



THE BRIEN CENTER

Diversity • Equity • Inclusion • Belonging

Your courage, our care.

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Hispanic Heritage Month takes place in September every year to recognize and celebrate the many contributions, diverse cultures, and extensive histories of the American Latino community.

Beginning in 1968, Hispanic Heritage Month was originally observed as “Hispanic Heritage Week”, but it was later extended to a month in 1988. Since then, Hispanic Heritage Month has been celebrated nationwide through festivals, art shows, conferences, community gatherings, and much more. The month also celebrates the independence days of several Latin American countries, including: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua on September 15th, Mexico on September 16th, and Chile on September 18th.



INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

“Hispanic” is a term that refers to a Spanish-speaking individual from Spain and Spanish-speaking Latin America, but excludes people from Brazil.

“Latinx/Latine” includes people from Latin American countries formerly colonized by Spain or Portugal.

“Latinx/Latine” is the gender-neutral term used to describe a person of Latin American origin or descent, and as a nonbinary alternative to Latino or Latina.

BANNED BOOKS WEEK

The event has been held during the last full week of September since 1982. Banned Books Week is intended to encourage readers to examine challenged literary works and to promote intellectual freedom in libraries, schools, and bookstores. Its goal is "to teach the importance of our First Amendment rights and the power of literature, and to draw attention to the danger that exists when restraints are imposed on the availability of information in a free society."



FESTIVAL LATINO OF THE BERKSHIRES

The Festival Latino of the Berkshires is a non-profit organization created in 1995 to promote and celebrate Hispanic heritage in Berkshire County. Their main goal is to teach locals, visitors and new generations of established Latinos in the Berkshires about Latino culture.

On September 30th, the Brien Center will be tabling at their National Hispanic Heritage Month event at Town Hall/St. James Place - 325 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA. We could use some volunteers to help set-up, table, and break down for any portion of the event, 10am-5:30pm. Please reach out to DEI@briencenter.org if you are available.

Questions/Comments/Suggestions for the DEI Committee?

Contact Us: DEI@briencenter.org