

BALTIMORE SCHOOL  
*for the* **ARTS**

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### **Baltimore School for the Arts Celebrates Latinx Culture Through Art Festival**

**BALTIMORE, MARYLAND** – The Baltimore School for the Arts (BSA) will present an interdisciplinary art festival, **Carnaval de la Cultura Hispana**, from March **26-30, 2019**. The festival draws from the school’s yearlong artistic and academic exploration into the arts and accomplishments of Latinx culture.

“We believe the ability to learn from and understand other cultures is a critical skill for success in the 21st century,” said Chris Ford, BSA director. “We undertook a yearlong study of Latinx culture to help our students become more empathetic members of our school, city, and international community. Through this free festival, we invite the Baltimore community to celebrate Latinx music, dance, theatre, and art with us.”

Highlights include:

On Tuesday, **March 26**, at 4:45 pm in the Schaefer Ballroom, BSA’s **wind symphony** will present music from Cuba, Argentina, and Mexico.

On Thursday, **March 28**, at 4:30 pm in the Segal Gallery, the **Visual Arts Spring Exhibition** will display works our students have created under the tutelage of Nadia Rea Morales and [Luis Flores](#). Morales’s work draws from her Mexican traditions and Catholic backgrounds. Flores’s art is influenced by Afro-Caribbean percussion, jewelry, and architectural ruins.

On Thursday, **March 28**, at 5:30 pm in the Schaefer Ballroom, the Senior Acting Ensemble will present **Lorca’s Light**. This **movement-based play** includes include poetry, scenes, and songs, drawing from the work of the famous playwright [Federico Garcia Lorca](#). The piece was created specifically for BSA students by [Luz Nicolas](#), a Spanish actress currently working in the Baltimore-Washington DMV.

On Friday, **March 29**, at 1 pm, the BSA student body will screen ***jLas Sandinistas!***, a documentary about the women who fought in Nicaragua's Sandinista Revolution and their continuing struggle for justice. We'll be joined by Chicago-based filmmaker [Jenny Murray](#), who directed the film.

On Friday, **March 29**, at 7 pm, and **Saturday, March 30**, at 2 pm, there will be a **dance and music performance celebrating Latinx culture!** Jazz pianist [Cesar Orozco](#) has created an exciting set of music for strings and big band using rhythms and forms from Cuba and Venezuela. Award-winning dance artist [Stephanie Martinez](#)'s piece *Destino Roto (Broken Destiny)* will focus on women's strengths as she draws from her Mexican and Spanish heritage. Free tickets can be reserved at [www.bsfa.org/latinx](http://www.bsfa.org/latinx).

On Saturday, **March 30**, from 10 am to 2 pm, BSA will host its first **Latinx Market** of food and art! Vendors offering photography, jewelry, paintings, prints, and a wide variety of cuisines from Latin America will be present, including: La Calle, Cocina Luchadoras, Te Conte Bolivian Empanadas, Colombian Arepas, Mama Satay, Beast Grrl Zine, Jess de Santis, Press Press, Womyn's Circle, Ritmo Studio, Karla Casique, Piqué Collective, Tala Charms, Danitza Leon, Kingston Waller, Artesanas Mexicanas, and original works from students at the Baltimore School for the Arts.

To help its students gain a global perspective and better understand the thriving local Hispanic community, BSA has been focusing on the arts, culture, and achievements of Latinx countries for the past year. BSA students spent last summer reading some of the most celebrated works from Latinx authors, and this year have been learning about scientists of Latinx origin, creating podcasts about Cuba's colonial period, and studying the poems of Pablo Neruda, to name just a few examples.

A group of 18 BSA students also recently returned from an educational trip to Puerto Rico. The students studied mosaics; salsa, merengue, danza, plena, bomba, and cha-cha; and Afro percussion drumming while at the island. They also visited the El Yunque Rainforest, the only tropical rainforest in the U.S. National Forest System; San Juan's Santurce Neighborhood, home to street and graffiti art that addresses local social issues; a local Puerto Rican public school; and the Bioluminescent Bay along the Southern coastline. They also partnered with a local nonprofit on a service project, planting a vegetable garden and creating a mural in an underserved community.

All of the festival events are free and open to the public, except for the student film screening of *jLas Sandinistas!* All events will be held at the Baltimore School for the Arts, Mark K. Joseph Building, 712 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD.

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*The Baltimore School for the Arts is a nationally recognized public arts high school that provides its students with intensive pre-professional training in the arts in conjunction with a rigorous academic curriculum. BSA graduates go on to the*

*most selective arts and university programs nationwide and achieve prominence in theater, film, music, dance, and the visual arts. Additionally, the BSA's highly acclaimed TWIGS program offers free after-school arts instruction to 700 city elementary and middle school children from schools across Baltimore, as well as other outreach initiatives to thousands more. Founded in 1979, the school is an integral and vibrant part of Baltimore's educational and cultural communities.*

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