

# Hispanic Heritage Month: Recognizing the Achievements and Impacts

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<https://scvhumanrelations.com/uncategorized/hispanic-heritage-month/>

## What is Hispanic Heritage Month?

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>. It's a month-long celebration to honor the culture, history, and contributions made by Hispanic and Latinx communities (National Museum of the American Latino). Originally starting as Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968. U.S. Rep George E. Brown then advocated for a month-long celebration, which was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson (Quinnipiac). This month included recognition for advocacy work, art, foods, and much more! In the U.S. today over 60 million people are Latinx according to the U.S. Census Bureau, which is 18.9% of the total population (National Museum of the American Latino). As Latinx people continue to enrich our country, it's important to recognize their contributions more than just one month a year.



<https://www.thewilliamvale.com/experiences/celebrating-hispanic-heritage-month/>

## The Achievements and Impacts

Starting out with two artists who had a great impact on a place close to home, Detroit Michigan; Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo. As Visit Detroit explains, Diego and Frida were both Mexican artists who briefly moved to Detroit when Diego was commissioned to paint the famous American worker mural in the DIA. While living here, Frida also created numerous self-portraits portraying her emotional stay while living in Detroit. Both artists have left a great impact on the U.S. Frida was also considered a feminist icon, defying societal norms and being an activist with global impact (Quinnipiac).

The next influential person is Miguel Cardona, the head of the U.S. Department of Education, which makes him one of the highest-ranking Hispanic officials in the nation (Quinnipiac). Miguel focuses on an inclusive and more equitable education system, paying special attention to bilingual education and support for English language learners (Quinnipiac). The next people to recognize are Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta who were both instrumental leaders in the Civil Rights movement, fighting against the unfair treatment of farm workers in the U.S. Then, in 1962, they formed the National Farm Workers Association eventually merging with other unions to become the United Farm Workers of America (Famous Latinos and Latinas). Another well known activist is Sylvia Rivera who was a loud leading voice in the fight for gay and transgender communities, including during the Stonewall Riots (Famous Latinos and Latinas). Sonia Sotomayor broke boundaries in 2009, when she became the first Latina and third woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court (Famous Latinos and Latinas). Her impacts on the court are continued to be felt today and she remains a sitting justice. Lastly, singer Selena Quintanilla paved way for Tejano artists in the U.S. Her music is still played throughout time, winning her a Grammy as the first female Tejano artist to take home the Best Mexican-American album (WestWood Horizon).

# A Call to Action

While Hispanic Heritage Month gives well deserved recognition to the Hispanic and Latinx communities in the U.S., there are other ways to support their communities year-round as CSI Companies and Experience Life explains:

- Engage in cultural events about education, cuisine or art
  - Know and understand the difference between cultural appreciation versus appropriation
- Support Hispanic and Latinx owned businesses
- Talk with others about the history and contributions of Hispanic and Latinx people
- Advocate for supportive immigration policies
- Educate yourself on the discrimination Hispanic and Latinx communities face
  - Listen and raise the voices of those communities to help achieve change
- Recognize your possible cultural and racial biases and challenge them
  - Rethink how you engage with Latinx and Hispanic communities



Image by Dani Foster via Canva

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