

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO CELEBRATES THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF LATINE ART AND CULTURE AT ITS 2026 GALA

**El Museo Honored Isabel and Agustín Coppel, J Balvin, and Estrellita Brodsky
and Announced Guadalupe Rosales as the Recipient of
the 2026–2027 Maestro Dobel Latinx Art Prize**



Patrick Charpenel, J Balvin, Estrellita Brodsky, Isabel and Agustín Coppel and Karla Harwich
Photos by BFA/ Peter Zwolinski. Images courtesy of El Museo del Barrio.

Press Photos [HERE](#)

New York, NY, May 29, 2026 – El Museo del Barrio hosted its annual Gala on Thursday, May 28, 2026 at the Mandarin Oriental New York, bringing together artists, philanthropists, collectors, cultural leaders, and supporters to celebrate the transformative power of Latin American and Latine art and culture.

The evening honored **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 worldwide. El Museo also presented **Estrellita Brodsky** with the inaugural **Tony Bechara**

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Legacy Award in recognition of her extraordinary dedication to artists and institutions shaping today's cultural landscape.

"El Museo del Barrio's Gala was a powerful celebration of the artists, patrons, and leaders who continue to shape and elevate our communities," said **Karla Harwich**, Chair of El Museo del Barrio's Board of Trustees. "In a city where more than 40 percent of public-school students identify as Hispanic or Latino, El Museo offers something essential: a place where young people can see themselves, their histories, and their communities reflected with beauty and pride—and imagine new possibilities for their future."

The gala successfully raised **\$1 million** in support of El Museo del Barrio's exhibitions, educational initiatives, bilingual public programs, and the stewardship of its Permanent Collection.

"The Gala is essential to sustaining El Museo's mission," said **Patrick Charpenel**, Executive Director of El Museo del Barrio. "For more than fifty-five years, El Museo del Barrio has served as a platform for voices that have shaped—and continue to shape—the cultural fabric of this country. 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."

As the nation's leading Latine and Latin American cultural institution, El Museo del Barrio continues to champion the artistic and cultural contributions of Puerto Rican, Caribbean, and Latin American communities in the United States through exhibitions, education, scholarship, and public programming.

"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."

The evening featured a special musical performance by Leo Gruber and Tren Latino, as well as the announcement of the **2026–2027 Maestro Dobel Latinx Art Prize** recipient, artist **Guadalupe Rosales**, whose solo exhibition will be open at El Museo del Barrio next year, sponsored by Maestro Dobel Tequila.

"I do what I do out of love. Whether it is my art practice or my archival work, both have always been rooted in self and community preservation, storytelling, and the belief that our histories deserve to be seen, held, and remembered," said **Guadalupe Rosales**. "This work comes from

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years of doubt and challenges, from people not always seeing its importance, while at the same time, others like me felt seen, remembered, and reflected in it. I have not always fit neatly into art institutions as an artist, or into archives and official histories as someone committed to preserving and telling these stories. It has not been an easy path, but I kept going. Recognition is a meaningful gesture, and I am grateful for it, but what feels most important is knowing that by not giving up, this work has helped make space for future artists, archivists, storytellers, and generations to come.”

Guests enjoyed specialty cocktails courtesy of **Dobel Tequila** throughout the evening.

El Museo’s [2026 Gala Auction](#), presented in collaboration with [The Auction Collective](#), remains open through June 3, 2026, and features exclusive artworks and experiences benefiting the Museum’s mission and programs.

El Museo’s Gala Co-Chairs were **Victoria Espinosa, Karla Harwich, Karla Martínez de Salas,** and **María Eugenia Maury.**

Notable attendees included: Elia Alba, Alfonso Aldrete, Andrés Aldrete, Luis Alvarez Vila, Carlos Andrés Antillón Rosas, Rocio Aranda-Alvarado, Francisco Bechara, Mari Tere Bechara, Richard Blanco, Alexandar Brodsky, Estrellita Brodsky, Kate Brodsky, Katy Brodsky Falco, New York City Council Member Tiffany Cabán, Mariana Campero, Patrick Charpenel, Salomon Cohen, Agustín Coppel Luken, Deborah Cullen Morales, Elena Damiani, Erika De La Cruz, Ivonne de la Garza, Magnolia de La Garza, Alessandra DiGiusto, 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, María Eugenia Maury, Yvette Mayorga, Jorge Méndez Blake, Ana Laura Miranda Signoret, Deputy Manhattan Borough President, Miesha Smith, Yolanda Orrantia Coppel, Ben Rodriguez-Cubenas, Alejandro Schachne, Alejandra Serrato del Valle, Regina Solórzano, Susanna V. Temkin, Silverio Tesada, Antonio von Hildebr, and Sophia Zayas from the Executive Chamber of New York State Governor Kathy Hochul, among others.

ABOUT GUADALUPE ROSALES

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Guadalupe Rosales is a multidisciplinary artist and educator best known for her community generated archival projects, “Veteranas and Rucas” and “Map Pointz,” found on social media. The projects manifested in 2015 from the under/misrepresentation and historical erasure of Latin@/x communities in Southern California. These community-generated projects begin with an open invitation to various Latin@/x communities to share personal images and memories that create visual narratives that celebrate identities and historicize subcultures. The archives explore ideas about how history and culture are framed and who does the framing. As a counterpoint, the archive celebrates, humanizes and reflects the positive and honest attributes of our shared culture. It creates a space for collective healing and storytelling and finds ways for new dialogue to emerge about youth culture in Southern California that would not exist otherwise.

In her studio practice, Guadalupe works with sculpture, photography, video, sound, drawing, and community-based projects and collaborations, and the archive, centering on the creation of immersive and sensorial spaces to activate memory and evoke a collective experience and embodiment. These spaces conjure up emotions as well as collective feelings of longing that reside in our bodies and remain as living archives. Here, she wants us to consider the body as archives and a locus that preserves, carries, moves, and transforms memory but also intervenes in the continuum of a life archived. The purpose is to uplift private experiences and create space for them to be shared, to see what is concealed and collectively create a multidimensional experience.

Guadalupe’s studio also houses and preserves a physical archive of Chicano/Latinx ephemera from the 1970s to the late-1990s, including but not limited to magazines, prison art and letters, posters and flyers from the Los Angeles underground backyard-party and rave scenes of the 1990s.

Her forthcoming book, *EAST OF THE RIVER*, will be published by One World, Summer 2026.

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

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