



The Center for People of All Races

A voice and a hub for the Latino community  
as we advocate on behalf of our people  
and work to achieve social justice.

## Programs & Services

Annually, El Centro de la Raza serves 25,497 individuals and 12,282 families through the following programs and services:

Luis Alfonso Velásquez Flores  
After School Program  
Basic Healthcare Enrollment  
Café con El Centro  
College Readiness  
Crisis Advocacy  
ECR Transitional Housing  
El Patio Apartments  
ESL & Citizenship Classes  
Eviction Prevention  
Financial Literacy  
Food Bank  
Foreclosure Prevention  
Homeless Assistance Program  
Homeownership Program  
Hope for Youth Poetry & Civil Rights  
History Classes  
Infant Mortality Prevention  
Employment Program  
José Martí Child Development Center  
Parent Involvement & Education  
Latino Hot Meal Program  
Youth Violence Prevention  
Teen Pregnancy Program  
Senior Nutrition & Wellness  
Senior Home Delivered Meals  
Legal Clinic Site  
Tax Preparation Site  
Local, State, National & International  
Coalition Building  
Immigrant/Human/Civil Rights  
Social Justice Advocacy  
Cultural/Political/Social Events  
Community Service Site  
Service Learning Site  
Community Meeting Space

January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

We are writing to share some exciting news, and to ask for your support.

### Exciting News!

- The El Centro de la Raza's Santos Rodriguez Park has new playground equipment and is open to all! Hours will be posted soon, please come out with the whole family and enjoy the park.
- \$350,000 in funding from the Seattle Parks Opportunity Fund will be used to continue to improve the park. A community advisory committee will begin planning soon that has representatives from the Beacon Hill neighborhood and business community.
- S. Lander Street between 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. is being named the **Roberto Maestas Festival Street** in honor of our principal founder and leader. Thanks to the N. Beacon Hill Community Council for your unanimous support!
- **Also in honor of Roberto Maestas**, the five acre natural forest park on the north end of Beacon Hill, currently known as Lewis Park, is being renamed the **Roberto Maestas Nature Park**. Thanks to Dee Dunbar of the Green Seattle partnership for this incredible honor.
- **South End Development**; El Centro de la Raza has received funding to begin a community process for ideas and input for planning of our South End Development. A community meeting is planned for Saturday, February 19th at El Centro, time to be announced.

### We need your support for temporary parking at El Centro de la Raza that can benefit everyone!

We are asking for your support for El Centro de la Raza's plan to provide 80 public, transit oriented, temporary parking spaces in the south end lot adjacent to the Sound Transit Light Rail Station. This will temporarily help generate much needed revenue to support our programs and mission during these difficult economic times.

El Centro has been leasing the property to Sound Transit since 2004. As Sound Transit wraps up operations it is important to El Centro to keep this area an active, safe, publicly accessible space. We have been reaching out to the businesses in close proximity to the Light Rail Station who have been impacted by parking. Those merchants in support to date include; Red Apple, The Station Coffee Shop, Jess' Barber Shop, Excelsior Travel, Communi Chi Acupuncture, Kumon Math and Reading Centers.

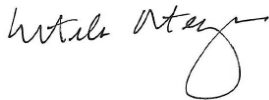
**Benefits to the neighborhood will include:**

- A safer environment with improved surfacing lighting and security, as opposed to an empty lot. We believe this will increase the safety of the community.
- Increase ridership on the Sound Transit Light Rail Station and improved access and availability for neighborhood businesses.
- Alleviation of parking by current riders in the neighborhoods and businesses adjacent to the Beacon Hill Light Rail Station.
- Food vendors/taco truck.
- Free parking space for Festival Street events and composting, trash and recycling, containers for the events.
- Provide space for vendors for Festival Street Events and Farmers Market.

If you have any questions please contact Miguel Maestas at 206-957-4650 or [associate@elcentrodelaraza.org](mailto:associate@elcentrodelaraza.org).

There are two ways you can express your support; first you can attend a hearing of the Seattle City Council Committee on the Built Environment, on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30am at City Hall. Second you can send a letter of support to the City Council.

Respetuosamente,



Estela Ortega  
*Executive Director*  
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