

LATIN COMMUNITY INPUT REPORT

CULTURX COLLECTION

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CulturX

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COMMUNITY INPUT REPORT: ADDRESSING LATIN COMMUNITY NEEDS AND SUGGESTIONS

SUMMARY AND CONTEXT

This report provides a preliminary analysis of a small survey collection aimed at gathering input from the Latin community in London. The demographic data for these populations has shown significant growth over the years, with the Latin American population increasing from 4,470 in 1991 to 18,295 in 2021. The two dominant languages for this demographic are the Spanish-speaking population; growing from 2,285 to 11,655 during the same period, and the Portuguese-speaking population; rising from 4,345 to 6,865. Through a multi-faceted approach, including social media surveys, focus groups, community outreach, and collaborations with local organizations, this survey collection aims to capture the perspectives of these vibrant and diverse communities. By understanding their insights on social issues, cultural preservation, educational opportunities, and community engagement, we aim to address their needs, amplify their voices, and foster inclusivity and request inclusive policymaking.

BRIEF HISTORY ABOUT US

Culturx was established in March 2020 with a clear objective: to celebrate and unite the Latin community in London. Through a range of initiatives, we have been actively disseminating knowledge about our vibrant culture and fostering connections within our community. A significant milestone was the introduction of the Flavours Map in summer 2021, which highlighted Latin-owned restaurants in London, Ontario, and solidified our commitment to supporting our local Latin community. Throughout the past three years, we have experienced remarkable growth and achieved numerous accomplishments in our mission to celebrate the Latin community in the Forest City. Now, in collaboration with our community, we present a collection of ideas and recommendations that reflect the interests and aspirations of our community members, aiming to further strengthen our bonds and empower our community.

OUR PILLARS

Our work is guided by four pillars: Support, Connection, Education, and Celebration. We believe in rallying behind our culture by supporting local businesses and community organizers. Connecting with our community, its resources, and each other is essential for growth. We promote cultural sharing and invite diverse participation in our celebrations. Our goal is to create inclusive spaces where Latinxs feel represented, safe, and a true sense of belonging.

INTRODUCTION

This report presents an analysis of the ideas and suggestions submitted by the Latin community, highlighting their key concerns and aspirations. By actively engaging with our community members, we sought to identify areas of improvement and better understand their needs and desires. The ideas collected cover a wide range of topics, including housing, language orientation, healthcare, cultural activities, and social services. This report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the submitted ideas, shedding light on the most prevalent suggestions and potential avenues for community development and support.

KEY FINDINGS

- 1 Housing:** The Latin community expressed a pressing need for improved housing options, with 17 submissions specifically addressing this issue. This underscores the importance of exploring strategies to enhance access to affordable and suitable housing for Latin individuals and families.
- 2 Canadian Life Orientation in Spanish/Portuguese for newcomers:** One submission highlighted the importance of providing orientation programs in Spanish/Portuguese for newcomers, emphasizing the need for inclusive and accessible support systems tailored to the language needs of the Latin community.
- 3 A community centre:** The idea of establishing a community centre received significant support, with 22 submissions indicating the desire for a central hub where Latin community members can gather, engage in cultural activities, and access essential resources and services, and referrals to other services.
- 4 Spanish/Portuguese-speaking doctors for seniors:** The community expressed a need for healthcare providers who can communicate effectively in Spanish/Portuguese, particularly for seniors. This suggestion was echoed by 24 submissions, emphasizing the importance of linguistic accessibility and cultural sensitivity in healthcare settings.

CONTINUED

- 5 **Programs and activities in Spanish/Portuguese for adults and children:** One submission highlighted the need for more information provided in Spanish/Portuguese regarding programs and activities suitable for both adults and children. This demonstrates the desire for inclusive opportunities for learning, growth, and cultural engagement within the Latin community.
- 6 **Activities for children to maintain Spanish/Portuguese vocabulary:** The idea of organizing activities to help children learn and maintain their Spanish/Portuguese vocabulary received substantial support, with 20 submissions emphasizing the importance of preserving language heritage and fostering bilingualism.
- 7 **Services and signage in Spanish/Portuguese:** Thirteen submissions suggested the implementation of services and signage in Spanish/Portuguese, recognizing the significance of linguistic accessibility in public spaces, government services, and community organizations.
- 8 **Easier access to contraceptive pills:** Nine submissions emphasized the need for simplified and accessible avenues to obtain contraceptive pills, addressing an important aspect of reproductive healthcare within the Latin community.
- 9 **Organization supporting STEM careers:** One submission called for the establishment of an organization dedicated to supporting current and future STEM careers within the Latin community, highlighting the desire for specialized resources and opportunities in these fields.
- 10 **Community sports, daycare subsidies, and volunteering opportunities:** Several submissions advocated for community sports initiatives, improved access to daycare and childcare subsidies, and volunteering opportunities that promote teaching Latin culture and our languages to others.

CONCLUSION

The ideas and suggestions provided by the Latin community reflect their diverse needs, aspirations, and priorities. This report serves as a foundation for further discussions, initiatives, and policies aimed at addressing these concerns and enhancing the well-being and inclusivity of the Latin community. By actively engaging with these suggestions, we can foster positive change, support community development, and create a more vibrant and inclusive environment for all Latin individuals and families.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Accessible and Inclusive Services:

- Develop orientation programs & services in Spanish/Portuguese for newcomers
- Advocate for Spanish-speaking/Portuguese-speaking doctors and culturally sensitive healthcare services, especially for seniors.
- Promote the availability of services, resources, and signage in Spanish across various sectors.

2. Cultural and Educational Programs:

- Establish a community center that offers cultural activities, programs, and resources for the Latin community.
- Organize activities, language classes, and workshops to maintain and promote Spanish/Portuguese language and Latin cultural heritage.
- Collaborate with educational institutions to integrate Spanish/Portuguese language and cultural components into existing programs.

3. Career Development and Opportunities:

- Establish an organization or collaborate with existing initiatives to support Latin individuals in STEM careers.
- Promote mentorship, resources, and networking opportunities in STEM fields.
- Advocate for specialized resources and opportunities in other career sectors.

4. Social and Community Engagement:

- Promote community sports initiatives and activities.
- Improve access to daycare and childcare subsidies.
- Create volunteering opportunities to teach Latin culture and languages to others.

Culturx firmly believes that with the necessary resources, opportunities, and support, all the recommendations put forth by our Latin community can be effectively housed within a community centre. This centre, which is both wanted and needed, would be proudly hosted under Culturx's nonprofit organization. We envision strategic partnerships with embassies from Latin America, consulates, local government entities, the services sector, and our current community partners to create a vibrant and inclusive space that caters to the diverse needs and aspirations of our Latin community. Together, we can work towards building a strong foundation for community growth, cultural celebration, and the empowerment of our Latin community in London.

