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.

**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. Interact with this gallery to learn samples of Spanish words that have influenced the English we use today.

**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 Quechuan speaker from Peru.

**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

**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.

**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.

**Speaking Willow**
*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.

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**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. How many can you identify?

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