

IMPACT REPORT 2025

OUR MISSION IN ACTION

To promote Latin American culture and highlight art as a powerful tool for cultural expression. We celebrate diversity and foster connections between communities, using art to strengthen ties within the Latin American diaspora and beyond.

THIS YEAR 2025 COMMUNITY GROWTH CREATION

5 FOCUS AREAS

1. EMPOWERING ARTISTS & CREATIVE VOICES
2. Connecting Communities
3. Educating Through Art
4. Youth, Identity & Roots (CreArte)
5. Promoting Art & Culture Citywide

A year in review

1. Empowering Artists & Creative Voices

A. **Love and Art Art Exhibit** : a celebration of valentines with boleros and an art exhibit of love.

February 12 2025

Artist Participants: Luna Moreno (Boleros), Paintings by Mike Quinones, (including a live painting) , Sharley Dubon, Marcela Castano,



Jeremias Garcia (first exhibit, new artist in our network), Ruben Torres with his collection of human forms in different colors.

This event was important because that was when Trump took office and the immigration laws were very strict and aggressive. It was an expression to be together in hard times. We are creating a community of artists supporting each other.

68 participants, 2 sponsors money, 3 vendors, 7 sponsors in kind, 5 artists exhibiting, 1 performing, 100 fundraised

(see details by events)



- B. **Hilando Cuentos Art Exhibit:** to the winners of the International Story Telling Festival, motivating young artists to showcase their art, they read their story and explained their textile art piece.

8 participants, 5 sponsors, 2 artists involved, 8 winners participating

8 children, adolescents and young people benefited, 3 organizations involved



- C. **Workshop Artist application to the airport exhibit Flying Solo Exhibit Series 2025 - 2026**, this is part of the technical assistant part that is well needed. Together we created an artist profile and examined the points of a strong application.

Artist participants: Marcela Pinillo, Marcela Castano, Mike Quinones, AMP Movement, Sharley Rodriguez, La Mision ConArte Hilando cuentos exhibit

- D. Accompanying them in their exhibits and events and promote what they do (see events attended)
- E. Giving awards to winners of Short story literary contest and seeds and roots
- F. Supported them in their projects by partnering with them and even carrying part of their projects, International Storytelling Festival, La Mision con Arte was in charge of organizing the book fair and the short story literary contest part of the festival. (see details in 5 and 6)



5 artists received guidance on how to fill out their application

2. Connecting Communities, Creating Friendships, and Learning from one another

HablaNashville program : this was a 9-week program that facilitated the encounter between people learning Spanish-English to practice the language, have a cultural exchange, and possibly build friendships. The one-hour, 25-minute online meeting sessions allowed the parties to share their language knowledge while reflecting on their professional and personal lives. We involved mentors and 2 institutions for their help and expertise teaching English at the Intensive English center at TSU and Voces de Nashville.



Tennessee State University Intensive English Center, whose leadership in content development, program coordination, mentor preparation, and hosting the kickoff meeting brought academic excellence to the program.

Voces de Nashville, whose commitment to community empowerment, Spanish-learning resources, syllabus review, program promotion, and hosting the closing event ensured a rich, multicultural experience.

We also recognize the outstanding dedication of our volunteers and mentor: **Linda Doctor, Sebastián Triana, Alison Richards, Vianey Sanchez**

25 people from the community benefited, 8 volunteers, 3 institutions involved

3. Empowering Through Art (Youth & Adults) Workshop & learning spaces

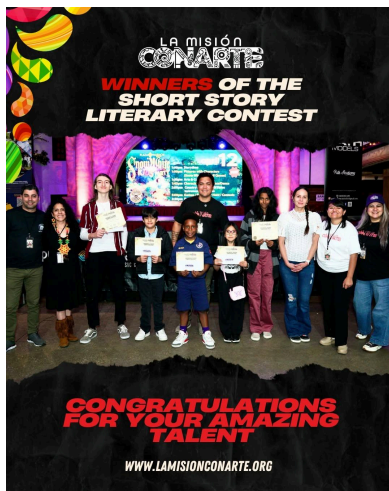
- A. A Short Story literary contest
- B. Hands on workshop short story literary contest kids
- C. Hilando Cuentos, textile art workshop
- D. Writing Workshop for adults InmigrART stories - collaboration with Hijos de Inmigrantes
- E. Writing workshop CreArte 2025 Short Film
- F. Painting Workshop CreArte 2025
- G. Kids Art and Expression Workshop CreArte 2025
- H. Catrinas para celebrar la vida , Dia de los muertos art workshop

I. ABC Workshop (with Love Me)

A. A Short Story literary contest

2025 CONTARTE Nashville: Children’s Literary Short Story Contest As part of the inaugural International Storytelling Festival held from April 10–12, 2025, La Misión ConArte successfully launched the *CONTARTE Nashville* short story contest. Designed to foster creativity among the youth of Nashville and its surrounding areas, the initiative invited participants aged 8–17 to submit original works in either English or Spanish. The event was a resounding success, bringing together 30 young writers, 5 generous sponsors, and 2 featured artists. We were proud to recognize 8 talented winners, who were awarded a total of \$1,200 in prizes, marking a significant milestone in our commitment to promoting literacy and artistic expression within our community.

30 participants, 5 sponsors, 2 artists involved, 8 winners, 1200 dollars in awards



B. Hands on workshop short story literary contest kids

Literary Workshop and Short Story Contest As part of our commitment to fostering creativity among the youth, *La Misión ConArte* hosted an immersive, hands-on short story writing workshop. Conducted in a virtual format, the program featured a distinguished guest artist from Peru, whose expertise provided invaluable mentorship to all participants. This initiative not only offered young writers professional guidance and technical instruction but also culminated in a literary contest, encouraging students to refine their storytelling skills and share their unique voices with a wider audience.

* Online writing workshop with a guest artist from Peru, held virtually, benefiting all participants with guidance. 🇵🇪 Taller de escritura corta en línea - Mayllorid Flores - 2025/03/08 08:01 CST...

10 beneficiaries from the contestants



C. Hilando Cuentos, textile art workshop

Workshop Highlight: Transforming Stories into Textile Art

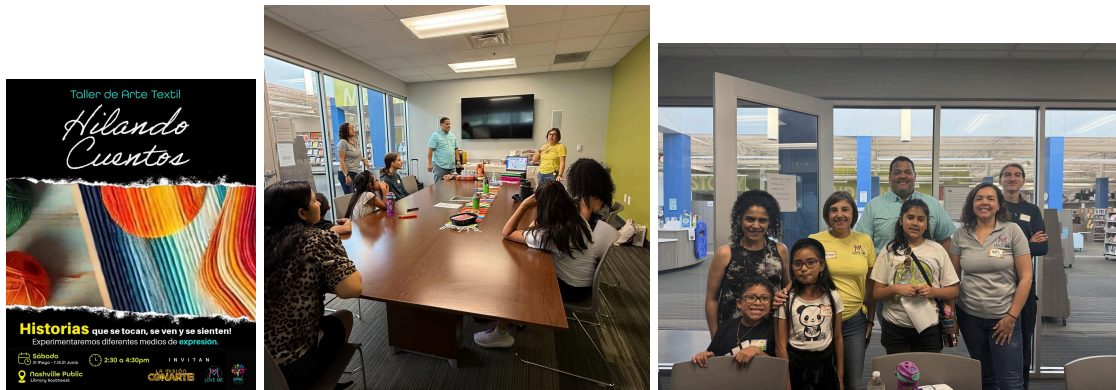
In partnership with *Love Me* and *Crei TN*, *La Misión ConArte* proudly hosted an exclusive textile art workshop series for the winners of the *ContARTE Nashville 2025* Short Story Contest. Held at the Nashville Public Library (Southeast Branch) and led by renowned textile artist Marcela Castaño, this program provided eight young participants with a unique space to transcend traditional storytelling. Over four sessions, students reimagined scenes from their winning stories using yarns, textures, and colors, successfully translating their written narratives into vibrant, tangible art pieces. By showcasing these works in key cultural venues across Nashville, the initiative empowered these young creators to find new forms of expression, ultimately fostering confidence, pride, and a deeper sense of identity. This collaborative effort serves as a

testament to our ongoing commitment to uplifting the voices of the Latin American diaspora through transformative arts education.

Read the full program:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bY-bV6Nt8gkU046Xjrpkncec7dZaHmwt/view?usp=sharing>

8 children, adolescents and young people benefited, 3 organizations involved



D. Writing Workshop for adults InmigrART stories - collaboration with Hijos de Inmigrantes

Workshop Highlight: Inmigr Art: America's Voices

Last year, La Misión ConArte hosted *Inmigr Art: America's Voices*, a free online workshop dedicated to empowering children of immigrants living in the United States. Designed as a creative outlet for storytelling and community building, the program provided a unique space for participants to connect through their shared experiences. The session was led by international facilitator Denisse Sandoval, who joined us from Mexico to guide our cohort of 14 participants. By fostering self-expression and cultural connection, this initiative successfully fulfilled our mission to amplify diverse voices and provide meaningful artistic opportunities for our community.

14 people from our community benefited, 1 international workshop facilitator from Mexico



E. Writing workshop CreArte 2025 Short Film

Empowering Community Storytelling: Short Film Workshop In August 2025, La Misión ConArte hosted an impactful workshop titled "Tips for Creating a Short Film" at the Nashville Public Library's Southeast Branch. Designed for aspiring filmmakers aged 15 and up, the session provided participants with essential tools and professional guidance to bring their cinematic visions to life. This initiative successfully engaged 10 community members, offering them specialized training and the opportunity to participate in a creative competition. By fostering these storytelling skills, La Misión ConArte continues its commitment to nurturing local talent and empowering residents to share their unique perspectives through the art of film.

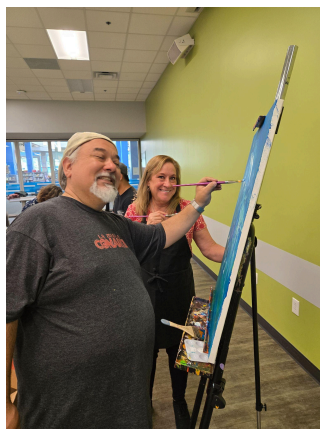
10 People from our community benefited from training and participated in the competition



F. Painting Workshop CreArte 2025

Community Artistic Engagement: Painting Workshop As part of our mission to foster creative expression, La Misión ConArte hosted a community painting workshop on August 30th at the Nashville Public Library, Southeast Branch. The event served as a vital space for inspiration and skill-building, inviting youth and adults aged 15 and up to explore new artistic techniques and color theory. By providing free, accessible arts education, we successfully engaged 20 local community members under the expert guidance of a professional artist. This initiative highlights our commitment to cultivating creativity and strengthening community bonds through the transformative power of art.

20 People from our community benefited, 1 artist.





G. Kids Art and Expression Workshop CreArte 2025

As part of our commitment to fostering cultural connection, La Misión ConArte proudly hosted the "Seeds and Roots" workshop on August 30th at the Nashville Public Library, Southeast Branch. This initiative provided a transformative space for 15 children, ages 7 to 14, to explore their personal heritage and identity through creative expression. Supported by two dedicated artists and four volunteers, the program successfully empowered our youth to bridge the gap between their heritage and their future. By providing these essential artistic tools, we not only celebrated the diversity of our community but also strengthened the cultural roots of the next generation, proving that art is a powerful catalyst for growth and self-discovery.

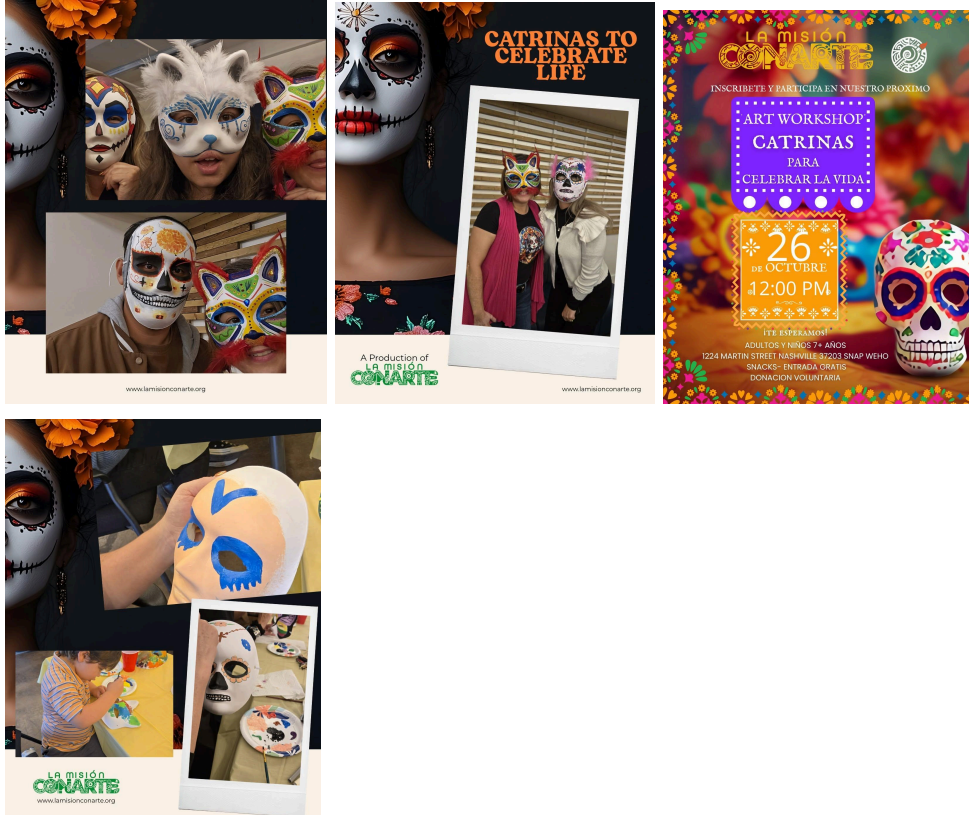
15 children from our community, 2 artists, 4 volunteers



H. Catrinas para celebrar la vida, Día de los muertos art workshop

In October 2025, La Misión ConArte hosted the "Catrinas to Celebrate Life" workshop, a vibrant cultural initiative held at SNAP WeHo in Nashville. This event served as a powerful bridge between tradition and community, providing an inclusive space for both children and adults to honor their roots through creative expression. By offering free access to arts education, the program successfully fostered intergenerational connection and cultural pride. The initiative left a meaningful impact on our community, directly benefiting 20 participants and supported by the dedicated efforts of 2 professional artists and 3 volunteers. Through this celebration of life, La Misión ConArte continues to strengthen social ties and promote the accessibility of the arts within the Nashville community.

20 People from our community benefited, 2 artists and 3 volunteers



I. ABC Workshop (with Love Me)

ABC Workshop: Fostering Creativity Through Cultural Connection In partnership with *Love Me*, La Misión ConArte successfully hosted an engaging hands-on arts workshop at the ABC Academy in Nashville, the inaugural location of the ABC Spanish Immersion Program. This initiative provided a meaningful space for students to explore their creativity through manual arts, reinforcing the importance of cultural and artistic expression in early education. With the dedicated support of four volunteers and the guidance of a professional artist, the workshop successfully served nine participants. This impact-driven collaboration highlighted our commitment to nurturing young talent and strengthening our community outreach programs in Nashville.

9 participants, 1 artist involved, 4 volunteers



4. Connecting our youth with their roots

CreArte 2025 Seeds and Roots

2025 Highlight: The “Semillas y Raíces” (Seeds and Roots) Initiative

In 2025, La Misión ConArte successfully launched “Semillas y Raíces,” a transformative creative arts competition designed to honor the resilience of the Latin American diaspora. By inviting participants aged 15 and older to explore their heritage through video, photography, and literature, we provided a vital platform for individuals to process the complexities of migration, displacement, and cultural identity. The impact of this initiative was significant: beyond engaging 40 active participants and awarding over \$5,000 in prizes to 15 winners, the project fostered a deep sense of belonging and community pride. With the support of 10 dedicated coordinators and a 20-member expert jury, the program culminated in an awards ceremony that reached 150 in-person attendees and garnered 700 streaming views. “Semillas y Raíces” stands as a testament to our ongoing commitment to empowering artists and strengthening the cultural roots that allow our community to flourish in a new land.

10 event coordinators, 40 participants, 5 adult winners, 10 children's winners, 20 jury members in the different categories, 150 people from the community attending the awards ceremony, streaming of the event with 700 views of the event, more than \$5,000 in prizes for the winners.



VIEW FULL PROGRAM FINALISTS: <https://lmca.my.canva.site/createseedsandroots>

Workshops

Mentioned in the previous section.

5. Promoting art and culture

- A. **Book Fair April 12**, promoting local authors and resources for authors with special guest Singer and writer Martha Albarracin

2025 Book Fair: A Celebration of Literacy and Culture

On April 12th, La Misión ConArte hosted a vibrant Book Fair at Plaza Mariachi, bringing together over 500 attendees for an immersive celebration of the written and spoken word. This event served as a powerful catalyst for cultural connection, featuring international storytellers, the Nashville Public Library, and the “Art in Motion for Peace, Love & Unity” fashion show. The fair provided a vital platform for the literary community, successfully promoting 13 local authors and fostering a love for reading through the Book Sip Club’s interactive activities. A cornerstone of the day was the Short Story Literary Contest, which empowered the next generation of writers by recognizing the creativity of our youth. With 50 children actively engaged in the "Kids Tent" and eight young authors honored during the award ceremony, the event left a lasting impact by nurturing imagination and strengthening our community’s commitment to education, diversity, and the arts.

150 assistants, 13 book authors benefited, 50 children learned and played in the children's tent activities, 8 winners.



- 13 authors were secured their spaces and promoted during the fair
- The Nashville Public Library participated doing storytelling for kids
- Martha Albarracin presented her book and shared her story
- The Book Sip Club participated promoting reading club with fun activities
- Kids were able to enjoy la carpa KIDS
- Ceremony of Awards short story contest



B. “Creando espacios para el arte” continued this year in our events but also in collaboration with other organizations and by visiting the artists exhibits

Highlights

AMP presentation in Franklin the Factory by AMP, we partner helping organizing, facilitating coordination with the sponsor with models path academy, taking pictures. We bring AMP everywhere we go and they bring LMCA everywhere they go as the founder is the same person Ofelia Vazquez.

Here a list of some of their defiles:

- During International StoryTelling Festival at Plaza Mariachi
- Día de muertos in Cheekwood

Pintando en el Lago by CrespoTraveler, we partner to sponsor the event by bringing sponsors and an artist to participate in the dynamic and make art that was raffled to the participants.

Strategic Partnership: *Pintando en el Lago* by CrespoTraveler

In 2025, La Misión ConArte proudly partnered with CrespoTraveler to host *Pintando en el Lago*, a vibrant initiative that bridged the gap between community engagement and artistic expression. By securing key sponsorships and facilitating the participation of a professional artist, we created a unique dynamic where creativity served as a catalyst

for connection. The event brought together 20 enthusiastic participants, an influential voice in the arts community, and the dedicated support of 5 volunteers, all working in harmony to celebrate local talent. The highlight of the experience was the live creation of an original artwork, which was raffled among the participants, leaving a lasting symbol of our commitment to fostering accessible and interactive art experiences within our community.

20 participants, 1 influencer involved, 1 artist involved, 5 volunteers



Our Events

- Love and Art (Mentioned in the previous section)
- Tequila Night Fundraiser
- CreArte 2025 Ceremony of Awards Semillas y Raíces (Mentioned in the previous section)

Tequila Night Fundraiser

Community Impact: 2025 Tequila Night Fundraiser

The 2025 Tequila Night Fundraiser proved to be a resounding success, serving as a vibrant cornerstone of our community engagement efforts. Organized by a dedicated team of ten volunteers, the event brought together 60 attendees for an evening dedicated to celebrating art and culture. Through the collective generosity of our guests, we successfully raised \$1,000, funds that will directly bolster our core initiatives: CreArte 2025, La Misión ConArte, and Semillas y Raíces. This gathering not only provided an unforgettable experience featuring live music and local fellowship but also underscored

the power of our community in sustaining our mission to foster creativity and cultural enrichment. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to this milestone, ensuring that our artistic programs continue to thrive.

10 people in the organization, 60 people attended, \$1,000 raised



Events attended

- Art Exhibit by Sharley Rodriguez Dubon, January 16, 2025
- Consulado de Ecuador in Plaza Mariachi, January 25, 2025
- Open Studio by Ruben Torres, January 31st, 2025
- Jeremias art exhibit in Plaza Mariachi, March 6th 2025
- Ballet Folklorico Mexicano de Vanderbilt "Hasta La Raiz" April 2 , 2025
- Breakfast Cafecito Art Exhibit Fundraising Conexion Americas April 26
- SOHO House Ruben Torres Art Exhibit, May 3 2025
- 615 Entrepreneur Center featuring Mike Quinones Art Exhibit, June 25, 2025
- Mercadito at Concierto Marta Albarracin August 19, 2025
- Salsa Night Hola September 3
- Una Noche Especial Hola, featuring winners of CreArte 2025 Seeds and Roots October 2
- A Delicious Evening of Interconnectedness by The Quiet Voice
- Cheekwood, Altar de los muertos LMCA and Art Exhibit Jeremias Garcia, November 1st, 2nd , 2025

Cheekwood, Altar de los muertos LMCA and Art Exhibit Jeremias Garcia, November 1st, 2nd, 2025

Celebrating Traditions: La Misi3n ConArte at Cheekwood

For the 2025 Day of the Dead celebration, La Misión ConArte continued its cherished tradition of honoring ancestral heritage by installing a commemorative *Altar de Muertos* at Cheekwood. This year's presentation reached a new milestone in cultural enrichment by collaborating with artist Jeremías Garcia, whose evocative works themed around this sacred holiday were prominently exhibited. This partnership significantly amplified the impact of our programming, providing an immersive experience that bridged traditional folk practices with contemporary artistic expression. By showcasing Garcia's work, La Misión ConArte successfully strengthened community ties and deepened public appreciation for Hispanic cultural identity, ensuring that the legacy of this profound tradition continues to resonate with diverse audiences.

1 artist exhibiting his work to more than 500 people who attended the Day of the Dead celebration in Cheekwood



Helped spread the word

- Workshop by Raymel Moleiro Teatro Infantil January 15,22,29
- Book by Williams Amor Verdadero January 25
- Workshop signing by Mayra Gonzalez, July 26

Highlights of our executive team's achievements

Israel Garcia and Mike Quinones' participation in MetroArts Forging NECAT Network Grantees Metro Arts: Israel Garcia, Mike Quinones, and Ruben Torres

By the numbers 2025

139 Workshop participants (FY25 - 59)
25 Graduates from Habla Nashville program

528 Attendees at our main events (FY25- 670)

60 Artists collaborated with us to elevate Latin American culture in our community during CreArte 2025.

36 Families were impacted in CreArte Kids

3 half scholarships, English value 3,000 dollars

7,000 dollars in prizes for artists' winners of seeds and roots and short story literary contest

13 numbers of art exhibits attended

5 numbers of art exhibits organized

Over 170 artists (FY25100) were involved in our programs and events, from participating in the workshop, becoming part of the team, to the presentations on the stage.

LMCA in the news

Telemundo (sponsor oficial)

Voyager: <https://nashvillevoyager.com/interview/conversations-with-la-mision-conarte/>

Nashville Noticias

Expanding opportunities

We were granted the operating grant from MetroArts. This is a big accomplishment as having an operating budget enables us to have more consistent daily operations.