

# WHITNEY

Whitney Museum  
of American Art  
Press Office

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## PRESS RELEASE

### WHITNEY MUSEUM HOSTED PROGRAM EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF LATINOS ON THE LEGACY OF AMERICAN BASEBALL AS PART OF FREE FRIDAY NIGHTS



**New York, NY, April 28, 2026** — Last Friday, April 24, the Whitney Museum of American Art hosted a special conversation, presented by Aspen Conexión in partnership with the Embassy of the Dominican Republic, exploring the impact of Latinos on America’s favorite pastime, baseball. [¡Peloteros! Latinos Shaping the Legacy of American Baseball](#) included panelists from across the fields of art, culture, sports, and economics. The program coincided with one of the Whitney’s [Free Friday Nights](#), which provides free admission from 5–10 pm each week, reflecting the Museum’s commitment to access and building community, opening its doors wider and creating space for shared experiences, connection, and curiosity.

Whitney Museum Deputy Director I.D. Aruede welcomed guests to the theater and introduced the program participants. Highlighting Dominican contributions to baseball in particular, the program featured remarks from Her Excellency María Isabel Castillo Báez, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic; Nelson Cruz, Major League Baseball legend and former player with a 19-season career, and winner of the Roberto Clemente and Muhammad Ali Awards; Francisco Cordero, former MLB All-Star, Dominican Baseball Hall of Famer, and current International Special Assistant with the MLB Players Association; and Miguel Batista, former MLB All-Star

and current International Special Assistant with the MLB Players Association, among others. The program also delved into the cultural and economic impact of Latino athletes and fans, discussing insights from the Aspen–McKinsey report, *Unlocking the Growing Power of Latino Fans: Building a Stronger Sports Economy*. The evening concluded with a conversation between Cris Scorza, Helena Rubinstein Chair of Education at the Whitney, and María Amalia León, President of Fundación León Jimenes and Centro Cultural Eduardo León Jimenes. The discussion focused on the intersection of arts and baseball, demonstrating how thoughtful programming can connect art, culture, and lived experience. Historic photographs from the Centro Cultural Eduardo León Jimenes were also shared, connecting the conversation to a rich visual history.



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## PRESS CONTACT

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## PROGRAM SUPPORT

Major support for Free 25 and Under is provided by Susan and John Hess and Julie Mehretu. Significant support is provided by Judy Hart Angelo.

Major support for Free Friday Nights is provided by Jen Rubio and Stewart Butterfield and Paul Arnhold and Wes Gordon. Significant support is provided by Leslie Bluhm and David Helfand, and the Brown Foundation Inc., of Houston.

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ACCESS  
FOR ALL

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## ABOUT THE WHITNEY

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for ninety years. The core of the Whitney's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today.

### **Whitney Museum Land Acknowledgment**

The Whitney is located in Lenapehoking, the ancestral homeland of the Lenape. The name Manhattan comes from their word Mannahatta, meaning "island of many hills." The Museum's current site is close to land that was a Lenape fishing and planting site called Sapponckanikan ("tobacco field"). The Whitney acknowledges the displacement of this region's original inhabitants and the Lenape diaspora that exists today.

As a museum of American art in a city with vital and diverse communities of Indigenous people, the Whitney recognizes the historical exclusion of Indigenous artists from its collection and program. The Museum is committed to addressing these erasures and honoring the perspectives of Indigenous artists and communities as we work for a more equitable future. To read more about the Museum's Land Acknowledgment, [visit the Museum's website](#).

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## VISITOR INFORMATION

The Whitney Museum of American Art is located at 99 Gansevoort Street between Washington and West Streets, New York City. Public hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10:30

am–6 pm; Friday, 10:30 am–10 pm; and Saturday and Sunday, 10:30 am–6 pm. Closed Tuesday. Visitors twenty-five years and under and Whitney members: FREE. The Museum offers FREE admission and special programming for visitors of all ages every Friday evening from 5–10 pm and on the second Sunday of every month.

**Image credit:**

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