational initiatives to community events, our mission remains steadfast: to preserve, celebrate, and share the richness of Cuban culture with everyone who walks through our doors.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. Together, we will continue to nurture our heritage, inspire the next generation, and build a community we can all be proud of.

With warm regards,
Lazaro Lopez
President, Centro Cultural Cubano

EVENT TIMELINE

September 21, 2025

Time	Activity	Details
2:00 - 3:00 PM	Registration & Check-In	Guests arrive and check in Networking Reception Live Music by the Olivia Soler Trio
3:00 - 3:50 PM	Dinner & Program	Master of Ceremony: Jorge Quiroga Dinner served during the program Welcome Remarks Scholarship Award Presentation La Vida Scholars Award Presentation CCC Legacy Award Presentation
3:50 - 3:55 PM	Closing Remarks	Delivered by Jorge Quiroga
3:55 - 6:00 PM	Dessert & Celebration	Casino Rueda, Dessert & Latin Dancing with La Primera Clase Band
6:00 PM	Event Concludes	



Jorge Quiroga – Master of Ceremonies

Award-winning journalist and former WCVB-TV reporter, Jorge Quiroga was Boston's first full-time Latino reporter and creator of *Aquí*, the city's first Hispanic public-affairs program. Inducted into the Massachusetts Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2022.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Lazaro O. Lopez – President

A first-generation American of Cuban and Colombian descent. He serves on boards including the Latino Legacy Fund, English for New Bostonians, and the Boys and Girls Club of Boston.



Alberto Vasallo Jr. – Vice President

A native of Havana, Cuba, Alberto is founder of El Mundo Newspaper and a recognized leader in Boston's Latino community. He has served as President and now Vice President of the Centro Cultural Cubano Board and remains active in local and national Latino nonprofits.



Roxana Vasallo Perry – Treasurer

Roxana, a first-generation American of Cuban and Costa Rican descent, is an accountant specializing in tax. She mentors and advocates for Latino women and volunteers with the Big Sister Association, Girl Scouts, and MS Society.



Miriam Gorriaran (Salabert) – Secretary

Born in Havana, Miriam escaped Cuba in 1961. She is a retired Spanish professor, former President of the RI Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, and has served as Secretary of the Centro Board since 2015.



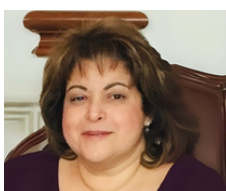
Alberto B. Calvo – Vocal

Alberto emigrated from Cuba in 1964. After a 35-year aerospace career, he joined the family business, Stop and Compare Supermarkets. He serves as Vice President and Vice Treasurer of the Centro and on several civic boards.



Betsy Gonzalez – Vocale

Betsy left Cuba in the late 1960s. With more than 25 years of experience in global meetings, events, and title sponsorships, including the Boston Pops 4th of July, the 2014 FIFA World Cup, the 2016 Olympics, and the LPGA FM Championship. She dedicates her time to volunteering with nonprofit organizations that support women, children, and Cuban culture.



Annette Diaz – Vocale

Annette born to Cuban parents, proudly embraces her heritage. A dedicated CCC board member, she contributes her creativity and talents in every role, from Treasurer to crafting Holiday Baskets, celebrating the culture and community she loves.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT MARINA GUTIERREZ

Marina Gutierrez is the daughter of Alef Gutierrez, from Cuba, and Angela Gutierrez, from the Dominican Republic. Throughout her 18 years, Marina has pursued a wide variety of activities. She began ballet and ice-skating lessons at age 4 and, by age 8, had earned a black belt in karate, receiving the America's Best Karate Award in El Paso, Texas. At 12, she expanded her love of skating into synchronized artistic skating while also showcasing her musical talents as a cello player in her school band.



Guided by her caring nature, Marina volunteered with the La Mencia Foundation in the Dominican Republic, helping provide school supplies and toys to children in need. She proudly represented her Cuban heritage when she was named “Reina 2024–2025” by Movimiento Cultural of Lawrence, an honor that deepened her appreciation for her Cuban roots and culture.

Marina is deeply grateful to the Centro Cultural Cubano for granting her a scholarship to pursue her academic and career goals. She is currently enrolled at UMass Amherst, majoring in Animal Science, with plans to become a veterinarian and eventually open her own clinic—an endeavor inspired by her lifelong love for animals. The Centro Cultural Cubano congratulates Marina and wishes her continued success in all her future endeavors!

LA VIDA SCHOLARS AWARD



La Vida Scholars is a nonprofit organization based in Lynn, Massachusetts, dedicated to empowering low-income, high-achieving students from Lynn and Chelsea to pursue higher education with minimal debt. Founded in 2007, the program provides a comprehensive three-year college preparatory experience for students in grades 10 through 12, alongside support for their families.

The program provides academic support, campus visits, family workshops, matched college savings, and individualized advising to help students find the right colleges, apply for financial aid, and overcome barriers to higher education. Since its founding, La Vida Scholars has helped over 400 students secure more than \$25 million in scholarships and grants, with a 91% alumni persistence rate. El Centro Cultural Cubano will honor them with the La Vida Scholars Award for their impact on students and families.

www.lavidascholars.org

EVENT HONOREE



ALBERTO VASALLO JR.

The Centro Cultural Cubano is honoring Alberto Vasallo Jr., a native of Habana, Cuba, who became a trailblazer in New England's Latino community, a pioneer in the Spanish Language media, and a most renowned entertainment promoter. In 1972, he founded El Mundo Newspaper, the region's oldest Latino publication, and led Spanish-language radio through Radiolandia, introducing Boston's first talk-radio format, named La Hora del Café.

A lifelong advocate for Latino nonprofit community organizations like the Concilio Hispano de Cambridge, la Alianza Hispana, Inquilinos Boricuas en Accion, Vasallo has received numerous honors, including a Doctorate Honorary Degree in Humanities from Cambridge College. He was nationally recognized with the Outstanding Americans by Choice Award. In his career, he was granted the Boston Business Journal's Trailblazer Award. Locally, the city of Cambridge named a square after him, and he was honored by the Cambridge Community Foundation as one of Cambridge's Cultural Visionary entrepreneurs.

Among some services he performed, he was part of the advisory board for Hispanic Affairs under Mayor Kevin White and a member of the Small Business advisory board for Governor Michael Dukakis.

Alberto Vasallo Jr. was a founder of the Hispanic Lions Club in Massachusetts, and of the first Logia Caballeros de la Luz in the state. Furthermore, he was correspondent in Massachusetts for "the Voice of the United States of North America. At the time of his retirement, he had received more than 120 awards and recognition from various governors, mayors, and different agencies and community organizations.

He has been a member of the Centro Cultural Cubano since its beginning and was President of the Board of Directors from 2009 until 2020. Presently, as vice president of the Board, he continues to promote and preserve the objectives and goals of the Centro Cultural Cubano, its history, culture, and Cuban traditions.

CCC HISTORY AND TRAJECTORY

The decade of the nineteen sixties saw an increase in the number of exiled Cuban nationals arriving in New England, particularly in the Greater Boston area. Whether it was Jamaica Plain, Brookline, Brighton-Allston or Chelsea, among several others, one could see entire Cuban families settling permanently in search of job and educational opportunities, always keeping alive the memories of distant Cuba. Many families were extended families, meaning that it was not unusual to see three generations of a family living under the same roof, a practice not unlike the traditional unity of the Cuban family.

As time went by and the decade of the seventies arrived, it became evident that the presence in the United States was not going to be brief and many Cubans decided to live permanently in their new cold Northern surroundings or simply relocate to warmer places in Florida or California. For those taking roots in Boston, it also meant finding ways to do so while keeping alive the Cuban dream of returning some day or, at least, remember with respect the traditions of our culture.

In the winter of 1975, a group of friends in the area who had already established close relations because they shared similar Cuban histories, concerns and background, with pride, decided to formalize their frequent contact and social activities and create an organization that would reflect their traditions and expose their language, literature, political and patriotic identities. That formal non-profit organization was incorporated in Massachusetts in February of 1975 under the name Centro Cultural Cubano.

Today, more than 50 years later, the organization is still alive and functioning. Throughout the years, the organization has invited public figures from within and from without the area who identify deeply with Cuban issues. Whether it is through “tertulias” (social gatherings) formal year end celebrations, dinners and other social and cultural events, the organization has strived to maintain alive year after year the traditions of a community which, while becoming citizens of the country that adopted it, feels also in its heart the nostalgic dream of a free Cuba “Por Todos y Para Todos” (For All and for the benefit of All) as our Cuban Patriot and martyr, José Martí, would predicate.

OUR PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

One of the Centro Cultural Cubano's main goals is to increase its membership, regardless of gender, nationality, race, or color, by welcoming those who share the values of its founding members and broader community. In addition, there is a pressing need to recruit volunteers to elevate the Centro Cultural Cubano, Inc., enabling the organization to deliver more and higher-quality events of social, cultural, historic, and charitable significance, all aligned with the CCC's mission. The Centro also remains committed to executing charitable projects independently or in collaboration with other organizations.



The organization seeks to establish new resources, foundations, talents, and ideas to ensure the CCC remains a viable and enduring institution. Another key objective is to support and incorporate a younger generation through the CCC New Generation initiative, currently in its trial phase. If successful, this initiative could eventually assume leadership and administration of the Centro Cultural Cubano, Inc., established in 1975.

The CCC does not engage in or promote any political party or sectarian activities. Its members affirm their commitment as dedicated supporters of the social system of this country, which guarantees individual freedom, expression, and assembly, as outlined in the By-laws.

The CCC Mission

"To preserve and promulgate the democratic values, cultural traditions, and patriotism of Cuban culture, as expressed in the ideals and works of our founding father "El Apóstol" José Martí, within our members, their descendants, and society at large."

50TH ANNIVERSARY PROCLAMATION BY CITY AND STATE OFFICIALS

City of Boston
IN
CITY COUNCIL
Official Resolution
Offered by Boston City Councilor
JULIA MEJIA
Be it resolved, that the Boston City Council
extends its Congratulations to:
Centro Cultural Cubano
In recognition of:

on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary. Since its founding in 1975, the Centro has remained steadfast in its mission to preserve and promote Cuban culture, traditions, and values in the city of Boston. For half a century, it has enriched our community through cultural events, community gatherings, and educational initiatives that reflect the pride, resilience, and enduring spirit of the Cuban people. In honor of the Centro's unwavering commitment to heritage, unity, and service, and in celebration of this historic anniversary.

and be it further resolved that the Boston City Council extends its best wishes for continued success; that this resolution be signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and with a copy transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.

By: *Ruthanne Longjumeau*
Attest: *Ally Brantley*
Offered by: *Julia Mejia*
Date: *September 21st, 2025*





**CENTRO CULTURAL
CUBANO**
Established in 1975

Offered by City Councilor Julia Mejia

CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL
IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

**RESOLUTION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 21, 2025 AS
"CENTRO CULTURAL CUBANO DAY" IN THE CITY OF
BOSTON**

WHEREAS, On September 21, 1975, the Centro Cultural Cubano was founded in Massachusetts, becoming the oldest organization of its kind dedicated to celebrating and uplifting Cuban culture, heritage, and traditions; *and*

WHEREAS, For the past fifty years, the Centro Cultural Cubano has served as a pillar of the Cuban community in Massachusetts, preserving its history and ensuring that future generations remain connected to their cultural identity; *and*

WHEREAS, Through its programs, events, and community engagement, the Centro Cultural Cubano has provided a space for cultural expression, education, and unity, while contributing to the broader mosaic of diversity that strengthens the City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; *and*

WHEREAS, The 50th Anniversary of the Centro Cultural Cubano represents a milestone achievement that honors the vision of its founders and the dedication of its members who, over five decades, have nurtured pride, solidarity, and cultural preservation within the Cuban diaspora; **NOW
THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the Boston City Council, in meeting assembled, hereby recognizes the Centro Cultural Cubano on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary and declares September 21, 2025 as "Centro Cultural Cubano Day" in the City of Boston, in honor of its enduring contributions to cultural preservation, education, and community life.

Filed in Council: September 16, 2025



MOMENTS THROUGH THE YEARS



LEADERSHIP THROUGH THE YEARS

PRESIDENTS (1975 – PRESENT) – ALPHABETICAL ORDER

1. Alberto Calvo
2. Alberto Pardo
3. Alberto Vasallo, Jr.
4. Antonio Otero
5. Dalia Diaz St. Marie
6. Dra. Ana Velilla
7. Dra. Fina Wuperman
8. Eddy Tabit
9. Eddie Rodríguez
10. Efren Hidalgo
11. Dr. Modesto Maidique
12. Dr. Pablo Montesino
13. Lazaro Lopez
14. Luis Martin
15. Ricardo Callejas, Jr.
16. Dr. Nicolás Sánchez



Dr. Paul Montesino
President 1975



Alberto Vasallo Jr.
President 2009-2020



Lazaro Lopez
President 2025

BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES: CCC SCHOLARSHIPS

Supporting Education and Empowering Leaders

El Centro Cultural Cubano (CCC) proudly supports the educational aspirations of the Cuban and Latino community in Massachusetts through its annual scholarship program. Each year, deserving students are recognized for their academic achievement, leadership, and commitment to community, helping them pursue higher education and reach their full potential. To date, the CCC has awarded \$25,000 in scholarships, making a meaningful impact on the lives of students and their families.

Made Possible by Our Supporters

These scholarships are funded through the generosity of our sponsors, community partners, and members, reflecting the CCC's ongoing mission to preserve Cuban culture while empowering the next generation of leaders.

Celebrating Our Heritage

The CCC also hosts annual events that foster community and cultural traditions, including the Pig Roast, Holiday Party, CCC Anniversary Dinner (celebrating Cuba's Independence Day and the Center's 50th anniversary in 2025), La Misa of La Virgen de la Caridad, and Tertulias, informal Sunday gatherings featuring conversation, games, and traditional Cuban food.

Together, these scholarships and events honor 50 years of the Centro Cultural Cubano and help ensure that the spirit of Cuban culture continues to thrive in Boston.



CELEBRATING THE SEASON: CCC CHRISTMAS PARTY



SAVE THE DATE

2025 Christmas Family Party

Cuban Dinner | Dance | Live Music | Scholarship | Raffles

Date: December 7, 2025

Time: 1:00 - 5:00 PM

Place: American Legion Nonantum Post 440

295 California St., Newton, MA 02458

Centro Cultural Cubano

P.O. Box 320308

West Roxbury, MA 02132



EMPOWERING LATINO ENTREPRENEURS IN MASSACHUSETTS

The Hispanic American Institute (HAI), a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting Latino small business owners, is proud to join the Centro Cultural Cubano (CCC) in celebrating 50 years of community-building and impact.



Hispanic American Institute brings its commitment to empowering entrepreneurs and creating sustainable futures through hands-on support and guidance.

"Congratulations to the Centro Cultural Cubano (CCC) on its 50th anniversary and on its vision to support the new generation of leaders."

Learn more at: <https://www.hispanicamericaninstitutema.com/>

Follow us: @hispanicamericaninstitutema

Contact us: info@hainst.org

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Alberto Calvo
Treasurer
abcalvo@hainst.org

Together, we rise. / Juntos avanzamos.





In Loving Memory of
Lazaro Lopez & Ana Rosa Viasus Lopez

From our family to yours, felicidades on 50 years! The Centro Cultural Cubano has been a beacon of heritage and unity, and we are grateful for the memories and traditions it continues to inspire.

Alberto Vasallo, Jr. & Family



In honor of my beloved grandmother, “Mima” María Jesús Benítez Vasallo, who taught me the meaning of family, unity, and heritage. I strive to share her love and lessons with my children and future generations.

I proudly join the Centro Cultural Cubano in celebrating 50 years of community, culture, and Cuban spirit.

Roxana Vasallo Perry & Family

Nuestras congratulaciones por el 50 Aniversario del Centro Cultural Cubano de Boston. Nos da mucho orgullo ser parte de preservar nuestra herencia cubana y mantener nuestra cultura, historia, y tradiciones vivas.

Les deseamos mucho éxito ahora y siempre.

TARA CONSTRUCTION INC.



Congratulations to Centro Cultural Cubano on 50 years of honoring Cuban culture and pride. Thank you for your dedication to giving back to the community and connecting generations. Here's to many more years!

The Cabrera and the Lima families

El Mundo Boston



Vimos nacer, crecer y vivir
al Centro Cultural Cubano desde su inicio en 1975
¡Felicidades por 50 años y le deseamos otros 50 más
de prosperidad!



THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS!

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www.elmundoboston.com



www.univision.com



www.telemundo.com

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR CELEBRATION!



As we celebrate 50 years of the Centro Cultural Cubano, we sincerely thank everyone who has supported and participated in this milestone. Together, we honor our heritage and look toward a vibrant, inclusive future.

Gracias por ser parte de nuestra misión.



Scan to Join and Learn More:



www.centroculturalcubanoma.org