

# WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING

“ESPERANZA: A CELEBRATION OF HISPANIC HERITAGE AND HOPE”



## Facts

- Hispanic population accounts for 52 million people now in the U.S. — roughly one in six Americans, with projections to nearly one in three by 2050.
- Hispanic Americans have fought in every war. According to the Minority Veterans Report by the Department of Veterans Affairs, over 1.2 million vets in the US are of Hispanic or Latino descent. However, the military sacrifice and service of Hispanic Americans stretch back to the Revolutionary War.
- So many pieces of standard “American” culture were imported from the south of the border. For example, the cowboy hat, rodeos, and ranching are all from Spain and Mexico. Several state names like Montana, Colorado, and Nevada come from Spanish words. Even barbecue originated from the intersection of Spanish and Caribbean traditions! (Hint: the word barbecue comes from the Spanish barbacoa.)

## How to engage

- The best way you can help support the needs and uplift the voices of the Hispanic & Latinx community is to educate yourself on that community's culture, struggles, and perspectives.
- Joining groups and engaging in the discussion will help educate you on that community's needs and priorities
- Supporting groups and organizations that value diversity and that work towards including and engaging underrepresented minorities is also a great way to promote racial and gender diversity.

## Why are we celebrating

- The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded later to a month-long celebration
- National Hispanic Heritage Month traditionally honors the cultures and contributions of both Hispanic and Latino Americans as we celebrate heritage rooted in all Latin American countries

## Whom are we celebrating

**Hispanic** refers to a person who is from, or a descendant of someone who is from, a Spanish-speaking country.

**Latino/a** or **Latinx** refers to a person who is from, or a descendant of someone who is from, a country in Latin America.

## How to celebrate

- Enjoy a classic Latin American dish. Check out our very own #Penntopan suggestions!
- Support a Hispanic or Latino-owned business.
- Make a playlist of Hispanic artists. Check out our very own top 10 coming via email from the DEI committee!
- Visit a museum highlighting Hispanic and Latino culture.