



Exploring the Vision for a Latin American Cultural Arts Centre in Scotland

Collective co-design of a Latin American Cultural Arts Centre in Glasgow – Community consultation and outreach.

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In collaboration with [the collective Scotland](#)

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Acknowledgments

This initial report was written in collaboration with community members. Their insights, experiences, and feedback have been instrumental in shaping the findings and recommendations presented here.

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Executive Summary:

In September 2025, Dr. Soledad Montañez was awarded the **Creative Launch Fund** to explore the creation of a **Latin American Cultural Arts Centre** in Glasgow. The project builds on her research into Latin American diasporas in London and Scotland. The funding supported the delivery of three community workshops designed to collectively imagine and co-design the proposed Centre. The findings highlighted a strong need for such a cultural space in Glasgow. Participants emphasised the importance of establishing an inclusive, intergenerational, and intercultural centre—one that respects and connects with existing community and arts initiatives while enabling them to thrive and offers the community an opportunity for a more nuanced form of representation. This forms part of a collaborative, collective initiative that seeks to explore and reflect on Latin American identities in Scotland, while creating a space that fosters innovation, creativity, and research.

Introduction:

Imaginar de forma comunitaria en un proceso migrante es luchar contra el sistema que impone dejar los sueños en pos de la integración y la asimilación. Imaginar colectivamente desde un contexto migrante es pensar y repensarse en comunidad, en lo colectivo, en verse reflejadx en la experiencia compartida y en reconocer lo individual en lo colectivo, en reencontrar herencias, lenguajes, memorias e historias compartidas. Construir desde nuevas alianzas un pasado en otras geografías.

The Latin American community is one of the fastest-growing migrant groups in the UK but remains underrepresented, particularly in Scotland. Despite growing research, much of it overlooks Latin Americans in Scotland, focusing on more visible or vulnerable groups. Over the past decade, my research has revealed a significant lack of dedicated cultural spaces for Latin American and Spanish-speaking communities. While interest in Latin American cultures is increasing, there is a pressing need for more inclusive and nuanced representation of their heritage, arts, languages, and histories in Scotland and the UK.

Glasgow, with its rich cultural diversity and history as Scotland's largest dispersal city, is ideally positioned to address this gap. The city's legacy of providing sanctuary and solidarity networks, dating back to the 1970s Chilean refugee influx, continues today. Cultural institutes such as the Alliance Française and the Goethe Institute in Glasgow have demonstrated the value of dedicated cultural spaces for other communities, further underscoring the need for a similar institution for Latin Americans. The proposed Latin



American Arts Centre, in partnership with the University of Glasgow, will create a welcoming environment to foster intercultural exchange, strengthen international cultural bridges, and enhance Scotland's cultural capital. This report collates and summarises participants' input and provides an overview of the discussions and shared vision. It offers a preliminary insight into an ongoing process of collective creation and imagination.

Methodology

The report was co-produced through a participatory approach, involving three community workshops, which included collaborative creative sessions with community representatives and stakeholders.

We proposed three workshop formats, considering the participants' profiles and their accessibility needs. Each workshop was held in a different location and format. The first workshop took place at the University of Glasgow and was designed for academics, policymakers, and representatives of migrant organisations and funding bodies, creatives, artists and practitioners. The second workshop targeted the Latin American community and was hosted by a community organisation in the south-central area of the city, engaging a more community-oriented audience. The third workshop was held online at the end of the workday to accommodate participants who faced travel constraints or had work commitments, ensuring greater accessibility and flexibility.

Activities:

Three community workshops delivered:

- In-person at the Advanced Research Centre, University of Glasgow
- In-person at the Kinning Park Complex
- Online session

Outreach:

- **159 participants registered across the three workshops,**
- **85** people attended the events.
- **ARC Workshop:** 50 registrations, with **32 attending in person.** Attendance was limited by room capacity, and a few participants had to be turned away on the day.
- **Community Event at Kinning Park Complex:** 60 registrations, with **35 participants** attending for a full day event.
- **Online Workshop:** **49 registrations/ 18** in attendance.



Attendees included representatives from the creative industries, policymakers, community collectives and charities, as well as academics and members of the Latin American community in Scotland. The workshops intended to be as intergenerational, diverse and transnational as possible.



Group discussion at the ARC.

Findings / Results

Workshop 1

1 September 2025

Advanced Research Centre– University of Glasgow



The event opened the conversation with the screening of the short film A Place for Us: Latin Americans in Scotland. Directed by Estefany Correia and produced by Nancy Jacinto. It features testimonies from Latin Americans in Scotland.

In general, there was recognition of what was seen in the video with the experiences of many of the workshop participants. They drew attention to the strength that the Latin community in Scotland is gaining and how important it is to make it visible. They also drew attention to the welcoming nature of the people of Glasgow and how the current anti-immigration waves around the world may threaten this. One of the participants, from Scotland, recounted how, for several decades, her family taught her to welcome migrants, to make them feel part of the community. However, she feels that this has changed over the years.

Group discussion (follow-up with one of the groups)

What excites/intrigues you?

- One of the elements they highlighted was food and the possibility of finding a space to exchange it at the centre.
- They feel that the welcoming nature of Latin Americans is something they share with Scotland and believe that this could be one of the centre's strengths, given the importance of reciprocity as a value. They also think that it should be a space for diversity and for recognising the diverse cultural, artistic and political expressions of the region.
- They highlight the importance of having research at the centre that contributes to the recognition of the Latin American community. Here, it is essential to consider support for the community in terms of legal advice and English language skills.
- There was a discussion between two participants about the rights of the Latin community in Scotland. For one participant, having more time to consolidate the demand for rights is crucial, whereas the other participant's community already has sufficient time and processes in place to be recognised, as seen in London. As shown in the video, five decades of history should be enough to be recognised as a group.

How do you see yourself being involved?

- Participation is proposed in terms of promoting events held at the centre. Some, however, express doubts about the nature of the centre, because although they are interested in participating, they feel that it may not be possible as they are not academics. They believe it is essential to activate channels for raising the profile of the Latin American community, because 'people are not sitting around waiting for the community to pass by' and,



therefore, the centre should serve as a focal point for the social and community processes taking place in Glasgow.

- Some propose creating connection points in Scotland, as they feel the country is becoming less welcoming due to the rise of right-wing and anti-immigration movements. To this end, they propose spaces for welcoming migrants and exchanging knowledge.

Challenges

- The rise in racism was one of the main challenges identified, as well as ongoing funding. They feel that there is a possibility that the centre could become a target for attacks because the current context affects explicitly the migrant population.
- They propose the challenge of building bridges beyond Glasgow, as the centre could have potential for Scotland. They also consider it risky for the centre to become a place where the Latin community is exoticized and ends up being consumed only for cultural purposes.

Contributions to Glasgow

- They see the main contribution in terms of broadening knowledge about Latin America and, in this way, breaking down stereotypes. The centre can serve as a platform to highlight that the connections between Scotland and Latin America are not new, and that this could be a source of strength. It is important that the centre has a space to highlight the history of unity and connection between Latin America and Scotland.
- There is also an emphasis on the importance of being multilingual and finding common ground in English, Spanish and Portuguese. In this sense, they propose that the centre should be a place for the exchange of knowledge, for learning practical matters, but also for learning how to coexist in a society.
- Finally, they believe that the centre can help different people overcome loneliness, serving as a safe space for individuals from Latin America and Scotland alike.

Other elements in the general discussion

- It is essential to think about the centre in terms of its intercultural and intergenerational potential. There are entire generations who were born and raised in Scotland, and it would be vital for them to connect with their roots.
- It is essential to have a physical location where different activities and processes can take place, as this would make the centre stronger.



Workshop 2

6 September 2025

[Kinning Park Complex](#)

This was a four-hour workshop in which participants engaged through a variety of written and creative activities. It featured two creative sessions: a poetry workshop led by Award-winning poet and translator [Juana Adcock](#), and a movement workshop led by [Nancy Jacinto](#), founder and creative director of the Latino Dance Project. The event was graphically recorded, by Clare Mills from [Listen, Think, Draw](#).

Participants explored Latin American identity and their thoughts and feelings about the creation of a Latin American Cultural Arts Centre in Glasgow. The workshop generated a **vision of an inclusive, intergenerational, decolonial and multisensory cultural hub** that could provide artistic



programming, ecological and culinary spaces, community support services, and platforms for intercultural exchange.

What follows is a transcription of all the comments and notes written by participants.

Thematic Consultation “Stations”

The space was divided into four tables or “stations”, organised into 4 main topics:

- **Imagination and Possibility** – participants envisioned a bright, inclusive cultural hub filled with Latin American art, music, food, and lots of colour.
- **Memory and Home** – participants highlighted warmth, belonging, and sensory connections through food, traditions, and caring relationships.
- **Needs and Care** – participants identified practical supports such as language classes, mentoring, psychological support, women’s groups, and accessible and inclusive spaces.
- **Collective Voice and Power** – affirming the importance of telling Latin American stories, countering stereotypes, educating Scottish society, and celebrating diversity.

Views and Opinions

A. Imagination and Possibility

- The centre should be **inclusive, welcoming, and intergenerational**.
- Interdisciplinary and multiplatform space: should support **music, dance, theatre, cinema, visual arts, crafts, and sports**.
- A **community café/kitchen** offering Latin American food.
- Strong interest in **ecological elements**: community gardens, natural dyeing workshops, and eco-based learning.
- **Festivals and cultural nights** envisioned as opportunities for pride and visibility.
- The atmosphere should be **colourful, bright, and celebratory**.

B. Memory and Home



- Home is associated with **warmth, love, food, and gatherings**.
- Memories include smells of **coffee, empanadas, tropical fruits, and traditional dishes**.
- Home also evokes **grief, loss, and longing**, highlighting the need for spaces that hold multiple emotions.
- A centre should enable people to be **their full, authentic selves**.

C. Needs and Care

- **Practical supports** requested:
 - Language classes (Spanish, Portuguese, ESOL)
 - Mentoring schemes
 - Psychological support
 - Women's groups
 - Volunteer coordination
- **Values and principles:** inclusivity, sustainability, solidarity, anti-discrimination, and care.
- Participants stressed the importance of a **free, accessible, and centralised community space**.

D. Collective Voice and Power

- The centre should **tell diverse Latin American stories**, counter stereotypes, and showcase resilience and achievements.
- It should **educate the wider society** about Latin American contributions (food, music, knowledge and resources).
- The centre must **connect with other local initiatives** (Roma Cultural Centre, Maryhill Integration Network, Woodlands Community Centre, etc.).
- Importance of **preserving heritage for future generations** born in Scotland.



- The space should foster **pride, visibility, and intercultural understanding**.

Creative sessions

The creative sessions played a mediating role, helping to connect the participants. Through different forms of artistic expression, participants were able to connect with their language and bodies, which facilitated participation and created a space of trust among attendees.

1. Creative Writing: Led by **Juana Adcock**, Glasgow-based Mexican poet. Juana read a poem from her latest book *I Sugar my Bones* and invited participants to explore **identity and belonging** through rivers as metaphors of memory and self.

2. Movement and Dance: Led by **Nancy Jacinto**, founder of the Latino Dance Project. Participants connected with **body, space, and self-expression** through dance and movement.



Juana Adcock at the creative workshop. Picture by Estefany Correia.

Further Points:

- It is proposed that the centre be a place for cultural exchange and for learning intellectual tools. Emphasis is placed, for example, on the need for a space for legal advice, to



strengthen English as a second language and to provide mental health and wellbeing support.

- The centre should also be a place for integration and intergenerational dialogue. In this space, there could be exchanges of English/Spanish courses.
- Regarding the importance of intergenerational exchanges, several generations have grown up in Scotland, making it crucial to work closely with them. Similarly, specific work is proposed with older people who have been living in Scotland for several decades and who are not necessarily the target audience of organisations working with the Latin American community in Scotland.
- Sociopolitical Action/Advocacy should be a central theme of the centre, serving as a space for creating and exchanging knowledge. However, it is also emphasised that there should be spaces for conveying feelings of hope, sadness and nostalgia.
- The centre should be a place for inclusion and not for isolation/endogamic space. For this reason, interaction with people from Scotland is vital. The same can happen with people from other communities, such as the Roma community, as well as with grassroots organisations in Glasgow. The centre can serve as a hub for collectives and as a space for intercultural cultural exchanges.
- The connection with different organisations in Scotland can strengthen psychosocial, economic and knowledge support. For example, in terms of receiving legal support for people in the process of migration, or to create spaces of trust between women and LGBTI people.
- A participant proposed a mentoring programme to learn how to work and live in the United Kingdom.
- In terms of the centre's values, it was proposed that memory, solidarity and identity should be central. In this sense, it is essential to consider both the points that unite the Latin American community in Glasgow and the things that make us different. A proper balance between these parts is necessary.
- One of the participants suggests that it is important to think about the role that each person will have in the centre, as individual responsibility is important there. He gives the example of cleaning the centre, as a daily but central activity that can demonstrate commitment to the space.
- At the end of the meeting, one of the participants recounted their experience in creating community spaces with the first generations of exiles in Scotland in the 1970s-1980s. They explained that these spaces changed organically, but precisely because of that experience, they believe it is essential to have the support of the university to create a solid organisation.



- In this regard, the importance of concrete actions was highlighted, including a record of Latin American organisations in Scotland; a database to identify and contact professionals, creatives and practitioners living in Scotland.
- Finally, it was proposed that it is essential to have the support of the University of Glasgow, but also of other sectors such as Chambers of Commerce and embassies, and working with other organisations and communities.

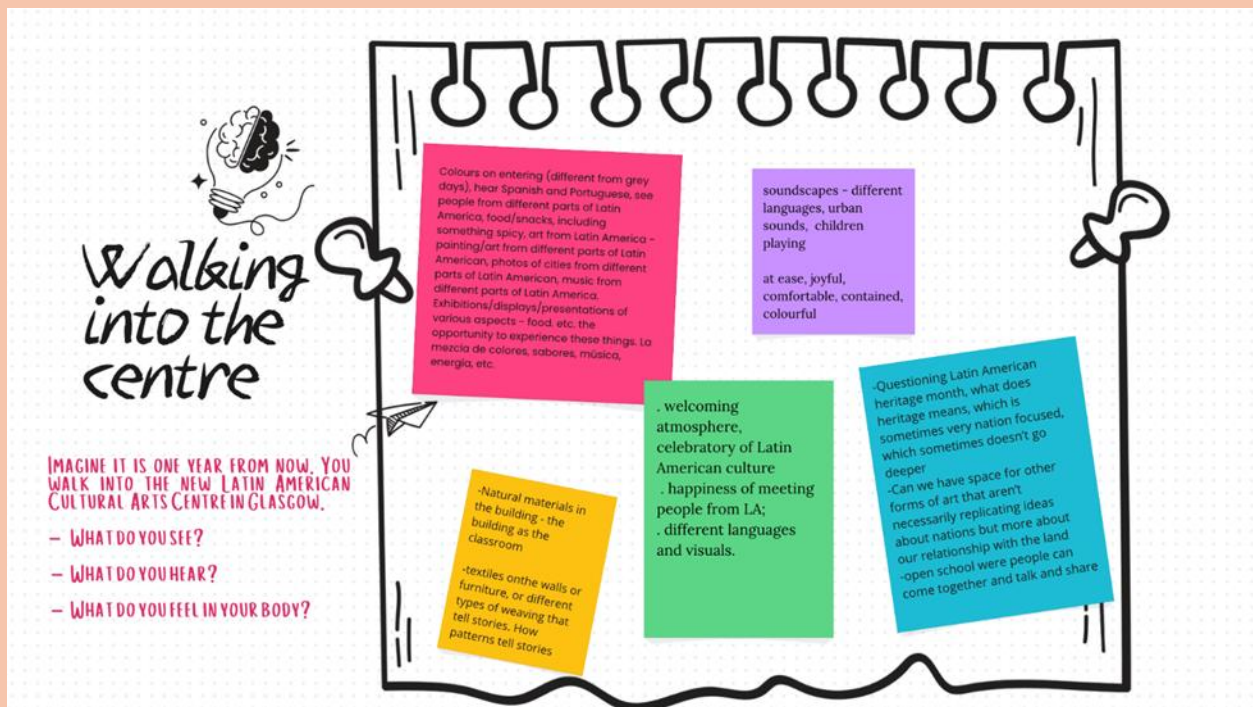


Participants take part in a movement exercise led by Nancy Jacinto. Picture by Estefany Correia.



Online workshop

The online workshop provided a valuable opportunity to engage a broader audience, inviting both community members and interested individuals to actively participate in the process. It served as a platform to present the research behind the project while also offering space for diverse perspectives. Although the workshop was shorter and more intimate in scale, it allowed us to pose consistent questions to participants about their vision for a Latin American Cultural Centre. Feedback was gathered through small breakout sessions, where participants shared their thoughts, and their responses were recorded on a collaborative digital Jamboard.

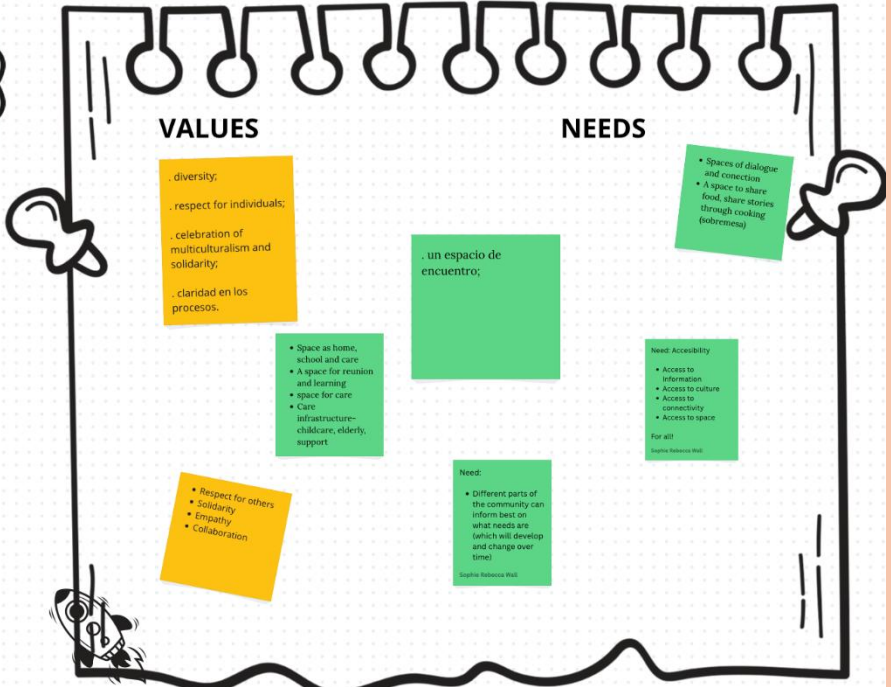




Values and Needs



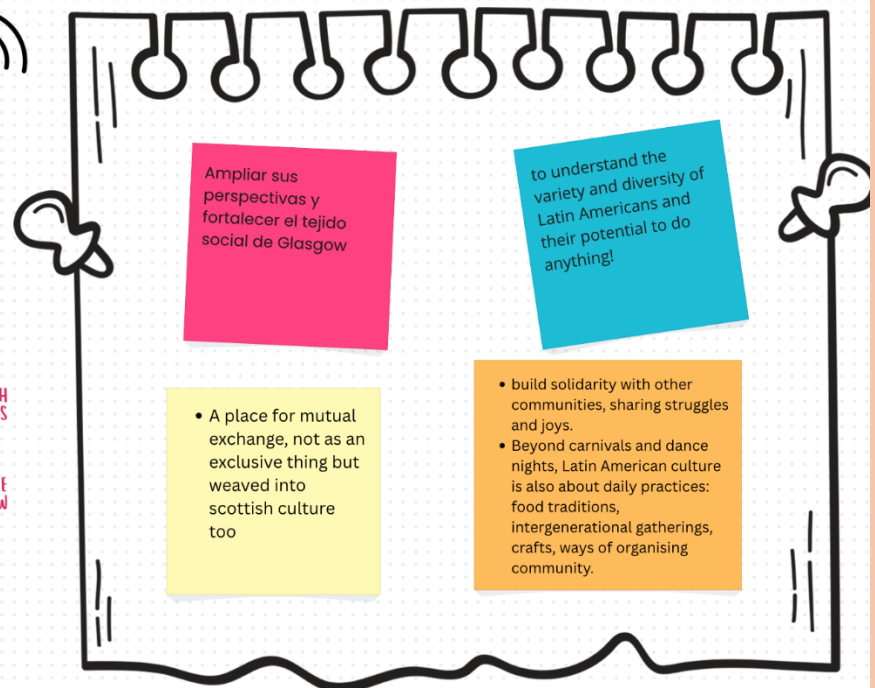
- WHAT VALUES SHOULD GUIDE OUR CENTRE?
- WHAT NEEDS MUST THIS CENTRE MEET FOR YOU, YOUR FAMILY, OUR COMMUNITY?



Community Voice and Influence



- WHAT DO WE WANT THE WIDER SCOTTISH COMMUNITY TO UNDERSTAND ABOUT US THROUGH THIS CENTRE?
- HOW CAN THIS CENTRE CONTRIBUTE TO THE WIDER SCOTTISH COMMUNITY IN GLASGOW AND BEYOND?





Recommendations

1. **Prioritise inclusivity and accessibility** – ensure the centre is free or low-cost, centrally located, and encourages intergenerational and intercultural approaches; solidarity, inclusivity and care were key words across the three workshops.
2. **Embed cultural and ecological programming** – festivals, arts workshops, ecological practices, and food traditions beyond stereotypical representations.
3. **Develop support structures** – language classes, psychological support, mentoring, and women’s groups, and legal support and advice.
4. **Foster partnerships and collaboration** – link with Scottish community centres and cultural organisations to strengthen networks and build capacity.
5. **Promote education and visibility** – use the centre to showcase Latin American contributions to Scottish daily life from a wider and more nuanced representation of Latin American culture and heritages.
6. **Secure sustainable funding** – prioritise long-term resources to support cultural, educational, and community initiatives.
7. **Support existing initiatives** – support and respect existing initiatives; leverage the knowledge, resources, and networks already in place, while avoiding duplication of efforts.

Impact

- The workshops strengthened community ties and generated **a collective vision for a cultural hub**.
- It surfaced **practical needs** (support services, resources, language provision) alongside **cultural aspirations** (arts, music, food, ecology).
- It demonstrated strong **community engagement and commitment, breath of knowledges and talents**.
- **Strengthened Institutional and Community Support:** Through the workshops, institutional and community partnerships were expanded, with key stakeholders such as the University of Glasgow and Creative Scotland providing initial support and advice.



- **Increased Engagement from Decision Makers:** Key stakeholders and decision makers were contacted, with several registering interest. Notably, a City Councillor attended the workshop at the ARC, contributing valuable insights to the discussion.
- **Strengthening Support for the Latin American Community and Research in Scotland:** Recent initiatives have focused on consolidating and expanding the Glasgow Latin American Research Network while deepening collaboration with consular, community and academic partners. The Consulate of Peru expressed strong support for the initiative and plans to visit Glasgow next year, aiming to strengthen ties with the Peruvian diaspora and the University of Glasgow. A planned visit will take place in Glasgow in early 2026. A meeting with the Consulate of Colombia served to map and share ongoing work with the Colombian diaspora in Scotland, fostering knowledge exchange and joint action. These efforts reflect a sustained commitment to strengthening research networks and supporting the visibility, engagement, and wellbeing of Latin American communities across Scotland.

Next Steps:

- **Legal Structure:** The next phase will involve establishing a Community Interest Company (CIC) to provide a formal legal framework for the project. This process will require active support and participation from community members as we identify and appoint a suitable, inclusive, diverse, and experienced Board of Trustees to guide the organisation's development and ensure its long-term sustainability.
- **Community building and capacity:** Strengthening community connections and building local capacity are central to the project's long-term vision. This might involve training community members to take active roles in planning, decision-making, and/or funding applications.

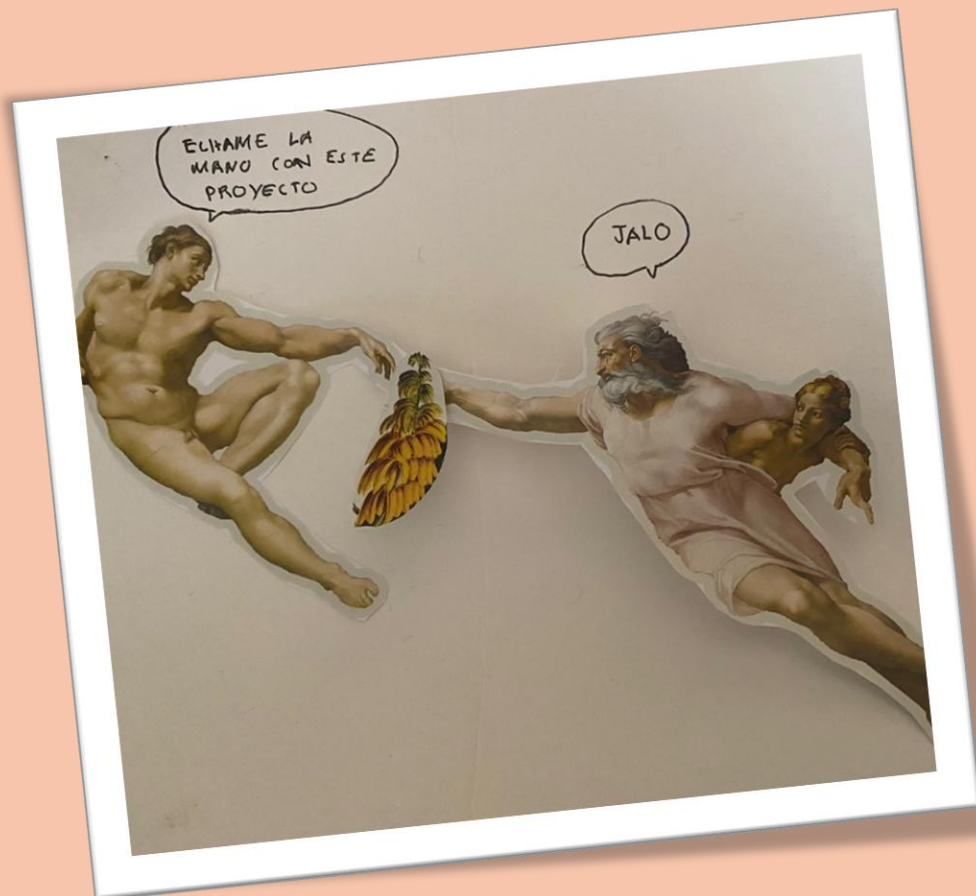
Conclusions

The workshops highlighted both the **need and the transformative potential** of a Latin American Cultural Arts Centre in Scotland. Participants imagined a space of **warmth, belonging, creativity, and solidarity**, rooted in Latin American traditions yet open to intercultural exchange.

This vision is not only about cultural celebration but also about mutual **care, resilience, and collective empowerment**. The workshop outcomes serve as a roadmap for building a centre that is sustainable and inclusive.



In this sense, the workshops highlighted several unmet needs within the Latin American community in Scotland, in particular the lack of cultural and community physical spaces in Scotland for the Spanish speaking and Latin American diasporas. Many members of the Latin American community struggle to find venues that reflect their heritages and traditions or provide culturally and linguistically tailored services, as shown in my most recent and ongoing research (Montañez, 2019, and 2025). By creating a centralised cultural and community hub, this initiative would provide a much-needed venue for Latin American communities to come together, share their culture, and support one another. It would help foster a stronger, more diverse and visible, Latin American presence in the broader community while expanding the cultural offer in Glasgow.





Appendix: Transcription and translation of written input

1. Actions (Within Control)

Community members highlighted what they can directly contribute, including:

- **Knowledge and expertise:** Latin American culture; migration studies; queer Latin American cinema and visual cultures.
- **Practical support:** volunteering at events, cooking, translation, facilitation, coordination, manual labour.
- **Cultural activities:** running dance workshops (e.g. Mexican folk dance), food workshops, storytelling for children, library activities, film screenings, exhibitions.
- **Skills and resources:** video production, website and social media, DJing, visual arts, construction/engineering advice.
- **Commitment:** attending meetings, promoting events, representing Latin American students and young people, offering time and energy.

2. Areas of Influence

Participants identified areas where they can influence or connect others:

- **Networks:**
 - University's Latin American Research Network and migration research networks.
 - Mexican groups in Scotland (e.g.. *Mexicanos en Escocia*).
 - Brazilian community in Edinburgh.
 - Food sovereignty networks.
 - Glasgow University and other academic contacts.
 - Latin American filmmakers, artists, and diaspora networks in the UK and internationally.



- Local cultural and community organisations, museums, and educators.

Partnerships:

- Promote and organise cultural events.
- Connect with film festivals and community cinemas.
- Link with schools, colleges, and teachers.

Funding guidance:

- Advice on Creative Scotland and other funders.
- Advocating internally for inclusion in future operational budgets.

3. Challenges Identified

- **Sustainability:** securing long-term funding, avoiding over-reliance on a few sources.
- **Defining the Centre:** clarity of purpose, balance between cultural showcase, social support, and community hub.
- **Representation:** endogamic; risk of one group dominating; need to reflect diversity of Latin American communities.
- **Internal conflicts:** different ages, interests, political views.
- **External barriers:** racism, prejudice, stereotypes, and lack of understanding in Scotland.
- **Practical risks:**
 - Mismanagement of resources.
 - Too many initiatives at once.
 - Risk of Latin American culture being “exoticized” or “fetishised”; reproducing stereotypes.
 - Balancing autonomy from the university while keeping support and connection.



4. Potential Contributions to Glasgow and Scotland

Participants see the Centre as contributing to the **cultural, economic, social, and research landscape** by:

- **Cultural:**
 - Film festivals, exhibitions, visual arts, theatre, performance, music, dance.
 - Food events.
 - Heritage projects connecting Latin America with Scottish history (slavery, migration, trade).
- **Social and Educational:**
 - A safe space for belonging.
 - Anti-racism work.
 - Legal, psychological, and housing support.
 - Language classes, book groups, workshops for children and families.
 - Training and internships for young people.
- **Community and Wellbeing:**
 - Free or low-cost venue hire for community use.
 - Library and storytelling spaces.
 - Food sovereignty projects and community kitchen.
 - Accessible leisure, socialising, and creative activities.
- **Economic and Environmental:**
 - Promoting Latin American businesses and products.
 - Building links between Scotland and Latin America for trade and investment.
 - Using renewable energy (solar, wind, waves) and promoting ecological awareness.



- Community members bring **knowledge, skills, and strong networks** that can directly support the creation and development of a Latin American Cultural Arts Centre. They also recognise significant **challenges around sustainability, representation, and funding**, but share a clear commitment to contribute their time, expertise, and creativity.

The Centre has the potential to become:

- A hub for **Latin American culture and heritage** in Scotland.
- A space of **care, support, and inclusion**.
- A bridge between Latin American and Scottish communities.
- A contributor to the **cultural and economic growth** of Glasgow and beyond.

First workshop

Intentions:

Help in any way I can to bring Latin Americans and people interested in Latin America together.

TO MEET PEOPLE AND LEARN MORE ABOUT LATIN AMERICAN CULTURAL INITIATIVES.

Learning more about Latin American cultures and community engagement and how to support this.

My intention today is to help shape an honest and positive portrayal of Latino culture in Glasgow.

Explore options available for the Latin American community.

To meet Latin American people.

To connect with Latin American community and explore artistic and cultural.

To meet other people from Latin America.

My intention is to create solidarity networks amongst Latin Americans to meet other Latin Americans to share my interest. My academic research and academic interests. To know about what other Latin American people are doing.



Collaborate with ideas and experiences. To learn and know more about.

Making community.

Find common ground between immigrants that have live here and people that has been here for generations.

Amplifying Latin American culture, especially through film.

To find out and join in.

Building community.

To listen, to understand the needs the community consider how these fits with the limits of funders.

To develop networks of people with an interest in Latin America.

To belong.

Share my love of South America, Latin America.

Find common ground between locals and new locals.

I would like to find ways to share my research on Latin America that could shape global knowledge.

My intention is to promote the development of Latin Americans in Glasgow.

Networking.

Curiosear.

Support the creation of a space and networking for Latin Americans.

A place to have events so we can invite everyone to share our culture.

Challenges?

Developing long term goals.

Sustainability.



Diversity within the community, various ages, interest, political standpoint and danger of internal conflict.

Being isolated. Being exoticized.

Funding.

DANGER OF RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA.

Open physical space.

REFLEXIVELY AVOIDING NEPOTISM AND ENDOGAMY.

Legacy.

Defining the nature of the Centre. Where is it? What do we want it to be?

Prejudice and racism.

Find the main focus.

How to keep the centre autonomous from the university but still connected?

Not reproducing stereotypes.

PROJECT NOT HAVING A WELL THOUGHT LONG TERM PLAN.

Breaking down Latino stereotypes held by people in Scotland.

Lack of understanding in Scotland of the contribution of Latinos to the country.

Too many target groups, initiatives, projects all at once.

Recognising the differences between Latin American cultures and celebrating them.

Might find a presence challenging.

Is it a place to promote businesses, research, celebrate culture?

Risk of Latin culture as being fetishised. Seen as entertainment only.

Mismanagement, lack of good practise and know how.



“The world will be saved by beauty”. Dostoevsky. Needs to be a place of beauty.

Danger of one group dominating it.

How could this Centre contribute to the cultural, economic, creative and research? Landscape of Glasgow, Scotland.

Create Events & Celebrate Culture

- Legal support.
- Latin American groups.
- Food, film and cultural festivals.
- Creative work and art exhibitions
- Places, internship opportunities and so on.

Strengthening British Latin American Culture

- Thinking about people raising children with dual heritages.
- Plural gazes.
- Make Latin Americans visible for the Scottish people.
- To embrace plurality.

Connecting Histories

- Connect the threads of what already exists.
- Create a link with slavery, trade, and the connections between Africa, Scotland, Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Language contexts.
- Bring Latin American commonalities with Scottish history.

Building Community in Glasgow

- Connectedness between Glasgow residents and the Latin American migrants.
- Bringing even closer the Latin American culture in Glasgow, maybe centralising all the involved groups and initiatives.
- Knowledge exchange.
- Accessibility to the Latino cultures.
- Creating bridges. Anti-racism.



Spaces & Ideas

- It could have a library.
- To contribute to political consciousness and awareness, solidarity around Latin American topics.
- Sharing family history and links to slavery.
- Space for Latino makers.
- Latin American Film Festival in Glasgow.
- Contributes to the connection between the Latin American community and the Latin American academic community.

"Connecting Mountains, Rivers and the Sea"

- Serve as a hub for investment promotion agencies from Latin America and vice versa.
- Film nights, book groups, conversation classes, sharing local businesses, foods, arts and crafts, etc.
- Highlighting visibility of the Latin American community.

Sustainability & Economic Development

- Economic development support renewable energy using solar, wind and waves, tree planting and protecting the rainforest.
- A space for getting out of the house, accessing quality leisure and socialising for free.
- Twinning of Glasgow and Havana.
- Book groups, language classes, heritage projects.
- Food Sovereignty.
- Sharing music, songs, dance and food to celebrate cultural heritage.
- Cheap/free venue hires for social initiatives and activities, communities and exhibitions.



Connect the different activities which are often fragmented or being organised in isolation.

Support. Benefits, business, etc.

Put queer, LGBTQ+, Latinxs in the centre.

Nice recognition.

A place to connect.

Unity.

Music.

Learning and sharing.

Invite artists associated with Latin American culture.

Finally having a place where I feel I belong.

Develop a deeper understanding of Latin American identities and cultures.

Include the young generations born in Scotland to create a sense of belonging.

Fiesta.

Setting a precedent for other cultural centres.

Response from non-Latin American support.

Feel included.

Challenges stereotypes.

Sports, such as football competitions.

Noisy, happy, colourful space to increase health and well-being.

A place for marginalised people to meet and discuss climate justice, equality, human rights.

Expanding the network. Interdisciplinary. Whether cultural and artistic, scientific and so on.

Film festivals.



Space for people underrepresented in institutions. Migrants, people of colour, working class.

The more arts and culture, the better.

It's needed in the current political climate.

Distinction between community centre versus cultural centre. What will this look like?

A shelter to feel safety.

Expanding the image of the immigrant.

To have a space where the complexities and nuances of being a Latin American Scotland can be thought about celebrated.

Share emotions.

Creative workshop

Inclusion.

Workshop 2

“I would love the centre to be a source of knowledge for my grandson who was born in Scotland”.

“I would like this and to be able to allow us to promote our culture to the future generations, to talk about the Latin American roots and be proud of them”.

“The cultural centre should be sufficiently active and attractive for Scottish people to come in to explore and to learn about Latin American culture”.

“It will have a combination of artistic expressions, painting, sculpture, poetry, literature. Photography and so on. Music. Dance. Visually open, attractive, bright, colourful as our culture is, the place should be super welcoming”

“Collaboration with other centres for exchange and collaboration talks, workshops, storytelling”

“Sustainability, long-term shared funding”

“Help with integrated minorities and Latino communities and local communities”

“Essential space with free access for the community”



“ It should be a space that recognises and respects the existing projects and welcomes others to join in.

“I fear that this would absorb funding available for the Latin American community”.

“It should be a clean and pretty place. It should be bright, and should offer free hot drinks, biscuits and milk”.

“It should be welcoming, should have a group like Women's group to share their lived experiences, feelings, local tips, information and so on”.

“It should have a volunteer coordinator”.

“... should include food and festivals”.

In terms of our values, it should be about identity. Pride. Resilience. Respect, fraternity, solidarity.

The Centre should facilitate and offer information, has language workshops, a ESOL workshops.

Promote a culture of care.

Support to learn English specially for the elder.

To fight prejudice and stereotypes.

To collect information from people working on mental health to support the community.

We should be firm against discrimination and exclusion.

Memory and home. What does home feel like in your body? What do you miss from your home culture? Word, smells, taste, object, sounds, remind you of belonging.

A vibrant returning.

The heat (el calor).

A welcoming warm space, a place where we are welcome to our full and genuine selves.

In my body, home feels like a very tight hug. It feels hot and recomforting.

I miss the ability to meet people and create connections relatively easily.



The smell of coffee just brewed.

The combination of sweet and sour in food.

I miss spontaneity. I missed the hug. The physical contact.

I miss la comida. Empanadas, cazuelas, mariscos, sándwiches completos y chicharros.

Home is not to be hungry/ not to feel hunger.

An open door and a welcoming table. Warmth and shelter. Rest.

Home should be about safety.

Heat, sweat. I missed the spark. Energy fire. The plátano, the buñuelo.

Collective voice and power. How should they space reflect our stories, histories, heritage, struggles, joy and talent?

Collective and diverse, embracing the multiplicity of experiences, places, stories, different perspectives that shape us, bringing all that together without homogenising.

Connecting with other centres such as Roma Cultural Centre, Woodlands Community Centre. Maryhill Integration Network, Garnethill Multicultural Centre to be safe spaces and warm spaces to share with others.

For others to be able to understand that we are different, that we are noisy, that we like to touch each other, that we are spontaneous and we need to teach them about our culture.

People in Scotland drink coffee, eat chocolate, tomatoes, potatoes, etc. Today, in everyday life, everything can be connected to the Latin America. I can imagine this space where all the Scottish people can come together and meet, so they can recognise their presence is an influence of Latin America in their lives. That it flows from Latin America to here, a place where we can create consciousness and to value migration.

Structure of Care through the lens of Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui (Bolivian-Aymaran anthropologist).

Collective Dreaming.

Decolonial gestures. Friendship, ecology, motherhood.

I consider myself C'hixi. And consider it the most appropriate term of who are called mestizos.



To explore Latin American diversity, success, histories and challenges.

Combined academic events, but most importantly community events through arts, and different artistic expressions and traditions.

We need movement. We need to move together. Momentum. To share our energy.

To represent our histories without choosing one side. We could be very different, but there are many things that we do have in common. Gastronomy and traditions can help us. To bring together Latin American cultures and Scottish cultures. Creating our own local identity.

Imagination and possibility: If you walked into the Latin American Cultural Centre tomorrow, what will you want to feel fast? What kind of music or events will like? Would you make you feel happy and proud? What would you want children and the elder to have?

Warmth. Happiness, positivity, love. Welcoming.

“I would like to this place to feel like home, a bright place that can be opened and colourful that could give information about meetings, events, exhibitions, workshops that the members of the Latin American community in Scotland could share their knowledge”.

“I imagine it as an open space. Full of colour images, where when you come in you can connect with something. It can have a big map of Latin America with pictures, sounds, recordings of people talking. Where suddenly you can recognise your accent, a place where you can be with people”

“It would be good to have a database with different services and professions so we can help each other”.

“To have a physical space for artists or practitioners to do their work”.

“I would like that when I enter this space will be a cafe. Where they can sell tacos, arepas, pupusas and tortillas, that they could sell a variety of food from north to South of America, from Central America to the Caribbean. That we could see pictures and photographers and art at made by Latin Americans in Scotland. There could be events like festivals, food festivals, dance festivals. But also poetry, arts and crafts, music readings. Painting where we can explore together the richness of the Latin American culture. I would like this space to be inclusive for young people, but also for the elders without making a big distinction between generations. This space would be blue-green, yellow, orange, red and pink”.



“[The centre] can host many different groups such as theatre group, reading groups, dance groups, guitar classes, singing classes to be able to create our own networks”.

“Integration of families, culture activities, workshops, meeting points, cultural exchange”.

“First thing you see would be community gardens, ecology, natural dyeing plants, plants for food well-being. Fabric dyeing, paper making. Ecology important”.

“A place mutual aid and solidarity, for example, with the people of Palestine”.

“Textile workshops”.

“Well curated exhibitions and family friendly workshops for the youth and elders, mainly visual art exhibitions for representing Latin American artists”.

“Links with local activities, invite the wider community of Glasgow to understand its cultural significance”.



Picture by Estefany Correia.



Muchas gracias to everyone who joined the three workshops to collectively imagine a Latin American Cultural Arts Centre in Glasgow. Thank you very much for your time and ideas, for your support and commitment. We hope this report reflects your views and that you can see yourselves represented in some of these comments and accounts. This is the beginning of a long journey, which hopefully will meet your needs and expectations. I hope people will continue to engage, collaborate, and bring new perspectives as we move forward together toward making this vision a reality.



FACILITATORS/CO-ORGANISERS: MANSI, SOLEDAD, IRENE AND CLARE AT KINNING PARK COMPLEX.

More information?



If you want to learn more about the project, the research and see more pictures, follow this link: <https://mariaoledadmontanez.com/2025/11/03/a-latin-american-cultural-arts-centre-in-glasgow/> and <https://mariaoledadmontanez.com/research/>

GLASGOW, NOVEMBER 2025.