



# afrolatin@ forum

## The Work of the afrolatin@ forum

The afrolatin@ forum is dedicated to centering Blackness within Latinidad and uplifting the AfroLatin@ community in all aspects of society.

## Vision

The afrolatin@ forum envisions a world where Black Latinidad is affirmed, and the contributions of the African Diaspora are embraced as central within Latinidad and essential in the world. We work to ensure that AfroLatinxs improve their quality of life by repairing the impact of white supremacy.

## Mission

The afrolatin@ forum is a research and resource center that centers Blackness within Latinidad. We focus on Latin@s of African descent in the United States to provide a bridge that expands our understanding of the African Diaspora. We support the struggle for racial and social justice through dialogue and action by engaging communities, forging coalitions, creating accessible educational materials, and organizing public events. We have an anti-racist, anti-patriarchal, and anti-capitalist lens, and seek to affirm all aspects of AfroLatinidad. Our work is guided by a communal perspective that recognizes the centrality of race in today's global reality.

# Core Values

## Community

We value the strength, endurance, cultures, experiences, and knowledge of Latin@s of African descent in the United States and globally. We continue to add to the knowledge of the entirety of the African diaspora.

## Racial Justice

We value and promote all efforts directed at bringing about social and economic equity. We emphasize a transnational perspective on the role of race in society, historically and in the present.

## Creativity

We celebrate the creativity of the Diaspora and affirm all of its expressions.

## Transparency

We value an ethical, collaborative, and open approach in our work. We are committed to a communal vision.

## Affirmation and Celebration

We value our history, acknowledge our contributions, and celebrate the African foundations of our diverse cultural expressions. We also affirm and celebrate all expressions of AfroLatinidad especially focusing on celebrating Femininity and Queerness.

## Dialogue

We value the respectful exchange of perspectives across and within ethnic communities and national borders.

# Our Three 'Pillars'

## I. Focusing on Research & Education

The afrolatin@ forum provides educational resources and programs to increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation of Afro-Latinidad. Much of our work is focused on the lived experiences of Afro-Latinos and making sure those experiences are accurately reported, analyzed, and reflected in data. Research that centers Latinidad should be representative of all aspects of Latino culture, including Afro-Latinos. We believe that all people have the right to learn about and appreciate their cultural heritage, and we are committed to providing resources that facilitate that process.

## Examples of Created and Advanced Research and Education:

- Designed and authored a 12-unit curriculum for Secondary School students in the New York City Department of Education in 2023 for use in 2024 and forward, "Hidden Voices Project."
- Planned and executed two trans-national conferences on AfroLatinidad. In 2011, "Afro-Latin@s Now: Strategies for Visibility and Action" and in 2014, "Afro-Latin@s Now: Race Counts" in partnership with the City University of New York, The Schomburg Center for the Research of Black Culture, and El Museo del Barrio NYC.
- Regularly conduct our Understanding AfroLatinidad workshops to non-profits and Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) within corporations and organizations like Los Ubers, J. Crew, Latinos at Amazon, Black at Amazon, General Assembly, and more.



# Our Three ‘Pillars’

## II. Highlighting the need for inclusion in Policy & Advocacy

The afrolatin@ forum is committed to fostering a more inclusive and equitable policy creation process by raising awareness about the particular concerns and perspectives of Afro-Latin@s in the United States and abroad. Moreover, we believe that effective advocacy and policy implementation can improve the daily lived experiences of Afro-Latin@s.

### The forum accomplishes this through:

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- Engaging in public policy advocacy by working with policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels to ensure that Afro-Latin@ concerns are heard and addressed. We also provide technical assistance to other organizations that are working on public policy issues that affect Afro-Latin@s.
- Building coalitions with other organizations that represent the interests of Afro-Latin@s, as well as other communities of color, to build a strong coalition that can advocate for policy change.
- Educating the public about the history and experiences of Afro-Latin@s and providing resources to help people understand the impact of policy on Afro-Latin@s.
- Organizing community members to take action on issues that affect them and offer training to help people become active citizens in the democratic process.

### How we have advocated for the rights and interests of Afro-Latin@s:

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- Since 2008, the forum has led voter and Census engagement efforts to increase Afro-diasporic participation. One example was our work with the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation for their Unity Diaspora campaign in 2008.
- Launched the Afro-Latino Coalition to raise awareness around how race and ethnicity is captured for Latines in the United States. This campaign, “Latino Is Not A Race” ([latinoisnotarace.info](http://latinoisnotarace.info)), developed into a national conversation with support from more than 20 non-profit organizations aimed at offsetting potential impending changes in the US Census that would negatively impact African American and Afro-Latino communities.



## Our Three ‘Pillars’

### III. Connecting with community through Action

As a non-profit entity, the afrolatin@ forum also seeks to benefit other organizations, independent activists, and scholars working towards centering Blackness and uplifting the AfroLatin@ community. We are committed to working with other organizations and individuals to create a world where Black Latinidad is affirmed and celebrated. This movement support can be realized in any of the following ways:

- Sponsorship or limited funding for specific projects, research, events, or written contributions to our site (Pensamientos Blog).
- Technical assistance on how to develop and implement effective strategies for increasing visibility.
- Connect organizations and individuals with resources like research materials, other charitable organizations and funding sources, media outlets, and potential partners.
- Thought partnership, mentorship, and guidance to new and emerging organizations in the Afro-diasporic and Latin@ space.
- Host trainings, workshops, and webinars on topics related to AfroLatin@ identity, history, culture, and current events.

### Projects we have Provided Movement Support to:

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- July 2023 - Afro-Latino Festival NYC’s celebration of el Dia de La Mujer Afrodescendientes
- August 2023 - I Encontro de Narrativas Negras em Português (I ENNEP) / Meeting on Black Narratives in Portugues
- September 2023 - Afro-Latino Festival in Compton, CA hosted by the Afro-Latino Education and Arts Collective
- November 2023-November 2024 - Creative Justice Initiative’s “Aboslutely Black / Aboslutamente Negro/x/a” conversation on Afro-Latinos in the U.S.



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