



Themed Experience

HIGHLIGHTING HERITAGE: LATINX VOICES AND THE HISPANOSPHERE

Our heritage informs our sense of identity, culture, and language. Enjoy the following exhibits that highlight the rich heritage of Latinx community members and the larger Hispanosphere.

Floor

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First Words

Watch the language learning process unfold, from babbling babies to talkative toddlers. This gallery showcases how babies learn their first language and gives visitors a glimpse of what it looks like to grow up bilingual.

Where Do Words Come From?

The 22-foot-tall wall of words speaks for itself — literally! Our talking word wall shares the history of the English language. Choose “burrito” to learn about how Spanish words have influenced the English we use today. How many can you identify?

The Spoken World

Dive headfirst into the awe-inspiring diversity of languages by meeting speakers from several Spanish-speaking locales. Let them introduce you to what's unique about their native language, featuring César, a Spanish speaker from Venezuela and Elva, a Quechua speaker from Peru. Also in this gallery, look out for the touchscreen display about multilingualism. You'll hear firsthand from bilingual kids about the importance of knowing English and Spanish!

CONVERSATION STARTERS



First Words:

One of these children is learning Spanish and English from a young age. What language was your first word in?

Word Wall:

Many words came into English through Spanish. Several of them are on this wall. Are you aware of additional words that aren't on the Word Wall?

Spoken World:

If you could teach someone about your favorite word or phrase in Spanish, what would it be and why?

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LATINX LITERATURE IN THE LIBRARY

In this magical gallery, pick out a book and watch as the stories come to life on the pages in front of your very eyes. Stories written by Latinx authors include:

- *Maybe Something Beautiful* by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell
- *Baseball in April and Other Stories* by Gary Soto
- *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan
- *Summer of the Mariposas* by Guadalupe Garcia McCall
- *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo

¡En español!

- *Mango, Abuela Y Yo* por Meg Medina
- *Furia* por Yamile Saied Mendez
- *La Ciudad de las Bestias* por Isabel Allende
- *El Hablador* por Mario Vargas Llosa
- *Solito* por Javier Zamora



Poetry Nook

This secret room hidden behind the library's shelves is located on the second floor. Listen to the rhythmic cadences of "Bilingüe" by Rhina P. Espaillat, "Words Free as Confetti" by Pat Mora, and "[Let us gather in a flourishing way]" by Juan Felipe Herrera, the former U.S. Poet Laureate.

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Multilingual

This art piece serves as a visual log and representation of the diverse guests that visit Planet Word. By adding the other languages that you speak, you too can be a part of this one-of-a-kind installation.

Words Matter

Check out the short reflection testimonial "Jewish and Latina" by Gabriela Orozco, the 2019 DC Youth Poet Laureate. Hear her discuss the power of language and identity. Then, share your own experiences in our fully-equipped recording booth.

ONE WORD
I LOVE FROM ANOTHER LANGUAGE IS:

What word reminds you of home? Add it to the circles in the Words Matter gallery.

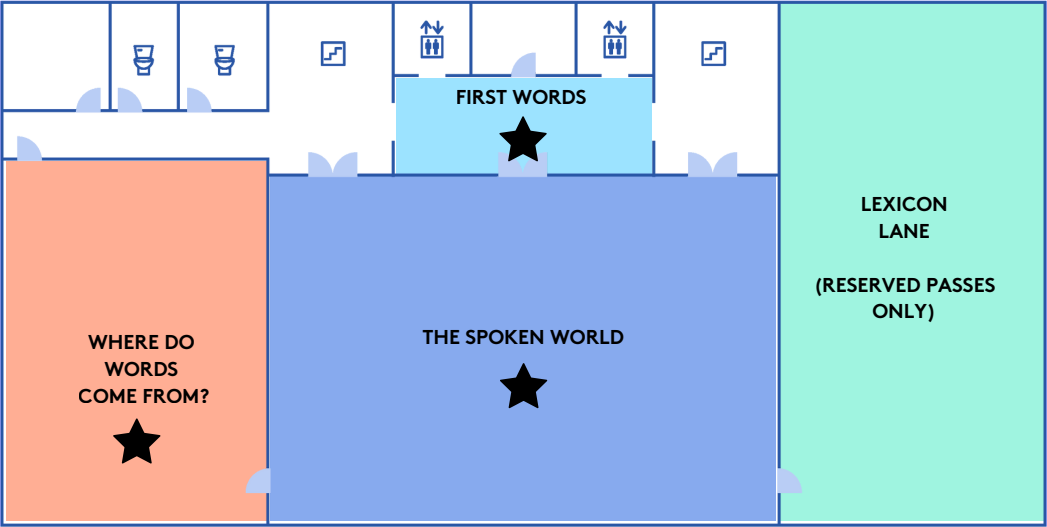
HERE'S WHY:

Did You Know?

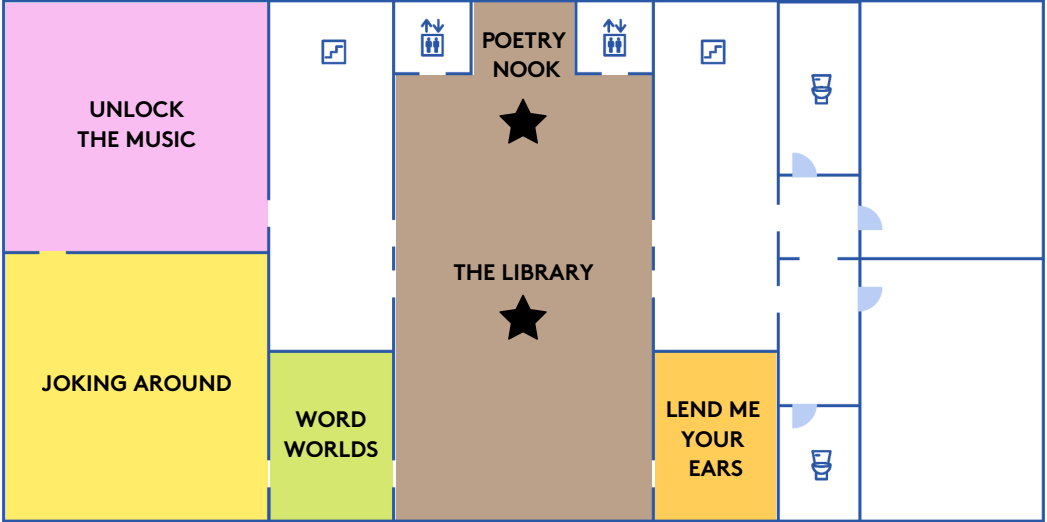
Speaking Willow, the interactive sculpture at the center of our ground-level courtyard, was created by Mexican-Canadian artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer. Lozano-Hemmer is best known for depicting intangible traces of the human experience. Featuring the native tongues of over 99% of the world's population, this original art piece reminds us that language connects people and communities across the globe.

Museum Map

FLOOR THREE



FLOOR TWO



FLOOR ONE

