



Helping Girls To Define Themselves As Women

September 2009

Las Caras Lindas
Helping Girls To Define
Themselves As Women

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VISION & MISSION

Our vision is to liberate the next generation of women from the barriers and challenges that compromise them so that young girls can more fully reveal all of the unique strengths and talents that they have to offer society. Our mission is to help girls define themselves as women.

ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS

Our goals are to foster cultural uniqueness among a diverse group of girls, to develop the individual strengths of each young lady and to celebrate the brilliance that makes us all women.

LCL QUICK LINKS

LCL Website
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LCL Utube Video
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LCL Email

Dear LCL Supporter,

Throughout August and September, LCL focused on helping girls to develop as leaders in our society. Our activities included a workshop co-sponsored by Diaspora Spirit focusing on re-establishing concepts of beauty in our society and Hosted by Yolanda Nieves and Claudette Roeper, volunteering at a Cafe Teatro Batey Urbano and the annual LCL Tea Party. LCL also published our first Chat Book with Cecelia Colon and hosted a 90's Flashback Party for local Chicago Youth. LCL is still on the move as we prepare for our upcoming fundraiser!

LCL REDEFINES BEAUTY WITH DIASPORA SPIRIT

Yolanda Nieves, Director of "Brown Girl Chronicles" and Claudette Roeper, Director of the "This State" and the "Man Project" led a dynamic discussion that helped LCL and Diaspora Spirit to begin to redefine and conceptualize beauty outside of mainstream standards of attractiveness. Through Claudette and Yolanda's presentation on "Revealing The Self - Removing The Mask" LCL and Diaspora Spirit deconstructed the cultural stereotypes of African American and Latina women. Each participant was then given an opportunity to individually and collectively redefine their own concept of beauty through their own eyes.



Briefly, Diaspora Spirit is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to reconnect Black and Brown cultures as daughters of Africa. The purpose of Diaspora Spirit is to strengthen our communities across generations through education, cultural awareness and spiritual development. Diaspora Spirit was one of the 2009 LCL sponsor organizations and served as examples of leading women during the LCL leadership series.

LCL LEARNS ABOUT ETTIQUETTE AT THE RITZ

Since 2006, LCL has hosted a Tea Party sponsored by, Ann Avery, Founder and President of Worldview Education & Care. For the third year, Ann hosted the LCL Tea Party. This year's Tea Party was held at the Ritz Hotel where LCL participants read about the history of tea and proper ettiquette before selecting their own personal tea's, sandwiches and déserts from the "Las Caras Lindas" Menu. Thank you to Nancy Leslie for her leadership and support during the 2009 LCL Tea Party!

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LCL SUPPORTERS

Diaspora Spirit

Cafe Teatro Batey Urbano

-
Las Palabras De LCL

ROOTS

Roots of my grandmother that have followed me to where I stand today.

Roots that have tangled themselves in the simple curls of my Mayan-Garifuna hair.

Roots that have pierced themselves in my heart.

Roots that followed me making me the woman that is yet to awaken until the child in me falls asleep under the glimmer of the moon that reiterates that buela is watching over me.

-Lulu



LCL CLEANS UP AT CAFE BATEY URBANO

As a part of their commitment to the community LCL participants volunteered at Cafe Teatro Batey Urbano (Batey Urbano), a youth led not-for-profit organization in Humboldt Park serving the needs of our community. During their time at Batey Urbano LCL cleaned, painted, mopped and organized!



LCL participants later hosted a 90's youth flashback fundraiser that brought \$150 in additional funds to support their Cultural Immersion trip to Washington, D.C. LCL is grateful to the leadership at Batey Urbano for providing us with the opportunity give back and for supporting LCL! For more information about Batey Urbano please visit their Web site at [Cafe Batey Urbano](#).

LCL POETS SPEAK KNOWLEDGE AND TRUTH

LCL was invited to participate in a writing workshop hosted by artist Cecilia Colon. The girls were welcomed into Cecilia's serene garden where they felt relaxed and inspired as they sat next to fountains and flowers to write their short stories and poems. Cecilia encouraged them to write about various themes such as who they are, their message to the world and what they wish to accomplish in the future.



She was touched and very impressed with their poems and a few weeks later put together a chapbook of their poetry with the collaborative efforts of her friends Elena and Mita. At her art exhibit entitled "Mujer Latina," Cecilia had the girls read their poems and sell their chapbooks to guests so they could raise \$350 funds for their Cultural Immersion Trip to Washington, D.C.

LCL SUPPORTER HIGHLIGHT



For the past two years, LCL has received the amazing support of John Vergara. Through his life experiences John Vergara has created quite a unique style that includes themes of Puerto Rican and urban culture. This is reflected in his latest mural design located on the side of Nellie's restaurant at 2458 W. Division Street.

John has been instrumental in the girls of LCL by volunteering his time to

complete projects and donating one of a kind paintings for the silent auctions at our fundraisers. This year, the sale of his paintings helped LCL meet their budget in order to go on the 2009 Cultural Immersion Trip to Washington, D.C. LCL is very grateful to John and his continued support. To learn more about Artist John Vergara, please call 773-494-2161.

LCL is a program of San Lucas UCC under the direction of Carmen Flores-Rance. For more information about San Lucas UCC contact Rosita Porrata at SanLucas2914@aol.com. To support the 2010 LCL program, please make an on-line donation at PayPal!

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