You Belong

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE CULTURAL CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE®
Welcome

Welcome to the University of Louisville Cultural Center!

UofL is committed to creating a challenging intellectual climate enhanced by our many human differences, and this serves as the foundational objective of the programs and services provided by the Cultural Center. More specifically, the Cultural Center creates educational opportunities for members of the university community to critically think about their beliefs, values and assumptions as it relates to culture. To fulfill our mission, we support and offer co-curricular and extra-curricular programs that acknowledge and reflect the experiences of under-represented populations. We also provide educational opportunities for all members of the campus community to examine their individual and group experiences within a culturally diverse society.
Vision

Our vision is an inclusive and accepting campus climate free of bias and hate where students, faculty, staff, and alumni work together to create positive change in the community.

ADVOCATE FOR STUDENTS + CELEBRATE DIVERSE CULTURES + ENGAGE THROUGH SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION + SUPPORT RETENTION & SCHOLARSHIP
**Signature Events & Programs**

**Heritage & Identity Celebrations**
Heritage & identity-based programs seek to foster a sense of community amongst students and the campus community by highlighting the diverse cultures represented at the University, and fostering intercultural engagement. These programs strategically highlight underrepresented or marginalized populations to ensure a sense of belonging and connectedness to the UofL community. In like manner, these programs are designed to acknowledge difference, while cultivating a shared sense of community, support, and sense of belonging for all students and campus community members.

**Diversity Dialogue Series**
Diversity Dialogues are a series of conversations around the idea of increasing cultural competence and understanding of diversity and social justice issues. Past topics presented include Islamophobia in America, Equity vs. Equality, LGBTQ Support, Advocacy & Allyism, Women in the Civil Rights Movement, From Pre-School to Penitentiary, Unsung Heros: Perceptions and Stereotypes About Military Service-members, and more.

**Fall Fest Multicultural Expo**
Fall Fest celebrates the diversity of UofL students and highlights multicultural student organizations on campus. This annual event welcomes students back to campus and provides an opportunity to learn more about Cultural Center programs, as well as how to get involved on and off-campus.
Signature Events & Programs (cont.)

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Week**
MLK Week commemorates Dr. King’s legacy by hosting an annual week-long series of events that honor the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and educate the UofL community on the importance of actualizing Dr. King’s ideals of social justice, non-violence, education, and service. The goal of MLK Week is to foster an inclusive community committed to equality and social justice through actions to create positive change.

**Multicultural Student Organization (MSO) Summit**
The MSO Leadership Summit serves as one-day event for student leaders to connect with one another, discuss issues facing their communities and organizations, as well as identify inter-organizational goals and opportunities for collaborations. Participants learn about leadership and personality styles, as well as foundational organization skills such as, communication, event planning, marketing, fundraising, and recruitment, and more.

**Graduation Celebration**
The Cultural Center Graduation Celebration pays homage to the past, while celebrating the achievements and endless possibilities of graduating underrepresented students at the University of Louisville. This ceremony also provides graduates with the opportunity to thank their families, friends, faculty, and mentors for their support.
African American Male Initiative
The African American Male Initiative at the University of Louisville seeks to increase the retention, graduation, engagement and overall success of African American males by addressing various scholastic and social challenges, through academic engagement, mentoring, peer connection, and student involvement.

Hispanic & Latino Initiative
HLI’s mission is to build strong support systems for Latino students at UofL through programs and events that explore our many identities, develop leaders, and provide coaching and mentoring for life success, share campus resources, and build community and campus collaborations.

Woodford R. Porter Scholarship Program
The Porter Scholarship program is the largest scholarship organization at the University of Louisville. Named after a former university trustee, the late Woodford R. Porter Sr., the scholarship program was created in 1984. The mission and purpose are to provide academic, personal and professional support to all recipients of this scholarship. Areas of support are based on the four pillars of promise which include scholarship, leadership, service and heritage.
Early Arrival Program
The Cultural Center Early Arrival Program (EAP) was created to help ease the high school to college transition for incoming students participating in the Cultural Center’s student success initiatives. The two-day program includes an enriching series of discussions, events and networking activities for students to discover what it means to be an active, engaged student, and build relationships as part of their support system.

Casa Abierta-Latino Student Welcome
HLI welcomes new and returning students, parents, faculty, and staff through a series of open houses each Fall semester. Students have the opportunity to network, pick-up event calendars, and connect with staff, student organizations, as well as campus departments.
**Black Student Union (BSU):**
The mission of the Black Student Union (BSU) is to stimulate and promote the intellectual, political, social, and cultural health of the campus community as a whole, with a focus on the issues impacting African American students and other underrepresented groups. They provide a resource clearing house for the social, financial, cultural, and advocacy needs on campus.

**Black Diamond Choir (BDC):**
The Black Diamond Choir is a one hour credit course offered each semester listed as Music 109 (optional). Organized in 1969, the student gospel group has been singing and sharing the “Good News” locally and in various locations within Kentucky, Indiana, Tennessee, Ohio, and Georgia.

**Brothers United (BU):**
Brothers United focuses on brotherhood, scholarship, community service, and increasing the success of men of color. BU accomplishes its goals by providing a “home base” for its members, providing them with social and academic support, and helps brothers navigate college services and resources. Brothers United is an extension of the African American Male Initiative at UofL. Membership is open to any UofL student.
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP):
The mission of the NAACP Youth and College Division is to inform youth of the problem affecting African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities; to advance the economic, education, social and political status of African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities and their harmonious cooperation with other peoples. The vision of the Youth & College division is to develop a new generation of leadership.

Latin American & Hispanic Student Organization (LAHSO):
The Latin American and Hispanic Student Organization is a RSO dedicated to celebrate the wide variety of Latin American/Hispanic history, heritage, cultures, and traditions present on the University of Louisville’ campus through a fun and culturally inclusive way. Created in November 2009, LAHSO provides a common ground for those interested in all of these aspects of the Hispanic/Latino community through a combined effort with any interested student, campus leader, RSO, and group present at UofL.

The Society of Porter Scholars:
The Society of Porter Scholars is the largest African American recognized student organization at the University of Louisville. The society's mission and purpose are to provide support and assistance, academically, personally and socially for the retention of Porter Scholars.