

NYBG

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NYBG Celebrates Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month through October 15 with a Mix of On-Site and Digital Programs Featuring the Cultural Traditions and Botanical Heritage of Latin America and the Caribbean



Dahlias in The New York Botanical Garden's Perennial Garden (NYBG Photo)

Bronx, NY—The New York Botanical Garden celebrates the plants and people of Latin America and the Caribbean during Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month, through Friday, October 15, 2021. A mix of on-site and digital programs features the vibrant cultural traditions and botanical heritage of the people and plants of Latin America and the Caribbean region, with musical performances, scientists' stories, and flowers.

New York State Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez, District 80 in the Bronx, welcomes everyone to NYBG's Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month celebration in a [video message](#).

On-site programs include:

- **Ballet Hispánico**

Saturday, October 9, and Sunday, October 10; 2–5 p.m.

Ballet Hispánico is the nation's renowned Latino dance organization and one of America's cultural treasures. Eduardo Vilaro, Artistic Director and CEO, has infused Ballet Hispánico's legacy with a bold brand of contemporary dance that reflects America's changing cultural landscape. Founded in 1970 by National Medal of Arts recipient Tina Ramirez, the organization emerged during the post-civil rights era on New York's Upper West Side, providing a safe haven for primarily Black and Brown Latinx youth seeking artistic sanctuary during New York City's plight in the 1970s. The need for place, both culturally and artistically, led families to find

Ballet Hispánico. The focus on dance as a means to develop working artists, combined with the training, authenticity of voice, and power of representation, fueled the organization's roots and trajectory. The organization serves as a platform for historically limited and overlooked artists, providing them with increased capacity, voice, and affirmation.

- **Explore Plants of Latin America and the Caribbean**

Stroll through The New York Botanical Garden's living collections and see some of the plants of Latin America and the Caribbean, including dahlias and narrow-leaf zinnias in the Perennial Garden, purple-top vervain in the Home Gardening Center, and azure blue sage in the Marjorie G. Rosen Seasonal Walk, as well as a large display of Central and South American sage planted along Ladies' Border.

Digital programs include:

- **Bombazo Dance Co. from the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden**

Enjoy the 2020 performance from Bombazo Dance Co. Bomba celebrates the rich cultural history of Puerto Rico's African roots within Hispanic culture. A tradition dating back to the 17th century, the community gathers together to celebrate with drum, dance, and song. Watch renowned Puerto Rican Bomba dancer Milteri Tucker Concepcion as she guides you along a Bomba Puertorriqueña journey. Bombazo Dance Co. is a Puerto Rican, Bronx-based dance organization that promotes, educates, advocates for, and performs traditional Bomba Puertorriqueña—Puerto Rico's oldest musical dance genre. The company has gained acclaim and international recognition with performances in Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and in the mainland United States, and is featured in Lin-Manuel Miranda's film release of *In the Heights*.

- **Garden Sets: Doreen Montalvo**

To honor the memory of Broadway actor Doreen Montalvo, who passed away last October, NYBG takes a look back at her 2020 Hispanic Heritage Month performance, during which she sang selections from her album *American Soul/Latin Heart* in the lush setting of the Home Gardening Center.

- **Journey Through Peru with Dr. Fabián Michelangeli**

Enjoy special access to last year's webinar with NYBG scientist Fabián Michelangeli, Ph.D., Abess Curator of Tropical Botany, followed by a Q&A after about his career and work in Peru.

- **Reduce, Reuse, Revitalize! Create Your Own Planter**

Tiffany Gomez is a Bronx-based sustainable artist, designer, and founder of Gomez Design Studio. She believes everything we need or want already exists somewhere; we just have to change how we look at the objects around us.

- ***Plant Talk*: Blog Feature on Lucrecia Novoa**

Read the full blog post by September 28.

Get to know puppeteer and founder of Mascara Viva, Lucrecia Novoa, an artist and cultural educator. She uses a combination of masks, puppets, costumes, storytelling, and dance to interpret the folk traditions of many cultures.

▪ ***The Hand Lens***

Magnify your knowledge of plants and culture through behind-the-scenes stories of adventure and discovery from the collections of NYBG's C.V. Starr Virtual Herbarium. Learn about the work of NYBG scientists and collaborators in Latin America and the Caribbean, where they are leading efforts to conserve ecosystems that are among the most diverse in the world. Get started with highlights from the collection featuring stories from the Caribbean and South America:

- Follow a 1910 botanical expedition through western Cuba.
- Learn about *Momordica charantia*, a delicate climbing vine of the cucumber family used in traditional Caribbean medicine.
- Read about the sacred plant of Peru, San Pedro cactus.
- Revisit Dr. Michelangeli's 2013 Field Trip to Cuba.

For more information about The New York Botanical Garden's Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month celebration and to access the digital programs, visit <https://www.nybg.org/event/hispanic-latinx-heritage-month/>.

Sponsor:

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Providing leadership support for year-round programming at NYBG

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The New York Botanical Garden is located at 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458. For more information, visit nybg.org

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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