

STAYING CONNECTED NEWSLETTER

Leno Rose-Avila to Lead Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

Magdaleno Rose-Avila, an activist and organizer with four decades of experience in immigrant and human rights, has been selected by Mayor Mike McGinn to lead the new Seattle Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.

"Magdaleno Rose-Avila brings extensive experience working with diverse immigrant and refugee communities and communities of color to this position," said McGinn. "His experience from working for many years on human rights will be an asset as we launch this office to help make life better for this vital part of our community."

Rose-Avila began serving as interim director on June 1, pending confirmation by the Seattle City Council. The Council is scheduled to vote as early as Aug. 15.

Leno, as he prefers to be called, comes to the office with good intentions – and realistic expectations about what a two-person office with a limited budget can accomplish.

"I want to make Seattle, in all aspects, the friendliest city for immigrants and refugees," Leno said.

If confirmed, his first goal is to network with other city departments, to find out what services they offer to immigrant and refugee populations. He then plans to improve communications with these populations, so that they are better informed about the



Leno Rose-Avila rallies the crowd at an immigration rights demonstration.
Photo by Jack Storms/stormsphoto.com

services and opportunities available to them. Leno plans to invest in Web communications and in social media.

Most important, Leno hopes the new office will have the ear of the Council and Mayor, so that it can better advocate for opportunities for immigrants and refugees in future investments in the community.

Leno brings to the position a lifetime of experiences in promoting immigrant rights, much of it during times when these were not popular. His advocacy career started in 1974 with the California group CASA. Since that time, he has worked with the United Farmworkers of America, Amnesty International, Homies Unidos and the Peace Corps, among some groups.

Leno first came to Seattle in 2003 to take command of the then-struggling Northwest Immigrants

Rights Project. The organization had a budget of \$1 million and operated at a deficit. By the time he left it in 2007, the organization's operated in the black, with a budget of \$2.5 million. Leno coined the group's new motto: "Immigrant Rights are Human Rights," a direct and compelling message that helped propel the NWRIP to its current position.

"In communications, you have to start with a clear idea to get your campaign on message," Leno said. "This is what I want to accomplish with the city right now."

The Seattle Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs was established by the Seattle City Council in February, 2012. The goal was to create a central place for information and coordination of services for immigrant and refugee communities.

"The Office will make city government more accessible and responsive to Seattle's immigrant and refugee communities, which now represent 17 percent of the City's population," said Councilmember Mike O'Brien. "I look forward to working with the new office to better include these communities, our newest residents, in our civic process and life."

Cinco de Mayo Celebration Lunch a Big Hit



The food was delicious, the music beautiful, and the rooms full, as the LCE celebrated Cinco de Mayo with a Tamalada fundraiser at the Seattle Municipal Tower. We managed to fill two full conference rooms, raising approximately \$1,200. One manager even bought tickets to treat her entire staff to lunch!

Yesenia Navarrete Hunter and the Fandangueros del Northwest provided entertainment for the hungry crowd. Many thanks to HOLA and SPU for their support!



The purpose of the Latino City Employees organization is to promote cultural awareness and diversity.

Sharing the Joy of Fandango

Yesenia Navarrete Hunter, a Mexican-American writer, artist and musician, hosted a "Meet the Author" event on June 7 at the Seattle Municipal Tower to promote her children's book *The Girl and the Fandango*.

The event featured music by The Seattle Fandango Project, and performances by Yesenia's children.

The Girl and the Fandango is a delightful story of a little girl getting ready to dance at a fandango, who experiences the sounds and bustle of the celebration.

For more information, visit <http://kck.st/12pk0e>



Yesenia reads to children from her book.

La Barra Shows Latino Sounders Pride



La Barra Fuerza Verde board members are Carla Andrade, Alex Castellano Luna, Andrea Gamboa, Tony Macias, Angelica Germani, Pablo Mendoza, Iris Guzman, Luis Escamilla, Christy Gonzalez, Miguel Bocanegra, Randy Nunez, and Ramel Winslow-Fuentes.

The Seattle Sounders can now count on the power of the “pachanga” to help push them to victory at home.

Since March of this year, the Barra Fuerza Verde has been officially recognized as an Emerald City Supporter (ECS) subgroup, giving it a place with other local subgroups as boosters of the Seattle Major

League Soccer team.

The group hopes to bring together Hispanic communities from all over the Northwest to loudly cheer the Sounders. Members get together before each home game for a pachanga (party) at the Merchants Cafe in Pioneer Square.

Membership is open to all; it

costs \$30 to join the ECS, and then you can choose to join the Barra. The ECS subgroups sit together at the “Brougham End” section of Century Link Field, (sectors 121-123) to chant, make noise, and have a good time.

For away games, La Barra has also organized Cascara/Kick Around events, inviting players of all ages and skill levels for a casual pickup game before the match. The games are held at the Boys and Girls Clubs of King County Smilow Clubhouse & Teen Center at Rainier Vista.

For a schedule of Cascara games, visit http://barrafuerzaverde.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/bfv_cascara_2012.jpg

**LCE General
Membership
meetings are held
on the first
Wednesday of the
month.**

Ethnic Heritage Art Gallery Presents “Portraits”

The Ethnic Heritage Art Gallery at the Seattle Municipal Tower is currently presenting the “Portraits” exhibit, featuring works by eight Seattle-area artists of Central American, South American, and Caribbean heritage: Alfredo Arreguin, Blanca Santander, Fulgencio Lazo, Gloria Ruiz, Jose Orantes, Rene Julio, Tatiana Garmendia, and Tomas Oliva.

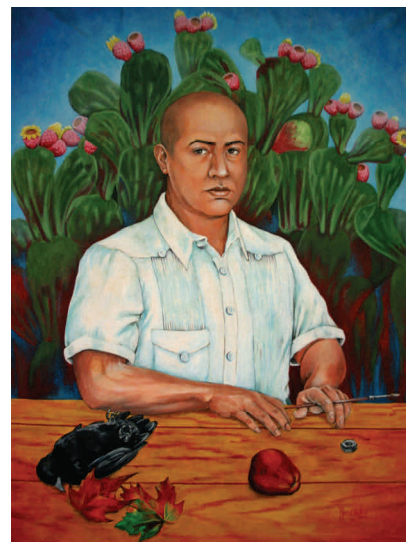
Each of the artists in the exhibit has a distinctive way of constructing a portrait based on their individual experiences, observations, and heritage. In this exhibit, portraits not only capture the likeness of the subject, but also aspects of the artist’s culture, personal history, and notions of identity.

The exhibit kicked off with two receptions on Aug. 2. They included a special presentation by Cuban Author Jorge Enrique Gonzalez-Pacheco and music by Enrique Wetzel and Laura Oviedo,

The Seattle Municipal Tower is on 700 Fifth Avenue and visitors will find the Ethnic Heritage Gallery on the third floor.

Light refreshments will be served for your enjoyment.

The exhibit runs from through October 15, 2012. It is included in the Pioneer Square First Thursday art walk.



“I, Immigrant,” by Rene Julio, is part of the Portraits exhibit at the SMT

Upcoming Events

- **Aug. 2**
"Portraits" Exhibit Receptions. Seattle Municipal Tower third floor, 11:30 a.m.-1p.m., 4:30 - 7p.m.
- **Aug. 7**
Night Out Seattle <http://spdblotter.seattle.gov/2012/07/07/register-now-for-night-out-2012/>
- **Aug. 8, 9**
National Hispana Leadership Institute and Voxxi Media Charla. <http://tweetvite.com/event/Mediacharla>
- **Aug. 11**
CELEBRA PERÚ! Educational events and dance party. Union Cultural Center 803 King St., Seattle
- **Aug. 18**
Annual City of Seattle Affinity Groups Coalition Picnic. 12 - 5 p.m., Lincoln Park.

Rock en Español! El Tributo a Rata Blanca – Rock Salt

Rainier Valley Heritage Parade and Summer Streets Party, Columbia City
11 a.m.— 4 p.m.
- **Aug. 19**
Rainier Valley Culture Fest International Festival. An afternoon of live performances, hands-on youth and art activities, and community building at Othello Park. Noon to 6 p.m.
- **Sept. 15-15**
Fiestas Patrias 2012 – South Park and Seattle Center - http://seattlefiestaspatrias.org/Seattle_Fiestas_Patrias/Welcome.html
- **Sept. 29**
40th Anniversary of El Centro De la Raza. For details, or to volunteer, contact to sign up at 206.957.4602 volunteer@elcentrodelaraza.org!
- **Oct. 6**
Latino Heritage Award Celebration. Time and location to be announced.
- **Oct. 12-13**
Arts & Social Change regional symposium for arts administrators, artists, social service professionals, government representatives, and social justice leaders from around the Pacific Northwest. At the Seattle Center, Intiman Room.

Fiestas Patrias is a Spanish phrase meaning "Patriotic Holidays" or "National Holidays."

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