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BomPleneras led by Ivelisse Diaz. Photo: Vanessa Valeasquez

MCA Chicago, Sueños Music Festival, and NBC/Telemundo Chicago Team Up to Spotlight Chicago’s Latino Cultural Leaders and Local Talent

CHICAGO— The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (MCA) and Sueños Music Festival announce a new collaboration to celebrate Chicago’s Latino cultural leaders and amplify local artistic talent. This initiative also marks the third consecutive year of partnership between the MCA and Sueños Music Festival, expanding this year with the support of NBC/Telemundo Chicago as a media partner to further highlight local voices through bilingual storytelling and community engagement.

This year’s collaboration centers on La Escuelita Bombera de Corazón, a Chicago-based Afro–Puerto Rican diasporic performing arts school rooted in the

tradition of Bomba and founded in November 2009 by Ivelisse “Bombera de Corazón” Díaz. Through this partnership, the three organizations aim to highlight Chicago’s vibrant Latino cultural ecosystem, local artists, educators, and cultural leaders.

“This collaboration reflects the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago’s commitment to working alongside artists and cultural leaders who shape the cultural fabric of our city,” said Dr. Joey Orr, Deputy Director and Chief Curatorial Affairs at the MCA.

“Partnering with Sueños Music Festival, NBC/Telemundo Chicago, and La Escuelita Bombera de Corazón allows us to support local artists, strengthen community partnerships, and create meaningful spaces where contemporary art, music, and cultural traditions intersect. By elevating Chicago-based voices and fostering cultural exchange, we continue to expand access, visibility, and dialogue across the city’s diverse communities.”

Located in Chicago’s historic Puerto Rican neighborhood of Humboldt Park, La Escuelita Bombera de Corazón serves as a vital educational and cultural hub. The organization offers semester-based, in-person and virtual classes for youth and adults, professional development workshops, cultural exchanges, school residencies, community lectures, performances, and special events. Students engage directly with master bomberas, historians, composers, families, instrument artisans, and cultural leaders, grounding their learning in Bomba’s rhythmic structure and cultural context while fostering intergenerational cultural preservation.

As part of the collaboration, the group Las Bompleneras, led by the director of La Escuelita Bombera de Corazón Ivelisse Diaz, will perform at Sueños Music Festival on Sunday, May 24, at the La Plaza Stage, followed by a performance at the MCA’s Tuesdays on the Terrace program on July 28.

“Organizations like La Escuelita Bombera de Corazón in Chicago are essential in keeping our cultural roots and traditions alive for the next generation. Sueños is tremendously proud to welcome Las Bompleneras to perform at the festival. Their presence represents more than a performance; it’s about representation, pride, and creating opportunities for a vibrant cultural hub in Chicago. Supporting small businesses, cultural organizations, and schools that uplift our communities will always be integral to the work we do as a festival, and through this collaboration we hope to amplify their impact and help ensure these beautiful

traditions continue to flourish,” said Aaron Ampudia, Co-Founder of Sueños Music Festival.

The collaboration aligns with the MCA major exhibition [Dancing the Revolution: From Dancehall to Reggaetón](#), open through September 20, 2026. Presented in both English and Spanish, the exhibition examines the cultural and political interplay of reggaetón and related musical traditions from Latin America and the Caribbean with protest and resistance movements across the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean, explored through the lens of contemporary art.

Additionally, Sueños Music Festival attendees will receive a special promotional discount to visit [Dancing the Revolution: From Dancehall to Reggaetón](#) during the week of the festival. NBC/Telemundo Chicago will also produce a special project documenting the collaboration and highlighting the work of La Escuelita Bombera de Corazón, the MCA, and Sueños Music Festival.

“Telemundo Chicago is proud to join this exciting initiative alongside our partners at MCA and Sueños,” said Carmen Vega, Director of Community Relations, NBC 5 Chicago & Telemundo Chicago. “Our mission has always been to inform, entertain, and empower our Hispanic community, and this project is a powerful reflection of the values our audience can always count on.”

ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART CHICAGO

The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The MCA interweaves exhibitions, performances, collections, and educational programs while providing a place for audiences to contemplate and discuss contemporary art in pursuit of a creative and diverse future. The MCA believes in the values of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA) as a platform to enact structural change. The museum is generously supported by its Board of Trustees; individual and corporate members; private and corporate foundations, including the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; and government agencies. The MCA is a proud member of Museums in the Park and receives major support from the Chicago Park District.

[The MCA is located at 220 E. Chicago Avenue](#) is open 10 am to 5 pm Wednesday to Sunday and Tuesdays from 10 am to 9 pm. Tuesday evenings (5-9 pm) are free for Illinois residents. The museum is closed on Mondays.

Admission is free for all youth 18 and under, members of the military and veterans, and MCA members. Free admission for anyone 18 and under is generously provided by the Lefkofsky Free 18 & Under Fund. Find more information about MCA's exhibitions, programs, and special events at mcachicago.org or [312.280.2660](tel:312.280.2660).



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