

## KEY CONTACTS

The NJHRIC is being developed under the direction of **Ms. Ingrid Betancourt**, Coordinator of Multicultural Collections and Services at the Newark Public Library, who has 20 years of experience and a wealth of knowledge in the delivery of library services to the Newark community and particularly to the Hispanic community.

**Dr. Olga Jiménez-Wagenheim** of Rutgers University chairs the project's Organizing Committee. A specialist in Caribbean and Latin American history, she is the author of several books and articles, and has directed the Puerto Rican Studies Program at Rutgers-Newark for more than 20 years.

## FUND-RAISING DATA

An account has been established to help raise funds for the New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center.

Send contributions to:

**The Newark Public Library**  
Development Dept./HRIC  
5 Washington St., P.O. Box 630  
Newark, NJ 07101-0630

(please make check payable to  
"The Newark Public Library—HRIC")

For any questions or comments pertaining to the project, contact:

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at The Newark Public Library

An important resource for New Jersey's

growing Hispanic community — a vital

component of the state's rich ethnic mix.



# New Jersey Hispanic Research & Information Center

at The Newark Public Library

The Newark Public Library — a major force in the intellectual and cultural life of Newark since its founding in 1888 — has launched an ambitious three-tier project to create a New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center (NJHRIC).

According to the latest U.S. Census, New Jersey's Hispanic population has reached 1.1 million people, a 51 percent increase during the 1990s. Hispanics now constitute 13.3 percent of the state's residents and comprise approximately 30 percent of the Newark metro area population.

**The New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center (NJHRIC) will include:**

## **SALA HISPANOAMERICANA**

The continued development of the existing popular library of Spanish-language materials, which includes more than 37,000 items.

The library is also the home of the Multi-Lingual Materials Acquisition Center (Multi-MAC), a statewide service to New Jersey libraries, which provides "bulk loans" of specific language collections that can be circulated by participating libraries.

There is a constant need to acquire new materials and replace worn or lost "classic" items. The Library will continue an aggressive collection development project aimed at acquiring and making accessible Spanish-language and Hispanic cultural materials that will be made available directly to its patrons, and to public libraries across New Jersey.

## **REFERENCE CENTER**

The creation of a research level collection aimed at the special needs of students and scholars, enabling them to conduct in-depth research into New Jersey's diverse Hispanic community.

This new collection will consist of special reference and research volumes that are essential to the scholar interested in primary sources. Such a collection would support the student population at high school, college and even graduate level.

## **THE PUERTO RICAN COMMUNITY ARCHIVES**

Establishment of archival repository focusing on the heritage of New Jersey's Puerto Rican community, which comprises nearly half of the state's Hispanic origin population.

This will be the first-of-a-kind effort to create a collection of New Jersey's Puerto Rican community history.

The early wave of Puerto Rican migrants played a critical role in the New Jersey labor movement of the 1940s. Subsequent waves of immigration followed in the 1950s and 1960s, expanding from rural areas to urban centers throughout the state.

The community now has strong roots, and has become a large and influential group, active in all spheres of New Jersey life. Despite its numerical strength, no efforts have been made to document its history, and there is no single repository documenting the Puerto Rican presence in New Jersey.

The Puerto Rican Community Archives would incorporate a wealth of materials to be collected from the community, including: manuscripts (diaries, letters), photographs, paper ephemera (flyers, brochures), oral histories (audio-transcription and videotape), government and community agency documents, graphic arts and posters, microform collections, periodicals and serials. The library's extensive collection of Puerto Rican graphic arts and posters, and its Puerto Rican Reference Collection, would become part of the community archives.