A Guide to Centro

Programs and Products That Make a Difference!

Centro is the only university-based research institute exclusively devoted to the interdisciplinary study of the Puerto Rican experience in the United States. It is also home to the oldest and largest Latino research institution in the Northeast. A university-wide research center serving the entire CUNY system, Centro has been housed at Hunter College since 1983.

In the earlier decades of Centro’s history, in-house researchers produced a series of seminal publications regarding the economic, sociological, and political implications of Puerto Rican migration. This influential body of work included, among others: Labor Migration Under Capitalism, Sources for the Study of the Puerto Rican Migration—1879-1930, and Industry and Idleness. The multitude of research task forces Centro had generated in the ‘70s addressed cultural, historical, linguistic, and socioeconomic issues of concern to scholars and community members alike.

During the 1980s, research evolved into more multidisciplinary and multimedia forms, most importantly with the development of the Oral History Collection. Puerto Ricans in New York: Voices of the Migration, for example, was a three-year oral history project shepherded by the Oral History Task Force intent on interviewing community leaders, garment workers, and pioneros (early community settlers), and retrieving primary source materials. Centro also began to attend to a broader Latino lens through which it articulated the Puerto Rican stateside experience.

Celebrating 45 Years of Achievements

Established in 1973 by a coalition of CUNY students, academics, and community activists from the emerging Puerto Rican Studies Departments, Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños is rooted in the largely Black and Puerto Rican student-based efforts to procure both open admissions access to public higher education and the creation of ethnic studies programs.

INSIDE
post hurricane Maria. As a response, Centro launched RebuildPR in 2017, an online information clearinghouse and information hub, in a collaborative effort to support the Puerto Rican diaspora, by disseminating our research and policy briefs, sharing information about solidarity events, highlighting issues affecting policy makers, broadcasting calls to action for donations and volunteers, aid, assistance, and other relevant information about the crisis.

Our third annual Puerto Rico Puerto Ricans Diaspora Summit, held in May of 2018 in New York, as well as the Encuentro con la Diáspora Conference, which took place in Puerto Rico the following month, were tremendously fertile opportunities for tangible exchanges amongst community leaders, academics, researchers, businesses, students, and the general public. There is still, however, much more work left to do, especially when one considers the fiscal crisis that had been afflicting the island and her people well before the hurricane hit. Centro refuses to let up and is inspired, equipped, and committed to producing the data, sharing the knowledge, and sponsoring the programming that Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans so sorely need at this tumultuous juncture.

Centro started off as a research institute dedicated to creating a fountain of interdisciplinary knowledge about Puerto Ricans, one that was so glaringly absent from the North American academic canon at the time. This omission of curricula and knowledge production was a symptom of the biases pervasive in the upper echelons of U.S. higher education, remnants of which still persist today. Centro’s founding and growth testify to the efforts to produce, store, and share the narratives of a people that refuse to be overlooked, marginalized, or neglected. Puerto Ricans face many challenges; so does Centro. Yet Centro is committed to surviving and fortifying the community network through academic production and programming.

There is still, however, much more work left to do, especially when one considers the fiscal crisis that had been afflicting the island and her people well before the hurricane hit.

At Centro, we are striving to do what we do best: gather and share the data, provide readily accessible information, and help pave the way for policy makers, academics, researchers, educators, students, and the public.

Please join me in celebrating the trajectory and body of work Centro has brought forth. I extend my sincerest gratitude to you for your interest, collaboration, and support throughout the years.

Edwin Meléndez, PhD
Director, Center for Puerto Rican Studies

Support Centro

Centro has become the heart and soul of Puerto Ricans in diaspora, but there is much still to be done, and we can’t do all this without your help. New research needs funding. Our famed library needs to be digitized and contents need to be retrievable via the Internet. Cultural programs take money to mount. The development of educational programs is expensive.

And, as Puerto Ricans move away from the New York area, we need to expand from being New York-centric to a truly national organization. That’s why we ask you to please help us continue to grow and tell our story for generations to come with a tax-deductible contribution today.

Donate to Centro at https://community.hunter.cuny.edu/supportcentro

Donate to the Frank Bonilla Scholarship Fund at: https://community.hunter.cuny.edu/frankbonilla

The purpose of the Fellowship Fund program is to identify and select academically successful undergraduate students who express a strong interest in Puerto Rican studies. Frank Bonilla Fellows receive a $500 stipend.

Join Centro’s Puerto Rican Nation

Centro’s online community to strengthen the network of stateside Puerto Rican Communities. Go to: http://centropr.nationbuilder.com

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Puerto Ricans, Centro staff and researchers provide a comprehensive understanding of the Puerto Rican diaspora experience in the U.S. and in relevant socioeconomic and historical aspects regarding Puerto Rico. Given its history, Centro is particularly interested in New York’s Puerto Rican communities. Due to the changing needs in Puerto Rican communities, in academia, and amongst Centro’s staff, the areas of research interest are reviewed periodically.

One of the purposes of Centro’s research program is to facilitate and strengthen the educational pipeline in higher education and to form the next generation of scholars in Puerto Rican Studies by providing them with the opportunity to create and sharpen their research skills. Many research assistants continue on to careers in academic departments. This arrangement has therefore benefited newly minted doctoral students and junior scholars in their early professional phase.

The research output of the research unit has increased in quantity and variety of subject areas over the years. The unit has positioned itself as an incubator of academic talent that has strengthened both the institution, the field, and the scholars themselves. Consequently, Centro has achieved greater visibility over the past few years.

The Centro Research Exchange program promotes institutional, faculty and student intellectual and scientific exchange with state-side academic institutions. Centro has sponsored numerous resident scholars, Master and Doctoral theses and dissertations, and pre-doctoral and junior faculty fellows. The program has facilitated research and other academic/cultural activities for more than three hundred faculty and students.

Since its inception in 2012, the Data Center has evolved from being a repository of information on Puerto Ricans in the United States to a provider of products that advance basic and applied research on the Puerto Rican community. Data sheets summarize trends including existing, publicly available datasets, descriptions of sample sizes and other issues affecting research on the Puerto Rican population.

The Data Center also provides a data and statistical assistance service to advance research in priority areas. It has evolved into a division that presents cutting edge, data-driven analysis with a public policy lens. In the aftermath of Puerto Rico’s economic and humanitarian crisis, after having been struck by two severe hurricanes, the information supplied by Centro’s Data Center has nimbly, rapidly and reliably provided up-to-date information that is being utilized by policymakers and other stakeholders involved in the recovery and reconstruction efforts.

Centro Publications produces our Policy Briefs, Data Sheets and special topic Booklets. These products that advance basic and applied research on Puerto Ricans, Centro staff and researchers provide a comprehensive understanding of the Puerto Rican diaspora experience in the U.S. and in relevant socioeconomic and historical aspects regarding Puerto Rico. Given its history, Centro is particularly interested in New York’s Puerto Rican communities. Due to the changing needs in Puerto Rican communities, in academia, and amongst Centro’s staff, the areas of research interest are reviewed periodically.

The role of the research unit to buttress the higher education pipeline has been most evident in a previous cohort of research associates: Consuelo Martínez-Reyes, Marilisa Jiménez-García, Harry Franqui-Rivera and Leonell Torres-Pagán, among others. After their time at Centro, the first three scholars joined disciplinary departments at Macquarie University, Lehman University, and Bloomsfield College, respectively. Leonell Torres-Pagán is now a staff psychologist at Maimonides Medical Center, SUNY. Dr. Martínez-Reyes published two peer-reviewed articles and launched the exploration and analysis of Víctor Fraguayo’s archival collection, which was published by Centro Press in the fall of 2018. Dr. Jiménez-García published five peer-reviewed articles, two book chapters and a report while at Centro. Dr. Franqui-Rivera published one book, three peer-reviewed articles, and two book reviews during his time at the research unit. Dr. Torres-Pagán is currently a licensed clinical psychologist in the State of New York. During his tenure at Centro, he published three peer-reviewed articles, two book chapters, and one policy paper.

IUPLR/Mellon Fellowship Program

Furthermore, the Inter-University Program for Latino Research and Centro teamed up to provide the IUPLR/Mellon Fellowship Program. The program supports doctoral students in the humanities who are writing dissertations in Latino/a Studies. The fellowship facilitates completion of the dissertation and provides professional development, job market support, and mentoring for students. It includes a $25,000 stipend and travel support to attend IUPLR conferences and a required two-week summer institute in Chicago. Mellon fellows supported by Centro include Canela Muzio Dormian (FY19), Ómar Ramadán-Santiago (FY18), Laura Kaplan (FY17), and Ariel Arnu (FY16).

Research Associates

Consuelo Martínez-Reyes

Marilisa Jiménez-García

Dr. Leonell Torres-Pagán

KURT BIRSON joined Centro as a Master-level student, and during his policy report between fiscal years 2014 and 2016, was responsible for crafting the first batch of research briefs that eventually became the core of an edited volume produced by Centro. Since then, Kurt is pursuing his doctoral degree in Policy and Government at George Mason University.

ANNE VISSER, a doctoral candidate in Public and Urban Policy, was hired as a research assistant, responsible for primary research and aiding in the drafting of several articles that were ultimately published in peer-reviewed journals. During her time at Centro—between fiscal years 2009 and 2012—Anne successfully defended her dissertation and obtained a job as an assistant professor at the University of California-Davis. Anne was recently promoted to associate professor.

Data Center Staff

ANNE VISSER

During fiscal year 2018 the Data Center webpage has received more than 21,000 page views, 17,000 of which are unique. Noteworthy among these has been the Data Center’s estimate of the number of Puerto Ricans displaced by hurricanes Maria and Irma, leading to the emigration of 155,000 Puerto Ricans to the United States in the six months since the cyclones struck the island. The aforementioned data brief has received more than 3,400 views since its release in March 2018, and has been cited by numerous leading news outlets in the United States.

Did You Know

Since 2008, researchers in the Research Unit have published:

- five books (monographs)
- four edited volumes
- thirty-three articles in peer-reviewed outlets
- eighteen book chapters
- six major policy reports, among other contributions to generalized knowledge

Since 2012, the Data Center has released more than:

- sixty-five research briefs
- more than twenty-five data sheets, population profiles for selected states, counties, metropolitan areas and cities between 2010 and 2016
- more than twenty-five population maps
Our Milestones

1973
- Official launch of Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños with the appointment of its first Director, Dr. Frank Bonilla, in February, and the formation of the Directiva, the initial collective governing body. Centro Library is founded in tandem.
- The Lexington Avenue Percussion Workshop commences in East Harlem, offering percussion classes and seminars on Puerto Rican musical forms such as bomba and plena.
- Centro is located in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs at 535 East 80th Street; later that year it moves to 500 Fifth Avenue (Room 930), near the Graduate Center.

1974
- Centro organizes and hosts the Puerto Rican History Conference and the Conference on Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College.
- Linguistic studies of code-switching among Puerto Ricans commence in East Harlem by the Language Policy Task Force.

1977
- In June, Centro moves to John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY).
- The City Council of New York, the Office of the Mayor, and the Office of the Manhattan Borough President proclaimed the 26th of February to be Center for Puerto Rican Studies Appreciation Day.

1979
- Frank Bonilla and the Centro History Task Force publish the seminal *Labor Migration Under Capitalism*, one of the first texts to position the Puerto Rican migration to New York with a structural analysis of the political and economic relationship of Puerto Rico to the U.S.

1998
- *CENTRO Journal* officially becomes peer-reviewed.
- Centro, along with Lehman and Brooklyn Colleges, hosts The Caribbean and the United States Since 1898: 100 Years of Transformation, a three-day conference.

2000
- Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, professor of History at Northeastern University, is appointed director.
- The Puerto Rican History Conference is set in motion.

2008
- Edwin Meléndez, professor of Management and Urban Policy at the New School of Social Research, is appointed director.

2010
- Centro sponsors a Memorial to celebrate the life of its founder, Frank Bonilla.

2011
- Centro Library and Archives relocates to its current location at the Hunter College Silberman School of Social Work in East Harlem.

2012
- Centro launches Centro Press, establishing itself as publication imprint.
- The Puerto Rican Heritage Poster Series is set in motion.

2013
- Centro celebrates its 40th Anniversary and publishes *Puerto Rican Heritage Poster Series* as well as a Guide to Centro Archives.
- The Frank Bonilla Fellowship Fund is established to assist Hunter College students who express a strong interest in Puerto Rican Studies.
- The One-Hundred Puerto Ricans Campaign is launched to celebrate individuals who have made significant contributions to Puerto Rican communities in the U.S. We acquired over 200 new collections, including 43 new Public Recognition Collections. In addition, we received 172 new oral histories.
- *CENTRO Voices* is inaugurated. The online magazine covers current affairs, history, arts, and culture of and about Puerto Ricans in the U.S.
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1983
- Centro moves its offices to its current location at Hunter College.
- The oral history project Puerto Ricans in New York: Voices of the Migration is inaugurated.
- Centro produces the documentary Memos a la Obra: Operation Bootstrap.

1984
- Centro acquires the photographs of Justo A. Martí (The Martí Collection).
- Conference titled Extended Roots: From Hawaii to New York —Migraciones puertorriqueñas a los Estados Unidos is held as part of the Voices of the Migration Oral History Project.
- Centro hosts the first Puerto Rican Diaspora Summit at the Silberman Building of Social Work.

1986
- Centro is a co-founder of the Inter-University Program for Latino Research.
- The Centro Research Exchange begins a broad range of scholarly projects aimed at fostering collaboration between faculty and students from CUNY and other universities and scientific research centers in the Caribbean and Puerto Rico.
- Funding is provided for El Barrio Popular Education Program and the CUNY/Cuba (Caribbean) Exchange Program.

1987
- The first edition of CENTRO Journal is published. Today it is the only peer-reviewed publication dedicated to Puerto Rican Studies research.
- Interamericano—the CUNY/UPR Exchange Program is established.

1989
- The Centro Archives is formally constituted.
- Premiere of film Plena is Work, Plena is Song, directed for Centro by Pedro A. Rivera and Susan Zeig. The film is used as a teaching guide in our Cultural Ambassador Program.
- The Library acquires the Pura Belpré collection. Belpré was a talented author and storyteller who wrote and re-interpreted Puerto Rican folk tales. She was the first Puerto Rican librarian in the New York Public Library system, pioneering the library's work with the Puerto Rican community.

1994
- Juan Flores, professor of Latin American and Hispanic Caribbean Studies at City College, is appointed Director.
- Centro Archives obtains the records of the Office of the Government of Puerto Rico in the United States (OGPRUS), representing a huge milestone and honor for the library.

1994

1997
- Puerto Rican Diaspora Summit I takes place at the Silberman Building.
- The Oral Histories Project collects 265 interviews to date.
- Diaspora Summit II takes place at the Silberman Building, welcoming 400+ attendees.
- Centro hosts its repository, RebuildPR in response to Hurricane Maria.
- Centro launches its program, Diaspora Recordings.

1998
- Centro hosts the first Puerto Rican Diaspora Summit at the Silberman Building of Social Work in New York.
- Centro introduces the Cultural Ambassador Program.
- Centro receives the 2016 Imagen Award.
- Centro sponsors the Puerto Rico Puerto Ricans, Diaspora Summit in Washington, D.C. at the UDC School of Law campus.

2016
- Centro hosts the first Puerto Rico Diaspora Summit at the Silberman Building of Social Work in New York.
- Centro introduces the Cultural Ambassador Program.
- Centro wins the 2016 Imagen Award.
- Centro sponsors the Puerto Rico Puerto Ricans, New England Summit in Holyoke, MA.

2017
- Puerto Rico Puerto Ricans Diaspora Summit II takes place at the Silberman Building of Social Work.
- CENTRO Journal begins publishing issues three times a year, due to increased academic production and readership in the field of Puerto Rican Studies.
- Centro launches its repository, RebuildPR in response to Hurricane Maria.
- One-Hundred Years of the Jones Act and Puerto Rican U.S. Citizenship, a public two-day conference examining the history and legacy of the collective naturalization of Puerto Ricans as U.S. citizens is held on the centennial of the Jones Act.

2018
- The Oral Histories Project collects 265 interviews to date.
- Diaspora Summit III takes place at the Silberman Building, welcoming 400+ attendees.
- Centro premieres the documentary AmeRícan Poet: Tato Laviera at the Silberman Building.
- Centro hosts Puerto Rico Puerto Ricans, Resilencia y solidaridad: Encuentro con la Diaspora conference at the University of Puerto Rico’s campus in Río Piedras.
The Centro Library and Archives collects, preserves and provides access to resources documenting the history and culture of Puerto Ricans living in the United States. Located in the Lois V. and Samuel J. Silberman Building in East Harlem, the collections include books, newspapers, periodicals, audio and videotapes, manuscripts, photographs, prints and recorded music. The Library and Archives provides services and programs to the scholarly community as well as to the general public. They facilitate access to their holdings through mail and telephone services, City University’s online public catalog (CUNY+), participation in national computerized databases, and through the publication of finding aids. The Library and Archives also promote the study of Puerto Rican history and culture through exhibitions and other public programs.

Among our holdings there are close to 100,000 photographs and negatives, 2,000 art and political posters, drawings and other materials, 2,000 videos, 2,000 audio recordings, 1,300 Long Play vinyl records, 1,000 postcards, 316 buttons from political and cultural events, over 100 maps, and 20 16mm short films. The collections include the records of civil rights organizations and papers written by activists, writers, artists, scholars, educators and elected officials.

A highlight of the holdings is the extensive records of the Offices of the Government of Puerto Rico in the U.S. Special features of the Archives include its photographic holdings, art prints/posters by artists from New York and Puerto Rico, and sound recordings of Puerto Rican popular music. Finding aids and guides are available for processed collections and are found online at the Centro website.

Centro holds numerous archival collections from notable Barrio locals such as: Tato Laviera, Pedro Pietri, Pura Belpré, Oscar García Rivera, and more. A key access point in the rich holdings of the Centro Library & Archives is through the digital collections portal, powered by CollectiveAccess.
Centro’s Digital Collections portal is an increasingly important access point for discovering and viewing material from Centro’s archival collections. Powered by the open-source content management system and discovery platform—Collective Access—the portal provides access to over 8,000 digital objects from across 153 collections.

Our ongoing efforts focus on digitizing collections with a large number of assets. This includes collections such as the Carlos Ortiz Papers, a largely photographic collection documenting Puerto Ricans in New York. We reviewed, selected, and cataloged a large portion of the nearly 2000 images digitized from this collection. Additionally, we are publishing hundreds of PDFs of monthly reports from the Offices of the Government of Puerto Rico in the United States, providing broader access to a heavily used portion of the collection.

The Oral History Project provides access to over 500 interviews from across ten oral history projects that Centro has been involved in since the early 1970s. To date, 287 audio oral history interviews from Centro’s Oral History Task Force Projects including Puerto Ricans in New York—Voices of Migration and El Barrio Popular Project, as well as the Ruth Glasser Puerto Rican Musicians oral histories, are available through the Digital Collections portal.

Since the digitization initiative in 2013, the Oral History Project has continued to build upon the expansive work completed in recent years. The Oral History project has added a total of 8441 objects containing 9675 media files, which are available in the digital portal. With a network of active oral historians and researchers of Puerto Rican Studies in cities and states such as Orlando, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Holyoke, Connecticut, and New York City, the team has conducted additional interviews and participated in numerous community events.
COLLECTIONS
Centro holds numerous archival collections of notable individuals from El Barrio such as: Tato Laviera, Pedro Pietri, Pura Belpre, and more. A key access point to the rich holdings can be found through the digital collections portal, powered by CollectiveAccess. Click this tab to see descriptions of our collections, search our digital and microfilm collections, learn about research resources and Centro’s art programs.

LIBRARY
Provides access to over 14,000 books, 2,550 dissertations and theses, 500 historical newspapers and periodicals, 3,700 reels of microfilm, 600 audio recordings, 514 videos and DVDs all related to information by and about the Puerto Rican experience. The Library provides an online source of bibliographic information through the RefShare platform, which is updated quarterly.

ABOUT US
Founded in 1973 by a coalition of faculty, students and community leaders, Centro is the only university-based research institute solely devoted to the interdisciplinary study of the Puerto Rican experience in the United States. We are a research institute, a library and archive, a source for curriculum and teaching materials, as well as data. In this tab you can read about our staff, grants and fellowships, learn about how to support Centro, sign up for our newsletter, and more.

EVENTS & NEWS
As part of our educational initiatives, Centro regularly sponsors conferences and seminars that highlight the Puerto Rican experience, most notably the Puerto Rican Puerto Ricans, Diaspora Summits, which have taken shape in both regional and local forums to assess conditions on the island and in Puerto Rican communities across the United States. View our Calendar of Events (Exhibits, Meet-the-Authors, Conferences, Seminar Series), and find out about up-to-date news regarding Rebuild-PR and current events on the island.

PUERTO RICO NEWS

Our online store for art, books, DVDs, educational posters, journals, and special offers. www.centropr-store.com

Online magazine covering current affairs, history, arts, and culture of Puerto Ricans in the U.S. Subscribe today!

Online platform for episodes of PR Voices, live streaming of our events/conferences, and other Centro programming. Find episodes of our award winning series, Puerto Rican Voices.
PUBLICATIONS

CENTRO Journal is the foremost interdisciplinary academic journal on Puerto Rican Studies. Since 2017, the Journal has been publishing three issues a year, due to increased readership in Puerto Rican Studies. Centro Press has published numerous books since its launching in 2013 and currently has three forthcoming titles. The Centro Vozes newsletter is published weekly during the academic semester.

RESEARCH

A think tank, our in-house researchers produce groundbreaking work in fields such as political science, geography, history, psychology, education, and anthropology. Find our Data Sheets and Research Briefs, learn about our Data Center, our researchers, and our research archives.

REBUILDPR

An online information clearinghouse and information hub to assist in the post-Maria recovery efforts and state-side migration. The website features a list of charities and local initiatives, a search query for volunteer opportunities, a catalog of events, an inventory of policy agenda, and a section on public and private resources offering aid.

EDUCATION

Produce curriculum and teaching materials for the middle, high school and university levels. The Puerto Rican Cultural Ambassadors Program is devoted to preparing individuals to teach curriculum geared towards Puerto Rican culture and history. Our Educational Tools include the Puerto Rican Heritage Poster Series, our documentaries and teaching guides, open courseware, and booklets.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Please follow along as we live stream our events on the Centro website.

PLEASE JOIN US

https://centropr.hunter.cuny.edu/
MAY 2014
SHAPE PUERTO RICAN IDENTITY
Selections from the DivEdCo Collection at Centro Library & Archives. Exhibition presenting the División de Educación a la Comunidad. As a government agency in Puerto Rico from 1948 to 1989, DivEdCo hired many talented young Puerto Rican artists to create attractive educational content in different formats (silkscreen prints, film, and pamphlets) to raise awareness on issues deemed important by government policymakers. This exhibition showcases a selection from the 41 prints, 30 pamphlets, and 12 films housed in the Centro Library and Archives at Hunter College.

MAY 14-SEPTEMBER 30, 2015
HOMAR: ART BINDING TIES FROM PUERTO RICO TO NYC
This exhibition included twenty works by Lorenzo Homar held in Centro Archives. Homar was a prolific Puerto Rican artist who served as the director of the Graphics Studio for DIVEDCO and the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña. Among the works is a reprint of the portfolio created by Homar dedicated to plena, a woodcut portrait of his daughter Susan, a piece of announcing exhibitions, and other pieces from the collection.

OCTOBER 2016
CAFÉ CON COMICS
Boricuas in the Comic Book Industry, a public exhibition curated by Edgardo Miranda, with a panel featuring illustrators Chris Barista, Emilio López, Will Rosado and colorist Félix Serrano.

2017
THE BODEGA
An exhibition of selected photographs by Justo Martí curated by Carlos Sanabria.

2016
CRUISING THE ATLANTIC FROM NEW YORK TO PUERTO RICO
The Steamship Journey, 1900-1948, a public exhibition of documents and artifacts from private collections, featuring the movement of Puerto Ricans to New York between the 1900s and the 1940s. The exhibit was followed by a public presentation from José Rafael Méndez and Gabriel Haslip-Viera on the stories related to the passage between Puerto Rico and New York.

NOVEMBER 2017-MARCH 2018
LAS 3 HERMANAS
Art, Education & Activism, a public exhibition highlighting the lives and achievements of Evelina Antonetty, Lilliam Lopez, and Elba Cabrera.
Art Programs

Centro Library & Archives hosts arts programs using the hallways, walls and exhibit cases of the library reading room in addition to providing general programming open to the public. Recent art programs and exhibitions available and open to the public included:

**MAY 2009**

**ADÁL: BLUEPRINTS FOR A NATION**
An exhibition on the work of Utuado-born artist, Adál Maldonado. The exhibit was a journey of the senses. A kind of trip framed by religious solemnity: the third world reality of the Hispanic Caribbean and its fascination with the new millennia’s digital technology seen through the chaotic Judean/Christian tradition, celebrating the quality of its rituals, the fugacity of the moment, the fleeting nature of new sensibilities.

**JANUARY 2013**

**LABOR ART EXHIBIT**
The opening of Labor, an art exhibition inspired by holdings in the Centro Archives, highlighted the recent inauguration of the Centro Library and Archives’ new location in the Silberman School of Social Work in East Harlem. As Susana Torruella-Leval, co-curator of the exhibition wrote in the exhibit catalog: “Labor pays tribute to the nearly 600,000 workers who migrated from Puerto Rico to the United States during the 1940s and ’50s in search of work and a better life.”

**MAY 11-JULY 21, 2012**

**PICTURING PUERTO RICO UNDER THE AMERICAN FLAG**
Photographs of Louise Rosskam, 1937-1948. The exhibition featured the work of documentary photographer Louise Rosskam during her time in Puerto Rico circa the New Deal and post-World War II.

**NOVEMBER 22, 2013- FEBRUARY 1, 2014**

**TRACKING THE SOUTH BRONX**
Photos by Carlos Ortiz presented an important counter-narrative to the prevailing images of the Bronx in the 70s, 80s, and 90s – a time when outside journalists published exploitative articles and images focusing on physical destruction, drug abuse, and poverty. Noticeably missing in much of that work – which, sadly, manufactured the image of the South Bronx in the popular imagination – were the stories of resilience, determination, and community documented so brilliantly by Carlos Ortiz.

**2013**

**POSTERS ON THE WALL: OUR NUYORICAN STORY**
Posters on the Wall illustrates the rich and diverse work of Puerto Rican artists who are especially distinguished for their contributions to printmaking. The posters represent Puerto Rican social, political and cultural interests from the tumultuous 1960s through the 1990s. Centro’s graphics collection comprises original prints, mostly silkscreens, as well as offset posters, photographic reproductions and photocopied fliers.

**2013**

**NU-YO-RICAN: A LIMITED EDITION PORTFOLIO**
As part of the celebration of Centro’s 40 years of documenting the Puerto Rican experience in the U.S., Centro produced a limited edition art portfolio of five fine silk-screened prints of art with strong Nuyorican flavors by five distinguished Puerto Rican artists living in the U.S. (Diógenes Ballester, Marcos Dimas, Sofía Maldonado, Rodríguez Calero, Adrian “Viajero” Roman).
Events

As part of our educational mission, Centro regularly sponsors conferences, seminars, tertulias (talks, lectures), media and gallery events, film festivals, concerts, symposia, panel and book presentations open to the general public, which all share an educational approach to the Puerto Rican experience. We give priority to activities that support the teaching and learning of Puerto Rican Studies and the development and promotion of our archival collections, so as to be useful to community organizers, public policy makers, academics, and the general public. Our speaker forums focus on scholarship in the social sciences, humanities, and the performing arts.

In the face of the recent crisis in Puerto Rico, Centro has convened three major national conferences—the Puerto Rico, Puerto Rican Diaspora Summits—and many more regional and local forums to assess conditions on the island and in Puerto Rican communities across the United States, building consensus for community-based strategies and responses, attracting hundreds of participants. In addition to the New York events, Centro has sponsored events in Massachusetts, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico, and supported events in New England, Florida, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

Centro has also coalesced with other CUNY research institutes and community-based organizations in promoting the Summit on Latin@s in New York City (SoL-NYC) to foster the creation of an action agenda and the improvement of the conditions and standing of New York City’s Hispanic population.

We give priority to activities that support the teaching and learning of Puerto Rican Studies and the development and promotion of our archival collections, so as to be useful to community organizers, public policy makers, academics, and the general public.
Hurricane Maria, a devastating Category 4 hurricane, caused billions of dollars in damages to Puerto Rico and left 3.4 million island residents without power, potable water, and telecommunication. Recovery is estimated to take years.

Hunter College and Centro leadership have coordinated with Federal and State elected officials, community leaders, organizations, and others to create an information hub, a clearinghouse where the Puerto Rican diaspora and those interested in supporting Puerto Rico can share information about solidarity events, policy issues affecting decision makers, calls to action for donations, volunteers, and help assistance, and other relevant information about the crisis. There are two interactive maps on our application and website that help users visualize the pre- and post-Maria conditions in Puerto Rico as well as the effects on the stateside populations. The website features:

- **Donate:** A list of charities and local initiatives that are directly assisting victims
- **Volunteer:** A search query for local volunteer opportunities and reconstruction efforts
- **Events:** A catalog of events in support of relief efforts
- **Policy:** An inventory of policy agenda for the island
- **News:** A repository of news, organized by filters such as diaspora, economic recovery, energy and infrastructure, environment, health and social services, housing, and people.
- **Directory:** Connects users with professionals, people, and organizations that provide a service or work with the Puerto Rican stateside community and in Puerto Rico
- **Data hub:** two interactive maps help users find information related to pre- and post-Maria conditions in Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rican solidarity movement in the United States
- **Exchange:** Information about collaboration opportunities from organizations that are working on the rebuilding of Puerto Rico; requests for support from organizations doing the same.

RebuildPR routinely sends out newsletters highlighting new content via the online platform. Volunteers across the nation staff the project and gather the necessary information for this platform to be effective and as live as possible. Centro has made a call for volunteers and organizations that want to help Puerto Rico, not just in the emergency phase, but also in the recovery and reconstruction phases. We seek volunteers with skills in collecting and managing information, writing policy briefs, and helping with outreach and partnership.

More than ever, the Puerto Rican diaspora must play an important role, no longer just with the ongoing humanitarian crisis on the island and disaster relief for the American citizens of Puerto Rico, but also with the thousands of fellow Puerto Ricans who have relocated to stateside communities.

Please visit RebuildPR at: https://centropr.hunter.cuny.edu/events-news/rebuild-puerto-rico

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Puerto Rican Heritage Cultural Ambassadors Program

Our flagship program, which promotes Centro’s educational tools, is The Puerto Rican Heritage Cultural Ambassadors Program, a national partnership of youth, community leaders, cultural and educational institutions devoted to promoting Puerto Rican culture. Its aim is to cultivate leadership skills in Puerto Rican youth so they may become a driving force of change for themselves and their communities.

The program is a free, self-paced, multimedia online course in Puerto Rican history, culture, and traditions, with a focus on the migratory experience of the stateside diaspora. After enrolling online, participants are given assignments which include viewing the Pioneers/Pioneros Documentary Series, completing reading assignments on Puerto Rican history, culture, and traditions, and learning key dates and historical events that have shaped the diaspora experience. At the end of each lesson, participants are required to complete and pass a short quiz. Upon successful completion of all required lessons, the participant receives a certificate of completion and is designated a Cultural Ambassador.

The goals of the program are to:
• Increase our youth’s knowledge about and understanding of how important cultural heritage is in relationship to their identity
• Expand our youth’s academic skills and educational and career opportunities
• Engage our youth in community-based solutions, improving the lives of Puerto Ricans across the country
• Develop initiatives for our youth to better understand and address issues in Puerto Rico and in the diaspora

The program has a number of key partners in New York, including ASPIRA, the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, El Puente, and Comité Noviembre, and was unveiled at the Puerto Rico, Puerto Ricans Diaspora Summit in December 2016. So far, over one hundred people have enrolled and participated in the online program. Centro has also sponsored, for over a hundred fellows, several bootcamps, one-day academies based on the Cultural Ambassador curriculum.
Through Centro Publications, Centro seeks to expand its dissemination of knowledge about Puerto Ricans and their experience. Centro Publications include various types of items targeting specific constituencies such as academics, policy makers, community leaders, organizations, and others.

CENTRO Journal, founded in 1987, is one of Centro’s most important links to the public. The Journal, published three times a year, is a multidisciplinary, bilingual, peer-reviewed journal that welcomes scholarly articles in the humanities and the social sciences, as well as interpretive essays, interviews, and reviews. CENTRO Journal, a leading interdisciplinary, bilingual, peer-reviewed journal that contains over one hundred entries that pertain to books, reports, articles, and audiovisual materials. All publications listed in this bibliography are available for use at Centro Library and Archives. Some of them are available in PDF format at the Centro Website. That same year, Centro published the Guide to Centro Archives, which enumerates roughly 244 collections, providing the dates of documents, volume in cubic feet, number of digital objects, and a brief description, along with inventory and finding aids for each collection.

Launched in 2013, Centro Press currently has fourteen published titles, with additional forthcoming. These books are currently available for purchase directly from our press or on our website.

Puerto Rican Voices

In collaboration with WIPR, Puerto Rican Voices, a television series premiered in 2015, has had a successful three season run since its debut. In 2016, it received the Imagen Award for Best Local Informational Program. Puerto Rican Voices highlights the contributions of Puerto Ricans across the United States. Its programming is presently available through CUNY-TV and on CentroTV.
The Center for Puerto Rican Studies (Centro) is the nation’s leading university-based institution devoted to the interdisciplinary study of the Puerto Rican experience in the United States. Centro is dedicated to understanding, preserving and sharing the Puerto Rican experience in the United States. Centro invites Centro Voices contributors to make use of the extensive archival, bibliographic and research material preserved in its Library and Archives.

The Centro Library and Archives is devoted to collecting, preserving and providing access to resources documenting the history and culture of Puerto Ricans. The Centro Library and Archives was established in 1973 as a component of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies. The collections include books, current and historic newspapers and periodicals, audio, film & video, manuscripts, photographs, art prints, and recorded music. The Library and Archives provides services and programs to the scholarly community as well as the general public. Constituents are diverse and come from the United States and abroad. The Library and Archives facilitates access to information on its holdings through the City University’s online public catalog or CUNY+. It also provides research and information assistance via phone and email.