



## PROCLAMATION

**Latine Heritage Month: September 15, 2026 – October 15, 2026**

In 1968, President Lyndon Johnson established Hispanic Heritage Week, which was officially expanded to a month-long national observance in 1988. This month is observed from September 15th to October 15th each year, marking the independence anniversaries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua (September 15), Mexico (September 16), and Chile (September 18), celebrating an enduring spirit of freedom.

The term "Latine" has emerged as an inclusive, gender-neutral term reflecting the rich diversity of individuals of Latin American descent. The Latine community is integral to the cultural fabric of Columbia Heights, with thriving populations tracing their roots across the Americas, including strong local communities from Mexico, Ecuador, El Salvador, and beyond, each contributing immensely to our city's art, music, cuisine, literature, commerce, and science.

Latine Heritage Month honors the community's resilience in the face of discrimination, celebrates deep roots in Indigenous and African cultures, and honors the preservation of vital traditions and identities. This observance encourages reflection on shared histories and collective successes, fostering a deeper appreciation for the diversity that strengthens our entire city.

This year, our Latine community has endured harsh and frightening immigration enforcement actions — impacting our schools, our city staff, our community members, and our children. In recognition of this moment and in honor of the resilience and unity of our Latine neighbors, a community flag designed by local artist Leon Wang, featuring a butterfly that has come to symbolize this community's strength, will be displayed at City Hall.

And now, I, Amáda Márquez Simula, Mayor of Columbia Heights, proclaim September 15th to October 15th, 2026, as Latine Heritage Month in Columbia Heights, and I encourage all residents to join in this observance and to support the safety, dignity, and belonging of our Latine community.

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**Amáda Márquez Simula, Mayor**  
**September 28, 2026**