



MOLAA celebrates the 2022 Afro-Latinx Festival presented by The Port of Long Beach

All programming will be free and accessible to the general public.

February 26th, 2022; Long Beach, California, EE. UU. – The Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) will celebrate the richness and diversity of African heritage in Latin American culture during its annual Afro-Latinx Festival presented by The Port of Long Beach. This festival will comprise a series of hybrid events between February and March 2022.

Podcasts, discussion sessions, exhibitions, and workshops (both in-person and online) featuring artists, scholars, and community organizers, will highlight the history and experiences of the Afro-Latinx individuals through conversations, performances, and presentations - all free to the public.

Programming for the Afro-Latinx Family Festival will showcase the cultural impact of the African diaspora in the Americas through music, movement, and food while honoring Black History Month.

The event schedule is as follows:

Thursday, February 21st (Online)

The Afrochingonas Podcast

Valeria Angola, Mar Bella Figueroa, and Scarlet Estrada will host the live episode: *Cultural Appropriation* of their podcast *Afrochingonas*. This podcast is hosted by friends and dedicated to random topics as experienced by three Black women in Mexico City.

Available on the MOLAA YouTube Channel

Sunday, February 27th - March 6th (In-person at MOLAA)

Forgotten Images Exhibition

David and Sharon McLucas are the owners of *Forgotten Images*, A Traveling Educational Exhibit and Museum. Their exhibit features thousands of lost and forgotten artifacts that span two centuries of the African American experience in America. After spending nearly 20 years amassing a personal collection of Black History artifacts, the couple has taken their memorabilia on the road with an enormous responsibility: "We are standing on the shoulders of our ancestors, and we want everyone to see how far we've come."

This exhibition will be transformed into a virtual experience and will be available online to the general public after March 7th.

Schedule your visit to MOLAA here: <https://molaa.org/visit>

Monday, February 28th – April 30th, 2022 (Online)

I Am: New Afro-Latinx Narratives, Chapter 2 (on the MOLAA Website: <http://molaa.org>)

February 28th – April 30th, 2022

Curated by Guest Curator Maria Elena Ortiz and MOLAA Chief Curator Gabriela Urriaga

In celebration of Black History Month and during MOLAA's Afro-Latinx Festival, we look to honor African heritage and its significant influence in Latin American countries, intrinsically founded by and simultaneously part of the African diaspora.

For this occasion, we invited the guest curator Maria Elena Ortiz (b. Puerto Rico who lives and works in Miami, US) to join us in inviting, together with the MOLAA Chief Curator Gabriela Urriaga, a group of amazing artists who have a powerful point of view about important themes such as race, power, memory, identity, revisiting the imagery and heritage in communities of African descent.

Together with artists Daniel Lind-Ramos (Puerto Rico, b. 1952), Belkis Ayón (Cuba, 1967-1999), Eliazar Ortiz (Dominican Republic, b. 1981) and Glendalys Medina (Puerto Rico, b. 1979), we immerse ourselves in a collective experience, speaking towards a rich cultural expression, symbolic and perpetual iconography, but also social and racial inequality, struggle, lack of opportunities and critically, the re-examining and re-envisioning of hope for a better present and better representation. Through artistic practice and the artists' interests in social, political, and cultural references, we explore in-depth the intersection of activism and commitment to speak on histories from a perspective of diversity.

Thursday, March 3rd, 7:00 p.m. PST (Online)

Bachata Workshop presented by the founders of In Lak'ech Dance Academy and Organizers of the annual Queer Afro-Latin Dance Fest. No experience is necessary. Come and learn the Bachata basics. Move your body with Sabor to Bachata music.

In Lak'ech Dance Academy in Oakland, CA, is the direct result of the passion directors Angelica Media & Jahaira Fajardo share for Latin Dance and their community. In 2014, Angelica and Jahaira met and fell in love on the dance floor. They soon after decided to grow as dance partners while training for competitions. In December 2015, they placed 1st in the Latin Ladies Same Gender Division at the World Latin Dance Cup (WLDC). Jahaira also made history as the first Bachata female leader to become a World Champion. In 2018, they returned to the WLDC and placed first in the Bachata Couple Pro Cabaret Division. In 2017, Jahaira and Angelica participated and completed the Alex and Desiree Bachata Instructor Certification Course. They also had the honor to Direct The AnD WW ~Team SF Season One.

In 2018, In Lak'ech Dance Academy was proud to produce the FIRST EVER [Queer Latin Dance Festival](#) to center the experiences, joys, and talents of queer and trans Latin dancers worldwide.

Register here: <https://molaa.org/events/inlakech-dance-academy>

Wednesday, March 9th at 6:00 p.m. PST (Online)

Generating Radical Inclusion & Transformation = G.R.I.T. with guest, José Angel Castro

Jose Angel Castro is a Garifuna, multi-disciplinary artist, teacher, and facilitator based in Los Angeles. In May 2021, Castro co-created and was the lead artist and facilitator *for Go Make Something: Working Through and Beyond the Convergence*, an Arts Council for Long Beach program meant to help creatives process the convergence of crises in 2020. He is continuing this work leading a cohort of ACLB 2021/22 Professional Artist Fellows in the program's next stage called "Converge Presented by Go Make Something Kids"—a youth arts expo seeking to teach students resilience through artistic expression.

Register here: <https://molaa.org/events/2022/03/09-grit>

Sunday, March 20th at 11 a.m. PST (in person at MOLAA)

Afro-Cuban Dance presentation by Kati Hernández

Cuban Choreographer, dancer, educator Kati Hernández provides a pioneering Online Cuban dance, music, and art program. A joyful endless celebration of Cuban culture as a reflection of resilience, empowerment, and healing, this class is committed to preserving and promoting Afro-Cuban culture worldwide and generating cross-cultural communities. Kati's contagious uplifting energy and finesse teaching style leads the way to a comprehensive Cuban dance and music journey suitable for a variety of skill levels. Her signature nationwide acclaimed program Orisha Dance Therapy is a language of expression through movements and rhythms of the rich Afro-Cuban Dance diaspora. It combines the magic and flavor of Cuban Rumba and the graceful dance and sound of traditional Cuban Son, along with the funky sound of Timba and Groovy Cuban Salsa. As a facilitator, Kati exposes her students to an outstanding lineup of world-renowned Cuban artists that generously share their vast knowledge during each class.

Learn more about the event here: <https://molaa.org/events/2022/03/20-cuban-dance>

For detailed information about the program, visit <https://molaa.org/afrolatinxfest-2022>.

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The Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) was founded in 1996 in Long Beach, California, and serves the Greater Los Angeles area. MOLAA is the only museum in the United States dedicated to modern and contemporary Latin American and Latinx art.

MOLAA expands the knowledge and appreciation of modern and contemporary Latin American and Latinx art through its collection, innovative exhibitions, stimulating educational programs, and attractive cultural events.

MOLAA is located at 628 Alamitos Avenue, Long Beach, CA. For more information, call 562.437.1689 or write to info@molaa.org.

Press Contact:

Solimar Salas

Vice President of Museum Content & Programming

ssalas@molaa.org

562.216.4147