

CULTURAL EXCHANGE PAVILION



Pa' lante PUERTO RICO!

Alynda Segarra's fierce ode to her people's resilience in the wake of Hurricane Maria – the 2017 song “Pa'lante” – is the inspiration behind Jazz Fest's celebration of Puerto Rico this year. The 2023 Cultural Exchange Pavilion spotlights the vibrant music and culture of the island, which remains strong despite the devastating effects over the past few years of hurricanes, earthquakes, and the pandemic.



Two-time Latin GRAMMY winner Reggaeton artist, Farruko, headlines the musical line-up with 12 bands ranging from Latin jazz trumpeter Charlie Sepulveda to Jíbaro quintet Conjunto Típico Samaritano and salsa ensemble Pirulo Y La Tribu. Drawing from her Puerto Rican roots, Alynda Segarra joins the celebration with a special show on the Cultural Exchange Pavilion Stage on Friday, May 5.



CELEBRATING PUERTO RICAN AFRICAN HERITAGE

Bomba rhythms will be heard throughout the Festival, infused with hip hop and reggaeton with **Tribu de Abrante** on the first weekend, and in its most traditional form with **La Raíz Bomba Mayagüezana** on the second weekend.

Instrumental in reclaiming the Puerto Rican **Plena** style of music for a new generation of listeners, Grammy-nominated **Plena Libre** brings it danceable, Afro-Rican groove to the Festival during the first weekend.



Tribu de Abrante



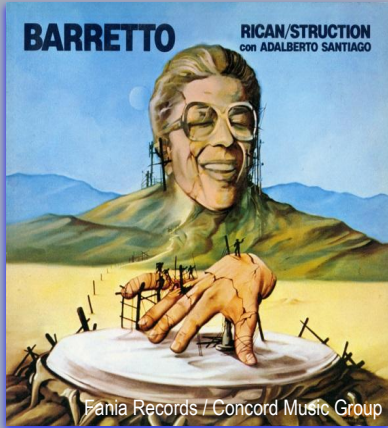
Ricardo Alcaraz
plena

La Casa de la Plena Tito Matos - a collective of the best plena and bomba performers of the island - will parade throughout the Fair Grounds over both weekends. Vejigantes from the Southern town of Ponce will dance along and interact with the crowd. These iconic Puerto Rican folk characters can be seen roaming the streets of Ponce during Carnival.

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Inside the Cultural Exchange Pavilion, cultural exhibits will help deepen audience appreciation for Puerto Rico's rich culture. New this year, the Cultural Exchange Village features artists and master craftsmen, a live mural and a food booth serving authentic Puerto Rican Food.



On display inside the Cultural Exchange Pavilion, **Rican/Struction** explores the evolution of Puerto Rican music through fifty examples of album cover art from the golden age of the LP.



Resistencia y Libertá illustrates the evolution of bomba attire since the 17th century and explores the cultural significance of bomba dance and its fashion.

Vejigante Mask Tradition

Rooted in medieval Spanish folklore, the devilish figure of the vejigantes has become a cultural symbol of Puerto Rico. Kenneth Melendez will demonstrate the paper mache technique traditional to his hometown of Ponce. Master Raul Ayala will create vejigante masks using coconut husks, a tradition unique to Loiza.



Authentic Puerto Rican Cuisine

Carmo & Fowlmouth New Orleans will serve Trifongo - a version of the better known mofongo - at the Cultural Exchange Food Booth over both weekends. Made of fried plantains and yucca mashed with garlic and olive oil, Trifongo will be served with a choice of shrimp, pork, or vegetable.



Beyond Puerto Rico...

While spotlighting Puerto Rico, The Cultural Exchange Pavilion Stage continues to present its signature blend of local and international performers, with special appearances by **Bassekou Kouyate** of Mali, **Mdou Moctar** of Niger, and **Ceferina Banquez** and **Rey Vallenato Beto Jamaica** of Colombia.

