

In Recognition and Celebration of

National Hispanic Heritage Month

SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 15

Historical Facts

- Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the cultures and traditions of those who can trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking countries of Central America, South America and the Caribbean. The annual celebration is observed from September 15 to October 15.
- It first began as a commemorative week when it was first introduced by California congressman George E. Brown in June of 1968.
- Brown's hope was to recognize the role played by the Hispanic/Latinx communities throughout American history.
- Lyndon B. Johnson would be the first president to issue the presidential proclamation for Hispanic Heritage week in 1968.
- President Ronald Reagan would sign a bill into law that would expand the observance to cover a 31-day period in 1988.
- President George H.W. Bush would become the first president to declare the 31-day period as **National Hispanic Heritage Month** in 1989.

Important Dates

September 15: 5 Latin American countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) celebrate their independence from Spain on September 15, 1821.

September 16: Mexico celebrates its independence from Spain on September 16, 1810.

September 18: Chile celebrates its independence from Spain on September 18, 1810.

September 21: Belize celebrates its independence from Great Britain on September 21, 1981.

Historical Contributions

St. Augustine, FL

1565

The Spanish founded St. Augustine in Florida, several decades before the English settled in Jamestown.

Mendez v. Westminster School District

April 14, 1947

Family of Sylvia Mendez sues 4 school districts for denying of entrance in Westminster elementary school district.

The American GI Forum

March 26, 1948

Dr. Hector Garcia, a witness to racial injustice, begins holding meetings for Mexican Americans to voice their concerns.

Hernandez v. The State of Texas

1954

Supreme Court recognizes that Latinxs are suffering inequality/profound discrimination. Paved the way for Hispanics to use legal means to fight for their equality.

STS-56 Discovery

April 17, 1993

Ellen Ochoa becomes the 1st Hispanic American woman to go to space aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery. She would spend her life advocating for women in STEM.

U.S. Census Bureau

January 22, 2003

Hispanic/Latinx Americans becomes the largest minority group in the U.S.

Trailblazers: Leading the way



Justice Sonia Sotomayor
spent years fighting for legal
defense and educational
funding



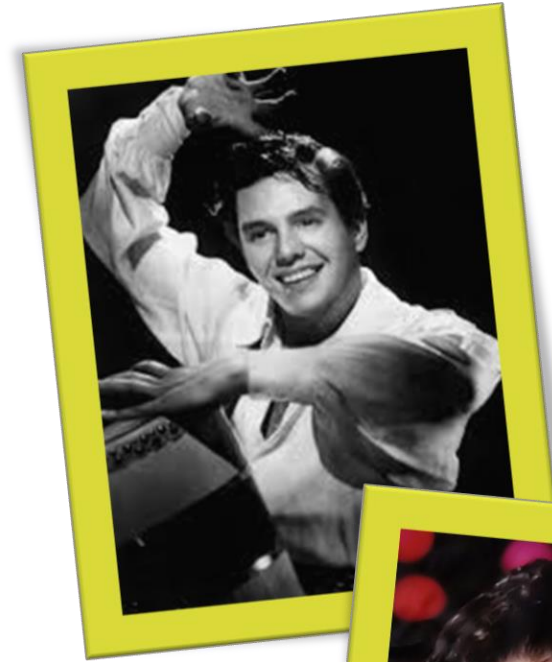
Cesar Chavez
Latino American civil
rights activist



Dolores Huerta
worked to improve social and
economic conditions for
farmworkers

Notable Recognition

- **Gabriela Mistral**, first Latinx to win a Nobel Peace Prize in Literature
- The art of **Frida Kahlo**
- The art of **Pablo Picasso**
- The music of Cuban-American artist **Gloria Estefan**
- The music of Grammy winner **Celia Cruz**
- Dominican American writer **Julian Alvarez**
- Singer, songwriter, and actress **Jennifer Lopez**
- **Rita Moreno**, first-ever female Latinx Academy Award winner for *West Side Story*
- Broadway musical writer **Lin-Manuel Miranda** (best known for *Hamilton*)
- Chef **Aarón Sánchez**, Food Network host and restaurateur
- Mexican-American guitarist and Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee **Carlos Santana**
- **George Lopez**, Comedian and first Latinx to host a late-night talk show



Desi Arnaz



Selena Quintanilla-Pérez

From MACAA Staff: *What does Hispanic Heritage Month mean to you?*

"This month we **celebrate the contributions, achievements and influence of the community** in the United States."

– *Teodora G., Administrative Assistant*

"For me, one of the things when it comes to be Hispanic is the language. To be Hispanic means **to be brought together through a language and through celebration**. Being Hispanic is about the tradition, values and heritage. The food, the music, the faith and sport are all part of it."

– *Linda A., Head Start Teacher*

From MACAA Staff: *What does Hispanic Heritage Month mean to you?*

"Hispanic heritage month, to me, means **to celebrate the culture and life of the Hispanic community.**"

– *Elizabeth H., Family Support Coordinator*

"To me, it means an awareness and appreciation of the Hispanic culture. A better understanding of our background and history to have a better respect for it and the Hispanic community. Showing **the importance of diversity, and how despite the differences, we can all still come together** and enjoy so many beautiful things that all cultures can offer."

– *Brianna S., Head Start Teacher*

How to Celebrate

There are many ways you can celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Here are a few examples:

- Discover works by Hispanic/Latinx artists
- Read books by Hispanic/Latinx authors
- Listen to Hispanic/Latinx music
- Prepare a traditional Hispanic/Latinx dish
- Study Hispanic/Latinx-American history
- Use the hashtags **#MiVoz** or **#MyVoice** and **#HispanicHeritageMonth** to participate in a social media campaign created by the Hispanic Heritage Foundation. These tags are being used in interactions and to share digital events that will take place during the month.

Thank you

Here at MACAA, we are proud to work with and serve members of our Hispanic/Latinx communities. We recognize the importance of this holiday and will continue to work with others to learn more about the Hispanic/Latinx population and how to strengthen our relationships and partnerships.

Please visit our [Facebook](#) page throughout the remainder of Hispanic Heritage Month for ideas shared on how to celebrate and honor both past and present Hispanic/Latinx Americans.



Compiled for educational purposes by Keshia Washington, Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, with support from MACAA staff.