

Access to Latino Arts & Cultural Engagement

CLUES (*Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio* or *Latino Communities United in Service*) is Minnesota's largest Latino-led nonprofit founded 40 years ago and currently serving 35,000+ people annually. CLUES seeks support for HF1722/SF1758 to expand Latino cultural arts and community engagement initiatives and to connect communities through Latino tailored arts programming, while uplifting emerging Latino artists and artisans. Funding support from the legislature will help leverage and expand CLUES' Arts & Cultural Engagement to:

Uplift Emerging Latino Artists Programs:

- * Exhibit and presentation of artists in the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota.
- * Professional development opportunities including trainings, mentorship, etc.
- * Networking and presentation opportunities with established art galleries and museums.

Narrow Minnesota's Cultural Equity Gap:

CLUES operates Minnesota's only Latino-led arts gallery. This space provides a grassroots base and the cultural knowledge to reach Latino communities around the state. Latinos face the starkest inequities in funding for culturally tailored arts programming in Minnesota. Legislative support can help us address this gap and provide access to high-quality Latino arts programming.



CLUES Latino Arts Gallery, Saint Paul, MN



Artisan Flor Soto. Austin. MN

Foster Cultural Placemaking & Community Wellness: Arts and Cultural preservation are vehicles for CLUES to build the Latino community's social capital. Our arts program nurtures community healing and wellness, economic development, and the preservation of our Latino heritage. Through cultural preservation and arts-based engagement, CLUES will expand its work with artists and cultural placemaking that engages, connects, and uplifts Latino communities in the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota.

Promote Cultural Engagement in Greater Minnesota:

A portion of the funds will be dedicated to expanding cultural engagement with community and artists around the state, particularly in Mankato, Austin, and Wilmar, where CLUES has staff 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:

CLUES (Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio) is the largest Latino-led nonprofit in MN. Founded 40 years ago as a social service organization, CLUES has grown to encompass a holistic approach to intergenerational Latino-centered community-building and cultural engagement.

Our focus in community building through cultural arts reflects our broader institutional change to engage community in deeper and more meaningful 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 community and youth technology center and a home for Latino arts and culture in Minnesota.

With the support of public and private funds, over the last two years, CLUES:

- ✓ Opened MN's only Latino-centered community art gallery and hosted over 70 artists (visual arts, poets, musicians, dancers) from diverse areas of Minnesota. Our focus has been to uplift and train emerging Latino artists, especially folk artists, and community-engaged artists.
- ✓ Trained the next generation of Latino public artists in Minnesota through professional development cohorts, mentorship, and networking opportunities.
- ✓ Created multigenerational public art and muralism projects that have been viewed by hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans, and have been featured prominently in the Star Tribune, Pioneer Press, Duluth News Tribune, etc.
- ✓ Engaged Latino and immigrant audiences and participants through community-building arts workshops, culturally centered exhibits, and intergenerational art projects. Over 15,000 people have participated in our programs through hands-on arts learning, virtual programming, and in-person exhibits.

