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Hamtramck City Council welcomes immigrants

On Tuesday night October 23rd, 2012, the *Hamtramck City Council* passed a resolution "affirming that the City of Hamtramck is a welcoming community and respects the innate dignity of all people." The resolution is supported by the local *Welcoming Michigan* leadership committee, made up of Hamtramck residents and representatives from faith institutions, law enforcement, social services, and education.

The committee has worked hard over the past eight months to connect U.S.-born residents with their new neighbors from other countries through film screenings, discussions, Kite Day, citizenship workshops, and a Public Safety Day festival.

"Immigrants are and always have been key to what makes Hamtramck a wonderful community," says Hamtramck

Chief of Police *Maxwell Garbarino*. "Welcoming Michigan's endeavors are excellent to help support that tradition and to help make them feel more welcome here, now, and always."

The resolution urges residents to join in lifting up the City of Hamtramck as a welcoming environment for all. The Welcoming Hamtramck committee is asking city residents to come out to the council meeting to show support for the resolution and for their new neighbors. Community members can also visit the Welcoming Michigan website, welcomingmichigan.org, to learn more and get involved.

"We encourage everyone to start by talking to their neighbor," says *Christine Sauvé* of Welcoming Michigan. "Then share your personal story with us and join the conversation on our Facebook page."

Welcoming Michigan is a statewide immigrant integration initiative of the *Michigan Immigrant Rights Center* that aims to foster mutual respect and understanding among immigrant and non-immigrant Michiganders. Since officially launching in May, the program has made great strides in connecting residents, hosting over 20 events and posting two billboards.

**Vote
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Se estabiliza migración de mexicanos a EEUU

MEXICO, 23 de octubre del 2012 (AP): El número de personas que emigraron sin permiso legal a Estados Unidos en el primer semestre de 2012 aumentó ligeramente, sugirió un nuevo reporte de investigadores estadounidenses y mexicanos, el cual dio cuenta también de un leve decremento en la cantidad de migrantes que volvieron a México.

El reporte del Colegio de la Frontera Norte de México y el Instituto Tomás Rivera sobre Políticas en la Universidad del Sur de California señala que la población de inmigrantes mexicanos en Estados Unidos parece haberse estabilizado e incluso crecería ligeramente.

Sería la primera vez que el flujo migratorio neto desde México ha aumentado desde 2007, cuando comenzó la recesión económica en Estados Unidos.

El reporte difundido el martes señala que la intensificación de las medidas para combatir la inmigración no autorizada en Estados Unidos no parece haber disuadido a quienes buscan cruzar la frontera norte de México.

La información se basa en sondeos realizados en cruces fronterizos en México, así como en estaciones de autobuses y aeropuertos. Utiliza también datos de Estados Unidos, sobre deportaciones y repatriaciones, así como datos demográficos.

Gráfico interactivo sobre deportaciones: <http://hosted.ap.org/interactives/2012/migracion/>

Foundation investing nearly \$20Million in Detroit arts

By DAVID RUNK, Associated Press

DETROIT, Oct. 23, 2012 (AP): Arts groups in Detroit will share nearly \$20 million donated by the *John S. and James L. Knight Foundation*, including \$9 million to be awarded through a communitywide contest to boost the city's best arts ideas, the foundation announced Tuesday.

The foundation plans to provide \$19.25 million through the *Knight Arts Challenge*, which aims to engage and enrich Detroit. That funding includes \$10.25 million to be shared by seven area institutions including the Detroit Institute of Arts, which is getting \$2.25 million so it can experiment with ways of highlighting its collection in the broader community.

The foundation will use a communitywide contest in March to track down and fund artists, organizations and businesses with the best ideas for arts projects in Detroit or that benefit the city. It is committing \$9 million over three years for those projects.

"We believe Detroit's future will be driven by entrepreneurs, artists and designers, building on an impressive existing infrastructure," Alberto Ibarquien, the president of the Knight Foundation, said in a statement. "That's why we've adopted a two-tier approach to our investment, supporting some of Detroit's most distinguished institutions as well as opening arts funding to everyone."

The foundation said it has already invested \$22.5 million in 180 projects in Miami and Philadelphia where earlier Knight Arts Challenges took place. "The challenge gives the community, the people with the innovative ideas, the opportunity to propose those ideas, and make them a reality. It's an ideas contest, truly open to everybody," said Dennis Scholl, Knight Foundation's vice president for arts.

The seven institutions that will receive funding up front aim to present art and music in unexpected ways, support literacy efforts and offer training for artists.

The Detroit School of Arts is getting \$2.25 million to help bring together professionals from cultural institutions to teach and mentor high school students; the Detroit Symphony Orchestra is getting \$2.25 million to expand webcasting and mobile content; and the Michigan Opera Theatre is getting \$1 million for community performances.

The *Sphinx Organization* is getting \$1 million for its annual music competition; the *Arab American National Museum* in Dearborn is getting \$750,000 to help support cross-cultural understanding; and the *Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History* is getting \$750,000 to use the arts to foster an interest in reading.

Online: Knight Foundation: <http://www.knightfoundation.org>
Knight Arts Challenge: <http://www.KnightArts.org>

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Culturas Publications, Inc.

Publisher

Editorial:

Rico, Editor

Claudia Annoni, Associate Editor

Art/Graphics/Web:

Jennifer Retholtz

rico@laprensa1.com, 313-729-4435

claudia@laprensa1.com

Graphics Manager & Webmaster

Advertising:

Nanette Nieto 419-242-7744

Adrianna 419-241-8284

Marketing Manager

Cacographer, Layout & Sales

La Prensa Publications, Inc. dba La Prensa

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• Tierra phone 313.729.4435 • Fax: Please e-mail.

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SALES: 313.729.4435

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La Prensa's Detroit Office

W. Vernor Hwy.
Detroit MI 48209

Sales Representative:
Melinda Sánchez

313.729.4435

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Tony Bennett: Latinos such as Marc Anthony, Vicente Fernández, 'sing with heart'

By SIGAL RATNER-ARIAS, Associated Press

NEW YORK, Oct. 22, 2012 (AP) — Tony Bennett doesn't speak Spanish and he was not familiar with most of the Latino artists he recorded with for his new album, "VIVA Duets." But to his delight, the great US-American crooner discovered some common ground while recording: "They sing with the heart."

The 12-track album, out on Monday, includes collaborations with superstars like Christina Aguilera, Gloria Estefan, and Marc Anthony, as well as names like Chayanne, Juan Luis Guerra, Thalia, and Ricardo Arjona. Songs include "Steppin' Out With My Baby," "Who Can I Turn To (When Nobody Needs Me)," "For Once In My Life," "The Best Is Yet To Come," and "Return To Me (Regresa A Mí)," an English/Spanish duet with Mexican great Vicente Fernández.

Bennett greeted The Associated Press for a recent interview while surrounded by his oil and watercolor paintings in his art studio in Manhattan (with a real life landscape of Central Park as a backing). He was putting some finishing touches to a watercolor he was working on while whistling the tune "Fly Me To The Moon."

He's as proud of his art work as of his singing career, professing his love for both art expressions and showing proudly how, as an octogenarian, he's just taking on sculpting with a bust of his friend Harry Belafonte. "It's a lifetime study I enjoy very much," he said.

The Associated Press: You recently turned 86 and you keep recording, traveling, painting. What is the secret of your longevity?

Tony Bennett: Many people say, "How come you're not retiring?" I love life, so much. There are two things that I love very much: I sing and I paint ... It's really a lifetime study, so you keep learning from it. My ambition, if I get lucky enough, is to actually attempt to learn more and more and get better as I get older.

AP: A new duets album is coming out, "VIVA Duets," this time with all Latin stars.

Bennett: I loved it. I had no idea what to expect and what I found (is) it's kind of what they taught me in school—never to compromise and just do quality. And that's completely different than the outside world. The record companies want the latest fashion—rap or disco or whatever is coming out next. And I never did that. I went along with my teachers: Never do anything unless it has quality.

AP: You recorded the songs in person with them. You even traveled to Vicente Fernández's ranch in Mexico.

Bennett: It was fantastic! He's the favorite. They treat him like Frank Sinatra in the Latin countries ... He had a beautiful recording studio right on the grounds and we recorded right there.

AP: Any anecdotes of that trip?

Bennett: We had lunch with him and his wife and his people; my wife was with me. They were so gregarious. I said, "You have all these animals in your ranch, is fantastic." And "Oh, you like it?" Someone came over with a small dog to my wife and said, "Here, this is for you" (laughs). But we have a dog so I said, "Thank you, but we have a dog." The dog was adorable though (laughs).

AP: Juanes once said he warms up his voice with a tape you were generous enough to share with him. It's obvious that younger singers may have a lot to learn from you. Have you found yourself leaning from them?

Bennett: Yeah, a lot of them, every one of them. See, the one thing about the Latin singers, the majority of music that Latinos love, that the public loves of the Latinos, is they sing from the heart. And that doesn't go away. That makes the record never sound old-fashioned. There's some gimmick that's popular for 10 weeks and then forgotten. ... (But here) there was so much feeling in their performances that it will always sound good. Twenty years from now the same record will sound good because it has the feeling. They all sing with so much feeling and the public responds with so much feeling.

AP: Your voice still sounds impeccable. How do you keep it in shape?

Bennett: Well, I had very good training. I was in the Second World War ... and when I got back under the G.I. Bill of Rights the United States gave us schooling ... to make up for (the education) we would have had when we were in the Army. I made a very good move by joining the American Theater Wing. They gave us the best teachers. I had a real great education on how to preserve my voice and how to think about it and I had great teachers who taught me how to perform. It's helped me right through the years, I still remember everything they taught me.



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Barack Obama immigration stance locks in Latino support

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS, Oct. 22, 2012 (AP): Elizabeth Alvisar is exactly the sort of voter *Mitt Romney* needs.

A victim of the brutal economy in this swing state, the 30-year-old tax preparer has been out of work for months. She's a foe of abortion and gay marriage, and was naturally drawn to the Republican ticket.

But Alvisar has switched her support to President Barack Obama because of his support for legislation known as the *DREAM Act*. While Democrats failed to get the bill through Congress, Obama in August signed a directive that implemented its key provision—allowing young people brought into the country without authorization as children to avoid deportation if they graduate high school or join the military.

"I have a lot of friends who've taken advantage of that opportunity," Alvisar said.

In the heavily Latino neighborhood where Alvisar lives, unemployment is high and home values are down. But Obama's immigration stance, and especially his executive order, has locked in support from a fast-growing demographic group that has been trending sharply Democratic in the wake of increasingly hard-line Republican positions on immigration.

Obama's campaign is counting on Latinos providing the margin of victory not just in Nevada, but also in other swing states such as Colorado, Iowa, Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, and North Carolina.

"They know that he's on the right side of the immigration issue and wants to work with Congress for comprehensive immigration reform," deputy campaign manager Stephanie Cutter said. "They know he wakes up every day and thinks about how to secure the middle class and make it easier for young people to enter the middle class."

The importance of Latinos as a voting bloc and immigration as an election-year issue was brought home during last week's presidential debate. Obama reminded viewers that Romney, who went hard to the right on the issue during the GOP primaries, had argued for "self-deportation" to "solve the undocumented immigration problem" and took advice on the issue from the law professor who helped write Arizona's controversial immigration statute. The Republican challenger noted that Obama had promised to pass an immigration overhaul and had failed.

The Romney campaign says Latinos, enduring a 9.9 percent jobless rate, which is more than 2 points higher than the national average, are a natural draw for the GOP ticket. "Hispanics are hurting almost more than any other demographic group under the Obama economy," Romney's Spanish-speaking son Craig, a frequent surrogate in the Latino community, said in a brief interview. "They're really struggling and they understand that this president has failed them and we need someone who understands how to create jobs."

The Romney campaign opened an office here in September and last week hosted New Mexico's popular Latina governor, *Susana Martinez*, in an effort to cut into Obama's edge in East Las Vegas, home to 42 percent of Nevada's Latino population.

But even some Romney supporters are pessimistic that Republicans can make inroads with a population that, many polls show, favors Obama by a 2-to-1 margin.

"It's going to take several years because we haven't engaged this community at all," said Joel García, a conservative who formed a coalition to recruit Latinos here. "You've got a lot of Hispanics who are conservative in how they live their lives and their values, but there's this hook in their mouth pulling them left called immigration."

Much like any other group, Latinos often list the economy, jobs and education as top issues in polls. But the acrimonious immigration debate of the past decade has given that issue extra weight for them. "What started as a war on illegal immigration is now being perceived as a war on Latinos," said Matt Barreto, who polls Latinos for the company *Latino Decisions*.

Nevada is a prime example of that dynamic. In 2010, Latinos helped Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid win re-election against a tea party candidate who promoted her staunch anti-undocumented immigration stance. Republican Brian Sandoval, a Latino who was elected governor at the same time, only won 33 percent of the Latino vote.

Until Obama's executive order, Latino activists were frustrated that Obama had not pursued plans to legalize more undocumented immigrants. Instead, his administration was deporting them in record numbers.

"Before President Obama made his decision to go forward with deferred action, it was pretty dismal," said Vicenta Montoya, an immigration attorney and Democratic activist. "I was going to vote for Obama but it wasn't going to be with grand enthusiasm."

Now Obama's order has fired up Montoya and others in East Las Vegas, a swath of shopping centers, tire shops and weathered ranch houses sprawling east from the Strip. It's the neighborhood of the often-unionized people who make Sin City function—housekeepers, card dealers, and taxi drivers.

For some, Obama's order pulled them into politics. Earlier this month, Hector Rivera's father asked him what he was going to do with his future. Rivera, a high school senior who was brought into the United States without authorization when he was 5, went to the East Las Vegas Obama campaign office and volunteered.

The teenager already has applied for documents allowing him to work under Obama's program. "It's an opportunity for me and future generations," said Rivera, 17, imagining how his own unborn children could benefit someday. "Even though they'll be born here, I want to get a better job to give them a better opportunity so they can live a better life."

Others, like Sergio Solis, have suffered economically but see the president as on their side. Solis had to close a restaurant in Southern California and move here to work as a salesman for an energy company. But, after approvingly mentioning the *DREAM Act*, Solis said it will take time to correct the country's course following the eight years of the George W. Bush administration.

"This building here, I can dynamite it and destroy it in five minutes," Solis said, gesturing to a supermarket where he was handing out brochures. "But I can't build it back up in five minutes."

The Romney campaign's East Las Vegas office shares a strip mall with a bail bond company and a *tortilleria*. It opened after volunteers in the neighborhood urged the campaign to set up shop closer to their homes, so they didn't have to drive to the suburbs to phone-bank or collect yard signs.

Susana Loli, 56, is thrilled. The hotel housekeeper didn't vote for Obama in 2008. But as the economy collapsed before his inauguration, she hoped he could keep the country healthy. Now her side business fixing garage doors has shriveled, and she had to sell family property in Perú to stave off foreclosure on her Nevada house.

"With Mitt Romney, we'll have a better future for my children and grandchildren," Loli said. "The Latinos who are going to vote for Obama haven't studied the problem. When you talk to them and explain the situation, then they understand."

Ana María González, 50, was disappointed that some Latinos support Obama because of his executive order. She backs Romney because of her faith in his business acumen and moral values, but also because she thinks he's more likely to deliver a humane overhaul of the country's immigration system.

"In four years, President Obama did nothing," González said, adding, that she was certain Romney would come up with a way to let *DREAM Act* youth and other deserving undocumented immigrants stay in the country.

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