



LA CASA CULTURAL  
DE JULIA DE  
BURGOS  
YALE UNIVERSITY

# 2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

*a year's overview*

# HIGHLIGHTS

The 2018-2019 school year had its challenges and accomplishments for the general community. With a growing college population and a continued growth of the Latinx population at Yale, La Casa Cultural was able to be a home for students, a place of intellectual inquiry, of organization, a place of connection with alumni and other constituents, and of creative and progressive programming. Over the past year, the La Casa staff (Graduate Assistants, Student Coordinators, and Peer Liaisons) put on 101 events. Our student organizations executed 96 programs. Our combined efforts had a total of 7,614 attendants, **an increase of 31.59% from last year**. With the changing demographics we expect these numbers to continue increasing, which will influence our overall efforts and resources.

As most campuses, our community has been impacted by the ongoing local, national, and global events, especially incidents directly related to the Latinx community and identity. Our students have demonstrated an increased investment in advocacy for solutions, support, and healing.

We had two bookend events that allowed us to honor and celebrate our communities. We kicked off the year with a Latinx Heritage Month Keynote co-planned with community members of New Haven. At the end of the school-year, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of MEChA and 10th Anniversary of Sabrosura through our "50 Years of Latinos at Yale: Making it Nuestra Casa" conference. With over 200 alumni, students, faculty, and staff in attendance, we honored the legacy of our oldest organization through the leadership of today's undergraduate Mechistas.

Our staff members were honored in the following ways:

- Director Galvez was publicly recognized by the senior class of 2019 for her advocacy, work and dedication to the Latinx community for the past four years.
- Assistant Director Dávila received the Community Advancement Service Award of the Latinx Network of the American College Personnel Association (ACPA).



*last year's*

# STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

La Casa continues to see growth of engagement in both student attendance and student leadership. Last school year we had a recorded attendance of 5,786. This year, that number increased significantly to 7,614. A 31.59% increase.

Month	House Staff	PL Event	G&P Event	Student Organizations	Total
August	1	2	0	0	3
September	11	4	2	13	30
October	9	5	1	11	26
November	6	2	3	11	22
December	5	2	1	9	17
January	3	3	1	3	10
February	8	3	3	14	28
March	4	4	3	4	15
April	9	3	0	27	39
May/June	3	0	1	4	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>198</b>

	La Casa All Staff Events	Student Organizations	Total
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>3,908</b>	<b>3,706</b>	<b>7,614</b>

**31.6%**  
INCREASE





# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

For over 30 years, La Casa has served as a home for English as a Second Language courses through the Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven, facilitated by and for New Haven community members. Every Monday and Wednesday, from 7-9pm, nearly the entirety of La Casa is shared with students to provide this service at no cost to participants.

This year we co-planned our Latinx Heritage Month Kickoff with local grassroots organization, Unidad Latina en Acción. This allowed us to elevate the voices of immigrant leaders in our community by featuring undocumented and DACAmented panel members. Panelists included a high school student of New Haven, a UConn undergraduate, a Yale undergraduate, along with Co-Founder of United We Dream, Cristina Jimenez. This was an event conducted fully in Spanish; we provided live translation to English speaking attendants. This partnership has fostered a strong working relationship with community members of New Haven.



# LATINX HERITAGE MONTH



Latinx Heritage Month (LHM) is a celebration of the various Latinx and Latin-American communities found at Yale from September 15th through October 15th. Immediately following the start of the academic school year, LHM provided students, faculty, staff, and community members with the opportunity to hear from national figures and to provide space and resources for student groups. This past year our Latinx Heritage Month Kickoff featured social justice advocate, Cristina Jimenez.

With the collaboration of our resident student groups, La Casa Cultural put on 28 events. From September 15th to October 15th, La Casa Cultural served the community with educational, empowering, experiential, and community building programs.

Our events were co-sponsored with the Center for Race, Indigeneity, & Transnational Migration, Ethnicity, Race & Migration Program, TSAI City, Joseph A. Slifka Center/Yale Hillel, Ezra Stiles College, Poynter Fellowship, Yale Graduate Housing, Yale School of Drama, Office of the Vice President of Student Life, Medical School Faculty, Graduate & Professional Student Senate, Unidad Latina en Accion, MacDougal Graduate Student Life, First and Summerfield Methodist Church, Council for Latin American & Iberian Studies, the Afro-American Cultural Center, the Asian American Cultural Center and the Native American Cultural Center.

# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

With an emphasis on experiential learning and development, we were able to provide opportunities to students not exclusively affiliated with La Casa through employment or student leadership positions. This year, we sponsored students in a variety of ways.

**Latinx Ivy League Conference:** 5 students of the general Latinx community were sponsored to attend this year's conference at the University of Pennsylvania campus in Philadelphia, PA.

**Puerto Rico Alternative Spring Break:** 13 undergraduate students of the general Yale community completed 35 hours of service in Villa del Rio (Vega Alta, PR). Service trip attendees conducted 11 pre and post group meetings, with required reading and tasks.

**Cathy Kisse Sandoval Scholar of the House:** Cathy Kisse Sandoval is the first Latina Rhodes Scholar and a Yale College graduate. With her and her husband's generosity, one student was awarded a \$5,000 fellowship to do ethnographic work in New Jersey, and another was awarded a \$1,000 fellowship to travel to California to research the Zoot Suit movement.







# STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

By the end of Spring 2019, La Casa had 14 active resident student organizations.

The organizations reported hosting 3,706 attendees at a total of 96 events, including collaborations for Latinx Heritage Month and Bulldog Days. Additionally, each organization sent a representative to La Casa's "Welcome Back" Open House, Latinx Retreat, Multicultural Open House, and Bulldog Days Open House.

For their development, Assistant Director Carolina Dávila hosted five (5) required meetings for La Casa specific training, updates, and collaborations. At least eight (8) of the 14 organizations requested to meet with Assistant Director Carolina Dávila on an individual and more frequent basis, based on their group's needs.







## SENIOR EVENTS

In an ongoing initiative, a volunteer senior events committee was created to allow seniors to design and lead programs for their own class. For the class of 2019, the following seniors led this committee: Fernando Torres, Jorge Lema, Alondra Mejia, Jonathan Salazar, Sonny Stephens, and Jaden Morales. Major accomplishments for the committee include: locating a vendor for customized stoles for La Casa graduating undergraduates and graduates, organizing the Senior Community Dinner, and coordinating the La Casa Graduation Celebration.



2019-2020

## LOOKING FORWARD

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For the 2019-2020 school year, our staff and student community is thrilled to engage in the theme of the year "Decolonizing La Casa." In previous years we have worked hard in increasing intersectional programming and cross-campus partnerships to explore various hidden or less visible communities within the Latinx diaspora. We will continue to expand on this goal by engaging in critical and thoughtful conversations that will allow us to explore anti-Blackness, Native erasure, exclusion of queer and trans community members among other topics.

We look forward to another successful year that utilizes the strengths and leadership of our students.

