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Join Centro and Other N.Y.-Puerto Rican Institutions Celebrating *November: Puerto Rican Heritage Month*

Cinema · Theater · Comedy · Lectures and Panels · Dance · Music ·
Traditional Fairs
...And a Trolley Ride Through the Bronx Barrio

[Full Calendar Attached](#)

In recognition of the Puerto Rican contributions to the life of New York City, a broad coalition of community organizations is celebrating November: Puerto Rican History Month. Fifteen organizations local civic groups are presenting more than 20 activities reflecting Puerto Rican traditions, folklore, history, arts and its leaders.

Among the participants is the Hunter College-based Center for Puerto Rican Studies (Centro), which is sponsoring or cosponsoring a series of educational events throughout November to involve both Puerto Rican and non-Puerto Rican college and high school students, their professors and teachers, community/cultural organizations, and the general public.

The celebration includes art exhibits in the Centro library and at El Museo del Barrio; live theater and lots of lectures and panels sponsored or co-sponsored by Centro. There's also the Comité Noviembre's Artisan's Fair and Exhibit, built around a typical plaza featuring art, Puerto Rican food, workshops for children and much more; a holiday kickoff with music and early deals on Christmas gifts from onsite artist and vendors at the Clemente Soto Velez Cultural and Educational Center; and the Bronx Council on the Arts Cultural Trolley, which will visit sites of historic interest.

Dr. Edwin Meléndez, the director of Centro, a research, educational and cultural-preservation institute promoting Puerto Rican studies, said, "One of our aims is to familiarize young people, especially Puerto Rican youth, with our community's successes. Our goal in this celebration is that it serve as a vehicle to help our students develop a stronger sense of pride, belonging, and self-worth through connecting with their culture – a connection that should result in increased self esteem." Meléndez noted that these events also are designed to boost teachers' interest in including Puerto Rican studies in their curricula.

Centro's Puerto Rican Heritage Month Initiative meshes with several of the institute's main goals, including: expanding and improving the teaching of Puerto Rican studies, implementing new pedagogical techniques, fostering and preserving the history and documents of the Puerto Rican diaspora, and encouraging students to remain in high school, graduate and go on to higher education.