

MEDIA ADVISORY | DECEMBER 10, 2024

Puerto Rican Organization for the Performing Arts Joins the African American Civil Rights Network

PROPA becomes the first Central Florida-based organization to join the AACRN, and the first organization to represent work in Puerto Rico.

Orlando, Florida – The **Puerto Rican Organization for the Performing Arts (PROPA)** proudly announces its inclusion in the African American Civil Rights Network (AACRN). This significant milestone underscores the organization's commitment to promoting equity and cultural heritage.

The AACRN, administered by the National Park Service, recognizes sites, programs, and facilities that have played a pivotal role in the African American civil rights movement. PROPA's inclusion in this prestigious network highlights its ongoing efforts to celebrate and preserve the rich cultural contributions of the African Diaspora in Puerto Rico through traditional practices and the arts.

"We are honored to be part of the African American Civil Rights Network and to be the first organization to represent Puerto Rico in this historic group," said Melanie Maldonado, President of PROPA. "This recognition affirms our dedication to visibilizing and celebrating the stories of our African ancestors in Puerto Rico and their descendants in the archipelago and ensure those examples of resilience are excavated from the physical and social archive and remembered with celebration in commUnity."

PROPA has long been a beacon of Puerto Rican cultural expression, offering arts education with a focus on African-derived music, dance, and other traditional practices. Through its diverse programming, including the biennial *Bomba Research Conference* and the *Lugares Históricos* program (both of which are based in Puerto Rico), annual *Areito* series and other educational initiatives, PROPA continues to inspire and engage audiences while promoting ancestral pride and cultural resilience.

The inclusion in the AACRN will enable PROPA to collaborate with other network members, share resources, and participate in national initiatives to advance civil rights education and awareness. This partnership will also enhance PROPA's ability to reach broader audiences and deepen its impact within the community.

For more information about PROPA and its programs, please contact Melanie Maldonado at culturaborikua@gmail.com.

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RESISTANCE, FREEDOM, BOMBA

Supported in part by an AAAM x AACRN grant administered by the Association of African American Museums in partnership with the [National Park Service Park History Program](#), Department of the Interior.

PUERTO RICAN ORGANIZATION FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



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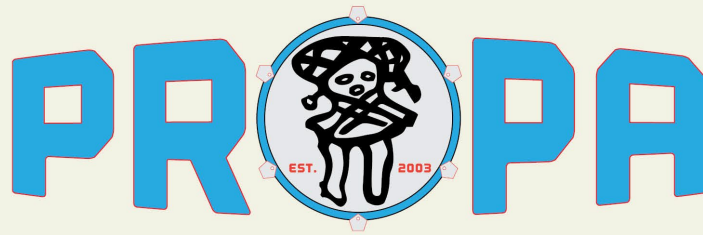
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ABOUT PROPA

The **Puerto Rican Organization for the Performing Arts (PROPA)** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to cultivating, preserving, and advocating for the rich Afro-Indigenous cultural traditions of the people of Borikén (Borinquen) worldwide.

Our mission is to preserve, cultivate, and advocate for the rich afro-indigenous cultural traditions of the people of Borikén (Borinquen) worldwide. Through a commitment to preservation, we honor the heritage and legacy of Puerto Rican communities, ensuring that their traditions thrive for generations to come.

At our core, we serve as an intersection where art, culture, history, advocacy, and action converge, catalyzing positive change and collective impact for afro-indigenous communities. We strive to create a brighter future for Puerto Rican communities and their allies worldwide through our unwavering dedication to cultivation, preservation, and advocacy.

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ABOUT AAAM

The **Association of African American Museums (AAAM)** is a national organization dedicated to supporting African American museums, cultural institutions, and professionals through leadership, advocacy, and networking. Its mission is to advance the preservation and interpretation of African American culture and history.

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ABOUT AACRN

The **African American Civil Rights Network (AACRN)** is a national initiative managed by the National Park Service to recognize the important locations, stories, and individuals that helped to shape the civil rights movement in the United States. The network provides support and funding to organizations working to preserve these significant sites and narratives.

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