Friday morning will be devoted to an understanding of the current situation in Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico is in a prolonged recession that started in 2006 and has resulted in a fiscal crisis, cut of public services and a massive migration to the United States leading to a significant decline in the island’s population. Friday afternoon’s program will be devoted to an understanding of how the economic crisis in Puerto Rico has impacted the stateside Puerto Rican community.

9:00 a.m. Welcome & Introductory Remarks
Edwin Meléndez, Executive Director, Centro

Plenary Panel A: Policy Options for Fiscal Crisis
Antonio Weiss, Counselor to the Secretary of the US Treasury
Juan Gonzalez, Columnist for the New York Daily News
Dennis Rivera, SEIU
Moderator: Gretchen Sierra-Zorita, National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts

Concurrent Panels
- Unfolding Humanitarian Crisis
- Energy and the Environment
- Foundations’ Responses to Crisis
- Economic Development
- Models for Diaspora Engagement

- Lunch -

1:30 p.m. Plenary Panel B: Local and State Perspective
New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito
Illinois State Senator Iris Y. Martinez
New York State Assemblyman Marcos A. Crespo
Philadelphia Councilwoman Maria D. Quiñones-Sánchez
Moderator: Katiria Soto, News Anchor Univision New York

Concurrent Panels: Puerto Ricans
- Education
- Civil Rights, Human Rights & Civic Engagement
- Environment and Community Development
- Health Disparities

Plenary Panel C: National Perspective
Congressman Luis Gutierrez
Congressman Jose Serrano
Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez
Moderator: Sandra Lilley, Managing Editor of NBC Latino

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Reception
Saturday, April 23: ENGAGEMENT
What can we do?
Who is going to do it?
What can Centro do?

The closing program on Saturday will focus on ongoing efforts to articulate a diaspora response to the crisis, an agenda for stateside organizations to move forward with coalition building, and in that context a discussion of the leading support role that Centro may play in the future.

10:00 a.m. Action Fair
A diaspora networking and community-building event. Bring your organization information packets, meet and greet community leaders from around the country, exchange ideas about affecting social change for our people, and dream a better future for 8.6 million Puerto Ricans.

- Lunch -

12:45 p.m. Plenary Keynote
Monseñor Roberto González Nieves, Archbishop of San Juan

Concurrent Panels: Engagement
• Cultural Activism and Historical Preservation
• Youth
• Legal System and Puerto Ricans (Bar Associations)
• Veterans
• Faith Based Communities
• Women/NCPRW
• Visual Artists
• LGBT
• Performing Arts
• Social Media
• Puerto Rican Academics

Wrap-Up Plenary: What have we learned? Where do we go from here?

4:30 p.m. Adjourn