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NEWS RELEASE

Tony Arreaza
Event Coordinator
4938 Central Ave. Suite 101
Charlotte, NC 28205
Phone: 704-941-2557
aarreaza@latinamericancoalition.org



***AZÚCAR!* A Caribbean Celebration**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (March 19, 2010) – The Latin American Coalition invites you to experience a true Caribbean evening featuring live salsa, Cuban *son*, Puerto Rican *bomba y plena*, Dominican *merengue* and typical folkloric dancing in a family-friendly atmosphere. Taste the *sabor* of cuisine of the Spanish Caribbean, pick up handmade artisan craftwork, and sip tropical *mojitos* on a warm summer night.

AZÚCAR! A Caribbean Celebration takes you on a tour of the Spanish Caribbean's world renowned nightlife, journeying through Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico. This evening of authentic cultural presentations will highlight the African, European, and indigenous influences on Caribbean music, dance, and food. Watch the show while enjoying a Cuban sandwich, rice and beans, empanadas, or fried yuca from our local restaurant sponsors.

AZÚCAR! will feature *Yusimi Cruz* leading the **Havana Social Club** dancers in a rousing showcase of Cuban mambo, cha-cha-cha, and other Afro-Cuban dances. **Orquesta Mayor** will perform live Cuban and Puerto Rican old school salsa, covering hits by El Gran Combo, Hector Lavoe, Buena Vista Social Club, and La Sonora Matancera, to get the crowd on its feet. A special collaboration between **Leydy Bonilla** and **Bachata Flow** will present the latest sounds of Dominican *merengue* and *bachata*, while the trio D.S. will present the urban style of reggaeton. **Charlotte Salsa**, led by *Rodrigo Jimenez*, will bring the audience to Puerto Rico, presenting a colorful and cutting-edge showcase of the latest contemporary dance moves. The night will close with live salsa as **Orquesta Mayor** returns to the stage and gets the dancers and audience on the dance floor.

Please come join us for the unforgettable experience of *AZÚCAR!* A Caribbean Celebration

Friday, June 4, 2010
The Neighborhood Theatre
511 East 36 Street, Charlotte, NC 28205
Doors open at 7pm, Celebration starts at 8pm
\$10 in advance; \$15 day-of show
This is a family friendly event.

This event is made possible by: State Farm Wilfredo Martinez Agency, Arts & Science Council, Food Lion Sabor Latino, A Piece of Havana, Havana Social Club, Custom Performing Apparel and Coca Cola.

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Latin American Coalition

The Latin American Coalition, Charlotte's oldest and largest Hispanic service agency, is dedicated to empowering Latino families and promoting full Hispanic participation in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community. Our goal is to dismantle the language, economic and social barriers facing the area's more than 125,000 Latinos while at the same time offering the wider community opportunities to learn about and connect with the Latino population.

The Latin American Coalition promotes full Hispanic participation in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg region by informing, educating and advocating for the Latin American community. Current programming includes our Resource Center, job bank, workforce development classes, legal immigration services, ESL classes, first-time homebuyers program, small business development services, leadership development programs, civic engagement initiatives and myriad cultural festivals and celebrations.

Since our inception, the programs of the Latin American Coalition have flourished and the impact of our work reaches thousands in Charlotte and its surrounding areas every year. We continue to remain committed to the spirit of community service and cultural celebration on which this organization was founded and furthering our vision that a more just and caring society is possible.

For more information of the Latin American Coalition, programs and services call 704-531-3848 or go to www.LatinAmericanCoalition.org.