A Celebration of the Contributions of Immigrant Artists as Entrepreneurs

May 15, 2017
Clarendon Ballroom
The Institution for Immigration Research welcomes you to

A Celebration of the Contributions of Immigrant Artists as Entrepreneurs

Monday, May 15th, 2017

7:00 PM
Networking & Hors D’oeuvres and Drinks

7:30 PM
Welcome & Introductions from
Ms. Monica Gomez Isaac, Executive Director of the IIR
Dr. Shannon Davis, Acting IIR Director
Dr. James Witte, IIR Director

7:45 PM
Remarks from
Mr. Armando Trull, Reporter for 88.5 WAMU &
Dr. Ángel Cabrera, President of George Mason University

8:15 PM
Message about the IIR & Introduction of Performance Artists

8:30 PM
Dancing & Networking

8:50 PM
Silent Auction Closes

9:00 PM
Announcement of Silent Auction Winners
Cornerstone Sponsor

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is proud to support the work of the Institute for Immigration Research.

To learn about our wide array of programs, visit chss.gmu.edu/programs
Dear Friends,

It is our great pleasure to host this year's "Celebration of Immigrant Artists as Entrepreneurs". As our special guests, we hope you enjoy this evening's collection of immigrant contributions featured in artwork, stories, food, and entertainment.

At the IIR, we are committed to refocusing the immigration conversation to provide unbiased and objective research that reveals the realities about immigrants and how they contribute economically, socially, and culturally to American society. The need for accurate and actionable data is more important than ever before. Public statements and opinions expressed in many public discourses continue to fail to address the many ways immigrants shape our communities.

Your presence this evening not only demonstrates your support and respect for immigrants as productive humans, but also our efforts to educate the public with factual evidence provided in our free services such as Immigration Data on Demand (iDod) and our monthly educational community discussions.

If you believe information is key to acknowledging and including immigrants as integral members of our society, I ask you to please make a donation tonight and help us in our mission. Your financial support makes a significant difference. Join us as we work together to educate and refocus immigration discussions among members of our collective community, including those in government, business, academia, and media.

We hope you will choose to be a part of our work to change the conversation.

With great thanks,

Mónica Gómez Isaac
Executive Director
Cornerstone Sponsor

Congratulations to the Institute for Immigration Research and all the artists featured tonight.
Dear lovers of art and immigration:

Thank you for attending tonight’s celebration of immigrant artists and entrepreneurs. I hope you will be moved by the beauty of the artwork and the personal stories of the artists.

I am continually moved by the stories of immigrants I encounter on a daily basis. The contrast between what I knew to be true about immigrants and the anti-immigrant narrative being promoted by some in our society motivated me five years ago to partner with George Mason University to create the Institute for Immigration Research. Since then, the Institute has been combating ignorance with reliable, accurate information.

Tonight the beauty of the artwork and the truth of the research are a perfect response to the ugly picture being painted by anti-immigrant forces. Please join me in supporting the Institute for Immigration Research in its ongoing effort to shed light into the darkness.

Diane Portnoy
Founder and CEO
The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.
The Department of Sociology and Anthropology congratulates the IIR on another year of success. Our faculty and students value public and applied research and the IIR affords them the opportunity to do such work while addressing one of the most important issues facing our nation today. The IIR and its work clearly illustrates our department’s commitment to George Mason University’s emphasis on research of consequence.

With best wishes,
Amy Best
Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Armando Trull is an Emmy award-winning Latino journalist based in Washington DC since 1992. Currently, he is a Senior Reporter at WAMU 88.5FM, the NPR news station in Washington DC. WAMU is the highest rated public radio station in the country and is consistently ranked 1-2 in DC. His work, in both English and Spanish, has been seen, heard, and read by millions on National Public Radio; the Huffington Post; El Tiempo Latino/Washington Post; CBS Washington DC, Univision and Telemundo. He has experience as an anchor, multimedia reporter and news manager.

Armando has traveled throughout the US, Central and Latin America, Europe and the Middle East to cover a broad range of stories from mass migrations, refugee centers and transnational gangs to wars, natural disasters, protests and major sporting/entertainment events. Those stories have aired on WAMU 88.5/NPR DC; Here and Now; His work in Washington DC has taken him to the White House, Congress and a handful of major federal agencies including the Pentagon and the State Department as well as to embassies, the OAS, the UN and international entities such as the Inter-American Development Bank.

Armando was named “Best on Scene Reporter” in 2015 by Washingtonian Magazine and in 2014 the Washington Post called him “WAMU’s Mouth of the Morning” for his morning drive coverage of the metro DC area. He has extensive experience covering Education and LGBTQ issues as well.

Armando has been recognized with a “Distinguished Immigrant” Award by the American Immigration Council and a Saul Solorzano “Justicia Award” by CARECEN for his coverage of immigrant and refugee issues.

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The Pakistan American Business Association (PABA) is a global member-based, not-for-profit business organization serving as an economic bridge between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Founded in 1986, by Mr. M. Siddique Sheikh in Washington, D.C., PABA has provided leadership training, community service, business networking, and hosted highly successful business conventions and trade shows.

PABA’s mission is to create economic prosperity for both the United States and Pakistan through collaboration and partnership. We are pleased to partner with George Mason University’s Institute for Immigration Research to promote the positive contributions of all immigrants to the United States. PABA thanks the immigrant community and the Institute for Immigration Research for lending their talents to create a more enriching American experience.

M. Siddique Sheikh
Chairman & Founder
Website: www.pabausa.org
The Azucar student performance dance group of George Mason University (GMU) was established in 2004 to share the joys of different Latin dances with the greater GMU community. Literally meaning "sugar", Azucar was often referenced in concerts by Celia Cruz, the Queen of Salsa. However, GMU's Azucar student-led group engages students, staff and faculty of all backgrounds to partake in a variety of dances, including Miami Salsa, Cuban Casino, Bachata, and Brazilian Zouk.

Lead instructor, Gustavo Ramallo, teaches moves and steps in group lessons while emphasizing the importance of each dance’s history and using it as a greater educational opportunity: "There is no right or wrong way to dance. However, knowing the history behind a dance and keeping this in mind makes it possible to know its origins that influence different movement, which create amazing experiences. I like to stress this in each lesson so others can appreciate heritage and cultural richness in dancing, while not appropriating it." Even though the dances primarily encompass Latin styles, participants include students from India, Bolivia, Sweden, Vietnam, Russia, Hawaii, and Peru.

Contact Info:
Facebook: Azucar GMU Salsa Club
The Korean Studies Center at George Mason University is part of the Religious Studies Department within the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. The Center provides unique services to both the George Mason and the Korean American communities in the Northern Virginia area by providing opportunities to learn about Korean culture and traditions including language, history, art, and other related areas.

We are pleased to partner with the Institute for Immigration Research in order to advance opportunities to learn about other cultures and how they enhance our region.

Dr. Young Chan Ro
Director, Korean Studies Center

Website: ksc.gmu.edu
Manal Deeb is a Palestinian American female visual artist born in Ramallah, Palestine and lives in Fairfax, VA. Manal is a resident visual artist at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton, VA USA (www.workhousearts.org). Manal studied studio arts at the University of Illinois, Chicago and then got her Bachelor degree in Interdisciplinary Studies of Psychology of Art from George Mason University in Virginia. In 2016, her artwork was selected as one of the Directors’ selection of the year by the Workhouse and outside art curators and judges. In 2013, she was recognized as one of the Arab women of the year. One of her achievements was in showing 30 pieces of her artwork at the United Nation’s visitor center in New York for the longest period of time of 3 consecutive months representing Palestine. Manal had solo and group exhibits in major art-hub cities all over the world.

Manal and her artwork were featured in many magazines, journals, radio interviews, TV interviews and newspapers in many countries. Her mission and main subjects are: Humanity, Palestine, Palestinian people, Cultures, bridging between religions, Arab women and identity.

She has just published her first book “Dome of the Soul”, in Arabic, with a collaboration with a Palestinian poet to merge poetry and images of her artworks.

**Contact Info:**
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Capital Area Immigrants’ Rights Coalition is proud to support the Institute for Immigration Research
caircoalition.org

CASA

WES Global Talent Bridge is proud to partner with IIR
Unbiased research and detailed data aid us in our mission to help skilled immigrants pursue their professional and educational goals in the U.S.
globaltalentbridge.org
Featured Artist

Edith Graciela Sanabria

Edith Graciela Sanabria, a native of Bolivia, is an artist, inspiring poet, fashion designer, and photographer. Directing her energy into the creative arts, she finds inspiration for her artwork and poetry from nature, by expressing her desire to make a safe, inclusive environment for future generations.

While growing up in Bolivia, she learned from her grandfather, a well respected jeweler, how to create timeless pieces using gold, silver, gems and antique materials. Prior to working in the U.S., she was a fashion entrepreneur in Europe, where she designed and sold fashion garments in France, Switzerland, Spain and Germany. She now engages in the creation of her art and poetry, which have been featured at different festivals and exhibitions, including the Arts Club of Washington, and Torpedo Factory. In 2006, Edith published *Spirit of the Andes*, a bilingual book for children with illustrations. She is an active member of the Poetry Society of Virginia, Poets Anonymous of Fairfax, and several other writing groups.

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The AULD SHEBEEN
IRISH PUB & RESTAURANT
Yosief Habte’s art was exhibited in New York even before he set foot in the United States over two years ago. As a new resident from Eritrea, he brings cultural flavor and an outlook from a different dimension.

Trained at the Addis Ababa Art School, Habte built on his talent over 20 years in his more than a dozen solo and group exhibitions. He shows mastery in watercolors, acrylics and collage.

His collage practice started more than a decade ago when he made a post card for a friend. While the three-dimensional feel made it popular, it was the recycling of paper that prompted him to pursue this medium. He regards it as giving a second chance to paper that is tossed aside and reflects on how changing our perspective can turn doom into bloom. In his current work, he strives to show the wealth in the destitute. As he says, “It is a matter of finding it.”

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Helen Zughaib was born in Beirut, Lebanon, living mostly in the Middle East and Europe before coming to the United States to study art at Syracuse University, earning her BFA from the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Helen currently lives and works in Washington, DC, as an artist. She paints primarily in gouache and ink on board and canvas. More recently, she has worked with wood, shoes, cloth in mixed media installations.

Her work has been widely exhibited in galleries and museums in the United States, Europe and Lebanon. Her paintings are included in many private and public collections, including the White House, World Bank, Library of Congress, US Consulate General, Vancouver, Canada, American Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, and the Arab American National Museum in Michigan. She was awarded the Artist Fellowship grant from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities in 2015 and 2016, and is included in the new Washingtonia Collection. Helen was also invited as artist in residence at both George Mason University in 2015, creating a silkscreen with Navigation Press and Wesley Theological Seminary in 2016. Helen has been invited as Cultural Envoy through the US Department of State, to Palestine, Switzerland, France, and most recently Saudi Arabia.

“I hope through my work, to encourage dialogue and bring understanding and acceptance between the people of the Arab world and the United States.”

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Ahmad Abumraighi is a calligrapher and an aspiring artist. He was born in Jordan and raised with a true passion for drawing and painting. Introduced to art at a young age, his father walked him through the basics of sketching and critiqued his artwork as it matured. After moving to the United States for his education, Ahmad developed love and admiration for both Eastern and Western cultures. His work reflects this cultural intersection.

Ahmad hopes to integrate his interests in art and architecture with his deep belief in mankind to forge a career in humanitarian architecture. His artwork stretches across borders, unimpeded by boundaries, whether it brightens the hallways of the French embassy in Kuwait, warms the home of a loving family, or frames the path to excellence for youth at a local community center.

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A special thank you to the IIR Advisory Board Members:

Mrs. Diane Portnoy
Honorable Frank Bailey
Dr. Deborah Boehm-Davis
Dr. Jack Censer
Dr. Daniel Hauser
Mr. Alex Nowrasteh
Mr. Jason Silverman
Dr. James Witte
Featured Artist

Ernesto Bravo

Ernesto Bravo, a musician originally from Santiago, Chile, moved to the United States in 1994 and became a naturalized citizen. His performance consists of folkloric music from the Andes, deeply rooted in traditional and romantic songs from Bolivia, Peru and Chile, as well as North America and Europe. He is versed in guitar, charango, pan flute, bamboo flute, and bombo, a Latin American style bass drum.

His vast and rich work experiences have provided him with opportunities to collaborate with different musicians representing many different cultures and genres of music, including opera, choral and folk.

Ernesto’s journey in life as an artist has not only exposed him to many different languages, cultures, and musical styles, but also provided him with opportunities to connect with others through musical language in every corner of the world.

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Friends of the IIR

Reliable and unbiased research results can cool the heated discussions regarding immigration issues with objective information. The IIR’s unique research agenda would not be possible without the generous support of the dedicated individuals, who are the Friends of the IIR. We appreciate the important people who support this work.

Please consider becoming a Friend of the IIR and help us to expand our research with a donation. As a Friend of the IIR, you will help finance research projects, and local community engagements held at Mason to educate the greater public on immigration. Supporting the IIR demonstrates your commitment to immigrants and their contributions to America. By committing to the IIR, you support our efforts to make George Mason University a top research university, as recognized by the influential Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

Your support is essential to setting the record straight about immigrants and the positive impacts they have on the U.S. We hope you will choose to be a part of this effort and make a donation today.

For more information about the Friends of the IIR, please contact Mónica Gómez Isaac at mgomezis@gmu.edu.
Make your gift in any of these convenient ways:

- **Visit** with one of our IIR staff this evening to turn in a contribution envelope

  (We are able to accept most forms of payment during the event including Visa/MasterCard, American Express, check or cash.)

- **Give** online at give.gmu.edu

  *(Please indicate the IIR as the recipient in the drop down menu under the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.)*

- **Mail** a check to:

  Office of Advancement and Alumni Relations  
  4400 University Drive MSN 1A3  
  Fairfax, VA 22030

  *(Please make checks payable to the George Mason University Foundation, Inc. and indicate the IIR in the memo line.)*

- **Call** 703.993.8850

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Institute for Immigration Research  
Examining the economic contributions of all immigrants

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Statement from George Mason University
President Ángel Cabrera

Thank you for attending the “Celebration of Immigrant Artists and Entrepreneurs,” a showcase for talent from around the world. To our delight, these dynamic individuals will share with us their experiences and perspectives through art and music.

George Mason University is an inclusive academic community that attracts diverse talent from around the world. We know that potential comes from all corners of the globe. The work and dedication of our Institute for Immigration Research epitomizes our commitment to cultivating a global mindset and to serving the international population that so enriches our university community.

Immigrants have been a fundamental strength of our country since its founding. Through tonight’s event and many others, we continue to celebrate the skills, talents, and innovations of all the immigrants who impact our society in science, culture, economics, and in every walk of life.

We are extremely grateful to Diane Portnoy, the Immigrant Learning Center’s founder and CEO, for her generous support since 2012. We also appreciate all of your support for this program and for our Institute for Immigration Research.

Please enjoy tonight’s performances and the artwork on display.