

Culture Quest Evening Reception
A Celebration of Puerto Rican History & Culture
Orange County Regional History Center, Orlando, FL
October 20, 2005

By David A. Odahowski, President
Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, Inc

Thank you, Sara. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, I want to thank you for inviting the Foundation to be the presenting sponsor of your new permanent exhibit – “Orlando Remembers.”

The Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation is pleased to be a part of this “Celebration of Puerto Rican History and Culture.” Our community’s history, culture, commerce, governance, and philanthropy is strengthened by our diversity. In fact, the official motto of this great United States could be the motto for Central Florida, *E Pluribus Unum* – out of many comes one. If we understand, appreciate, and celebrate each other’s many heritages, we become one community; and that’s why we are all here tonight!

The Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation has funded a number of initiatives you might be interested in knowing about. The Foundation was a funder of last year’s Hispanic Summit; we have funded instructional materials to be translated into Spanish; the Foundation has funded Hispanic community organizers for Federation of Congregations United to Serve, Inc. The Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation has also funded Hispanic health outreach workers at various nonprofits and the “Extra Credit” Program at the Greater Orlando Chamber of Commerce under the leadership of Maria Urbino. The Foundation’s “New Philanthropy for the Millennium” initiative in 1999-2000, provided matching dollars to Hispanic donors and the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation was the very first contributor to the new Hispanic Focus Fund at the Community Foundation. I hope all of you will be our eyes and ears in the Hispanic community for other beneficial funding opportunities.

It is now my pleasure to introduce you to Dr. Luis Martinez-Fernandez who is the Director of the Latin America, Caribbean, and Latino Studies Program at the University of Central Florida. Dr. Fernandez is a relative newcomer to the Central Florida community having come from New York City just eighteen months ago. In his short time at the UCF, he has already enhanced the teaching, research, and community outreach of the Center he directs, as evidenced by his leadership in putting together tonight’s program. Please welcome Dr. Luis Martinez-Fernandez.