

2024 – 2025 »» ANNUAL REPORT «««

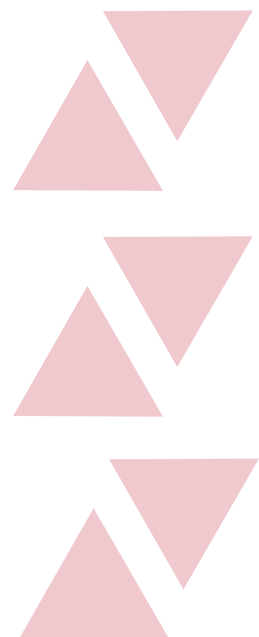


Dear Board of Directors, Funders, Friends and Supporters,

Taller Puertorriqueño (Taller) is proud to present its FY 2024-2025 Annual Report, another milestone in the organization's history. Taller turned 50!!! As we celebrated the accomplishments of the past, Taller launches into the future by building on its strong past, programs and sustainability to secure the next 50 years.

Taller has a long history of offering programs that promote Puerto Rican and Latino arts and culture that enhance and transform the lives of many in our community. In its 50-year history, Taller has provided art training and art classes to over 60,000 K-12 youth connecting them to the arts, but more

significantly, to their Puerto Rican and Latino heritage. Taller's art exhibits have brought to the community over 300 established and emerging Latino artists from Philadelphia and beyond, in addition to the art produced by youth. And, Taller has been the place where serious conversations about race, culture, community and more have been held in the form of panels, symposia, book presentations, lectures, festivals and more. No other regional organization can claim the depth of impact and Puerto Rican and Latino focused art programming than Taller has presented since its foundation in 1974.





> **LORENZO HOMAR GALLERY AND EXHIBITION PROGRAMS**

Receiving close to 2,000 guests yearly, the gallery presents 4-6 shows annually. Each show is documented by professional photos, a video graphed interview with the artist/s and scheduled conversations with the general public. Whenever possible and feasible, artists are contracted to provide hands-on workshops for our participating students and public, and also when time and funds allow, a catalogue is produced. The gallery also presents a show of the art work produced by Taller's on site Art Education Programs. This provides an opportunity for both students and caretakers to see their production mounted in a professional exhibit space. This past year the gallery hosted the following shows:

RAUL ORTIZ BONILLA: SEMILLAS

ON VIEW: JULY 12, 2024 – AUGUST 10, 2024

Semillas (Seeds) features sixteen artworks by Puerto Rican artist Raul Ortiz Bonilla (b. 1955), who immigrated from Puerto Rico to Chicago in his early twenties. The various sections of the gallery took the audience through three stages of the island's history: pre-colonization, mass migration during colonial periods, and the present moment. However, the artworks in the exhibition are not historical narratives of the past and present. They stem from Ortiz Bonilla's surreal memories of the island he once called home and the realities he met in the midwestern landscape he now calls home.

Through his signature dots and seeds, Ortiz Bonilla humanizes nature and connects it to Puerto Rican history. He began using puntos and semillas in his work in 2017 after Hurricane Maria. The deadly storm broke down the idealized image of the island and exposed years of corruption and a substantial lack of infrastructure. With his pointillism technique Ortiz Bonilla's breaks down the island's appearance and offer a new perspective of hope. The artist was able to attend the opening reception as well as a closing reception allowing for additional conversations about the show's meaning and content. This show was a collaboration with the National Museum of Puerto Rican Art and Culture, in Chicago.



ALEXIS DUQUE: LOS DUEÑOS DE NADA (The Owners of Nothing)

ON VIEW: SEPTEMBER 13, 2024 – OCTOBER 26, 2024

Alexis Duque, a Colombian artist based in New York City, is known for his detailed and surrealistic architectural artwork. In this new series, Duque shifts to figurative representation, focusing on lives impacted by migration, social inequality, and displacement. *Los Dueños de Nada* is a solo exhibition of new paintings and works on paper, with site-specific drawings on the gallery walls. The gallery walls become part of Duque's narrative, as his gold ink drawings deftly weave together cityscapes, neighborhoods, paths, and waterways. These drawings extended the stories of his subjects and situated them in an imaginary yet deeply resonant environment that offer subtle commentary on the social, political, and economic forces that shape their lives. Inspired by Eduardo Galeano's poem *Los Nadies (The Nobodies)*, the exhibition title sets the tone for a topical exploration of lives often pushed to the periphery and overlooked by society. Despite their hardships, the people depicted in Duque's work maintain their dignity, joy, and resolve. *Los Dueños de Nada* is a powerful tribute to the strength and enduring spirit of those who, though often neglected, possess stories and dreams that refuse to be diminished. An artist talk on



October 16th, was facilitated by Rafael Damast, Taller's Exhibitions Manager, with Gabriel de Guzmán, the show's curator, Director of Art and Chief Curator at Wave Hill Public Garden and Cultural Center in the Bronx. It covered the uniqueness of the artist's style, his careful and meticulous thinking process, and the care he takes in providing agency and dignity to his subjects.

The public programs also included a series of three drawing hands-on workshops on October 17th, 24th and 26th. All sessions filled to capacity. One session involved the Youth Artist Program participants.

DORIS NOGUEIRA-ROGERS: FORM & CONTENT.
ON VIEW: NOVEMBER 15, 2024 – MARCH 1, 2025

This new show represents Doris Nogueira-Rogers' first solo exhibition in Taller's new Lorenzo Homar Gallery. Based in Woodbury, NJ, Nogueira-Rogers was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She has been ubiquitous in the Philadelphia artist community for 46 years and has shown widely both in Philadelphia as well as New Jersey, and beyond. She has worked in various mediums, including textiles, linoleum blocks, canvas, ceramics, and installations. Her work has often been political, addressing social inequity, nature, and environmental justice while remaining colorful, bright, evocative, and almost optimistic in





their presentation. In her visual discourse, she uses nature-derived abstract compositions set against rich colors and shapes to create “forms” that hold deep symbolic meaning. For instance, her work’s leaf and pod-like designs allude to the constant destruction of tropical forests.

Her creative journey embodies recurrent themes—nature, women’s and human rights, and the environment—explored in different mediums and techniques. Doris’ visual discourse manifested in Neo-abstract compositions rendered in a spectrum of rich colors and shapes that the artist reconfigures. This new show included installations and two-dimensional work for the audiences to journey through and experience rarely-seen works whose themes resonate profoundly with our time.

SHIFTING REALITIES: 12 ARTISTS FINDING PLACE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

ON VIEW: MARCH 21, 2025 – MAY 17, 2025

This exhibition brings together 12 Philadelphia-based artists to explore what defines shared reality in an era of shifting historical narratives, eroding facts, and silenced identities.

Featuring artists Kukuli Velarde, Henry Bermúdez, Silvana Cardell, Hagudeza Rullán-Fantauzzi, Symone Salib, Linette Messina,

Kalila Jones, Iliana Pagán-Teitelbaum, Miguel Antonio Horn, Marta Sánchez, Liliana Pérez and Eugenio Salas. An artist talk with artists Kukuli Velarde, Marta Sánchez, Silvana Cardell and Eugenio Salas was held on April 22.

Gabriel García Márquez opined that reality exists at the intersection of the external world and our perception of it. But when those perceptions are disrupted, what remains? *Shifting Realities* highlights a diverse group of artists whose practices confront today’s political polarization and uncertainty. Through their work, they navigate the tension between instability and resilience, seeking ways to reclaim meaning, connection, and place in a world in flux.

The ongoing **“Memorializing Fairhill Project”** installed the final product as a series of 22 two-dimensional designs to be placed on Taller’s and other community walls. The design denotes lines resembling threads. These lines are reminiscent of those found in the textile factories that once dotted the area—like the Quaker Lace or the Stetson Hat Factory, as well as the artists prior work that explored themes such as Puerto Rican migration and the potential for forging new possibilities amid displacement, i.e. weaving a fresh “nest” in Philadelphia. On the top left of the frame, a prominent image of the “Pitirre”, (the Gray Kingbird), symbolizes resilience, for, in Puerto Rico the Pitirre embodies and inspires resistance against oppression, due to its demonstrated remarkable toughness to fiercely defending its territory against larger predators epitomizing the neighborhood’s character.

Commitments have been obtained from Community partners, HACE, APM & Providence Center, with facilities along the 5th street corridor, to install the art on their walls. Each site will have a connection with a community hero or event. Bios for each hero, or details on the event, will be added to the website to be accessed via QR codes.



► THE JULIA DE BURGOS BOOKSTORE

The Julia de Burgos Bookstore continues to flourish and become a hub for engaging events, author collaborations, and book releases. From story time sessions to book fairs, the positive impact on our community is unmistakable. Meet the Author presentations included:

JULY 13 ALYSSA REYNOSO-MORRIS | "GLORIANA, PRESENTE"

This event launched this children's book by this local Afro-Latina Dominican author.

SEPTEMBER 4 BOOK LAUNCH: VINCENT TIRADO | "WE CAME TO WELCOME YOU"

The event was a conversation with Diana Rodriguez Wallach (local Puerto Rican author). Vincent is a local Afro-Latine nonbinary Dominican author. The book is a supernatural thriller about a mixed-race lesbian couple that moves into a white gated community addressing the violence of assimilation.

SEPTEMBER 30 LUIS MIRANDA JR. | RELENTLESS

In conversation with Dr. Carmen Febo San Miguel, the well-attended event provided an opportunity to discuss in detail the similarities of community building efforts of Taller and the work of Luis Miranda in New York described in Relentless.

OCTOBER 7 LILIAM RIVERA | "TINY THREADS"

The event was a conversation with Erica Bernal of LITina Book Club. Tiny Threads is a supernatural thriller about the dark side of the fashion industry. The author lives in LA. This was the first time a publisher contacted Taller directly to book this event as part of a national tour.

NOVEMBER 9 BESSIE FLORES ZALDÍVAR | "LIBERTAD"

Queer YA coming-of-age novel about the tumultuous 2017 presidential election in Honduras.





NOVEMBER 23 PATRICIA CORAL | “WOMEN SURROUNDED BY WATER”

In conversation with Adrienne Perry. This is a creative memoir by Puerto Rican author about womanhood, family, grief, addiction and divorce, and Hurricane Maria.

MARCH 20, 2025 DALINA SOTO MA, RD, LDN | THE LATINA ANTI-DIET BOOK LAUNCH

In conversation with Amy Rivera-Nassar of Amy’s Pastelillos. Dalina Soto (@your.latina.nutritionist) is a Philly-based licensed dietitian. The Latina Anti-Diet is a thoroughly researched yet accessible guide to break away from diet culture while honoring your body and incorporating cultural foods.

APRIL 1 RIVERWARDS CHAPBOOK SERIES WITH THE HEAD & THE HAND

In collaboration with another local non-profit bookstore, we hosted 3 poets and 3 artists who published a series of chapbooks together, including Afro-Latine poet Gabriel Ramirez and Cuban-Salvadoran artist Manuela Guillén.

APRIL 26 NUYORICAN & DIASPORICAN VISUAL ART

A panel discussion with local contributor Johnny Irizarry, editors Arlene Dávila and Yasmin Ramirez, and artist Wanda Raimundi. This anthology documents Nuyorican &

Diasporican art history, including a chapter by Johnny Irizarry about Puerto Rican art in Philadelphia.

MAY 17 LA CHIVA BILINGUAL STORYTIME WITH ACCIÓN COLOMBIA AND LATIN AMERICAN BOOK FAIR

This well-attended story time extravaganza, in collaboration, featured the bilingual reading of 3 children’s books about Colombia, typical Colombian foods and desserts, a variety of crafts and an enormous painted wooden bus (La Chiva) to take photos in.

JUNE 7 KRYSTAL ANALI VAZQUEZ | LADY WITHOUT LAND

Lady without Land is a story told in fragments about growing up Mexican in LA, using classic literature and cocktail recipes to organize and populate bits and pieces of a life. Krystal Anali Vazquez is an attorney who does work to protect the DACA program. Lady Without Land is winner of the 2023 George Garrett Fiction Prize.

JUNE 20 LUCAS RIVERA | FILM SCREENING & MY AFRORICAN STATE OF SOUL BOOK SIGNING

My AfroRican State of Soul is a blend of narrative nonfiction and poetry about growing up Afro-Puerto Rican in Philadelphia and Lucas Rivera’s journey towards intergenerational healing. This event included a screening of Lucas’s recent short film.

JUNE 28 JACKIE MORERA | TOGETHER WE REMEMBER

In this tender debut picture book about finding joy despite grief, a little girl wishes to make Father’s Day even better by using imagination to honor and remember the happiest memories with a lost loved one.

The bookstore continued to collaborate with the Latin American Book Fair as well as other libraries and publishers for events that result in successful sale days and additional visibility, increasing store sales from year to year.



➤ EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Youth Artist Program (YAP) operated Monday–Friday from 3–6 pm during the school year and 10am –3pm during the summer. Under the supervision of the YAP coordinator, our high school age participants attended classes after school a minimum of 3 days per week, participating in workshops by guest artists and special projects organized and scheduled on Fridays, and photography on Wednesdays. During last summer, participants participated in the Delphi Teen Summer Film project done in collaboration with the Museum of Art, Esperanza Charter School and the Big Picture Alliance. These students developed a sense of community with the museum, strong group skills, informed of contemporary media tools, and were exposed to career opportunities. During the academic year YAP students had access to an elective photography component done in collaboration with Photography without Borders. Field trips and seasonal outings were also a huge part of the program exposing participants to college, galleries and art studios.

The elementary and middle school students attend the Cultural Enrichment Program (CEP). They were scheduled daily Monday–Friday from 3 to 6 pm with art classes, homework help, and field trips to museums, galleries, and other related facilities, throughout the school year. The education staff chose an engaging

and stimulating, relevant 2024–25 curriculum theme: Carnival in Puerto Rico and Caribbean Regions. It served as the core for the semester curriculum development for each session and in the different disciplines. Although registration have not gone back to pre-COVID pandemic level, with aggressive outreach the program has increased participation from 20 participants last year to 40.

The redesigned summer camp provided enriching experiences for 60 children, culminating in a successful showcase featuring music, dance, and visual art. For the Visítenos Long-term Residency Program in community public schools, Taller staff start meeting in early September to





facility and partake in tours and workshops with the goal of increasing membership and recruitment of students for arts classes. Additionally, the final culminating performance (5/23/25) was held to a capacity crowd highlighting the accomplishments of students from 9 participating schools. Showcasing the work of art students was a performance by Moffet School and Ellwood School that included student-made costumes and scenery and a slide show of student art from Hartranft school. Instrumental Music and Dance students from Juniata Park Academy and Julia de Burgos combined talents to present an exciting Latin drumming and Dance ensemble.

select a theme, and to plan and provide training on curriculum content. The teaching artists run their long-term residencies from October 2024 – May 2025 comprising a 25-week period. Student accomplishments are documented for the academic year through a comprehensive external evaluation by Taller's evaluation consultant Tessie Varthas. This year Taller worked with 12 schools providing classes to 1,638 students.

This year, among the wide array of activities conducted at Taller's El Corazón Cultural Center for this program was the Taller Open House (3/22/25) that specifically targeted youth from all education programs to visit the





► THE ARCHIVES

This past year the Eugenio María de Hostos Archives has been the center of a major Taller project. As part of its 50th Anniversary Celebration Taller decided to update and reprint the “Batiendo la Olla/Stirring the Pot” publication, the original report of this important oral history project conducted by the organization during the period 1976–1978. There is no other milestone that underscores and represents the key role Taller has played in the history and resiliency of the Puerto Rican/Latino community of Philadelphia. This project was the first effort ever carried out to record the lived experiences of the Puerto Rican community in Philadelphia. It is a historical document that captures the hopes and travails of a growing, resilient

and immigrant community. The Archives continues to host students and researchers interested in the histories captured in its files and continues to pursue funding for complete digitization of its content.

Our customers have appreciated our friendly and inclusive atmosphere, informative Q&A sessions, and exposure to Puerto Rican history. They’ve shown enthusiasm towards intergenerational events, bilingual experiences, and programs for children. Our commitment to cultural representation, inclusivity, and community engagement has made us a vital hub for literary and cultural activities. We’re sincerely grateful for the heartfelt responses from our customers and the success of our impactful events. Together, we’re preserving and celebrating Puerto Rican arts and culture.





➤ SPECIAL EVENTS

On Sunday September 10th Taller celebrated the **40th Annual Feria del Barrio**, a main festival in Philadelphia that promotes art, culture, education, health, economic development, and community. Over 1,500 community members attended this well-known event, generating significant revenue for the community with the business created by the many participating vendors. Feria is presented and produced by Taller and its partners, Asociación de Puertorriqueños en Marcha (APM), Congreso de Latinos Unidos, HACE, and Raíces Culturales Latinoamericanas. Feria is a space where artists can share their creativity. This year's event featured talented artists such as Tino Serrano and his orchestra Salsa Dura.

In November Taller hosted its now traditional **"Sangiving" annual Thanksgiving luncheon**, where it collects and gives away clothes and warm meals to over two hundred people in our community.

On December 14th, the **Christmas winter event** was a celebration of 50 years of Taller focused on the traditions of Parranda, sharing and community.

Taller started 2025 with its traditional **Three Kings celebration**, an event that commemorates the Three Magi visit to baby Jesus bearing gifts. This gift drive is one way

for Taller to ensure children in the community benefit from programs completely focused on them. The event benefited 300+ children participants.

The **29th Arturo A. Schomburg Symposium** was held on February 21st & 22nd, 2025 and brought approximately 100 attendees. The symposium was dedicated to the work of Arturo Schomburg for which the symposium is named, as the Center he started in the New York Public Library turned 100 years. The 2025 symposium, "The Legacy of Arturo Schomburg: Rooting Ourselves in Pan-Africanism" The presenters and panelists addressed either directly or indirectly, the legacy and influence of Arturo Schomburg's work, as inspiration for





rooting our African heritage.

Opening Event: Friday, February 21, 2024 at 6:00pm

Presented Flores Para Mi Abuela: Film & Conversation with Afro Cuban Filmmaker Gloria Rolando & a special conversation with Rolando and guest Gabriela Castillo, Second Secretary of the Cuban Embassy. With more than 35 years of experience, Rolando's works have documented the history and culture of African diasporic communities in the Caribbean, often focusing on themes of spiritual heritage and resistance. This current film is particularly personal and biographic. The event was a collaboration with Kolectivo Sin Nombre.

Participants and presentations included:

Manuel Julio Durán Méndez

Focused on the intersection of identity and solidarity in the African diaspora spoke of his graduate research on Arturo Schomburg.

Laura Quiñones Navarro

An art historian at the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, focused on the role of Puerto Rican art in cultural heritage and history, especially as it relates to Afro-Latinx identities.

Tukufu Zuberi

Professor of Sociology and Africana Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, explored the threat currently felt by Pan-Africanism academic studies in institutions of higher

education.

Sound Healing & Wellness Session with Malaika Hart Gilpin led a sound healing session designed to offer participants a holistic experience.

Panel Discussion

A Panel Discussion featuring Allan Edmunds, founder of Brandywine Workshop and Archives, Omar Eaton-Martinez, Senior Vice President for Historic Sites at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Amalia Daché, Associate Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, will address the importance of cultural preservation, racial equity in the arts, and the ongoing fight for social justice. The panel discussed the ways in which the African diaspora's heritage is represented and protected in museum spaces and public art initiatives.

On May 10th Taller hosted the first **El Mercado event**, an artisan market at El Corazón Cultural del Barrio. This event hosted an array of local Latine artists, vendors, food trucks, music and fun for the whole family. Guests were able to pick up a Mother's Day gift, while enjoying the power of community, art and celebrating culture together.





►COLLABORATIONS:

26th Police District

The Albert LePage Center for History

in the Public Interest

Afro Taíno

APM

Caicu

Ceiba

Congreso

Cuban Embassy

HACE

Interamerican University

Kollektivo Sin Nombre

The National Museum of Puerto

Rican Arts and Cultures

Mayor's Office of Latino Engagement

Mural Arts

Philadelphia Art Museum

Philadelphia Latino Film Festival

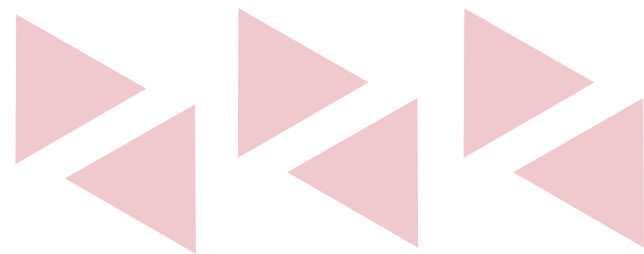
Raices Culturales Latinoamericanas

School District of Philadelphia

Trama Textiles

Villanova University Office for Mission
and Ministry

And others





➤STAFF CHANGES

Last spring Taller experienced staff changes that included: the resignation of then Executive Director Nasheli Ortiz González. Additional changes included the Education Manager, Ava Haitz; and more recently, the Youth Artist Manager, Stephanie Hamill. The board immediately acted to appoint Deputy Director Erikka Goslin, interim, and officially appointed her as Taller's Executive Director in April, 2025.

Under Erikka's vision, our Education Program is undergoing a strategic revamp to meet community needs, fulfill programs, comply with all requirements and secure economies of scale. The planned program restructuring being implemented aims to create a nimbler, scalable program that allows for efficiency

in administration while supporting growth. The current structure includes the hiring of an Education Coordinator while restructuring the role of the Community Engagement Manager to manage day to day tasks. This reorganization, in the context of an Education Director expanded role overseeing all of Taller's Art Education, provides consistency and coherence of all art education offerings. At the same time, these changes relieve the Executive Director from direct education tasks. Under this modified structure Teaching Artists and Staff are participating in Leadership, Capacity building, and other enrichment activities that strengthen their skills and improve our organization's service quality.





► MEDIA

WHYY: 'A sense of community': Taller Puertorriqueño celebrates 50 years at 40th annual Feria del Barrio

WHYY: 'Questioning the 'monolith of Chinese identity': Taller Puertorriqueño exhibit highlights unseen history of Chinese immigrants in Costa Rica

WHYY: 'Estamos Aquí' floods into this Puerto Rican neighborhood in Philly

6ABC Action News: 'Julia De Burgos Bookstore' is a platform for the next chapter of Latine representation.

