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SEGUNDA QUIMBAMBA FOLKLORIC CENTER
RECEIVES ITS FIRST GRANT FOR ARTS IN EDUCATION (AIE) FROM THE HUDSON COUNTY OFFICE OF CULTURAL AND HERITAGE AFFAIRS/TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

The Hudson County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs/Tourism Development (HCOCHA/TA) released a list of its 2023-2024 grant recipients and the Segunda Quimbamba Folkloric Center was awarded the $17,500 Arts in Education (AIE) Program Grant Award to continue and expand its educational programs in the dance and drum traditions of the Afro-Puerto Rican music of Bomba and Plena. This is the first time SQFC applied for support from the county's new funding resource for AIE programming.

Segunda Quimbamba Folkloric Center, founded in 1997 in Jersey City, is a 501(c)(3), charitable, cultural arts organization dedicated to the sustainable preservation, documentation, education and practice of Puerto Rico's Afro-Puerto Rican drum and dance music traditions: *la Bomba y la Plena.* Dating back some 400 years, these traditions have been passed down in Puerto Rico and throughout the diaspora, and SQFC is a leading organization responsible for expanding the Bomba y Plena community's footprint in New Jersey and throughout the region.

The Center houses Segunda Quimbamba, an 18-member performance ensemble that traces its history of playing the drums of Puerto Rico here in Jersey City back to 1989. Segunda Quimbamba has performed all over New Jersey and the larger New York City metropolitan area, plus Puerto Rico, Galicia, Spain, and Barbados. For decades, SQFC has sponsored dance and drum workshops and most recently has reached into public schools in New Jersey and Pennsylvania for dance instruction for our youth. This award will fully support the organization's arts for learning education programming in the public schools for K- 12 grades. SQFC will add Kearny High School in Kearny, NJ and Infinity Institute in Jersey City with this funding.

"Hudson County has supported Segunda Quimbamba Folkloric Center classes since 2007 with their LAP Local Arts Program funding, playing a vital role in Center's sustainability. These funds support our mission to expand reach and accessibility to impact students

learning in the public schools throughout Hudson County. This demonstration of support reaffirms what we have done in our community for so long," noted Juan Cartagena, Executive Director of SQFC.

Hudson County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs/Tourism Development advocates for the arts in Hudson County by providing support and resources to cultural organizations, individual artists, and small businesses to raise the dialogue on the arts in Jersey City and encourage residents and visitors to invest in Hudson County's rich and diverse arts and culture.

"We are excited to receive this support from the county especially as they have supported our dance and drum program for so many years and believe in the preservation of culture as much as we do. This award means we can expand our educational efforts for youth in their school setting, many of whom are eager to engage in the richness of our dance and the power of our drumming," stated Nanette Hernández, President of the SQFC Board and its Director of Development and Education. "*Gracias* to the HCOCHA/TA, Thomas A. DeGise, County Executive and the Board of County Commissioners for always believing in the power of the arts in community. Thank you for this show of confidence. *Que viva la Bomba y la Plena*!" she added.