

Access to Latino Arts & Cultural Engagement

Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) seeks support for CLUES' Arts & Cultural Engagement programming to expand Latino cultural experiences and community engagement initiatives that preserve and celebrate Latino cultural traditions. Our cultural arts programming fosters community wellness and healing, economic development, and preservation of Latino heritage developing "La Cultura Cura" (or Culture Heals you) as our motto. Through tailored Latino arts programming, our work uplifts community and Latino artists, and artisans through educational workshops, partnerships, gallery exhibits, and artist-driven apprenticeships. A direct Legacy Fund appropriation from the Minnesota Legislature will expand programming as follows:

Uplift Latino Artists and Cultural Traditions:

Working with over 100 Latino Artists, CLUES provides access to Latino cultural celebrations through arts projects, presentations, festivals, apprenticeships, and gallery exhibits of our culture and traditions. Legacy funds will support artists fellowships, apprenticeships, and professional development opportunities including business development training, artist networking, one-on-one mentorship, and demonstration partnerships.



Narrow Minnesota's Cultural Equity Gap:

CLUES operates Minnesota's only Latino culture-centered arts gallery, and provides the space, knowledge, and capacity for emerging artist to access broader community audiences. Latino artists face the starkest funding inequities for culturally tailored arts programming. Legislative support can help us address this gap, lift the voices of Latino artists, and provide access to high-quality artist-driven programming.



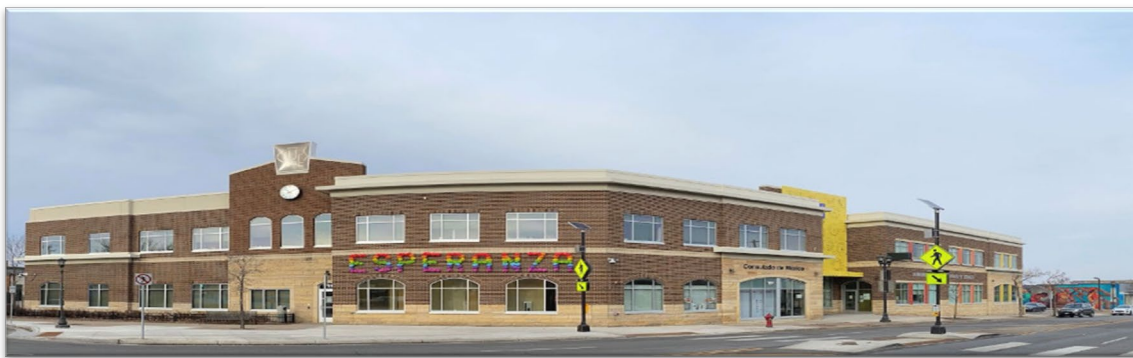
Foster Cultural Placemaking & Community Wellness:

Arts and Cultural preservation helps CLUES build social capital and prosperous neighborhoods through place-based investments that advance economic opportunities and preservation of cultural integrity. Our arts programs foster community wellness, economic development, and preservation of our Latino heritage on the East Side of Saint Paul and Lake Street, Minneapolis. Through cultural preservation and arts-based engagement, CLUES will connect and catalyze Latino artists to access capital and small business entrepreneurship.



Foster Cultural Engagement in Greater Minnesota:

A portion of the funds will be dedicated to expanding cultural engagement and deepening of cultural traditions in Greater Minnesota, particularly in Mankato, Austin, and Wilmar, where CLUES has offices and established partnerships.



CLUES exists to advance social and economic equity and wellbeing for Latinos by building upon our strengths and cultures and activating leadership for systemic change. We envision a Latino community that is growing in strength and unity, with diverse and amplified voices, equal representation, and the resources needed to lead healthy and thriving lives.

About CLUES and our Arts & Cultural Engagement Work:

Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) is the largest Latino-led nonprofit in MN. Founded 42 years ago as a social service organization, CLUES has grown to encompass a holistic approach to intergenerational Latino-centered community-building and culturally engaged organization.

Our focus in community building through cultural arts reflects our broader institutional goal to engage community in meaningful and transformational ways. In 2019, we expanded our Headquarters in the East Side of Saint Paul to a 40,000 sq. ft. building, transforming it into a welcoming community center and a new home for Latino artists and the advancement of Latino cultural preservation.

With the support of public and private funds CLUES has:

- ✓ Opened a Latino-artist focused art gallery, and presented over 100 artists (visual arts, poets, musicians, dancers) from throughout the State.
- ✓ Launched initial training for a new generation of public art Latino artists through professional development cohorts, mentorship, and networking opportunities.
- ✓ Created multigenerational public art and muralism projects that have been viewed by thousands of Minnesotans and have been featured prominently throughout the State and around the country.
- ✓ Engaged Latino participants and general audiences through hands-on arts workshops, cultural exhibits, and intergenerational art projects. Over 40,000 people have participated in our education programs during community festivals and celebrations, and virtual and in-person gallery exhibits.

