

MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. 37

Proclaiming September 15 through October 15, 2025, as Hispanic and Latiné Heritage Month in Multnomah County, Oregon.

Multnomah County Finds:

- A. For over fifty years, Multnomah County has observed and recognized “*Mes de Nuestra Herencia Hispana / Latiné*,” also known as National “Hispanic and Latiné Heritage Month,” from September 15 to October 15. This period marks the independence anniversaries of several Latin American nations, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, Chile, and Belize. Each year, we celebrate the diverse contributions that Hispanic and Latiné communities bring to our Country.
- B. This year’s theme, “*La Cultura Cura: Culture Heals*,” invites us to dig deep into our cultural roots to honor ancestral wisdom and recognize that the pathway to health, restoration, and lifelong well-being exists within our cultural values, traditions, and Indigenous practices. Culture grounds us in dignidad, guides us with respeto, connects us in confianza, and sustains us with cariño, fe and esperanza. La Cultura Cura reminds us that our cultura – our language, food, música, historias, and abuelita’s consejos – is not only our identity but also medicine. Culture heals. Culture strengthens. Culture sustains lifelong bienestar.
- C. We recognize that our communities live, work, and thrive on the ancestral homelands of Indigenous peoples. As Mestizo, Latiné peoples, our stories are connected - braided together through shared indigenous roots, histories of survival, resilience, and healing.
- D. Through our cultura, we learn from ancient teachings passed down by our elders, to live in balance with one another. This circular way of learning affirms that when families and communities grow stronger, so do individuals - and when individuals heal, entire communities flourish. La Cultura Cura reminds us that healing is generational, passed from abuelitas to nietos, from ancestors to future leaders.
- E. Latino communities have had a presence in Oregon for centuries. Today, we make up 14% of the county’s population, with over 103,753 individuals proudly identifying as Hispanic or Latino. And we are growing. By 2050, about two out of every ten county residents will be Latino. Resilience has shaped us into the most diverse community. Somos mestizos, somos del maíz, somos del sol; we are Black, Brown, Native, and Indigenous communities from many nations with over 400 languages spoken in our county. Our differences are our strengths in unity.

- F. Con mucho orgullo, we celebrate the countless contributions made to this county and country by Latino entrepreneurs, medical providers, athletes, educators, artists, organizers, scientists, farmworkers, public servants, elected officials, and much more. We also uplift marginalized groups, including women, Black, and Indigenous Latiné peoples. We honor those who labor in agriculture under the most challenging conditions, ensuring that familias in our community are provided with basic needs. Nationwide, the economic output of American Latinos would rank fifth in the world if the community were an independent country.
- G. We also recognize the indispensable contributions of the 886 Hispanic and Latiné employees at Multnomah County, together we make up 14.1% of our workforce. We honor the leaders, advocates, and mission-driven community members dedicated to seeking social justice and equality for all.
- H. This month's celebration comes at a time of direct and persistent attacks on our community, as the Trump Administration enacts the mass deportations of hundreds of thousands of immigrants, many of whom come from Latino communities. The use of unidentified, masked ICE agents to abduct people off the streets, outside courtrooms and schools is terrorizing our community. We are deeply concerned about the denial of due process and access to legal counsel, as well as the crisis that this abrupt separation of families is causing.
- I. These actions have severe and far-reaching consequences for the mental health of Latine families. The 2025 National Latino Family Report found that 57% of Latino parents and primary caregivers worry a loved one may be deported - a number that rises to 74% among Latiné immigrant parents. Research from President Trump's first term raised serious concerns about the long-term health effects on children growing up in constant fear of a parent's deportation.
- J. The 2025 report also provides evidence that Trump's mass deportation plans have a "chilling effect" on health and safety, with nearly a third (32%) of Latino parents saying they will avoid signing up for public benefits, 35% planning to avoid talking to police or reporting crimes, and 30% saying they will not enroll their child in school or early childhood programs.
- K. In the face of these threats, our community is resisting and organizing creative networks of migrant-led community defense, advocacy, solidarity, and mutual aid. We uplift these powerful local and national movements and encourage the wider community to join in supporting these efforts.
- L. Multnomah County is a proud sanctuary county in a sanctuary state, which means that our governments cannot help enforce federal immigration laws without an order signed by a judge. Multnomah County will uphold its Community Sanctuary Promise and all other Oregon laws and legal protections. The County will continue to provide critical safety net services that treat every person with dignity – regardless of their immigration status. We all benefit when those who've

migrated here – often fleeing dire and violent conditions – have the freedom and opportunity to thrive, pursue their dreams, and give back to their community. All are welcome – today, tomorrow, no matter what.

- M. Multnomah County is committed to supporting and celebrating our Hispanic and Latiné neighbors, families, and communities. Together, we affirm that *La Cultura Cura* - our culture heals, unites, and sustains us. It offers us dignity, respect, trust, love, and hope. It is the medicine we carry to transform pain into resilience and to plant seeds of healing for future generations.

Multnomah County Proclaims:

September 15 through October 15, 2025, as Hispanic and Latiné Heritage Month in Multnomah County, Oregon, in recognition, solidarity, and celebration of the many contributions of Hispanic and Latiné residents to the County and our community. Together we declare: *La Cultura Cura. Our culture heals. Our culture unites. Our culture sustains us.*

SIGNED this 1st day of October, 2025.

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By: 

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SPONSORED BY: Chair Jessica Vega Pederson and Employee of Color Employee Resource Group