

Hello,

I am writing to invite you to be part of an exciting experiment in community programming. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania is joining forces with Taller Puertorriquenõ to develop programs about the experiences of Puerto Ricans living Philadelphia, with a special thematic lens on neighborhood definition, formation, and preservation.

As part of a grant from the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage, we are forming an advisory group, entitled PAZ, of people who have a relationship with one of our organizations. "Peace" in Spanish and an acronym for Program Audience Zoomers, the name references that these advisors will "zoom in" on the archives and provide a wide lens on the audiences we wish to reach. Your expertise and thoughtfulness would be greatly appreciated not only in planning programs but also in helping us create this model for programming that, we hope, makes history and cultural programs more relevant to contemporary life.

As a PAZ member, we would ask you to attend six planning meetings over the course of 2018. These meetings would include introductions to HSP and Taller's collections, learning about the Puerto Rican experience here, visiting other cultural institutions to learn about program formats, and discussions about what topics and formats you would enjoy for the new programming. You also would be asked to complete questionnaires for project evaluation, and, of course, we hope that you could attend the programs in 2019!

We will set meeting times once we have a full list of potential participants, but most likely they will be early evening on a weekday or a Saturday morning. You would be remunerated for each meeting you attend.

The urgency of this project is two-fold: 1) Many cultural organizations struggle to remain relevant to today's audiences and 2) Current events highlight schisms of understanding that exist between groups of people: black, white, and brown; native born, naturalized, and under-documented. Our experiences and values differ greatly and yet we call home a city known for discussions of equality and freedom. Through the theme of "neighborhoods," we hope to promote conversations around contemporary issues of immigration and cultural identity. Won't you join us?

Thanks for considering this request. If you wish to discuss it in more detail, you can email me (btwisshouting@hsp.org) or call me (215-982-2442). I look forward **to hearing from you by February 2** so that we can set a first meeting in mid- to late-February.