

Cleveland's Puerto Rican Community Takes Center Stage: Inaugural Boricua Block Party Set for September 12 at Clark Field

First-of-its-kind celebration will bring Puerto Rican music, food, dance, and entrepreneurship to the heart of Cleveland's near west side



Cleveland, Ohio Sep 12, 2026 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Cleveland Boricua, the organization dedicated to celebrating and amplifying Puerto Rican culture across the city, will make history on Saturday, September 12, 2026, with the inaugural Boricua Block Party — a full day of music, food, dance, and community pride at Clark Field, 2820 Quigley Road, Cleveland, OH 44113, from noon to 8 p.m.

For the first time, one of Cleveland's most storied public spaces will become a citywide stage for Puerto Rican culture. Set against the backdrop of the all-turf José Ramírez Field, the Boricua Block Party will unite salsa, bomba, and plena music; traditional food and drink; live dance performances; family activities; and dozens of local vendors and entrepreneurs — all rooted in one mission: putting Puerto Rican culture at the center of Cleveland life, not at its edges.

"The Cleveland Boricua Block Party is bigger than just one day — it represents what can happen when people come together with pride, purpose, and love for their community," said Khristian and Jennifer Santana, founders and organizers of the Boricua Block Party. "As a husband-and-wife team, we started this with a vision to create something our families, our youth, our local businesses, and our entire Cleveland community could feel proud to call their own. This event is about celebrating Puerto Rican culture while opening the doors to everyone. We want people to leave Clark Field feeling more connected to their neighbors, their culture, and their city. For us, the greatest impact isn't measured only by how many people attend, but by the relationships we build, the businesses we uplift, the resources we connect families with, and the memories we create together. This is only the beginning."

A Full Day of Culture, Community, and Celebration

The Boricua Block Party is organized around four signature experiences:

- Sonidos de Borinquen — salsa, bomba, plena, percussion, and DJ sets celebrating the sound of Puerto Rico
- El Bloque Baila — live dance performances, demonstrations, and open community dance
- Sabor Boricua — a showcase of Puerto Rican food and Cleveland's Latino-owned businesses
- Familia en la Calle — games, activities, and cultural programming for children and families

The event's growing vendor and partner directory already includes 19 confirmed food, retail, and community businesses, with confirmed music partners DJ Bray, DJ Mike, and DJ Gattita anchoring the day's soundtrack. A full performance schedule will be announced ahead of the event.

Rooted in Community, Built Through Grassroots Organizing

The Boricua Block Party is the product of sustained grassroots effort — including a community petition and months of direct coordination with the City of Cleveland on permitting, safety, and logistics. Organizers have worked closely with city officials to secure the special-event permits required to activate Clark Field at this scale.

That effort reflects the significance of the location itself. Clark Field was transformed through years of community advocacy — led in part by Friends of Clark Field, resident Beverly Wurm, and Tremont West Development Corporation — into a fully renovated public space. At its center, José Ramírez Field opened in 2023 as a gift from Cleveland Guardians Charities with support from Guardians All-Star Ramírez, now serving as home field for Lincoln-West High School baseball and local youth teams. In 2025, the City of Cleveland further honored Ramírez by naming the adjacent roadway José Ramírez Way — making him the first active professional athlete to receive a street honor in the city's history.

The celebration also sits at the cultural heart of Cleveland's Puerto Rican community. Clark-Fulton, the neighborhood surrounding Clark Field, holds the city's highest concentration of Hispanic residents, the large majority of whom are of Puerto Rican descent. The area is represented by Ward 14 Councilwoman Jasmin Santana.

More Than a Festival — A Statement of Belonging

For organizers, the Boricua Block Party is designed to do more than fill a park for a day. It is intended to create lasting visibility and economic opportunity for Puerto Rican and Latino-owned businesses across Cleveland, while giving families a shared space to celebrate identity, culture, and community pride together.

Attendees are encouraged to register in advance and follow the official event website for the latest updates on the performance lineup, parking, accessibility, and day-of logistics.

Event Details

Boricua Block Party, Saturday, September 12, 2026 Noon – 8:00 p.m. 2820 Quigley Road, Cleveland, OH 44113 Main entrance near the pedestrian bridge (final entrance, parking, and transit details to be confirmed on the official event website)

For registration, vendor applications, and event updates, visit the official Boricua Block Party website.



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