Saludos, and Welcome to LP21’s Bomba & Plena Community Workshops-BPCW!

La Familia de Los Pleneros de la 21 is proud to launch the 2021-2022 season of the Bomba & Plena Community Workshops. If you have been with us for a while, you will know that the past couple years have brought with them many challenges. We are beyond excited to bring back our community workshops to our home, Julia de Burgos, and we thank you for sticking with us through it all. If you are new to the workshops, thank you so much for joining us! We can’t wait to introduce you to the LP21 Familia! This packet holds all the information you need for a successful BPCW year.

BOMBA AND PLENA COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS: OUR HISTORY

In 1983 a group of friends, pleneros and Boricuas got together in La Casita de Chema in the South Bronx, to sing and jam out to the music and songs of their patria. Surrounded by the jardines of el Rincón Criollo, Los Pleneros de la 21 was born, taking its name from the community of the now disappeared 21st bus stop in Santurce, Puerto Rico, a neighborhood known for its pleneros. Motivated by the sense of responsibility of continuing the cultural legacy, LP21 created the “Bomba y Plena Children’s Workshop” in 1989.

Now known as the Bomba and Plena Community Workshops, the BPCW has evolved over nearly four decades as the place where hundreds of youth and adults have come to learn and embrace powerful modes of self-expression, cultural awareness and a sense of community, through active and dynamic participation in Bomba and Plena and other related traditions. The Workshops have also helped many others in outstanding presentations including the Puerto Rican Day Parade of New York, Lincoln Center, and several televised programs, including Sesame Street!

From our dear Chimicuino toddlers to our talented Chamaco youth, to the students in our Adult classes and our masterclass series, Un Paso Alante - the energy and enthusiasm is palpable, as the BPCW/32 teachers and students take up their mantle in this rich history of keeping culture alive, actively participating in the cultura and community all around them.

For this we are proud to say - the Bomba and Plena Community Workshops is where legends teach our youth...and where our youth can become legends.

We look forward to a great BPCW season, with you on board as part of our BPCW Familia!

Yours truly,

La Familia de Los Pleneros de la 21
The Bomba y Plena Community Workshops-BPCW/32
THE BPCW YOUTH PROGRAM

The BPCW 2021-2022 season starts on Oct. 16th, 2021, and culminates May 1st, 2022, in a Family Fun Day and Graduation Celebration. Fall/Winter classes will be held in person at Julia de Burgos Cultural Center.

Over the next 9 months, BPCW Familias will be immersed in comunidad y cultura, as we expand the foundations of our students’ learning with their hands, hearts, and minds. As they continue walking through the path of Bomba y Plena, your children will build their knowledge and skills with master teaching artists in sequential weekly lessons over 25 Saturday sessions - paso a paso - each session filled with targeted lessons designed to help move them forward on their Bomba y Plena journey.

We want to ensure the highest quality of teaching that we can as we monitor the developing situation of COVID-19. This year classes will be held in person, and will include special elements and activities such as guest teaching artists, photo and video journeys of past and present bomba and plena masters, study tool kits, as well as a Family Fun Day/ Graduation Celebration in May.

When registering online (https://www.losplenerosdela21.org/bpcw), parents are encouraged to enroll children in the class best suited for their child according to the following age groups:

- **Chimicuinos** (10 months – 3 yrs old): Parent & Child co-learning
- **Chespiritos** (Ages 3-6): Parent & Child co-learning
- **Chamacos** (Ages 6-12): Child participates on his/her own

Please be advised that placement level may change at the discretion of our teaching artists, with previous consultation with you, the parent. After placement in the appropriate age group, your child’s regular schedule becomes official. Please be aware that this might take a few weeks. Until then, please follow the schedule of your child’s age group.

**Registration**

1. To register your child, parents must fill out our registration form online, as well as submit a $50 registration fee via Paypal prior to the first class. The Registration Fee must be paid no later than Oct 23rd, 2021. After that date, a 5% fee will be in effect until October 31st, 2021. Non-payment after that date will be considered a withdrawal from the program.


Please note that only until we have received both your registration form and fee will your child’s spot be reserved. There are only 36 spots available.

2. BPCW Youth Payments- The tuition varies per age/level, and is paid in 3 installments during the year. The first tuition installment is due November 6th. Please see the Payment Policy packet with complete details about tuition payments.
The Bomba y Plena Community Workshops-BPCW
SCHEDULES AND RATES AT-A-GLANCE

YOUTH CLASSES

Youth Class Schedule

Youth classes meet Saturdays, beginning October 16th, on ZOOM, at the following times:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chimicuinos</th>
<th>10:15 am - 11:00 am: Dance and Drum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chespiritos</td>
<td>11:10am - 12:10 pm: Dance and Drum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chamacos</td>
<td>12:20 - 1:05 pm: Dance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:05 pm - 1:10 pm: Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:10pm - 2:00 pm: Drum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Youth Class Rates

BPCW Youth program costs include the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Registration</th>
<th>Tuition</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chimicuinos</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$375</td>
<td>$425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chespiritos</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$428.50</td>
<td>$478.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chamacos</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$455</td>
<td>$505</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Family Tuition packages: If you are enrolling more than one child in the program, please discuss the correct family tuition package with LP21 Director, Juan “Juango” Gutiérrez.

ADULT WORKSHOPS (BPAW)

Adult Class Schedule

The following information is for Cycle 1 Only Spanning from Oct. 11th - Oct. 26th in person at Julia de Burgos Cultural Center

- Dance w/ Leana Lopez on Tuesdays 6:00-7:00pm bomba dance: Tuesday evenings starting Oct 11th

- Drum w/ Mateo González on Tuesdays- 7:15-8:15pm bomba and plena percussion: Tuesday evenings starting Oct 11th

For information on upcoming cycles follow facebook.com/pleneros21 or check out our website www.losplenerosdela21.org/bpaw

Adult Class Rates

- Regular Rate: $20 per class
- Parents of BPCW Youth Students Discounted Rate: $18 per class (est. 10% discount)
- Packaged rates for an entire cycle: $50 for a cycle of 3 sessions
- Payments should be made via Paypal through our Paypal button located on our website: www.losplenerosdela21.org/bpaw
The Bomba y Plena Community Workshops-BPCW/31
TEACHING ARTISTS & THE BPCW FAMILIA

Jorge Vázquez - Percussion Instructor, BPCW-Children (s2011). Born and raised in New York, Jorge learned Bomba & Plena from elders. He was a founding member of the popular next-generation Bomba and Plena groups YerbaBuena and alma Moyo. He is actively recording and touring with Hot Peas & Butter, and recently released a CD, created as a learning tool for teachers, seasoned and novice drummers interested in Bomba traditions.

LeAna López - Teaching Artist, BPCW. Born and raised in New York City’s El Barrio/ Spanish Harlem, LeAna was raised surrounded in Boricuan musical tradition. LeAna has dedicated her years to Afro Cuban and Afro Puerto Rican music with a concentration on dancing and playing Bomba and Plena. She began with Los Pleneros de la 21 in 1997. Since 2004 she has performed with several Bomba groups throughout the Tri-State area and is currently a member of Legacy Women, an all-women’s group who specializes in Afro Puerto Rican and Afro Dominican roots music. LeAna received a B.A. in Africana and Puerto Rican studies, with a concentration in psychology. She plans to continue pursuing her passion of Africana and Puerto Rican/Latino studies, dance, percussion and being an educator.

Nelson “Mateo” González - LP21 Primary artist/teaching artist, BPCW Children and Adults, UPA, ITH, El Sanocho Musical (s2008). Mateo was first nurtured by his grandfather, master plenero Benny Ayala, and is a graduate of LP21’s Children’s Workshop. He flourished as a member of this group and throughout the broader NYC music community, to become an accomplished artist on all Latin percussion instruments and equally gifted as a dancer. Mateo was a recipient of the 2010-11 Tito Puente Scholarship Fund for his commitment and dedication to preserving traditional Puerto Rican music. He was featured in Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture’s Young Roots Performance Series, and was recently signed to Latin Percussion.

Juan J. 'Juango' Gutiérrez-Rodríguez - LP21’s founder & director (s1983). Percussionist, composer, arranger & Teaching Artist, BPCW-Adults, ITH, El Sanocho Musical. Juan leads LP21 artistic & cultural vision. A well versed musician (Conservatorio de Música de PR, Lehman College, Manhattan School of Music), Juan maintains that Plena grounds him and fuels his passion to create music and community. His efforts, spanning 40 years, have afforded him with the NEA Heritage Fellow Award, a Grammy Nomination, countless accolades and the high regard from cultural institutions throughout the US, peer musicians and folk practitioners. Juan’s vast musical experience includes recordings, radio, and television shows as well as touring with renowned artists and musical legends from the US and Puerto Rico.

Jax Davies - Programming Manager Jacqueline (Jax) Davies is a New York- based artist, community organizer, and emerging arts leader. A graduate from Cornell University, Jax combined an arts education with a Latino Studies minor and a business concentration. Having worked in community arts, programming, and the nonprofit sector, Jax aims to continue to grow, celebrate, and enrich LP21’s communities through the spread of arts-based education.

Nilsa Márquez - Parent/Student Liaison Born in Bayamón, Puerto Rico, Nilsa Marquez became interested in Los Pleneros de la 21 when she met the love of her life Benny Ayala in 1991. Since then she has been an active volunteer with many different Los Pleneros de la 21 events, also putting her grandchildren in the kids’ workshops. Years later, Nilsa continues to be one of the rocks upon which the BPCW series depends. (You might also run into her oldest grandchild Nelson “Mateo” González performing with the LP21 ensemble or teaching the adult percussion classes!)

LP21 STAFF CONTACT INFO
Juan Gutiérrez, LP21 Director
juango@lp21.org

Jax Davies, Programming Manager
programs@lp21.org
Cell: 845.389.6764

Nilsa Marquez, Parent Liaison
Cell: 347.530.0656

Please note, staff will not be in the office weekly for
Fall/Winter 2021. For direct calls please contact Jax
Davies at 845.389.6764
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