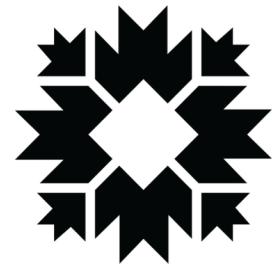


City of Bloomington
Commission on
Hispanic and
Latino Affairs



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
Commission on Hispanic
and Latino Affairs

2024
Annual
Report

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City of Bloomington

Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs

Message from the Chair

Marlo Libel

The CHLA is fortunate to have recently welcomed a new group of energetic and highly dedicated members. Their diverse personal and professional backgrounds have fostered the creation of targeted working groups focused on addressing key issues within our Hispanic and Latino communities. Identifying these priorities has been a challenge due to the presence of multiple competing concerns. After careful consideration, we selected Health, Education, Immigration (Newcomers), and Public Relations as our primary areas of focus.



In the health sector, we have worked to advocate for the importance of medical interpretation services for our Spanish-speaking population, engaging healthcare providers to raise awareness about available resources. We also facilitated productive discussions between healthcare providers and nonprofit organizations to identify and recommend equitable solutions for pressing health-related issues. This exchange has now become an ongoing, permanent forum.

In education, responding to concerns raised by the community, we engaged directly with public education leaders to address disparities in post-secondary preparation support. Additionally, in partnership with a private donor, we played a key role in selecting a scholarship recipient to assist with college expenses.

Together with local community organizations, we developed a welcoming agenda for immigrants and newcomers to Bloomington, focusing on their integration and support. The development of strong, lasting partnerships requires continuous effort and nurturing, but we are committed to ensuring these relationships grow and thrive.

City of Bloomington

Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs

Vision for the Future

2024 Annual Report

Recognizing the wealth of resources available in Bloomington, our goal is to create platforms where diverse stakeholder groups can listen to the underrepresented voices of the Hispanic and Latino communities, particularly on critical issues such as food and housing security, community safety and support systems, employment, economic stability, and the physical environment.

To expand our network of collaboration, we are committed to ensuring that all departments and commissions within the City are fully aware of the unique needs of the Hispanic and Latino communities. We will work to identify how each area of work can contribute to improving the well-being of these communities, with a strong emphasis on advocating for the recruitment of Spanish-speaking staff and other key demands.

The Commission plans to establish two dedicated spaces that provide the Hispanic and Latino communities with culturally sensitive and accessible opportunities to gain information and voice their concerns. These spaces will focus on:

- Children's education and schooling, including preparation for higher education.
- A forum for newcomers to our community, where they can learn about important issues such as transportation, traffic rules, safety, food access, employment rights, religion, and more.

In addition to these initiatives, we will continue to collaborate with cultural events such as Fiesta de Otoño, the Black y Brown Arts Festival, and Jaripeo, fostering a strong sense of community and cultural celebration.

“As we move forward, we remain dedicated to amplifying the voices and addressing the needs of the Hispanic and Latino communities in Bloomington, ensuring that their perspectives are represented and their voices are heard.”

City of Bloomington

Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs

Commission Purpose

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The Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs is dedicated to promoting the social, educational, housing, economic, health, and equity needs of Hispanic and Latino communities. We work to ensure the well-being and stability of these communities through advocacy and support, addressing issues that affect their daily lives. The Commission also organizes cultural activities such as festivals, community meetings, and workshops to foster greater engagement and understanding.

Statutory Authority: BMC 2.23.80

Powers and Duties:

The Commission meets regularly to identify and address the issues affecting the Hispanic and Latino communities. Once a concern is identified, we assign one or two Commissioners to lead efforts in addressing the issue. The scope of our work varies, ranging from minor disputes within the community to more significant issues such as theft, racism, health disparities, or negligence.

After identifying the problem, the Commission conducts thorough research to determine potential solutions and provides support to individuals or organizations affected. We collaborate with other agencies to gather relevant data and insights regarding the Hispanic and Latino populations. This partnership ensures that we have a comprehensive understanding of the challenges at hand.

Once the necessary information is collected, the Commission convenes to assess the findings and direct the affected individuals to the appropriate resources or agencies to resolve the issue.

Our community festivals and events serve to bring people together, offering opportunities to celebrate and learn about the rich cultural heritage of the Hispanic and Latino communities. These events also provide a platform for open dialogue, allowing individuals to share their concerns and experiences.

Additionally, our workshops aim to educate the community about the services offered by the City of Bloomington and other vital organizations such as IU Health, el Centro Comunal Latino, HealthNet, and more. These workshops play a crucial role in informing the public about available resources and empowering them with the knowledge they need to access support.

City of Bloomington
Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs

Organizational Overview

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- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretary



Marlo Libel
Appointed By: Mayor
Term Expires: 2027-01-31



Mariella Arredondo
Research Scientist, IIDC, IU
Appointed By: Mayor
Term Expires: 2026-01-31



Javier Rosales
Appointed By: Common Council
Term Expires: 2027-01-31



Jimena Holguin
Appointed By: Mayor
Term Expires: 2026-01-31



Raquel Anderson
Appointed By: Common Council
Term Expires: 2027-01-31



Dinorah Sapp
Appointed By: Common Council
Term Expires: 2026-01-31



Alysa Schroff
Appointed By: Mayor
Term Expires: 2027-01-31



Claudia Lara
Appointed By: Common Council
Term Expires: 2026-01-31

Vacant
Appointed By: Common Council
Term Expires: 2027-01-31

The dedicated members of
Bloomington's Commission on
Hispanic and Latino Affairs
embody the diverse perspectives
that enrich our community.

Commission Staff
Ximena Martinez
Latino Outreach Coordinator
Community and Family Resources Department
Staff Liaison

City of Bloomington Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs

Key Achievements and Impact

2024 Annual Report

HEALTH

The Commission has focused on identifying and addressing health-related issues impacting Hispanic and Latino populations. This year, two major projects have been prioritized.

- **The first initiative aims to improve access to qualified medical interpreters at IU Health, including its emergency room.** To support this effort, the Commission has highlighted the Indiana Latino Institute (ILI) Medical Interpreter Training Scholarship, which provides individuals in Bloomington with opportunities to become certified medical interpreters. Information about this scholarship has been widely disseminated within the community. Additionally, the Commission has initiated discussions with ILI to identify local residents who have completed the training.
- **The second project involved organizing a health forum on November 6, 2024, designed to bring together local health service providers to discuss opportunities and challenges in delivering improved care to the Hispanic and Latino communities.** The forum was a success, with participation from four organizations: IU Health, HealthNet, the Monroe County Health Department, and School Smiles.



El Instituto Latino de Indiana (ILI) ofrece una oportunidad única a través de la beca de formación de intérpretes médicos. Esta beca cubre todos los costos asociados con la capacitación reconocida a nivel nacional Bridging the Gap (BTG), incluidos los exámenes de idioma, libros y matrícula.

Requisitos de elegibilidad:

- ✓ Ser de origen hispano/latino
- ✓ Tener diploma de High School
- ✓ Dominio del inglés y español
- ✓ Autorización para trabajar en los Estados Unidos
- ✓ Ser residente de Indiana
- ✓ Tener entre 18 y 40 años

Escanea el QR Code para más detalles y para acceder a la aplicación



<https://bloomington.in.gov/boards/hispanic-latino-affairs>

A key challenge identified by the Commission is the need to educate patients about their right to request interpretation services when needed. To address this, the Commission is developing informational materials to raise awareness about this right and inform the community about the language support options available during medical appointments.

City of Bloomington Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs

Key Achievements and Impact

2024 Annual Report

EDUCATION

The Commission has identified several key needs in the field of education, particularly around the **effectiveness of resources available to high school students in Bloomington preparing for college**. This includes improving career and academic counseling and enhancing communication with parents who may not speak English.



A significant challenge for the Commission is increasing community participation in high school forums. One proposed solution is to create informational videos in Spanish to make the content more accessible.

- In collaboration with other agencies and nonprofits, the Commission is organizing **informational sessions for parents and students about post-secondary education**. The first session was held on October 15, 2024, both virtually and in-person.
- Additionally, **Commission members met with two vice-principals from Bloomington High School South on November 19, 2024**, to discuss concerns raised by parents and explore ways the Commission can support Latino students' success, particularly in meeting college admission requirements. These discussions will continue across both high schools.
- In collaboration with other organizations, the Commission also held an **informational session on completing the FAFSA**. To assist families further, we offered one-on-one sessions to guide through the FAFSA process in *February 2025*.

City of Bloomington

Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs

Key Achievements and Impact

2024 Annual Report

CELEBRATION OF THE HISPANIC AND LATINO CULTURE

The Commission has proudly celebrated Latino and Hispanic history and their contributions to the Bloomington community and the United States. Activities included:

- Hosting a booth at **La Fiesta del Otoño**,
- Organizing a **Parks and Recreation event** to honor Latino culture during National Hispanic Heritage Month,
- Participating in the **Black y Brown Arts Festival**,
- Writing informative and cultural articles in **Boletín Comunitario**, a Spanish language publication of the Community and Family Resources Department which informs Spanish-speaking residents and the community about programs, services, and current issues in order to integrate them into the larger Bloomington community.
- Interviewing inspiring Hispanic and Latino community members on the Spanish-language radio show **Hola Bloomington**, a project of the City of Bloomington Community and Family Resources Department and WFHB Community Radio to bring access to news, entertainment, and public opinion to the Spanish speaking members of our community.



City of Bloomington

Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs

Program and Project Highlights

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The Commission remains committed to supporting local students by working closely with high schools to identify ways we can enhance academic success. We also plan to extend these efforts to the three middle schools within the MCCSC to ensure that students receive the guidance and support they need earlier on.

Health forums will continue to take place on a quarterly basis, providing a platform for health agencies in Monroe County to discuss critical issues and share resources with the Hispanic and Latino community.

The Commission will also maintain its active participation in community events, promoting awareness of our work and celebrating the rich diversity of Latino cultures in Bloomington.

Looking ahead, we plan to develop and release a series of informational videos, available in Spanish, focused on education and health, to better inform the community and make resources more accessible.

In collaboration with El Centro Comunal Latino, members of the Commission visited Boston Scientific Corporation, where we met with the Latine support group (HOLA). During this meeting, we discussed our roles as Commissioners and explored potential ways to collaborate, especially considering that 45% of the Latino workforce at Boston Scientific resides in Bloomington.



TOP 4 HIGHLIGHTS

- The dissemination of training **opportunities for medical interpreters** has led to **10 of individuals in Bloomington being trained to provide high-quality interpretation services in medical settings**, ensuring better communication and access to healthcare for the community.
- In partnership with El Centro Cultural Latino and IU La Casa, we hosted an informational session on October 15, 2024, designed to **help students and parents navigate the college application process**; and we offered **one-on-one assistance for families completing the FAFSA** in February 2025.
- Through our involvement in events like the **Black & Brown Arts Festival and La Fiesta de Otoño**, the Commission has increased its visibility and engagement within the Hispanic/Latino community, **fostering deeper connections and awareness of our mission**.
- On November 6, 2024, the Commission held its first informational session with four local agencies that provide health-related services to the Latino community in Bloomington. This event marked a **significant step toward building stronger relationships between healthcare providers and the people they serve**.

City of Bloomington

Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs

Strategic Goals and Initiatives

2024 Annual Report

The Commission has outlined strategic goals and priorities for the upcoming year, with a focus on three critical areas: education, health, and public relations/community engagement. These initiatives are designed to promote equity, access, and inclusion for the Hispanic/Latino community in Bloomington.

The Education Sub-Committee will continue its collaborative work with MCCSC stakeholders to address disparities in mental health services, educational programs, and communication channels for Hispanic/Latino students, parents, teachers, and administrators. The goal is to create a cohesive, sustainable educational environment that effectively meets the unique needs of Hispanic/Latino students.

- Ongoing meetings with stakeholders to identify and address systemic barriers to educational success.
- Partnering with community organizations such as Indiana University and Ivy Tech to offer Spanish-language workshops on college admissions, financial aid, and navigating higher education processes for students and families.

The Health Sub-Committee will prioritize improving interpretation and translation services within healthcare systems, focusing on IU Health and other local providers in Bloomington and Monroe County. A key immediate goal is to enhance the availability and quality of interpretation services in emergency rooms, ensuring equitable access to healthcare for the Hispanic/Latino community.

- Working with healthcare providers to expand and improve interpretation services.
- Advocating for better communication tools in medical settings to ensure language barriers do not impede care.

The Public Relations / Community Engagement will focus on organizing informative and welcoming sessions in collaboration with local agencies to address critical issues impacting the Hispanic/Latino community, including transportation, safety, housing, healthcare, and education. These sessions will be held in accessible locations throughout Bloomington to encourage maximum participation.

- Developing sustainable and culturally relevant informational materials to address the specific needs of the Hispanic/Latino community.
- Exploring innovative strategies to widely distribute these materials, ensuring that information reaches those who need it most.

The Commission is committed to addressing challenges faced by the Hispanic/Latino community, particularly in light of divisive rhetoric. The Commission will work closely with the Office of the Mayor and local immigrant and refugee organizations to safeguard the rights, safety, and well-being of Hispanic/Latino residents.



City of Bloomington Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs

Strategic Goals and Initiatives

2024 Annual Report

KEY STRATEGIES INCLUDE

- **Advocating for the recruitment of Spanish-speaking staff** across departments and commissions to improve accessibility and communication for Hispanic/Latino residents.
- **Organizing culturally responsive forums** and information sessions through the
- **Education and Public Relations/Community Engagement Sub-Committees.** These sessions will focus on:
 - K-12 education pathways and student success.
 - Preparing for higher education opportunities.
 - Accessing essential services (e.g., transportation, food, employment) for newcomers to Bloomington.
- **To celebrate and share the rich cultural heritage** of the Hispanic/Latino community, the Commission will continue partnering with and sponsoring key events, including:
 - Fiesta de Otoño
 - Black y Brown Arts Festival
 - Jaripeo



The Commission remains dedicated to amplifying the voices of the Hispanic/Latino community and advocating for improvements in critical areas such as education, housing, health, safety, and employment. Collaboration with other departments and commissions will be essential in raising awareness and finding sustainable solutions to ongoing challenges.



City of Bloomington

Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

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KEY COLLABORATIONS

- City of Bloomington Latino Outreach and Programs
- City of Bloomington Safe and Civil Programs
- El Centro Comunal Latino
- Hoosier Hills Food Bank
- Iglesia Hispana Sherwood Oaks
- IU Credit Union
- IU La Casa
- MCCSC
- NAACP
- WFHB Community Radio



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
Latino Programs
and Outreach



IGLESIA HISPANA
SHERWOOD OAKS

IU Credit Union



NAACP
Monroe County Branch



LA CASA/LATINO CULTURAL CENTER
DIVERSITY, EQUITY & MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS



Volunteer Spotlight

To all our commission members, volunteers, and supporters:

Thank you for your invaluable service, contributions, and unwavering commitment. Your dedication and time are the driving forces behind the success of our city's policies and initiatives. By sharing your unique perspectives and experiences, you ensure that the solutions we pursue truly reflect the diversity and vibrancy of our community. We are grateful for all you do to make a lasting impact.

City of Bloomington
Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs

2024 Financial Review - Income

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Community Support and Program Funding

This year, the Commission did not implement a formal fundraising strategy, as its primary focus was on defining a clear agenda for its projects and activities. Once the agenda is finalized, the Commission will shift its efforts toward engaging donors and sponsors to secure the necessary support for the Hispanic and Latino community.

Future partners are essential to our programming's ongoing success and enhance our community's commitment.

<u>EVENT/PROGRAM</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
First Health Forum	\$16.74	Refreshments
	REMAING BALANCE	\$162.41

City of Bloomington

Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs

Call to Action

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Stakeholders and volunteers can make a meaningful impact on the Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs through a variety of ways:

- Participate in **fundraising events** to help raise crucial funds for our initiatives.
- Advocate for the Commission by **spreading the word** and encouraging others to support our mission.
- Share your expertise by contributing to discussions and insights during **CHLA meetings**.
- Make a **direct financial contribution** through monetary donations to fund our programs and services.
- **Volunteer** to assist with specific tasks or projects that advance our mission.
- **Donate in-kind** by providing items or services for events, such as food, catering, or venue space.
- Offer feedback and suggestions to help us continually improve our operations and impact.



Your support and involvement are key to helping us build a stronger, more inclusive community. Get involved today!

You're Invited to

- Visit the Commission's website for the latest news and updates.
- Attend the Commission's monthly meetings to stay informed and actively participate.
- Join us at events and activities throughout the year to connect with the community.
- Subscribe to El Boletín Comunitario for insightful updates and information.
- Tune in to the Hola Bloomington podcast for interviews and discussions on relevant community topics.
- Follow us on social media through the Latino Programs account to stay up to date with our latest initiatives and news.

City of Bloomington
Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs

Contact Us

2024 Annual Report

Thank you

Commission for our monthly meetings, held every last Wednesday from 5:30 – 7:00 PM in the Hooker Conference Room #245 at City Hall.

We look forward to your participation and contributions!



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
Commission on Hispanic
and Latino Affairs

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