Greetings,

On behalf of Chica Project’s staff and volunteers, we thank you for joining our first virtual event, Dinner Party with a Twist 9th annual fundraiser on May 9th! It was a night filled with love, resilience, and a true demonstration of youth empowerment.

We are extremely grateful to our honorary performer and keynote speaker, Amanda Mena, who is originally from the Dominican Republic and a Lynn native attending St. Mary’s High School. Some of you may know her from La Voz Kids, and most recently the 2018 edition of America’s Got Talent! Amanda swept us off our seats with her powerful voice and anecdotes on what it means to be a proud and resilient young Woman of Color who overcame adversity to reach her dreams.

A special thank you to our guest speakers, youth speakers, and mentor speaker; Megan Florestal, Josiris Vasquez, Leanette Victoria Brito, Najma Sharif, and Belkis Frias who shared their powerful stories of how Chica Project has helped them embrace their inner confidence to be change agents in their own lives and communities.
Thank you again to our fabulous event planner Alam Shah, DJ Why Sham, consultants Eldin Villafaña and Felicité Cesaire, board members, mentors, volunteers, and staff for putting this event together. And of course, so much appreciation and love to our sponsors Kate Ford, Aileen McHugh, and (see below):

Con agradecimiento (with gratitude),

Erika Rodriguez
Executive Director
Our Youth Participant and Mentor Speakers

Megan Florestal
Rising junior at Stonehill College, Alumna

Leanette Victoria Brito
8th grader at Sacred Heart School, First Year Participant

Josiris Vasquez
10th grader at KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate High School, Second Year Participant

Belkis Frias
Talent Acquisition Associate at Partners Healthcare, Second Year Mentor

Najma Sharif
12th grader at Boston Latin Academy and attending Northeastern University in the Fall, First Year Participant
Watch Najma's video to hear about her inspiring journey and recent acceptance to the Torch Scholars Program!

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**Inspiring Words from our Special Guests**

*Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley*
"For so long our girls have been unseen and unheard so it feels good to be a part of Chica Project, where we ensure that they are seen and heard, that they are poured into, loved on, that there is nothing that they can't accomplish and that their village will always wrap around them."

*Boston City Councilor At Large Julia Mejia*
"As an Afro Latina, I am all about making sure that our young women recognize that there is strength in our struggle. And no matter where we go and how we show up, we have to bring all of who we are into all spaces because it is our voice that helps inform how people think."

*District Attorney Rachael Rollins*
"I want you to look at women like us and know that you can be us and even better. I’m 49 years old and I don’t want you to wait that long to do all the things you are capable of doing now."

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**Before you head out...**
It is not too late to show your support! If you didn’t have the opportunity to donate yet, or would like to make another contribution, you can do so [here](#) or text "Chica Project" to 44321.