



**Ballet  
Hispánico**

# ***Diálogos***

**The Impact of Immigrant Artists in Our Communities**

**DIGITAL PROGRAM**



**Saturday, October 29**

**1:30-3:00 PM**

**Mutual Arts Hartwell  
Cincinnati, OH**

Sponsored By



# ABOUT



# Ballet Hispánico

**Ballet Hispánico**, America's leading Latinx/Hispanic dance organization, has been bringing individuals and communities together to celebrate and explore Latino cultures through dance for nearly 50 years. Whether dancing on stage, in school, or in the street, Ballet Hispánico creates a space where few institutions are breaking ground.

The organization's founder, National Medal of Arts recipient Tina Ramirez (1929-2022), sought to give voice to the Hispanic experience and break through stereotypes. Today, Ballet Hispánico is led by Eduardo Vilaro, an acclaimed choreographer and former member of the Company, whose vision of social equity, cultural identity, and quality arts education for all drives its programs.

Ballet Hispánico, a role model in and for the Latino community, is inspiring creativity and social awareness in our neighborhoods and across the country by providing access to arts education.



**TINA RAMIREZ  
FOUNDER  
(1929-2022)**

## PROGRAM

**12:45 PM**

Meet and Greet with refreshments

**1:30 PM**

Diálogos Discussion

**2:15 PM**

Q & A with Panelists

**2:35 PM**

Outro and Community Arts Partnership Presentation

**3:00 PM**

Event ends

# PANELISTS

EDUARDO VILARO



**EDUARDO VILARO** joined Ballet Hispanico as Artistic Director in August 2009, becoming only the second person to head the company since it was founded in 1970. In 2015, Mr. Vilaro took on the additional role of Chief Executive Officer of Ballet Hispanico. He has been part of the Ballet Hispanico family since 1985 as a dancer and educator, after which he began a ten-year record of achievement as founder and Artistic Director of Luna Negra Dance Theater in Chicago. Mr. Vilaro has infused Ballet Hispanico's legacy with a bold and eclectic brand of contemporary dance that reflects America's changing cultural landscape. Born in Cuba and raised in New York from the age of six, he is a frequent speaker on the merits of cultural diversity and dance education. Mr. Vilaro's own choreography is devoted to capturing the spiritual, sensual, and historical essence of Latino cultures. He created over 20 ballets for Luna Negra and has received commissions from the Ravinia Festival, the Chicago Sinfonietta, the Grant Park Festival, the Lexington Ballet, and the Chicago Symphony. In 2001, he was a recipient of a Ruth Page Award for choreography, and in 2003, he was honored for his choreographic work at Panama's II International Festival of Ballet. Mr. Vilaro was inducted into the Bronx Walk of Fame in 2016 and was awarded HOMBRE Magazine's 2017 Arts & Culture Trailblazer of the Year. In 2019, Mr. Vilaro was the recipient of the West Side Spirit's WESTY Award, was honored by WNET for his contributions to the arts, and most recently, was the recipient of the James W. Dodge Foreign Language Advocate Award. In 2022, Mr. Vilaro was included in Crain's New York lists of Notable Hispanic Leaders and Notable LGBTQ Leaders; and was acknowledged as one of Forbes' Kings of Culture, Legends of Business.

HON. AFTAB PUREVAL



**AFTAB PUREVAL** is the 70th Mayor of Cincinnati. He was raised in Southwest, Ohio, the son of first-generation Americans. He is making history as Cincinnati's first Asian American Mayor. As Mayor, he is committed to serving Cincinnati's 52 neighborhoods. He has made equitable economic growth a top priority of his administration, as well as a comprehensive reform and improvement of public safety, affordable housing, and environmental action. He served as Hamilton County Clerk of Courts from 2016 to 2021 and was the first Democrat to hold this office in over 100 years. During his tenure, he brought modern and professional reforms to the Clerk's office. He paid a living wage to all employees and became the first county officeholder in Ohio to offer comprehensive paid family leave. By ending nepotism, by cutting waste, and by making the office more professional, he saved taxpayers millions of dollars. Mayor Aftab graduated from The Ohio State University and the University of Cincinnati for law school. He resides in Clifton with his wife, and their two sons.

LETY SANCHEZ



**LETY SANCHEZ** recently took the role of Market Director for Community and Business Development in Southern California. She leads a team of 17 Community Managers who help drive the firm's financial health strategy to ensure financial education and product solutions are available within our underserved communities. Prior to working in Community and Business Development, Sanchez was a Market Director of Banking, serving the Los Angeles-Orange County community supporting the California region. In this capacity, Sanchez oversaw all aspects of the retail branch operations and strategies to achieve key financial metrics including deposit and investment growth, client acquisition & retention all while maintaining an employee and customer obsessed culture. Sanchez is a top performing leader with more than 25 years of strong leadership experience in the financial services industry. She is an advocate for a diverse and inclusive workplace by empowering employees to bring their best and true selves to work. Sanchez is a proactive leader who advocates for causes that support local communities. She serves as Co-Chair for the Community & Business Development National Culture Council, Region Liaison for the North America Adelante leadership and is member of the Hispanic Leadership Forum, Access Ability, Aspire, BOLD, Pride, Sage, VETS and Women on the Move. Sanchez lives in Riverside, California where she and her husband have raised their 3 children: Jazmin, Joshua, and Hailey. In her personal time, she enjoys spending time with her 2 grandchildren and seeking new travel adventures. Her charitable interests center primarily on health, hunger and humanitarian efforts that benefit under-resourced communities.

# PANELISTS

ALFONSO CORNEJO



**ALFONSO CORNEJO** is a business consultant for companies doing business in Latin America. Mr. Cornejo has a well-rounded background in all facets of business with particular expertise in Manufacturing and Human Resources. Before entering the consulting field, Mr. Cornejo worked for a total of 30 years with several Fortune 500 Companies, i.e., Procter & Gamble, Clorox, Chiquita Brands. Mr. Cornejo was born, raised and educated in Mexico. He holds a BS degree in Chemical Engineering from University of Mexico. Mr. Cornejo has been in a large number of Boards of Directors in our community. He is also representing Cincinnati on the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. He received an honorary degree from The Cincinnati State and Community College and has also received awards from the country of Mexico. Mr. Cornejo has been the President of the Hispanic Chamber Cincinnati USA for the last 18 years, and is also the founder of Hispanics Avanzando Hispanics (HAH) that is a non-profit entity that among many other social service activities, also organizes the Cincy-Cinco Latino charity festival each year in Cincinnati. This charity festival has distributed more than \$510,000 among organizations supporting Hispanic initiatives since startup 17 years ago.

MARIA SEDA-REEDER



Director of Exhibitions & Artist Support Initiatives at Wave Pool: A contemporary art fulfillment center, **MARIA SEDA-REEDER** has been working with and on behalf of artists for almost 20 years. As a curator, writer, and academic she taught at the University of Cincinnati's College of Design Architecture Art and Planning for over a decade, has covered the work of living artists for online and print publications alike, and independently organized exhibitions at museums and galleries across the country.

GABRIEL MARTINEZ



**GABRIEL MARTINEZ** is a professional dancer and choreographer from Mexico who has been living and working in the United States since 2014. In 2019, Martinez started his project Dos-Corazones Productions with a goal of connecting the Latine community to the arts and bridging cultural divides through contemporary dance and multidisciplinary performances. In 2021 and 2022, Martinez received Black and Brown Artist Program Grants from ArtsWave and created the pieces “NOSOTROS/US” a dance piece and video about being Latine immigration in Cincinnati; and “Monarca – Lost Butterfly” (In Memoriam), a multidisciplinary piece paying homage to those who are lost during their immigration journeys.

# MODERATOR

TAMIA BLACKMAN SANTANA



**TAMIA B. SANTANA** is the Chief Engagement and Inclusion Officer at Ballet Hispánico. She currently oversees the Community Arts Partnership, CAP, at Ballet Hispánico, which includes Department of Education In School Residencies, after-school CASA programs, live and virtual engagements, CAP on tour nationally and internationally engagements, and the Latinx Dance Institute. The Latinx Dance institute brings innovation to the Instituto Coreográfico, Latinx Dance Leaders Summit and Diálogos. Previously, Santana was Executive Director of the Brooklyn Dance Festival, owner of Jete Dance Center, Resident Dance Director of the Brooklyn Museum, Co-Founder and Executive Producer of the Tap Family Reunion Festival, and producer and Steering committee member of the televised Bessie's New York Dance and Performance Awards. Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Santana now raises her own family there. As a prominent concert dance and performance producer, Santana has executive produced and directed concerts and events at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Alvin Ailey Theater, Summer Stage, and The Schomburg Center Barclay's Center, as well as for music artists such as Big Daddy Kane, Thomas Piper, and more. Her previous experience as a dancer has been performing at Madison Square Garden, Carnegie Hall, The Apollo Theater, Lincoln Center, and Europe.

## COMPANY



## SCHOOL



## COMMUNITY



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