



HUNTER:

DIVERSITY IN ACTION NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER

HIGHLIGHTING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

CELEBRATION OF CULTURE

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated annually from September 15 to October 15 to honor the lives of Americans with roots in Spain, Mexico, the Spanish-speaking Caribbean and Central and South America. That September 15 start date is important, as it marks the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua). Meanwhile, Mexico and Chile celebrate their own independence days on September 16 and September 18.

The annual event — which began as Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968 before being expanded to a month-long celebration in 1988 — is the perfect time to celebrate the many contributions of Hispanic people in the arts, science, politics, social activism and more. It's also an ideal occasion to pay homage to cultural icons like activist César Chávez, Supreme Court justice Sonia Sotomayor, actress and dancer Rita Moreno, and songwriter and actor Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Of course, Hispanic Heritage Month is so more than a celebration. It's an opportunity to openly reflect on the many ongoing challenges that Hispanic Americans face — issues like immigration, economic inequality and racial discrimination. As we commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month, let's take some time to acknowledge the many diverse cultural contributions that Hispanic and Latino communities have brought to our society.

VOICES OF HISPANIC HERITAGE

When we asked ... What does Hispanic Heritage Month mean to you?



Fernanda Altamirano said ““The way I view Hispanic Heritage Month - or Latiné heritage month - is only professionally. I think it’s a great tool for brands, government entities, nonprofits, etc. to fund, celebrate and highlight contributions this community has to the US and the world, and it’s a great chance to learn about the vast network (the people themselves) and the amazing things they do. Also, an important time to learn/understand the political complexities of life in the US being Hispanic/Latiné and the internal biases within the community. Personally, I am Hispanic every day so I do not have a personal connection to it besides what I do in my involvement/work!”

When we asked ... Can you describe a memorable way you have celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month in the past, either at work or in your personal life?



Giselle Flores said “For the last three years I’ve been involved with the Queens Hispanic Parade, where my dad is the organizer. From volunteering and MC-ing the parade to filming content, I have the privilege to watch so many cultures coming together and celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. Outside of celebrating my own heritage with all the AMAZING food from both Mexico & Ecuador, I love attending the parade to see the beautiful folkloric dances and traditions.

When we asked ... Are there any resources related to Hispanic heritage that you would recommend to those looking to learn more?

Chris Mendez said “I love gay Mexican poet Eduardo C. Corral, and his book guillotine is one my favorite books that I return to often.”

