



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO TO HONOR
ISABEL AND AGUSTÍN COPPEL, J BALVIN
AND ESTRELLITA BRODSKY
WITH THE TONY BECHARA LEGACY AWARD
AT 2026 GALA**

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026 | MANDARIN ORIENTAL NEW YORK

New York, NY, May 18, 2026 – El Museo del Barrio will host its annual Gala on **Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 6:30 PM** at the Mandarin Oriental New York. The Museum’s signature fundraising event will bring together artists, philanthropists, and cultural leaders in celebration of the transformative power of Latin American and Latine art.

The nation’s leading Latine and Latin American cultural institution, El Museo del Barrio is dedicated to preserving and presenting the art and culture of Puerto Rican, Caribbean, and Latin American communities in the United States.

This year’s Gala will honor **Isabel and Agustín Coppel** and global music icon **J Balvin** for their visionary support of contemporary art and their commitment to advancing Latin American and Latine culture. The evening will also recognize **Estrellita Brodsky** with the **Tony Bechara Legacy Award**, honoring her extraordinary dedication to artists and institutions that shape the cultural landscape.

“I’m deeply grateful and honored to be recognized by El Museo del Barrio,” said **J Balvin**. “It’s an institution that has always stood for preserving and elevating Latin culture, and that mission really inspires me. I’ve always believed in bringing our music, art, and voice to the world with pride and responsibility.”

“El Museo del Barrio’s Gala is a moment to celebrate the artists, patrons, and leaders who continue to shape and elevate our communities,” said **Karla Harwich**. “We are honored to recognize this year’s awardees, Isabel and Agustín Coppel, J Balvin, and Estrellita Brodsky for their extraordinary

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contributions and their enduring commitment to the visibility and vitality of Latin American and Latine culture.”

“The Gala is essential to sustaining El Museo’s mission,” said **Patrick Charpenel**. “Through the generosity of our supporters, we are able to continue presenting ambitious exhibitions, supporting artists, and serving our communities in meaningful and lasting ways.”

Proceeds from the Gala directly support El Museo del Barrio’s exhibitions, educational initiatives, and the stewardship of its Permanent Collection.

The evening will include a special musical performance by Leo Gruber and Tren Latino, as well as an online auction featuring exclusive artworks, with proceeds supporting El Museo’s mission and programs.

El Museo’s Gala Co-Chairs are: Victoria Espinosa, Karla Harwich, Karla Martinez de Salas, María Eugenia Maury.

GALA TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Please visit [this webpage](#) for more information.

Notable attendees include: Elia Alba, Alfonso Aldrete, Andrés Aldrete, Luis Alvarez Vila, Carlos Andrés Antillón Rosas, Francisco Bechara, Mari Tere Bechara, Richard Blanco, Alexandar Brodsky, Estrellita Brodsky, Kate Brodsky, Katy Brodsky Falco, Mariana Campero, Patrick Charpenel, Salomon Cohen, Agustin Coppel Luken, Elena Damiani, Erika De La Cruz, Ivonne de la Garza, Magnolia de La Garza Anna Di Stasi, Fernanda Duran Tinajero, Aaron Elizondo, Kerstin Erdmann, Victoria Espinosa, Simone Falco, Diane Fogg, Bruno Fregoso, Anne Gagnon, Isabel Gómez de Coppel, Catalina Gonzalez Jorba, Evan Greenberg, Michelle Gutierrez, Millie Guzman, Karla Harwich, Cary Leitzes, Alejandra Luken, Larisa Martínez, Karla Martínez de Salas, Maria Eugenia Maury, Yvette Mayorga, Jorge Méndez Blake, Ana Laura Miranda Signoret, Yolanda Orrantia Coppel, Alejandro Schachne, Alejandra Serrato del Valle, Regina Solórzano, Silverio Tesada, Antonio von Hildebrand, among others.

ABOUT EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO

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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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