

**Pasado y Presente: Art after the Young Lords, an exhibition commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Young Lords in New York and the continued power of Latinx Art and Activism**



Sophia Dawson, *Palante*, 2015. Acrylic and collage on canvas. 66 x 90 inches.  
Image courtesy of the artist.

The [Nathan Cummings Foundation](#) (NCF) in partnership with the [Loisaida Center](#), is pleased to announce the opening of *Pasado y Presente: Art After the Young Lords*, an exhibition commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Young Lords Organization in New York. The show will be on view at the Nathan Cummings Foundation offices from May 3 through October 25, 2019.

Active between 1969 and 1975, The Young Lords described themselves as a revolutionary party fighting for the liberation of all oppressed people. Their spectacular demonstrations, artful self-presentation, and masterful deployment of DIY media via their newspaper, *Pa'lante*, brought international attention to demands voiced in black and brown communities across the United States for cultural equity, equal rights for women and the LGBTQ population; communal control of housing, healthcare, education, sanitation; and independence for Puerto Rico.

Spanning different generations, nationalities, and ethnicities, the artists displayed in Pasado y Presente represent a creative community that is connected to the Young Lords by their passion for art in the service of social justice and vanguard aesthetics.

Curated by Yasmin Ramirez, the exhibition displayed at NCF illuminates the influence that the Lords have had on activists and artists far beyond their six years as a formal organization.

“The Lords created an imaginative vision of the future, while tending to the practical needs of the present,” said Leticia Peguero, VP of Programs at NCF. “They were ahead of their time: multiracial and intersectional. And this is the perfect exhibit for the foundation to host because we’re interested in how the inequalities we’re fighting against are so intertwined-- and in fostering visionary ways to move our communities forward.”

Featured work includes documentary photographs of Young Lords activism by Máximo Colón and Luis Carle and vintage posters from Taller Boricua, an East Harlem print collective that was allied with the Young Lords. Additional artists on display at NCF and Loisaida Inc. include: AgitArte, Pepe Coronado, Sophia Dawson, Marcos Dimas, Hatuey Ramos Fermín, Miguel Luciano, Carlos Jesús Martínez Domínguez, Shellyne Rodríguez, Adrián Viajero Román, Juan Sánchez, Nitza Tufiño, Rafael Tufiño, Anthony Rosado, Valor y Cambio, Pelén Obesa, Karen Revis, Scherezade García and Alex Fernández.

Parallel to the exhibition, Pasado y Presente will have a presence at the Loisaida Center during the show by AgitArte, Coronado Print Studio, Scherezade García, and Valor y Cambio that explores migration, movement, intra-diasporic Caribbean identity in NYC, alternative economies, story-telling, and decolonial narratives. On Sunday, May 26, several artists participating in Pasado y Presente will take part in interactive urban interventions during the 32nd Annual Loisaida Festival. Additionally, NCF and Loisaida will host a series of public programs investigating topics such as the history and influence of the Young Lords in New York, feminist and LGBTQ activism in Latinx communities, cultural production and organizing in Puerto Rico post-Maria, the intersection of environmental justice with anti-displacement efforts in NYC’s poor and working-class neighborhoods.

Loisaida itself stems from the Young Lords’ creative drive, which sought to empower Puerto Ricans, along with other marginalized communities, through the strategic deployment of public cultural and aesthetic actions, to re-imagine diasporic social ties and power dynamics by positing alternative visions of unapologetic and ever more inclusive ideas of cultural citizenship.

“I am proud to be involved in an exhibit that memorializes a group that still anchors our visions of justice, and shapes our horizons of liberty,” Libertad O. Guerra, Chief Curator of Loisaida, said. “We all owe ourselves revisiting the Young Lords legacy, for their acute and momentous concerns regarding health and spatial equity, state sanctioned / un-sanctioned segregation, and collective and personal self-determination, is as significant today as 50 years ago.”

To set up an appointment to visit the exhibition, please contact [exhibits@nathancummings.org](mailto:exhibits@nathancummings.org). For more information on Loisaida, NCF, and schedule updates on public programs visit

<http://loisaida.org> and <https://nathancummings.org>. For press questions, contact [Candice.Wynter@nathancummings.org](mailto:Candice.Wynter@nathancummings.org).

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**About The Nathan Cummings Foundation** is a multigenerational family foundation, rooted in the Jewish tradition of social justice, working to create a more just, vibrant, sustainable, and democratic society. We partner with social movements, organizations, and individuals who have creative and catalytic solutions to climate change and inequality.

**About Loisaida, Inc.** stands firm on its original mission– Address the serious economic and social disenfranchisement of poor and low income Latino residents, with employment and training opportunities, comprehensive youth development initiatives, as well as neighborhood revitalization activities that positively highlight the rich culture, heritage, and contribution of the Puerto Rican and Latin American community in this City– while offering programming that meets the demands of the times and the neighborhood’s changing demographic. In its new home in 710 East 9th Street, Loisaida builds a connection between community, learners, artists and scholars through affordable education opportunities in cultural fields, S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) design and everyday life. Our approach celebrates the urban surroundings, grassroots invention and immigrant spirit of the Loisaida neighborhood in its dedication to celebrate Latino cultural vitality and their contributions to NYC.