Loisaida Inc. presents

¡PRESENTE!
The Young Lords in New York
EXHIBITION OVERVIEW

¡PRESENTE! The Young Lords in New York in 2015 was co-organized by El Museo del Barrio (July 22 – October 17), Bronx Museum of the Arts (July 2 – October 17) and Loisaida, Inc. (July 30 – October 10). The multi-venue exhibition was accompanied by an ambitious range of programs and events to build awareness of the Young Lords’ innovative contributions to the struggle for civil rights and influence on contemporary artists, and to spark conversations about grassroots community activism today.

Loisaida Inc.’s exhibit focused specifically on the Young Lords Party’s founding and impact in the Lower East Side, displaying rarely seen photographs, posters, audio and video of public performances and events organized by neighborhood institutions. The exhibit traces the history of the Young Lords from the founding of the New York Chapter at Tompkins Square Park on Saturday, July 26, 1969. It features lesser-known perspectives of the Young Lords legacy within the Lower East Side, and their impact upon New York’s cultural scenes. It features many unpublished photographs by Máximo Colón, Hiram Maristany, and Carlos Ortiz, designs by multidisciplinary artist, Nestor Otero and poster art by Sandra Maria Esteves, Manny Vega, and Nestor Otero, along with rare live video and audio recordings of leading salsa and Latin jazz musicians. Contemporary mixed media artist, Adrian “Viajero” Roman, will present a specially commissioned art installation.

“The overall collection of materials depict the critical role that the Young Lords’ members played in the environment that lead to Loisaida becoming a safe refuge for a community struggling for respect, belonging, political power, and public legitimacy,” shared Libertad Guerra, one of the exhibits curator.

Archival Support for Loisaida Inc.’s ¡Presente! The Young Lords in New York was provided by the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College.

“20 MOST MEMORABLE NEW YORK MUSEUM SHOWS OF 2015”
Ben Davis from ArtNews, 2015

“A TRULY INSPIRING LOOK INTO THE UNKNOWN HISTORY OF NYC AND PUERTO RICANS LIVING ON THE MAINLAND... THIS EXHIBITION CONTINUES TO ILLUMINATE THE EFFORTS AND RESISTANCE OF THE YOUNG LORDS PARTY”
Exhibition visitor, August 9th, 2015

“ONE OF THE 10 BEST ART EXHIBITIONS OF 2015 BY: THE NEW YORK TIMES”
Holland Cutter, Art Critic, 2015
HIGHLIGHTS

The closing date of Presente! The Young Lords in NY exhibit was extended due to critical and popular acclaim. The exhibition achieved more than 30 articles/media mentions in print and video combined. It was listed as part of the TOP 10 shows of 2015 by the New York Times and part of the TOP 20 Most Memorable Exhibits of 2015 by Art Net. In the last quarter (Sept – Dec) we hosted more than 800 exhibition related visitors (including Congresswoman Nydia Velzaquez, journalist/writer/historian Juan Gonzalez; international visual artists Allora & Calzadilla; President and General Counsel of Latino Justice PRLDEF Juan Cartagena, and legal leader of Zurich Insurance Group Lisa Baltazar); conducted more than 25 guided tours to youth, higher education and community organizations; developed a series of positively evaluated public programming; and raised more than $7000 strictly from small donations.

ABOUT LOISAIDA, INC.

Loisaida, Inc. is a Latino-based non-profit community development organization affiliated to Acacia Network. Located in the Lower East Side, it boasts over 30 years of award-winning innovative programs in education, arts, culture and community development focused on highlighting the contributions of Latinos to the vibrant cultural fabric of downtown Manhattan. One of the events Loisaida, Inc. is best known for is the Loisaida Festival, a Festival that has long celebrated Latino culture in the Lower East Side while also highlighting the community’s rich diversity.

ABOUT EXHIBIT CURATORS

LIBERTAD GUERRA: Libertad O. Guerra is the Chief Curator of Loisaida Inc. and curator/event planner of the Loisaida Festival since 2014. She is an urban anthropologist, educator, social researcher/historian, independent curator and environmental activist. Her academic research and publications have focused on Puerto Rican, Latino and Latin American social-artistic movements and cultural activism in urban immigrant settings. Publications include Uncommon Commonalities: Aesthetic Politics of Place in the South Bronx in Journal of Aesthetics and Protest, (2011); and ‘Building the Aura: a social aesthetics of placement in-the-making.’ in New York / Berlin: Kulturen in der Stadt, (2008). Ms. Guerra has organized numerous local and international exhibitions, panels and conferences.

WILSON VALENTÍN-ESCOBAR: Wilson Valentín-Escobar, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of American Studies and Sociology at Hampshire College. A Brooklyn New York-native, Dr. Valentín-Escobar is currently completing his forthcoming book, Bodega Surrealism: The Emergence of Latin@ Artivists in New York City (New York University Press). The book examines the cultural activism, or “artivism,” of two community-based art communities and projects that originated in the 1970s within the Lower East Side neighborhood of New York City: the New Rican Village Cultural Arts Center and El Puerto Rican Embassy. His scholarship, which he regularly presents at national and international conferences, has been published in various academic journals and anthologies.
MEDIA MENTIONS (Click link to go to article)

NY Times:

ArtNet:

NY Times:

NY Times, Art & Design:

NY Times:

Bedford & Bowery:
history/

Africa is a Country:
political-movement/

Centro Voices:
http://centropr.hunter.cuny.edu/centrovoices/reviews/my-discovery-young-lords-through-three-nyc-exhibitions

Hyperallergic:
http://hyperallergic.com/233940/artrx-nyc-fall-guide/

Aljazeera:
http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/7/22/young-lords-exhibit-timely-salute-to-pr-activism.html

Wall Street Journal:

New England Public Radio:
http://nepr.net/music/2015/09/28/wilson-valentin-escobar/

Vibe:
http://www.vibe.com/2015/09/celebrate-hispanic-heritage-month-2015/ninos-de-banderas-6-72x83230-2/

PBS:
http://www.pbs.org/newshour/art/puerto-rican-radical-group-young-lords-retake-new-york-city-multi-museum-
exhibit/

Uptown Collective:
Loisaida Inc offers an array of educational programs and hands-on workshops targeted to various audiences—high school students, teaching artists & history educators, and the general public. This program can take place on-site or be commissioned by schools and community sites throughout the City, as part of Loisaida Inc Center’s mission to restore historical awareness of Latino contributions to NYC and its continuing efforts to extend its resources beyond its walls.

**SAMPLE**

**Arts in Education Workshop**

**“ARTS PATH TO LEADERSHIP”**

Teaching Artist (TA) will use Object Based learning with Loisaida, Inc's 2015 acclaimed !Presente! Exhibit. While adhering The New York States Department of Education Standards TA will also lead students to gain access into the contribution of the Puerto Rican community’s cultural, political history while engaging them in a hands-on art workshop. This exposure can lead students to make global community connections. One that is imperative to the development of young students as they form their character and identity.

**Pedagogy of Object Based Learning**

**Benefits:**
- They provide a direct link with a topic or ‘the past’ and can really enhance young people’s interest in and understanding of a topic/subject.
- They encourage learners to use all their senses – especially touch, sight and smell.
- They help to develop the important skill of drawing conclusions based on an examination of evidence, together with an understanding of the limitations and reliability of evidence.
- They are ideal for generating group and class discussion.
- They promote the value of museums and encourage young people to visit museums and galleries with their families to further their learning.

**About the Artist**

Visual artist Maria Dominguez is a life long resident of New York City and is of Puerto Rican decent. Her diverse and varied creations are influenced by personal, environment and community experiences. Dominguez graduated from the School of Visual Arts in 1985 with a Bachelors in Art degree and went on to establish her career as a muralist by achieving an internship with CITYarts Org., a public art organization. This 30 year trajectory in public art making lead to her commission by The Metropolitan Transportation Authority in NYC with a permanent glass installation “El –Views” in 2002. The work is displayed at the Chauncey Street station along the M line in Brooklyn, NY.

http://www.mariadominguez.com/bio.html
If you are interested in hosting the ¡Presente! exhibition or an aspect of it at your institution please contact us for more information.

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#Loisaidalnc