

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO ANNOUNCES SUMMER 2026 SEASON
AND APPOINTMENT OF ARTURO AGÜERO
AS DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS**



Uptown Bounce Festival 2025. Images by Michael Palma.

New York, NY, March 12, 2026 – El Museo del Barrio is pleased to unveil its dynamic Summer 2026 season programming, alongside the appointment of Arturo Agüero as Director of Education and Public Programs. This dynamic summer lineup reflects El Museo’s enduring commitment to centering Puerto Rican, Latine, and Latin American voices while activating the museum as a vibrant gathering space for New York City. Through performances, cultural celebrations, symposia, and family programs, the season underscores the power of art to spark dialogue, foster belonging, and celebrate the everyday creativity of our communities.

“This summer, El Museo del Barrio celebrates the power of art to bring people together,” said Patrick Charpenel, Executive Director of El Museo del Barrio. “With dynamic cultural programs and the appointment of Arturo Agüero as Director of Education and Public Programs, we are deepening our commitment to access, education, and community—championing Puerto Rican, Latine, and Latin American voices at the heart of New York City.”

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**ADVANCING EDUCATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:
ARTURO AGÜERO JOINS EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO**



Arturo Agüero, Director of Education and Public Programs at El Museo del Barrio.

El Museo del Barrio announces the appointment of Arturo Agüero as Director of Education and Public Programs. In this leadership role, Agüero will shape and lead the Museum's education and public engagement strategy, strengthening connections with learners of all ages, expanding community partnerships, and fostering inclusive, participatory cultural experiences.

Arturo brings deep experience across museum education, public libraries, and educational publishing, with a practice rooted in designing programs and learning experiences that connect art, history, and everyday life. Most recently, he has worked with The New York Public Library and the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino, bringing exhibitions and archival collections into meaningful conversation with communities through programs centered on language, culture, and memory.

A former bilingual classroom teacher, Arturo draws on his experience in the classroom to shape museum and public programs that invite curiosity, participation, and a strong sense of belonging. His leadership reflects El Museo's commitment to education as a tool for access, empowerment, and cultural continuity.

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"I've always believed public institutions are strongest when they are participatory and rooted in community practice," said Arturo Aguero. "At El Museo del Barrio, I'll focus on deepening those roots and cultivating relationships that extend beyond a single visit."

PROGRAMS, CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS, AND PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

Symposium

REVELATIONS: New Perspectives on Sophie Rivera

Friday, May 1 | 4:00 – 7:00 PM | Free | El Café

[Register here](#)

Join us for a two-panel symposium that brings together artists, scholars, and historians to examine the life, work, and lasting impact of pioneering photographer Sophie Rivera. Grounded in the exhibition *Double Exposures*, the program explores Rivera's contributions to Nuyorican visual culture, feminist photography, and the politics of self-representation in New York from the 1970s through the 1990s. Speakers will be announced in early Spring 2026.

Concert and Dance Series

We are proud to partner with [Belongó](#) and [Calpulli Mexican Dance Company](#) on a new performing arts series this spring, amplifying local stories and honoring the legacy of Latin artistic contributions to New York City.

Dance Performance

¡VIVA PUEBLA! Fiesta de Cinco de Mayo

with Calpulli Mexican Dance Company

Thursday, May 7 | 10:00 – 10:50 AM and 11:45 – 12:35 PM | \$10.00 per person | El Teatro

Ticket information and request seats [here](#).

Through lively movement, music, and radiant garments, Calpulli Mexican Dance Company brings the enduring traditions of Puebla—past and present—to life for audiences of all ages. The performance celebrates the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, when a small Mexican force triumphed against overwhelming odds, and honors the courage and resilience that helped reshape history in the Americas.

Ideal for educators seeking to enrich their school curriculum, this performance offers students an engaging exploration of topics such as Indigenous traditions, history, social studies, geography, music, dance, and language—fostering cross-cultural appreciation through the arts.

Concerts

THE AFRO LATIN JAZZ ORCHESTRA: America at 250

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Friday, May 15, 7:00 – 8:30 PM | Saturday, May 16, 5:00 – 6:30 PM | FREE | El Teatro
[Register here](#)

This special engagement features the 18-piece big band in a new setting, accompanied by a string orchestra. The hybrid ensemble presents a diverse program including compositions and adaptations by Arturo O'Farrill, seldom-heard works by Chico O'Farrill (Arturo's father), and new orchestrations of pieces from the Latin jazz canon. This performance is presented as part of Carnegie Hall's *United in Sound: America at 250* festival.

Cultural Celebration

SUPER SÁBADO: Nuyorican Life

Saturday, May 16, 2026, | 12:00 – 4:30 PM | FREE

[Register here](#) (Kindly note that concert registration is separate and required)

A free, all-ages afternoon celebrating art, and everyday life, this cultural gathering invites families and visitors to engage with the groundbreaking photography of Sophie Rivera through hands-on, participatory experiences. Guided gallery conversations, drop-in portrait photography with Kids with Cameras (@kidswithcamerasnyc), art-making activities, movement workshops, and storytelling sessions encourage participants to explore Nuyorican visual culture through Rivera's portraits, documentary images, experimental self-portraits, and photographs of New York City's subway and graffiti scenes from the late 1970s—activating the museum as a space of shared learning, memory, and joy.

At 5:00 PM, continue the celebration in El Teatro with the AFRO LATIN JAZZ ORCHESTRA: *America at 250*.

School & Community Partnerships

As part of its summer programming, El Museo del Barrio continues to expand its School and Community Partnerships beyond East Harlem, bringing its culturally responsive approach to arts and cultural education directly to schools and Older Adult Centers across New York City. With the support of Council Members Elsie Encarnación, Shekar Krishnan, Shaun Abreu, Keith Powers, and Julie Menin, and with CASA and SU-CASA awards from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the Museum strengthens equitable access to arts education citywide. These engaging partnerships culminate in community gatherings at El Museo del Barrio, where participants, families, educators, and elected officials come together to celebrate the creative work developed throughout the program—fostering civic connection, intergenerational dialogue, and shared cultural pride.

Group Guided Visits

JANGUEANDO: Recent Acquisitions, 2021-2025 / Now through July

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***Sophie Rivera: Double Exposures* | May through July**

Explore our spring/summer exhibitions through engaging, museum educator-led visits designed for schools, colleges, community organizations and adult groups. Guided by our teaching artists, these interactive tours foster dialogue around contemporary art, culture, and identity.

Visitors can reserve their spot by completing a request form:

- [K-12 Programs](#)
- [College & University Programs](#)
- [Adult & Corporate Programs](#)

2026 GALA

Thursday, May 28, 2026 | 6:30 PM | Mandarin Oriental New York

The 2026 Gala of El Museo del Barrio will honor Isabel and Agustín Coppel and Estrellita Brodsky for their visionary support of contemporary art and their enduring commitment to advancing Latin American art and culture.

Hosted by El Museo del Barrio's Board of Trustees and Gala Co-Chairs Victoria Espinosa, Karla Harwich, Karla Martínez de Salas, and María Eugenia Maury, the Creative Black-Tie event will take place on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 6:30 PM at the Mandarin Oriental New York. Proceeds from the evening will support El Museo del Barrio's exhibitions, education programs, and Permanent Collection, advancing the institution's mission and long-term impact.

48th Museum Mile Festival

Tuesday, June 9 | 6:00 – 9:00 PM | FREE

[Register here](#)

El Museo del Barrio is proud to host the 48th Annual Museum Mile Festival, New York City's largest block party, transforming Museum Mile into a vibrant Puerto Rican block party inspired by our current exhibitions, *Jangueando: Recent Acquisitions, 2021–2025* and *Sophie Rivera: Double Exposures*. Rooted in art, dance, and Nuyorican life, this outdoor celebration invites everyone to move, create, and *janguear*. Enjoy live music of Lulada Club (@luladaclub), NYC's All Women Salsa Orchestra in collaboration with the Carnegie Hall Citywide Concert Series, DJs, dance activations, free guided tours, and hands-on art-making for all ages as we bring the rhythm of el barrio to Fifth Avenue.

FIFA Men's World Cup 2026 Final: Watch Party

Thursday, July 19 | 3:00 – 7:00 PM | FREE

Register [here](#) to receive a notification when tickets become available

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Join us at El Museo del Barrio for a free World Cup Final Watch Party as we gather in community and celebrate together. On Thursday, July 19, we'll screen the final match live in a festive, hands-on art activities for all ages, family-friendly atmosphere filled with live music, energy, pride, and cultural connection. Bring your friends, wear your team colors, and experience the excitement together.

Uptown Bounce Co-Presented by the Museum of the City of New York

Thursday, July 23 | 6:00 – 9:00 PM | FREE

[Register here](#)

Join us for this year's electrifying series of free summer block parties, co-presented by the Museum of the City of New York and proudly sponsored by The Legal Aid Society. This event celebrates The Legal Aid Society's 150th Anniversary, honoring its enduring commitment to protecting, defending, and advancing the rights of New Yorkers.

Now in its 13th year, the series returns with top DJs, special guests, and after-hours access to *Double Exposures*, the first museum survey dedicated to pioneering photographer *Sophie Rivera* (1938–2021). Dance to sets spanning salsa to hip-hop, join a dance lesson, and enjoy hands-on art activities for all ages.

SPONSORS:

Sophie Rivera: Double Exposures

We extend special recognition to the Henry Luce Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, and the Ford Foundation for their generous support and for making this retrospective exhibition possible. We thank the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York State Council on the Arts, and other public agencies for their steadfast commitment to our museum. We are also deeply grateful to Aperture for their partnership on this project.



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Jangueando: Recent Acquisitions, 2021–2025 is supported by the Ford Foundation. Additional Permanent Collection funding is provided by The Mellon Foundation.



El Museo's public programs are made possible by the generous support of New York State Council on the Arts, the New York City Council, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer.

ABOUT EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO

El Museo del Barrio is the nation's leading Latine and Latin American cultural institution. The Museum welcomes visitors of all backgrounds to discover the artistic landscape of these communities through its extensive Permanent Collection, varied exhibitions and publications, bilingual public programs, educational activities, festivals, and special events.

The Museum is located at 1230 Fifth Avenue at 104th Street in New York City. The Museum is open Thursdays through Sundays from 11:00am – 5:00pm. Pay-what you can. To connect with El Museo via social media, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X](#). For more information, please visit www.elmuseo.org.

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