

Kansas Latino Arts & Culture Roundtable

Facilitator



Evonne Gallardo, Vice-Chair
National Association of Latino Arts and Culture

Evonne Gallardo is an arts and culture specialist dedicated to honoring and valuing artists as critical components to a successful society.

Evonne has hands-on leadership experience in arts management and programming, curatorial and public art projects, board development and fundraising strategies, organization management, as well as cultural equity, inclusion, and diversity in the arts and culture sector.

Evonne received a B.A. in American History at Columbia University and an M.A. in the Sociology of Art/Liberal Studies from the New School in New York City. She currently serves as Vice Chair, of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture (NALAC.)

Roundtable Participants

Cheryl Eve Acosta
Artist / Designer
Kansas City

Fulltime artist in the KC Crossroads heavily involved with Arts KC.

Challenge: Business management/increase production

Maria S. Arbelaez
El Museo Latino
Omaha, NE

El Museo Latino is a city-state museum dedicated to Latino-Latin American in the Arts.

Challenge: More public and private involvement and financial support.

Yolanda Broyles-González, PhD
Kansas State University - American Ethnic Studies
Department
Manhattan

Kansas State University is a mid-size university (25K) situated in a small town (50K) whose Latin@ community is growing dramatically. We struggle to build a new Ethnic Studies Department at a time of severe budget cuts

Challenge: Building Cultural competence among the populace is a key challenge: the ability to move respectfully among different sectors/cultures of society.

Until that happens racial tensions and conflict will continue to manifest.

Sarah and David Chavez
Ingenuity
Olathe

INGENUITY specializes in building, connecting and creating high-profile brands in the Hispanic marketplace. Through its core work in branded content, signature program development, event marketing platforms, strategic relationship-building and cause campaigns, INGENUITY has become the go to partner for companies, organizations and celebrities desiring innovative communication vehicles.

Challenge: Developing four cities across Kansas for multicultural programming. In terms of diversity, cultivating strategic partnerships to ensure success of programmatic efforts.

Consuelo Cruz
City of KCMO Office of Culture & Creative Services
Kansas City

The Office of Culture and Creative Services (OCCS) was established in 2015 to lead cultural development efforts for the City of Kansas City, Missouri. The mission of the Office is to serve Kansas City residents by bolstering and catalyzing arts, culture and creativity and by leveraging the arts as a strategy for economic development, neighborhood revitalization, and cultural vitality for its citizens.

Challenge: Funding resources for artists, projects/ initiatives

Jose Faus
Latino Writers Collective
Kansas City

I am a writer/artist - though affiliated with a collective work for a broader sense of community engagement than the narrow focus of a "Latino" artist.

Challenge: Issues of inclusion and diversity are always the big ones in the room. Many meetings where one is the only person of color or ethnicity. It also cuts both ways. Issues where peoples' identities are challenged by the very groups they represent for not being authentic enough.

Connie Fitzpatrick
WOC Makers
Lawrence

Israel Alejandro Garcia Garcia
Garcia Squared Contemporary
Kansas City

Garcia Squared Contemporary emphasizes to promote the intersections of visual and creative expression as a means of engaging critical cultural dialogues in the movement toward social justice and representation. Our artist and contributors share a vested interest in exploring the complexities of the Latino experience as well as that of groups similarly marginalized by mainstream society. MoLCA/Movement of Latino Contemporary Arts and its partners serves to recognize artists, including by affirming and recognizing:

- the important contribution of artists to the cultural, social, economic and educational enrichment
- the value of artistic creativity in advancing of Latino cultural, social, economic and educational life;
- the valuable contribution of artists to Latino cultural heritage and development; and
- the importance of fair compensation to professional artists for the creation and use of their artistic works.

Challenge: Lack of the above.

Ediberto Gonzalez, Sr.
Justicia inc. / Ballet Folklórico de Topeka
Topeka

Justicia, Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit for arts and education

Challenge: Funding, grants, marketing, site event development.

Marco Hernandez
Wichita State University
Wichita

I am a faculty member at Wichita State University and teach Printmaking.

Challenge: School funding and budget cuts.

Mary Lou Jaramillo
Johnson County Latina Leadership Network
Francis Family Foundation
Johnson County

Johnson County Latina Leadership Network is a 2-year old network promoting leadership, civic engagement and networking.

Challenge: The population of Hispanics/Latinos in Johnson County has increased over the past 20 years with relatively small, tiny gains in influence and representation on civic boards and commissions.

Melisa Jimenez
Johnson County Community College
Overland Park

Melissa McCoy
City of Dodge City
Dodge City / Southwest Kansas

I represent the City of Dodge City but I also assist our area nonprofit, art and tourism related organizations.

Challenge: Funding assistance, recruiting and retaining board members and volunteers.

Jenny Mendez
Mattie Rhoades
Kansas City

Armando Minjarez
The Seed House~La Casa de la Semilla
Wichita

The Seed House ~La Casa de la Semilla is a workshop space for leadership development and creative social justice strategy, based in Wichita, serving the heartland states.

Challenge: There are many challenges facing our communities right now. One of the biggest ones is access to spaces and/or resources to develop creative approaches to healing and community empowerment.

Caleb Lázaro Moreno
University of Kansas
Lawrence

PhD student in American Studies at The University of Kansas and an independent local artist (musician and producer).

Challenge: Limited training and resources in Lawrence around undocumented processes and needs, both on the KU campus and beyond. Very limited visual and sonic representation of Latinx culture in the public sphere.

Aron Muci
University of Kansas - Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Lawrence

The Center of Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) is a leading research center linking faculty, students, and the community from across Kansas, the country and the world in the interdisciplinary study of the histories, cultures, and societies of Latin America and the Caribbean. We aim to serve as the best resource in our region and a model in the country for excellence in research, education and outreach. We strive to advance knowledge and seek solutions to pressing questions related to Latin America and the Caribbean. CLACS works to place this region in a global conversation, and promote multiculturalism on campus and in our community. Finally, CLACS seeks to provide an environment for learning and working where differences are valued and each person is supported and offered an equitable opportunity to achieve their academic and professional goals.

Challenge: Arts and culture projects are significant ways of encouraging awareness of Latin American and Latinx identities and cultures. Unfortunately, financial resources are a consistent obstacle, but we have the talent. Our biggest challenge is finding community partners, enabling our community to produce projects that utilize resources at KU.

Jai Nitz
DC Comics
Lawrence

I am a comic book writer for DC Comics. I co-created El Diablo from the movie Suicide Squad. I live in Lawrence, KS.

Challenge: Due to the University, Lawrence is a diverse city with deep resources and funding (KU Center for Latin American and Caribbean). However, involving the everyday citizens of Lawrence/Douglas County is a challenge.

Teliza Rodriguez
Museum of Nebraska Art
Kearney, NE

A museum located in a rural area that focuses on the visual arts of Nebraska - all artwork collected, researched, and displayed has to be connected to Nebraska in some form: content about the region, artists born or living or have lived in Nebraska, work created in Nebraska.

Challenge: While we engage with the community on a number of levels as well as the state of Nebraska as a whole - we seek to increase our daily visitors and reach out to particular demographics that are not consistently represented as visitors at the museum.

Robert M Ruiz
Scissortail Community Development Corporation
Oklahoma City, OK

We are a non-profit working on ways to strengthen and build capacities within communities in Oklahoma.

Challenge: A key challenge we are facing is proactively working to avoid cultural and linguistic gaps that weaken families.

Chico Sierra
Artist
Kansas City

Vania Soto
Artist
Kansas City

I teach 10-16 year olds, college level Painting and Drawing.

Challenge: Sponsorships

Christina Valdivia-Alcala
Tonantzin Society
Topeka

Chican@,Xicana,Latin@ arts, culture, advocacy and social justice organization. Focus also on our indigenous heritage.

Challenge: Representation and education within our own community and outside our community since we have often been written out of US history. And stopping the scapegoating of Mex/MexAmer/indigenous communities.

Andrew Valdivia
Artist
Topeka

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the community I was born into and continue to be a part of.

Challenge: Communication between established and immigrant populations.

Robin Valenzuela
Artist
Garden City

Garden City (SW KS) is a micropolitan community, incredibly diverse in culture and industry. We are also an arts hub in western Kansas, with a very active arts center, Garden City Arts, in downtown Garden City.

Challenge: Communication, or ongoing shared information, amongst arts centers and artists throughout the entire state.

Janeth Vazquez
Seward County Community College
Liberal

I represent the diverse community in Southwest Kansas. Currently, I work as an advisor at Seward County Community College. Previously, I worked as a journalist for Univision Kansas and covered news in English and Spanish in Southwest Kansas.

Challenge: My students are facing a lot of fear and uncertainty since they rescinded DACA.

Lee Wong-Medina
Consulate of Mexico
Kansas City

Official representation of the Mexican Government to the States of Kansas, Missouri and Western Oklahoma.

Challenge: Community challenge - Immigration issues
Organization challenge - Extensive geographical jurisdiction

Christine Bial
Mid-America Arts Alliance
Kansas City / (KS, MO, NE, OK, TX, AK)

Peter Jasso
Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission
Topeka / Lawrence

Larry Meeker
Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission
Lake Quivira