

Hispanic Heritage Month 2021

Esperanza: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage and Hope

Table of Contents

- [History of Hispanic Heritage Month](#)
- [History of Hispanic Heritage Month, cont'd](#)
- [The Port District](#)
- [Hispanic Population in the Port District](#)
- [Port Authority Diversity and Inclusion](#)
- [Angel Martinez](#)
- [Marilyn Feliz](#)
- [Jorge Chavez](#)
- [Jose Medina](#)
- [Selene Ortega](#)
- [Jessica Carmona](#)



PORT
AUTHORITY
NY NJ



A WHOLE
NEW **LGA**

History of Hispanic Heritage Month



- Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15th to October 15th by celebrating the history, culture and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors were from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.
- In 1968, The Hispanic Heritage Week was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded into Hispanic Heritage Month by President Ronald Reagan in 1988.



[< PREV](#) | [HOME](#) | [NEXT >](#)

A WHOLE
NEW **LGA**

History of Hispanic Heritage Month



- The September 15th date is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for the Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.



[< PREV](#) | [HOME](#) | [NEXT >](#)



Port District



"Port District" comprises an area of approximately 1,500 square miles in both New York State and New Jersey, centered around New York Harbor.



Legend:

- Air
- Land
- Rail
- Sea



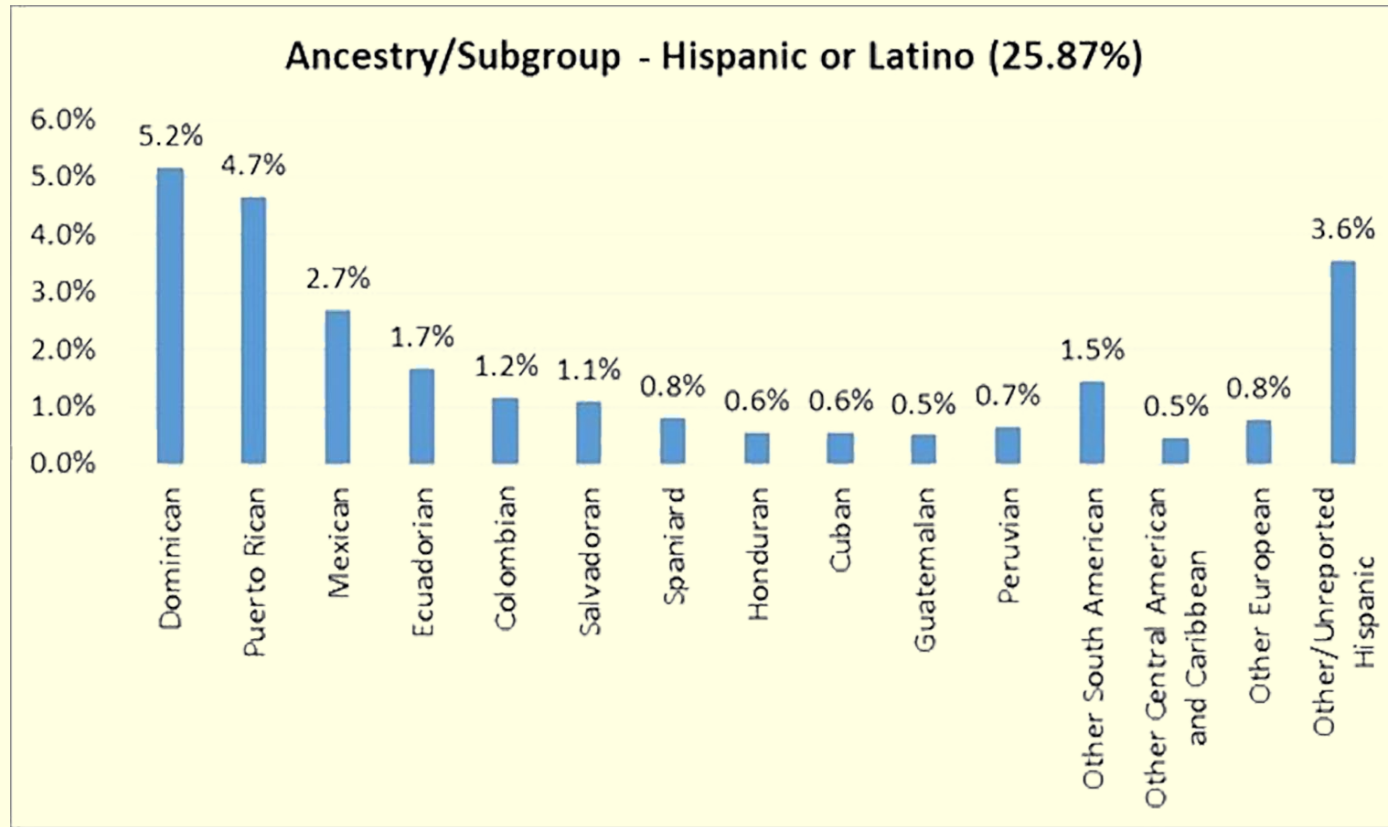
PORT AUTHORITY
NY NJ



< PREV | HOME | NEXT >

A WHOLE
NEW LGA

Hispanic Population in the Port District

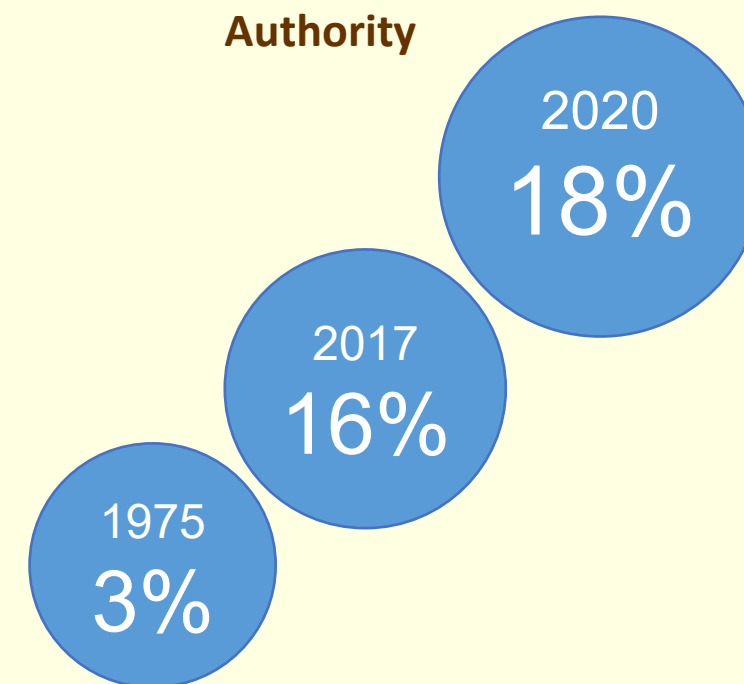


The Port Authority – Diversity and Inclusion

The Port Authority Hispanic Society - "PAHS"

- The Port Authority is committed to empowering all employees to reach their full potential by strengthening the Agency's diverse workforce composition and by fostering an inclusive work environment.
- The Port Authority Hispanic Society's mission:
 - To represent and promote the interest of Hispanics employed by the Port Authority/PATH by providing training outlets and developmental activities to enhance the career prospects and professional growth of its members
 - Enhance Hispanic representation; serving as a conduit for social, cultural, and professional networking activities, outside organizations, and the communities that we serve
 - Promote awareness of and involvement with underrepresented employees' issues and concerns.

Percentage of Hispanic employees at the Port Authority



< [PREV](#) | [HOME](#) | [NEXT](#) >



Angel Martinez, AIA, PP.

Chief of Operations Engineering Department

- I was born in Cuba and emigrated to the USA when I was 5 ½ years old. We settled in Union City, New Jersey and I attended public school there.
- I came to the Port Authority in June 2001 to challenge myself and work on large transportation projects. The events of 9/11 accelerated my assimilation into the agency culture. I worked with such a diverse and talented workforce that for the first time in my life, I felt like I was part of a team. I learned that to accomplish anything in such a big place I needed to embrace teamwork and cooperation. With the stability of working at the Port Authority, I was able to purchase a home, provide for my family and both my kids were able to attend college and graduate.



< [PREV](#) | [HOME](#) | [NEXT](#) >

A WHOLE
NEW **LGA**

Marilyn Feliz, MPA

Project Manager for Business Diversity's Capacity Building

- I have a mixed ethnicity – Caribbean, Dominican and Italian. Growing up in Washington Heights, I would look out my window to see the Hudson River and the GWB, and I would say to myself “One day when I grow up, I’m going to work for the George Washington Bridge.” I achieved it!
- My kids know all about the Port Authority because throughout the years they have seen how proud I am to work for this bi-state agency. On many occasions, they have participated in children’s programs the Port Authority has offered. I’ve been given the opportunity to engage and support communities throughout the Port District through the various positions I have held.



< [PREV](#) | [HOME](#) | [NEXT](#) >

A WHOLE
NEW **LGA**

Jorge Chavez, P.E., PMP

Assistant Director, Capital and Port Planning

- I was born and raised in Peru. My entire family immigrated in 1991 and I have lived in New York City since then. We have lived the American Dream by working hard, taking advantage of every opportunity, aspiring to reach new ceilings, and achieving set goals.
- I started my Port Authority career in 2001 as a civil engineer in the Engineering Department, exactly three months prior to 9/11. I feel blessed to have survived the attack. Over the last 20 years, I have moved into positions of increased responsibilities which have led to my current role in the Port Department. The Port of NY and NJ is a vital lifeline to the region, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Most of the goods shipped to your homes most likely came through the Port.
- My journey in the Port Authority has been nothing short of extraordinary. I have been able to reset and readjust my career path as I gained invaluable experiences in the different roles I have held.



< [PREV](#) | [HOME](#) | [NEXT](#) >



Jose Medina

Senior Financial Analyst in Aviation Financial Services Division

- My family is from the Dominican Republic and I was the first to be born in the USA. I earned my Bachelor of Science in Accountancy from Queens College in Flushing, NY. Having grown up in Corona, Queens, I know the pulse of the borough very well through my involvement in sports as a youth, particularly basketball. I have made lifelong friendships throughout the borough. As a teenager, I worked at the retail shops at LGA. I like to say that I went from being a knucklehead to becoming a college graduate and going on to build a career at the Port Authority, serving as an example of success in my community.
- I joined the PA right after the financial crisis and the job market was terrible at the time. I felt lucky to have landed a job at an agency where I could build a career. My greatest accomplishments in life include my loving marriage and becoming a father to my 7-year-old son and my 2-year-old daughter.



< [PREV](#) | [HOME](#) | [NEXT](#) >



Selene Ortega

Manager, Commodities & Services Division, Procurement Department

- I was born in Ecuador and came to the USA at the age of 9, living in Queens for most of my life. I have worked for the Port Authority for 32 years, starting at the age of 19 when I began as a college intern. I currently oversee the department that awards contracts minority, women, and small businesses as well as local businesses within the Port District.
- Through its Tuition Reimbursement Program, the Port Authority supported my earning a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing and a Master of Arts in Human Resources Training and Development. I am also a proud recipient of the 2017 Pillars of the Port Authority Award.
- I believe in giving back to those who are less fortunate by volunteering my time to make a difference. The Port Authority has provided me with a deep feeling of accomplishment, belonging and is where I have made friendships that will last a lifetime.



[< PREV](#) | [HOME](#) | [NEXT >](#)



Jessica Carmona

Staff Business Manager, Rail Transit Director's Office

- I was born in Miami, Florida. My father is a proud Cuban man who has been my rock and guiding light. His sacrifices have enabled me to enjoy a career at the Port Authority for 18 years.
- Working for the PA has changed my life (some say It is my life LOL!) by offering me opportunities and fostering relationships and ideas.
- I have had the opportunity to work in multiple departments and I am proud to say that I have earned a promotion that allows me to utilize my newly minted degree which I earned with the support of the PA Tuition Assistance Program.
- I have been able to provide a better life for myself and my family, in addition to being a supportive member of my community.



< PREV | HOME | NEXT >

