

Legal Name
Latino Theater Company
Project Title
To support the launch of a National Latina/o Theater Encuentro ("Encounter") as part of the Latino Theater Commons
Project Progress and Successes
<p>The Latino Theater Company (LTC) is on track to produce the historic 2014 LATC Encuentro: A National Latina/o Theatre Festival (the Encuentro) from October 12 - November 10, 2014 at the Los Angeles Theatre Center. Over the past nine months of the grant period, LTC and our partners the Latina/o Theatre Commons and HowlRound have selected the artists who will participate in the Encuentro, established a Tertulia Committee, and incorporated a new works incubation component into the festival. The Festival participants were chosen through an open application process by a selection committee made up of Latina/o Theatre Commons Steering Committee members.</p> <p>DRAMATIC WORKS</p> <p>The centerpiece of the Encuentro will be the production of 14 aesthetically significant, canon-quality dramatic works -- each produced by a different regional Latino theater company or artist -- that will mirror the complexity of the U.S. Latino experience. The selected visiting theater companies will perform in repertory over either two or four weeks, with each production playing up to twelve times during the span of the Encuentro. LTC has also invited several local companies to perform in two-week runs, which maximizes the diversity of Encuentro programming without increasing the cost of the festival. On May 1st, the Encuentro Steering Committee announced that the following theater companies and solo artists have been selected to participate in the Encuentro:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - About Productions -- "Properties of Silence" by Theresa Chavez, Alan Pulner & Rose Portillo. Directed by Theresa Chavez. (Los Angeles, CA) - Aurora Theater -- "Mariela en el desierto" (Mariela in the desert) by Karen Zacarias. Directed by Tlaloc Rivas. (Atlanta, GA) - Borderlands Theater -- "Maria's Circular Dance" by Medrano Treviño. Directed by Eva Zorrilla Tessler. (Tucson, AZ) - Caborca Theater -- "Zoetrope Part I" Written and Directed by Javier Gonzalez (New York, NY) - INTAR Theatre / Unit 52-- "Patience, Fortitude and Other Antidepressants" by Mariana Carreño King. Directed by Daniel Jáquez. (New York, NY) - The Latino Theater Company -- "Premeditation" by Evelina Fernández. Directed by José Luis Valenzuela (Los Angeles, CA) - CalArts Center for New Performance/Duende CalArts -- "Daughter of a Cuban Revolutionary" Written by Marissa Chibas. Directed by Mira Kinglsey (Los Angeles, CA) - Pregones Theater -- "Dancing in My Cockroach Killers" by Magdalena Gomez. Directed by Rosalba Rolon (The Bronx, NY) - Rickerby Hinds -- "Dreamscape" Written and Directed by Rickerby Hinds (Riverside, CA) - Su Teatro -- "Enrique's Journey," based on the Pulitzer Prize winning work by Sonia Nazario, adapted and directed by Anthony J. Garcia, music composed and directed by Daniel Valdez. (Denver, CO) - Tantai Teatro -- "Agua a cucharadas" (Water by the Spoonful) the Pulitzer Prize winning play by Quiara Alegria Hudes. Directed by Ismanuel Rodriguez (San Juan, Puerto Rico) - El Teatro Campesino -- "La Esquinita U.S.A." by Ruben Gonzalez. Directed by Kinan Valdez. (San Juan Bautista, CA)

- Teatro Luna -- "Your Problem With Men" by Emilio Williams. Directed by Alexandra Meda. (Chicago, IL)
- Theater Mitu -- "Juarez: A Documentary Mythology" Written and Directed by Ruben Polendo (New York/Abu Dhabi)

The Encuentro will also feature staged readings and presentations by:

- Cornerstone Theater Company -- reading of "Alisal" written and directed by Juliette Carrillo (Los Angeles, CA)
- South Coast Repertory -- reading of "The Long Road Today/ El Camino Largo de Hoy" by José Cruz González as part of South Coast Repertory's Dialogue/Dialogos Project: A two-year bilingual theatre project to gather and tell the stories with and by the Santa Ana Latino/a community (Santa Ana, CA)

THEATER ARTS DISCOURSE

During the grant period, LTC and the Latina/o Theatre Commons established the Encuentro Tertulia Committee, which is comprised of:

- Alex Meda - Artistic Director, Teatro Luna
- Anne Garcia-Romero -- Playwright/ Assistant Professor of Theater University of Notre Dame
- Anthony Rodriguez - Artistic Director, Aurora Theater
- Armando Huipe - Administrative Coordinator, REDCAT (Los Angeles)
- Chantal Rodriguez Ph.D. - Programming Director, Los Angeles Theatre Center
- Daniel Jáquez -- Director INTAR Theatre New Works Lab
- David Lozano - Executive Artistic Director, Cara Mia Theatre Co.
- Jorge Huerta, Chancellor's Associates Professor of Theatre Emeritus University of California, San Diego
- Jose Luis Valenzuela, Artistic Director Latino Theater Company/LATC. Head of MFA Directing at UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television
- Laurie Woolery - Playwright, Director, Actor, Teacher
- Marissa Chibas - Head of Duende CalArts. CalArts Theater School Faculty, Theater and Fimmaker
- Olga Sanchez - Artistic Director, Milagro Theater
- Regina Garcia -- Assistant Professor of Scenic Design, University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana
- Richard Perez - Managing Director, Hope Summer Repertory Theater/ Professor, Hope College
- Rose Cano -- Co-Founder, eSe Teatro
- Tony Garcia - Executive Artistic Director, Su Teatro

The Encuentro Tertulia Committee is tasked with planning and executing the tertulia (social gathering) component of the Encuentro, ensuring that the Encuentro serves as an intellectual theater-arts clearinghouse. The Committee is organizing post-performance discussions, roundtable conversations, symposia, distinguished speakers, and workshops exploring aesthetics and issues related to the mutli-faceted experience of Latinos in the U.S.

CROSS COMPANY COLLABORATIONS

LTC and the Latina/o Theatre Commons have also incorporated a new-works incubation component to the Encuentro. In addition to presenting the productions listed above, the Encuentro participating artists will develop new works in cross-company collaborations. Designers, directors, actors, and producers will share their artistic methodologies, representative expertise, and regional perspectives in a workshop setting, which will culminate in public performances of co-created, devised new works.

Challenges / Obstacles / Failures Encountered in the Project
<p>LTC's challenges with planning for the Encuentro have centered upon the logistics of producing an event of this magnitude. LTC has addressed these challenges primarily by drawing upon the support and expertise of our partners the Latina/o Theatre Commons (a coalition of theater makers from across the U.S.). At the Fall 2013 Latina/o Theatre Commons National Convening held in Boston, LTC had the opportunity to gather partners to ask such questions as, "How could we facilitate the creation of new works?", and "What have been your most successful large-scale fundraising strategies?". In response, since the Convening, we have established both the Encuentro Selection Committee and the Encuentro Tertulia Committee.</p> <p>Furthermore, with a project of this scale, fundraising is always a challenge. We have addressed that challenge by calling on our Board members to pave the way for new funding opportunities, and by increasing our marketing campaign plan and budget in order to draw increased audiences that will result in increased ticket sales.</p>
What was learned from these that might be of benefit to others?
Links to relevant website(s) and/or project publications, reports, etc.
If someone wishes to speak with your organization further about your project, would there be a willing contact? Y/N
If yes, please provide contact name and information for preferred method of contact (email, phone, etc).
Yes. To contact LTC about the Encuentro, please call Lupine Reppert, Director of Development, at (213) 489-0994.