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 U.S. Treasury
Juan González, 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
Moderator: Prof. Héctor Cordero-Guzmán, Sociologist, Baruch College, CUNY
Prof. José Caraballo Cueto, Director, Centro de Información Censal, UPR-Cayey
Ana María García Blanco, Instituto Nueva Escuela (PR)
Rev. Heriberto Martínez, Coordinador, Coalición Por la Salud (PR)

Energy and the Environment
Moderator: Brenda Torres Barreto, Assistant Secretary for the Environment (NY)
Ruth Santiago, Legal Counsel, El Puente (PR)
Ingrid M. Vila Biaggi, Consultant (PR)
Prof. Efraín O’Neill-Carrillo, UPR (PR)

Economic Development
Moderator: George Herrera, President & CEO, Herrera Cristina Group, LTD (DC)
Jorge Rodríguez, Principal, PACIV (NY, PR)
Mariela Martínez (DC)
Bianca M. Cabán, Founding Partner, Koban Holdings LLC (NY & PR)

Models for Diaspora Engagement with Puerto Rico
Edwin Vargas, Semillas (CA)
Ramphis Castro, Parallel 18 (NY)
Dyanis de Jesus, PRCEI (NY)

Foundations’ Responses to the Economic Crisis in Puerto Rico
Moderator: Karina Claudio-Betancourt, Program Officer, Open Society Foundation
Jose García, Program Officer Surdna Foundation
More panelists TBA
- 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. Martínez  
New York State Assemblyman Marcos A. Crespo  
Philadelphia Councilwoman Maria D. Quiñones-Sánchez  
Moderator: Katiiria Soto, News Anchor, Univision New York

Concurrent Panels: Puerto Ricans  
**Education**  
Moderator: Ronald Blackburn, President and CEO, ASPIRA (DC)  
Margaret Rivera, President of the Board, ASPIRA Delaware  
More panelists TBA

**Civil Rights, Human Rights and Civic Engagement**  
Moderator: Juan Cartagena, President and General Counsel, LatinoJustice PRLDEF (NY)  
Jose E. López, Lecturer, Latin American and Latino Studies, University of Illinois  
Jimmy Torres Vélez, President Puerto Rican Action Initiative (FL)  
Yanil Terón, Executive Director Center For Latino Progress (CT)

**Environment and Community Development**  
Moderator: Luis Garden-Acosta, President El Puente (NY)  
Eddie Bautista, Executive Director, NYC Environmental Justice Alliance  
Marcos Vilar, Consultant (FL)

**Health Disparities**  
Prof. María Idali Torres, Director Gaston Institute (MA)  
Prof. Melissa Fuster, Brooklyn College (NY)  
Jose Sánchez, (CEO) Norwegian-American Hospital (IL)  
More panelists TBA

Plenary Panel C: National Perspective  
Rep. Luis Gutiérrez (IL)  
Rep. José Serrano (NY)  
Rep. Nydia Velázquez (NY)  
Moderator: Sandra Lilley, Managing Editor, 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
Moderator Juan J. González, Esq., President, Parada San Juan Bautista, Inc. (NJ)
Lorraine A. Cortés-Vázquez, Chairperson National Puerto Rican Day Parade Inc. (NY)
Natascha Otero-Santiago, Founder of Parranda (Miami)
Dr. Alberto Hernández, Associate Director Center for Puerto Rican Studies (NY)
Federico Pérez, Former President Puerto Rican Day Parade (NY)
Maria Román, Former President Puerto Rican Day Parade (NY)

Youth
Moderator: Christy Marrero, Editorial Vice President, Hola! USA (NY)
Alejandro Manzanares, Stand UP for Puerto Rico (MA)
Dr. Frances Colón, Cenadores (DC)
Miguel Columna, Co-Founder & Executive Director, ConPRmetidos (DC)
Jessie Fuentes, Community School Representative, RCCA (IL)

Legal System and Puerto Ricans (Bar Associations)
Moderator: Betty Lugo, President Puerto Rican Bar Association (NY)
Mark Anthony Bimbela, President Colegio de Abogados (PR)
Anthony Suárez, President, Puerto Rican Bar Association, Orlando (FL)
Oscar González, President, Puerto Rican Bar Association, Illinois (IL)

Veterans
Moderator and resource: Harry Franqui-Rivera
Frank Medina, Captain, U.S. Army veteran, Congressional Gold Medal Alliance (FL)
Lesbia Nieves, Lieutenant Colonel (CT)
Luis Vázquez-Contes, National Vice-Commander, American GI Forum of the U.S. (AZ)

Faith Based Communities
Moderator: Rev. Dr. Raymond Rivera (NY)
Obispo Ángel Marcial, Iglesia de Dios (FL)
Reverend Roberto Luis Lugo (PA)
Pastor Omar Medina, President, Hispanic Pastor’s Association (OH)
Reverenda Eunice Santana, Iglesia Discípulos de Cristo, (PR)
More panelists TBA

Women/NACOPRW
Moderator: Deborah López, NACOPRW (Chicago)
Amaris Hernández, Vice-President NACOPRW Philadelphia (PA)
Sara Meléndez, NACOPRW (DC)
More panelists TBA

Visual Artists
Moderator: Miguel Luciano, Artist (NY)
Pedro Brull, Artist (Orlando)
Billy Ocasio, Chief Executive Officer, Institute of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture (Chicago)
Marcos Dimas, Artist and Co-Founder, Taller Boricua (NY)
Prof. Juan Sánchez, Hunter College-CUNY (NY)

LGBT
Moderator: Pedro Julio Serrano, Puerto Rico Para Tod@s (NY)
Prof. Luis Aponte-Parés, Community Planning UMass-Boston (MA)
Erika Gisela Abad Merced, Oral Historian Center for Puerto Rican Studies (IL)
Prof. Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes, University of Michigan, American Culture Department

Performing Arts
Moderator: Orlando Plaza, Owner, Camaradas El Barrio (NY)
Panelists TBA

Social Media
Moderator: Marlena Fitzpatrick, CEO, Latino Rebels (NY)
Nuria Net, Managing Editor, Fusion (FL)
Gabe González, Flama (NY)

Puerto Rican Academics
Co-Moderators: Prof. Xavier Totti and Prof. Teresita Levy, Lehman College (NY)
Prof. Juanita Díaz-Cotto, Sociology Binghamton University, SUNY (NY)

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

4:30 p.m. Adjourn