

# NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

The Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is excited to share the heritage month newsletter to highlight diverse communities. We hope to increase our shared understanding and appreciation of the rich histories, cultures, and people from different heritages. For more information on diverse holidays and celebrations, please visit the [NIH Diversity Calendar](#).

## History and Significance

Every year from September 15 to October 15, we celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month to honor the histories, cultures, and contributions of Americans with Hispanic or Latine ancestry. National Hispanic Heritage Month started as a week-long acknowledgment in 1968 and has grown to a month-long celebration. The dates were selected to coincide with the independence days of Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua.

This year's theme 'Building Prosperous and Healthy Communities' recognizes the significant achievements of the Hispanic and Latine community in the economic, political, and academic arenas.

## Ways to Celebrate in NYC

Here are a few ways to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month locally:

- [Hispanic Heritage Month 2023: NYC Calendar of Events](#)
- [A Suggested List of Nearly 40 Things to See and Do for the 2023 Commemoration](#)
- [Hispanic Heritage Month Events Round Up](#)
- [New York Public Library's Hispanic & Latinx Heritage Month Events](#)
- [Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with NYC Ferry](#)

### Hispanic, Latino/a, Latine or Latinx?

Although *Hispanic* and *Latino/a* are often used interchangeably, they actually mean two different things. *Hispanic* refers to people who descended from Spanish-speaking countries. *Latino/a* refers to people who descended from Latin America. *Latine* and *Latinx* attempt to offer gender-neutral version of the terms that are masculine (ends in "o") or feminine (ends in "a") to be more inclusive. However, *Latine* and *Latinx* have raised concerns as some feel these terms have been imposed by English speakers. When deciding which term to use, it's important to consider the intended audience, cultural context, and personal meaning(s) associated with the titles.

## Community Spotlight



Alicia Galicia is a beloved member of our Rockefeller community and the Great Performances team.

Originally from Tlapanalá, Mexico, Alicia's journey is illuminated by her radiant spirit and dedication to helping others. Raised in Morelos, Mexico, Alicia's gift for hospitality became evident while working at a neighborhood restaurant at just 11 years old. She immigrated to New York, holding diverse roles before finding her place at Rockefeller in 1996.

Alicia treasures her Mexican heritage, embracing the spirit of "Mi casa es tu casa" that symbolizes hospitality and unity. Her values, rooted in family, dignity, and respect, resonate with all who know her.

Alicia's commitment to her heritage and her ability to create a sense of belonging inspire us. We celebrate her as a cherished member of our community year-round. Thank you, Alicia, for sharing your vibrant Mexican culture and welcoming spirit with us!

If you know anyone who may be interested in being featured in the Community Spotlight in our future newsletters, fill out a nomination form on [bit.ly/RockefellerSpotlight](https://bit.ly/RockefellerSpotlight)