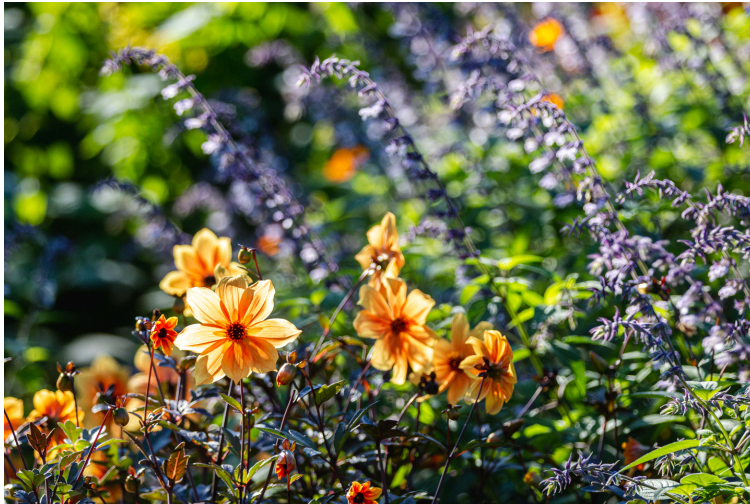


# NYBG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 15, 2022

## NYBG Celebrates Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month through October 15 with a Mix of On-Site and Digital Programs Honoring Cultural Traditions and Botanical Heritage



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

**Bronx, NY**—The New York Botanical Garden celebrates Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month through Saturday, October 15, 2022. A lively mix of on-site and digital programs spotlights the important contributions and histories of the plants and people making up this diverse community with educators, gardeners, artists, authors, scientists, and plant tours.

New York City Councilmember Oswald Feliz, 15th Council District in the Bronx, welcomes everyone to NYBG's Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month celebration in a [video message](#).

On-site programs include:

- **Plants of the Caribbean Tour**

*Tours on Wednesdays, September 21 and 28; 2:30 p.m.*

*Meet at the entrance to the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory*

<https://www.nybg.org/event/plants-of-the-caribbean-tour/>

In celebration of Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month at the Garden, explore the vibrant cultural traditions and botanical heritage within the plants of the Caribbean region, including plantains, guava, and more!

- **Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Celebration Weekend**

*Friday, October 8, Saturday, October 9, and Sunday, October 10; 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.  
Everett Children's Adventure Garden*

<https://www.nybg.org/event/hispanic-latinx-heritage-celebration-weekend/>

Visit the Everett Children's Adventure Garden for a celebration of Hispanic and Latinx heritage. Explore activities that honor the Latin American Diaspora, from making your own seed *maracas* and starting a Cuban-influenced dance party to potting up a mini corn garden and learning about the importance of maize crops across Latin America. Listen of Hispanic and Latinx heritage-focused stories during storytime in the Swamp Oak Story Spot.

- **Heritage Around the Table**

*On view near the entrance to the Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T4HOdqZwIIE&t=60s>

Featured in NYBG's recent exhibition, *Around the Table: Stories of the Foods We Love*, Bronx artist Jill Cohen-Nuñez's table was inspired by their Dominican and Jewish ancestry and explores an imagined realm—one that uses the setting of the Passover Seder to host sculpted representations of their forebears. Each figure touches on a different stage of life, and a different stage of grieving, offering a unique perspective for connection.

- **From the Shelves of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library**

*LuEsther T. Mertz Library*

<https://www.nybg.org/learn/mertz-library/>

Enjoy a rotating selection of books highlighting Hispanic and Latinx authors. There are also many inspiring titles in the Children's Collection, including *Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You*, by Sonia Sotomayor, Puerto Rican Bronx native and first Latina appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Digital programs include:

- **Bronx Oral Histories Project**

As part of Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month, join us in learning from the compelling food stories of Bronx community gardeners, many of Latin American and Caribbean heritage, who have been instrumental in creating, caring for, and cultivating community in these critical spaces. These stories are part of the Bronx Foodways Oral Histories Project, launched in 2021, to preserve the food histories and life experiences of longtime community gardeners and urban farmers across the borough.

- **Estela Pereda Cisneros**

<https://www.nybg.org/learn/humanities-institute/bronx-foodways-oral-histories-project/oral-history-estela-pereda-cisneros/>

Estela Pereda Cisneros was born in the 1970s, to a family of farmers in Guerrero, Mexico. Having lost her mother when very young, Estela worked the land with her three siblings, learning from her father and grandfather and participating in agricultural traditions like the annual San Miguel celebration. In 1998, she joined her great-aunt in Los Angeles, later moving to Fresno to harvest grapes with her uncle and his wife,

before relocating to New York City to work on the night shift at a bakery, and then cleaning a restaurant on the Upper West Side, where she was promoted to salad preparer and eventually line cook. Around 2015, after noticing activity in the green space she would pass while taking her daughters to school, Estela began gardening at the New Roots Community Farm, where refugees, asylees, and immigrant communities relax and connect with their cultures through agriculture. Her involvement has helped her reconnect with the farming knowledge her grandfather passed on to her and implement a healthier diet for her family.

- **Ray Figueroa Jr.**

<https://www.nybg.org/learn/humanities-institute/bronx-foodways-oral-histories-project/oral-history-ray-figueroa-jr/>

Ray Figueroa Jr. grew up in the 1960s in New York's historic East Harlem Puerto Rican community of *El Barrio*. Ray's earliest memories include the avocado plant his father grew from a seed on the windowsill of their apartment in the projects, and walking to "La Marqueta" to eat Puerto Rican comfort food like *alcapurrias*, *empanadillas*, and *bacalaitos* that weren't available at the supermarket. After significant time living in Puerto Rico with his grandmother, he attended Cornell University, double majoring in Africana Studies and Human Ecology, and began his lifelong commitment to community, working on food and gardening projects with organizations like Aspira and the Harlem Children's Zone. Today Ray serves as an urban agriculture consultant and advisor to foundations, government, non-profit organizations, and publications. He is on the Sustainable Environmental Systems faculty at the Pratt Institute Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment, and President of the New York City Community Garden Coalition. He is also co-founder and director of Alternatives-to-Incarceration initiatives at *Friends of Brook Park*, where youth on probation learn about social justice activism and work the land in ways that help reduce their risk of falling into the school-to-prison pipeline.

- **Rufina Medina Lopez**

<https://www.nybg.org/learn/humanities-institute/bronx-foodways-oral-histories-project/oral-history-rufina-medina-lopez/>

Born in Puebla, in the 1960s, Rufina Medina Lopez lost her father when very young. Her mother struggled to support her ten children through agriculture and food work. Working the fields as a child, Rufina remembers planting and eating native *alaches*, *chipiles*, and *quintoniles*, which helped heal her chronic anemia. Eventually coming to the Bronx with her family in 1986, Rufina married, but soon found herself with an abusive, alcoholic husband who isolated her from family and community. In 1996, while walking through her Bronx neighborhood, she discovered Garden of Youth, where residents grow organic fruits and vegetables, connect with nature, and build community. Rufina says the event "gave her life"—she escaped her relationship and now finds purpose growing and preparing her traditional Mexican foods, sharing with those who gather to chat, celebrate, and eat, and as her mother taught her, she never turns away anyone who is hungry.

- **Reynier Leyva Novo: Methuselah**

*Launching online Monday, September 22*

<https://methuselahmonarch.com>

Coinciding with the Fall equinox, The New York Botanical Garden is excited to share El Museo del Barrio project *Reynier Leyva Novo: Methuselah*. Conceived by the Cuban-born and Houston based artist Reynier Leyva Novo, the digital artwork virtually reproduces the 6000-mile transnational migratory journey of a single monarch butterfly, tracking its travel from southern Canada across the United States to Mexico. Embodied through the life of a virtual avatar, the epic journey is hosted and reproduced in real time on a specially designed, open-access, dedicated website. Working with butterfly experts, taxidermists, animators, computer modelers, and software designers for over a year, artist Novo translated the monarch butterfly from an analog specimen into a digital animation. Accessible online, the virtual avatar can be observed 24 hours a day during a one-year cycle as it flutters, flies, feeds, and rests with the ease and delicacy of a real insect. At any given time, the software program determines the butterfly's movements in space, drawing upon numerous data points related to monarch migration patterns. No single observed motion is the same. This presentation offers viewers a privileged and unprecedented look at a day in the life of a single monarch butterfly, a phenomenon that until recently was impossible to observe or track.

- **Hispanic Heritage and Philippine Medicinal Plants: The Personal Story of Kathleen Cruz Gutierrez, Ph.D**

*Plant Talk blog post live by September 22*

<https://www.nybg.org/blogs/plant-talk/>

Kathleen Cruz Gutierrez, Ph.D., recent Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in NYBG's Humanities Institute, discusses her interest in the flora of her family's homeland, the Philippines.

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

<https://youtu.be/9nS7yBkfmI8>

Tiffany Gomez is a Bronx-based sustainable artist, designer, and founder of Gomez Design Studio. Join her for a look back on the craft techniques she shared for Earth Day, helping you reduce and reuse at home.

- **Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month: An Interview with Lucrecia Novoa**

*Plant Talk blog post*

<https://www.nybg.org/planttalk/celebrating-hispanic-heritage-month-an-interview-with-lucrecia-novoa/>

Get to know puppeteer and founder of Mascara Viva, Lucrecia Novoa. Lucrecia Novoa is 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**

<http://sweetgum.nybg.org/science/the-hand-lens/>

Magnify your knowledge of plants and culture through behind-the-scenes stories of adventure and discovery. 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:

- [Flora Borinqueña](#)
- [El Yunque](#)
- [Follow a 1910 Botanical Expedition through Western Cuba](#)
- [Fabián Michelangeli's field trip to Cuba](#)
- [Traditional Medicine: Momordica charantia](#)
- [The Sacred Plant of Peru: The San Pedro Cactus](#)

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/>.

*Sponsors:*

LuESTHER T. MERTZ CHARITABLE TRUST:  
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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](http://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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