Máscaras y Milagros
Mexican Arts in
COMMUNITY REPORT
Máscaras y Milagros: A Retrospective

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MÁSCARAS Y MILAGROS SUMMARY

Through the leadership of Mary Ann Quiroz, Máscaras y Milagros Coordinator and the Máscaras y Milagros Council, Target®, and the Mexican Consulate, more than 13,000 Minnesotans attended 33 events in 18 days. Máscaras y Milagros included live performance, community conversations, master classes, receptions and an art exhibition, all with the goal of enriching and stimulating artistic programming that celebrates Mexican and Mexican-American identity and artistic expression. The Ordway connected with thousands of community members during this special celebration of Mexican arts in Minnesota. For many, this was their first encounter with the Ordway.

Guided by the Máscaras y Milagros Council, the Ordway partnered with a number of Latin-owned businesses and organizations, including photographers, restaurants such as El Burrito Mercado and El Nuevo Rodeo, sound production companies, and community organization, Tamales y Bicicletas. These relationships maximized the reach of the programming and encouraged ownership and involvement within the community.

It was the first time the Ordway produced a fully-bilingual brochure in Spanish and English, as well as a fully-bilingual webpage in Spanish and English. The Ordway expanded on bilingual print advertising, including the crown banner on the front of the theater, which was also in Spanish and English.

The Ordway successfully partnered with a number of Spanish-speaking and culturally-specific publications and media channels through this work, including Nueva Imagen Magazine and website, La Prensa de Minnesota, La Expresion de Minnesota, a feature TV spot on Univision and La Mera Buena radio station.

In a survey conducted with the Máscaras y Milagros Council, members were generous in their praise of the event. They found the council experience to be positive and well-balanced, and were grateful for the hard work of everyone involved. Comments further highlighted the success of connecting and collaborating with Indigenous peoples, and the great satisfaction in seeing Mexican heritage presented in a positive way. Other members were enthusiastic about the connections forged with people outside the Mexican community who are interested in Mexican culture.

“We have traveled throughout the United States to performing arts centers and never before have we been able to interact with so many members of the Mexican and Mexican-American community. It is a gift.”
—Claudia Lavista, Artistic Director, Delfos Danza Contemporánea

“What I like most about art in the Twin Cities is that there’s a lot of culturally-specific art. Still, you may not know about it unless you’re tied to that community. That’s why Máscaras y Milagros is such a great event; it exposes Mexican artists, and it presents the community with an opportunity to be involved.”
—Mary Anne Quiroz, Máscaras y Milagros Community Coordinator
INTRODUCTION

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts’ Mission:
Ordway’s vision is to bring the joy and insight that the arts can provide at the highest level of quality to the largest number of people we can reach.

Ordway’s mission is to be a driver for the artistic vitality of our community by hosting, presenting, and creating performing arts and educational programs that engage artists and enrich diverse audiences.

The Ordway accomplishes this through the Target® World Music and Dance Series, the Theatrical Season, Education Programs for students in grades pre-K through twelve, Community Engagement that provides rich arts learning for all ages, and the annual Flint Hills International Children’s Festival.

Often, the Target® World Music and Dance Series, which features seven touring musicians and dance companies, is a journey through the world rather than a focus in one specific region or cultural set of expressions. The fall of 2012 offered a unique opportunity to celebrate Mexican and Mexican-American identity through the presentation of singer Lila Downs, conguero Poncho Sanchez, and contemporary dance company Delfos. The convergence of these three artists within a two-week period at the Ordway lent itself to a deeper and richer set of community engagement and education programming than is usually possible around a World Music or Dance performance. It also provided an opportunity to convene and work with a council of artists and activists that would guide the work and root it in the Mexican and Mexican-American communities in the Twin Cities.

Máscaras y Milagros Mission:
Beginning in January of 2012, Ordway staff in Education and Community Engagement and Programming began to conceive of this larger series of events. Through their experience with local and international artists, Community Engagement programming, and previous work with culturally diverse committees, they outlined goals, objectives, and a series of events for Máscaras y Milagros.

The success of Máscaras y Milagros can be attributed to Ordway’s history of programming and community engagement, and on the strength of the growing Mexican and Mexican-American communities in the Twin Cities. The Mexican community established itself in Minnesota back in the 1800’s. Today, there are more than 250,000 Mexicans in Minnesota, with approximately 140,000 in the Twin Cities metro area. Neighborhoods including Northeast, East Phillips, and Powderhorn in Minneapolis, and the West Side Flats in Saint Paul have become hubs for Mexican commerce, art and culture.
MÁSCARAS Y MILAGROS: MEXICAN ARTS IN MINNESOTA

Máscaras y Milagros translates to “Masks and Miracles”. This name was chosen as the result of a process involving both internal conversations and feedback from the Council. The meaning of the phrase is highly subjective and touched on many elements of the modern Mexican experience in Minnesota.

On its surface, the name is a nod to two of the international artists involved in the celebration: Lila Downs and Delfos. The term “Milagros” was partly inspired by the title of Lila’s Latin Grammy award-winning album, Pecados y Milagros [Sins and Miracles]. The word “Masks” makes reference to the dance piece produced and performed by the contemporary dance company Delfos Danza Contemporánea titled Cuando los Disfraces se Cuelgan [When Disguises are Hung Up]. Masks are used and referenced in much of Delfos’ work and have a rich and extensive place in Mexican heritage and art. The references to “Masks” and “Miracles” was a fitting way to tie in the visiting artists work, but the title Máscaras y Milagros took on a much deeper meaning for the Mexican community at large.

For the local Mexican community, Máscaras y Milagros spoke to an important issue: immigration and its impact on identity. Former generations of transplanted Mexican families were often compelled to assimilate to the dominant white culture in America. Measures taken included hiding one’s documentation status and in some cases, elders discouraged household children from learning Spanish. This led to confusion in the definition of what it meant to be Mexican and moreover, what it meant to be Mexican in America. Many Mexicans today relate to the idea of “wearing a mask” in this country since many generations were not comfortable or permitted to express themselves according to their heritage. However, in light of changing attitudes and policies regarding Mexican immigration, many see a “miracle” taking place. Greater acceptance and pride in Mexican identity is fueling a surge in interest in Mexican art and history. Spanish is casually taught at home and immersion schools are providing access to the language for children of different backgrounds. Although challenges still exist for undocumented families, the stigma of such a status has begun to erode and recent changes in the laws have brought the promise of citizenship closer to reality. For many in the community, these developments are their dreams, turned modern-day miracles.

“I remember when my parents wouldn’t talk about them being undocumented. I remember the day that my mother came home crying because immigration had been called on her at work. I remember the darkness and the feeling of not exposing or talking about your true self.

...Some professors really enlightened me and helped me to reconnect to my true identity, which I was still wearing under a mask. It became clear to me that I had to own myself and my family’s experience and also start helping connect to other people who were in that similar situation.”

– Alondra Espejel-Cano, Council Member

Objectives:

>> Acknowledge the artists and cultural heritage that is distinctly Mexican, spanning art forms in dance, music, visual arts, and literature, engaging those from both inside and outside of the Mexican and Mexican-American communities in the Twin Cities.

>> Celebrate a nuanced definition of what is and can be considered Mexican, thereby deepening and broadening understanding in the community.

>> Produce panel discussions with Mexican and Mexican-American artists and leaders on important topics within their communities.

>> Create opportunities for local artists and scholars in the Mexican and Mexican-American communities to perform and speak alongside national and internationally known artists.

>> Seek out and partner with Mexican-owned-and-operated organizations and vendors.

>> Celebrate the language of the Mexican and Mexican-American communities through marketing materials and presentations in Spanish, English and both Spanish and English.

>> Establish a Council whose members were made up of activists, artists, and media personnel.

Máscaras y Milagros: Mexican Arts in Minnesota

Ordway’s Community Programs Manager, Amy Miller, introduces the Lila Downs Ordway Extra

Chico Perez on congas during the Poncho Sanchez Ordway Extra

artwork by Deborah Ramos, part of the Mexican Art Exhibition at the Ordway

Photos by: Bredka Foto

Másicas y Milagros: Mexican Arts
in Minnesota

Photos by: Bredka Foto

Máscaras y Milagros: A Retrospective

Máscaras y Milagros: Mexican Arts in Minnesota
Maya Santamaria performs during the Ordway Extra for Poncho Sanchez

Manuel and Carmen Rubio instruct a pre-show dance class for the Poncho Sanchez concert

Clockwise from back row: Shelley Quiata, Jeremiah Zortman, Sergio Quiroz, Mary Anne Quiroz, Lupe Castillo, Amy Miller, Eduardo de la Riva.

Photos by (top left, clock-wise): Kurt Moses, Bredka Foto, Jeremiah Zortman, Bredka Foto, Bredka Foto

Council Members join Poncho Sanchez at the Post Show Party

Rebekah Crisanta, Gustavo Lira, Lila Downs, Armando Gutiérrez G., and Deborah Ramos

the audience dances to Poncho Sanchez

a mask in the Art Exhibition by Battle Creek Middle School students
The Máscaras y Milagros Council
A team of Mexican and Mexican-American activists, artists and community leaders guided the planning of the events and the art exhibition.

Máscaras y Milagros Council Members
Lupe Castillo, Alondra Espejel-Cano, Eduardo de la Riva, Armando Gutiérrez G., Marlene Rojas-Larai, Maya Santamaria, Ruben Urrutia, Jose Luis Villaseñor, Carolina Marañon (Representing the Mexican Consulate) Please see the back for their biographies.

The Council met with Ordway staff on a biweekly basis beginning in early August 2012. The Council was involved in the cultural, logistical, marketing, and artistic planning of Máscaras y Milagros. Members advised on topics for the Cultural Conversations, venues for community events and ideas for Mexican catering partners. The Council also had input in naming the series and emphasized the importance of presenting marketing materials and events in both Spanish and English. Council members provided Ordway’s marketing team with names of possible “Advocates” – community members who volunteered their time to reach audience members otherwise outside Ordway’s marketing distribution circle. Furthermore, Council members contributed personally by providing their unique artistic abilities. Some created pieces for the Mexican Art Exhibition, while others taught dance classes, performed music and poetry, and led Cultural Conversations and Ordway Extras.

Máscaras y Milagros Advocate Program
Ordway’s marketing team organized an initiative to spread the word about Máscaras y Milagros within the greater Twin Cities community. With the help of the Council, community members were recruited to serve as advocates. They were invited to an evening dinner meeting at el Nuevo Rodeo restaurant, where they learned about Máscaras y Milagros and received marketing materials to distribute within their individual communities. In exchange, they were given a pair of tickets to one of the three Máscaras y Milagros public performances at the Ordway.

“The energy of all council members [was] very contagious... especially Mary Anne Quiroz. That is why the events of MyM [Máscaras y Milagros] were successful.”
—Marlene Rojas, Council Member

Kalpulli Yaocenoxtli Co-Director, Mary Anne Quiroz, performs during the Cultural Conversation with Lila Downs

The Máscaras y Milagros Council and Ordway Staff, pictured (L-R): Jeremiah Zortman, Eduardo de la Riva, Jose Luis Villaseñor, Alondra Espejel-Cano, Marlene Rojas-Larai, Mary Anne Quiroz, Lupe Castillo, Amy Miller, Carolina Marañon, Maya Santamaria, Armando Gutiérrez G., Ruben Urrutia, and Shelley Guiala
the history and depth of Mexican and Chicano music in Minnesota. Maya drew from elements in her book, *Música de La Raza: Mexican and Chicano Music in Minnesota*, in which she details the ar-
vival of immigrants in Minnesota from Mexico and the musical traditions they
brought and nurtured in the West Side Flats of Saint Paul. The talk included
recorded examples of local Mexican music from generations past. Maya also
gave an update on the local trends of Mexican music in the Midwest is now
influencing popular music in Mexico. Following the event, attendees enjoyed
the evening activities and nightclub experience of El Nuevo Rodeo.

“I really appreciated the Cultural
Conversation reception at Nuevo
Rodeo. I learned volumes about the
different styles of Mexican music and
the history of why they sound the
way they do. A fascinating blending
of music and Mexican-American
history together to tell the story of the
richness of Mexican immigration and
its contribution to our diverse
communities of the Twin Cities.
Thank you Ordway staff for putting
on this quality program!”
—Gregory Klave, Máscaras y Milagros Advocate

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14**

**Campus Connections Program –
Mexican Music in Minnesota**

University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul

Artists: Maya Santamaria, Juan Plascencia,
Chico Perez

Attendance: 35

Maya Santamaria was joined by percus-
sionist Chico Perez and pianist Juan
Plascencia to demonstrate styles of
Latin music, primarily Afro-Cuban, and
its influence on popular Mexican music.
They performed original music and ex-
plained how Latin genres have played a
large role in their own musical journeys
as Mexican-American musicians. Chico
Perez invited students on stage and

after reviewing the basic clave rhythm,
engaged them and the audience in an
impromptu Latin beat jam.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 15**

**Mexica Azteca Dance Class**

Ordway Drake Room, Saint Paul

Artists: Mary Anne Quiroz, Sergio Quiroz,
Sergio Quiroz Jr.

Attendance: 12

Sergio Quiroz, dancer and founder of
Kalpulli Yaocenoxtli, a traditional Mex-
ica dance and drum group, taught an
all-abilities dance workshop, in which
students learned the symbolism and
steps of traditional Mexica (Aztec)
dances.

In addition to the class, members of Kal-
pulli Yaocenoxtli performed at several
Máscaras y Milagros events. Their per-
formances connected the spiritual tradi-
tions of Indigenous peoples to the series
through ritual and prayer, and created a
sense of continuity throughout.

**THE EVENTS**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12**

**Mask-Making Arts Residency**

Ordway Marzitelli Foyer, Saint Paul

Artists: Gustavo Lira, Rebekah Crisanta,
Battle Creek Middle School Latino Culture
Club Students (Obed Alvarez, Elisa Cortes
Tefia, Dermarr Jackson, Karen Flores, 
Samantha Gonzales, Zitlali Montes, Daniel
Perez Ortega, Irving Ortiz, Barbara Ovalle,
Chelsea Alvarenga Palma, Valeria Palma, 
Maria Vallejo)

Attendance: 30

Teaching Artists Rebekah Crisanta and
Gustavo Lira taught a mask-making
workshop to the students in Battle
Creek Middle School’s Latino Culture
Club. Using a combination of molds,
paper-mache and paints, the students
applied their skills and creativity to
create personalized masks. On the fi-
dal day of the week, teachers, parents
and Ordway staff gathered in Ordway’s
Marzitelli Foyer to attend a presenta-
tion of the student's work. The masks
were then displayed on the pillars of the
Marzitelli Foyer as part of the Mexican
Art Exhibition, which ran throughout
Máscaras y Milagros.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12**

**Cultural Conversation: Mexican Music in Minnesota**

El Nuevo Rodeo Restaurant, Minneapolis

Artist: Maya Santamaria

Attendance: 55

Artist, community leader and business
owner Maya Santamaria presented on

artwork by Armando Gutiérrez G., part of the Mexican Art Exhibition at the Ordway

Stepping outside Ordway’s tradition
of performing arts by including an
element of Mexican visual art in the cel-
ebration was fundamental to engage
local Mexican artists. With the help of
the Council, the Ordway identified visu-
al artists who incorporate elements of
indigenous Mexican culture in their art.
Displays included oil on canvas, found
media, sculpture, pottery, and paper
art. A group of masks made by stu-
dents of the Battle Creek Middle School
Latino Culture Club decorated sev-
eral of the Foyer’s pillars. The installa-
tion remained on display throughout
Máscaras y Milagros.

**OCTOBER 16 – OCTOBER 26**

**Mexican Art Exhibition**

Ordway Marzitelli Foyer, Saint Paul

Curated by: Shelley Quiala, Amy Miller,
Mary Anne Quiroz, Jeremiah Zortman

Artists: Rebekah Crisanta, Armando Gutiérrez
G., Gustavo Lira, and Deborah Ramos

Attendance: Open to all Ordway patrons

The event also featured the Máscaras y Milagros
 Advocate, a non-profit organization that
promotes Mexican art and culture in
Minnesota. The exhibition included
artwork by Armando Gutiérrez G., part of the Mexican Art Exhibition at the Ordway

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16
Multicultural Resource Center
Trunk Activity
Ordway Drake Room, Saint Paul
Facilitated by: Kristie Gaalswyk, Traci Shannon, Casey Trujillo, Barbara Cox, Sheryl Kempf
Attendance: 38
Students in Spanish classes at Highland Park Senior High participated in a pre-performance reflection and workshop with Saint Paul Public Schools’ Multicultural Resource Center. The workshop was facilitated by Ordway staff members as well as Sheryl Kempf of the Multicultural Resource Center and Barbara Cox of Perpich Center for Arts Education.

Lila Downs Performing Arts Classroom (Student Matinee)
Ordway Music Theater, Saint Paul
Attendance: 1760
Lila Downs performed on the Music Theater stage with her full band for a sold-out house of students from local schools as a part of Ordway’s Performing Arts Classroom programming. Weeks prior to the performance, the Ordway created a Study Guide for the teachers and students to provide information on the theater, the artist, and lessons about Mexican music. Lila engaged the young people, teaching them about the songs and enthusiastically acting them out; becoming at times an iguana and a dove. For the finale, Lila called the audience to dance, and without further prompting the kids sprang to their feet to clap and move to the music.

“They were enthusiastic and appreciated what she had to offer. My students got exposed to her music, style and themes for two weeks prior to the concert.”
—Billy Perkiss, Anthony Middle School

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16
Cultural Conversation: An Evening with Lila Downs
East Phillips Park Cultural Community Center, Minneapolis
Presented by Tamales y Bicicletas
Facilitator: Jose Luis Villaseñor
Artists: Kalpulli Yaconeoxtli (Sergio Quiroz, Mary Anne Quiroz, Sergio Quiroz Jr.)
Attendance: 500+
The Ordway teamed up with local Latino-led environmental justice initiative Tamales y Bicicletas to present a conversation with renowned vocalist and activist Lila Downs. A significant fundraising, marketing and production effort was made to maximize the impact of this event. The gymnasium of the East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center was transformed into a theater complete with staging, lights, and a green room. A local chef prepared organic homemade tamales and atole for the hundreds of visitors who packed the space.

Jose Luis Villaseñor, Executive Director of Tamales y Bicicletas, joined Lila on stage and facilitated a conversation that was presented in Spanish, and translated to English via wireless headsets. Presenting a live bilingual event of this size was a first for both the Ordway and Tamales y Bicicletas.

Jose Luis and Lila engaged in topics about finding one’s identity and using music and songwriting as a tool for communication and change. Following her conversation with Jose Luis, Lila took questions from the audience and performed two songs, accompanied by her band’s guitarist, Rafael Gomez.

In a gesture of gratitude, the Tamales y Bicicletas Dream Youth Leaders presented Lila with a dream catcher symbolizing the thousands of undocumented youth who are fighting to “catch” their dream of a college education.

Facilitator: Sergio Quiroz
Artists: Rebekah Crisanta, Armando Gutierrez G., Gustavo Lira, Deborah Ramos,
Attendance: 100
Mexican dancers Sergio Quiroz and Mary Anne Quiroz sounded the conch shell, burned copal (indigenous incense derived from dried sap from a 100 year old tree) and lead the salutation to the four directions, a traditional ritual to honor and sanctify a space and the people within it.

Mr. Quiroz then facilitated a discussion with the visual artists about the indigenous influences that were reflected in their work.

“I am most interested in preserving the folk art traditions. And most folk art traditions of Meso-America are indigenous traditions, so those are the techniques that I study and that I try to incorporate into my work, but then put into a contemporary context because of course we’re not living a thousand years ago. I need to work with modern materials while using the old techniques as much as possible, and use those to tell stories that are mostly influenced by my identity as a Mexica person, as an indigenous Xinka-Lenca person.”
—Rebekah Crisanta, Mexican Art Exhibition Artist

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17
Lila Downs Public Performance
Ordway Music Theater, Saint Paul
Attendance: 1700
Playing to a packed house, Lila Downs did not fail to entertain. Drawing on her traditional Mexican influences, Lila created a show that spoke to the hidden heritage of the local Mexican community in attendance. Some would classify this Oaxaca-born, Minnesota-raised (she graduated from the University of Minnesota studying voice and anthropology) singer as a Mexican artist, but there is no real way to categorize her music except to say that it is a unique and exciting fusion of international sounds.

“Loved Lila Downs ... tonight - wow!”
“What a night! I never sat down!”
“Thank you Ordway ... for a great Lila Downs concert and for bringing Latino culture to Minnesota.”
—Facebook Fans

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—Rebekah Crisanta, Mexican Art Exhibition Artist

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17
Ordway Extra: Influences From Indigenous Mexican Arts
Ordway Marzitelli Foyer, Saint Paul

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—Rebekah Crisanta, Mexican Art Exhibition Artist
Cultural Conversation: Honoring Our Identities

Macalester College, Saint Paul

Artists: Lupe Castillo, Alondra Espejel-Cano, Tania Tolentino, Rodrigo Sanchez-Chavarria, Emmanuel Ortiz

Attendance: 100

Artist/activist Lupe Castillo facilitated a discussion and performance with the Palabristas, a collective of Mexican and Latino spoken word artists based in the Twin Cities.

It was a powerful evening of spoken word performances in which the artists shared the joy and pain of honoring their various identities, including Mexican, Peruvian, Indigenous, Queer, Immigrant, Activist and more. The artists spoke personally about how they related to the concept of “masks” and noted their symbolism within the Mexican culture and community.

“It was such an honor to hear the spoken word artists’ stories and poems at Macalester’s ‘Honoring our Identities’ cultural conversation. Not only was the event fun and enjoyable, but also a very thought provoking evening for the Macalester Community!”
—Taneisha Prell, Macalester College student

Delfos Danza Contemporánea
Public Performance

Ordway Music Theater

Artists: Claudia Lavista, Víctor Manuel Ruiz

Attendance: 789

The mask is a disguise, but it can also be a useful one; however, all masks fall away and in the end we are left with our true selves. In their newest dance piece, titled Cuando los Disfraces se Cuelgan, Delfos examined the masks we wear to survive, to love and to endure the world that seems never to want us to take our masks off.

“Disguises are Hung Up”

Saturday, October 20

Delfos Danza Contemporánea
Talkback

Ordway Music Theater, Saint Paul

Artists: Claudia Lavista, Víctor Manuel Ruiz, Delfos Danza Contemporánea Company members

Attendance: 200

Amy Miller, Ordway’s Community Programs Manager, facilitated a conversation with the company discussing the organic nature of their creative process and how particular elements of the show developed. Many audience members expressed their own interpretation of the piece and had the opportunity to hear directly from the artists about the nature of the inspiration for their design and choreography.

“This being my first exposure to contemporary dance, I was decidedly moved by the performance. I was then moved again by the generosity and willingness of the company to participate in so many Mascaras y Milagros events. Delfos’ commitment to the art and to the community was truly a revelation.”
—Jeremiah Zortman, Ordway Community Engagement Intern

Delfos Danza Contemporánea
Post Show Party

Ordway Marzitelli Foyer, Saint Paul

Attendance: 150

After the Delfos Danza Contemporánea performance in the Music Theater, company members met and mingled with audience members in the Ordway’s Marzitelli Foyer. Visitors enjoyed the opportunity to take photos and have programs signed by the dancers.
Delfos company members enjoy the Post-show Party following their performance at the Ordway.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22 & TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23

Delfos Danza Contemporánea
Performing Arts Classroom (Student Matinee)
Ordway Music Theater, Saint Paul
Attendance: 3,939

Delfos Danza Contemporánea performed their piece, Cuando los Disfraces se Cuelga, in its entirety for three separate student matinées. Prior to the performance, students and teachers were informed on the nature of modern dance and on the company itself with the help of the Ordway published Study Guide.

“We have been working hard as a school at tolerance and understanding others. This topic of the mask was very helpful for students to see and to know they are not alone. Most have never seen modern dance. The dance was for a more mature audience which was great for my students!”
—Carolyn Olson, South Ridge School

“The kids were purely stimulated by the performance -- very original, not a lot of opportunity to know contemporary dance here and at this age, so thank you!”
—Story Schwantes, Schwantes Homeschool

“They left thinking hard about what they just experienced. It was fun to see them so thoughtful.”
—Kate Woolever, St. Paul Preparatory School

“Delfos Danza Contemporánea took my breath away with their message and performance. Thank you Ordway, my students actually liked it.”
—Felicia Hamlin, Granada-Huntley-East Chain High School

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22
Delfos Danza Contemporánea
Talkback with Northfield School of Art and Technology
Ordway Drake Room, Saint Paul
Attendance: 100

Delfos Danza Contemporánea took a moment after one of their school performances to speak about their dance piece, with Northfield School of Art and Technology. The students then had the opportunity to examine Mexican artifacts on display in Ordway’s Marzitelli Foyer provided by the Multicultural Resource Center affiliated with Saint Paul Public Schools.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23

Mexican Consulate Reception with Delfos Danza Contemporánea
Historic Alfred F. Pillsbury House, Minneapolis
Hosts: Uri and Melissa Camarena
Attendance: 60

The Mexican Consulate, led by Cónsul Ana Luisa Fajer and her assistant and Máscaras y Milagros Council Member, Carolina Maraño, organized an evening reception for Delfos Danza Contemporánea. They were welcomed by Ordway Board President, Thomas W. Handley. The event was hosted by Uri and Melissa Camarena at their Historic Alfred F. Pillsbury House in Minneapolis. The company members of the Mexican Consulate, the Máscaras y Milagros Council, Ordway organizers, and community artists and partners were in attendance.

“We are fortunate not only to live in a community where there is deeply rooted Mexican and Mexican-American heritage and an actively engaged community, but also to have a strong partnership with the Mexican Consulate. Cónsul Ana Luisa Fajer was a critical partner in the success of Máscaras y Milagros by contributing to its resonance within the community.”
—Patricia A. Mitchell, Ordway President and CEO

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22
Delfos Danza Contemporánea
Modern Master Class
Ordway Drake Room, Saint Paul
Artists: Victor Manuel Ruiz and company members
Attendance: 10

Co-Artistic Director, Victor Manuel Ruiz, and company members taught a mixed technique class, focusing on the development of an organic, free-flowing style of movement. The class was open to the public and included dancers of all levels.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24

Delfos Danza Contemporánea
Master Class
Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Arts, Saint Paul
Attendance: 40

Delfos Danza Contemporánea held a master class with students from the Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Arts. The students learned several dance combinations from Delfos’ artistic directors, Victor Manuel Ruiz and Claudia Lavista.
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26

Poncho Sanchez Performing Arts Classroom (Student Matinée)

Ordway Music Theater, Saint Paul

Attendance: 1760

Poncho Sanchez and His Latin Band played to a full house of enthusiastic students. The Poncho Sanchez Study Guide prepared by the Ordway provided teachers and students with a context to help maximize their appreciation for Latin Jazz.

“It allowed the students opportunities to read, listen and watch sections dealing with ‘Latin Jazz.’ It also tied in parts of history that I was able to connect with our Social Studies Curriculum.”

—Janel McGreevy, Burroughs Community School

“The students were out of their seats dancing and clapping! It was awesome!”

—Amy Jo Oksnevad, LoveWorks Academy for Visual and Performing Arts

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26

Poncho Sanchez Conga Master Class

Ordway Drake Room, Saint Paul

Attendance: 15

Poncho Sanchez and members of his Latin jazz band spoke before a class of professional conga players and percussionists. His talk included tips on technique and equipment, a walk-through of the various instruments and styles of Latin jazz, a brief history of Poncho’s professional career, and a roundtable jazz session which included personal feedback for each attendee.

“I am extremely grateful to have had personal contact with such a giving artist as Poncho Sanchez. He understood everyone’s level and encouraged with heart and spirit. Thanks Ordway and Poncho. Empowering!”

—Chico Perez, Twin Cities-based professional conga player

Latin Social Dance Class

Ordway Drake Room, Saint Paul

Attendance: 15

Prior to the public performance of Poncho Sanchez and His Latin Jazz Band at the Ordway, Manuel and Carmen Rubio taught Latin social dance to a group of enthusiastic participants. Attendees learned the basic steps and turns for salsa, mambo and cha-cha-cha. It was a fun way to prepare for the rest of the evening at the Ordway, which featured an open dance floor in front of Poncho and his band.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26

Orway Extra: History and Influences of Mexican Music

Ordway Marzitelli Foyer, Saint Paul

Artists: Maya Santamaria, Chico Perez, Juan Plascencia

Attendance: 75

The 30-minute Orway Extra prior to the public performance of Poncho Sanchez and His Latin Jazz Band featured artist and community leader Maya Santamaria, percussionist Chico Perez, and pianist Juan Plascencia. They presented on the influence of Latin music, primarily Afro-Cuban, on the work of Mexican-American artists. They performed some of their own music and gave examples of how Latin music genres have played a large role in their own musical journeys as Mexican-American musicians.

“Most of us were raised listening to rancheras, listening to choridos, the mariachi, traditional folkloric music— that is all part of our history. It’s important to understand that around the ’40s and ’50s there was a lot of communication between Cuba and Mexico. There were musicians leaving Mexico and going to Cuba and being immersed in the wonderful musical traditions in Cuba. And there were Cuban musicians and groups coming to Mexico City, particularly, where that music was becoming very popular.”

—Maya Santamaria, Artist/Facilitator

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26

Poncho Sanchez and His Latin Jazz Band Public Performance

Ordway Music Theater, Saint Paul

Attendance: 892

Poncho Sanchez and his Latin Jazz Band were returning artists; an example of how the Ordway actively creates and maintains relationships with touring artists. For this show, the first several rows in the theater were removed to make way for an open dance floor, which made the event dynamic for both the band and the audience.

“I saw, first hand, how that style of music informed social customs and celebrations, how it inspired people to come together and interact with each other. Seeing theatergoers, young and old, being drawn like magnets to the dance floor was fun, refreshing and entertaining.”

—Anna Hoeschen, Twin Cities Daily Planet

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26

Poncho Sanchez Post-show Party

Ordway Marzitelli Foyer, Saint Paul

Attendance: 200

After the performance, Poncho and his band joined audience members in Ordway’s Marzitelli Foyer to enjoy Latin music tracks provided by DJ Victor Blanco. Máscaras y Milagros Council members and Ordway staff were also in attendance to celebrate the success of the Máscaras y Milagros series. Guests, artists and event leaders alike gathered together to enjoy the party atmosphere complete with an impromptu dance floor and libations.

“Máscaras y Milagros came together with flying colors due to the many community members and partners who took ownership and pride in this work and deeply understood its importance. I witnessed how excited and honored the touring artists were to be part of our larger picture of events taking place. And we were proud to be showcasing the amazing artistic quality that is thriving in the Mexican and Mexican-American communities in the Twin Cities. It was a wonderful experience to work with such talented and devoted leaders, activists, and artists.”

—Amy Miller, Ordway Community Programs Manager

Máscaras y Milagros Council
Poncho Sanchez and His Latin Jazz Band perform to a packed dance floor at the Ordway.

Dayna Martinez and Mary Anne Quiroz at the Mexican Consul’s reception for Delfos.

Ordway Extra panelists for ‘Cross-Generational Identity in the Mexican Community’ (from left): Alondra Espejel-Cano, Lupe Castillo, Teresa Ortiz, Larry Lucio Jr.
7,459 students and teachers came to matinee performances by Lila Downs, Delfos Danza Contemporánea and Poncho Sanchez & His Latin Jazz Band. Nearly 3,400 patrons attended the three public performances of Lila Downs, Delfos Danza Contemporánea and Poncho Sanchez and His Latin Jazz Band, all experiencing the Mexican Art Exhibition in the Ordway’s Marzitelli Foyer.

Nearly 300 K-12 students in workshops and classes connected to the content of the performances (including contemporary dance, reflections on indigenous artifacts with the Multicultural Resource Center and celebrations of student-generated work). In a survey given to educators attending these performances, respondents indicated that 71% of their students connected with the performances and artists at an exceptional level.

Furthermore, 84% of educators polled told us that the performances excelled in their connectivity to classroom curriculums and graduation standards.

More than 1,000 community members attended the Cultural Conversations and facilitated discussions with the touring and local artists. The topics focused on the intersections of art, identity and politics that are relevant to the Mexican and Mexican-American communities.

More than 30 local artists representing the Mexican and Mexican-American communities curated a series of events and presented their individual work during Máscaras y Milagros.

“The Ordway measures success by the numbers of people reached and also by the depth of engagement and the sense of welcome that people feel when they walk in the door. We measure success by the numbers of new patrons with whom we connect and if those people feel that their stories are being told well, that their artistic traditions are being represented with integrity and that they are invited into the process of shaping the way that all of this is presented. With Máscaras y Milagros, we fulfilled this mission completely and, as a result, created a new way of working as an institution.”

—Shelley Quiala, Director of Arts Education and Engagement

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mary Anne Quiroz: (Máscaras y Milagros Community Coordinator, Artist, Facilitator) has been practicing and promoting traditional Mexica (Aztec) dance for over 10 years. As founder of the traditional Mexica dance and drum group, Kalpulli Yoacenoxtli, she has led and presented at community events, conferences, artist residencies and workshops throughout the state of Minnesota. In addition to her leadership role as a dancer, Mary Anne recently worked with the MN State Arts Board as a Community Liaison to connect artists of color to federal and state arts grants.

An active member of the Latino and Asian communities, Ms. Quiroz has organized community events and celebrations throughout the Twin Cities, including Mexica New Year Festival, Immigration Workshops, District del Sol’s Cinco de Mayo Parade and various Mexican Independence Day events. Recent works include the following: Student Creativity Festival (2012), Flint Hills International Children’s Festival (2008-2011), Young Writers and Artists Conference (2010) and Saint Paul Public School Arts for All Conference (2008). She is also a Site Coordinator for the Saint Paul Public Schools Community Education Department.

Lupe Castillo (Council Member, Artist, Facilitator) is a poet, a national spoken word artist, and a GLBT and Latino cultural activist in the Minneapolis/Saint Paul area. She was born in Texas, raised in Minnesota, and is a proud Xicana. In her writing, Ms. Castillo intersects and celebrates duty with desire, internal wars with peace, and loss with joy. Her spoken word lets you see how a mother, sister, comadre and abuelita intersects their life with love of family and love of comunidad. Ms. Castillo has created and implemented writing workshops for El Arco Iris, a Chicano Latino arts organization, as well as Zine workshops for teens and adults. She has also shared her works at Intermedia Arts, CreArte, Pride Festivals, and other locations throughout the Twin Cities. She is now intersecting music and lighting to visually interact with participants.

Alondra Espejel-Cano (Council Member, Panelist) is Senior Communications and Public Affairs Specialist with the Minneapolis Public Schools. Previously she served as Policy Aide to City Council Vice President Robert Lilligren and was Associate Director of the Minnesota Immigrant Freedom Network. Her creativity in problem solving, mothering, and in her government position are rooted in her life experience growing up joyously and free in her grandmother’s garden in Chihuahua, Mexico. She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota, a graduate of Local Initiatives Support Corporation’s community development career program, and an alumna of the National Hispana Leadership Institute (NHLI) in Washington, DC. She is currently running for the Ward 9 seat on the Minneapolis City Council.

Armando Gutiérrez G. (Council Member, Mexican Art Exhibition Artist) was born in El Paso, Texas in 1953. Mr. Gutiérrez is a versatile artist working in various medias. He weaves these disciplines with strong cultural and spiritual beliefs. Known primarily as a painter/muralist, he is also a performer and musician creating and playing Pre-Columbian instruments of Mexico and northern Native American flutes. He is the founder and former Executive Director of CreArte Chicano Latino Arts Center and Museum. As an educator, Mr. Gutiérrez has been involved with numerous schools, colleges, and conferences, giving lectures and providing residencies in Minnesota and Wisconsin. He was also instrumental in the development of El Colegio Charter High School serving Latino Students in South Minneapolis.
He is the recipient of the Leadership in the Neighborhood Grant for personal investigation of spirituality and its manifestation through ritual and murals of Mexico. In 1998 he received the Sally Ordway Irvine Award for Initiative in the Arts and in 2000 he was awarded a Jerome Foundation Travel Grant allowing him to research Pre-Colombian instruments and music in Mexico. Mr. Gutiérrez also works as a consultant for the collaboration of arts organizations, artists, and public schools.

Carolina Marañon (Council Member, Representing the Mexican Consulate) is the Assistant to the Cónsul de México and is in charge of the cultural affairs for the Mexican Consulate in Saint Paul.

Eduardo de la Riva (Council Member, PR Promotor) is the founder of Nueva Imagen Media Group which published its first magazine in September of 2008. Nueva Imagen is a guide for anyone who wants to know more about the Hispanic community and its issues. The magazine covers a wide variety of topics from music to finances, entertainment to beauty and sports to sexuality. His team of writers, who together with photographers, graphic designers, make-up artists, hair stylists and many others, gather their efforts to create this monthly publication. He has also been a promoter of sporting events in the Latin community since 2006.

Marlene Rojas-Lara (Council Member) is a Wellstone Action! Fellow and community organizer in South Minneapolis. She devotes much of her time focusing on civic education and voting registration for Tamales y Bicicletas, a Latino-led environmental justice initiative. She migrated from Mexico when she was 15 years old and currently is a student at Metropolitan State University.

Maya Santamaria (Council Member, Artist, Facilitator) is an author, playwright, film producer, performer, entrepreneur, cultural activist and Sally Ordway Irvine Award Recipient living in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She is the owner of Midwest Latino Entertainment And Talent, Inc., the premier production and booking company for nearly every Latino event in Minnesota. She is also the owner and operator of El Nuevo Rodeo, a restaurant featuring authentic Mexican cuisine and the destination to experience the best in live Mexican music.

Ms. Santamaria is a graduate of Hamline University and Augsburg College with degrees in Cultural Anthropology, Native American Studies and Latin American Studies. In 1996, she curated the exhibit, Chiapas: Continuity and Change about Mayan Indians in a neglected and oppressed region of Mexico. Maya filmed, directed and produced the documentary Mayan Women Warriors. She was the founder and leader of Sabor Tropical, the #1 salsa band in Minnesota for over ten years. She is the author of Musica de La Raza: Mexican and Chicanismo in Minnesota, a book and CD compilation examining the history of the Mexican-American community and its local musical traditions.

Rubén Urrutia (Council Member) is the co-founder of Hacienda La Paz which promotes peace in the world and celebrates the value of community. He provides Equine Assisted educational and therapy programs to help children and adults learn life skills and increase self-confidence. As a local artist, he focuses his art on utilizing recycled material.

Jose Luis Villaseñor (Council Member, Facilitator) is the Founder and Director of Tamales y Bicicletas, a Latino environmental and food justice organization that engages and empowers immigrant youth. He is an alumnus of Augsburg College where he studied the influence of art in social movements and Ethnic Studies. Mr. Villaseñor has worked with youth to reclaim their voice through the expression of their cultural assets within the school and after-school setting for the past 12 years, including serving for organizations like Holy Rosary Church, La Oportunidad, and The Bridge. As the child of Mexican parents who immigrated to Anchorage, Alaska, he has a contagious passion for improving the conditions of his Latino community through veganism, biking, and gardening.

Ana Luisa Fajer (Cónsul de México, Panelist) served as Cónsul de México in St. Paul, Minnesota until 2008. Previously she held the post of Director General for Africa and the Middle East at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Mexico City, and is currently in charge of Cultural Affairs. Her studies include a bachelor’s degree in International Relations at the Universidad Autónoma de México (UNAM), a master’s degree in African Studies at El Colegio de México as well as Ford-McArthur Foundation Fellowship for Post-Graduate Studies in Sociology at the University of California in Santa Cruz. She has conducted courses on International Affairs at the UNAM, at the Universidad Iberoamericana, at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de Monterrey (ITAM) as well as the University of California in Santa Cruz.

Cónsul Fajer has received various acknowledgements, including the Courage in Leadership Award from the MN Hispanic Bar Association, the 2009 Community Builder of the Year award, on behalf of Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio (CLUES), and a Certificate of Commendation awarded by the former Governor of the State of Minnesota, Tim Pawlenty. Additionally, Consul Fajer is a Minnesota International Center (MIC) Board Member.

Ordway staff and the Máscaras y Milagros Council worked closely together throughout the planning and implementation of the work. The following staff members played an integral part in collaborating with the council on programming, marketing and public relations.

Patricia A. Mitchell, President and CEO
Dayna Martinez, Artistic Director of World Music and Dance
Shelley Quiala, Director of Arts Education and Engagement
Amy Miller, Community Programs Manager
Jeremiah Zortman, Community Engagement Intern
Erin Matteson, Education Manager
Kristie Gaalswyk, Education Coordinator
Audrey Johnson, Director of Sales and Marketing
Jessica Brooks, Audience Development Coordinator
Peter B. Myers, Public Relations Advisor
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community Partners
Tamales y Bicicletas, Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists

Media Partners
Nuevo Imagen Magazine, La Prensa de Minnesota, La Expresion de Minnesota, Univision, La Mera Buena, St. Paul Voice/La Voz Latina Newspapers, LaMatraca Magazine, Twin Cities Public Television, Women's Press, Minnesota Daily, Pioneer Press, VitaMN, Clear Channel, Cowles Center, Lavender, City Pages, Twin Cities Daily Planet

Audio, Video and Photography Partners
Audioquip, Inc., Rumba Entertainment, DJ Victor Blanco, Bredka Foto, Kurt Moses Photography

Catering Partners
El Burrito Mercado, Manny’s Tortas, El Nuevo Rodeo

Attendees to MÁSCARAS y MILAGROS Student Matinee Performances

Lila Downs
Anoka Middle School for the Arts, Anthony Community Middle School, Betzold Bunch Homeschool, Butterfield Homeschool, Dominguez Schooling, Evergreen Park Elementary, Green Homeschool, Highland Park Senior High, Lincoln Elementary School for the Arts, Moose Lake Senior High, North Star Academy, SJ Learning Homeschool, Southwest High School, White Bear High School - South Campus

Delfos
Academia Cesar Chavez, Adams Spanish Immersion, Andover High School, Andover High School, Anishinabe Academy, Anwatin Middle School, Barton Open School, Behr Homeschool, Betzold Bunch Homeschool, Boys Totem Town, Buffalo High School, Butterfield Homeschool, Centennial ALC, Central High School, Cityview Performing Arts Magnet, Creative Arts School, Deaver Homeschool, Delano High School, Ellsworth High School, Fair School, Field Middle School, Fuller Homeschool, Granada huntley East Chain High School, Green Homeschool, Highland Friendship Club, Highland Park Middle School, Homeschool Adventures, Lake City School, Lake Middle School, L’etoile du Nord, LMC Academy, LoveWorks Academy for Visual and Performing Arts, Luna Homeschool, Maple Grove High School, Mississippi Creative Arts Magnet, Montgomery Homeschool, Newton’s Orchard Homeschool, North Community High School, Northeast Middle School, Northfield School of Art and Technology, Palmquist Schooling, Peony Academy, Pierz Healy High School, Rainbow River Academy, Ramsey Junior High, Riker Homeschool, Riverview Elementary, Rosemount High School, Rushford-Peterson Public Schools, Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists, Saint Paul Preparatory School, Sanford Middle School, Sauk Centre High School, Schwantes Schooling, Second Foundation School, SJ Learning Homeschool, Soaring Heights Homeschool, South Education Center, South High School, South Ridge, St. Paul City School, TCCHG, Transition Plus, Transition To Independence, Vdakes Homeschool, White Bear Lake High School North Campus

Poncho Sanchez and his Latin Jazz Band perform at the Ordway

Council member Ruben Urrutia and Community Coordinator Mary Anne Quiroz during the Lila Downs Post-show Party at the Ordway

Ordway patrons learn Latin social dance prior to Poncho Sanchez’ performance

“We have been here for thousands of years and we are part of this community. We have been coming and going between borders for the entire history of our people. It is very important for us to tell this story and it is very important for you to hear the story of our people because nobody else is going to say it. Nobody else is going to tell it. So I think it is such a wonderful thing that the Ordway has opened their doors and their arms to our community so that we can tell our story.”

—Teresa Ortiz, Mexicana-Minnesotana Poet/Spoken Word Artist/Writer