Latin American Youth Center

OUR YOUTH MATTER
TOGETHER FOR HOPE

Virtual 2021 Gala

Friday, May 21, 2021
Together for Hope, Our Youth Matter 2021 Gala

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for providing hope to our young people
"Together for Hope, Our Youth Matter"
LAYC's Virtual 2021 Gala

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A message from our Board Chair

On behalf of LAYC’s board of directors, we are honored to welcome you to our virtual Our Youth Matter Gala, to celebrate and support LAYC and the amazing work they do for youth and their families. Our annual Gala is our largest fundraiser and, while this year’s celebration looks different from the in-person events we’ve held with hundreds of attendees in the past, we are excited that this format will reach even more guests and supporters as we celebrate youth and share LAYC’s journey during the pandemic.

Over nearly ten years of board service, I’ve seen how LAYC has provided tailored programs, care, and services to young people, according to their passions, goals, and needs. At LAYC, each young person is encouraged to pursue their dreams, reach their goals, and acquire the skills and self-confidence to live a life of purpose, connection, contribution, and joy.

We come together this year to celebrate our youth, our honorees, and the work of LAYC under the leadership of Lupi Quinteros-Grady. Lupi and her staff have been relentless in responding to the needs of youth and families. The real stars of the evening, though, are the youth. They faced many barriers prior to the pandemic and, this past year, they continued to demonstrate tenacity, resiliency, and hope, and achieved significant personal and academic goals such as securing stable housing, completing their GEDs, getting jobs, and enrolling in postsecondary education.

LAYC’s work during the pandemic would not have been possible without the support of our community. Your continued support, including financial and in-kind contributions, volunteer time, and words of encouragement for staff and youth, will help LAYC continue to be an anchor for our youth and families, keeping youth engaged, connected to critical resources, and hopeful for their future.

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Chair

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As I reflect on this past year at Latin American Youth Center (LAYC), I realize that I’ve gained a better understanding of the power of working together. The strength of what collective action can accomplish cannot be underestimated.

LAYC has been an anchor in our communities for over 50 years. In my twenty-three years at LAYC, 2020 tested our mission unlike any time before. Despite waves of unknowns, lack of resources, and strained capacity, LAYC staff remained focused on our youth and families. A year later, we have continued to schedule monthly food distributions, provide rental assistance, and connect our youth to internet services. Throughout the many challenges, our doors never closed and we continue to learn and adapt, ensuring that meaningful programming is consistently made available for our youth.

For these reasons, we have much to celebrate at LAYC’s 2021 “Our Youth Matter” Gala.

Let’s celebrate our youth and families. Their resiliency has been incredible to witness. Our youth have obtained their GED diplomas, participated in virtual job fairs, attended virtual after school programming for academic and enrichment support, and participated in summer programs. The life lessons synonymous with having to navigate life within the acute confines of a world forced to deal with the uncertainty of an unforgiving pandemic did not leave our youth unscathed. They’ve had to negotiate their own personal stresses, learn to cope within these stresses, and find ways to strive. And, indeed, they strived! I’ve marveled at how our youth have grown in their mastery of skills such as spoken word, musical performance, TV production, and artistic expression. Despite their circumstances, they continue to find ways to show up and show out! Their resilience is awe-inspiring and deserves to be honored and applauded.

I would be remiss if I didn’t also recognize and acknowledge my awesome LAYC staff. They too deserve to be especially honored and celebrated. Frontline workers, managers, back office colleagues; despite the odds, everyone has and continues to step in to address major service gaps in the face of increased demand. I’ve witnessed staff create safe spaces and provide a sense of community and belonging, while also offering essential support systems that continue to help our youth hold onto the sometimes elusive grasp of hope. Without their talents, sacrifice, perseverance, and dedication to LAYC’s mission, this work would not have been possible. It has not been an easy road but, despite the many obstacles, LAYC staff continue to champion positive and impactful work that serves to lift our communities to greater heights and possibilities.

Last but not least, to all of my executive partners, I am so excited to also celebrate and honor you! Our Board of Directors, partners, and sponsors have made it possible for us to continue our work. Although we are not physically together, I feel a strong sense of community with each of you. I am filled with gratitude for your generosity, your heart for our youth, and your authentic desire to see the LAYC community realize its best self, which includes attributes like service, humanity, and excellence. Because of each of you, LAYC has and continues to remain the vibrant organization it has been for over 50 years. From the bottom of my heart, Thank You!

Thank you for standing with us, our youth, and their families.

Mirna (Lupi) Quinteros-Grady
President & CEO
Tonight’s Honoree: Dr. LaQuandra S. Nesbitt, MD, MPH

For her leadership to advance the health and well-being of all District of Columbia residents, LAYC is proud to honor Dr. LaQuandra S. Nesbitt at our 2021 Gala, Our Youth Matter; Together for Hope.

Dr. Nesbitt is a board-certified family physician, experienced leader of population health initiatives for public health agencies, and Director of the District of Columbia Department of Health. As Director, Dr. Nesbitt mobilizes organizations and communities to implement innovative solutions that promote health and wellness. With a laser focus on equity and access, Dr. Nesbitt has led efforts to ensure that DC’s most underserved residents receive timely and accurate information on critical health issues.

As a member of the DC Health Scientific Advisory Committee, LAYC has witnessed Dr. Nesbitt’s leadership in many ways, including her grassroots outreach efforts during the pandemic. LAYC is proud to have participated in interviewing families to learn about their COVID-19 vaccine concerns. Together, our outreach and educational efforts have resulted in increased vaccine acceptance, distribution, and utilization rates.

LAYC’s Board of Directors, staff, and youth salute Dr. Nesbitt’s advocacy for the health of all in the District of Columbia. Her heroic efforts make her the leader the District of Columbia needs as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I have watched you inform and educate our most vulnerable District of Columbia residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. You work every day to keep us healthy and safe.”

- Lupi Quinteros-Grady, LAYC President & CEO

Tonight’s Honoree: Dr. Monica Goldson

For her decades of commitment to ensure public education meets the needs of all students, LAYC is proud to honor Dr. Monica Goldson, Chief Executive Officer of Prince George’s County Public Schools, at our 2021 gala, Our Youth Matter; Together for Hope.

Born and raised in Prince George’s County, Dr. Goldson began her career as a mathematics teacher and was soon promoted to system-wide responsibilities. A dynamic leader, she has created innovative programs for students and educators, ranging from a dual enrollment partnership with Prince George’s Community College to leadership capacity-building for principals.

Dr. Goldson is a member of Chiefs for Change, has been named by Washingtonian Magazine as one of Washington’s Most Powerful Women, was recognized with the Women Who Mean Business Award from Washington Business Journal, and received the Walker’s Legacy Women in Economic Development & Civic Leadership Award.

Since becoming Prince George’s County Public Schools Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Goldson has collaborated with LAYC on numerous youth development initiatives. Faced with the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Goldson was determined to make sure no student was left behind. She mobilized the school system to provide laptops, internet service, and technology assistance to families in need and worked with her school-based teams to build virtual learning from the ground up. She supported LAYC’s efforts to re-engage students struggling to stay connected in the virtual learning environment and to coordinate meal distribution sites for students.

“Leading the Prince George’s County Public Schools is a tremendous challenge and responsibility. As a parent and community leader, I admire your work for students and educators and thank you for all you do.”

- Lupi Quinteros-Grady, LAYC President & CEO
For her tireless leadership as President and CEO of UnidosUS, the nation’s largest Latino civil rights and advocacy organization, LAYC is proud to honor Janet Murguía at our 2021 Gala, Our Youth Matter; Together for Hope. Janet Murguía began her career in Washington, DC, as legislative counsel to former Congressman Jim Slattery from her home state, Kansas. She served as a deputy assistant to President Clinton and later became Executive Vice Chancellor for University Relations at the University of Kansas. She returned to the national stage in 2005 to lead UnidosUS.

Murguía’s many awards include Hispanic Business Magazine’s “100 Top Latinas” and “100 Most Influential Hispanics,” Washingtonian’s “100 Most Powerful Women in Washington,” The NonProfit Times’s top 50 leaders of “Power and Influence,” and People En Español’s “100 Most Influential Hispanics.” She was honored to be the first Hispanic person to give the keynote speech at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast in Birmingham, Alabama. In 2019, Murguía was inducted into the Starr Women’s Hall of Fame, which recognizes Kansas City women who have made significant and enduring contributions to their fields and opened new frontiers for women.

LAYC has been a proud affiliate member of UnidosUS for many years. Most recently, we worked together to conduct conversations with Latino parents and youth on the impact of COVID-19 in their lives. Together, we have walked the halls of Congress to advocate for humane and just laws for DACA youth and TPS families. We also value UnidosUS support of our work with the LBGTQ+ youth community. LAYC’s Board of Directors, staff, and youth salute Janet Murguía for her relentless efforts to amplify Latino voices on critical issues: education, health care, immigration, civil rights, and the economy. When Janet Murguía speaks, people listen! LAYC is proud to be a partner in these efforts.

As a national leader, Janet Murguía is a role model for me and many other Latinas and Latinos. Her voice and leadership are needed today more than ever as our community faces many complex challenges.”

- Lupi Quinteros-Grady
LAYC President & CEO

For their decades of commitment to the educational success of vulnerable young people and to the preservation of the natural environment, LAYC is proud to honor John G. and Jean R. Gosnell Foundation at our 2021 Gala, Our Youth Matter; Together for Hope.

Washington, D.C. natives John and Jean Gosnell deeply valued education and the great outdoors. The Foundation established in their memory carries on their legacy. When Foundation trustees learned of LAYC’s Montgomery County Conservation Corps and DC River Corps programs, they saw a perfect marriage with the Foundation’s priorities: to sustain the environment and to provide youth with quality education and wraparound services that build a foundation for long-term personal success.

Fearing the impact on non-profits as funding was redirected in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Foundation continued investing in LAYC to ensure youth’s uninterrupted access to services via virtual and hybrid GED and job readiness training, case management services, and more. The Foundation also understood that engagement with nature was of greater value than ever to help combat mental health challenges our youth have experienced amidst long-term isolation and social disconnection.

LAYC’s Board of Directors, staff, and youth honor and thank Gosnell Foundation for their continued commitment to educational and environmental opportunities for youth during this challenging year.

“Thank you for your generous investment in our youth. With your support, our young people care for the environment and develop their leadership skills while continuing their education.”

- Lupi Quinteros-Grady
LAYC President & CEO
Tonight's Emcee: Vee Solomon

Vee Solomon is an attorney, budding author, wife, and devoted mother of two children, Wesley and Christopher Solomon. She has over a decade of legal experience in large law firms, non-profit associations, and corporate legal departments. She is a full-time mother and is devoted to charitable causes including the Chronic Illness Foundation of America, IDEALS Fund-a-Scholar, and the Salvation Army’s Grate Patrol. She also partners with several organizations aimed at helping chronically ill Americans thrive amidst long-term health challenges and rare diseases.

Mrs. Solomon grew up in the historic Capitol Hill neighborhood of Washington, D.C., completing her primary education in parochial school and the District of Columbia Public School system. Throughout her childhood, she worked for her farmer-turned-entrepreneur father in a family-owned and operated chain of cleaners and laundromats. She served in various capacities at the historic H Street locations in Washington, D.C., until her family divested from the business during her high school years. Her dreams of becoming a lawyer/entrepreneur developed in high school during her work as an intern at the Federal Emergency Management Agency Office of the General Counsel’s Office. She is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of North Carolina and she earned her Juris Doctorate from The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, where she served as president of her 1L class and of her Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity.

Mrs. Solomon has served in numerous leadership positions involving domestic violence awareness and literacy; shaping the minds and dreams of young persons in the District. Most recently, Ms. Solomon served as co-chair of the IDEALS Fund-a-Scholar campaign, raising funds for socio-economic access for deserving scholars at St. Patrick’s Episcopal Day School. Her passions lie in giving a voice to those facing illness and helping mentor youth in the areas of professional development and fiscal and civil responsibility. Likewise, Ms. Solomon has been a tireless fundraising and volunteer advocate for youth programs, including supporting LAYC’s bi-monthly food distribution efforts.

Tonight's Emcee: Ramiro Forty

Ramiro Forty joined LAYC’s after school program eight years ago through our dance program, and quickly realized that LAYC had so much more to offer. As a high school student at Wilson High School in Washington, D.C., he attended youth leadership retreats where, for the first time, he had the opportunity to explore topics beyond his comfort zone and interact with youth from both LAYC’s Riverdale and DC sites. During his time with LAYC, he got to know stories of other youth that sought support and, through those stories, Ramiro began to truly understand the influence and impact LAYC had in surrounding communities. Ramiro considers this experience to be what set his leadership development trajectory in motion, and fostered his interest in youth development.

Four years after Ramiro first walked through LAYC’s doors, he became an LAYC AmeriCorps member and supported our youth community through health and education activities. He applied for, and was awarded, the competitive New Futures scholarship. These funds helped him continue his studies as he attended the College of Southern Maryland and University of Maryland Global Campus, studying digital media production with a major in communications. All of this led Ramiro back to LAYC where, as a staff member, he currently leads LAYC’s after school program at Wilson High School, bringing his journey full circle!

Ramiro is a true mentor for the youth in his program. He is passionate about arts and media production, and uses these interests to support and inspire youth. Most importantly, he believes in youth empowerment and positive youth development; his work provides a setting where youth can express themselves and learn life skills as they prepare for college and careers beyond high school. He is providing young people like himself tools for success and for life, teaching from a place of both compassion and personal experience.

Ramiro notes, “LAYC has enabled me to contribute to my community in a way I could have never imagined, and for that I am truly grateful.” Ramiro’s energy and goodness comes through in all that he does. We are so proud of his accomplishments and Ramiro knows that he, like the youth he mentors, is on his own path to success.
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LAYC’s COVID-19 Response

When the U.S. went under stay-at-home orders in March 2020, Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) quickly pivoted our programming to meet the new and evolving needs of our community virtually and safely. LAYC never closed its doors; instead, we continued our mission of providing social service support to low-income youth and families, particularly communities of color, while increasing our capacity for direct services such as food delivery, basic care access, case management, counseling, and technological support for remote learning. In tandem with these service modifications, we refined our data collection metrics to account for COVID-19 response services and case management.

LAYC staff have modified service delivery to meet the needs of our community by adapting the majority of our programs and services to virtual and remote settings. Case management teams conduct remote and in-person check-ins with our most vulnerable youth and families to ensure their basic needs are covered. Housing staff continue to provide housing and case management to 78 youth, and have implemented policies to respond to any possible contraction of COVID-19. Our team also expanded access to mental health services, providing sessions via video chat and telephone. As many of our youth also lack adequate access to technology and internet, staff assisted families in acquiring school-issued laptops and, in some cases, directly purchased and delivered laptops and internet access.

As the pandemic continued, our traditional definition of case management expanded across the organization. Staff members in every department took on extra responsibilities to ensure youths’ basic and mental health needs were met. For example, youth reported an increase in feelings of anxiety, isolation, and trauma, and it became necessary to routinely check-in with them and monitor these issues. In our Education & Workforce department, staff are working with the DC public school system to reconnect youth considered truant from online learning. In addition, staff from the mentoring program in LAYC’s Montgomery County, Maryland site made referrals across the organization and externally to our community partners to ensure that their youth had access to any resources and support they required.

LAYC has also provided emergency rental assistance for those who have a documented need and have applied through our internal assistance program. Established in April 2020, this program was created to support low-income families struggling with rent and other emergent needs due to extreme financial hardship. Through referrals from LAYC case managers, youth and families could apply for cash assistance of up to $1,000 per family through our online application. From April to November, LAYC provided $269,027 in rental assistance to over 250 households across DC and Maryland’s Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties. While LAYC did not require applicants to disclose their immigration status for safety reasons, the overwhelming majority of our applicants were ineligible for federal assistance. As of December 1st, LAYC’s rental assistance program closed and we are not able to accept any more applicants. We plan to re-open the program in the future if fundraising efforts allow.

Additionally, LAYC has been providing bi-monthly food distribution to food insecure families throughout DC and Maryland communities. Across all programs, staff have mobilized to deliver groceries and grocery gift cards directly to families, partnering with DC Central Kitchen, Manna Food Center, World Central Kitchen, Capital Area Food Bank, and Sardi’s Chicken Restaurant to access and distribute food. Bulk food purchases are sorted for separate family distribution across our DC and Maryland sites while our Food & Nutrition program manager prepares bilingual (Spanish/English) handouts and videos with tips on ways to use and preserve items provided. As of December 2020, LAYC has distributed over 15,000 bags of food that have impacted an average of 700 families a month: these efforts include our very successful Thanksgiving and winter holiday distributions, which provided over 800 families with food bags along with whole turkeys or chickens.

Finally, while LAYC has worked to secure our immediate needs to continue serving over 5,000 youth per year, we anticipate COVID-19 will impact our operations well into FY22. We foresee a long-term downturn in available local, state, and federal funds for youth services, as many of our long-term donors shifted funding to cover emergency COVID-19 needs. While COVID-19 support is needed and helpful, it has also created funding gaps for ongoing regular programming: as we work to build sustainability to ensure we provide uninterrupted services to our communities, we are grateful to the continued support of our donors who have helped bolster our unrestricted revenue. Through your generosity and loyalty through monthly giving, fundraising events, and volunteer efforts, we have been able to remain an anchor for DC and Maryland youth.
Join our Community of Heroes
Together for Hope

LAYC Heroes are creating a future where all youth have the skills and self-confidence to reach for their dreams.

We are so grateful for our community of heroes who have supported LAYC youth through the years. At a time when everything feels uncertain, we find hope and encouragement knowing that so many are committed to helping our staff continue their valuable work providing opportunities to our future leaders.

Our staff find themselves serving as first responders, meeting essential needs due to the pandemic, all while continuing their usual outreach and delivery of more than 45 programs and services to over 4,000 youth each year. In light of youths’ new and increasing needs, we’re asking you to help us continue our work together by becoming a monthly donor.

Joining LAYC’s Heroes Circle, our treasured community of monthly donors, is the safest, simplest, and most effective way to support youth and families and adapt to ever-increasing challenges due to the pandemic.

Because of your generosity, young people will remain engaged with their community and connected to resources and opportunities that will enable them to thrive as they enter adulthood.

To become a monthly donor, scan the QR code or set up your recurring donation at www.layc-dc.org/heroes

To learn more, contact the Development team at giving@layc-dc.org.
**COVID-19 Efforts**

**Internal Efforts**
- **121** staff screened on average per month
- **7** COVID-19 information sessions
  - COVID-19 vaccine town hall with 90 attendees
  - COVID-19 vaccine Q&A at 4 department meetings
- **19** COVID-19 vaccine staff ambassadors
  - Photos and experiences shared with staff
  - Encourage and remind staff to get vaccinated
- **24** COVID-19 vaccine messaging emails sent since the end of Feb 2021
  - DC, MD, & VA vaccine registration updates
  - COVID-19 facts
  - COVID-19 ambassador pictures & blurbs

**External Efforts**
- **601** clients screened over the phone
- **462** client screened in-person
- **54** COVID-19 calls to clients with symptoms
- **1,984** condom packages with COVID-19 information

**Latin American Youth Center**

**Support efforts to prevent COVID-19 infections among staff and clients**
- Connect staff and clients to COVID-19 information and resources for testing, treatment and vaccination

**Increase awareness about COVID-19 prevention and vaccination**

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**THIS IS OUR SHOT TO LEAVE COVID BEHIND.**
Thank you LAYC for helping keep our community, youth and families strong.

Montgomery College congratulates the Latin American Youth Center for more than 50 years of service to young people in the Washington metropolitan area.
During the pandemic, LAYC responded with urgency, creativity and love. Thank you Lupi and the LAYC team for making sure, everyday, that OUR YOUTH MATTER.

-Lori Kaplan, Gala Host Committee
Thank you for making today the day that makes a world of difference.

Latin American Youth Center is proof that today can make a world of difference when committing to change. We’re proud to be a part of what you do.

Contact Kathryn Clay
Community Consultant
301-497-4053
kathryn.clay@pnc.com
pnc.com/communitydevelopmentbanking

Morgan Stanley is proud to support
Latin American Youth Center

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Chapman proudly supports the Latin American Youth Center because we believe in coming together for hope. We applaud LAYC for their critical community support during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Chapman and Cutler LLP
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Whether we’re providing essential resources or volunteering our time, supporting the communities we serve is a vital part of our everyday work. We are proud to support the Latin American Youth Center and join them in honoring those who energize our local students and make a difference in our communities.

HONORING THOSE WHO ENERGIZE US

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A CHILD’S LIFE?

Consider Becoming a Foster Parent with Latin American Youth Center

SOME BASIC REQUIREMENTS

• MUST BE A RESIDENT OF DC OR MD
• HAVE AN EXTRA BEDROOM FOR THE YOUTH
• FLEXIBLE EXPECTATIONS AND ABILITY TO WORK TOWARDS GAINING THE CHILD’S TRUST
• WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH OUR TEAM TO REUNITE OUR FAMILIES

For more information please contact elisabethm@layc-dc.org or 202.607.7622
So many years of great work in our communities that impacts so many youth.

Thank You!

-Marquez Family

Transitional Living Program
Host Homes

Become a Host Home Family

Requirements:
- Must be 21+
- Have an extra bedroom for the youth
  - TLP - 18 months
  - HH - 3 weeks
- Complete full background check
  - CFSA/CPR
  - Police & FBI

For more information, please contact tlp@layc-dc.org or 202.300.9202
Finding a purposeful way to assist one another, turning belief into action, and working toward shared goals — these are the driving forces that lift up humanity and make a difference, one person at a time.

Wells Fargo is a proud sponsor of the LAYC - Together for Hope, Our Youth Matter.
Artistic expression empowers us all to create a more just and joyful world.

Producing and curating transformative artistic collaborations through our digital stage and state-of-the-art venue in Brooklyn, NY.

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Photo by Jill Steinberg

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Harnessing Young Talent in Greater Washington

JPMorgan Chase helps young Black and Latino men access economic opportunity

JPMorgan Chase recently marked the 10th anniversary of The Fellowship Initiative (TFI) with a renewed commitment to improving economic and social outcomes for Black and Latino men, as well as other young men of color, from low-income communities.

Fernando Snowden-Lorence from JPMorgan Chase talks about the program’s expansion to Washington, D.C.

What is The Fellowship Initiative (TFI)?

Many Black and Latino men face significant barriers to education and employment opportunity, resulting in limited economic mobility.

Over the past decade, TFI has matched more than 350 high school Fellows with JPMorgan Chase employees, who serve as mentors for three years preparing them for personal and professional success with a 100% admission rate to college.

Why are programs like these important?

More than half of TFI graduating Fellows are the first in their family to attend college. As one graduate said: “TFI taught me to stand up, speak out, be who you are, and fight for what you want.”

Another commented: “My mentor has impacted my experience in TFI immensely. She became more than my mentor, but someone who has been an asset in my life from the minute she entered it. Without her, this path of success I’m on would be like insanely different.”

Case in point, this program is changing lives.

About the Author

Fernando Snowden-Lorence leads the East region for the JPMorgan Chase Fellowship Initiative. A veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Fernando served in the U.S. Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve for nine and a half years, where he held the rank of Staff Sergeant.
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Thank you LAYC for all the great work you do!

-Adam & Ellen Spiegel

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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Samuel A. Ramirez & Company, Inc. is proud to support the Latin American Youth Center for its continued leadership in promoting youth development and community service.

Congratulations

Dr. Monica Goldson | Chief Executive Officer
Prince George’s County Public Schools

Recipient of the LAYC 2021 OUR YOUTH MATTER AWARD
A big thank you to LAYC Staff for your unwavering commitment and dedication to our youth and families during such a difficult time. Your work has continued to ensure the needs of our youth and families are met.

-Lupi Quinteros-Grady

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is proud to support
Latin American Youth Center
WHY WE LOVE LAYC
Meg & John Hauge

"Sometimes all you hear about is the hate but there is more love in this world than you could possibly imagine."
The Horse

"The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse" by Charlie Mackesy (my favorite read) explores many different emotions: courage, love, truth, fear & especially kindness.

LAYC exemplifies the best of these. It helps people of all ages with a wide range of challenges. LAYC provide SOLUTIONS in areas of education, healthcare, finances and acceptance.

That is why we love this organization & strongly encourage you to support it!

"Always remember you matter, you’re important and you are loved, and you bring to this world things no one else can."
The Horse

Proud to Support Latin American Youth Center

RBC Capital Markets is pleased to sponsor the 2021 LAYC Gala. We salute Latin American Youth Center’s mission to empower low-income youth through multicultural and innovative programs that address their social, academic and career needs.
LOST YOUR JOB?

The New COVID-19 Relief Law Helps People Who Were Laid Off

- Health insurance for as little as $2/month and no deductibles.
  Example of savings: a 57 year old person who paid $357/month now pays $3.76/month for the same coverage with no deductibles
- If you received unemployment benefits any time in 2021, you can qualify for lower premiums.
  Qualify even if you no longer get unemployment benefits.
- Lower premiums for new and existing DC Health Link customers

To find out if you qualify for lower premiums, go to DCHealthLink.com and click on “PLAN MATCH”

ACT NOW BECAUSE THIS IS ONLY FOR 2021!
Visit DCHealthLink.com

Working together for a Better Future

INVESTED IN 21st CENTURY SKILLS

Capital One® is proud to support the Latin American Youth Center.

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So where do I fit into this neighborhood? I’m half White, so I must be the oppressor. But I’m also half Honduran, so I must be the victim? Then again, I’m completely White-passing, I’m not at risk of eviction, so I can’t be that negatively affected. I feel guilty for patronizing these businesses and even working at one, but they pay incredibly well.

I may not be able to legitimately label it all as “gentrification,” but I know that with every brown family business that has moved out, there have only been upscale, majority-White establishments that have come in to replace them.

But who knows? Maybe I just resent change.

The LAYC has been supporting Mt. Pleasant youth for over 50 years. While change is inevitable the LAYC is a shining light in the DC Metropolitan region.

Oakpoint Charitable Foundation is proud to be the Youth Investor at Gala 2021.

OAKPOINT CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, Youth Investor Sponsor
GRF is pleased to support the *Latin America Youth Center’s 2021 Youth Matter Gala* providing opportunities and hope for the youth and families in our community.

GRF CPA is a full-service professional services firm providing clients with audit and assurance, accounting, tax and advisory solutions. Celebrating 40 years of service in 2021, the firm supports the financial and operational success of for-profit and tax-exempt organizations locally, nationally and around the world.

Mizuho is proud to support the *Latin American Youth Center 2021 Virtual Gala*

Congratulations to tonight’s honorees!
Collaboration

It’s the best way to make a difference.

When people work together, great things can happen to change lives and help communities to thrive.

So we’re proud to be sponsoring this year’s LAYC Virtual Gala.

Here’s to a great event.
Latin American Youth Center’s (LAYC) is a 53-year-old organization that has been an anchor to our brown and Black communities in Washington, D.C., and in Maryland’s Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties. Our mission is to empower a diverse population of youth to achieve a successful transition to adulthood through multicultural, comprehensive, and innovative programs that address youths’ social, academic, and career needs. LAYC’s work has been instrumental during this time where our families have faced incredible challenges due to COVID and has continued as we shifted to working virtually and remotely - serving 5,000 youth and families since March 2020.

Latin American Youth Center
1419 Columbia Road, NW • Washington, DC 20009
202.319.2225 • www.layc-dc.org • Contact: giving@layc-dc.org

Use #LAYCGala2021 to follow and share on social media!

LinkedIn: @laycdc

LAYC would like to thank the following for making our 2021 Gala a great success:

The Gary Rosenthal Collection
Blue Bear Protection
Simon Fairclough
Cristian Gajardo
Gala 2021 Host Committee
Gala 2021 Volunteers
Eventos Especiales
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Linn Shapiro
Karen Robinson-Ogbebor
Gabriella DiBuccio
Thea Wilson