DESCUBRE

ENCUENTRO 2026

ONE JOURNEY
10 YEARS
ENDLESS IMPACT

FLORIDA EDITION

hispanicfederation

MAKE A CONNECTION

ONE JOURNEY 10 YEARS ENDLESS IMPACT

Before the day ends, meet someone who...

Works in a different part of Florida
Name / Organization:

Serves a community similar to yours
Name / Organization:

Does work completely different from yours
Name / Organization:

Has a resource, idea, or experience you want to learn more about
Name / Organization:

Could be a future partner or collaborator
Name / Organization:

A MESSAGE TO OUR ENCUENTRO COMMUNITY

¡Bienvenidos!

A transformative gathering where the spirit, resilience, and collective energy of our Latino community take center stage as we reshape Florida's future.

Ten years into our journey in Florida, more than 100 visionary nonprofit champions, public officials, and grassroots advocates walk forward together in deep collaboration, harnessing our combined strength, passion, and expertise to spark enduring, positive change throughout the Sunshine State.

Encuentro Florida 2026 is not just an annual conference; it signifies a crucial milestone in our collective path toward building stronger communities and amplifying our voices. We start by honoring the commitment that unites us, then expand our understanding through dynamic workshops and strategic discussions.

Next, we turn innovative ideas into actionable solutions, build the skills and partnerships needed to implement them, and promote unified efforts to address the state's most urgent issues.

We, at Hispanic Federation, continue to be the engine of this movement, advocating tirelessly for our community since our first steps in 1990, now spanning 43 states and territories and supporting a network of over 850 partner nonprofits, including yours. Our dedicated work in Florida began in 2016, and through every trial, from the Pulse tragedy and Hurricane Maria to the COVID-19 pandemic and present threats, we have risen together to support and strengthen our communities.

Over the past year, our collective efforts have impacted thousands by reducing hunger, encouraging healthier minds and bodies, creating educational opportunities, advocating for justice and freedom, empowering voters through education, increasing job prospects, and collaborating with grassroots groups across the state to foster lasting resilience.

Together, we've demonstrated the remarkable power of unity, perseverance, and shared hope. Today, we thank our philanthropic partners, sponsors, and everyone who helped make this vision come true. Your support drives our mission and transforms Encuentro Florida 2026 into a strong force for progress.

Let us move forward together, united in purpose, as we continue building a stronger, more equitable, and sustainable Florida.



Frankie Miranda
President and CEO of
Hispanic Federation

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A DECADE BUILDING LEGACY

For ten years, Hispanic Federation Florida's story has never been about numbers alone. It has been about people: the families we serve, the organizations that show up every day, and the relationships that have grown into lasting partnerships.

We did not build these ten years for our community; we built them with our community. Today, our network of more than 125 partners and members represents different missions, communities, and strengths, but we share one goal: creating lasting impact.

Even when our communities or our work feel unseen, underestimated, or under pressure, remember what we bring to the table. Our experience matters. Our voices matter. Our organizations matter. The impact we create every day matters.

Let's continue creating spaces where our value is recognized, where we can learn from one another, strengthen relationships, and remind ourselves that we are stronger when we move forward together.

So, as we celebrate ten years in Florida, we hope to leave not only proud of how far we have come, but even more committed to what comes next.

Now more than ever, we must stay united. No one changes the world alone, and our community is stronger because each of us is part of it.



Laudi Campo
Florida State Director of
Hispanic Federation

MEET OUR TEAM



Freddie Agrait



Nomarys Cabiya



Mario Carbia



Daniella Cruz



Eli García



Gabriel Losada



Sandra Marrero



Mayelli Noguera



Yaretzi Pérez



Gladys Quiroga

Presenting Sponsor

Together, we are stronger.



TANYA HILL
Central Florida Market President
Florida Blue

Florida Blue has been serving Floridians for more than 80 years, driven by our mission to help people and communities achieve better health. We believe it's our responsibility and obligation as an organization to drive efforts to impact food security, advance mental well-being, and grow healthy communities.

This isn't just a promise — these are organizational imperatives backed up through tangible actions

Through employee volunteer efforts, philanthropic programs, community investments, partnerships with local organizations, and environmental sustainability practices, we've made a commitment to tackle social challenges and the diverse needs of our members and neighborhoods head-on

No single organization can address the needs of our region on their own. Only through partnerships can we address critical issues in our local communities and open new doors of opportunity to better enable our neighbors to reach their potential. That's why we are pleased to continue our partnership with the **Hispanic Federation** and their **Encuentro Event** to work together in support of the well-being of all Orlando-area residents — to create a brighter, healthier future for generations to come

Florida Blue

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Premier Sponsor

One community. One powerful rhythm.



Lourdes M. Mola
Vice President of Latin
Business Development
Seminole Gaming

SEMINOLE Hard Rock HOTEL & CASINO TAMPA

At Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa, bringing people together is at the heart of everything we do. Music may be our universal language, but our purpose reaches far beyond entertainment.

Since 1971, Hard Rock has lived by four guiding mottos: Love All–Serve All, All Is One, Save the Planet, and Take Time to Be Kind. These values inspire us to support our neighbors, create a welcoming environment, and make a meaningful difference in the communities we serve.

Florida's Latin community reflects an extraordinary diversity of cultures, countries, generations, and traditions. Connecting with this community begins with listening to, understanding, and celebrating the distinct stories and experiences that shape it.

At Seminole Hard Rock Tampa, we bring that commitment to life through world-class live entertainment, signature events, and thoughtfully curated dining and nightlife experiences that reflect Florida's rhythm. As we deepen our role in the region, we strive to be a cultural anchor where everyone feels welcome, cultures are celebrated, and lasting connections form through shared experiences.

Our commitment extends far beyond entertainment and into the communities we serve. Across Hard Rock, we support access to food and essential resources, promote responsible gaming and mental health awareness, help prevent human trafficking, create opportunities for women, and advance environmental sustainability through water conservation, cleaner energy, and responsible resource management. These efforts reflect a simple belief: Strong businesses, and strong communities rise together, and when communities thrive, we all thrive.

Encuentro reflects the power of coming together with intention. Through open dialogue, collaboration, and shared purpose, it creates opportunities to strengthen relationships, expand access and help build a more inclusive and prosperous future.

We are honored to join Hispanic Federation and fellow community leaders in advancing this important work. Together, we can turn shared values into meaningful and lasting impact.

OUR SPONSORS

We are grateful to our sponsors for their partnership, support, and commitment to our community.

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NORTHBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

Brulée COFFEE

SPEAKERS



Michelle Born

Associate Vice President for Capacity Building
at Hispanic Federation

Michelle oversees the development and growth of HF's capacity-building initiatives for the organization's extensive network of community-based partners. Previously, Michelle served as Senior Manager of Training at the New York Immigration Coalition; Training and Outreach Manager for LawHelpNY; and Immigration Attorney at The Bronx Defenders. Michelle has worked abroad and in the U.S. in various capacities with Human Rights Watch, Catholic Relief Services, Maryknoll Lay Missioners, and the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. She holds an M.A. in International Development from Fordham University and a J.D. from CUNY School of Law.



Victoria Colón

Program Manager Planning, Environmental, & Development Services Housing & Community Development Division

Victoria graduated from the University of Central Florida and holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Clemson University. With a background in emergency management, she currently works with Orange County Housing and Community Development on the Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) team.



Rocío Díaz

Director, Healthcare Market,
Florida and Puerto Rico at Genentech

Rocío is a high-impact Commercial Transformation Leader with over 19 years of experience in strategic leadership, commercial strategy, market access, and account management at Genentech.
She specializes in navigating the complex Payer/PBM, Health System, and Provider landscape to drive multi-million-dollar revenue growth and successful product launches. Her experience uniquely positions her to lead cross-functional organizations through the evolving challenges of the biotechnology and healthcare sectors.



Adrian Kierulf-Vélez

VP, External Affairs & Philanthropy FAIRWINDS Credit Union / Executive Director FAIRWINDS Foundation

Adrian leads the organization's external affairs and community impact strategy, advancing initiatives that promote financial well-being, strengthen partnerships, and create meaningful impact across Central Florida. With deep experience spanning the nonprofit, public, and private sectors, Adrian is passionate about building partnerships that drive transformational change. He currently serves on several community boards and is actively involved in regional leadership and civic initiatives. Adrian is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and has been recognized as one of the Orlando Business Journal's 40 Under 40.



Gabriel Losada

Digital Community Coordinator at Hispanic Federation

Gabriel is the Digital Community Coordinator at Hispanic Federation Florida, where he leads digital communications initiatives to strengthen community engagement, expand organizational outreach, and connect individuals and families with essential resources and opportunities. Through his work, Gabriel develops digital strategies, manages social media platforms, and creates content that highlights programs focused on education, economic mobility, health, and civic engagement.



Gerardo Morantes

Capacity Building Manager at Hispanic Federation

Gerardo is a cultural and community development specialist who graduated from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus. He is a socially engaged artist and facilitator of educational and professional development programs for organizations including 92nd Street Y, PISO Proyecto, and the Guggenheim Museum. He is currently a Capacity Building Manager at Hispanic Federation, where he manages nonprofit organizational development trainings for grassroots nonprofit leaders across the U.S. and Puerto Rico.



Bethsy Morales-Reid

VP for Program Impact & Strategy at Hispanic Federation

Bethsy has a track record of developing programs and advocacy strategies that engage communities and their leaders at the national level. While Ms. Morales-Reid has a public health background and assists in the development of health policy priorities for HF, she leads teams that impact the community through programs addressing food insecurity, health, early childhood through college education, and community engagement. Most recently, Bethsy worked on community asthma research with the Yale School of Medicine, with findings to be presented at the upcoming APHA Annual Meeting.

SPEAKERS



Brandon Munda

Senior Analyst, Federal Policy
at Hispanic Federation

Brandon is the senior analyst for federal policy at Hispanic Federation, where he supports policy research and advocacy initiatives on topics ranging from healthcare and education to housing and economic empowerment. Born to an immigrant father and a U.S.-born mother, both of whom spent their careers in public service, Brandon is honored every day for the ability to support community-based work. A proud graduate of the public school system, Brandon ultimately received his doctorate in history from the College of William & Mary, and strives to bring historical perspectives to contemporary policy issues.



Rolando Nieves

Director of Multimedia Content
at Hispanic Federation

Rolando is a filmmaker and the Director of Multimedia Content at Hispanic Federation. Known for human-centered storytelling; his documentary Used screened at major festivals like DOC NYC and the Florida Film Festival, and he is currently producing a documentary centered on a drag queen. Blending cinematic narrative with strategic communication, Rolando previously crafted Webby-winning ad campaigns in pharmaceutical marketing. He holds an MFA from New Jersey City University.



Nelson Placa

Senior Manager of Corporate Social Responsibility
for the Walt Disney World Resort

Nelson helps shape the reputation of The Walt Disney Company among key audiences, including community stakeholders. In this role, he leads CSR strategy development and execution to raise awareness of the company's social impact initiatives. Nelson has built and nurtured relationships with public-sector stakeholders, managing community partnerships, board engagements, and other outreach efforts. He holds a PhD in Hospitality Management from Iowa State University, with a specialization in food safety. Nelson's contributions have earned him numerous honors, including The Walt Disney Company's Partners in Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award.



Marco Antonio Quiroga

Founder and Executive Director of the Contigo Fund

Marco is the Founder and Executive Director of the Contigo Fund, an Orlando-based philanthropic organization established in the immediate aftermath of the June 2016 Pulse nightclub tragedy. Under his leadership, Contigo Fund became the first and only LGBTQ+ Latinx fund in the United States and has grown into the largest participatory grantmaking organization explicitly supporting queer communities of color in the U.S. South.



Verónica Sandoval

Director, Cross-Portfolio Philanthropy at Genentech

Verónica is a multidisciplinary executive with over 20 years of experience at the intersection of medical innovation, law, and community impact. She designs high-stakes strategies that align business priorities with systemic societal change. As a strategic catalyst, she bridges the gap between the biopharmaceutical industry, legislative caucuses, and community-led organizations. She excels at de-risking high-impact investments and building the trusted networks necessary to ensure breakthrough innovations reach the patients who need them most. By applying a problem-solving mindset to philanthropy and medical affairs, Verónica helps organizations move beyond "one-off" efforts to create sustainable, systemic initiatives that influence national trends and secure the future of healthcare infrastructure.



Nancy Sharifi

Assistant Manager of the Orange County Housing and Community Development Division

Nancy has over thirty years of experience in housing, community development, and grants management. She oversees funding for affordable housing, homeownership programs, and various community development projects, managing a budget of approximately $300 million. She holds a Master's degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor's degree in Communications from the UCF.



Angélica Suárez

Nonprofit Strategist, Educator and Coach
Founder of Yellow Collective

Angélica is a nonprofit strategist, educator, and coach with over 20 years of experience in the nonprofit and philanthropic sector. She began her career as a social entrepreneur, founding an international nonprofit serving internally displaced families in Colombia. Since then, she has held leadership and management roles in higher education and nonprofit organizations, helping organizations strengthen their mission, systems, and long-term impact. Angélica is the founder of Yellow Collective, a boutique consulting firm that supports mission-driven organizations with relationship-based fundraising, donor cultivation, and storytelling. She also serves as a Capacity Building Coach with Resilia, supporting nonprofits across the country. In addition, Angélica teaches fundraising at Indiana University's Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

SPEAKERS



Julie Tindal

Community Programs Manager with the City of Orlando Mayor's Office/Office of Community Affairs

Julie manages over $4 million in City grant funds that support nonprofit organizations, arts and cultural organizations, schools and neighborhood associations through two City of Orlando grant programs. Julie also manages Orlando Cares, the City of Orlando's citizen volunteer program, the ESF-15 (Volunteers & Donations) function for the City of Orlando Office of Emergency Management and Stand Up Orlando, Mayor Dyer's campaign to end bullying. She is the past President and current Treasurer of the Central Florida Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), Past President of the Grant Professionals Network (GPN) of Central Florida and past State Chair for Free Mom Hugs.



Mari Torres-Luengas

MSML, BSN, ACM-RN, serves as Director of Community Health and Community Advocacy for AdventHealth's Central Florida Division

Mari Torres-Luengas serves as the Executive Director of Community Advocacy and Community Health for AdventHealth's Central Florida Division. With 20 years of healthcare experience spanning nursing, care management, and community health, Mari is a strategic leader focused on advancing community health and improving health outcomes across Central Florida. In her role, she provides leadership for community health improvement, community benefit, and community wellness strategies, with a focus on addressing social needs and strengthening the connection between healthcare and the communities it serves. Mari holds a master's degree in Management and Leadership from Western Governors University. She is passionate about health improvement, creating meaningful investments and sustainable strategies that help individuals and communities thrive.



Sandi Vidal

Vice President for Program Strategy & Impact at Central Florida Foundation

Sandi brings together partners across sectors to address complex challenges such as homelessness, economic instability, and access to care and opportunity. With more than 25 years of business management experience and over 20 years in nonprofit leadership, she is known for turning big ideas into meaningful community impact. A graduate of the University of Miami School of Business, Sandi is a passionate advocate and public speaker focused on solutions to complex social issues. She serves on the Nominating Committee for the League of Women Voters of Orange County, the Board of ProNet, and several community task forces.

AGENDA

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BUILDING CAPACITY FOR THE NEXT CHAPTER

9:00 A.M. REGISTRATION OPENS

Start your Encuentro experience with a full breakfast, fresh coffee, and beverages while connecting with nonprofit leaders, community partners, funders, and friends from across Florida.

9:40 A.M. OPENING CEREMONY

We'll officially welcome everyone to Encuentro Florida 2026, share the meaning behind this year's theme, acknowledge the nonprofit leaders, partners, funders, elected officials, and community members joining us, and set the stage for a full day of learning and connection.

10:30 A.M. TWO EXPERIENCES. ONE GOAL: STRENGTHENING OUR ORGANIZATIONS

Participants will divide into two groups for simultaneous learning experiences:

GROUP 1 | FUNDING CONNECTIONS LAB

The Funding Connections Lab is a learning and relationship-building experience, NOT a grant competition. Organizations that completed the required virtual preparation workshop will have one representative participate in small-group conversations with assigned funders to share their pitch, learn, ask questions, and build relationships.

GROUP 2 | CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP

Organizations that did not participate in the virtual preparation workshop, along with additional staff members, will join the same consultant for an interactive in-person training focused on strengthening their organizational message, impact, and pitch.

AGENDA

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INVESTING IN CAPACITY. SUSTAINING IMPACT.

12:30 P.M. LUNCH & CONNECTIONS

Enjoy a Latin-inspired lunch with great flavors and continue connecting with nonprofit leaders, funders, elected officials, community partners, and other Encuentro participants.

1:30 P.M. FROM POLICY TO PEOPLE

Join Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer and other elected officials and community leaders for an educational, nonpartisan conversation about policy developments at the federal, state, and local levels and what they could mean for Florida families and communities.

2:40 P.M. INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS

Continue the afternoon with more learning, practical tools, and strategies you can take back to your organization. Participants will attend one of two workshops based on their assigned session.

COMMUNITY-BASED ASSET MAPPING

Explore strategies for identifying, leveraging, and mobilizing the strengths, resources, relationships, and opportunities that already exist within your community.

Learn practical approaches to community research, collaboration, reducing duplication of efforts, and activating existing resources.

STORYTELLING FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

Learn how to develop a short, clear, and compelling message that communicates your organization's work and motivates people to engage.

Build your story around five key elements:
Mission | Problem | Solution | Impact | Call to Action

4:20 P.M. CLOSING CELEBRATION

We'll come back together to reflect on the day, celebrate our nonprofit community, present the Friendship Award, and close Encuentro with our raffles.

NOTES FROM TODAY

Ideas, connections & takeaways worth remembering.

ONE JOURNEY 10 YEARS ENDLESS IMPACT

Something I learned today...

An idea I want to bring back to my organization...

A resource or opportunity I want to explore...

Someone I want to follow up with...

Something I heard that made me think differently...

My next step after Encuentro...

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YOUR JOURNEY AWAITS

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