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Welcome to the Attendees of the 2025 Chicago International Salsa Congress in Rosemont,

As Mayor of our Village, it is my pleasure to wish you a successful convention during your visit to our community at the Westin O'Hare. The history of Salsa Dancing and Latin Music is rich and enduring, and I commend you for carrying on that tradition while at the same time exploring new ways to honor it through new expressions of music and dance.

My congratulations to all of the Chicago International Salsa Congress attendees and to your leadership who continues to deliver what you and the public wants. The continued success of this meeting is proof of an organization that is well run. Beyond the obvious and tangible benefits that you as attendees derive, promoting Salsa Dancing and Latin Music as this convention does helps enrich Latin culture and build stronger family and community connections.

While you are in Rosemont, I invite you to take time to explore our many fine offerings for dining, shopping, and entertainment. We are truly the crown jewel in the greater O'Hare area. Our hospitality is renowned, and we strive to ensure you are pleased in everyway. I particularly Invite you to visit the Fashion Outlets of Chicago where you can find more than 130 shops and designer labels all under one roof. It's a shopper's paradise that you can't miss. Then there is Rosemont's Parkway Bank Park, the Pearl District, the Allstate Arena and the Rosemont Theatre where you'll find countless other ways to relax and enjoy your favorite show or have a drink or meal.

If you don't find time to visit all our attractions while you're here, why not make plans to come back and bring the whole family? It's with good reason that we like to say, "Rosemont, It's All Here." Again, thank you for coming to Rosemont and now, let the music begin!



Brad Stephens
Mayor



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Bienvenidos WELCOME



A message from the Producers of the Chicago International Salsa Congress (CISC)

Welcome to the 24th annual celebration of the Chicago International Salsa Congress.

We are very excited to have you join us for another over-the-top weekend filled with the best in dance learning experiences, extravagant dance showcases, music concerts and social dancing!

We have some special additions to the CISC this year along with exciting new and returning dance instructors, performers and the very best of Latin music artists and orchestras. The Best Social Dancers Contest was a resounding success last year and returns again on Opening Night. Don't miss this fun feature for all social dancers to show their moves, win cash prizes and trophies and see who will be crowned the CISC's Best Social Dancers for 2025! The Rueda Summit returns with Cuban dance lovers from all over gathered to learn new steps, calls and reconnect. The Latin Hustle Summit has moved to Saturday and will also have a Latin Hustle and West Coast Swing social following the classes. Don't miss Guest DJ Gloria hosting the LGBTQ+ Ballroom on Saturday evening, all dancers welcome.

On Saturday night, we will remember one of our founding members, Ms. Gloria Farr, a legendary Chicago mambo diva who we will never cease to miss. Gloria had a storied career from the 50's and 60's thru the decades. She and Saladeen were each other's last professional dance partner. She loved the song, Dance to the End of Love, and we all know that love never ends! We hope you will join us at the top of the show for a short slideshow presentation of our Last Dance with Gloria Farr.

For the very first time at CiSC it is our pleasure to present, in conjunction with PCCCArts, a special concert and pop up social following the Matinee Show on Sunday with all youth musicians. You won't want to miss this exciting addition to our programming that amplifies the mission of the Chicago International Salsa Congress in a positive and unique way. We hope everyone from the Matinee Show, performers and attendees along with all interested CISC participants will be as thrilled with their concerts and social as we are. The CISC Marketplace has some new and exciting vendors as well as your very favorite things from year's past. Visit them in the foyer of the Grand Ballroom which is open to the general public.

Our gratitude only grows with each year for our Presenting Sponsor, Ms. Myrna Bromley and all of our sponsors, contributors, patrons and promotional partners. We couldn't do this without your generous and sustaining contributions, in kind and real. You help us weather the political and financial tides which is nearly impossible for small performing arts groups such as we are, and we thank you again from the bottom of our hearts.

Warm and welcoming regards,

Rosita Ragin-Alamin, Saladeen Alamin,
Myrna Bromley and Gina Wiklund

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CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL SALSA CONGRESS PRESENTED AT THE WESTIN O'HARE

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Cover artwork: **Elena Magdalena**

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GLOBAL

Alex & Judy of Esfera Latina	Colombia
Alex Flavor & Flavor Factory	FL
Angel & Stephany	NY
Bembe Latino	MI
Cadence Dance	Canada
Celso & Desiree	CA
Combining Cultures of Badger HS	WI
Delia & Raul	NY
Estrellitas	WI
Euphoria	Amsterdam
Euphoria Student Team	Amsterdam
Frankie Martinez	NY
Gio & Gaby Ochoa	Mexico
Gustavo Kristal Dance	WI
Gustavo Krystal Ladies	WI
Iroko Dance Co	FL
James & Peiwei Cobo	NC
JuanPe & Diana	Mexico
Kayla Harris of Gustavo Kristal Dance	WI
Latin Vintage Dance Company	DC/VA
Latin Vintage Dulzura	DC/VA
Latin Vintage Riqueza	DC/VA
Latin Vintage Sabor	DC/VA
Luis & Jess	LA
Marc & Rose	MI
Melanie Castillo y Su Candela	FL
MG Dance Elites	CA
Moore Mambo by Stephany Moore	NY
Salsabrositas	WI
Salsabrositas Junior Team	WI
Sondeluz	Colombia
Tony & Lyliana	CA
Yeniel "Chini" Domenech	MN
Zianna Otero	FL
Michelle Zamora	WI

LOCAL

ABC
 Aspira
 Bachata Allstars
 Continente Azul
 Cresente
 Cyrus & Yazmin of Latinos Juntos
 Diosas
 Eclipse
 Estrellas de Belpedio
 Jackie & Rafa
 Jessica & Christian
 Jocelyn & Sebastian
 Kachimbo
 La Mecca
 Ladies of Latinos Juntos
 Latin Rhythms Bachata Beat
 Latin Rhythms Dance Company
 Latin Rhythms Equipo Mambo
 Latin Rhythms Futuro Dance
 Latin Rhythms Ladies Bachata
 Latin Rhythms Salsa Protégés
 Latin Street Melao' Juniors
 Latin Street Melao Salsa Team
 Latinos Juntos Dance Team
 Luis & Kasie
 Mayambo
 Mayambo Ladies
 Mayambo Students
 MG Chicago
 Mi Esencia Chicago
 Mosaico
 OLAS
 PCCC Arts Folkloric
 Proyecto Allstars
 Pa'lante
 Rafa & Sonia
 Ritmo Caribe
 Suaventura
 The Moves Project
 The Moves semi-pro
 Tun Bere
 Tun Bere Meji

PARTICIPANTS INSTRUCTORS

GLOBAL

Alex & Judy of Esfera Latina	Colombia
Angel Peguero	NY
Besty Guerrero	WI
Celso & Desiree	CA
Clifton Stennett	Canada
Delia Madera	FL
Denisse Cambria	FL
Elaine Marrero	MI
Ernesto Bulnes	FL
Alex Flavor	FL
Frankie Martinez	NY
Gio & Gaby Ochoa	Mexico
Gustavo Nicola	WI
Jose & Neria of Euphoria	Amsterdam
Juan Calderon	FL
JuanPe & Diana	Mexico
Julissa Cruz	VA
Kelly Brown	WA
Krystal Nicola	WI
Luis & Jess	CA
Lyrik Cruz	CA
Marc Brewer	MI
Melanie Castillo	FL
MG Dance Elite	CA
Michelle Zamora	WI
Natalie Bean	WI
Raul Valenzuela	FL
Rose Turuka	MI
Sondeluz	Colombia
Stephany Moore	NY
Yeniel "Chini" Domenech	MN

LOCAL

Adrian Tenorio
Angel Martinez
Blanca Aviles of Latin Rhythms
Daniela Leon
Dawn Lara
Del Dominguez
Edilson Lima
Esther Gutierrez-Sloan
Jackie & Rafa
Jorge Velasquez of Latin Rhythms
Kasie Dembowski
Kimberly Rivera of KR Dance Studio
Laura Flores
Luis Santillan
Zeke Ruvalcaba
Nadia Alvarado of Latin Rhythms
Nino Digiulio
Victor Monroy of Latin Rhythms



Program
THURSDAY 13TH

Time	Activity
3:00 PM	Vendor and Exhibitor Load-In and Set Up Hotel Check-In
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM	On-Site Registration. - OPEN
7:00 PM	Free Beginner Dance Class with Jessica and Christian - Grand Ballroom Rueda Summit - Open Michigan Ballroom
8:00 PM	Cuban Timba with Edson de Cuba.- Grand Ballroom
9:00 PM	Best Social Dancers Contest - Grand Ballroom Single Elimination Round for CISC attendees Contest Finals
10:30 pm - 2:00AM	CISC Concert Series presents TRABUCO SALSA BAND - Grand Ballroom Social Dancing with CISC DJs to close



Sonora CARRUSELES

Program **FRIDAY 14TH**

Time	Activity
9:30 AM - 4:00 PM	On Site Registration - OPEN
9:30 AM	CISC Marketplace - Open to Public Vendor Exhibition - Grand Ballroom Foyer
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Workshop Series
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Matinee Dance Showcase - Grand Ballroom
7:30 PM	Grand Ballroom Doors Open - Seating begins Professional Dance Showcase Keeper of the Flame Award - CRISTINA PAREDES (ZAVALA)
9:30 PM	Social Dance Parties in 3 elegant ballrooms Michigan - Cumbia, Merengue Dance Party LaSalle Ballroom - Bachata Dance Party Grand Ballroom - Mambo/Salsa/Cha-Cha/Boogaloo
11:00 PM - 4:00 AM	CISC Concert Series presents SONORA CARRUSELES - direct from Colombia Grand Ballroom
1:00 AM	ESME in Concert - LaSalle Ballroom Social Dance Parties continue



La EXCELENCIA

Program SATURDAY 15TH

Time	Activity
9:30 AM - 4:00 PM 9:30 AM	On Site Registration - OPEN CISC Marketplace - Open to Public Vendor Exhibition - Grand Ballroom Foyer
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Workshop Series Latin Music Master Class - Forum Matinee Dance Showcase - Grand Ballroom Bootcamp with Raul & Delia Bachata Challenge with Celso and Desiree
5:00 PM	Vinyl DJs Exhibition - Foyer of Grand Ballroom
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Latin Hustle Summit - Michigan Ballroom
7:30 PM	Grand Ballroom Doors Open - Seating begins Professional Dance Showcase Special Remembrance: The Last Dance with GLORIA FARR
9:30 PM	Social Dance Parties in 3 elegant ballrooms LaSalle Ballroom - Bachata Dance Party Grand Ballroom - Mambo/Salsa/Cha-Cha/Boogaloo
10:00 PM - 2:00 AM	LGBTQ+ Party with DJ Gloria - Michigan Ballroom Latin-Hustle & West Coast Swing Dance Party - Lakeshore
11:00 PM - 4:00 AM	CISC Concert Series presents LA EXCELENCIA - New York Social Dance Parties continue



Herman OLIVERA

Program SUNDAY 16TH

Time	Activity
9:30 AM - 4:00 PM 9:30 AM	On Site Registration - OPEN CISC Marketplace - Open to Public Vendor Exhibition - Grand Ballroom Foyer
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Workshop Series Matinee Dance Showcase - Grand Ballroom Bootcamp with Raul & Delia Bachata Challenge with Celso and Desiree
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	PCCC Arts Youth Latin Jazz-Salsa Concert and Pop up Social LaSalle Ballroom
7:30 PM	Grand Ballroom Doors Open - Seating begins Professional Dance Showcase
9:30 PM	Social Dance Parties in 3 elegant ballrooms Michigan - Cumbia, Merengue Dance Party LaSalle Ballroom - Bachata Dance Party Grand Ballroom - Mambo/Salsa/Cha-Cha/Boogaloo
11:00 PM - 3:00 AM	CISC Concert Series presents CHICAGO MERENGUE ALL STARS HERMAN OLIVERA - New York Social Dance Parties continue

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Schedule

PERFORMANCES

THURSDAY 13TH

No Showcase

FRIDAY 14TH

4:00PM
Matinee Artist Showcase

Eclipse Students
Amamia Dance Company
Denny Jhoan Ramos of Sondeluz
Sondeluz Contemporary
LR Bachata Beat
Nohely & Luis Antonio of Sondeluz
PCCC Arts Folkloric
LS Melao Salsa
Olivia of Salsabrositas
Rafa & Sonia
LS Cumbia Team
Madeleyne & Harrison of Sondeluz

SATURDAY 15TH

4:00PM
Matinee Artist Showcase

Gustavo Krystal Dance Ladies
Rhianna & Natalia of Salsabrositas
LR Salsa Proteges
Combining Cultures Badger High School
Ana Sofia Melendez of Sondeluz
Dulzura of Latin Vintage
Amamia Dance Company
LS Casino Team
Jessica & Christian
Sabor of Latin Vintage
Tun Bere Meji
Euphoria Student Team
LR Equipo Mambo
The Moves Project Training Team
Proyecto Allstars
Grupo Ire
Estrellas Dance Co
IROKO Ladies World Project
Ana Sofia Melendez of Sondeluz

SUNDAY 16TH

4:00PM
Matinee Artist Showcase

Luis & Pedro of Sondeluz
Rhianna of Salsabrositas
Camila & Carlos of Sondeluz
Cyrus & Yazmin of Latinos Juntos
Kayla Hazen of Gustavo Krystal
LR Futuro
Harrison Castillo of Sondeluz
Estrellitas
Mosaico Dance
Aspira
ABC
Mosaico
Ritmo Caribe
Cresente
Ritmo Caribe
LS Melao Junior Team
Estrellas de Belpedio
OLAS
Salsabrositas Junior Team
Continente Azul
Suaventura

7:30PM

OPENING NIGHT 2025

Michigan Ballroom
7:00 - 9:30PM
Rueda Summit

Grand Ballroom
7:00PM
Introductory Dance Class

8:00PM
Cuban Style Salsa Class

9:00PM
2025 CISC Best Social
Dancers Contest
Elimination and Finals

TRABUCO in concert!!

8:00PM

Performance Showcase

Best of 4pm Show
LR Ladies Bachata Styling
Bachata Allstars
Luis & Kasie of Mosaico
Jackie & Rafa
Marc & Rose
Riqueza of Latin Vintage
IROKO Dance Company
MG Dance Elite LA
Mayambo Students
Natalia Bean of Salsabrositas
Jocelyn & Sebastian
Latin Vintage
LR Bachata Beat Semipro
JuanPe & Diana
Gio & Gaby
Sondeluz Bolero
Luis & Jess
Nerea of Euphoria
La Mecca
The Moves Project Semipro
Michelle Zamora

8:00PM

Performance Showcase

Best of 4pm Show
Natalia & Layanet of Salsabrositas
James & Peiwei Cobo
Euphoria
Latin Vintage
Cadence Dance
Kachimbo
Bachata Allstars
MG Dance Elite LA
Melanie Castillo y Su Candela
Gio & Gaby
Angel & Stephany
Latin Rhythms Dance
Sondeluz Colombian Folklore
Delia & Raul
Alex & Judy of Esfera Latina
Frankie Martinez
IROKO Dance Company
JuanPe & Diana
Diosas
Celso & Desiree
The Moves Project
Mayambo
Alex Flavor and Flavor Factory

8:00PM

Performance Showcase

Best of 4pm Show
Alex Flavor and Flavor Factory
Bachata Allstars
Tun Bere
Luis & Jess
Latin Street Competition Team
Angel & Stephany
Salsabrositas
Euphoria
James & Peiwei Cobo
MG Dance Elite LA
Cadence Dance
Delia & Raul
Bembe Latino
Frankie Martinez
MG Dance Chicago
Mayambo
Celso & Desiree
Alex & Judy of Esfera Latina
Sondeluz Afro Colombian
Melanie Castillo y Su Candela
Zianna Otero

* SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Workshops

FRIDAY 14TH

	Grand Ballroom A	Lakeshore	Michigan	Madison	Lasalle BC	Director's Suite
10:00AM	Esther Gutierrez-Sloan SALSARobics All Levels	Kelly Brown & Duschka Fowler Rueda Casino Beg/Int	MG Dance Company Bachata Fusion Shines Beg/Int		Sondeluz Salsa Caleña on1 Intermediate	
11:15AM	Gio & Gaby Ochoa Salsa Partner work On1 Intermediate	Victor Monroy Mambo Partner work On2 Beg/Int	Elaine Marrero Ladies Styling On1 Beginner	Luis & Kasie of Mosaico Dominican Bachata Intermediate	Juan Calderon Bilingual Salsa from On1 to on2 Int/Adv	Angel Martinez Mambo Shines on2 Intermediate
12:30PM	JuanPe & Diana Bachata Fusion Partner work Int/Adv	KR Dance Studio Mambo Combo on2 Beg/Int	Marc & Rose Cha Cha Cha Footwork On2 All Levels	Nino DiGiulio & Dawn Lara W.Coast Swing Crash Course Beginner	James & Peiwei Cobo Salsa Partner work & Shines Int/Adv	Zeke Ruvalcaba of PhyZeke Dance Body Movement All Levels
1:45PM	Delia & Raul Turn Patterns On2 Int/Adv	Adrian Tenorio Pachanga Beginner	Lyrik Cruz Latin Fusion part 1 on2 Intermediate	Chini Domenech Afro Cuban Orishas All Levels	Alex & Judy Esfera Latina Salsa Partner work On1 Beg/Int	Jorge Velasquez Footwork & Body Movement On2 Beginner
3:00PM			Alex Flavor Salsa Footwork Intermediate		Angel Peguero & Stephany Moore Partner work On2 Int/Adv	Julissa Cruz Latin Jazz Beg/Int
4:30PM - 6:30PM	Boot Camp and Performance Challenge in the Michigan Ballroom					
4:00PM	Matinee Artist Showcase in Grand Ballroom~ Special admission ticket \$25 is available onsite and online; valid for viewing the 4:00 pm show only. Show access is included with All Day, Weekend & Full Passes.					

* SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Workshops

SATURDAY 15TH

	Grand Ballroom A	Lakeshore	Michigan	Madison	Lasalle BC	Director's Suite
10:00AM	Esther Gutierrez Sloan Salsarobics All Levels	Betsy & Matt of Mezclando Milwaukee Rueda Casino Intermediate	Adrian Tenorio Mambo Footwork on2 Int/Adv	Melanie Castillo Cha Cha Cha Shines on2 Intermediate	Edilson Lima Brazilian Samba All Levels	Natalia Bean of Salsabrositas Ladies Styling on2 Beg/Int
11:15AM	Delia & Raul Fancy Shines & Partner work on2 Int/Adv	Chini Domenech Afro Cuban Orishas Intermediate	JuanPe & Diana Bachata Musicality Shines Int/Adv	Elaine Marrero Lead & Follow Salsa Turn on1 Beg/Int	Gio & Gaby Spinning Techniques Int/Adv	Julissa Cruz Cha Cha Cha Partnering on2 Int/Adv
12:30PM	IROKO Dance Footwork Class on2 Intermediate	Blanca Aviles Ladies Styling on2 Intermediate	James & Peiwei Cobo Mambo Partner work Beg/int	Kelly Brown & Duschka Fowler Son & Son Clave for Salseros on1 All levels	Juan Calderon Salsa Footwork on1 Intermediate	Rose Turuka of Marc & Rose Afro Movement All levels
1:45PM	Jose & Neria of Euphoria Afro Fusion Beg/Int	Lyrrik Cruz Latin Fusion part 2 on2 Int/Adv	MG Dance Elite LA Salsa Partner work on1 Beg/Int	Laura Flores Shines on2 Intermediate	Celso & Desiree Bachata Partner work Int/Adv	Gustavo Krystal Dance Salsa Dips & Tricks on1 Intermediate
3:00PM			Cadence Dance Groovy Bachata Turn Pattern on1 Beg/Int		Frankie Martinez Mambo Shines Int/Adv	Luis & Jess Salsa Fun Partnering on1on2 Intermediate
4:00PM - 6:30PM	Boot Camp and Performance Challenge in the Michigan Ballroom					
4:00PM	Matinee Artist Showcase in Grand Ballroom~ Special admission ticket \$25 is available onsite and online; valid for viewing the 4:00 pm show only. Show access is included with All Day, Weekend & Full Passes.					

* SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Workshops

SUNDAY 16TH

	Grand Ballroom A	Lakeshore	Michigan	Madison	Lasalle BC	Director's Suite
10:00AM	Esther Gutierrez Sloan Salsarobics All Levels	Betsy & Matt of Mezclando Milwaukee Salsa Partner work Beginner	Natalia Bean of Salsabrositas Mambo shines on2 Intermediate	Michelle Zamora Lyrical Mambo on2 Beg/Int	Sondeluz Salsa Caleña on1 Int/Adv	
11:15AM	Celso & Desiree Bachata Partner work Int/Adv	Angel Martinez Mambo Shines on2 Beg/Int	Gustavo & Krystal Salsa Romantica On 1 Intermediate	Elaine Marrero Ladies Styling on2 Beg/Int	MG Dance Company Salsa Fusion Footwork Int/Adv	Kelly Brown & Duschka Fowler Salsa Rhythms Deep Dive on1/on2 Beg/Int
12:30PM	Frankie Martinez Afro Caribbean body movement and Isolations Int/Adv	Jackie & Rafa Elevate Your Salsa Shines on2 Beg/Int	Juan Calderon Bachata Connection Int/Adv	Del Dominguez Partner work & Technique Beg/Int	Alex & Judy of Esfera Latina Salsa Tricks and Lifts Int/Adv	Melanie Castillo Ladies Styling Intermediate
1:45PM	Angel & Stephany Musicality Footwork Intermediate	Nadia Alvarado Boogaloo Beg/Int	Luis & Jess Bachata Fusion Footwork Intermediate		IROKO Dance Flicks and Tricks Partner work on2 Int/Adv	Cadence Dance Dance Hall Party Vibes All levels
3:00PM			Alex Flavor Factory Musicality Footwork Intermediate		Jose & Nerea of Euphoria Salsa Footwork Beg/Int	KR Dance Studio Pachanga on 2 Intermediate
4:30PM - 6:30PM	Boot Camp and Performance Challenge in the Michigan Ballroom					
4:00PM	Matinee Artist Showcase in Grand Ballroom~ Special admission ticket \$25 is available onsite and online; valid for viewing the 4:00 pm show only. Show access is included with All Day, Weekend & Full Passes.					

* SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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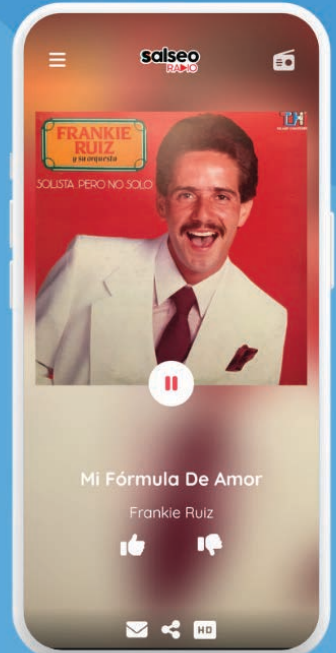
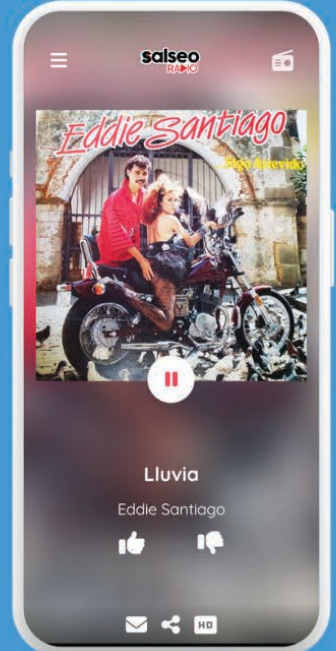
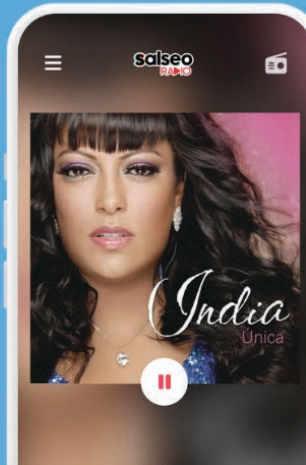
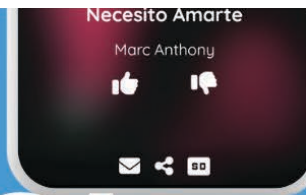


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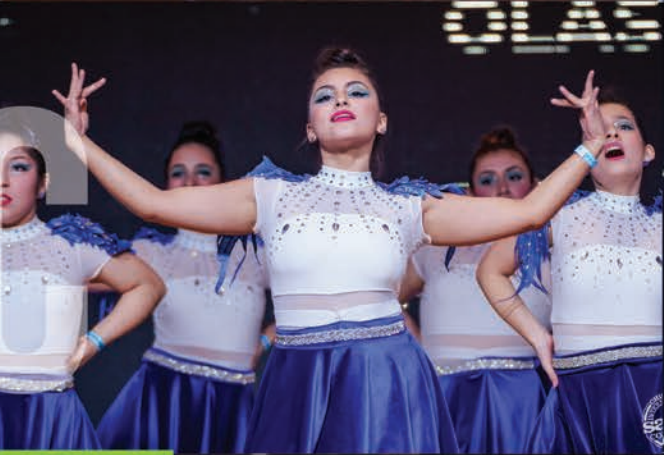


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RADIO











CRISTINA
Paredes

THE KEEPER OF THE FLAME RECIPIENT FOR 2025

Cristina Paredes (Zavala) has had Salsa/Mambo in her heart for as long as she can remember. She was a seasoned instructor and performer in the Chicago Salsa scene for many years and has been one of the truly recognizable, homegrown stars to emerge from the Chicago area. Through dance, she has been blessed to travel the world including visits to: Italy, Belgium, Korea, China, London, Venezuela, Curacao, Canada, Japan, and all over the U.S.A.

EARLY YEARS

Her earliest dance influences came from music videos, where she and her sister Veronica would mimic popular dance moves/choreography. Coming from Chicago, the “house footwork” scene was also a strong influence for them as well.

It was not until 23 years ago, on a leap of faith, that she decided to take her dancing more seriously. She decided to accept an open invitation from her friend, Jason Pacheco, to audition for a new dance company that was being formed by an up-and-coming director/choreographer at that time (world renown artist- Sekou McMiller).

Cristina became a founding member of the Descarga Caribe Dance Company in Chicago in 2003, which set her salsa/mambo career in motion. Through the complex and inventive choreographies that the group became known for, Cristina developed into one of the principal female dancers in the company.

PARTNERSHIPS

Cristina's Descarga Caribe experience and development as a dancer lead her to becoming Sekou's traveling partner (2003-2008), spring



Festival in Tampa called Baila Tampa Dance Festival (www.bailatampa.com) every May. Cristina now has 2 daughters with Juan and was honored to share the stage with her eldest last year with a mambo girls' choreography.

Cristina is beyond proud of her Chicago dance roots, always sharing fondly her experiences and influences that shaped her development as a dancer, performer, and teacher. She continues to be impressed at how the dance community has grown and hopes to continue sharing her love of Latin dance for many years to come.

She is truly honored to accept the 2025 Keeper of the Flame award. Thank you CISC for this recognition and all you do to keeping dance alive and thriving.

boarding their careers both on a national and international scale.

While a relocation forced her successful partnership with Sekou to come to an end, she started a new partnership with the amazing Rodrigo Cortazar from Veracruz, Mexico from August 2008 – 2009. Rodrigo and Cristina also traveled frequently during this time and won the hearts of many with their animated choreographies and unique style.

Towards the end of her performance journey, she last partnered with Chicago native, and talented Adrian Tenorio (currently The Moves Project-director/choreographer). Adrian and Cristina met while dancing with Descarga Caribe Dance Company and formed a great bond through those experiences that carried over to their own performances. They won several dance competitions together and represented Chicago in many major events across the world including Tokyo, Curacao, and across the United States.

PRESENT

In 2014, she relocated to Tampa, FL where she and her husband, Juan "TaTo" Paredes opened their own dance studio, "TaTo Salsa" of which they just completed their 10-year anniversary. She and her husband now host their own Salsa and Bachata



A LAST DANCE WITH

GLORIA *Farr*



A native of Chicago, Gloria “La Diva” Farr was a professional dancer and teacher, a diligent employee, daughter, sister, wife, step-mother and friend. She was genuine, kind and generous with her knowledge, talent, resources, and time. As a dancer, she was trained in ballet, traditional jazz, Afro-Cuban, Afro-Caribbean, tap, and professional mambo. During a career that shone brightly in the 50’s and 60’s, Gloria performed throughout the United States and internationally. Her energy, enthusiasm and devotion to the performing arts have been instrumental in helping to keep the Mambo alive. She worked 35 years as the Food Service Manager in the Burn Unit of Cook County Hospital, which she said paid for her music and costumes. After retiring in 1994 to care for her aging parents, Gloria remained one of the most recognized mambo dancers of the 50’s and 60’s era in Chicago.

Gloria started her dance training while in high school. In Chicago, she trained with Sadie Bruce Dance School, Jimmy Payne, Sammy Dyer Jewell McLaurin, and Julian Swain. Her first road experience was with Larry Steele Smart Affairs in 1953. She also traveled as a duo “Malley & Gloria” and had a stint in New York where she took classes



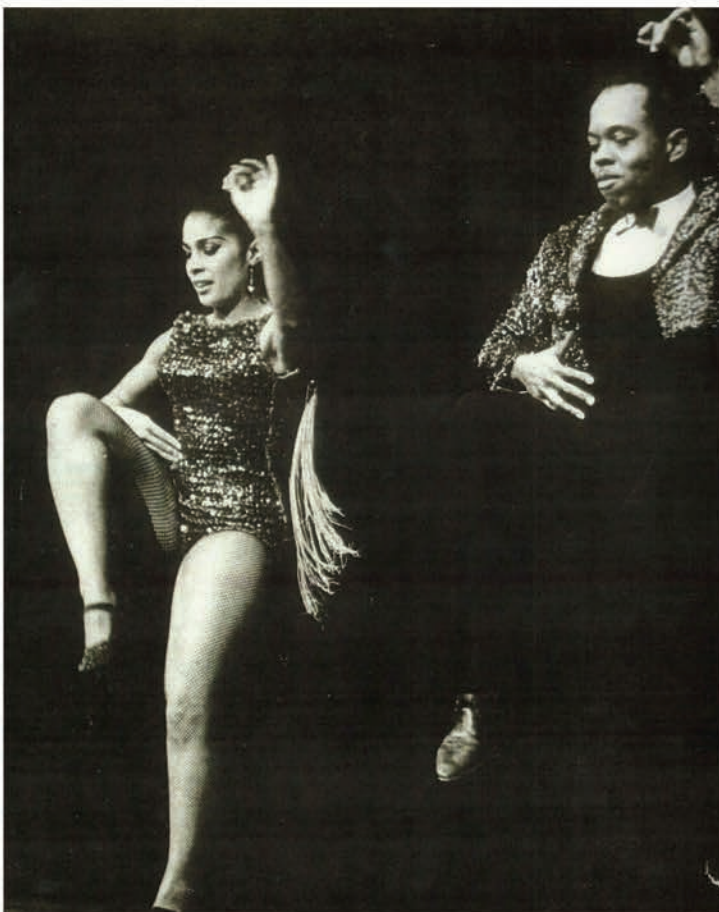
at the Katherine Dunham School of Dance and the Manhattan School of Ballet. She did chorus work with Julian Swain at the Regal Theatre, Club DeLisa and Roberts Show Club. She was Cuban Pete's Chicago partner at Roberts Show Club, Havana Madrid and the Starlight Room in the mid 50's. In the 60's Gloria performed with Charles Anderson. They were the opening act for Tito Rodriquez at the Boom Boom Room, for Lucho Calico at the Ashland Auditorium and performed a various festivals and reviews. Gloria and Minnie Murph had a dance school for 20 years. A highlight of their

curriculum was a children's dance workshop, named FantasKicks.

Gloria, along with Saladeen Alamin, Rosita Ragin-Alamin and Bernie Riley, co-founded Cultural Expressions. This social dance group used the proceeds from their events to raise funds for Children with HIV at U of C's Pediatric HIV Program. In the late 1950's, Gloria and Saladeen knew each other from Southside clubs such as Basin Street, Roberts Show Club and the Grand Ballroom, although they each had other professional

performing partners at the time. Saladeen and his partner, "Cha Cha" George were known as the Mambo Deuces, performing acrobatic moves within their mambo dance routines. But in the late 90's Gloria and Saladeen became each other's last professional performing partner.

After Cultural Expression was formed, Gloria and Saladeen formed the Cultural Expressions Mambo Legends Duo. Gloria was also performing with the Fabulous 50-Plus Dancers, with Loretta Brown and Jean Robinson. In 1999, Saladeen and Gloria performed in the World performed in the World Salsa Congress in San Juan, PR and were featured in Peoples Magazine en Espanol. In 2000, collaborating with the Muntu Dance Theatre, Gloria and Saladeen choreographed the Roots of Mambo routine for the World Salsa Congress. They received the Andy Vasquez Award at the World Salsa Congress in 2003. They performed in the Serendipity Production, "Seniors on Parade" at the Chicago Theatre in 2004. The following year they received the Honorees for Best Senior Performance by Creativity United. Gloria and Saladeen continued performing at Muntu Dance Theatre, Athenaeum Theatre, Sundance



Productions, Coqui TV, Chicago Jazz Institute, Northeastern University, New Dance Club Seven with Herb Kent, Chernin Center for the Arts (Duncan YMCA, Pritzker School of Medicine, Beverly Arts Center and many, many more.

There is so much more that could be shared about a life as well lived as Gloria's and we will endeavor to share more in future projects that we have planned. We hope that you enjoy the slideshow tribute planned for Gloria Farr on Saturday evening, February 15, 2025.

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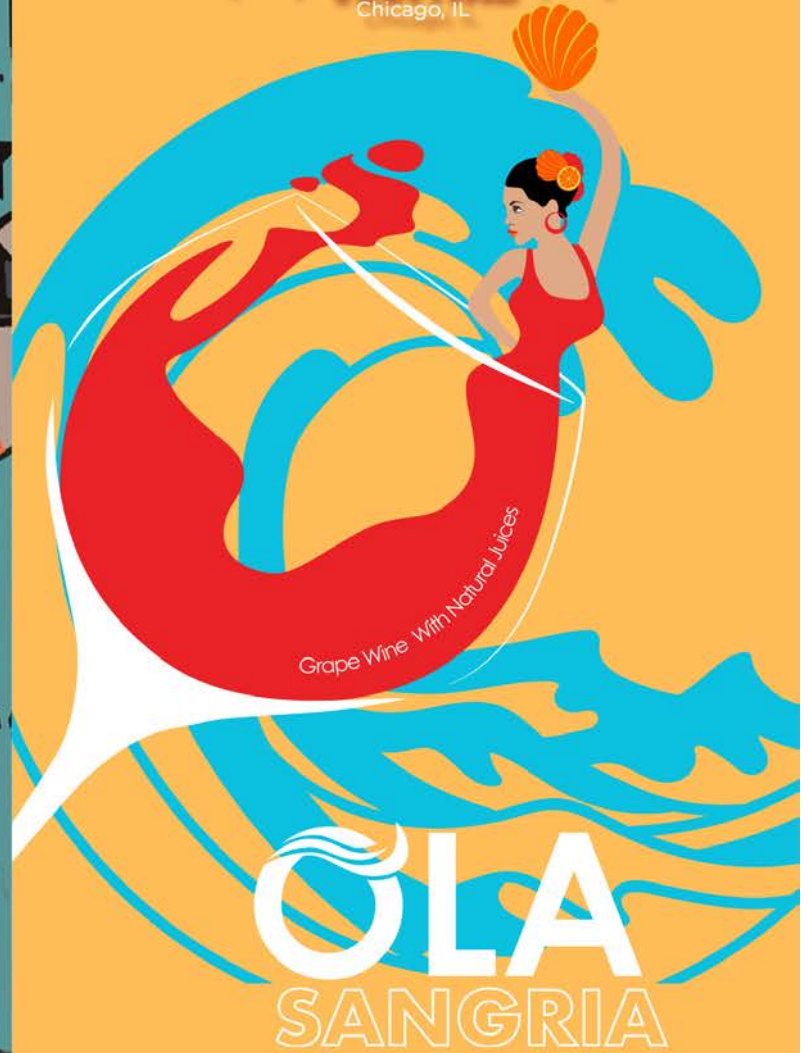


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