

Spotlight: Jose Antonio Tijerino and Celia Cruz



Tijerino (Photo HHF)

Jose Antonio Tijerino is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hispan Heritage Foundation (HHF), which is headquartered in Washington, D.C. Other offices are in New York, Los Angeles, and Miami. Through its mentorship, leadership development, and community award programs, the HHF lifts up, promotes, and develops decision-makers in the Hispanic community. Mr. Tijerino, an immigrant from Nicaragua, has been recognized nationally with numerous awards. He was also instrumental in founding the Hispanic Leaders Alliance with the NFL, the DREAM LEAD Institute for DACA recipients, and the Latinos on Fast Track Institute, among other projects.



Cruz (Photo celiacruz.com)

Celia Cruz (1925-2003) is known as the <u>Queen of Salsa</u>. Born in Cuba as Ürsula Hilaria Celia Caridad Cruz Alfonso, she was the <u>first</u> black lead singer of the popular group La Sonora Matancera. She found success in the United States, after leaving Cuba following the country's socialist revolution. Her voice, flamboyant costumes, and inimitable style left an indelible imprint on Salsa music. In 2024, she will be the first Afro-Latina on a U.S. <u>coin</u>, ¡Azucar!

Around the District

La<u>Fiesta del Barrio</u>, Washington, D.C. Oct. 14, 3PM - 8PM <u>AFI Latin American Film Festival</u>, Silver Spring, MD, Sept. 21 - Oct. 11 <u>LatinoBook Festival</u>, MLK Library, Washington, D.C. Oct. 7 - 8.

Reading Recommendations



By Andrea Beatriz Arango Ages: 10-14

lveliz thought 7th grade was going to be wonderful. But why is so mad all the time? And why does she keep getting in trouble? How does she explain her feelings?



By David Bowles Ages: 9 - 12

Güero is puro Mexicano, but is comfortable speaking Spanish and English. In this story about a 7th grader living on a border town, readers get to know how Güero deals with things when the going gets tough. Also available in Spanish.



By Pedro Matin Ages: 10 - 14

In this graphic novel, Pedro and his 8 siblings take a road trip to Mexico, to bring their abuelito home. At first Pedro is not excited about this trip. But as he gets to know his abuelito, he finds his own voice.



By Ruth Behar Ages: 10 - 13

Young Ruth (Ruthie) and her family settle in New York City after fleeing Cuba. An accident leaves Ruthie in a body cast and confined to her bed. It is then that she discovers some of life's greatest joys. Also available in <u>Spanish</u>

