For Immediate Release **Oct 6th, 2026**

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HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

EMPANADA SMACKDOWN AT Hispanic Heritage Celebration at Centennial Park in Historic YBOR City @ 8th Annual: TASTE OF LATINO FESTIVAL.

Top Hispanic/Latino Leaders celebrate Hispanic Heritage in Tampa Bay!

Tampa, FL; Celebrate Hispanic Heritage in Ybor City / Tampa, Florida on Sunday, Oct 11th, 2026, at Centennial Park: 1800 E. 8th Avenue, Tampa, FL. **Free General Entry.**

Time: Noon – 6 PM. The free family festival will be held at 3 City Streets, as well as at Ybor's Popular Centennial Park. The VIP area will be held at the Ybor City Museum and Gardens.

Guests will enjoy Food, ART and LIVE Music!

FEATURING LIVE MUSIC and DANCE PERFORMANCES!

Revelacion Salsera, RUMBERO SPOT, plus Dance performances BRING your beach chair and ENJOY LIVE Performances by! PLUS Vaya DJ, Johnnie Rivera AND LA MAXIMA HOSTING AND EMCEE!

Guests can also enjoy Free Salsa Dance Lessons! Are you a good Domino player? If so Register to be a part of our Domino Tournament! - stay tuned to our website for details – or register to receive our newsletter and we will let you know!

ENJOY the Awards Ceremony Featuring the 2026 TOP Latino Lideres (Latino Leaders) with Leaders coming from all over Tampa Bay and Florida to be recognized and receive the Latino Lideres Award – the 2026 Lideres Include: Jose & Cristina Alonzo; Sandra Atiles-Tyrrell, Honorable Danny Alvarez, Lissette Bonano; Roberto Borrero, Karla Campos, Tony Clemente, Gino Collura; Ysmael De Los Santos, Valerie Félix, Odette Figueruelo, Honorable Olga Gonzalez, Danielle Hernandez, Create Option C: Lourdes Lavoy, City Councilman Guido Maniscalco, Jeannette Matta, Manuel "Manny" Medina, Angel Ramos, Maribel Ramos Garrett, Norma Reno, Vivian Rivera Hernandez, Dr. Pavloa Santamaria, Jackie Toledo, Honorable Susan Valdes, and MORE! – see a complete list at www.TasteOfLatino.Com

WHO MAKES THE BEST EMPANADAS?

TOP EMPANADA WIN GRAND PRIZE: CASH! **Check out the Top Chef:** Latino Dish Contest

Features Top Chef Latino Dish -Professional contest to see who makes the BEST Latino Dishes in Tampa Bay! **Contestants include Empanadas, Paella and MORE! Top Latino Lideres Awards on Stage! Visit www.TasteOfLatino.com**

Sponsors Recognized at the Event: Hillsborough County, Hispanic CRF, HCRF, GOYA, PUBLIX, Hard Rock Tampa, Maxima 92.5FM, TELEMUNDO, La Teresita Restaurant; Latin Times Magazine; Vaya DJ.
Hashtags: #HispanicHeritageMonth #YborCity #Empanada #TASTEOFLATINO #Empanadas #CubanSandwich #EMPANADASMACKDOWN #EMPANADA