



**CENTRO DE LA COMUNIDAD UNIDA
UNITED COMMUNITY CENTER**
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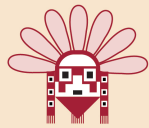
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CENTRO DE LA COMUNIDAD UNIDA / UNITED COMMUNITY CENTER

UCC Newsletter

September - December 2020



LATINO arts inc.

Fall Season Events

The 2020-2021 season gives Latino Arts, Inc. an opportunity to let our creativity shine! All exhibits will be available virtually on our website, allowing those who feel more comfortable staying at home the opportunity to view the incredible art featured this season. Additionally, we are adding interactive virtual elements to each exhibit through social media, giving our audience the opportunity to engage in activities that include a virtual art competition, where our audience votes for their favorite work from each exhibit and a digital community ofrenda collaboration project.

- Latino Arts Day of The Dead celebration returns October 14th with our **Day of the Dead Ofrendas**, curated by local artists and community members.
- Opening on December 4th, **Los Rostros Ocultos/The Hidden Faces**, will feature works of Angelica Contreras.



Save The Date(s) & Watch Our Facebook Page For Our Fall 2020 Events:

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS OFRENDAS
OPENING RECEPTION: Friday, October 30 at 5:00 p.m.
ON VIEW: October 14 - November 20
OPEN GALLERY HOURS: Tuesdays and Thursdays • 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

CAFÉ CON ARTE
October 22 • 8:15 - 9:30 a.m.

EXPLORE THE TRADITIONS AT OUR LUNCH & LEARN:
DAY OF THE DEAD RITUALS
November 6 • 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

DANCE ALONG AT OUR VIRTUAL:
VILLALOBOS BROTHERS CONCERT
November 2 • 7:00 p.m.

PINTO CON TINTO: SUGAR SKULLS
November 5 • 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

LOS ROSTROS OCULTOS/THE HIDDEN FACES
December 4 • 7:00 p.m.

*Please Note: Due to social distancing efforts ALL EVENTS require PRE-REGISTRATION. Visit www.latinoartsinc.org to register. Connect with us on to stay up to date on all things Latino Arts!

From the desk of Laura Gutiérrez

As a young girl of immigrant parents from Mexico, I first walked through UCC's doors in the 1980s. From my first job as a teen, to exercise classes for my mom, from my brother's participation in the boxing program to my eventual role as Assistant Principal - my parents, my four siblings, and I were all directly impacted by UCC. Since I've returned home to UCC and began my role as Executive Director, I've been blown away by the generosity of our supporters and the resilience of our families and clients.

The UCC family brings hope, inspiration, and motivation to so many in our community. For 50 years, we have grown together, learned from one another, and celebrated with each other.

Although 2020 hasn't been the anniversary year we were expecting, the kindness of our supporters, flexibility of our staff, dedication of our students, and the drive of all of our clients is truly inspiring. So far this year:

- Individuals in recovery safely continued on their path to sobriety,
- Over 4,000 meals were delivered to our seniors, and
- UCC's early childhood education program re-opened its doors for our families of essential workers.
- UCC schools opened for in-person education for about 50% of our student population and other students remain engaged in comprehensive virtual learning.

Together, we will continue to overcome any obstacle. I cannot wait to see what the future brings for the UCC family!

Laura E. Gutiérrez
Laura Gutiérrez
Executive Director

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO:

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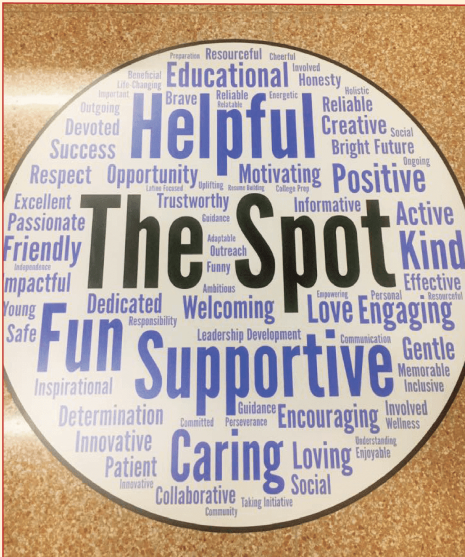
UCC Welcomes Youth Back to the Spot

The UCC Pre-College Program has officially been remodeled with a new center for both students and staff alike to enjoy. The center has taken on its new name of *"The Spot"* named after the original *United Spot*, UCC's birthplace, founded in 1970.

The Spot remodel is a modern design with a young vibe for the students to feel comfortable when spending time with each other and preparing for college. The center has designated areas to study, learn, chill, and snack! Equipped with a pool table, private study cubicles, couches, and a kitchen, this center is ready to welcome students and meet all of their needs while in high school and beyond. One of the new features greets you right upon arrival - a large "wordle" on the floor. This collection of words came from Youth College Program students when asked to describe the impact of the program. The most commonly used words to describe the program include "helpful", "supportive", "educational", "fun", and "motivating."

The Youth Volunteer Corps (YVC) was the first group of students who had the opportunity to utilize the new space. While the program operated a little differently this summer, nothing stopped our eager high school alumni from helping the community. The students participated in many hours of community service including assisting at a local food pantry, cleaning trash from area parks, making masks, and assisting on a variety of projects around the UCC campus. Other programs were offered online including college prep activities and personal development topics. As school starts up again, so do the deadlines for colleges, which UCC PreCollege staff are ready and eager to help with!

Thank you to the many generous supporters who helped us with this make-over and for all of those who contribute to this valuable program.



Lo Que Debes Saber COVID Community Awareness Campaign

The COVID-19 pandemic has tremendously impacted the Latino community on the southside of Milwaukee due to the lack of bilingual information, the residents' role as essential workers, and cultural traditions that contradict social distancing measures. Therefore, the United Community Center is proud to partner with the Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers (SSCHC) and the Southside Organizing Center (SOC) on a community awareness initiative regarding COVID-19, Lo Que Debes Saber (What You Should Know). This COVID-19 Public Health Community Education Strategy for the Latino Community is a 12-month project funded by the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health from the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin's Wisconsin Partnership Program. The goal of the initiative is to provide the Latino community, specifically in the "hot spot" zip codes 53215 and 53204, with accurate, up to date, culturally appropriate, and literacy appropriate COVID-19 educational resources. To reach the targeted community, UCC, SSCHC, and SOC created an integrated grassroots and traditional media campaign that reaches residents in person and many others via social media.

A component of the project is the rapid distribution of accurate bilingual information to the community. In the first months of the project, UCC, SSCHC, and SOC created a bilingual COVID-19 Community Toolkit equipped with informational flyers, posters, videos, and social media graphics. These covered a wide range of topics such as the importance of practicing social distance and wearing a mask, how to stay safe at work and in public, and COVID-19 testing.

The three organizations also built a network of local businesses that could help distribute information to residents in the community. There are 50 businesses in the "hot spot" zone in Milwaukee that have literature racks with printed materials from the toolkit for community members. UCC, SSCHC, and SOC have also distributed thousands of masks to businesses and community members as medical professionals and local government officials urge people to wear masks to help diminish the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, UCC is conducting a community survey and is organizing focus groups to learn more about the effects of COVID-19 and to identify gaps in the educational materials and resources.

During these ever changing times, UCC is happy to be a part of this initiative, along with SSCHC and SOC, as a trusted organization that continues to provide reliable and relevant resources for the community.



2020 Wall of Fame Honorees - Success is Never Cancelled!

This year, UCC was honored to celebrate our 2020 Badger Mutual Wall of Fame honorees. Alondra Mercado, Rafael Morales, Dalia Cháirez Alba, Leonardo Astorga, and Denise-Arlene Cevilla Covarrubias. While our in person event was cancelled, success is never cancelled, and UCC was thrilled to recognize these outstanding youth for their excellence in academics, community service, and leadership. This year our Executive Director, Laura Gutiérrez, hand delivered each recipient's plaque, balloons, and a customized yard sign to showcase their success! Winners were also featured in the virtual Golden Anniversary Celebration this year.

We are so proud of all of them for being amazing representatives for the United Community Center, and we cannot wait to see what their bright futures look like! Thank you to our Wall of Fame supporter Badger Mutual Insurance Company.



Alondra Mercado



Rafael Morales



Dalia Cháirez Alba



Leonardo Astorga



Denise-Arlene Cevilla Covarrubias

UCC Family Comes Together for our Seniors

UCC is a family that cares for each other. With members young and old, we stand together and watch out for one another. This was no more evident this spring than through our work together to care for our seniors. UCC is Milwaukee County's largest meal site for the elderly. During "normal" times, the complimentary lunch our seniors receive at our elderly programs is often the most nutritious, healthy meal of the day. For some, it is their only hot meal of the day.

During COVID-19 our seniors were missing out on not only the nutritious meal, but many were also isolated at home alone. Like we've done for 50 years, the UCC family stepped in for our elderly. We safely prepared and delivered meals daily during the pandemic - providing a nutritious hot meal and safe social interaction during the brief drop off. We saw UCC family members of all kinds join in on the effort: donors contributed financial donations; staff members mobilized to new roles; and our elderly contacted their friends to share how to get on the delivery list. In total, we've provided over 4,000 meals in just a few short months!



UCC Supports Mothers and Children with New Grant!

UCC was recently awarded one of four national grants from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to support substance abuse treatment for pregnant and postpartum women (PPW) and their children. With only four grants awarded nationally, UCC is proud to receive this 5 year, \$2M+ grant to improve the lives of mothers and children in the community.

UCC will work with community project partners to provide residential family-centered treatment for pregnant and postpartum women (PPW) from Milwaukee County with substance use disorders. Young children of these women will be allowed to reside with their mothers in the residential facilities, if the women so request. The goals of the project is to foster healthy birth outcomes and contribute to the child's well-being and safety by: supporting mothers' recovery from substance use disorders and the effects of trauma, promoting healthy child development, and improving family functioning.

Past work in this area has seen great success providing vital services to women in a vulnerable and challenging time of their lives. Through this increased funding, UCC is will serve even more women and children in a unique program offering.



UCC Golden Anniversary Celebrating Half Century Of Service To The Community

This year UCC celebrated 50 years of service to the community with a virtual Golden Anniversary Celebration! As is tradition, the celebration highlighted this year's successes and recognized the critical role that donors, supporters, and volunteers play in creating a brighter future for members of the community from 6 weeks to 102 years old! The program featured performances from the Latino Arts Strings Program, the recognition of the 2020 Badger Mutual Wall of Fame honorees, and an update on the new UCC Early Learning Academy construction. With the move to a virtual event, this year's celebration was open to everyone and allows the entire community to participate and reflect on this historic year. If you missed it, just head to UCC's Youtube Channel to view our Virtual Celebration. We are thankful for 50 amazing years, and we look forward to the next 50 years and beyond!

