

## Milestone celebration planned for the 25th Hispanic Women of Distinction charity luncheon and business expo

Community • Culture • Charity

The 25th annual Hispanic Women of Distinction charity luncheon and business expo will take place Friday, August 21, 2026, at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, Florida, marking a milestone year honoring Latina leadership across South Florida.

Founded in 2001 by the late Erwin M. Vasquez, M.D., a Venezuelan-born cardiologist and publisher of El Heraldo de Broward, alongside his wife, Elaine Miceli-Vasquez, the program was established to recognize Latinas whose leadership, service and professional success continue to shape the region.

Over the past 25 years, the initiative has grown into one of South Florida's most recognized platforms celebrating Latina achievement across business, government, health care and community service.

"The remarkable Latinas I have met over the past 25 years have created a true sisterhood — supporting one another in business, community service, and in preserving and sharing their culture and traditions," said Miceli-Vasquez, producer and co-founder. "Our Dos Culturas reception brings together past and current honorees, reinforcing those connections year after year."

The annual sold-out luncheon draws approximately 1,000 attendees and is presented by Latina Style Inc., a national leader in Hispanic women's business development, in partnership with Nicklaus Children's Health System, the region's only licensed health care system exclusively for children.

More than 30 corporate and media partners support the event. Latin Business Today, a longtime media co-sponsor, features honorees through dedicated editorial coverage.

Each year, a charitable organization benefits from proceeds generated through the event's silent auction, raffles, sponsorships and advertising. The 2026 beneficiary is the American Lung Association, which works to improve lung health, prevent lung disease and advance clean air initiatives nationwide.

2026 honorees: Selected from more than 60 nominations across Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties:

Jacqueline Ceballos — Founder, Petal Cartel by JC (Miami-Dade)

Maria Jose Haimovitch — Senior manager, communications, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance (Broward)

Michelle Harper — Esq, Florida Legal Services Inc. (Broward)

Alex Llerena — Managing director, alumni engagement, Emory University (Broward)

Martha Guerra-Kattou — Executive vice president, sales and marketing, US Century Bank (Broward)

Janet Lorenzo-Garcia — Garcia Lorenzo & Associates; Founder, Many Happy Hearts (Miami-Dade)

Griselle Marino, Dr. h.c. — Director, Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board, Office of Community Advocacy, Miami-Dade County Government (Miami-Dade)

Cristina Martinez-Gonzalez — Field marketing executive MarketPoint Humana Inc. (Broward)

Maria C. Mejia, M.D. — Professor, Schmidt College of Medicine, Florida Atlantic University (Palm Beach)

Maria Alejandra Membreno — Chief of staff, city of Sweetwater (Miami-Dade)

Michelle "Mish" Pelaez — Chief operating officer, Mark, Ferrer & Hayden PLLC (Miami-Dade)

Nercy Barroso Radcliffe — President and founder, Providence Healthcare Services (Miami-Dade)

Soraya Rivera-Moya — Executive director, Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Florida (Miami-Dade)

### 2026 Latina Pioneer of the Year

Rosanna Cordero-Stutz, sheriff of Miami-Dade County

With more than 29 years in law enforcement, she is the first Hispanic American woman sheriff in Florida's history.

The achievements of this year's honorees underscore the continued advancement of Latinas in leadership roles, despite longstanding barriers in professional and civic spaces.

The event will feature a complimentary cocktail sponsored by Tito's Vodka, live entertainment, a business expo, silent auction and a tribute recognizing more than 350 honorees since the program's inception.

Sponsorships begin at \$1,500, and individual tickets are \$125.

For more information, visit [www.hispanicwomenofdistinction.com](http://www.hispanicwomenofdistinction.com) or email [hispanicwomenlunch@aol.com](mailto:hispanicwomenlunch@aol.com). or visit [www.hispanicwomenofdistinction.com](http://www.hispanicwomenofdistinction.com) or email [hispanicwomenlunch@aol.com](mailto:hispanicwomenlunch@aol.com).