

# AURORA

August | September 2018



# CREATES

Arts & History Worth Discovering



*Celebrate El Salvador in Aurora*



# MESSAGE

from the Editors

Aurora is now a majority-minority community, where people identifying with a racial or ethnic minority group make up a majority of the population. And a fifth of Aurora's residents are foreign-born. According to Brown University, Aurora is the ninth most diverse city at the neighborhood level and the 10th most integrated community among the 100 most populous cities in the U.S.

The city's Cultural Services Division has an important role to play in welcoming and respecting Aurora's diverse residents because it is through the arts that we can broaden and deepen our understanding of and appreciation for the diversity of cultures that make this city so unique and special. The Aurora History Museum has been a great contributor to this effort through its ongoing series of exhibits that tell the story of Aurora's transformation from a one-horse town (thank you, Patches) to one of the country's most diverse and welcoming large cities.

This issue's cover story features images from one of the museum's current exhibits: "A Mosaic of Cultures: Aurora's Salvadoran Community." Aurora is home to more than 3,000 Salvadorans, making them the third-largest foreign-born population in the city (after Mexico and Ethiopia). Many of these residents are in the United States under the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Program, a humanitarian program where the U.S. suspends deportations to countries that have been destabilized by war or catastrophe.

So go to the Aurora History Museum and feel good about Aurora's status as Colorado's most diverse city. As they say in El Salvador, "Ta' chivo, ¿vá?" (It's cool, isn't it?!)



## CELEBRATING SALVADORANS

The Aurora History Museum, in partnership with Aurora Sister Cities, is celebrating the third-largest foreign-born community in Aurora, Salvadorans, with an exhibition that honors this community and educates those who are not that familiar with it, in a fun and interesting way including images, videos and items on display.

From the color selection on the walls to the vibrant colors of the art and traditional clothing on display, the exhibition is a cultural fête, both of the past and present, as the images accompanying this story can show.

"A Mosaic of Cultures: Aurora's Salvadoran Community" is also a connector as it engaged members of the Salvadoran community in a significant way. In preparation for the exhibition, the museum and the Consulate of El Salvador in Aurora hosted a series of community meetings. The result: The exhibit was shaped by community input, and many Salvadorans even shared items for the exhibition.

"A Mosaic of Cultures: Aurora's Salvadoran Community" runs through Nov. 4 and includes complementary programs such as the Sept. 19 Brown Bag Lecture: *Salvadoreños Residiendo en Colorado* (Salvadorans living in Colorado), where attendees will have another opportunity to learn about Aurora's vibrant Salvadoran community.

This is the second installment in a series of collaborative exhibits between Aurora Sister Cities and the museum. The first was two years ago on Ethiopia, the second-largest foreign-born community in Aurora (Mexico is número uno). For the El Salvador exhibition, the Aurora History Museum also worked in close collaboration with the Consulate of El Salvador in Aurora and the city of Aurora Office of International and Immigrant Affairs.

**Cover Image:** Detail of a beach towel on display at the Aurora History Museum for the "Mosaic of Cultures: Aurora's Salvadoran Community." The design is inspired by folk art from El Salvador's La Palma region and world-renowned artist Fernando Llort.



# SPOTLIGHT ON

## Salvadoran Culture Champion

### Roxy Hernández

Roxy Hernández, an immigrant from El Salvador, defines herself as an entrepreneur and a helper by nature. She runs a nonprofit dance program, Eco Folklórico Cuscatlán, and a catering business of traditional Salvadoran food, Antojitos Cuscatlán. Hernández moved to Colorado 23 years ago, 13 of which have been spent in Aurora.

**AC: Tell us about your passion for dancing and your background in that discipline.**

RH: My passion for dancing, socially, has been there since very young but I never really received formal training in regards to folklore. Typically, we used to dance one or two times a year through the school year, and then there was no more exposure to it until I moved to Aurora 13 years ago and I saw the need to represent my roots, so needless to say, I have done a lot of reading, asked a lot of questions and watched lots of YouTube performances.

**AC: Why is dancing to traditional Salvadoran music important to you?**

RH: Because although the Mayans, Pipiles, Lencas, etc., are gone, there is a story to share with the world. Diversity of all ethnic groups living in the community should be represented to share the richness of our heritage while at the same time other cultures realize the similarities and differences of our culture.

**AC: Is that what you try to accomplish with Eco Folklórico Cuscatlán?**

Yes, Eco Folklórico Cuscatlán's mission is to promote, preserve and

disseminate the Salvadoran traditions. Our motto is, "Dancing with a purpose," that way people come closer and engage by asking what that purpose is.

**What do you want people to know about the Salvadoran culture through your dancing and food?**

Although we are part of the American continent, our dance, music and gastronomy is different and we will humbly share it with you.

**You are considered to be a pioneer of Salvadoran heritage by preserving and disseminating Salvadoran traditions. Why do you do this?**

Latin America is diverse and Coloradans needed to be exposed to the richness and diversity of our culture. So back in 2007, a small group of friends who love dancing and my children became Eco Folklórico (although it officially became a nonprofit in 2013) and ever since I've done my best to participate in community events, public schools, faith communities, art festivals, etc. I just love the look of enjoyment people show at our performances and the satisfying look at tastings of Salvadoran gastronomy...I do it for love of the art and my indigenous heritage.

**What are some of the changes you have seen in the city's cultural scene in the last decade or so?**

Slowly but surely Aurora and Colorado in general have been adapting to accommodate the immigrant population in the last 12 years. Now you see more authentic ethnic restaurants, and a lot of community events labeled as "international."

**What are some of the most common things people don't know about El Salvador that you are proud to talk about?**

Almost all Salvadorans don't eat pupusas with a fork. The Butterfly Pavilion is supplied butterflies from El Imposible National Park in El Salvador. El Salvador is "El pulgarcito de America" (Americas' Tom Thumb) due to its size being smaller than the state of Massachusetts. San Salvador, the capital, is known as "the valley of the hammocks" because of the frequent earthquakes. Horchata de morro –the Salvadoran delicacy made with toasted nuts that get blended to make our famous beverage– won first place at the Denver County Fair in 2017.





# august

**01** Cabaret Series: “Unexpected Songs with Kaitlin Weinstein and Friends”  
7:30 p.m. \$  
Vintage Theatre

**02** Concert: Chris Daniels and the Kings  
6 p.m.  
Southlands Lifestyle Center  
6155 S. Main St.

**03** Opening Night: Neil Simon’s “The Sunshine Boys”  
7:30 p.m. \$  
Vintage Theatre

**04** Aurora Dance Arts Performance  
Aurora Public Schools 11th Annual Back to School Kick Off  
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Town Center at Aurora  
14200 E. Alameda Ave.

**09** New Play Comedy Festival: “The Best Day of Your Life”  
7:30 p.m. \$  
Vintage Theatre

**Auditions for Aurora Symphony**  
Violin, viola, cello, double bass, trumpet, percussion, piano/key-board  
6 – 9 p.m.  
Aurora Central Library

**Concert: That Eighties Band**  
6 p.m.  
Southlands Lifestyle Center

**10** New Play Comedy Festival: “The Cannibal of Ajax”  
7:30 p.m.  
Vintage Theatre \$

**11** DeLaney Farm Historic District Open Days  
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**Radio Days: “Jane Thinks Mink”**  
A live performance of a classic “Easy Aces” radio broadcast from the 1930s  
11:30 – noon  
Aurora History Museum

**Auditions for Aurora Symphony**  
Violin, viola, cello, double bass, trumpet, percussion, piano/key-board  
Noon – 3 p.m.  
Aurora Central Library



**11** Aurora Dance Arts Auditions for “The Nutcracker” Ballet  
12:30 – 5 p.m. \$  
Aurora Center for Active Adults  
30 Del Mar Circle

**New Play Comedy Festival: “I Left My Dignity in My Other Purse”**  
2:30 p.m. \$  
Vintage Theatre

**New Play Comedy Festival: “Dead Behind the Eyes or The Ingenue Play”**  
7:30 p.m. \$  
Vintage Theatre

**12** Aurora Dance Arts Callbacks for “The Nutcracker” Ballet  
12:30 – 5:30 p.m.  
Aurora Center for Active Adults

**New Play Comedy Festival: “Certifiably Yours”**  
2:30 p.m. \$  
Vintage Theatre

**New Play Comedy Festival: “Pretty Naked People”**  
6:30 p.m. \$  
Vintage Theatre

**13** Industry Night: Neil Simon’s “The Sunshine Boys”  
(Benefiting the Denver Actors Fund)  
7:30 p.m. \$  
Vintage Theatre

**15** Lecture: Rocky Flats and the Cold War  
Noon \$  
Aurora History Museum

**18** Global Fest  
11 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Aurora Municipal Center Lawn and Aurora History Museum

**19** 2019 Season Announcement Party  
6 p.m. (reservations required)  
Free food; cash bar  
Vintage Theatre

**21** Concert: Byron Shaw Projex  
The Gardens on Havana  
1350 S. Ironton St.

# august

# september

**25** | **DeLaney Farm Historic District Open Days**  
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**Radio Days: “Jane’s Mother Comes to Visit”**  
A live performance of a classic “Easy Aces” radio broadcast from the 1930s  
11:30 a.m. – noon  
Aurora History Museum

**26** | **Centennial House Open Day**  
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

**27** | **Art in Public Places 25th Anniversary Proclamation**  
7:30 p.m. during Aurora City Council Meeting  
Aurora Municipal Center Council Chamber

**29** | **Cabaret Series: “The Jerseys: Unplugged”**  
7:30 p.m. \$  
Vintage Theatre



**07** | **Opening Night: “The Kentucky Cycle Parts 1 & 2”**  
7:30 p.m. \$  
Vintage Theatre

**08** | **Go Wild West Aurora (Aurora Dance Arts Performance)**  
12 – 4 p.m.  
Moorhead Recreation Center  
2390 Havana St.

**Tea Time at the Aurora History Museum: Sarah Platt**  
2 – 3:30 p.m. \$  
Aurora History Museum

**14** | **Opening Night: “Songs for a New World”**  
7:30 p.m. \$  
Aurora Fox Arts Center

**15** | **Polynesian Arts and Culture Programs**  
11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Aurora History Museum

**19** | **Lecture: Salvadoreños Residiendo en Colorado**  
(Salvadorans living in Colorado)  
Noon \$  
Aurora History Museum

**22** | **Antique Appraisal Fair**  
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. \$  
Aurora Central Library  
14949 E. Alameda Parkway

## ONGOING

**Exhibit: “Micro Cosmos”**  
works by DAVA youth and guest artist Nicole Banowetz  
DAVA  
Through Aug. 30

**Neil Simon’s “The Sunshine Boys”**  
Vintage Theatre  
Aug. 3 – Sept. 9

**“The Kentucky Cycle Parts 1 & 2”**  
Vintage Theatre  
Sept. 7 – Oct. 21

**“Songs for a New World”**  
Aurora Fox Arts Center  
Sept. 14 – Oct. 14

**Exhibit: “1968: A Fifty-Year Retrospective”**  
Aurora History Museum  
Through Nov. 4

**Exhibit: “A Mosaic of Cultures: Aurora’s Salvadoran Community”**  
Aurora History Museum  
Through Nov. 4



## RADIO DAYS at History Museum

The Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway, invites you to the watch the last two live performances of a classic radio broadcast, featuring news from the early days of our fair city in the 1930s. These stories have been borrowed from the Aurora Democrat newspaper, which reported the happenings in Aurora, and around the nation, from 1909 to 1955. On Aug. 11, watch a performance of Easy Aces’ script “Jane Thinks Mink,” and on Aug. 25, watch Easy Aces’ script “Jane’s Mother Comes to Visit,” both at 11:30 a.m. Admission to the Aurora History Museum is always free. Details at [AuroraMuseum.org](http://AuroraMuseum.org).



# AURORA FOX

## Kick Offs Season 'Full of Hope'



The Aurora Fox Arts Center opens its 2018-19 season in September with "Songs for a New World" (Sept. 14-Oct. 14), written and composed by Jason Robert Brown. This unique musical centers on the idea of life-changing decisions that land us in a place we never expected, a metaphorical and sometimes literal "new world." The cast features Aurora/Denver favorites Leonard E. Barrett Jr., Lainey Riggs, Sarah Rex and Randy Chalmers.

"I am excited to start the season with a musical that is so full of hope," said Helen R. Murray, Aurora Fox executive producer and director for 'Songs.' "Songs for a New World" explores the lives of very different people all confronting a crossroad. From the deck of a ship that needs to make it to shore, to a woman about to be a mother, to a couple who grapple with trying to stay connected—these are stories that ring true to so many of us. I am also thrilled to be working with such a stellar cast and to team up with David Nehls, our awesome music director."

The season continues with a diverse and exciting line up. In December, the Aurora Fox will turn the holidays upside down

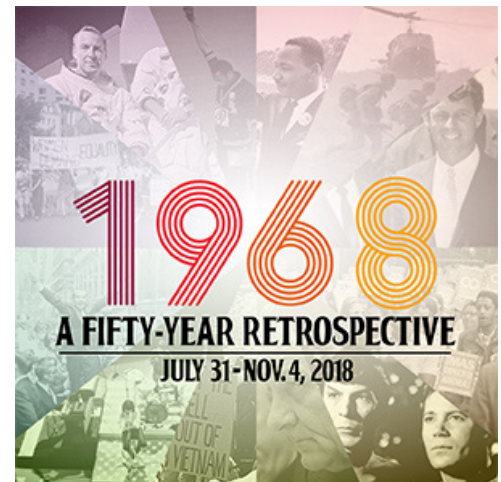
with Second City's "Twist Your Dickens," (Nov. 23-Dec. 23) an irreverent and interactive seasonal satire. This madcap, and adult, send-up of the holiday classic finds Scrooge, Tiny Tim and those know-it-all ghosts hopelessly mixed up in zany holiday sketches. And the New Year will bring us Terrance Arvelle Chisholm's explosive, funny and searing look at being a young black teenager in America today with "Hooded, or Being Black for Dummies" (Jan. 18-Feb 10). This brilliant new comedy is sure to spur rigorous discussion about the life and death issues dealt with in this wildly insightful piece.

The second half of the season features "Life Sucks" (Feb. 22-March 17) by Aaron Posner, a special limited-run performance of Philip Dawkins' "The Happiest Place on Earth" (March 8-24), and a thought-provoking musical "Caroline, or Change" (April 5-May 5) by Tony Kushner and Jeanine Tesori, as the season closer. More on each production as they come closer.

This is a season you simply cannot miss. Get your tickets at [AuroraFox.org](http://AuroraFox.org)

## 1968: A 50-Year Retrospective

The Aurora History Museum's latest exhibition, "1968: A Fifty-Year Retrospective," explores key events and movements of 1968, such as civil rights, the Vietnam War, space exploration, political identity and advancements in gender equality. As 50 years have passed, what lessons can be learned from such a tumultuous and transformative year in American history? Come to the Aurora History Museum through Nov. 4 and join the conversation. This exhibition also includes some programs, such as the Aug. 15 Brown Bag Lecture: Rocky Flats and the Cold War, by History Professor Stacey Pendleton with the University of Colorado Denver. The lecture has a \$4 (\$3 for Aurora residents) fee, but admission to the museum is always free.





# FALL INTO AUTUMN

## with Aurora Dance Arts

As the leaves begin to change and “back to school” beckons, Aurora Dance Arts—a Cultural Services Division program—is gearing up for another fabulous autumn of rewarding dance education. The performing groups are looking forward to three performances during August-September. These dancers will be serving as ambassadors of Aurora Dance Arts at the following events: Aurora Public School’s Back to School Kick Off at the Town Center at Aurora Aug. 4, the city of Aurora “Go Wild West” event at Moorhead Recreation Center Sept. 8, and at the SCDF Educators Night event Sept. 24 at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. And the auditions for Aurora Dance Arts new members of the 2018-2019 Season of Junior and Senior Performing Group will be held Sunday, Aug. 5, at Expo Recreation Center.

But that’s not all. Aurora Dance Arts is also proud to announce auditions for our 2018 production of “The Nutcracker” ballet, which includes a sensational partnership with the Aurora Symphony Orchestra, making Aurora Dance Arts one of the only productions of “The Nutcracker” in the state of Colorado to have live orchestral accompaniment. Auditions will take place Aug. 11 and 12 at the Aurora Center for Active Adults. And of course, our fall season would not be complete without the Continuous Children’s Dance Program! This amazing dance training program is for students, ages 3 to 18 years, and is a comprehensive program that runs parallel to the school year with classes in a large variety of dance genres. Classes commence Aug. 27 and run through June of 2019. There is so much to look forward to as Aurora Dance Arts falls into autumn, and information for all of the exciting opportunities described above can be found at [AuroraGov.org/Dance](http://AuroraGov.org/Dance).

# ARTS AND CULTURE IN AURORA

## CITY PROGRAMS

### Arts in Public Places

Multiple locations  
303.739.6747  
[AuroraGov.org/PublicArt](http://AuroraGov.org/PublicArt)

### Aurora Dance Arts

Multiple locations  
303.326.8308  
[AuroraGov.org/Dance](http://AuroraGov.org/Dance)

### Aurora Fox Arts Center

9900 E. Colfax Ave.  
303.739.1970  
[AuroraFox.org](http://AuroraFox.org)

### Aurora History Museum

15051 E. Alameda Parkway  
303.739.6660  
[AuroraMuseum.org](http://AuroraMuseum.org)

### Aurora Municipal Center

15151 E. Alameda Parkway  
303.739.7000  
[AuroraGov.org](http://AuroraGov.org)

### Aurora Public Library-Central

14949 E. Alameda Parkway  
303.739.6600  
[AuroraLibrary.org](http://AuroraLibrary.org)

### Aurora Rhythms – Concerts on the Lawn

Aurora Municipal Center  
Great Lawn  
15151 E Alameda Parkway  
303.739.6520  
[AuroraGov.org/Concerts](http://AuroraGov.org/Concerts)

### Bicentennial Art Center - Pottery

13655 E. Alameda Ave.  
303.344.1776  
[AuroraGov.org/Pottery](http://AuroraGov.org/Pottery)

### Centennial House (Historic Site)

1671 Galena St.  
303.739.6661  
[AuroraGov.org/HistoricSites](http://AuroraGov.org/HistoricSites)

### City of Aurora Cultural Services Division

Theatre, music and visual arts  
classes at multiple locations  
303.326.8650  
[AuroraGov.org/Arts](http://AuroraGov.org/Arts)

### DeLaney Farm Historic District

170 S. Chambers Road  
303.739.6661  
[AuroraGov.org/HistoricSites](http://AuroraGov.org/HistoricSites)

### Fletcher Plaza

9898 E. Colfax Ave.

### The People’s Building

9995 E. Colfax Ave.  
Rental Inquiries: 303.739.7310



## OTHER ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS AND VENUES

### 5280 Artist CoOp

1400 Dallas St.  
303.432.9162 • [5280ArtistCoOp.com](http://5280ArtistCoOp.com)

### Academia de Ballet Folklórico Nezahualcoyotl

(Mexican Folklore Dance Classes)  
ACAD, 1400 Dallas St.

### Aurora Artists’ Guild

[AuroraArtistsGuild.com](http://AuroraArtistsGuild.com)

### Aurora Cultural Arts District (ACAD)

1400 Dallas St.  
303.913.7508 • [AuroraCulture.org](http://AuroraCulture.org)

### Aurora Singers

303.343.3377 • [AuroraSingers.org](http://AuroraSingers.org)

### Aurora Symphony Orchestra

303.873.6622 • [AuroraSymphony.org](http://AuroraSymphony.org)

### Community College of Aurora Arts and Communication Dept.

303.340.7335 • [CCAurora.edu](http://CCAurora.edu)

### Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA)

1405 Florence St.  
303.367.5886 • [DavArts.org](http://DavArts.org)

### Grand Design Inc.

303.955.2724 • [GrandByDesign.org](http://GrandByDesign.org)

### Inside the Orchestra

9995 E. Colfax Ave.  
303.355.7855  
[info@insidetheorchestra.org](mailto:info@insidetheorchestra.org)

### Kim Robards Dance, Inc.

9995 E. Colfax Ave.  
303.825.4847  
[KimRobardsDance.org](http://KimRobardsDance.org)

### Mushin Martial Arts

ACAD, 1400 Dallas St.

### Nueva Escuela de Música

9995 E. Colfax Ave.  
720.500.3306  
[NuevaEscuelaDeMusica.org](http://NuevaEscuelaDeMusica.org)

### Red Delicious Press

9901 E. 16th Ave  
303.366.2922  
[RedDeliciousPress.com](http://RedDeliciousPress.com)

### Roshni

Multiple locations  
720.427.0404 • [RoshniIsLight.org](http://RoshniIsLight.org)

### Theatre Esprit Asia

ACAD, 1400 Dallas St.  
303.370.6014 • [TeaTheatre.org](http://TeaTheatre.org)

### Vintage Theatre Productions Inc.

1468 Dayton St.  
303.856.7830 • [VintageTheatre.com](http://VintageTheatre.com)

### Visions Performing Arts

720.620.2316  
[VisionsPerformingArtsCompany.org](http://VisionsPerformingArtsCompany.org)





# 7/20 MEMORIAL

## Offers Comfort, Peace, Hope and Strength

The 7/20 Memorial honoring the victims, families and survivors of the Aurora theatre shooting of 2012 offers a message of comfort, peace, hope and strength to everyone. This was the goal of the members of the 7/20 Memorial Foundation, and they found the right artist to realize that vision for them.

Kentucky artist Douwe Blumberg designed, created and installed “Ascentiate,” a sculptural composition of 83 cast aluminum cranes in the city of Aurora Water-wise Reflection Garden on the southeast side of the Aurora Municipal Center at East Alameda Parkway and South Chambers Road. The Reflection Garden’s winding path culminates with this stunning sculpture. Seventy white cranes representing those injured in the shooting converge from all sides and begin to rise upward. Then the 13 uppermost cranes with translucent wings that glow in the sunlight continue to rise upward, representing those who perished. The sculpture is about 18 feet tall.

All of the cranes were cast with a hollow interior compartment. Each of

these compartments has been filled with a canister containing meaningful words, objects and mementos. The compartments were welded shut, so that the contents of each bird are unique and will forever remain a mystery.

Blumberg was selected by the 7/20 Memorial Foundation from more than 160 artists nationwide who applied for the project, with the support of the city of Aurora Art in Public Places program. The four artist finalists were provided with access to relevant items in the archives of the Aurora History Museum, including elements from the makeshift memorials that were created on Sable Boulevard across from the theatre and also around Dawn Fountain at the Aurora Municipal Center. Blumberg was moved by 1,000 hand-folded origami cranes that had been sent after the tragedy. Cranes are a mystical creature in Japan where a legend promises good luck or successful recovery from an injury to anyone who folds 1,000 cranes. They may also be given as healing gifts and are often created as a group effort. The 7/20 Memorial Foundation

now continues that tradition, working with community members to create wreaths of 1,000 origami cranes to send to other communities coping with tragic, violent events. Thus, the image of cranes became the foundation of the memorial sculpture.

When you visit this memorial, do not expect to find a list of names, references to the event or perpetrator, or other elements that you might find at other memorial sites. Instead, the hope of everybody involved in this project is for you to experience comfort, peace, hope and strength –and that something of sustaining beauty and deep meaning has been created for all of us to enjoy. Enjoy it now, and imagine it in five years, and in 10 years, as the plantings become mature and the landscape is rich.

The memorial was formally dedicated Friday, July 27, and is open to the public.

