

BUFFALO
HUMANITIES
FESTIVAL



SEPT. 25-26 | 2026

BREAKING NEWS



ALL EVENTS HELD AT THE **CENTRAL BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY** (1 LAFAYETTE SQUARE)

FRI. SEPT. 25
AN EVENING WITH
JUAN GONZÁLEZ
(DEMOCRACY NOW)

6:00PM | CHECK-IN 5:30PM

SAT. SEPT. 26 10:00AM-5:30PM
CHECK-IN 9:30AM

Talks, roundtables, workshops, and
opportunities to connect with like-minded
lovers of the arts and humanities.

Presented by the University at Buffalo Humanities Institute, Buffalo State University, Canisius University, Daemen University, Niagara University, and the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. Sponsored in-part by the Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY.



FREE EVENTS | FOR REGISTRATION & DETAILS VISIT **BUFFALOHUMANITIES.ORG**

WELCOME

BREAKING? OR IS IT ALREADY BROKEN?

With seismic forces at work radically and rapidly altering the shifting media ecosystem, how do we—as ordinary citizens in extraordinary times—decipher what is happening in the world and in our local communities? How do we stay informed in this “news mirage” while critically assessing each BREAKING NEWS moment?

The 2026 Buffalo Humanities Festival (Sept. 25th – 26th) takes up the theme of BREAKING NEWS! to reflect on how residents of WNY can support the vital, fact-based research and investigative reporting necessary for maintaining collective life in our neighborhoods, cities, and other experiments in democracy.

Every year, the Buffalo Humanities Festival brings together local universities and organizations for an annual celebration of ideas, art, and activities featuring talks and panel discussions by scholars, artists, and community activists designed to provoke thought, spur new encounters, and introduce attendees to new friends in the city.

The Festival kicks off on Friday evening with award-winning journalist, social activist, author, and public intellectual **Juan González** (Democracy Now!). On Saturday we will open with Juan González joining for a roundtable session of local journalists, followed by a full day of talks, workshops, performances, and conversations celebrating the humanities and their vital role in our collective experiments in democracy. The Festival closing session will feature Buffalo News editorial cartoonist **Adam Zyglis**.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Shannon Dowd, Niagara University
Ruth Goldman, SUNY Buffalo State
Ajitpaul Mangat, Niagara University
Christina Milletti, University at Buffalo
Andrea Pitts, University at Buffalo
Richard Reitsma, Canisius University

Daniel Shanahan, Daemen University
Amy Wolf, Canisius University

STAFF

Maki Tanigaki, University at Buffalo
Claire Tranchino, University at Buffalo

BREAKING NEWS

OVERVIEW

ALL FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25 / 6 PM / AN EVENING WITH JUAN GONZÁLEZ

📍 Buffalo & Erie County Central Library - Auditorium (1 Lafayette Sq.) - Use Clinton Street entrance.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26 / 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM / FESTIVAL DAY

📍 Buffalo & Erie County Central Library (1 Lafayette Sq.)

ABOUT

The Buffalo Humanities Festival's mission is to foster dialogue, the sharing of ideas, and the enjoyment of the humanities among the public, scholars, and artists. We believe that the understanding of history, culture, literature, arts media, and the diverse traditions of the humanities are an essential part of life and that this greater understanding fosters civic engagement. Each year, the festival draws on our city's many rich academic traditions and resources to engage the most pressing questions of our time.

HELP KEEP THE FESTIVAL FREE

Donate now to support a fee-free festival (Suggested donation amounts of \$10, \$25, or \$50 -- whatever you are comfortable contributing. Every bit helps!)



2026 BUFFALO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL
FRIDAY / SEPT. 25

AN EVENING WITH JUAN GONZÁLEZ



📍 Buffalo & Erie County Central Library – Auditorium (1 Lafayette Sq.)

5:30 p.m. | Registration/Check-In open

- Copies of *Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America* and *News for All the People: The Epic Story of Race and the American Media* by Juan González available for purchase courtesy of Talking Leaves Books

6:00 p.m. | An Evening with **Juán Gonzalez**

- Welcome by **Christina Milletti** Interim Director, UB Humanities Institute
- Introduction and Q+A by **Andrea Pitts** Interim Executive Director, UB Humanities Institute

7:45 p.m. | Book signing session (auditorium lobby)



BREAKING
NEWS SEPT. 20
25-26/26

ABOUT JUAN GONZÁLEZ

Juan González has emerged over the past 50 years as a nationally known Latino journalist, social activist, author, and public intellectual. He was a staff columnist for New York's Daily News from 1987 to 2016 and has been a co-host since 1996 of Democracy Now, a daily morning news show that airs on more than 1,500 community and public radio and television stations across the US and Latin America.

His investigative reports on urban policy, race relations, the labor movement and Latin America have garnered numerous accolades, including two George Polk Awards for commentary, and in 2015 he became the first Latino to be inducted into the Society of Professional Journalists New York Journalism Hall of Fame.

González has also authored five books, including two acclaimed histories. One of them, *Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America* has been required reading for two decades in college courses across the country, even spawning an award-winning documentary film that he narrated. His *News for All the People: The Epic Story of Race and the American Media*, co-authored with Joseph Torres, was a *New York Times* best-seller and a finalist for the Robert F. Kennedy Award. As a result, González was elected in 2016 a fellow of the New York Academy of History.

One of the original founders of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ), he served as the group's president from 2002-2004. During that time, he spearheaded a nationwide effort by professional journalists to successfully challenge the Federal Communications Commission's dismantling of media ownership regulations.

Even before he entered journalism, González was a well-known 1960s activist, as a key figure of the Columbia University student revolt of 1968, and later as a leader of the militant Puerto Rican group the Young Lords, and of the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights.

Born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, he was raised in East Harlem and Brooklyn, New York. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia, has been a visiting professor at Brooklyn College and New York University, and was the Richard D. Heffner Professor of Communications and Public Policy at Rutgers University from 2017 to 2023 and is currently a Senior Fellow at the Great Cities Institute of the University of Illinois-Chicago.

TIME	RING OF KNOWLEDGE (1 ST FLOOR)	GALLERY CONFERENCE (2 ND FLOOR)	ATRIUM MEETING (2 ND FLOOR)	CENTRAL MEETING (2 ND FLOOR)	AUDITORIUM (GROUND FLOOR)
WELCOME 10:00 AM – 10:15 AM				Festival Welcome Christina Milletti, UB HI Christine Schonhart, BECPL	
SESSION 1 10:15 AM – 11:30 AM				Value of Local Journalism Juan González David Butler Alberto O. Cappas Dan Higgins	Selena Pham Adam Smith-Perez Moderator: S.J. Velasquez
---BREAK---	--- Complimentary Coffee + Tea in Gallery ---				
SESSION 2 11:40 AM – 12:50 PM	Lynching and Generic Transformation in Recent American Literature and Culture Jennifer Ryan-Bryant	Remembering to Forget: a new framework for dementia Juan Carlos Zaldivar	Democracy, News Coverage, and Ideological Perceptions of Politicians Jay Wendland Alex Lumanog	Future of Journalism Grace Cole Katie Dusza Mylien Lai Andrew Nowel	Marcus Ramos Kaden Zhong Moderator: Allison Siehnel
---LUNCH---	--- Complimentary Light Lunch in Gallery ---				
SESSION 3 1:30 PM – 2:40 PM	From Margins to Center: The (D)evolution of Mainstream News Coverage of Conspiracy Theories Carrie T. Isard	When the story breaks: exploring the impact and consequences of news media l'Jaz Ja'ciel	Authoritarianism in Turkey: Understanding "Authoritarian Upgrading" Dersu Ekim Tanca		
---BREAK---	--- Complimentary Coffee + Tea in Gallery ---				
SESSION 4 2:50 PM – 4:00 PM	Who Broke the News, and Can We Fix It? Yini Zhang	Hidden from the Headlines: Food, Hunger, and Kindness Behind Bars Veronica L. Horowitz		Alt-Media Christopher Fritton Heather Gring Julie Setele	
---BREAK---	--- Move to Auditorium ---				
SESSION 5 4:15 PM – 5:30 PM				The Front Line of the First Amendment Adam Zyglis	



2026 BUFFALO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL
SATURDAY / SEPT. 26

Spotlight on Local Publications

Buffalo Latino Village | <https://buffalolatinovillage.com>

Buffalo Niagara Proud Alliance | <https://bnproud.org/proud-voice/>

The Buffalo News | <https://buffalonews.com>

Buffalo Toronto Public Media | <https://www.btpm.org>

Investigative Post | <https://investigativepost.org>

Lake Rats Dispatch | <https://lake-rats-dispatch.square.site>

M.U.V. Magazine | <https://muv-magazine.com>

Buffalo State University - The Record | <https://buffstaterecord.com>

Canisius University - The Griffin | <https://www.griffinnewspaper.com>

University at Buffalo - The Spectrum | <https://www.ubspectrum.com>

The Buffalo Contrarian | <https://thebuffalocontrarian.com>

The Buffalo Criterion | <https://www.thebuffalocriterion.com>

Challenger Community News | <https://www.buffchallnews.com>

Seneca Media | <https://sninews.org>

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



**BREAKING
NEWS** SEPT. 20
25-26/26

Many thanks to all the individuals and organizations whose generous support, investment of time, and sharing of talent have made the 2026 Buffalo Humanities Festival possible.

To our wonderful presenters and participants, we are honored to have you join us as we examine Breaking News.

To our attendees, we thank you for spending your valuable time with us and we hope you leave the festival with new friends, ideas, and inspiration.

To our partners and collaborators, we thank you for all your efforts in making the 2026 festival a special event:

- Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
- Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York
- Julian Montague (Montague Projects)
- Talking Leaves Books

We would like to acknowledge the land on which the Buffalo Humanities Festival takes place, which is the territory of the Seneca Nation, a member of the Haudenosaunee/Six Nations Confederacy. This territory is covered by The Dish with One Spoon Treaty of Peace and Friendship, a pledge to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. It is also covered by the 1794 Treaty of Canandaigua, between the United States Government and the Six Nations Confederacy, which further affirmed Haudenosaunee land rights and sovereignty in the State of New York. Today, this region is still the home to the Haudenosaunee people, and we are grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and share ideas in this territory.

2026 BUFFALO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH *Event Schedule* SEPT 15-OCT 15

2026

"Sharing the future together! *Unidos Somos Mas, Together, We are more.*"

SEPTEMBER 15 @ 12PM

HMM KICK OFF EVENT
BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY LIBRARY
1 LAFAYETTE SQUARE, BUFFALO, NY 14203

SEPTEMBER 18 @ 7PM

SALSA FOR A CURE
PUCHO'S SOCIAL CLUB
261 SWAN ST., BUFFALO, NY 14204

SEPTEMBER 19 @ 530PM

MEAT RAFFLE GABRIEL A. RODRIGUEZ POST 1928
PUCHO'S SOCIAL CLUB
261 SWAN ST., BUFFALO, NY

SEPTEMBER 20 @ 1230PM

HOLY CROSS R.C. MASS CELEBRATION
1345 SEVENTH STREET BUFFALO, NY 14201

SEPTEMBER 22 @ 12PM

ROSWELL PARK HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH EVENT
ELM & CARLTON STREETS, BUFFALO, NY

SEPTEMBER 25 @ 4PM

100 TH CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
HERMAN BADILLO BILINGUAL ACADEMY
315 CAROLINA STREET BUFFALO, NY 14201

OCTOBER 3 @ 5-730PM

FESTIVAL DEL ENCANTO KLEINHANS
KLEINHANS
3 SYMPHONY CIRCLE, BUFFALO, NY

OCTOBER 4, 2026 @ 12PM

COOKING LESSONS AT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM
BUFFALO SCIENCE MUSEUM
1020 HUMBOLDT PARKWAY, BUFFALO, NY

OCTOBER 5 @ 9PM

HISPANIC HERITAGE AWARDS
BUFFALO TORONTO PUBLIC MEDIA
RWNEED - PBS CH 17

OCTOBER 9 @ 11AM

HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION AT EXPLORE AND MORE
EXPLORE AND MORE
130 MAIN ST, BUFFALO, NY

OCTOBER 13 @ 5-7PM

BPS INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNITY RECEPTION
RSVP INFO@HISPANICHERITAGEWNY.ORG
HUB 306-1 (CONNECTICUT & WEST)
DYVOILLE UNIVERSITY, BUFFALO, NY

SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 15

BUFFALO TORONTO PUBLIC MEDIA
RWNEED - PBS CH 17
PROGRAM LIST
VISIT - WWW.BTPM.ORG



BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY EVENTS: 1300 ELMWOOD AVENUE

ASSEMBLY (POETRY)
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17 - 12:15PM STUDENT UNION
ASSEMBLY(LATIN DANCE DEMO)
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24 - 12:15PM STUDENT UNION
ASSEMBLY(ECHOES OF EMPIRES)
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 29 - 12:15PM STUDENT UNION
ASSEMBLY (LATIN DANCE DEMO)
THURSDAY OCTOBER 1 - 12:15PM STUDENT UNION
ASSEMBLY (HISPANIC HERITAGE COUNCIL)
THURSDAY OCTOBER 13 - 12:15PM STUDENT UNION
HALL (ZARZUELA GALA)
THURSDAY OCTOBER 15 - 7:30PM CIMINELLI RECITAL

BUFFALO ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES (4 LECTURES)

ELAINE M. PANTY LIBRARY 820 TONAWANDA ST:
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 6:30PM
ANGOLA LIBRARY 34 N. MAIN ST:
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1:00PM
AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY 550 MAIN ST:
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 6:30PM
NEWESTAD PUBLIC LIBRARY 33 MAIN ST:
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 6:30PM

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO 2026 BUFFALO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL (TWO EVENTS)

JUAN GONZÁLEZ (DEMOCRACY NOW!)
AWARD WINNING JOURNALIST, AUTHOR, SOCIAL ACTIVIST
REGISTER: BUFFALO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL -
A FESTIVAL OF IDEAS
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25 | 6PM
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26 | 10AM

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO 2026 BUFFALO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 29 @ 6PM

FILM SCREENING WEST SIDE FAMILIA (2026)
PUERTO RICAN FILMMAKER, TAYLOR HOSKING
HALL WALLS CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER
341 DELAWARE AVE.BUFFALO NY



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND EVENTS, VISIT WWW.HISPANICHERITAGEWNY.ORG

The 2026 Buffalo Humanities Festival is presented by the University at Buffalo's Humanities Institute in cooperation with Canisius University, Daemen University, SUNY Buffalo State University, and the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. The Buffalo Humanities Festival is made possible with support from the UB College of Arts and Sciences, UB Vice President for Research and Economic Development, and the Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York.