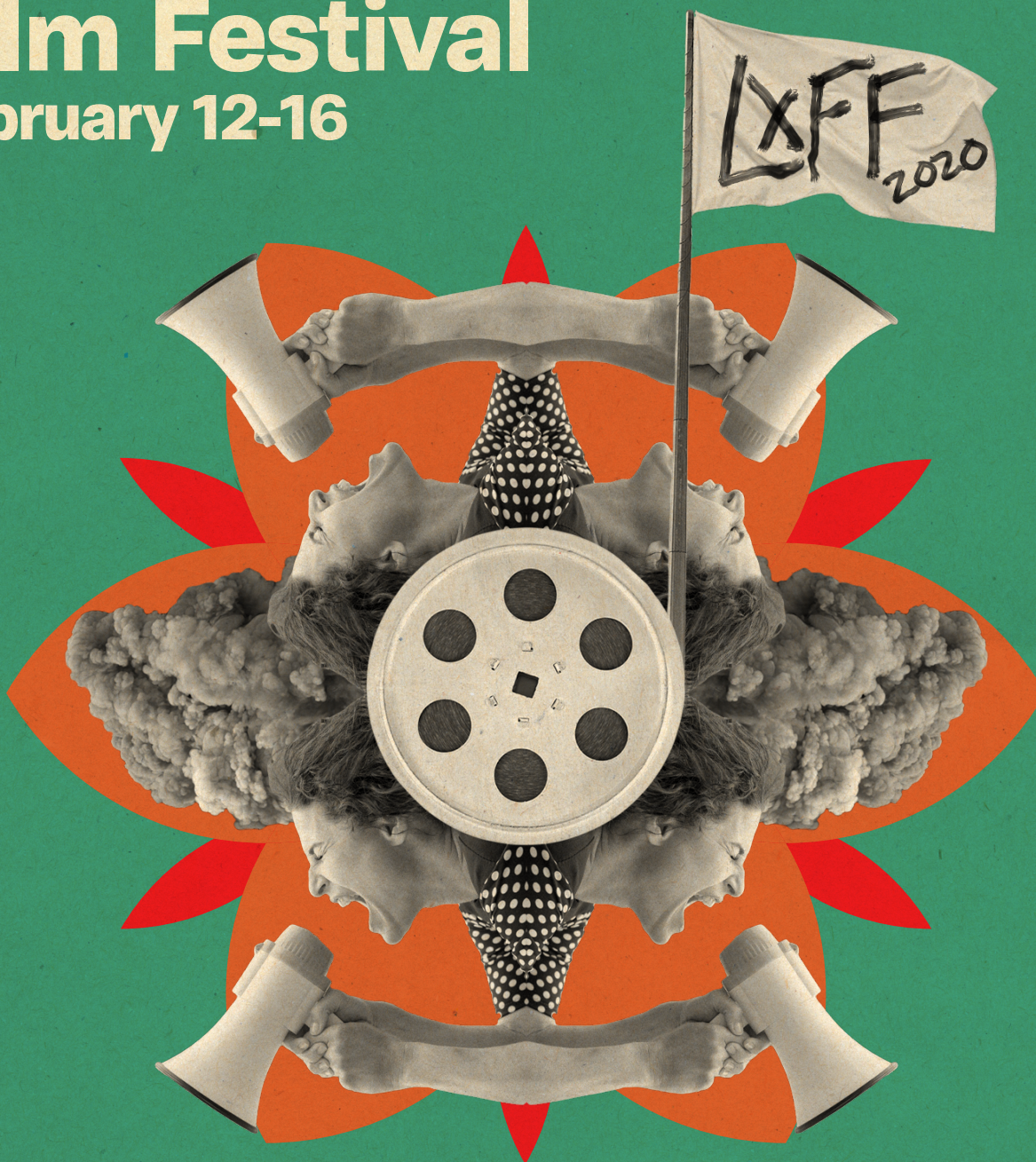


# MSU Latinx Film Festival

February 12-16



To view the schedule,  
visit [msulatinxfilmfestival.com](http://msulatinxfilmfestival.com)



Department of Romance  
and Classical Studies  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



Office of Inclusion & Intercultural Initiatives, College  
of Arts & Letters, College of Communication Arts &  
Sciences, College of Music, Film Studies Program

MSU Libraries, Global Studies in the Arts & Humanities  
Program, Chicano/Latino Studies Program, Council of  
Graduate Students, College of Social Science

James Madison College, Center for Latin American &  
Caribbean Studies, Julian Samora Research Institute,  
Residential College in the Arts & Humanities



# 2020 MSU Latinx Film Festival Recap



The second edition of the MSU Latinx Film Festival (LxFF) built upon the success of the 2018 inaugural edition of the festival, as well as several well-attended special events held throughout 2019, to firmly establish LxFF as a major film festival in the mid-Michigan region with statewide recognition. Locally, LxFF has become a recurring cultural event of significance for the Latinx communities at Michigan State and within the greater Lansing area.

The integration of live music and new media with even more diverse cinema offerings produced a dynamic program that resonated with different audiences, adding to the appeal and expanding the reach of the festival. The success of LxFF 2020 consolidated the reputation of the festival as a vital cultural organization that consistently provides high-quality, thought-provoking programming that is carefully curated and delivered in a variety of settings that enhance its educational and community impact. The establishment of new sponsors and community partners for LxFF 2020 increased the visibility of the festival while ensuring investments in the future of LxFF from a variety of stakeholders moving forward.

In terms of growth, the second edition of LxFF enlarged from four to five days, adding six feature films and five short films to the inaugural edition program, in addition to the inclusion of three concerts, virtual reality and 360° video. The number of venues expanded from seven to twelve, and turnout increased from 642 attendees to 1,456+ (see complete figures below). These numbers are a testament to both campus and community commitment to the mission of LxFF, as well as the cultural needs the festival fulfills with each edition and special event.

In order to plan, promote and produce such a large festival run entirely by voluntary staff it was necessary to increase the size of the organization. While the inaugural edition of LxFF was organized by a small group of six members of the Spanish section of MSU's Department of Romance & Classical Studies (two faculty members and four graduate students), LxFF 2020 had a more complex organizational structure that involved people from different units across campus, as well as key community leaders drawn from the greater Lansing Latinx community.



Panel discussion of *The Pushouts*, the LxFF 2020 opening night film, at WKAR Studios



In 2019, an advisory board was formed and the organizing committee was expanded to twelve people (four faculty members, six graduate students and two staff) drawn from six different units, led again by the Spanish section of the Department of Romance & Classical Studies, which continues to serve as the home of LxFF. It also included the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, the Department of Writing, Rhetoric & American Cultures, the Department of English, the College of Education and the College of Music. Every member of the organizing committee contributed to the selection of films and had the opportunity to curate part of the LxFF 2020 program and/or present one of the films.



Q&A with John Valadez, director of *The Head of Joaquín Murrieta*, at the MSU Library

The collaborative spirit that animated the first edition of LxFF continued with the addition of partnerships strategically formed to raise the profile of the festival and increase its community impact. LxFF 2020 featured exciting new collaborations with WKAR, the MSU College of Music, the Broad Art Museum, the MSU Library Digital Scholarship Lab, the Lansing Public Media Center, Celebration Cinema Lansing, the East Lansing Public Library, the Salus Center and the Lansing Brewing Co. In each case, LxFF was able to join forces with campus units, community organizations and local businesses in order to build a more robust festival while achieving shared objectives such as promoting cultural, racial and linguistic diversity, and specifically enhancing the visibility of Latinx culture(s) in Michigan.





Meet & Greet with Invited Guests & Featured Local Latinx Directors at Casa de Rosado

As always, this was accomplished through programming that has wide appeal and is particularly relevant to the needs, concerns and interests of the campus and the regional Latinx communities. In order to expand our audience, LxFF 2020 featured an array of genres and new media, including several social dramas and documentaries, thrillers, comedy, and even a family adventure film, as well as virtual reality and 360° video. Countries represented included: Argentina/Uruguay, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and multiple films from the United States, including Puerto Rico and several films dealing with immigration from Mexico and Central America, as well as Chicano culture and history rooted in California, Illinois and Texas. Once again, LxFF 2020 notably showcased women directors as a result of an ongoing commitment to gender equity that guides our programming decisions. It also continued to highlight Afro-Latinx culture. In addition, LxFF 2020 had a special focus on indigenous cultures and languages, featuring several films shot partially or entirely in indigenous languages such as Quechua and Wayuu.



*Ceniza Negra / Land of Ashes (Costa Rica)*



Music, one of the essential elements of LxFF programming, featured prominently in the lineup, with two music documentaries exploring the intersection of music, politics and culture, including the closing film, *Singing Our Way To Freedom*, presented by invited director Paul Espinosa. Those films were complemented by the addition of live music through a new collaboration with the MSU College of Music, which resulted in the elegant opening reception performance of classical Latin American composers by the MSU College of Music String Quartet, as well as the energetic Salsa Verde! concert held Saturday night at the Lansing Brewing Co. to a packed house. In addition, LxFF hosted the legendary Detroit-based musician/educator/activist Ozzie Rivera, who participated in various aspects of the festival, including an interactive, community-building performance of his Afro-Puerto Rican band, RicanStruction.



College of Music String Quartet at the Broad Museum



RicanStruction at the RCAH Theater



Dancing to Salsa Verde! at the Lansing Brewing Co.





Dylan Rogers welcomes LxFF back to The Robin Theatre for a double feature

LxFF 2020 sought out and received competitive sponsorship from the Michigan Film and Digital Media Office, which promoted the festival throughout the state. Such government support is limited and receiving it signals recognition of the importance of LxFF, not only to MSU and the greater Lansing area, but to the state of Michigan itself, which has few other festivals and film series dedicated to showcasing Latinx cinema. Indeed, between hosting a number of invited film directors and musicians from Detroit over the past two years and by maintaining a presence within the Michigan filmmaking community through the success of films produced for/by LxFF (i.e., *What Happens To A Dream Deferred* & *Walking For Ded*), LxFF has rapidly become a festival of reference for the diverse filmmaking community in Michigan that presents many potential opportunities for innovative collaborations and growth in the future.



Alejandra Márquez presents *Lulú en el jardín* at the Salus Center





Q&A w/ Alexandra Hidalgo (*Teta*) at the Lansing Public Media Center

Media coverage of LxFF 2020 included a televised segment on WLNS-TV 6 (the Lansing CBS affiliate station) and WKAR included the festival in its televised local events calendar. Feature articles ran in *City Pulse* and *MSU Today*, as well as the College of Arts & Letters and DocLab newsletters. Once again, the MSU Collaborative Edges podcast recorded multiple episodes with LxFF staff and invited guests. And LxFF's presence on social media included both local promotion of the festival and engagement with several directors and actors of selected films, which helped spread awareness of LxFF across the United States and throughout Latin America.



Collaborative Edges Podcast w/ Scott Boehm, Ozzie Rivera, Rocío Quispe-Agnoli & Paul Espinosa



## LxFF 2020 By The Numbers

	LxFF 2018	LxFF 2020
Days	4	5
Venues	7	12
Feature Films	7	13
Short Films	1	6
Languages	3	5
Virtual Reality	NA	1
360° Video	NA	1
Concerts	NA	3
Receptions	3	4
Invited Guests	3	3
Featured Local Latinx Directors	NA	2
Attendees	642	1,456
Advisory Board	NA	4
Organizing Committee	6	12
Volunteers	6	8
Panelists & Moderators	21	24
MSU Sponsors	17	16
Non-MSU Sponsors	1	2
Community Partners	5	9
Budget	\$13,550	\$26,500



Laura Romero hosts a panel on New Media and Latinx storytelling



## LxFF 2020 Program & Turnout

### Wednesday, February 12th

1. Opening Reception (Broad Art Museum) - 70+
2. *The Pushouts* (WKAR Studios) - 65

### Thursday, February 13th

3. New Media Panel (MSU Library) - 20
4. Virtual Reality & 360° Video (MSU Library) - 42
5. *The Head of Joaquin Murrieta* (MSU Library & IAH live stream) - 240+
6. *The Wall* (MSU Library) - 25
7. *Birds of Passage* (Wells Hall) - 52
8. *Dora* (East Lansing Public Library) - 18
9. *Lulú en el jardín* (Salus Center) - 21

### Friday, February 14th

10. *On the Roof* (RCAH Theater) - 43
11. Reception (RCAH Theater) - 30+
12. Puerto Rican Short Film Program (RCAH Theater) - 34
13. RicanStruction (RCAH Theater) - 42
14. *7 cajas* (RCAH Theater) - 30

### Saturday, February 15th

15. *Teta* (Lansing Public Media Center) - 38
16. *The Candidate* (Lansing Public Media Center) - 27
17. *Marielle & Monica / Middle Earth* (Lansing Public Media Center) - 22
18. Meet & Greet (Casa de Rosado) - 40+
19. *Retablo* (The Robin Theatre) - 70
20. *Ruben Blades Is Not My Name* (The Robin Theatre) - 41
21. Salsa Verde Concert (Lansing Brewing Co.) - 300+

### Sunday, February 16th

22. *Nae Pasaran* & Chilean Short Film Program (Celebration Cinema) - 38
23. *Land of Ashes* (Celebration Cinema) - 46
24. *Singing Our Way To Freedom* (Celebration Cinema) - 62
25. Closing Reception (Celebration Cinema) - 40+

**TOTAL ATTENDEES: 1,456+**



Miguel Cabañas presents *Ruben Blades*... (Panama)



## **LxFF 2020 MSU Sponsors**

### Executive Producers (\$2,500+)

Office of Inclusion & Intercultural Initiatives  
(\$8,000 Creating Inclusive Excellence grant)  
Department of Romance & Classical Studies  
College of Arts & Letters

### Producers (\$1,000)

College of Music  
College of Communication Arts & Sciences

### Production Assistants (\$500-\$750)

MSU Libraries  
Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies  
Global Studies in the Arts & Humanities Program  
Film Studies Program  
Chicano/Latino Studies Program  
Council of Graduate Students

### Sustainers (\$250-\$400)

College of Social Science  
James Madison College  
Julian Samora Research Institute  
Residential College in the Arts & Humanities



*Marielle & Monica (Brazil) on the BIG screen at Lansing Public Media Center*

## **LxFF 2020 External Sponsors**

Michigan Film & Digital Media Office (\$2,500 Gold Level grant)  
Pragda (\$1,250 Spanish Film Club grant)



LxFF's first community partner

## LxFF 2020 Community Partners

WKAR

Broad Art Museum

The Robin Theatre

Casa de Rosado

Action of Greater Lansing

Capital Area Latina Youth

East Lansing Public Library

Celebration Cinema Lansing

Lansing Public Media Center



Oscar Casteñeda (LxFF Advisory Board & Action of Greater Lansing) leads discussion





José Luis Benavides



Paul Espinosa & a relative of Ramon 'Chunky' Sanchez



Ozzie Rivera & RicanStruction with LxFF members



John Valadez



Alexandra Hidalgo talks to fans

## LxFF 2020 Invited Guests & Featured Local Latinx Filmmakers

Paul Espinosa – Director, *Singing Our Way to Freedom* (San Diego, CA)  
 Ozzie Rivera – Musician (RicanStruction), Educator & Activist (Detroit, MI)  
 José Luis Benavides – Director, *Lulú en el Jardín* (Chicago, IL)  
 John Valadez – Director, *The Head of Joaquin Murrieta* (MSU)  
 Alexandra Hidalgo – Director, *Teta* (MSU)

## LxFF 2020 (non-LxFF) Panelists & Moderators

Alfonso Salais, Jr., Profesor de Español, Lansing School District  
Elias López, Sr. Associate Director, College Assistance Migrant Program  
Amanda Flores, Ph.D. Student, College of Education  
Leonora Souza Paula, Assistant Professor of English  
Terence O'Neil, Director, MSU Library Digital Scholarship Lab  
Judith Walgren, Associate Director, MSU School of Journalism  
Leobardo Vallejo, Undergraduate & Director, Puro 956  
Shiksha Sneha, MSU Undergraduate & DreaMSU President  
Delia Fernández, Assistant Professor of History  
Tamara Butler, Assistant Professor of English  
Danny Méndez, Associate Professor of Spanish  
Rocío Quispe-Agnoli, Professor of Spanish  
Edward Murphy, Associate Professor of History  
Tama Hamilton-Wray, Associate Professor in RCAH



Rocío Quispe-Agnoli, Danny Méndez & Claudia Berrios-Campos discuss *Retablo*



Tamara Butler & Delia Fernández reflect on Puerto Rico



## LxFF 2020 Organizational Structure

### *LxFF Founder & Director*

Scott Boehm, Assistant Professor of Spanish & Global Studies (RCS)

### *LxFF 2020 Advisory Committee*

Oscar Castañeda, Immigrant Civil Rights Chair, Action of Greater Lansing  
Peter Johnston, Film Studies Digital Media & Film Production Manager  
Theresa Rosado, Journalist, Artist & Owner of Casa de Rosado  
John Valadez, Filmmaker, WKAR Producer & DocLab Co-Director

### *LxFF 2020 Organizing Committee*

José Adrián Badillo Carlos, Ph.D. Candidate (RCS)  
Claudia Berrios-Campos, Ph.D. Candidate (RCS)  
Miguel A. Cabañas, Associate Professor of Spanish (RCS)  
Kiana González-Cedeno, Ph.D. Student (English)  
Kailey Henderson, M.A. Student (RCS)  
Alexandra Hidalgo, DocLab Co-Director, Assistant Professor (WRAC)  
Ricardo Lorenz, Professor & Area Chair of Composition (College of Music)  
Alejandra Márquez Guajardo, Assistant Professor of Spanish (RCS)  
Rael Mora, Director, Wayka.pe & Staff (CLACS)  
Laura Romero, Ph.D. Candidate (RCS)  
María Serrato, Director, Capital Area Latina Youth & Staff (College of Ed)  
Isaac Veysey-White, Ph.D. Candidate (RCS)

### *LxFF 2020 Volunteer Coordinators*

Maricela Tapia, MSU Undergraduate & Capital Area Latina Youth Member  
Grace Sobeck, MSU Undergraduate & Spanish Club President



Volunteers with LxFF merch



LxFF 2020 closing day lunch

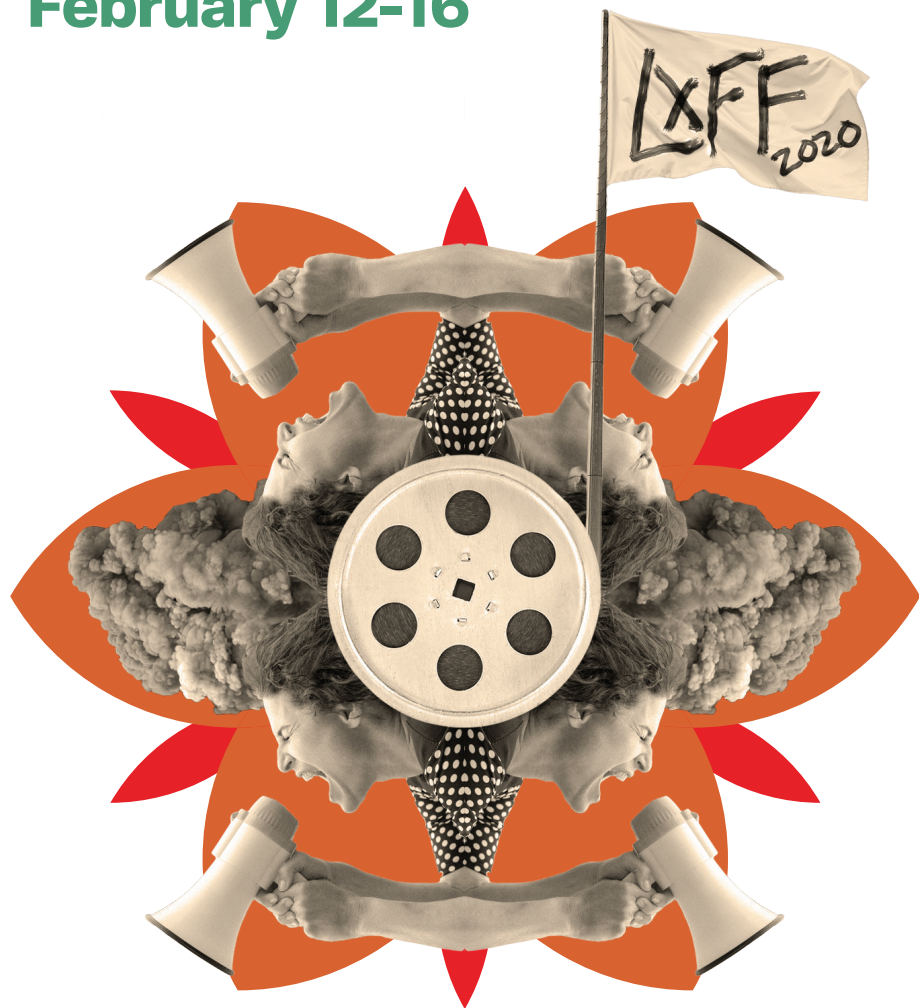


Kiana González-Cedeno

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# MSU Latinx Film Festival

February 12-16



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## 2020 Program Guide

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# Directors Letter

¡LxFF ha vuelto!

The second edition of the MSU Latinx Film Festival (LxFF) is bigger in scale and wider in scope, with a film lineup double the size and the addition of live music, Virtual Reality and 360° Video. LxFF 2020 enjoys competitive sponsorship from the Michigan Film & Digital Media Office and exciting new partnerships with WKAR, the Broad Art Museum, the Lansing Public Media Center, Celebration Cinema Lansing, the Lansing Brewing Company, the East Lansing Public Library and the MSU College of Music. The names of the people listed below have been hard at work to make this edition a success and we hope you enjoy the diverse cinematic and cultural offerings we've collectively assembled.

With so much programming to choose from, I encourage you to install the LxFF app from our website and spend some time checking out the trailers and reading about the fantastic filmmakers featured this year. There's something for everyone and we hope you'll take a chance on a movie (or two) you've never heard of but that catches your eye for whatever reason, which is part of the magic of film festivals. We're proud to spotlight cinema from across the Americas and to continue to promote Latinx women in front of and behind the camera in our programming. This edition also shines a light on indigenous languages and continues to explore relationships between film, music, culture and politics.

Saludos,

Scott Boehm  
LxFF Director

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## LxFF Members

### LxFF Founder & Director

Scott Boehm

### Advisory Board

Oscar Castañeda

Peter Johnston

Theresa Rosado

John Valadez

### Volunteer Coordinators

Grace Sobeck

Maricela Tapia

### Staff Support

Tanner Schudlich

Michele Burton

### Organizing Committee

José Adrián Badillo Carlos

Claudia Berrios-Campos

Miguel A. Cabañas

Kiana González-Cedeno

Rael Mora

Kailey Henderson

Alexandra Hidalgo

Ricardo Lorenz

Alejandra Márquez Guajardo

Laura Romero

María Serrato

Isaac Veysey-White

### Graphic Design

Kameron Chauvez

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# Schedule At A Glance

## Wednesday, February 12

5:00pm Opening Reception  
7:00pm The Pushouts

Broad Art Museum  
WKAR Studios

## Thursday, February 13

2:00pm New Media Panel  
2:30pm The Use of Force  
2:30pm Puro 956  
3:00pm The Head of Joaquin Murrieta  
4:30pm The Wall  
5:30pm Dora & the Lost City of Gold  
6:00pm The Use of Force  
6:00pm Puro 956  
7:00pm Birds of Passage  
7:30pm Lulú en el jardín

MSU Library Digital Scholarship Lab  
MSU Library DSL Virtual Reality Room  
MSU Library DSL 360 Room  
MSU Library Green Room  
MSU Library Green Room  
East Lansing Public Library  
MSU Library DSL Virtual Reality Room  
MSU Library DSL 360 Room  
MSU Wells Hall B122  
Salus Center

## Friday, February 14

5:00pm On the Roof  
6:30pm Reception  
7:00pm One & La capa azul  
8:00pm RicanStructure Concert  
9:00pm 7 Boxes

MSU RCAH Theater Snyder-Phillips Hall  
MSU RCAH Theater Snyder-Phillips Hall  
MSU RCAH Theater Snyder-Phillips Hall  
MSU RCAH Theater Snyder-Phillips Hall  
MSU RCAH Theater Snyder-Phillips Hall

## Saturday, February 15

10:00am Teta  
11:00am The Candidate  
2:30pm Meet & Greet  
4:30pm Retablo  
8:00pm Ruben Blades Is Not My Name  
10:00pm Salsa Verde Concert

Lansing Public Media Center  
Lansing Public Media Center  
La Casa de Rosado  
The Robin Theatre  
The Robin Theatre  
Lansing Brewing Company

## Sunday, February 16

1:00pm Nae Pasaran  
3:30pm Land of Ashes  
6:00pm Singing Our Way To Freedom  
8:00pm Closing Reception

Celebration Cinema  
Celebration Cinema  
Celebration Cinema  
Celebration Cinema

Detailed schedule available at [msulatinxfilmfestival.com](http://msulatinxfilmfestival.com).  
To download the app, follow the instructions on our website.

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## Invited Guests



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### Paul Espinosa

Paul Espinosa, an award-winning Filmmaker and Producer, is the President/CEO of Espinosa Productions, a film and video company specializing in documentary and dramatic films focused on the U.S.-Mexico border region. He has been involved with producing films for over 35 years and is Professor Emeritus in the School of Transborder Studies at Arizona State University.



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### Ozzie Rivera

Osvaldo “Ozzie” Rivera was born in Puerto Rico and lived in southwest Detroit most of his life. For close to five decades, he has been active in community advocacy and human services. Ozzie is also an amateur historian of Latin-Caribbean music, often presenting on Afro-Hispanic music, a musical style he also lectures on and performs, including directing the Detroit-based RicanStruction.



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### José Luis Benavides

Jose Luis Benavides is a Chicago-based artist, writer and educator. He has worked as a teaching artist with the National Museum of Mexican Art, Young Chicago Authors, Chicago Arts Partnership in Education and the Chicago Public Library. He has also taught within the Cook County jail system and he is an active project manager with the Illinois Deaths in Custody Project.

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# Live Music

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## MSU College of Music String Quartet

**Wednesday Feb. 12 • 5:30-6:00pm • MSU Broad Museum**

The MSU College of Music String Quartet is formed by Daniela Diaz (violin), Anna Khalikova (violin), Gabriela Aboites (viola), Derek Eilert (cello). During the opening reception at the Broad Museum they will play five short pieces by Colombian composer Jesus A. Rey Mariño that have been arranged for string quartet by Adolfo Hernandez before finishing with pieces by Piazzola (Libertango), Ponce (Estrellita), Gardel (Por una cabeza) and Piazzola (Adios Nonino).

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## RicanStruction

**Friday Feb. 14 • 8:00-9:00pm • MSU RCAF Theater (Synder-Phillips Hall)**

Utilizing a performance/lecture approach RicanStruction presents a musical journey through the Spanish-speaking Caribbean and other regions of Latin America with significant African-Hispanic presence that provides a historical perspective on how three primary cultural and racial “currents” (African, Spanish & Native American) have influenced present day Latin American music and culture. A significant component of the presentation features a participatory segment for audience members utilizing the Afro Puerto Rican community building tradition of Bomba.

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## Salsa Verde!

**Saturday, Feb. 15 • 10:00pm – Midnight • Lansing Brewing Company**

Salsa Verde! was founded in 2008 for students to practice and perform Afro-Cuban music. Over the past years, we have played concerts, dances, festivals, recitals, benefits, cultural events, and outreach throughout Michigan. Salsa Verde! performs songs by Spanish Harlem Orchestra, Gloria Estefan, Wayne Gorbea, Poncho Sanchez, Celia Cruz, Marc Anthony, Isaac Delgado, Tito Puente, Eddie Palmieri, and others, with many of the works original arrangements by Salsa Verde. The members of Salsa Verde are students and faculty of the MSU College of Music.

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## Library Immigration Block

On Thursday, head to the MSU Library for a day of events focused on immigration issues, including short films, Virtual Reality and 360° Video. A short panel on new media kicks off this block of programming, in which Terence O'Neil, Head of the MSU Library Digital Scholarship Lab, Judith Walgren, Associate Director of the MSU School of Journalism, and Leobardo Vallejo, MSU Political Science major and creator of Puro 956: Discovering Narratives from the Rio Grande Valley, will discuss the growing role of interactive visualization experiences to convey border stories before opening Puro 365 and The Use of Force to participants. Following that, acclaimed director and MSU faculty member John Valadez will present his award-winning film, The Head of Joaquín Murrieta and DreaMSU will lead a discussion of The Wall: The Effect of its Imposing Presence on Migrant Families, a collection of short films on the current undocumented immigration crisis. Consult the LxFF website for more details.

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## Lansing Public Media Center Program

We're thrilled to partner with the Lansing Public Media Center for LxFF 2020. This incredible community resource provides spaces, equipment and training for local filmmakers. Join us at LPMC on Saturday morning for an exciting program that begins with a screening of Teta: A Nursing Mother Tells Her Story, presented by the director, Alexandra Hidalgo, an award-winning filmmaker, co-founder & editor-in-chief of agnès films: supporting women and feminist filmmakers, and MSU faculty member. Following that screening, Oscar Castañeda and members of Action of Greater Lansing will present The Candidate, a feature-length political satire by Uruguayan actor/director Daniel Hendler that explores the creation of a political persona that is all form and no content. A discussion of the film and its relevance for understanding our current political environment will follow. Consult the LxFF website for more details.

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## Meet & Greet

Mix and mingle with our invited guests and local directors while enjoying the ambiance of La Casa de Rosado in REO Town on Saturday afternoon before heading to The Robin Theatre for a phenomenal double feature (Retablo & Ruben Blades Is Not My Name) followed by a free Salsa Verde! concert and dancing at the Lansing Brewing Company. Partake in complimentary light refreshments, meet the LxFF members, and participate in an informal Q&A with Paul Espinosa, Ozzie Rivera, José Luis Benavides, Alexandra Hidalgo and John Valadez. This was a highlight of LxFF 2018, so be sure to put it on your festival to-do list!

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# Celebration Cinema Screenings & Info

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## NAE PASARAN

**Sunday 1:00pm • Felipe Bustos Sierra • Chile • 2018 • 96 min**

1974, Scotland. Bob Fulton, a Rolls-Royce engine inspector, returns to his section, upset and anxious. He's just told his colleagues that a Chilean Air Force jet engine has arrived in the factory for maintenance and he's refusing to let it go through, in protest against the recent military coup of General Pinochet. With unprecedented access and research, Nae Pasaran reveals for the first time the incredible impact made by Scottish factory workers 40 years ago against one of the most repressive dictatorships of the 20th century. 40 years after their defiant stand in protest against Pinochet's Air Force in Chile, Scottish pensioners discover the dramatic consequences of their solidarity.

This screening is preceded by two short films that capture the heat of the current political events in Chile and will be followed by a discussion led by Laura Romero.

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## LAND OF ASHES/CENIZA NEGRA

**Sunday 3:30pm • Sofía Quirós • Costa Rica • 2019 • 82 min**

Selva (13) lives in a coastal town in the Caribbean. After the sudden disappearance of her only motherly figure, she is left to take care of her grandfather who doesn't want to live. Between shadows and wild games, she must decide if she will help her grandfather die, even though that means going through her last moments of childhood alone. Ceniza Negra (Land of Ashes) was filmed in Costa Rica and explores topics such as mourning and the end of childhood. The film premiered at the 58th Semaine de la Critique in 2019 and is the first feature by Sofía Quirós.

A discussion of the film led by Tama Hamilton-Wray will follow this screening.

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## SINGING OUR WAY TO FREEDOM

**Sunday 6:00pm • Paul Espinosa • USA • 2018 • 82 min**

How did a young Mexican American kid from a small rural town in the middle of nowhere learn about the power of music and imagination in the fight for social justice? Singing Our Way To Freedom chronicles the life and music of Ramon "Chunky" Sanchez from his humble beginnings as a farmworker in California to the dramatic moment when he received one of his nation's highest musical honors at the Library of Congress in Washington DC. As a young man in the 1970s, Chunky joined the picket lines in California and became Cesar Chavez's favorite musician. His arc of transformation from marginalized farm kid to charismatic social activist shows how one person can mobilize people to change the world.

A Q&A with director Paul Espinosa will follow this screening before the closing reception.

\*Screenings at Celebration Cinema Lansing cost \$5 and tickets are available for advanced purchase on the Reservations tab of the LxFF website. A limited number of tickets will be available at the cinema.

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# A Special Thank You To All LxFF Sponsors



## EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS (\$2,500+)

Department of Romance & Classical Studies  
Office of Inclusion & Intercultural Initiatives  
College of Arts & Letters

## PRODUCERS (\$1,000)

College of Communication Arts & Sciences  
College of Music

## PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS (\$500-\$750)

MSU Libraries  
Center for Latin American  
& Caribbean Studies  
Global Studies in the  
Arts & Humanities Program  
Film Studies Program  
Chicano/Latino Studies Program  
Council of Graduate Students

## SUSTAINERS (\$250-\$400)

College of Social Science  
James Madison College  
Julian Samora Research Institute  
Residential College in the  
Arts & Humanities

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

WKAR  
The Robin Theatre  
Lansing Public Media Center  
Lansing Brewing Company  
East Lansing Public Library

[www.msulatinxfilmfestival.com](http://www.msulatinxfilmfestival.com)

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