



**LATINE
ENVIRONMENTAL
COLECTIVO** 

**LATINE ENVIRONMENTAL COLECTIVO
STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT**

CLEVELAND, OHIO

LATINO CONSERVATION WEEK 2024

SEPTEMBER 14-22, 2024

SPONSORED BY HISPANIC ACCESS FOUNDATION

LATINE ENVIRONMENTAL COLECTIVO CAME TOGETHER MARCH 2024. THE COLECTIVO, FORMED BY SELINA PEGÁN, JESÚS F. SÁNCHEZ, KRYSTAL SIERRA, NICHOLE LOPEZ, HOPE FIERRO, PACO OLLERVIDES, AND TANISHA VELEZ, APPLIED FOR AND RECEIVED A GRANT FROM THE HISPANIC ACCESS FOUNDATION FOR LATINO CONSERVATION WEEK. THE COLECTIVO, LOCATED IN CLEVELAND, OHIO, HOSTED A WEEK OF EVENTS WITH SUPPORT FROM YOUNG LATINO NETWORK AND MANY COMMUNITY PARTNERS. THE COLECTIVO HOSTED 3 EVENTS THAT CULMINATED IN A CELEBRATION FOR LATINO CONSERVATION WEEK.

THE DETAILS IN THIS REPORT COME FROM OUR DESIRE TO BE COLLABORATIVE AND TRANSPARENT WITH OUR COMMUNITY. WE LEARNED MUCH ABOUT WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION MEANS TO YOU AND WE HOPE TO SHARE OUR FINDINGS WITH OUR WIDER COMMUNITY.

-THE LATINE ENVIRONMENTAL COLECTIVO

PLANNING PROCESS

THE LATINE ENVIRONMENTAL COLECTIVO KICKED OFF OUR CAPACITY BUILDING WORK IN MAY 2024 BY ATTENDING THE GREEN LATINOS NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN EL YUNQUE NATIONAL FOREST, PUERTO RICO. WE BONDED OVER MEALS, MUSIC, DANCING, AND NETWORKED WITH POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS FROM ACROSS THE U.S. AND WITHIN OUR STATE. CONSERVATION TOPICS RANGED FROM CLIMATE RESILIENCY TO ENERGY SOVEREIGNTY TO HOUSING JUSTICE TO HARNESSING COLLECTIVE POWER. UPON OUR RETURN TO CLEVELAND, WE MET WEEKLY TO PLAN & HOST LATINO CONSERVATION WEEK 2024.

OUR GOAL WAS TO HOST EVENTS IN SPACES THAT WERE OWNED & OPERATED BY LATINE/A/O/X TO TALK ABOUT CONSERVATION, TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR COMMUNITY'S NEEDS & TO TAKE ACTION.

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CLEVELAND, OHIO

LATINO CONSERVATION WEEK 2024

CLEVELAND, OHIO

LATINO CONSERVATION WEEK 2024

Project Brief

Project name: Cafecito Green
Project Manager: Jesús F. Sánchez, LEC Co-Chair
Project Date: Sept. 14, 2024

Project Overview:

On Sunday, September 14th, the Latine Environmental Colectivo hosted “Cafecito Green” to kick off Latino Conservation Week, Sept. 14-22. We invited members of our community to join us in conversation at the new First Tee Cleveland facility in Newburgh Heights. Though turn out for the event was limited, we learned a lot and feel that our conversation went deeper due to the small group size. We asked questions such as, “What are the most pressing environmental issues facing our community today?” and “How do cultural values and traditions within the Latine community influence our attitudes towards environmental conservation?” Spanish interpretation services were available for the duration.

Topics:

- What are the most pressing environmental issues facing our community today, and how do they impact our daily lives?
- How do cultural values and traditions within the Latine community influence our attitudes towards environmental conservation?
- What are some successful examples of Latinx-led environmental initiatives or projects that we can learn from or replicate?
- What role does access to resources and education play in shaping environmental awareness and action within the Latinx community?

Reflections:

1. Because such a small group attended, the dialog was deeper, felt more authentic, and real. This is something we’ll want to consider when we host larger groups.
2. Location was easy to find, and the meeting space was amazing.
3. Nine people registered, 3 people attended. We believe this had to do with competing events, good weather, and hosting on Sunday.

Partners:

- First Tee Cleveland
- Young Latino Network

Success Criteria:

- Number of people in attendance
- Depth of conversation about conservation topics
- New ideas for future discussion and engagement

Budget:

- Space Rental: In-Kind
- Coffee & Pastries: \$224.50
- Supplies: \$168
- Translation Services: \$140

Contact Information:

For any queries or additional information, please contact:

Project Manager: Jesús F. Sánchez

 proyectos@ylnclde.org

 <https://ylnclde.org/>

Littering - noted it is normalized in Latin American countries and as such, that behavior is mirrored here in our communities

Spanish-only programs to attract individuals who may not feel comfortable in a hybrid environment

Lead - a recent prominent topic in Northeast Ohio

Gentrification / Green Infrastructure

Concerns about water/air quality, limited natural resources

Concern for future Generations

Include more Spanish-focused marketing.

Establish a sense of ownership, a community-led movement

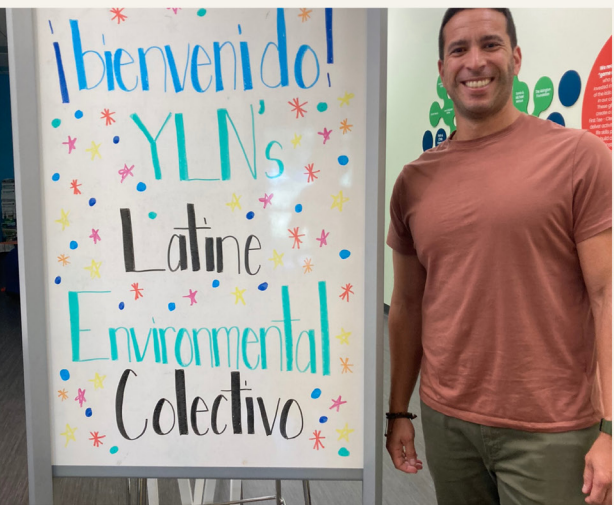
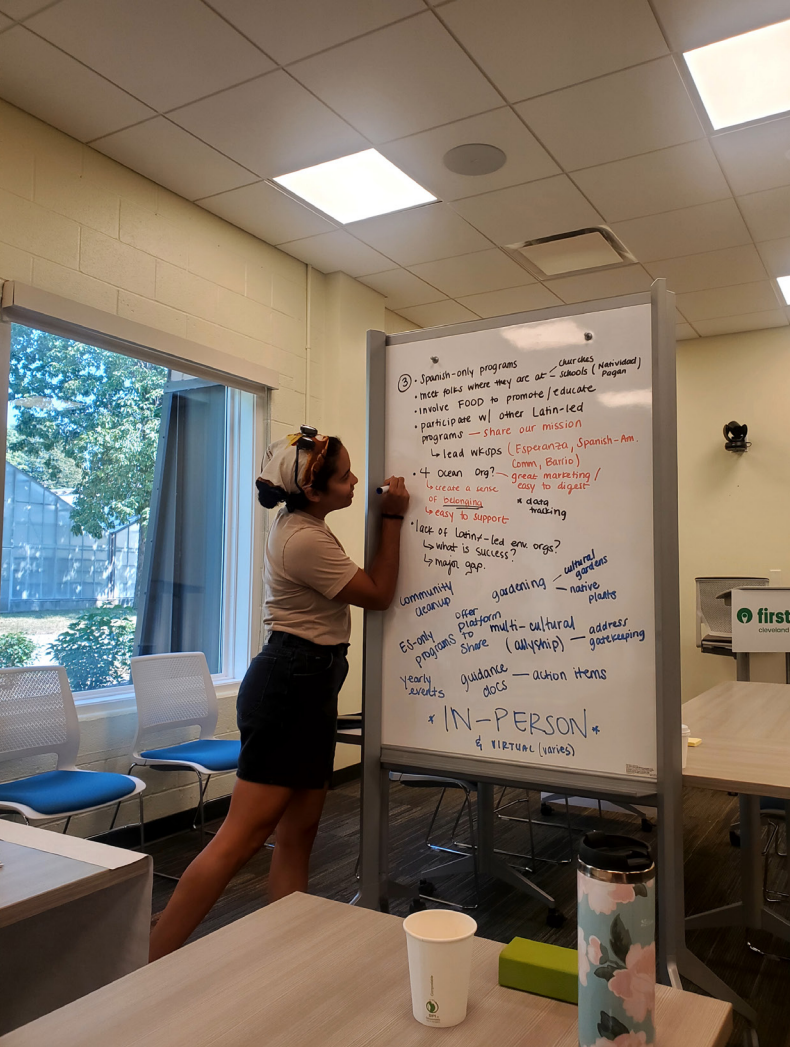
Authentic Selves through through music, swimming, gatherings, etc.

Environmental values are not shared

It creates an "Us vs. Them" mentality = increases cultural divide

Participate with other Latinx-led programs - share our mission!

WHAT WE HEARD AT CAFECITO GREEN



Project Brief

Project name: Rain Barrel Workshop

Project Manager: Nichole Lopez, LEC Steering Committee

Project Date: Sept. 18, 2024

Project Overview:

On Wednesday, Sept. 18th, we came together at Future Ink Graphics for a rain barrel workshop with pupusas from Guanaquitas, for a presentation from Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District, and for rain barrel painting with Cleveland artist, Linda Zolten Wood (Collinwood Painted Rain Barrel Project). The presentation by CSWCD provided a background on the organization, explained the current sources of pollution effecting water quality, and how rain barrels can be a part of the solution. Afterwards, attendees were able to sign up for up to 2 rain barrels for their home (for pickup) and help paint the rain barrel that was planned to be raffled off later in the week at our culminating celebration.

Topics:

- Mission and background of Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District
 - From the Dust Bowl of the 1930s to the burning of the Cuyahoga River in the 1950s/1960s
- Clean Water Act of 1972
- What is a watershed?
 - Nonpoint source pollution
- Rain Barrels - benefits, importance, and set up.

Reflections:

1. FIG is a really cool space that fit the artsy vibe of the workshop itself. The owner was very accommodating.
2. The most challenging part was the rain barrel giveaway. They needed to pick up the barrels from CSWCD's office, which was a different location than where the workshop was held.
3. 18 rain barrels were given away, which has the potential to divert 1,000 gal of stormwater runoff.
4. Attendees would like another workshop to share the information with their neighbors. They appreciated receiving the presentation with SWCD first before signing up for the rain barrels.

Partners:

- Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District
- Young Latino Network

Success Criteria:

- Number of people in attendance
- Number of rain barrels distributed
- Gallons of stormwater diverted from combined sewer system

Budget:

- Space Rental: \$300
- Artist Stipend: \$900
- Pupusas: \$235
- Rain Barrels: \$911
- Translation Services: \$140

Contact Information:

For any queries or additional information, please contact:

Project Manager: Nichole Lopez

nlopez@cuyahogawcd.org

<https://cuyahogawcd.org>



Hispanic
Access
Coalition

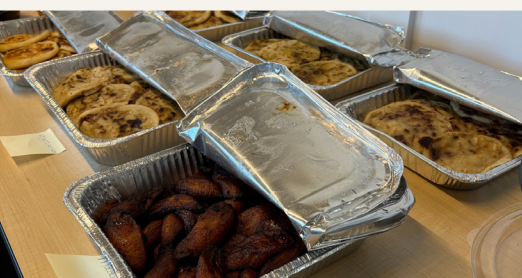
Parroja
Sally G. Winter

YOUNG
LIFE NETWORK

LEONE
ENVIRONMENTAL
COLLECTIVE

COLIN WOOD
2024

Collinwood Painted Rain Barrel Project
designed for
Latino Conservation Week 2024



Project Brief

Project name: Community Clean-Up & Celebration

Project Manager: Hope Fierro, LEC Steering Committee

Project Date: Sept. 21, 2024

Project Overview:

On Saturday, Sept. 21st, the Latine Environmental Colectivo hosted a community clean-up and celebration to culminate Latino Conservation Week at 787 Market, a new business and grocery store in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood of Cleveland, OH. The group cleaned about 50 lbs of trash along Memphis Avenue and Fulton Road and danced and sang to music along the way. While neighborhood clean-ups can feel like a chore, music made the activity light-hearted and fun. After the clean-up, we celebrated with freshly made donuts and empanadas from 787, and a name was pulled for the winner of the painted rain barrel by Linda Zolten Wood. Winner was contact by phone.

Topics:

- Impact of volunteering in the community - why is it important?
- Impact of community cleanups and being visible in the community
- Old Brooklyn neighborhood and OBCDC - who are we, neighborhood context, volunteer program information

Reflections:

1. Four people attended, and there was music, singing, & dancing while picking up trash down Memphis and Fulton.
2. The group picked up about 50 lbs of trash.
3. The cleanup felt more like hanging out than a chore. Harry Quiñones of 787 Market was pleased that we chose his location for the cleanup and celebration.
4. One lesson learned is that if people arrived late for the cleanup, they would have a hard time catching up with the rest of the group.
5. T-shirts for future events so that people know we are out there for a reason!

Partners:

- Harry Quiñones, 787 Market
- Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation
- Young Latino Network

Success Criteria:

- Number of people in attendance
- Lbs of trash picked up from public space

Budget:

- Space Rental: In-Kind
- Cleanup Supplies: In-Kind
- Donuts & Empanadas: \$135

Contact Information:

For any queries or additional information, please contact:

Project Manager: Hope Fierro

hopef@oldbrooklyn.com

<https://ynclde.org/>



HEAR WHAT OUR COMMUNITY HAD TO SAY! VISIT OUR SURVEY RESULTS HERE:
<https://tinyurl.com/LCW24CLE>

A THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT AND THANK OUR VOLUNTEERS & ATTENDEES WHO LENT THEIR HANDS FOR CLEANUPS & HEARTS FOR CONVERSATION. WE LEARNED A LOT ABOUT RAIN BARRELS AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND SHARED EXPERIENCES AND INSIGHTS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION HERE IN CLEVELAND & ON THE GREAT LAKES. WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS WITHOUT YOU!



FOR MORE INFORMATION

ABOUT LATINO CONSERVATION WEEK
PLEASE CONTACT LEC CO-CHAIRS
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