

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 12, 2020

NACLA Gala Dinner & Fundraiser Celebrates 50 Years of Solidarity With Latin America

The event will feature a diverse array of presenters from Latin America and the Caribbean as the organization reaffirms its mission to provide the highest quality English-language news and analysis on the region.

[New York, NY] On **March 14**, the **North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA)** will host a gala dinner and fundraiser at the **NYU Kimmel Center** to celebrate and showcase its 50-year history as an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting transnational solidarity and hemispheric justice.

WHERE: Eisner & Lubin Auditorium at the NYU Kimmel Center for University Life

WHEN: Saturday, March 14, 2020, 6PM—9:30PM

The date holds special significance as the two-year anniversary of the assassination of **Brazilian congresswoman Marielle Franco**. Her friend and former colleague **Jean Wyllys de Matos Santos**, forced into political exile due to death threats, will pay tribute with a short presentation. Before resigning his congressional seat, Wyllys was the first openly gay congressman in Brazil to champion LGBTQ+ rights. He is currently a visiting researcher at Harvard University.

The gala program also includes **Dr. Lorgia García Peña**, a highly regarded Latinx scholar who specializes in Afro-Latinx studies. Author of ***Borders of Dominicanidad*** (Duke University Press, 2016), she is a founding faculty member of Freedom University, a modern-day freedom school providing higher education to undocumented students. In late November, Dr. García Peña was thrust into the spotlight after being denied tenure at Harvard University. In response, thousands of students, activists, and university professors from around the country showed support by staging sit-ins, writing open letters, and organizing an academic symposium and other events to highlight the impact and importance of her work, further showcased with the hashtag #LorgiaFest.

The evening will also feature **Puerto Rican musician and activist Ani Cordero**. Cordero has released three albums and is co-founder of the **PRIMA Fund**, which has supported independent musicians and artists in Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane María. She will speak about the political situation in Puerto Rico, as well as pay homage to the recent social uprisings in Latin America with a solo acoustic performance of *música de protesta*.

Finally, **Salvadoran-born poet Javier Zamora** will speak on themes of immigration and civil war explored in his award-winning poetry collection ***Unaccompanied*** (Copper Canyon Press, 2017), which is based on his experience as an unaccompanied minor who traveled 4,000 miles, across multiple borders, from El Salvador to the United States to be reunited with his parents. Zamora is also a co-founder of the **Undocupoets campaign**, which promotes the work of undocumented poets in the United States. Most recently, he was a **2018-19 Radcliffe Fellow at Harvard University**.

For media inquiries, please contact **NACLA Outreach Coordinator Néstor David Pastor** via email at ndpastor@nacla.org or by phone at **(917) 256-9215**.

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The [North American Congress on Latin America](http://nacla.org) (NACLA) is an independent, non-profit organization that was founded in 1966 to research and disseminate information on U.S. involvement in Latin America. It has since become the leading source for English-language progressive news and analysis on the region, publishing the award-winning *NACLA Report on the Americas* and regular web content on its website, nacla.org.