Greetings!

We thank you for keeping up with our updates and supporting our mission. This month, at Chica Project (CP), we are commemorating Black History Month and gearing up for our Dinner Party with a Twist; 8th Year Anniversary fundraiser. Read below about our sponsorships levels and how to purchase tickets to help us spread the word.

In just one month, UWander, our international service-learning program, will be traveling to the Dominican Republic. See below for more information on the different ways you can support!

Furthermore, we are especially grateful to the Lewis Family Foundation for supporting our work with a generous award of $7,250. Read below about their powerful work!

Finally, a big thank you to our spotlighted mentor, Johanna Ureña, who connected us to Converse to participate in their Representation Matters MLK event. Our youth spent time listening to their staff’s personal and professional testimonies, received Converse wardrobe, saw a special product sneak preview, and participated in a photo shoot!

We believe in a future where every Woman of Color has access to the education, experiences, and guidance required to realize her true potential. Thank you for cheering us along!

Interim Executive Director
**Events**

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**Open Runway Open Mic**

*Friday, February 22nd*

**6:00-8:00pm**

**Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building**

Bring your talents to our open mic to celebrate your culture with *Teen Empowerment* for Black History Month. Wear something special, showcase your talents, and celebrate with us!

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**RSVP**

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**Friday, February 28th**

**5:30-7:30pm**

**Doña Habana Restaurant**

Join us as we welcome **Dr. Debra Joy Pérez**, Ph.D. to the Greater Boston community! We look forward to hearing about her journey as a powerful and...
You are invited to our next *Queens Rise* event, "Own Your Power"! Come be in community and learn more about owning and claiming your cultural identity. Our guest speaker, *Yvette Modestin*, is a writer, poet and activist born and raised in Colon, Panama. Ms. Modestin was named one of “30 Afro Latinas You Should Know” in the world. For more information or to RSVP, please email our Program Coordinator, *Diana Vasquez*. 
Join us for our Dinner Party with a Twist, a youth led event in celebration of 8 years of impact! The event will take place at Simmons University with a special performance from one of the world’s best tap dancers, Ayodele Casel, who embodies the true meaning of CP’s essence. Click the link below to learn more and buy your ticket for the event and/or become a sponsor this year!
Our participants from Academy of the Pacific Rim Charter Public School, Cristo Rey High School and Lawrence High School were excited to participate in such an exciting learning opportunity.

Thank you, Converse, for allowing our young women to see positive representations of themselves and serving as powerful role models and resources for them. We are grateful.
The Lewis Family Foundation’s (LFF) work in Boston is focused on young people from Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan. Their vision is that young people from these neighborhoods would continue to live in and reinvest their service, capital, and intellect into their communities, ensuring that they continue to thrive and further become places of opportunity and access. Over the years, the LFF has given more than $30 million to invest in young people from these neighborhoods.

Their strategic giving to these neighborhoods focuses on organizations aligned with the top three goals of the foundation:

1) CollegeWorks Goal: More than double the number of students from Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan who earn a 4-year college degree by 2020.


3) Leadership Goal: Develop 70 community and nonprofit leaders to strengthen the
"We are excited to include Chica Project as one of our Associates’ Fund Grantees, which empowers young women to recognize their strengths and build the self-confidence and self-efficacy needed to graduate from high school, attend college, and move on to pathways to economic success. We value the approach Chica Project takes to disrupt unequal education and economic systems by developing the next generation of young women of color to be resilient thinkers, dreamers, and leaders," said President Juma Crawford.

That's a Chica!

Johanna Ureña is a high school Spanish teacher. She was born in the Dominican Republic and moved to the United States at the tender age of eight when her family began their search for better financial and educational opportunities. She is now the first in her family to complete a Masters degree program.

Johanna tells us, "I love to work with the youth and give back in any way I can because it reminds me of all of the people who have played an important role in my life and development as a professional."

In what capacity are you involved with Chica Project?

I am involved with CP as a Queens Rise mentor. This has allowed me to meet wonderful young women through different workshops and events that focus on important topics that the youth are impacted by today, or would at some point in their lives.

Why did you decide to volunteer with Chica Project?

I chose to volunteer with CP because I believe everyone should have at least one mentor in their life. My hopes are that through this program, eventually, someone can consider me as a person who they can call a mentor, or just someone who is willing to help and support them.

What is the value that Chica Project has had in your life?

CP has been my small lifeline to Latinas, other Women of Color, and youth that continue to ignite my passion to succeed in all I do. After recently switching jobs from Lawrence to Haverhill, the change of cultural scenery was definitely a shock, and I know there's still a lot of work to do in the Latino community, which is why I am proud to be in CP. I am so grateful for this opportunity and hope to be even more involved next year.

#thatsachica

Ways You Can Support UWander

1. Participate in our Backpack Drive ideally before February 27th. Anything donated after this date will be shipped later on to the Dominican Republic.
2. Donate a **Children's Book**.


Goal = 150 Backpacks

- 2 marble notebooks [no wires]
- 1 Coloring book
- Color pencils
- No. 2 Pencils

Goal = 100 Childrens' Books in Spanish

**Drop off Sites:**

**Boston**
Chica Project's Office
98 N Washington St
B5, Boston, MA 02114
Monday – Friday from 10 am – 3 pm

**Lawrence**
Lawrence Public Library
51 Lawrence St,
Lawrence, MA 01841
Monday – Friday from 10 am – 3 pm

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**Opportunities**

[**upstream USA**](https://www.upstreamusa.org)

[**ONE GOAL**](https://onegoal.org)

[**Children's Services of Roxbury**](https://www.csor.org)

**Edward M. Kennedy Institute**

**Children's Services of Roxbury**

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