



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 8, 2025

Statement from Billy Ocasio, CEO of the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, on the relocation of Monday's soccer match between Puerto Rico and Argentina:

"We are outraged and heartbroken by the news that the soccer match between Puerto Rico and Argentina, originally scheduled for October 13 at Soldier Field in Chicago, has been moved to Fort Lauderdale.

The Puerto Rican National Soccer Team was set to visit our Museum this Sunday to celebrate with Chicago's Puerto Rican community before the game, a moment we have looked forward to for months. Now that visit, like the match itself, has been taken away from us.

This decision is President Trump's attempt to impose economic sanctions on the City of Chicago for being a Sanctuary City. Hundreds, if not thousands, of visitors to our city are now left scrambling to change flights and cancel hotel reservations. It doesn't just hurt the teams or the fans; it robs Chicago of an opportunity to celebrate unity, culture, and pride.

The message is clear: Donald Trump is willing to punish entire communities to make a political point. But our message is just as clear: Chicago's Puerto Rican community will not be intimidated or silenced. We stand firm in our values, our culture, and our love for this city."

- Billy Ocasio
CEO, National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture

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ABOUT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PUERTO RICAN ARTS & CULTURE

The National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture (3015 W. Division St. in Chicago's Humboldt Park neighborhood) is the only national museum outside of Puerto Rico dedicated to interpreting the arts and culture of the Puerto Rican people. Founded in 2000, it is housed in the historic landmark Humboldt Park Stables and Receptory, near the Paseo Boricua. For more information: <https://nmprac.org/>