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Latinx Unidos del South Sound (LUSS) presents
Festival Latinx: Esperanza
Saturday, November 13, 2021 from Noon to 5:00 p.m. at Tacoma Armory
1001 S Yakima Ave, Tacoma, WA 98405
A FREE Community Event

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SPONSORS: [City of Tacoma](#), [Latinx Unidos del South South Sound](#), [PCAF](#), [Tacoma Arts Live](#), and [Tacoma Creates](#)

TACOMA, WASH.— Back in person for 2021 with the theme of *Esperanza* (hope), **Festival Latinx** is a celebration of the Latino communities of the South Sound with music, dance, art, crafts, and more! Safely enjoy performances from mariachi to salsa, along with vibrant art installations and a *mercadito*. Free entry to the main event with vaccination or proof of negative test (PCR or rapid test). Alternative space with onsite vaccination clinic available.

Festival Latinx 2021 combines an exhilarating line-up of Latina/o artists and performers with an inspiring message of community resilience and vital health resources – all in a safely produced event.

Attendees will experience live performances that reflect the diversity of Latinx communities, with musical acts such as **Mariachi Guadalajara**, salsa band **Eleré**, Panama's **Alfredo Chavez**, **Trío Guadalevín** and **Dora Oliveira's** all-women Brazilian drum line.

Dance performances feature lively choreography and colorful costumes. **Bailadores de Bronce** – the Northwest's premiere Mexican ballet folklórico company – will open the dance stage, followed by the pageantry of Central American tradition from **Panamá Folklore** and the majesty of Afro-Cuban dances and intricate salsa of **La Clave Cubana**.

Visual art will be a centerpiece of the experience as festival-goers are greeted by a bright 20-foot *tapete* (sand painting) by celebrated Oaxacan artist **Fulgencio Lazo**, who established this beloved tradition in the Northwest with his popular Day of the Dead. Additional works by artists such as Ecuadorian-born **Mauricio Robalino**, South Park artist **Amaranta Sandys** and Chicano artist **Jake Prendez** will be available to see and/or purchase.

A *mercadito* – or little market – will feature additional artisans offering handmade jewelry, imported and local handcrafts and small-batch creations like the tropical-infused beverages of **Komadre Kombucha**. Various nonprofit and community organizations will be on hand to share information and resources, as well as recruit for jobs. 10 x 10 booths are free for artists and organizations, with all proceeds going to the vendors.

Festival Latinx is free and designed to keep attendees safe and well-served. The main program will be housed in the expansive parade floor of the Tacoma Armory, which uses air scrubbers and windows for excellent ventilation. **Proof of vaccination or a negative test (PCR or rapid test) within the past 72 hours** are required to enter this part of the event. While food and drink will be available, they must be consumed outside as masks are required indoors.

For those without vaccination or a recent negative test, **the festival will host a vaccine clinic in a separate space**. Led by LUSS' Vaccine Project Coordinator and a team of community *promotoras* (health promoters), information will be available to community members as well as free, no-appointment vaccinations by a mobile **MultiCare** clinic. Thanks to **Community Health Worker Coalition for Migrants and Refugees**, every person vaccinated at Festival Latinx will receive a **\$50 incentive** and can get **free Uber rides** to and from the event.

Those being vaccinated will also enjoy their own live music performed by artists including Ecuadorian guitarist **Pablo Flores** and chamber musicians from **Orquesta Northwest** under the direction of **Paula Madrigal**.

The theme of Festival Latinx, *Esperanza* – or Hope – represents both the challenges and strength of the Latino community.



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“It’s been a difficult couple of years for everyone, and the Latinx community has shown up in so many ways,” explains LUSS member and Tacoma Arts Live Associate Director of Education, Antonio Gómez.

“Latinos have been disproportionately hit by COVID, but have been essential to sustaining both local and national economies. Our community has an extremely high number of essential workers in the agricultural and service economies, as well as healthcare, education and other sectors. At a time of tremendous loss and challenge, there is also powerful resilience and beauty in our cultures. Showcasing that exuberance is what Festival Latinx is all about.”

This sense of resilience will be highlighted during the festival with a special invocation featuring Afro-Venezuelan dancer and community activist, Milvia Pacheco, who will present her dance-poem “De donde vengo” (“Where I come from”).

Pacheco also leads **Movimiento Afrolatino Seattle (MÁS)**, a community organization focused on elevating the African diaspora across the Americas and serving Washington Afro-Latino residents. This year represents the second year MÁS has worked with Latinx Unidos del South Sound for Festival Latinx.

“We are pleased to collaborate once again with LUSS. We are highlighting the voices of regional artists who represent Black heritage in Latin America,” explains Pacheco.

Festival Latinx 2021 is produced by **Latinx Unidos del South Sound**, a volunteer community organization, through its fiscal sponsor, the **Pierce County AIDS Foundation**. Presented in partnership with **Tacoma Arts Live** with collaboration from **Movimiento Afrolatino Seattle** and **MultiCare** and funding from the **City of Tacoma and its Office of Venues and Events**.

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Tacoma Arts Live’s mission is to energize the community through live performance. Founded in 1979, Tacoma Arts Live is a non-profit organization recognized for leadership in presenting world-class performing artists and providing one of the largest arts access and education programs in Washington State. Learn more at TacomaArtsLive.org.