



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

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Hartford, CT 06106
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Associate Commission Analyst

Orlando Rodríguez

Administrative Assistant

Clarisa Cardone

April 21, 2016

Dear Students:

The Connecticut General Assembly's Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission is accepting applications from qualified students for the Juan Fuentes Vizcarrondo annual scholarship award. The awards ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, 2016 in the Old Judiciary Room of the State Capitol located at 210 Capitol Avenue in Hartford, CT.

Applications can be submitted by high school seniors and students already attending college/university. DREAMers are also eligible to apply for this scholarship award.

You will find attached the checklist and student application form for use in applying for award consideration. Applications must be submitted in its entirety as incomplete submissions will not be accepted. The deadline for submission of applications is Friday, June 24, 2016. This deadline will not be extended. You must be of Latino heritage in order to be considered for the award.

Thank you for your participation in the Commission's programs and feel free to contact us at 860-240-8330 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Cruz

Richard A. Cruz

Chairman

Enclosures

cc: Special Projects Committee Members

If you are a college student who applied last year but were not awarded, feel free to re-apply for this year. Applicants are eligible to re-apply every year whether they received award or not.

"DREAMers" is named after the DREAM Act that failed to pass Congress in 2010 which was proposed as a way for young immigrants without immigration papers to gain legal status if they pursue college among other requirements.

Juan Fuentes Vizcarrondo Scholarship Award for Youth

Send completed applications to:

Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission
18-20 Trinity Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Complete applications can also be scanned & emailed to: lucy.hernandez@cga.ct.gov,
or faxed to: 860-240-0315
Phone: 860-941-9421

SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

- Be of Latino/a Heritage
- Have at least a 2.80 GPA
- Be a Connecticut Resident
- Be a High School Senior or College Student
- Have a demonstrated financial need for this scholarship

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Application Deadline is June 24, 2016

Application must be received or postmarked by this date.

1.	Completed Application Form	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Completed Essay	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	(2) Letters of Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	School Transcript <i>Official or Unofficial.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	First page of your Student Aid Report (SAR)* <i>printed after completing your FAFSA. DREAMERS-If you do not have a parental tax return, please attach the notarized financial affidavit (attached) signed by you and your parent(s).</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Resume: <i>including work experience, extracurricular activities, home responsibilities, honors, awards, and organizations you participate in.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	Letter of Acceptance from an accredited College or University.	<input type="checkbox"/>

** Students not able to complete the FAFSA may submit your parent's 2015 Tax Return (1040).*

LPRAC 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106 860-240-8330

JUAN FUENTES VIZCARRONDO SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION: (Please print or type)

Last:	First:	Middle:
Street Address:		
City or Town:	State:	Zip Code:
Phone Number:		
Email Address:		
Date of Birth:	Place of Birth:	
Gender:	Ethnicity:	
High School / College currently attending:		Graduation date:
High School or College, City / State:		
Are you currently in college?:		
If so, what year will you be next fall?:	Freshman	Sophomore
	Junior	Senior
GPA:	Circle one: weighted/un-weighted	Class Rank:
College you are planning to attend (seniors):		
College City / State:		
Expected Family Contribution (EFC) <i>from your FAFSA:</i>		
Number of family members in your house at the time of this application (including yourself):		
Number of family members in your house that will be enrolled in college next year:		

II. ESSAY (*Max two-pages, double spaced, 12pt font*)

1. Choose one of the following topics:
 - a. What are your future endeavors after college in order to contribute to the Latino/a community?
 - b. Name one or more current leaders in the Latino/a community at the local or national level that have contributed to the cultural, social, economic, or political life in the United States.

I hereby state that the answers in this application are complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that, if given an award, I shall do my best to maintain standards for scholarship and conduct which will reflect credit on me, my college/university and the CT General Assembly's Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission,

Student Signature

Date

LPRAC 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106 860-240-8330

1. Are you a family member or household member of a Commissioner or Staff member of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission? Yes No (circle 1 answer)

2. Do you work for the State of CT? Yes No (circle 1 answer)
If so, please state the department name and your Supervisor.

3. Does any member of your family or household work for the State of CT? Yes No
If so, please state the department name and supervisor.

4. Are you a Public Official? Yes No (circle 1 answer)
If so, please state your title and department name.

5. Is a member of your family or household a Public Official? Yes No (circle 1 answer)
If so, please state the name, title, and department name of the Public Official.

Note: Please refer to DEFINITIONS to help you answer the above questions.

I hereby state that the answers contained in this statement are complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY EXCLUSIONS

LPRAC Commissioners and LPRAC Staff are not eligible for this scholarship and may not provide letters of support for scholarship applicants.

Family* and/or household** members of LPRAC Commissioners and LPRAC Staff are not eligible for this scholarship and may not provide letters of support for scholarship applicants.

Public Officials*** and/or their family and/or household members are not eligible for this scholarship and may not provide letters of support for scholarship applicants.

No state employee who reports directly to a public official shall be eligible for this scholarship and may not provide letters of support for scholarship applicants. No family and/or household member of any state employee who reports directly to a public official shall be eligible for this scholarship and may not provide letters of support for scholarship applicants.

Any individual who is employed by or works for the Connecticut General Assembly and/or any Commission of the Connecticut General Assembly is not eligible for this scholarship and may not provide letters of support for scholarship applicants. Family and/or household members of any individual employed by or who works for the Connecticut General Assembly and/or any Commission of the Connecticut General Assembly are not eligible for this scholarship and may not provide letters of support for scholarship applicants.

Exceptions to these Exclusions: Maintenance/Facilities workers, Kitchen/Cafeteria workers, and Security workers across the three branches of state government.

DEFINITIONS

***Family members:** Includes spouse, parents, children, siblings, half-siblings, step-siblings, grandparents, mother-in-law-, father-in-law, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, cousins, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, adopted members, half members, step members, foster children.

****Household members:** Includes family and non-family households. Two or more cohabiting individuals who are related by birth, marriage, civil union, or adoption, and other unrelated people residing in a housing unit. Includes cohabiting and/or unmarried people who share their residence with unrelated or related individuals.

***** Public Official:** Includes federal or state appointed or elected officials, including elected or appointed officials at the executive, legislative, or judicial branches of the State of Connecticut, any state-wide elected officer, any member or member-elect of the General Assembly, any person appointed to any office of the legislative, judicial or executive branch of state government by the Governor or an appointee of the Governor, any public member or representative of the teachers' unions or state employees' unions appointed to the Investment Advisory Council, appointed or elected by the General Assembly or by any member of either house, any member or director of a quasi-public agency and the spouse of the Governor. At the Municipal level a public official is a Mayor, First Selectman, First Selectwoman, or Town Manager.



Juan Fuentes Vizcarrondo: the Latino Community's Photographer for 45 Years

*Juan Fuentes reading a newspaper at La Paloma Sabanera, a coffee shop-restaurant on Capitol Avenue
©2012 Pablo Delano*

By Doug Maine
CTLatinoNews.com

Juan M. Fuentes Vizcarrondo and his camera have borne witness to nearly every important news, social, and artistic event in Hartford's Latino community for more than 40 years.

Now 80, his efforts to chronicle the lives of Puerto Ricans and other Hispanics in the city began in 1967, when he had an opportunity to write a weekly column, in Spanish, for the Hartford Times, the city's afternoon newspaper. The column needed photos, so he built a darkroom in his apartment in Dutch Point and began capturing his community on film in a period that included riots in 1968 and increasing activism. Over the intervening years he figures he has had his work published in virtually every newspaper published in the city.

In choosing subjects, he said, "this building is here today; tomorrow it might not be there. But I don't look for beauty in mountains; I look for beauty in people. Our people, some of them, are very photogenic."

Puerto Rican Beauty & Strength

In an "artist's statement," prepared for one of many exhibitions of his photos, Fuentes said, "For over 40 years I have tried to capture the beauty and strength of the Puerto Rican experience in Hartford and Connecticut, in high-contrast black and white, as my people live and grow, work and play, age and die here in cold New England. I want people who see my work to learn about us as individuals not as stereotypes. I wanted to overcome the ignorance and racism about Puerto Ricans that existed then and still exists.

"However, when my people see my work, they are moved as well. They see their history, where they came from, their mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles and grandparents, the places where they lived, worked and played.

"When an image is captured in a photograph, it remains forever. I would like to be able to preserve the work I have done and make it available for the public to view and study and learn from, now and in the future, when the medium may become history as well. I also want to record the other Hispanic groups that made our community what it is today before they are forgotten through assimilation and the growth of newer immigrant groups. There is still much history to 'write with light' in Hartford's Hispanic community," he said.

Chronicler of History

Among the subjects of Fuentes' many images are: the 1972 visit of Marisol Malaret, the first Puerto Rican Miss Universe; the first San Juan Festival in 1978, where the great Tito Puente performed; the swearing-in of

Juan Figueroa as the first Puerto Rican state representative; the Los Macheteros trials in 1985; and hundreds of baptisms and weddings at Immaculate Conception and other Park Street churches.

As he pulled out a photo of Mildred Torres outside her campaign headquarters in 1979, Fuentes recalled one episode in Puerto Ricans' long struggle for political representation in city government. "María Sánchez was the person that had the political power in the Puerto Rican community. I spoke to (then-deputy mayor and power broker) Nick Carbone. When they had an opening on the Hartford City Council, they tried to evade their responsibility (by not putting a Puerto Rican in the seat), and María got in their face and they chose Mildred Torres as the first Puerto Rican council person."

In the next election, Tony González challenged Torres in a primary. "What happened was that Tony beat her because he was under the wing of (then-mayor) George Athanson. But she was the first appointed and Tony was the first elected."



Trumpeter Ray González, 1978

From the first Park Street Festival, held in 1978, he captured for eternity a sea of smiling faces, the crowd in front of a bandstand set up on the street. From the same stage, he photographed trumpeter Ray González in an iconic profile, poised to issue a clarion call for the celebration to begin. The latter photo is displayed in the walkway between the State Capitol and the Legislative Office Building, Fuentes said.

Self-Taught

Before leaving Puerto Rico, when he was in his first marriage, "my in-laws at that time had a place where they developed film for pharmacies and places like that, so I would go and watch," he said.

"I'm self-taught and I know everybody likes to have pictures, but I knew that Puerto Ricans didn't have the kind of money for that," he said.

Born in 1932 in Humacao, P.R., Fuentes was 31 in 1963 when he came to Hartford, following a brief, stay in New York City. He was unhappy with his job and "I had a Kodak one-shot point-and-shoot camera, but then I started reading, and the best teacher is a book," he said.

As for the artistic aspect of his photos, "that never was on my mind," Fuentes said. "I take pictures. You have to have light to take pictures." Fuentes doesn't have undeveloped rolls of film sitting around in his house; he developed all of the photographs he took. "If you don't develop it immediately, the film may spoil," he said.

He was involved in every step of the process, from loading the film to matting and framing the finished photos. "I shot it, I printed it," he said. "I don't let anybody touch my images because you never know."



Maria Sánchez

Unfortunately, in this digital era it has become too easy for people to copy photos and distribute them to others without compensating, or even identifying, the photographer. “People don’t understand the meaning of copyright,” said Fuentes, who is now careful to sign his prints in order to legally protect himself.

Writer and a Poet

The photographer is also a writer and poet. In 2009, Hartford’s Studio @ Billings Forge presented “Entre Palabras,” which included a small exhibit of Fuentes’ photographs and a reading from his book of poems “Sueños e Ilusiones.” Never intending for them to be published, he had sent the poems to his cousins in Puerto Rico and they were quickly convinced that they should be collected in a book.

Fuentes has also been recognized by area publications and has received numerous awards and official citations for theater performance and community service, including the Roberto Clemente Humanitarian Award in 1976; the declaration of Oct. 16, 1993, as Juan Fuentes Day in the City of Hartford; the Spanish American Merchants Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003; the Hispanic Professional Network’s Cultural Award in 2001 and its Award for Excellence in Media in 2005.

For Future Generations

As things change, he believes, “The only way we can show how we were is by photographs. Hay videos ‘nene’, pero once you freeze a moment with your camera, no matter what you do to the photograph, the moment is frozen ‘por eternidad’, for future generations.”

At 80, Fuentes is retired from his decades as a photojournalist and community historian, spending most of his time in the longtime home he shares with his wife Lucy in Hartford’s Blue Hills neighborhood. When he has the energy, he looks through the boxes that contain large framed prints of his black and white photographs, deciding which to include in a planned book.

He has spoken with his daughters about taking care of the photos when he is no longer able to do so, though he is also interested in finding a place and a means to archive the photographs and preserve them for future generations.



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Juan Fuentes Vizcarrondo
Scholarship Awards Program

Financial Affidavit

We, the undersigned, student and parent(s) do hereby affirm that
our annual income for _____(year) was \$_____ (amount).

Parent Signature Parent Signature

Student Applicant's Signature

Acknowledgment for Individual

State of Connecticut

County of _____

On this the _____ day of _____, _____, before me,
_____ (name of notary), personally appeared
_____, known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to
be the person(s) whose name(s) _____ (is or are) subscribed to the
within instrument and acknowledged that _____
(he/she/they) executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand

Date: _____ Notary Public

Print Name: _____

My Commission Expires:
