The purpose of this seminar is to provide the DBAF Neighborhood Networks and the general public with an in-depth exploration of language diversity and English language learning in the Mexican community in New York City. It is our hope this interactive seminar provides tools and resources for serving diverse communities and promoting Mexican students’ educational attainment. Topics will include indigenous languages, language diversity, English language learners (ELLs), adult education, parent engagement, and New York City education policies and programming that reinforce and support home languages.

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.  Introductions and breakfast

9:15 – 10:00 a.m.  Panel Discussion

**State of K-12 English Language Learning in NYC**

- **Luis O. Reyes**, Ph. D., Director of Education, Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños / Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Hunter College CUNY
- **Rebeca Madrigal**, Dual Language Teacher, Dos Puentes Elementary School

10:15 – 11:30 a.m.  Breakout Sessions

**Indigenous Languages**

- **Juan Carlos Aguirre**, Executive Director, Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders
- **Daniel Kaufman**, Founder & Executive Director, Endangered Language Alliance

**Myths and Facts about English Language Learning**

- **Marguerite Lukes**, Ph. D., Director of National Initiatives/Project R.I.S.E, Internationals Network for Public Schools
- **Liliana Vargas**, Director, School Development, Internationals Network for Public Schools

**“We are New York Project”**

- **David Hellman**, Project Director, Language and Literacy Programs, CUNY

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*A special thank you to John Jay College of Criminal Justice for hosting today’s seminar!*
Biographies

**Rebecca Madrigal, Dual Language Teacher, Dos Puentes Elementary School**

Rebecca Madrigal is a Model Teacher and a first grade dual language teacher at Dos Puentes Elementary School in Washington Heights. She has taught for more than fifteen years in the NYCDOE. She has presented nationwide on multicultural and education issues. Her experience as a Mexican immigrant and educator has been the focus of several academic and news articles. She earned a Master degree in Bilingual Education at Teachers College-Columbia University.

**Dr. Luis O. Reyes, Research Associate, Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Hunter College CUNY**

Dr. Luis O. Reyes, Ph.D., was appointed as a Research Associate at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Hunter College, CUNY, in 2010. He serves as Centro’s Director of Education. Dr. Reyes has served as assistant professor in various education departments, including Lehman, Hunter, Brooklyn and Baruch Colleges, CUNY, and at Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus. Dr. Reyes received his PhD in Social Sciences in Education from Stanford University in California, and an MA in Spanish Literature from Middlebury College in Vermont. His publications include an article in the Harvard Educational Review (October, 2006), on the 30th anniversary of the ASPIRA consent decree that established the legal right for Puerto Rican/Latino students in New York City to receive bilingual education instruction. His most recent article, “Minding/Mending the Puerto Rican Education Pipeline in New York City,” was published in the fall 2012 issue of the CENTRO Journal. Dr. Reyes has a chapter entitled “Rebuilding the Puerto Rican education pipeline for a multilingual/multicultural future” in Puerto Ricans and the dawn of the new millennium, to be published by the Center for Puerto Rican Studies in 2014 (E. Meléndez and C. Vargas-Ramos, eds.).
Juan Carlos Aguirre, Executive Director, Mano A Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders

Juan Carlos Aguirre is a resident of Jackson Heights, Queens. He has served in the United States Navy and received a Bachelor of Science degree from St. John’s University. He has worked for several years serving the Mexican community in New York in after school programs, adult education, immigrant advocacy where he built strategic relationships with other community-based organizations, academic institutions, and agencies. Mr. Aguirre is an Alumnus of the Coro Immigrant Civil Leadership Program (2011). He is a member of the Advisory Council to the Institute of Mexicans Abroad (IME), a detached office of Mexico’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE). Currently, Mr. Aguirre utilizes his experience in developing and implementing programs for the Mexican immigrant community with an emphasis on traditional arts and culture.

Daniel Kaufman, Ph. D., Founder & Executive Director, Endangered Language Alliance

Daniel Kaufman obtained his doctorate in linguistics at Cornell University in 2010 and soon after founded the Endangered Language Alliance, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that strives to document and promote the endangered languages spoken by immigrant populations in New York City. He is currently an adjunct lecturer at Columbia University and Yale University. He has also taught at the CUNY Graduate Center and New York University.

Dr. Marguerite Lukes, Ph. D., Director of National Initiatives/Project R.I.S.E., Internationals Network for Public Schools

Marguerite Lukes, Ph.D., oversees Project R.I.S.E., a five-year federally-funded school reform initiative that support higher levels of achievement for English language learners (ELLs) in two public high schools in New York City and San Francisco. Marguerite has taught in and directed programs in English as a Second Language, adult literacy and basic skills in English and Spanish, and has designed, implemented and evaluated professional development programs for K-12 and adult education teachers and administrators. She received her doctorate from New York University, where she conducted research about the educational experiences of immigrant high school non-completers and designed professional development for schools serving immigrant students across New York State. Marguerite completed a bachelor’s degree in Linguistics from Cologne University of Applied Sciences in Cologne, Germany and a Master’s Degree in Language, Literacy and Learning from California State University Long Beach.

Liliana Vargas, Director, School Development, Internationals Network for Public Schools

Liliana Vargas is responsible for the areas of new school development, national expansion, and other school development programs and services for the Internationals Network. Prior to joining Internationals, Liliana held teaching and leadership positions at International High School at LaGuardia Community College for six years prior to relocating to the West Coast, including serving as the Chair of its Board of the Directors during the period of its charter status. As the Director of California New School Development for Internationals, Liliana facilitated the national expansion of Internationals schools with the openings of Oakland International High School and San Francisco International High School. She received her B.A. in Political Science and Spanish from Amherst College and a M.A. in Teaching Social Studies from Teachers College, Columbia University.
David Hellman  
**Project Director, Language and Literacy Programs, CUNY**

David Hellman is the “We Are New York” Project Director for the City University of New York. He is one of the senior writers of the series and a producer of the new episode, “The Storm.” For the past ten years, David has worked as a professional developer for CUNY Language and Literacy Programs, where he supervises content-based curricula development for the CUNY Language Immersion Program. He got his start in education as a Peace Corps volunteer; has trained teachers in a refugee camp in Thailand; has taught creative writing at The University of Michigan, among other educational work. In 2010, he received a Literacy Recognition Award from the Literacy Assistance Center in New York City and a NY Emmy for his writing on “We Are New York.”