

CHRISTINA DELGADO

PHOTOGRAPHER | DESIGNER | CURATOR | EDUCATOR | COMMUNITY LEADER

Community Arts Events & Workshops

TOLA'S ROOM, NOVEMBER 2018 - PRESENT; BALTIMORE, MD

Tola's Room is a Puerto Rican home museum & culture space located in Northeast Baltimore. The museum draws on personal cultural perspective, displaying a passion and pride for identity in family and homeplace. Our goal is to pay homage to the Puerto Rican/Nuyorican cultural experience and history, with the hopes to educate, influence, and inspire the local Puerto Rican narrative. The name Tola's Room is inspired by founder & owner, Christina Delgado's daughter, Omotola. Meaning child is wealth, one of worldly wealth.

SKILLSET: Social media creation, Design & management, Design, Curation, Food & menu design & implementation, Art installation, Photography, Community organizing & engagement, Event design & implementation, Workshop design & implementation, Community collaboration & partnerships, Leadership, Management, Troubleshooting

- **PR Passion** (June 2021) A nostalgic boricua curation for the senses, from the heart and mind of a Nuyorican. Artist Co-Collaborator(s): Alyssa Brown, Kyle Miller, Natalia Rivera, Mai-Ling Rodriguez, JaymeSky Pegan Ben-Canaan, Berginald Rash
- **Sangria Sunday** (July 2021) centered around Brunch culture as the theme, this event brings PR Passion to a more intimate space for art enthusiasts, artists, and art leaders in Baltimore. Artist Co-Collaborator(s): Natalia Rivera, Mai-Ling Rodriguez, JaymeSky Pegan Ben-Canaan
- **La Bodega** (October 2021) A fully interactive Puerto Rican Culture Museum and Market where we explore Puerto Rican cultural and familial traditions with authentic food, music, exclusive vendors, and interactive exhibits. Artist Co-Collaborator(s): Baltimore Creatives Accelerators Network (BCAN), Joe Santiago, Linda Ramirez, Omotola Dawodu, Vanessa Lopez, Natalia Rivera, Mai-Ling Rodriguez, JaymeSky Pegan Ben-Canaan
- **Noche Buena Night Market & Museum** (December 2021) An authentic Puerto Rican holiday celebration with food & drink, music, vendors, and interactive art Artist Co-Collaborator(s): Jordyn Briana, Joe Santiago, Linda Ramirez, Omotola Dawodu, Vanessa Lopez, Natalia Rivera, Mai-Ling Rodriguez, JaymeSky Pegan Ben-Canaan
- **Lexington Market Community Conversations** (January 2022) hosted at Tola's Room Artist Christina Delgado and other community leaders in Northeast Baltimore discussed their memories and future dreams for Lexington Market Co-Collaborator(s): Noisy Tenants, Northeast Leaders, JaymeSky Pegan Ben-Canaan
- **I <3 PR Passion** (June 2022) One year anniversary celebration and fundraiser to continue to serve as a collective space dedicated to the arts, community, and education while serving as the only Puerto Rican cultural hub in Baltimore City. Artist Co-Collaborator(s): Aszana Bell-Lopez, Truth Outfitters, Julian Whitley, Natalia Rivera, Mai-ling Rodriguez, JaymeSky Pegan Ben-Canaan, Deji Dawodu, Tamika Anderson, The Empanada Lady
- **Hike & Museum Tour** (September 2022) An immersive private museum tour of Tola's Room & hike in Herring Run Park, a local park in Northeast Baltimore. Co-Collaborator(s): Latino Outdoors, Cane de Sucre, Deji Dawodu, Tamika Anderson, Mai-ling Rodriguez
- **Latino Design Histories: Untold Stories on the US Territory of Puerto Rico & its Diaspora** (October 2022) A virtual panel discussion & in person home museum tour highlighting the untold design stories of the US Territory of Puerto Rico & its Diaspora. Co-Collaborator(s): AIGA Baltimore, SoDA Baltimore, Dr. Maria de mater O'Neil, Ramdwin Gonazalez-Otero,

Alberto Rigau, Raquel Castedo, Cane de Sucre, Mai-Ling Rodriguez, Deji Dawodu, Tamika Anderson

- **Navidad Boriken** (December 2022) An intimate holiday celebration paying homage to la isla, Boriken. A traditional Puerto Rican holiday meal served community style, while experiencing a live latin jazz performance and a fully immersive museum tour. Co-Collaborator(s): Ed Hrybrk, Irene Jalenti, Cane de Sucre, Deji Dawodu, Omotola Dawodu, Tamika Anderson, Mai-ling Rodriguez, JaymeSky Pegan Ben-Canaan, Natalia Rivera, Jennifer Rivera, Osvaldo Rosario
- **Un Verano en Baltimore** (June 2023) A summer party and 3rd annual celebration. Un Verano en Baltimore, plays on the name of a famous salsa song by El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico, Un Verano en Nueva York. June is a time of celebration for Puerto Ricans in New York City, Chicago, and other parts of the US Mainland. Tola's Room is continuing that tradition en BAL-TIMORE. Co-Collaborator(s): Cane de Sucre, DJ JustJuWhit, Mai-ling Rodriguez, JaymeSky Pegan Ben-Canaan, Aviv Ben-Canaan, Janyeris Ross Capellan
- **Tranquilo** (September 2023) A movement meditation & wellness series to feel still, peaceful, strong, and nourished. Co-Collaborator(s): Rose Marie Davila, Flava Bowls
- **Impromptu Holiday Popup** (December 2023) An impromptu holiday pop up shop to highlight local Puerto Rican artists & vendors. Co-Collaborator(s): Javier Gonzalez, Dina Tillman, Linda Ramirez, Ana Teixeira

NE LEADERS, AUGUST 2018 - PRESENT; BALTIMORE, MD

A voluntary community collective led by resident leaders focusing on advocacy to build community within NE Baltimore through accountability, action, engagement, relationships, and partnerships.

SKILLSET: Community organizing & engagement, Workshop design & implementation, Community collaboration & partnerships, Management, Troubleshooting, Curation

ARTIST CO-COLLABORATOR(S): NLife, Runners for Justice, Making Good in Our Community, Baltimore Peace Movement, Sela La Like, Backyard Basecamp, 4x4 Community Leaders

- **Digital Inequity Workshop** (March 2022)
- **Tweedy's Ice Cream Social** (June 2021 - Present)
- **#JustDon't: Youth Anti-Litter & Art Advocacy Movement** (February 2021- May 2021)
- **Family Fall Crawl** (October 2021)
- **Thanksgiving Food Drive** (November 2019)
- **Community Flea Market** (October 2019)
- **Monthly Meetings** (July 2019 - February 2024)
- **Holiday Lights in Herring Run Park** (December 2017- Present)

BELAIR-EDISON NEIGHBORHOODS, INC., JUNE 2015 - MARCH 2019; BALTIMORE, MD

- **Mosaic Planter Project** (August 2015 - June 2016) Artist co-collaborator(s): Maman Renkin, Professor & Ceramic Artist; Herb Massie, Community & Ceramic Artist; Lynette Rodgers, Community & Ceramic Artist; Page Orpin, Community Artist & Muralist; Stephen Townes, Community Artist & Painter; Jermain T. Bell, Artist & Designer
- **Belair-Edison Community Sign Mosaic Project** (2017) Artist Co-Collaborator(s): Loring Cornish
- **Brehms Lane Playground Project** (2017) Artist co-collaborator(s): Kyle Miller, Loring Cornish, Art with a Heart
- **Community Murals Project** (August 2005 - May 2017) Artist Co-Collaborator(s): Shaun James, Mural Masters; Paige Orpin, Muralist & Painter; Pablo Machioli, Muralist, Sculptor & Digital Art

- **ZYMURGY: Words & Sounds** (MARCH 2018) Artist Co-Collaborator(s): Ada Pinkett
- **311 Awareness Murals** (JULY 2018) Artist Co-Collaborator(s): Greg Gannon

ARTS FOR LEARNING MARYLAND (FORMERLY YOUNG AUDIENCES OF MARYLAND), 2011 - PRESENT; BALTIMORE, MD

- **EIR-Start With The Art** (August 2022 - May 2023)
- **Bloomberg Art Interns** (October 2022 - May 2023)
- **Collaborative Growth Project** (February 2021 - April 2022)
- **Race & Ethnic Equity Working Group** (July 2018 - March 2021)
- **Teaching Residencies & Teacher Professional Development Lectures** (April 2010 - Present)

Community Engagement & Advocacy

NORTHEAST HOUSING INITIATIVE, JUNE 2020-CURRENT; BALTIMORE MD

A non-profit community land trust dedicated to providing permanently affordable shared equity housing in North East Baltimore.

- **4X4 Community Inaugural Community Mural** (2022) Managed & organized an extensive community engagement process to include community meetings, community surveys, and interviews, which led to the first mural for the 4x4 community created by Baltimore based artist Justin Nether. The mural is the first memorial project to highlight Laurel Cemetery, established in 1852 as the first non-religious cemetery for Baltimore's African American community and deals with the present reality, past, and questions of the future for the 4x4 neighborhood. Artist Co-Collaborator(s): Justin Nether, Elgin Klugh

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- **The Circle** (March 2023) A community workshop for caregivers & elders to share their stories, work to heal any frustration, pain, or trauma, and create love stories as an artistic response to their experience. Co-Collaborator(s): Vanessa Lopez, Cane de Sucre
- **Community Classroom Workshop** (April 2022) In partnership with Arts for learning MD for their Collaborative Growth Project Curriculum, Tola's Room designed an interactive culture concept that poses the question "what is a classroom?" with the aim of breaking down notional constructs of the classroom. Participants are offered a chance to explore and interrogate their understanding of community as classroom not merely location, but as people, action, understanding, and experience that help shape, develop, and expand on one's experience and educational practice as Cultural Leader. Artist Co-Collaborator(s): Arts for Learning Maryland, Natalia Rivera, Mai-Ling Rodriguez, JaymeSky Pegan Ben-Canaan, Berginald Rash
- **#BmoreBoricuas Project Workshop Series #1, Cyanotype Workshop** (August 2023) Tola's Room in partnership with Maddox Photography designed a workshop to create cyanotypes that capture the essence of the Diapsoric narrative. This project is the first of a series entitled #BmoreBoricuas Project, to archive past & current histories of Puerto Ricans in Baltimore City. Artist Co-Collaborator(s): Oliver Maddox
- **#BmoreBoricuas Project Workshop #2, Taino Symbols Linoleum Printmaking Workshop** (March 2024) Tola's Room in partnership with art scientist & culture worker, Annette Ortiz designed a workshop to teach about Taino symbols and their connection to Puerto Rican culture while creating a Taino linoleum stamp & prints on different papers & fabrics. This project is the second of a series entitled #BmoreBoricuas Project, to archive past & current histories of Puerto Ricans in Baltimore City. Artist Co-Collaborator(s): Annette Ortiz

Community Residency

BUILD TOGETHER SUMMER DESIGN RESIDENCY, JUNE 2021 - OCTOBER 2021; BALTIMORE, MD

A summer-long public space intervention with the Johnston Square neighborhood, located in East Baltimore City, through the Neighborhood Design Center's Build Together Summer Design Residency. The products of this short residency were a gateway bridge mural & photography installation, community film, free farmers market popup, 7 community altar installations, and a social media archive of the process.

SKILLSET: Photography, Artist commission, Community organizing & engagement, Workshop design & implementation, Community collaboration & partnerships, Management, Troubleshooting, Social media creation, design & management, Design, Curation

ARTIST CO-COLLABORATOR(S): Paige Orpin, Noisy Tenants, Kyle Miller, G Laster

Exhibitions & Publications

"Pa Mi Gente", The Motor House, October 2023

"Taking Space", Creative Alliance, September 2023

"Boricua", Maryland Women's Heritage Center, September 2023

"Diasporican Art in Motion", Center for Puerto Rican Studies, February 2023

"Building Capacity for Community-Academia Research Partnerships by Establishing a Physical Infrastructure for Community Engagement: Morgan CARES." Sheikhattari, P., Shaffer, E., Barsha, R. a.A., Silver, G. B., Elliott, B., Delgado, C., Purviance, P., Otero-Marah, V., & Bronner, Y. (2022). *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19(19), 12467.

"Casa de la Cultura Art Exhibition", Casa de la Cultura, 2022

"Passion & Purpose: Voices of Maryland's Civil Rights Activists" Exhibition, Maryland Center for History and Culture, June 2022

Baltimore Uprising Archive Project, Maryland Center for History and Culture, 2015

Press & Reviews

"Pa' Mi Gente: an Embassy of Boricua Culture on North Avenue", Bmore Art Magazine, 4 December 2023

"How Curating Tola's Room Helped Christina Delgado Better Understand Her Own Heritage", Baltimore Magazine, 2 October 2023

"Tola's Room: A Puerto Rican Home Museum & Cultural Oasis in Baltimore", Bmore Art Magazine, 19 May 2023

"Project No. 3889. Build Together: Piloting a First-of-its-kind Designer in Residence Program", The Neighborhood Design Center, 11 May 2023

"Entrepreneur Spotlight", The Freakin Rican Monthly Newsletter, 1 May 2023

"A Puerto Rican Experience: An Artist Transforms Her Home in Baltimore into a Museum", The Baltimore Banner, 2 November 2022

"La Bodega: A Puerto Rican Culture Museum & Market", Alum Spotlight, BCAN, 9 November 2021

"Baltimore Fishbowl," Baltimore artist to host community event in in Johnston Square, 30 September 2021

Fellowships

CARIBBEAN CULTURAL CENTER AFRICAN DIASPORA INSTITUTE (CCCADI). INNOVATIVE CULTURAL ADVOCACY FELLOWSHIP, June 2018; NEW YORK, NY

Fellowship trains mid-career professionals of historically marginalized communities of color for public leadership and management of cultural institutions and nonprofit arts organizations in New York City and across the nation.

Speaking Engagements

PUERTO RICAN PRIDE AT TOLA'S ROOM, On the Record with Sheilah Kast w/ guest Christina Delgado. WYPR Radio, Baltimore, MD, June 2023

MUTUAL AID: CONSTRUCTING A SUSTAINABLE & REPLICABLE MODEL TO SUPPORT OURSELVES, Maryland Arts Summit, Baltimore, MD, Guest Speaker, June 2023

FIVE MINUTE HISTORIES: PUERTO RICAN HOME MUSEUM, Baltimore Heritage, Baltimore, MD, January 2023

DESIGNING WITH COMMUNITY AT THE CENTER, Robert W. Deutsch Foundation, Baltimore, MD, Guest Speaker, May 2022

UNDERSTANDING OF PUERTO RICAN CULTURE COURSE, [virtual talk] Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, Guest Speaker, February 2022

OPEN WORKS SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT, Neighborhood Design Center, Baltimore, MD, Guest Speaker with Jazz Erenberg, October 2021

GETTING TO THE TRUTH IN THIS ART, Podcast by Rob Lee w/ guest Christina Delgado. Spotify, July 2021.

NO PIX AFTER DARK, Podcast by Aaron Donte w/ guest Christina Delgado. EP 126 Puerto Rican Passion @Tola's Room. Spotify, June 2021.

Education

M.A. LEADERSHIP IN TEACHING, DECEMBER 2014

NOTRE DAME OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY | Baltimore, MD

A.A. VISUAL ARTS/PHOTOGRAPHY, JUNE 2007

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF BALTIMORE CITY | Baltimore, MD

B.S. PSYCHOLOGY, MAY 2002

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY | Richmond, VA