

# DOROTHY KIRBY CENTER CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

YOUTH LEARN ABOUT HISPANIC ICONS, HISTORY, AND FOOD

On October 13th, Dorothy Kirby Center partnered with the Los Angeles County Office of Education to host a beautiful walking tour honoring National Hispanic Heritage Month. With the Rhythmic sounds of Latin music saturating the courtyard, each youth cottage took turns experiencing the exhibit. On the tour they learned about notable historical figures of Hispanic heritage that made impactful and extraordinary contributions to American history. Each table featured famous Hispanic icons such as Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayer, Astronaut George Zamka, Artist Frida Kahlo, and Educator Jaime Escalante.

"I'm so excited. I see the kid's faces, and it was all worth it," DPO II T&C Janice Harris, the event visionary said. "It's important to expose the youth to culture and expand their understanding and knowledge of what culture looks like. So, when they leave us, they can build off the tools that we give them to be successful."

One of the most heartfelt exhibits of the tour was the "Día De Los Muertos." It not only honored notable Hispanic figures that have passed, but also paid homage to beloved Dorothy Kirby Center family members that are deceased. Attendees took a moment to read about them and say a short remembrance prayer before moving to the next station. Another tour highlight was the tasting table which featured delicious delicacies from various Latin countries, including Bolivia, Columbia, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Cuba.

**Today is a special day where we celebrate all the different Latin American countries and expose the kids to famous people that look like them.**

**-SDPO Diana Lopez**



DPOII T&C Harris, Bureau Chief Kaufman



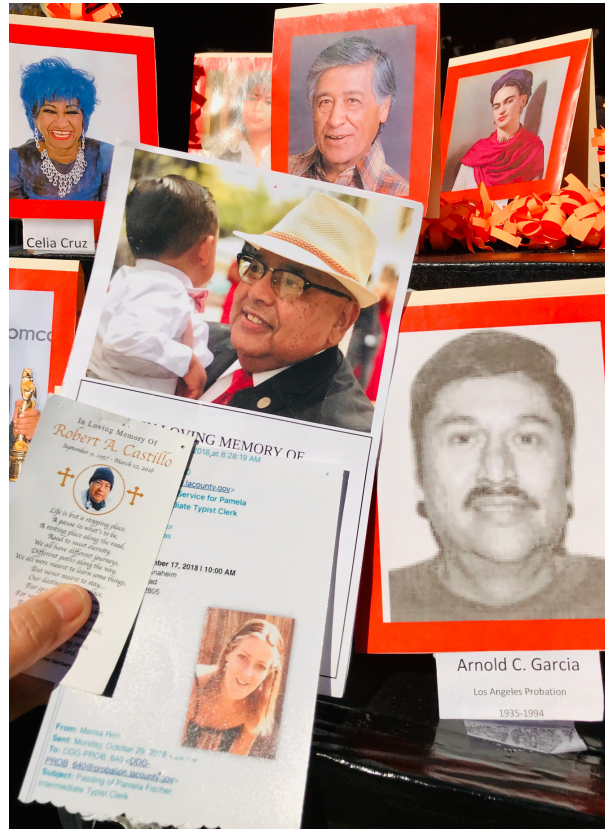
Día de los Muertos exhibit





# DOROTHY KIRBY CENTER CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH (CONT)

## YOUTH LEARN ABOUT HISPANIC ICONS, HISTORY, AND FOOD



Remembering DKC Staff and Icons of Hispanic History

"Today is a special day where we celebrate all the different Latin American countries and expose the kids to famous people that look like them," said Supervising Deputy Probation Officer Diana Lopez. "They also get a chance to sample different foods from around the world. It gives them the exposure they possibly wouldn't have experienced. I'm happy they get this opportunity."

Respect, love, and appreciation for Hispanic culture filled the air as the youth and staff made their way from table to table. The youth also participated in the celebration by creating beautiful posters that reflected how Hispanic heritage promotes unity. Chief Probation Officer Adolfo Gonzales, Bureau Chief Jennifer Kaufman, and Probation Oversight Commissioner Erica Reynoso also stopped by to chat with staff, engage with the young people, and join the festivities.

Bureau Chief Jennifer Kaufman said, "I'm super excited and proud of the staff for all that they do here at Dorothy Kirby Center. DPO Janice Harris always does an outstanding job coordinating on behalf of the kids, which shows her passion and commitment to help them. Events such as this brighten their horizon, and they learn new cultures. It's a very exciting day today. They've done an outstanding job. And I'm super excited to try the food!"

The experience concluded with a delicious complimentary Latin-themed lunch including fresh handmade pupusas, a taco bar, and horchata. All who participated were elated. You could feel the spirit of joy in the atmosphere accompanied by satisfied tummies, dancing, and laughter. What a fun-filled and educational day at Dorothy Kirby Center! Kudos to DPO II T&C Janis Harris, LACOE, and the DKC Staff for hosting a fantastic tribute in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month!

Probation News



Director Varela, DPOII T&C Harris, Chief Gonzales



Ms. Jolgren, LACOE Teacher



Tasting Table Giveaways

