

En La Vida



A MONTHLY LGBTQ+ NEWSLETTER FROM WINDY CITY TIMES

Hello lovely readers,

Welcome to the first revamped edition of En La Vida!

I'm so excited to be along on this ride with you. I'm Lu Calzada, a native Chicagoan and freelance journalist focused on queer news, Latino stories and all things fun or interesting in Chicago. I love this city and the wide variety of communities within it—I myself am the product of Mexican and Polish immigrants who took a chance on this town and stuck around all these years.

When I was a teenager and deciding I wanted to be a journalist, I never realized this type of role or reporting existed. I got involved with Windy City Times and La Raza during my time in grad school at Northwestern University and had my eyes opened to all the amazing work being done for these communities. I'm honored to share these important queer Latino stories with you every month, especially in these difficult times.

I'd like to take a moment to express my prayers to our beautiful and resilient immigrant community. You make our city and our country great, and we are better because you are here living alongside us.

A thank you is in order to the amazing staff at Windy City Times for working tirelessly to bring En La Vida and our counterpart for the Black queer community, BLACKlines, off the ground. This is a critical point for local journalism, and all the folks here are some of the most dedicated, talented people I've worked with. Thank you for supporting us!

We've got some interesting and powerful stories for you this month and I'm excited to finally share them with you.

This is a scary time, but I'm inspired by the many people I've spoken to for my stories who emphasized how we are stronger together in community. I'm so thankful to be a part of that here with you.



Lu Calzada

En La Vida Newsletter Coordinator

📧 Were you forwarded this email? [Sign up here](#) to receive BLACKlines on the fourth Wednesday of each month!

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Our top story 📣



**LGBTQ+ films highlight diversity at
2025 Chicago Latino Film Festival**

By Jake Wittich

The Chicago Latino Film Festival kicks off its 41st edition next month and includes a handful of LGBTQ+ films.

The festival runs April 3-14 with a program of 51 features and 30 short films hailing from Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, Portugal and the United States—and more than a third of the films are directed or co-directed by women.

Among its LGBTQ+ programming are one feature film and four shorts that vary in genre and subject matter. Sandra Bernal, programming manager for the festival, said this was part of an intentional effort to make sure the festival reflects the diversity of the Latino community.

“We want this festival to represent our society, and our society includes us all,” Bernal said.

The LGBTQ+ feature, *Clear Nights*, is a drama from Portugal that tells the story of two siblings trying to rediscover themselves while confronting problems like postpartum depression, divorce and coming to terms with bisexual identity.

The four LGBTQ+ shorts include:

- *To Kill a Man*, a Cuban film directed by Orlando Mora Cabrera
- *Unless We Dance*, a Colombian documentary directed by Hanz Rippe Gabriel and Fernanda Pineda Palencia
- *The City We Occupy*, a Guatemalan drama directed by Joaquín Ruano
- *Come Again One Day*, a film from Uruguay directed by Catalina Torres

Learn more about each film—and other festival highlights—at the link below.

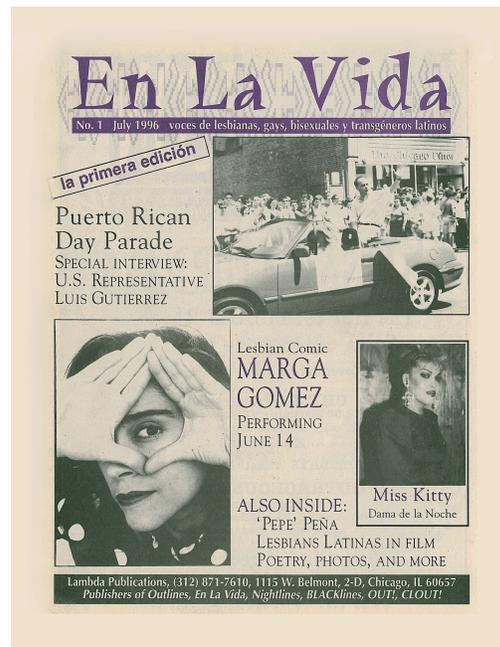
[Read more](#)

En La Vida's 1st issue

July 1996

The first issue of En La Vida covered a range of topics, including a feature on the Puerto Rican Day Parade, an interview with then-U.S. Rep Luis Gutierrez and a Q&A with Jose "Pepe" Peña of Sidetrack.

[Read more](#)



Editors: Tracy Baim and Edgar "Ziggy" Gutierrez

More En La Vida stories



Anthony Quezada nabs key endorsements in bid to succeed Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa

[Read more](#)



ALMA leader discusses accomplishments—and plans for an uncertain 2025

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Alicia T. Vega reflects on Amigas Latinas and a life in activism

[Read more](#)



Queer Chicana artist uses traditional styles to highlight immigrant experiences, spirituality

[Read more](#)



Queer Chicago artist uplifts underrepresented queer experiences through art

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National Museum of Mexican Art holds Anti-Valentine's Ball

[Read more](#)

Other LGBTQ+ news 

- [Chicago Women in Trades sues feds over anti-DEI executive orders](#)
- [Quigley reaffirms transgender support at town hall](#)
- [Rebranded LGBTQ Sports Hall of Fame to include Chicago inductee in new class](#)
- [AIDS Foundation of Chicago sues Trump administration over discriminatory executive orders](#)



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For the Social Butterflies

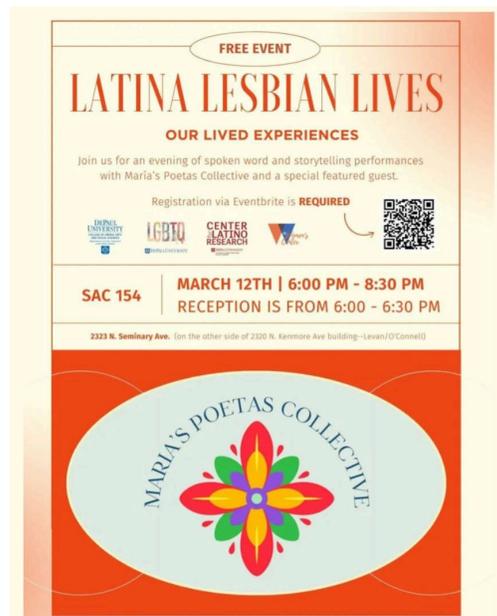
Latina Lesbian Lives by Maria's Poetas Collective

 **17** : March 12 from 6-8:30 p.m.

 : DePaul University's 154 Schmitt Academic Center, 2320 N. Kenmore Ave.

 : Free

[More info](#)



More Latinx LGBTQ+ Events

March 15: [La Decima Musa: Day 1 at the National Museum of Mexican Art](#)

April 4-13: [Chicago Latino Film Festival](#)

April 11: [PrEPárate Gallery Exhibition](#)

Windy City Times adds new events every week to the Chicago Social Butterflies calendar. To submit your event, go to our [submission page](#).



Subscribe to Chicago Social Butterflies
for more LGBTQ+ events!

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Windy City Times

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5315 N. Clark St. #192, Chicago, Illinois, United States of America

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