

MUJER Annual Report 2015-2016

EXISTIR ES
RESISTIR

EXISTENCE IS
RESISTANCE

MUJER Board of Directors

info@mujer.ca



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Message from our Executive Committee

Thank you to all MUJER's members and supporters! This past year MUJER has continued to create spaces for community, while working with limited capacity. It's been an inspiring, yet challenging year, with many changes to the Board of directors and challenges in strategic planning. Our new MUJER board has been actively involved in running the organization. We worked closely together to organize the course and informational events to get to know our community better.

The fourth Decolonizing Latinx Feminisms course was offered in the spring of 2016, under the leadership of Lourdes D'Uniam. Their contribution and hard work organizing the support of volunteers, coordinating the course, and leading discussions were greatly appreciated. We thank our guest speakers and participants for their enthusiastic involvement. With the support of the Centre for Women and Trans People, as well as OISE, the course was an amazing success! As always enrollment was limited, and we were left with many graduates and a waiting list for this year. Keep an eye out for our 2017 edition of the course!

With the help of dedicated volunteers, we organized a MUJER volunteer Info Session in May, and a Latinx Meet & Greet in November which were well attended, and encouraged significant support for MUJER. We also had a contingent at the Trans March in July, in partnership with our friends at the Latin American Queer Education Project (LAQEP) and the Toronto Rape Crisis Centre | Multicultural Women Against Rape (TRCC | MWAR). Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to create our banner, and showed your support for our Trans community!

In 2016 we were also fortunate to create a new partnership with Carolina Brown, whose help was tremendous with our Women Rock Fest fundraiser. We featured talented performers, and the event was a resounding success! We hope we will continue to participate in years to come, and we know it will be possible with the continued dedication of our volunteers. We are especially grateful for the dedication and hard work of Carolina Brown, Antoinette Salazar Medina, Nylda Gallardo Lopez, and the wonderful volunteers whose efforts you coordinated.

After a competitive application process in 2015, at our last AGM five new board members joined the MUJER board: Maria Paola Wong, Lourdes D'Uniam, Sandra Victoriana Concepcion Herrera, Marycarmen Lara-Villanueva, and Cassandra Da Re. Each board member brought necessary skills and boundless energy to the organization. We have been honoured to work with them, and are especially grateful for the contributions of Maria Paola, Lourdes, and Marycarmen in organizing community events, the course, and our current grant application.



Board of Directors 2015

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President | Carolina Rios

Vice-President | Madelaine Cahuas

Secretary | Aldeli Albán Reyna

Treasurer | Laura Salamanca

BOARD MEMBERS

Lourdes D'Uniam

María Paola Wong Moreira

Marycarmen Lara Villanueva

Cassandra Da Re

Victoria Herrera

We know as a working board that much time, and energy is invested into MUJER. This is sometimes a challenge because the incredible people we attract to be board members also have significant demands with academic programs, work, and the socio-economic challenges our Latinx communities face. We said goodbye by the end of the year to Sandra Victoriana Concepcion Herrera, and Cassandra Da Re. Their contributions were much appreciated, and will continue to be welcomed on a volunteer capacity.

This past year we also said goodbye to part of our amazing Executive Committee: Carolina Rios stepped down from her role as President, and Madelaine Cahuas stepped down from her role as Vice-President. The contributions of Carolina and Madelaine to MUJER have been invaluable. Their dedication to MUJER and commitment to hard work and leadership has been inspirational. They have been our colleagues and friends, and have supported our team with tenacity and compassion. We will miss them greatly, and wish them the best in their academic goals.

Carolina and Madelaine helped our Executive Committee to streamline processes for the hiring of new board members. This year we welcome to the board new talent and ideas. Our new Board Members are: Nylda Gallardo Lopez, Antoinette Salazar Medina, Mercedes Sharpe Zayas, Claudia Cornali-Motta, Roxana Escobar Ñanez, and Daniela Glaser Alvarez. This group of amazing folks have already been involved with MUJER programming and as volunteers. We know they bring the skills and commitment to continue to make MUJER accountable and relevant to our Latinx communities. Welcome!

We are looking forward to a year filled with new initiatives, continued strategic planning, and the refreshing support of our new members. We thank all the volunteers who have given their talents and valuable time to support MUJER's initiatives. We would also like to extend our gratitude to all our supporters on social media, all those participating in our events and interested in volunteering with MUJER, and those who have offered to partner with us or fundraise for us. Without your efforts and involvement MUJER would not exist. Thank you to all the communities that make MUJER possible!

In solidarity,

Aldeli Alban Reyna & Laura Salamanca

MUJER Executive Committee

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Decolonizing Latinx Feminisms Course

MUJER's Decolonizing Latinx Feminism Course 2016, presented in partnership with The Centre for Women and Trans People at U of T, worked as a knowledge-sharing, community-building space that brought together trans, cis womxn, and gender non-conforming people with roots in Latin America. The seven week course explored the intersections of Latinx identities, ability, wellness, and the power structures affecting our community, while creating a critical awareness of our responsibilities as settlers on colonized land, working towards decolonization and liberation in solidarity with the Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island.

DLFC is a free community-based course, which is incredibly successful and has received over 30 applications and had 16 participants. It offers learning plans that take into consideration different learning styles to provide a more accessible course for community members. Throughout these 7 weeks, participants thrive in an environment that is conscious of trauma, cultural context and safety, intersections, queerness, Blackness, Indigeneity, and resistance of our peoples. The following guest speakers were instrumental in creating setting the tone for the students: Dahli Clarke-Partida, Aldeli Albán Reyna, Mercedes Sharpe Zayas, Silvana Bazet, and Kiley May.

Thank you to this year's Course Committee volunteers: Mercedes Sharpe Zelaya, Maripaz Miranda, Coralia Cortez, Lissette Perez. We are grateful for the support of Madelaine Cahuas, Victoria Herrera, and Sabera Esufali from the Centre for Women and Trans People. This year's course was facilitated by our amazing Board member, lourdes duniam

We are very grateful to the Department of Social Justice Education at OISE, the Graduate Geography and Planning Student Society, and the Centre for Women and Trans People at the University of Toronto for their contributions. With their support, MUJER was able to offer snacks and child care expenses.

DLFC is dedicated to amplify Black, Indigenous and Queer voices of the Latinx diaspora. To support, consider donating by e-transfer: info@mujer.ca

Want to learn more, get involved, or give funds? Reach out: info@mujer.ca or www.mujer.ca/en/current-projects/decolonizinglatinxfeminisms!

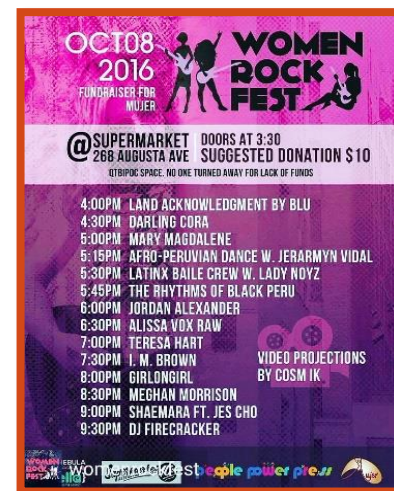


Year in Highlights

Fundraisers

WOMEN ROCK FEST

On October 8th 2016, WOMEN ROCK FEST organized and hosted a fundraiser filled with performances that included Afro-Peruvian dances, spoken word, DJ sets, and incredibly talented bands and singers. WOMEN ROCK FEST could not have been possible without the tireless help of the volunteer committee led by Carolina Brown and Antoinette Salazar. WOMEN ROCK FEST created a fantastic evening and helped raised over 800\$ to support MUJER programming.



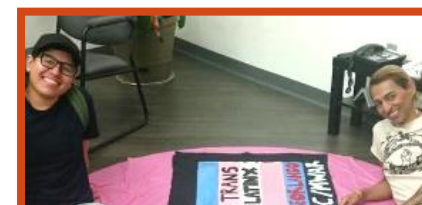
Community Engagement & Events

MUJER AUTUM MEET & GREET

Karlotta Paulina Gonzalez, a new MUJER volunteer and our Board member Marycarmen Lara-Villanueva organized an encuentro at Romero House for our Latinx community at the end of November. Over 20 people attended, from former MUJER community members to volunteers and new people interested in the work we do.

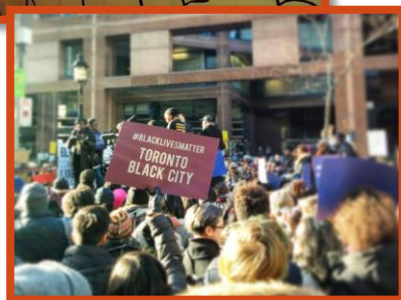
PRIDE 2016 – TRANS MARCH AND DYKE MARCH

In collaboration with the Toronto Rape Crisis Centre | Multicultural Women Against Rape, we planned a banner making day for both the Trans March and the Dyke March. The Trans March banner honours #PulseOrlando, the shooting that targeted LBTQI+ folks on Latinx Night and commemorates the lives of many Black and Brown Queer Latinx people who were impacted. The banner painting event created spaces for creativity and resistance to come together. ¡Existir es resistir!



Latinx Solidarity with Grassy Narrows

MUJER hosted a workshop for people from Latin American diaspora to learn more about the struggles of the Indigenous community of Grassy Narrows to support the River Run, demanding justice from the Ontario government on the impacts of mercury level in the water. More than fifty years ago a paper mill in Dryden, Ontario began to dump murderous amounts of mercury into the Wabigoon River, upstream from the community of Asubpechoseewagong (Grassy Narrows). The people of Grassy Narrows, and all the life that supports their traditional territories, have lived with the immense health effects of that crime ever since, with no responsibility taken on the part of the Ontario government that allowed that to happen.



BLMTO Tent City

On March 20th, Black Lives Matter Toronto Coalition organized a peaceful protest at Nathan Phillips Square to speak out against anti-Black racism in the city including state violence, the debasing of AfroFest, and the recent SIU decision not to charge the officers accountable for the death of Andrew Loku.

As an anti-racist, intersectional feminist Latinx local organization, with a strong Afro-Latinx community, MUJER stands in solidarity with the organizers of Black Lives Matter Toronto Coalition, those at #BLMTOtentcity and all those supporting near and far.



Thank You

MUJER thanks the following individuals, organizations, groups, and funders for their generous in-kind, financial, volunteer contributions, and more! Your valuable contributions and support enables MUJER to continue our work in the community.

Remarkable Volunteers

Antoinette Salazar
 Carolina Brown
 Dahli Clarke-Partida
 Karlotta Paulina Gonzalez

Kiley May
 Lissette Perez
 Mercedes Sharpe Zayas
 Nylda Gallardo-Lopez
 Silvana Bazet

Community Organizations & Groups

aluCine
 Black Lives Matter Toronto
 Casa Pueblito
 Centre for Women and Trans People at UofT
 Joint Development
 Latin American and Caribbean Solidarity Network
 Latin American Education Network

Latin America History Collective
 Latin American Queer Education Project
 OISE
 Romero House
 Toronto Rape Crisis Centre/Multicultural Women Against Rape
 WOMEN ROCK FEST
 Working Women Community Centre



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