

COME ON IN OR
SMILE AS YOU PASS

billboard

Lin-Manuel Miranda Helps Raise Money for
United Palace Theatre With 'Mary Poppins'
Screening & \$100K Donation



"I'm really happy where my mouth is -- I won't
half-lies," the "Hamilton" mastermind tells
Billboard of revitalizing the New York landmark.

On Sunday, Hamilton star Lin-Manuel Miranda helms a screening
of Mary Poppins at Washington Heights' United Palace Theatre.
The movie house, built in 1930, is not only a New York
landmark, but holds a special place in Miranda's heart.

"This is a great box of a theater, especially with the death of
the Ziegfeld Theatre," Miranda exclusively told Billboard before
stepping onstage to greet 2,500 guests awaiting him in the
glittering theater's plush red seats. "This is the last great movie
house in Manhattan. We have an opportunity to make this a
destination. It's the most incredible theater. Anyone who walks
past can see this was here."

Miranda's succession of "movie mash-ups" has
brought his critically acclaimed Broadway hit to a five-year anniversary
celebration.

Miranda's new DCP
quality images
campaign
serves as a



United Palace will
continue its "Seaween
Wonder" fundraiser campaign
with a series of events and
initiatives to raise funds for
effort to reach all areas of
community support. "I put
my money where my mouth
is -- I won't half-lies," Miranda
explained to Billboard about
his donation. "Hopefully
people will put their money in
and we'll make this a world-
class place to watch movies. I
want the world to discover."

United Palace

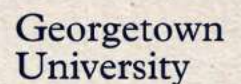
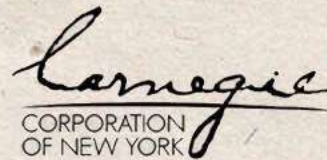
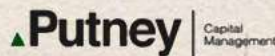


DOMINICANOS
USA

SUMMARY REPORT

FALL 2017

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Our work was made possible with the financial support of various institutions who recognize the importance of empowering the Dominican-American Community in New York, Rhode Island and across the Nation.

WELCOME



Thanks to the financial support that Dominicanos USA (DUSA) has received from our generous donors, we have been able to achieve significant progress for the Dominican community. Since its founding in 2014, DUSA has served as an example of how the political participation of the Dominican community in the United States can advance the socioeconomic standing of those nearly 2 million people, while also benefitting the Dominican Republic itself. The growing prominence and prosperity of Dominican-Americans bring with it the promise of shared success with their country of origin through bi-national relations and trade, political representation, positive media representations, and economic opportunities. We believe that having a Dominican community that is politically, socially, and economically integrated into the United States is a tremendously beneficial resource for the Dominican Republic, and all Dominicans should support making this a reality.

After the 2016 U.S. elections, thanks in part to the voter registration and political mobilization efforts led by DUSA, Dominicans in the United States reached a new level of political recognition. A Dominican-born person was elected to the United States Congress, and a child of Dominican immigrants was named the chairperson of the U.S. Democratic Party. These national leaders are joined today by dozens of Dominican or Dominican descended state legislators, mayors, local representatives, and other elected or appointed officials who provide our community with representation and access to the U.S. political system.

Although we consider these developments to be signs of progress, there is still much work to be done for our community. We did not want to lose the momentum gained over the first three years of our existence, so we began looking for ways that DUSA could bring forth the next phase of Dominican-American political empowerment. Our mid-year report to you provides details on how DUSA has continued to leverage partnerships to politically engage thousands of Dominican-Americans, guide hundreds more on their path to Citizenship, strengthen ties between U.S. Dominicans and the Dominican Republic, and nurture the leadership skills of the young people who represent our future. By using what we have learned by registering, educating, and mobilizing over 150,000 voters since 2013, and with our 2-year strategic plan as a roadmap, we have continued to make strides toward realizing our vision.



EDDIE CUESTA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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DOMINICAN POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

After the 2016 presidential election, we faced a challenge registering people to vote. The majority of the Dominican-American and Latino community were disappointed with the results of the election. 2017 is also considered an off-year for elections in the United States, with no elections at the federal level. However, we understand that there is no break for our mission of engaging Dominican-Americans in the political process. State and Local elections replace the U.S. Presidential and Congressional Elections of 2016.



DUSA attends Naturalization swearing-in ceremonies where we register newly sworn in U.S. citizens to vote. So far in 2017, we have already registered over 1,000 new voters from the swearing-in ceremonies.



BY RECRUITING MORE DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS THAN EVER BEFORE, AND BY LEVERAGING OUR PARTNERSHIPS IN OUR COMMUNITY, DUSA HAS BEEN ABLE TO REGISTER OVER **4,000** NEW VOTERS SO FAR IN 2017. SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2013, DUSA HAS REGISTERED OVER **150,000** VOTERS.

By recruiting more dedicated volunteers than ever before, and by leveraging our partnerships in our community, DUSA has been able to register over 4,000 new voters so far in 2017. Since its inception in 2013, DUSA has registered over 150,000 voters. DUSA has also continued to contact voters to inform them of opportunities to exercise their right to vote. We have made sure that our voters were informed of two special elections to replace representatives in New York City, and the New York City-wide primary elections on September 12. We also made calls to voters for the New Jersey State-wide primary in New Jersey. We made close to 6,000 calls to voters, had 1,300 conversations, and over 1,000 of those voters committed to voting. These GOTV efforts helped to prepare Dominican-American voters for the very important 2018 “mid-term” elections for Congress and many of the State-level governments, as well as the 2020 Presidential elections, and the 2020 census which will determine how our community will be represented during the next decade.

VOTERS REGISTERED
IN 2017

4,000

ELECTION CALLS
IN 2017

6,000

VOTERS REGISTERED
SINCE 2014

152,000



DUSA reaches out to voters by attending community events such as college and career fairs, Dominican Parades in various cities and states, health fairs, concerts, and festivals.

REACHING YOUNG VOTERS

DUSA believes in engaging, developing and educating the younger demographic of future Dominican-American voters and leaders. For the third year in a row, DUSA took part in a successful Student Voter Registration Day at various high schools throughout New York City, in partnership with NYC Votes and New York Immigration Coalition. Our team members presented an NYC Department of Education approved curriculum to students to educate them on the importance of civic participation, and we registered eligible high school students to vote.



“...AS THE FUTURE VOICES OF OUR COMMUNITY, WE MUST REMEMBER TO STRIVE FOR SUCCESS BUT NEVER FORGET THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY THAT SAW US GROW...”

-DINAHLEE PEÑA DUSA YOUNG VOICES PARTICIPANT



CIVIC EDUCATION

We have done voter registration in elementary, middle and high schools registering parents, school staff, and eligible students to vote.

Through our Young Voices program, we employ participants as young as 14 years old and train them to register voters in their neighborhoods. This year, we also provided them with educational workshops and interactive activities such as exhibitions and field trips. During the summer of 2017, our Young Voices registered over 1,100 new voters.



COLLEGE CAMPUSES

We organized various voter registration drives at several of the local colleges with significant Dominican student bodies.

PATH TO CITIZENSHIP



We believe that the future for the Dominican community in the U.S. rests in following the path to U.S. Citizenship so that we can grow our future voting power and protect our families from deportation. With a population that is still mainly composed of immigrants to the U.S., naturalization is a major obstacle for Dominican political participation. About 45% of Dominican-Americans are U.S.-born citizens, the fastest growing segment of the population, while the other 55% are foreign-born, with about half of those being naturalized citizens. These foreign-born residents must go through a multi-year process to become a U.S. Citizen and exercise their right to vote. Many Dominican Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) are eager to overcome the many barriers and be sworn-in as U.S. citizens for this very reason, which is why we launched the DUSA Citizenship program last year.

WHAT HAS DUSA CITIZENSHIP DONE IN ITS FIRST YEAR?

- Held 16 application assistance events since September 2016. **477** people attended.
- Helped 279 participants complete their N-400 application
- Made partnerships and collaborations with NALEO, CUNY Citizenship Now, Make the Road, UFT, Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams' Office and Naturalize NY, Telemundo, Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island, and the Rhode Island Hispanic Bar Association.
- Assisted at partner events with over **1,200** LPR participants.
- Expanded services to **NEW JERSEY** in partnership with:
 - UFCW
 - Mi Casa es Puebla
 - PAC
 - MecenasaUSA
 - Smile
 - Franklyn Montero Law Offices
 - Make the Road NJ
- Expanded services to **MASSACHUSETTS** in partnership with:
 - The Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)
 - Roxbury Community College

APPLICATION
ASSISTANCE EVENTS: **16**

EVENT
PARTICIPANTS: **477**

CITIZENSHIP
APPLICATIONS COMPLETED: **293**

PROGRAM GROWTH

Since its beginnings, the DUSA Citizenship program has gradually developed in productivity, knowledge, and execution. Thus far, we contacted over **4,000** people interested in becoming U.S. citizens, of which **67%** are Dominican and **68%** are women. In order to serve this fast growing and motivated market for our services, we have taken various steps to increase our program efficacy:

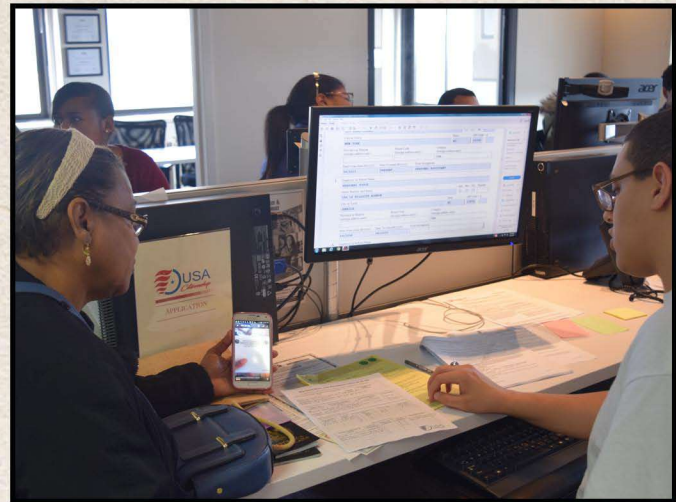
Developed a robust network of trained volunteers to assist LPRs with Citizenship paper, under staff supervision



We invested in staff development by enrolling several members of our team in immigration law courses. We can increase program self-sufficiency and rely less on partner providers by having our staff apply to the U.S. Department of Justice for official recognition and accreditation in the practice of immigration law.



Increased the frequency of our citizenship events from one day per month to two so that we can serve more people.



Implemented new technology within the program such as CitizenshipWorks, an online platform that allows us to pre-screen the applicant, complete the N-400 application, and review it remotely.

CITIZENSHIP PARTNERS

CARNEGIE CORPORATION
OF NEW YORK
THE NEW AMERICANS CAMPAIGN
NALEO EDUCATIONAL FUND

CITIZENSHIP COLLABORATORS

DORCAS INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
RHODE ISLAND
THE RI HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION
PROGRESO LATINO

NORTHERN MANHATTAN

IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION
CUNY CITIZENSHIP NOW
UNITED FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

DOMINICAN-AMERICANS & THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

This year, we launched a new initiative aimed at the creation of an institutional framework to strengthen ties between Dominicans in the United States and the Dominican Republic. These institutional ties will help to advance civic social and economic empowerment for Dominican-Americans, allowing them to shape their own futures.

On May 23rd, 2017, we partnered with the American Jewish Coalition (AJC), the Association of Mexican Professionals and Entrepreneurs Foundation (APEM), and the Consul Generals of the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Israel to host an event titled: "Creating Our Own Stories: Developing Meaningful Connections With Our Heritage and Homeland"

The dialogue that was generated during the program validated our concept about the need to invest in institutional ties between the DR and the Dominican community abroad. AJC is a 111 year organization with offices around the world, and our idea for this project received buy-in from them at the highest levels, as AJC CEO David Harris was in attendance for the program. The Israeli and Mexican Consul Generals also participated in the discussion, and contributed to the discussion as panelists, along with DUSA Board President Manuel Matos.

By partnering with other groups, like the Israel/Jewish-American, and Mexican-American communities, we can learn best practices for managing relations between a country like the Dominican Republic and its diaspora around the world. As we move ahead going into 2018, we will continue to look for opportunities to build and strengthen these institutional ties, and leverage them in ways that will benefit the global Dominican community through trade, capital opportunities, and collaborative projects between these groups.



From left to right: Ambassador Diego Gómez Pickering: Consul General of Mexico to NYC, Dina Siegel Vann: Director of Latino and Latin American Affairs, AJC; Ambassador Dani Dayan: Consul General of Israel in New York; Manuel Matos: President, Dominicanos USA.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

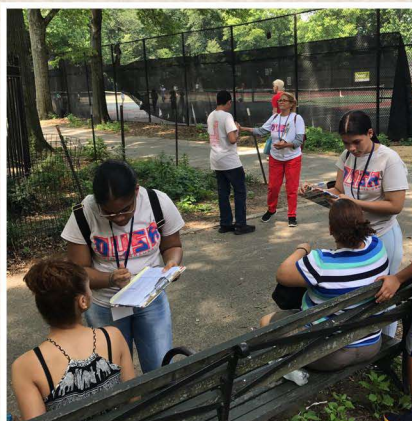


EMPOWERING OUR YOUNG VOICES

Dominican-Americans are a young and dynamic population, with those between the ages of 14-21 the fastest growing segment among them. Our mission includes connecting to this group of potential new voters and difference-makers with our commitment to civic engagement. Our focus on empowering our community is not limited to voter registration and citizenship assistance but also includes developing the next generation of leaders in our community.

Since 2015, DUSA has served as a partner in the NYC Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), which led to the creation of our Young Voices program. Our 60 participants, most of whom are Dominican-American, worked for six weeks canvassing throughout New York City, registering over 1,000 voters in the process. Our service learning program also involved various activities which emphasized the importance of young people continuing their education and getting involved in their local communities.

What these amazing young people did this summer shows the power we have when we are active in our community, and proves that they are already leaders. Beyond the incredible work that these dynamic did in their community, they also participated in numerous educational and enriching activities,



preparing them to be the **YOUNG VOICES** that we need to lead the way into the future.

HIGHER EDUCATION

We believe that fate of all people rests on enlightening the youth, who will be the leaders of tomorrow. By exposing them to higher education opportunities that exist for young people today, we can ensure that they can fully realize the potential they possess.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Our program visited the offices of Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, and we were received by Deputy Borough President Aldrin Bonilla. Mr. Bonilla shared with the youth an exciting vision of the power of City Government to do good, and how they can play a role through public service.



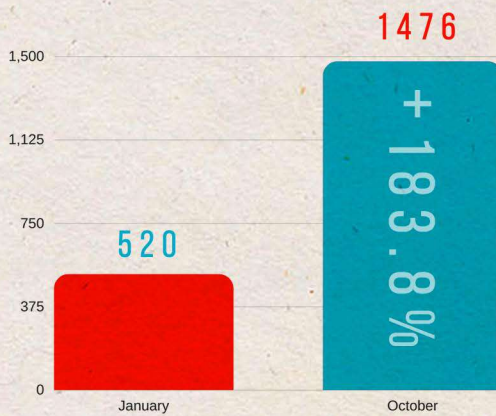
CULTURE AND HISTORY

Our program is not exclusive to young Dominican-Americans, but they are well represented within the group. Strengthening the social integration of Dominican culture in the United States is crucial to DUSA's mission, so we want these young leaders to feel a strong connection with Dominican and Hispanic heritage.

This summer we have visited the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute to learn about the latest research on Dominican history and how it relates to the challenges facing our community today. Our Young Voices also registered voters and celebrated Dominican Culture at various Dominican Parades.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media has been a great tool in helping us connect with our community, other organizations, elected officials, and the general public. It gives DUSA a chance to keep the public up to date with our agenda and our activities. Social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram help us promote our Citizenship events and our voter registration drives. We have also been able to recruit volunteers for DUSA events through social media because the use of social media technology is growing among the youth and can help us to further our initiative.



AUDIENCE GROWTH

We have seen the tremendous growth of our social media, making friends with public officials and other influencers. The number of followers on Twitter has almost tripled so far this year, from 520 followers in January to nearly 1,500 currently. Instagram followers more than doubled from 400 at the start of the year to over 1,000. This exponential growth is proof that DUSA is connecting to the general public.

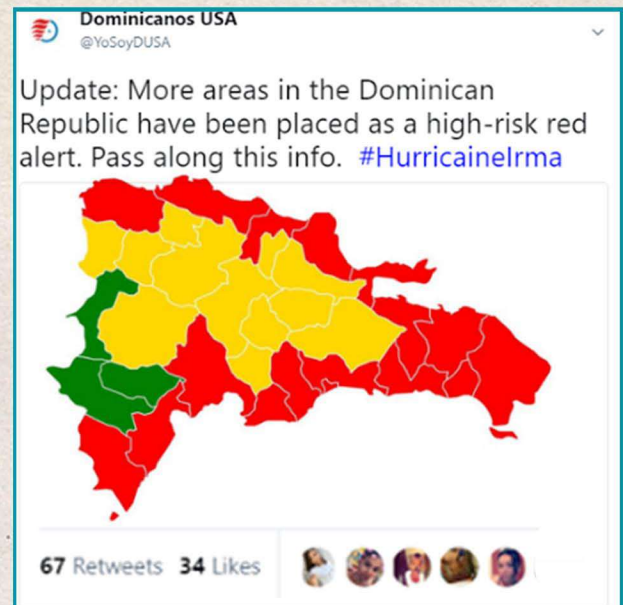
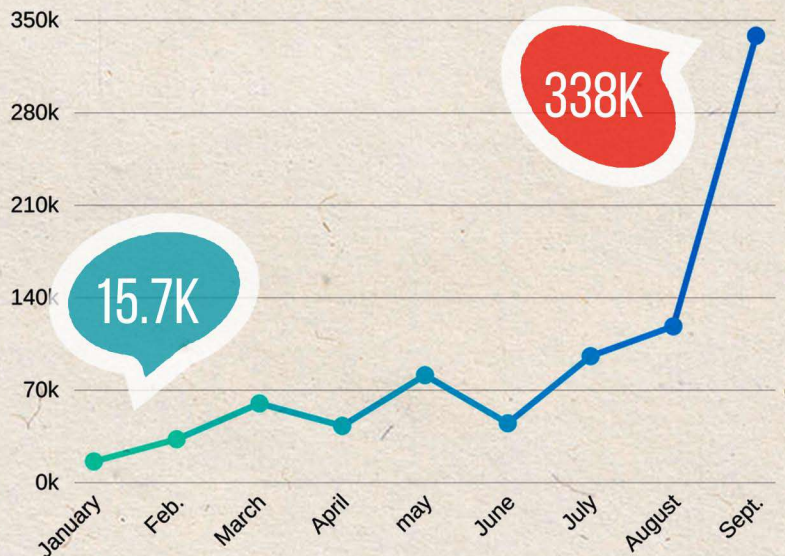
CRITICAL DURING CRISES

Social media has also been indispensable in response to recent natural disasters. During and after Hurricanes Irma and Maria, DUSA provided timely information about the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico for our communities in the US and on the islands. These communication channels allowed us to help Dominicans remain well informed and prepared for the hurricane. Our posts also guided the public to the locations where they can drop off supplies and the organizations where they can make donations.

TWITTER PROFILE VISITS



TWITTER IMPRESSIONS



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