



2019 Loisaida Fest Reaffirms LES' Puerto Rican Roots & Latinx Heritage

Amid expanding services at Loisaida Inc., a Latinx cultural celebration helps to foster healthy community connections.

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Press Contact: Néstor David Pastor, n.davidpastor@gmail.com (917) 256-9215

NEW YORK, NY - On Sunday, May 26, 2019, the largest Latinx celebration in Lower Manhattan returns for a 32nd year. ***Strong Roots, Healthy Branches: Harvesting Connections***, the Festival theme, pays tribute to the Loisaida Inc.'s Puerto Rican roots and longstanding commitment to the Lower East Side.

As always, the festivities commence at 11 a.m. with a [Community Parade](#) featuring the work of [Garbagia](#), an eco-urban recycled arts initiative that will work throughout the month at the Loisaida Center with local artists and residents to conduct art building workshops to create instruments, flower masks, 'vejigantes,' paper mache animal masks, and other props—with an emphasis on recycled and found materials.

On the Festival Main Stage, host [Awilda Rodriguez Lora](#) will introduce an eclectic mix of Latinx musical acts, including the Lower East Side's very own, [Son del Monte](#), led by renowned timablero **Manuel Rivera**, who will be performing their take on the Cuban charanga. The lineup also includes Puerto Rican pleneros **La Maquina Insular**, whose lineup features **Hector "Tito" Matos** and other members of **Viento de Agua**, a group known for revitalizing the Puerto Rican musical traditions of bomba y plena. Making their Festival debut will be Nuyorican experimental salsa orchestra, [Abrazos Army](#). Rounding out the main stage lineup will be Afro-Cuban dancer [Yesenia Selier](#) and Puerto Rican theatre troupe, [Y No Había Luz](#).

Y No Había Luz will also perform as part of the [6th Annual Festival Theater Lab](#). The family-friendly event will move to the street-level this year as part of the festival's street vendor fair along Avenue C or what is known as the **Loisaida Commercial Corridor** (E. 6th Street to E. 12th Street.). After the successful debut of their post-Hurricane play [¡Ay Maria!](#) at last year's Festival, Puerto Rican/Latin American theatre collective [Mezcolanza](#) will again host a series of one-act performances. [Plenatoriom](#), a Puerto Rican plena initiative housed at Loisaida, and the improv comedy troupe **Teatro 220** will also perform, followed by the closing **Community Pageant**.

Strong roots, healthy branches. Harvesting Connections

The 32nd Annual Loisaida Festival

★ SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2019 ★ 12-5PM ★ RAIN OR SHINE ★

Additional performances include a pair of street-level urban art interventions. [Valor y cambio](#), “a socio-economic program based on community currency,” will make its U.S. premiere after launching in Puerto Rico this past February. Artist **Sherezade Garcia** will also lead an interactive printmaking workshop entitled [The Liquid Highway](#).

Among various Festival Zones, including arts and crafts, as well as a wellness zone with an acupuncture clinic, the Loisaida Center [El Semillero](#) initiative, a media and tech incubator program, in partnership with [Create Labs](#), will launch a kid-friendly S.T.E.A.M. Zone featuring popular festival mainstay, the [BioBus](#).

Loisaida Festival weekend will kickoff on Thursday, May 23rd at 6pm with a media reception and the **VIVA Loisaida Awards**. To attend, please RSVP before May 16th.

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About Loisaida Inc: Founded in 1978, the mission of Loisaida Inc. is to address the serious economic and social disenfranchisement of Latinx residents while offering multi-generational programming that appeals to the social and cultural sensibilities of the Lower East Side.

About Acacia Network: The Acacia Network, the parent company of Loisaida Inc., is an integrated care organization with offices in New York City, Buffalo and Albany, Orlando and Puerto Rico. It is the 2nd largest Hispanic nonprofit organization in the country. Their mission is realized through three main service delivery systems; Primary Health Care, Behavioral Health Care, and Housing.

#LoisaidaFest2019 #LoisaidaFest #LESHistoryMonth
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For media inquiries, contact: n.davidpastor@gmail.com