

Join the Circle of Latina Leadership 2009 Class to Cover Our Annual Fundraising Celebration.

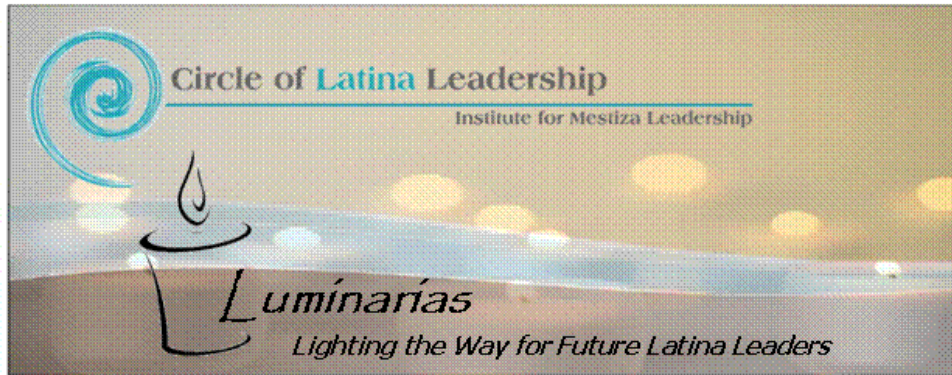
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Event Date: Thursday, October 15, 2009

Event Time: 5:30 p.m.

**Event Location: Museo de Las Americas, 861 Santa Fe Drive, Denver, CO
80204**



INVITATION TO COVER

What: Luminarias: Lighting the Way for Future Latina Leaders Annual Fundraising Celebration

Sponsored By: Circle of Latina Leadership 2009 Class

Date: Thursday, October 15, 2009

Time: 5:30 p.m.

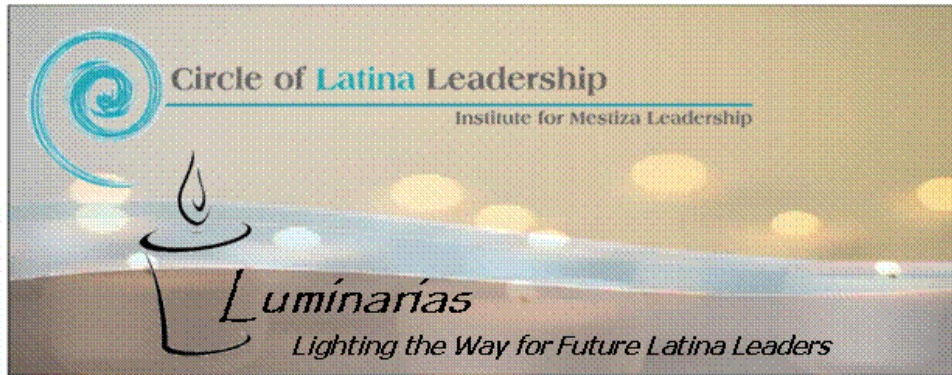
Place: Museo de Las Americas, 861 Santa Fe Drive, Denver, CO 80204

Details: This year's event will be a celebration of the many leaders who have inspired the circle's work over the past decade. The event, held during National Hispanic Heritage Month, will also feature a spoken word artist and Latin/hip-hop group whose work reflects the very diversity the leadership program supports. In addition to the feature entertainment, hors d'oeuvres will be served and a silent auction will take place.

Event Website: <http://mestizaleadership.com/leadership/gala.php>

More Information: Margo Alvillar (720-937-0459) for tickets or more information about the event or email: luminarias2009@gmail.com

PR Contact: Cristina Aguilar (720-260-2565) for press related questions or Veronica Rios (en español) (303-883-0991).



For Immediate Release: October 1, 2009
Contact: Cristina Aguilar, 720-260-2565 or
Veronica Rios (en español), 303-883-0991

LATINA LEADERSHIP PROGRAM'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT EMERGING LEADERS

Program founded by Juana Bordas, 2009 Unique Woman of Colorado

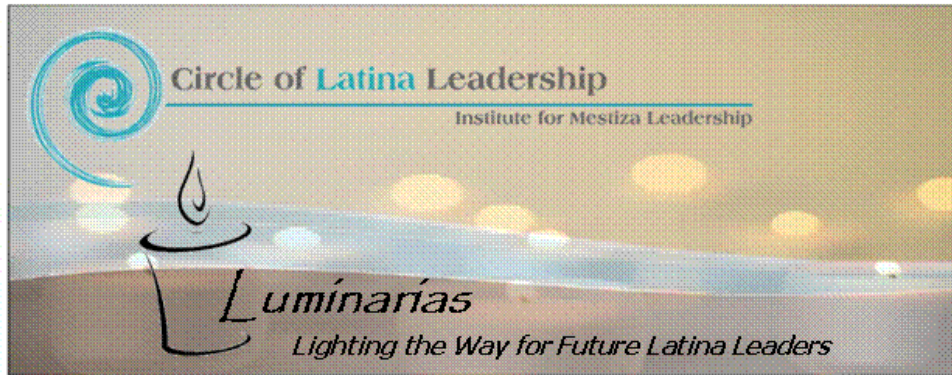
(Denver, CO) - The 2009 Circle of Latina Leadership class presents *Luminarias: Lighting the Way for Future Latina Leaders*, Thursday, October 15 at 5:30 p.m. at Museo De Las Americas in the ArtDistrict on Santa Fe. This year's event will be a celebration of the many leaders who have inspired the Circle's work over the past decade. The event, to be held during National Hispanic Heritage Month, will feature a spoken word artist and a Latin/hip hop group whose work reflects the very diversity the program cultivates. In addition to the feature entertainment, hors d'oeuvres will be served and a silent auction will take place. Tickets are available for \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door.

Founded by Juana Bordas in 2000, the Circle of Latina Leadership is a program in the 501(c)(3) charitable fundraising arm of the Institute for Mestiza Leadership. Every year the Circle prepares a new class of emerging, successful Latina women to become leaders in advancing their community. Each class produces a fundraiser, from concept to event, to gain real world experience and provide funding for future classes. Proceeds will help cover the program's leadership curriculum, including training, a mentor pairing program with leaders in the community and a community action project. The long-term goal of the Circle of Latina Leadership is to bring this network together on a regular basis to share information, learn about critical issues facing Latinos and decide on collective action.

The Circle is proud to celebrate Juana Bordas in being named 2009 Unique Woman of Colorado. Juana's quote in the Denver Post reflects her selflessness in supporting and building leaders through the Circle and her many other community contributions, "It was a real honor to be singled out, but the thing I want to emphasize is that the work I do is really collaborative and involves so many women."

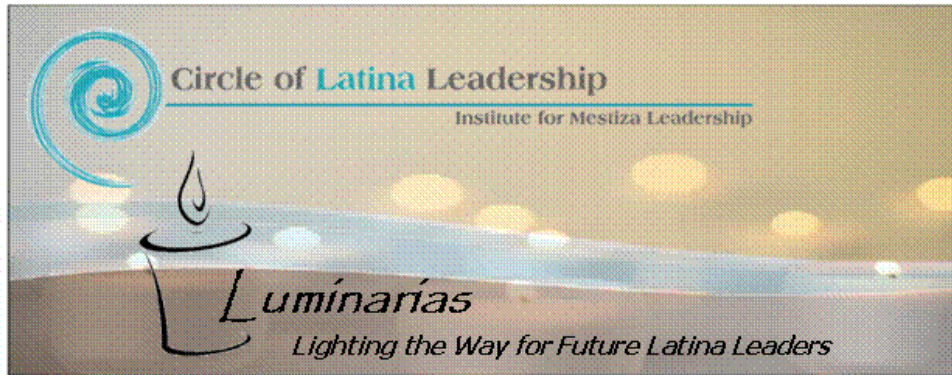
For tickets or more info: <http://mestizaleadership.com/leadership/gala.php> or :Margo Alvillar (720-937-0459)

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 5:30 p.m. Begin with networking and appetizers
- 6:00-6:15 p.m. Spoken word by Bobby LeFebre
- 6:15-6:30 p.m. Music and networking
- 6:30 p.m. Official welcome
- 6:40 p.m. Silent auction begins
- 6:45-7:30 p.m. Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Spoken word by Bobby LeFebre
- 7:30-8:30 p.m. Program
- 8:30 p.m. Performance by Debajo de Agua begins
- 10:30 p.m. Event concludes



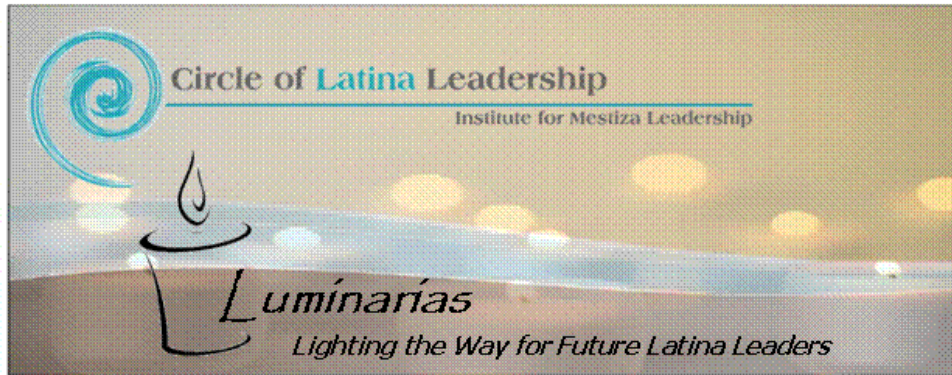
THE CIRCLE OF LATINA LEADERSHIP MISSION STATEMENT

Founded in 2000 by Juana Bordas, 2009 Unique Woman of Colorado, The Circle of Latina Leadership's mission is to "Prepare the Next Generation of Leaders."

History of CLL

Whether it is building community capacity, nurturing organizations to address needs, or forging unity, the one essential ingredient to unite and empower the Hispanic community is competent and committed **LEADERSHIP!** Hispanics must expand their leadership core NOW to meet the challenge of our growing numbers.

Latinas have a unique role to play in this advancement. They are the heart of the family, keepers of culture and faith, and active community volunteers. In the past twenty years, a core of Latinas has risen to leadership. To address the needs of our growing community, however, a greater number of Latinas need to be prepared to lead and serve. **The Circle of Latina Leadership aspires to support and mentor this cadre of women.** In 2009, the Denver Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America is recognizing the Circle's efforts and the excellence of the CLL program with the **Vale La Pena Award.** The award recognizes the contributions CLL and our alumnae have made in improving the lives of Latinos in our community and in advocating for Latino progress.



INTERVIEW WITH JUANA BORDAS, CLL FOUNDER AND 2009 UNIQUE WOMAN OF COLORADO

What inspired you to create the Circle?

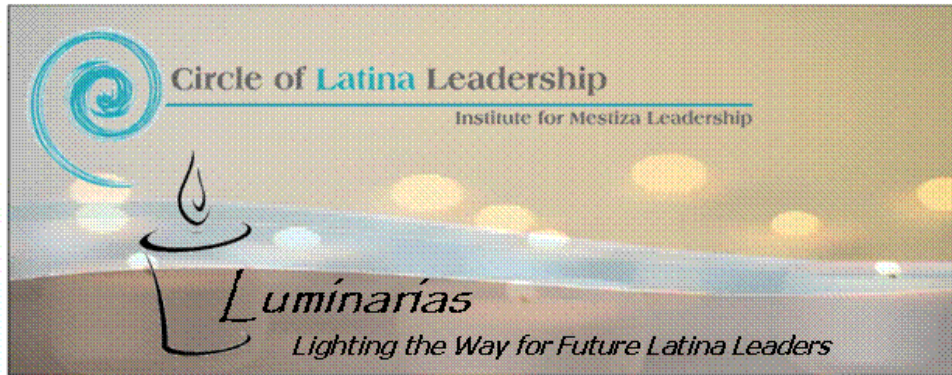
I have been successful because of the family of Latinas I have worked with for over 40 years. It took time to develop these relationships - to become *comadres* - and to learn to work together. The Circle was formed to bring young Latinas together and help them develop this sisterhood when they are just beginning their leadership journey. I was inspired by the idea that our young women have so much talent and they could be a guiding force for Latino contributions and to advance our people.

How has the Circle evolved over the years?

Our alumnae are doing great things - running nonprofits, starting new initiatives, mentoring youth, and being recognized as the next generation of leaders. The Circle is setting a new standard for women reaching across generations - we are a positive, supportive, and dedicated group of women.

How has the Circle (work, women) impacted Latinas/os and the greater Denver community?

I think it is truly remarkable that over 100 Latinas of all ages, from all walks of life, and professions - the very top Latinas in our community have all been mentors to the Circle women. Latinas invest in one another - it is our natural way of being. The fact that we are leaving a legacy of leadership - that our community will have the leadership necessary to take us to the next level and to be here when Latinos become the majority group! Now that's a vision for the future!



What does your recent recognition as the first Latina to be named Unique Woman of Colorado mean to the Circle, Latinas, and greater Denver leadership/civil rights community?

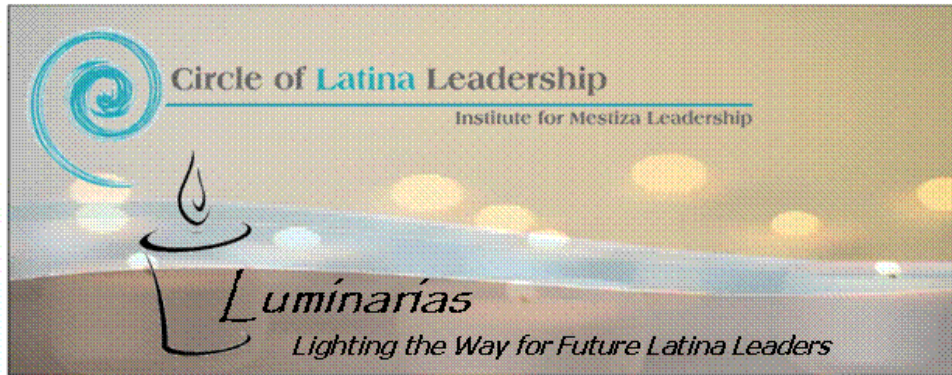
I think it means a lot of people and particularly Latinas were good enough and committed enough to work with me over the years. I have been fortunate to have been surrounded by a community of women who truly have the best interest of our people in their hearts. I think the significance of the award is that the Denver Post and the greater community are recognizing that Latinas *have and are* making incredible contributions to Colorado. And we have only begun! The Circle is the next wave - we are gathering momentum.

Why is the CLL fundraiser important to the community?

The fundraiser highlights the leadership skills of our young Latinas and their ability to work as a team to benefit our community. Leaders have to know how to access resources and raise money for the many needs and causes they support. The fundraiser provides the training ground for our young Latinas to learn this. Several of our alumnae have been able to raise substantial amounts of money for needed nonprofit services because through the fundraiser they had the confidence and experience to do this.

What does the 2009 theme, *Luminarias: Lighting the Way for Future Leaders* mean to you?

I am grateful for my mother, *hermanas*, and *comadres* who sacrificed so much so we could be here today. They lit the torch so I and others could follow in their footsteps. I hope to pass this torch to the next generation so they too can light the way for those who will come after them.



DIRECTIONS TO EVENT & PARKING INFORMATION

Museo De Las Americas Address:

861 Santa Fe Drive
Denver, Colorado 80204
(303-571-4401)

Directions:

From I-25 turn East on 6th Ave to Santa Fe Drive, turn left (north) 2.5 blocks to 861. The Museo is on the left (west) side of the street with a blue pillar in front.

[Google Map the address!](#)

Parking Information:

Parking is available on the street (in front of the Museo) or on convenient side streets.