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El Barrio Museum NYC

El Museo del Barrio, often known as El Museo, a museum located at 1230 Fifth Avenue in Upper Manhattan, New York City. El Museo's varied permanent collection of over 8,000 objects, spans more than 800 years of Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino art, including Taino pre-Columbus artifacts, traditional arts, twentieth-century drawings, paintings, sculptures and installations, as well as prints, photography, documentary films, Folk art, Graphics, works on paper, and Post-War paintings, principally by Puerto-Rican, Caribbean, and Latino American artists. In 1977, El Museo joined the Cultural Institutions Group (also known as CIGs) which helped increase and maintain its funding. As early as the 1800s, it was home to Native Americans and Leda African-American farmers and German and Irish immigrants. The area was predominantly Italian until after World War II, when a wave of Puerto Ricans arrived, transforming it into El barrio Spanish for "neighborhood" also known as Spanish Harlem. Outside the U.S., barrio refers to a district in Spain or a Spanish-speaking country. The word barrio means "neighborhood" in Spanish, and in most Spanish-speaking places, that's exactly what it means in Cuba and Spain, barrio's are official divisions of municipalities. Barrios are urban neighborhoods within the United States that have a high concentration of Hispanics, variably identified as Latinos, Hispanos,, Mexicans, Chicanos, Puerto Rican, or other nationalities from Central and Latin America.

Its mission is to present and preserve the art and culture of Puerto Ricans and all Latin Americans in the United States. Through its extensive collections, varied exhibitions and publications, bilingual public programs, educational activities, festivals and special events. El Museo educates its diverse public in the richness of Caribbean and Latin American arts and cultural history. By introducing young people to this cultural heritage, El Museo is creating the next generation of Museum Tower's, while satisfying the growing interest in Caribbean and Latin American Art of a broad national and international audience. The purpose of this museum is to enhance the sense of identity, self-esteem and self knowledge of the Caribbean and Latin American people by educating them in their artistic heritage and bringing art and artists into their communities. To provide an educational forum that promotes an appreciation and understanding of Caribbean and Latin American art and culture and its rich contribution to North America. To offer Caribbean and Latin America artists greater access to institutional support in the national and international art world. This mission reaffirms the vision of Raphael Montañez Ortiz, who founded El Museo del Barrio in 1969, and of the Puerto Rican educators, artist and community activist who worked in support of this goal.

What stood out to me most is, this is a neighborhood that is rich with history and culture - and its residents openly celebrate both. From street fairs, booming music, stoop-sitting, street art and boisterous laughter and conversations, there's an energy in Spanish Harlem unlike any other enclave in Manhattan. Each year El Museo Springs Benefits supports the Upper East Side museum's mission to increase awareness of Latinx and Latin American art and culture, to present and preserve the art and culture of Puerto Ricans and all Latin Americans in the United States.

To name a few popular painters in El Museo del Barrio are , Andrés Curruchich, Martin Ramírez, José Bernardo Cardoso Jr., Felipe Jesús Consalvos.

Barrio (Spanish pronunciation:[ˈbarjo] is a Spanish word that means “Quarter“ or “neighborhood“. In the modern Spanish language, it is generally defined as each area of a city, usually delimited by functional (e.g. residential, commercial, industrial, etc.) , social, architectural or morphological features. Museums preserve and exhibit important cultural, artistic, historical or scientific artifacts. While these exhibits provide informative and visual exploitation, there are many benefits to visiting these institutions. Simply put, museums help to teach, inspire and connect communities. I appreciate this history and El Museo del Barrio. Unfortunately, I didn't get to experience this museum as a whole in general due to it being closed, shut down for renovations, but I did speak to a few staff members and they did represent for their culture, speaking Spanish and to my appreciation very friendly (unlike my experiences from the prior museums I've visited thus far during this semester) they explained why the museum is closed and when it will reopen, as well as what they are repairing and what is to come when El Barrio opens up again. But, to my findings via research (internet/pamphlets) Like Roberto Ramirez describes where he grew up and how it impacted him growing up, the point in this is about how life is different from everyone, how you can try to escape where you come from but it will always be with you, I didn't grow up in Spanish Harlem but I did grow up in the south side of Brooklyn New York, Red Hook to be a point of reference. Honestly it was no different than Spanish Harlem if not almost the exact same atmosphere and community. A poverty stricken place we called home, yet our neighborhoods were all about family, history, diversity and culture. There was always food around, open doors, music playing, celebrating birthdays, holidays, as

well as special occasions , we too would sit on stoops talking and laughing until the wee hours of the morning; breaking night was a normal thing back in those days. Despite its shortcomings and drastic changes .. to say, “I miss the good old day and love New York is an understatement!

[www.elmuseo.org](http://www.elmuseo.org)

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