



Viva Panama Organization.

INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF PANAMA IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Casco Viejo Gala



Celebrating 350 years of the transfer of Panama City's downtown: from Old Panama City ruins to Casco Viejo.

AUGUST 19, 2023

HOLLYWOOD, CA.



Welcome & Congratulations!

Viva Panama Organization

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Gala Committee

Victor Grimaldo
Eva Franceschi
Maritza Collins
Mabel Perez
Marta Hansen

Melissa Shepherd-Williams

Elsa Seibert
Hal Laws Landau
Harmodio Gray
Jovana Tenorio
Emilio Howell
Katia Sheldon
Nery Aguirre
Yhinyer Jackson
Wilfredo Cerrud

Honorary Committee

Lic. Gilda García
Consul

Ballet Folklórico

Viva Panama
William Cerrud
Thiem Chalá
Eva Franceschi
Luis Angel Fula
Emilio Howell
Yhinyer Jackson
Jairo Laws
Mabel Pérez
Isabel Sanjur
Elsa Seibert
Isabel Tenorio
Victor Grimaldo



For 32 years, the Viva Panama Organization has shared the culture of Panama in California and the world at all levels, and with the best possible quality. The organization has accomplished accomplishing goals such as establishing the International Week of Panama in the Los Angeles County with the support of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors.

The Viva Panama Organization celebrates the 350th anniversary of Panama City's relocation from its ruins to Casco Viejo, with preserved architecture showcasing the beautiful blend of colonial Spanish and French styles.

Panama Viejo is the former location of Panama City, where the remaining ruins are the result of it being destroyed to prevent its invasion by pirates.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude for all the support that you have so generously given to our organization, for believing in us, which has enabled us to come this far.

Remember that all your contributions are tax-deductible. Thanks to The International Celebrity of Hollywood, Church of Scientology of Hollywood, all our partners, sponsors, emcees, artists, Consulate of Panama, all our Board members and volunteers for your support, kindness and generosity that made this afternoon a beautiful reality.

We are looking forward to working with you, as we endeavor in this mission of sharing Panama through its culture and its people.

We hope you will continue to grant us your support and guidance hereafter.

¡Que Viva Panamá!

Victor Grimaldo
Founder President and CEO



Consulate of Panama

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Es con gran alegría y admiración que les escribo esta carta para felicitar a la **Organización Viva Panamá** y a su **ballet folklórico** de promover y difundir nuestras tradiciones, cultura y folklore a través de sus actividades, las cuales han logrado transmitir riqueza y diversidad de nuestras cultura y raíces a otras comunidades y audiencias Internacionales.

Esta gran celebración de conmemoración del aniversario de los 350 años de **Panamá Viejo** es un momento significativo para recordar y honrar la historia y el legado de esta antigua ciudad colonial, así como para reflexionar sobre la importancia de proteger y valorar nuestro legado histórico para las generaciones futuras y a la vez sentirnos orgullosos de nuestra identidad nacional **¡Viva Panamá!**

Felicidades a todos por hacer de esta Gala una noche especial, llena de cultura y sazón Panameño gracias al arte culinario del **Chef José O. Carles R.**

Saludos cordiales,

Gilda García I.

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Consul General of Panama
Los Angeles, California



Masters of Ceremony



Jovana and Trinidad Tenorio have been married for 30 years and have 3 children: Isabel, Elizabeth, and Rafael.

Jovana was born and raised in Colon, Panama and moved to the US in 1990.

Trinidad was born in Moroleon, Guanajuato, Mexico, and moved to the US in 1985.

They met in Oxnard, California where they currently reside.

Jovana has been an elementary school teacher for the last 28 years.

Trinidad is a sales representative for Ole Mexican Foods.

In their free time, they enjoy road trips around California and traveling to Mexico and Panama.

**SILENT
AUCTION**
online

Viva Panama Organization is pleased to announce its annual online silent auction. All proceeds from the 2023 auction will be used as a fundraising to participate at the Hollywood Christmas Parade.

Thanks to our friends who donated items for the Silent Auction: Harmodio & Brusela Gray, Eva Franceschi, Mia Arenas (SoloMiaDesigns), Familia Tenorio, Mabel Pérez, Victor Grimaldo.

Honoree 2023



Ambassador Award Recipient – Panamanian Cuisine

Jose Carles has established a remarkable career in the culinary world spanning over a decade. He gained a strong foundation at Le Cordon Bleu in Sydney, Australia, where he obtained his Diplome de Cuisine (SIT 30821 Certificate III in Commercial Cookery). Driven by a hunger for learning, Carles ventured to the iconic Icebergs Dining Room and Bar in Bondi Beach, Sydney, and later completed a rewarding internship under the esteemed Chef Ben Shewry at Attica in Melbourne.

Since 2014, Carles has been the driving force behind his trio of restaurants: Donde José (2014-2020), Fonda Lo Que Hay (2016 – present), and La Barca (2020-present). As the Executive Chef and Owner of these Panamanian restaurants, Carles plays an integral role in fostering innovation. He shapes concepts around his vibrant menus, working closely with his sous chefs to push the boundaries of culinary artistry.

Carles' meticulous attention to detail and dedication enable him to showcase the restaurant's vision through impeccable plating, timely delivery, and a sense of community within the spaces he is involved in. The accolades garnered by his establishments serve as a testament to his unwavering care for both his team and the memorable experiences of those who have the pleasure of savoring his food.

Carles's talent is evident in the accolades received for his ventures in Panama, including the prestigious "Most Innovative Panamanian Cuisine" award from Premios El Buen Tenedor for Donde José in 2015 and 2016, "Diners Club Discoveries" recognition by The World's 50 Best Restaurants for Donde José in 2016 and Fonda Lo Que Hay in 2021, and the esteemed "El Espíritu de Latino America" recognition by The World's 50 Best Restaurants for Fonda Lo Que Hay in 2020. Furthermore, Fonda Lo Que Hay secured a coveted spot at #57 in The Latin America's 100 Best Restaurants in November 2021, solidifying its place among the top 400 restaurants worldwide.

At Fonda Lo Que Hay, a concept restaurant showcasing Panamanian cuisine, Mr. Carles wears the dual hat of Executive Chef and Owner. He channels his creativity into crafting dishes that pay homage to Panama's rich heritage, incorporating indigenous ingredients and reflecting the tapestry of cultures that have shaped the nation.

Carles's extensive skillset is demonstrated through his extensive press coverage, devoted community following, and his culinary creations that have left an indelible mark on Panama's gastronomic landscape.

Entertainment



Tempo started as a duet with Elizabeth Tenorio and director Marlene Erwing. Our goal was to share the style of contemporary and telling stories with the 805 community and we are so grateful to continue receiving amazing opportunities where we can showcase that.

Tempo's members are Elizabeth, Marlene, Maddy, Kortni, Jillian and Evelyn.

Our debut was at the Hip hop Mindset Experience in July 2022.

Tempo will be delighting us with a dance routine opening tonight program.



Entertainment



Ballet Folklórico Viva Panamá was created in 1991 under the direction of Victor Grimaldo, and it has toured extensively over its 32 years of life. Touring domestically includes 90 cities in California; Las Vegas and Texas. Internationally, the dancers have performed in Mexico, Puerto Rico, Canada, China, Monaco, France and Italy.



In the picture: Yhinyer Jackson, Elsa Seibert, Eva Franceschi, Mabel Pérez, Emilio Howell, William Cerrud, Victor Grimaldo, Jairo Laws, Thiem Chalá. Not in the picture: Luis Angel Fula, Isabel Sanjur, and Isabel Tenorio.

Relocation of Old Panama City

Panama City was founded by Pedrarias Dávila on August 15, 1519, and because of its importance in the route of the riches of America as a link port for trade routes, it was the target of pirates. After the English conquest in 1655, Jamaica had become a nest of pirates and privateers willing to attack Spanish ships and cities; first Portobelo, then Maracaibo and finally Panama succumbed to the siege.

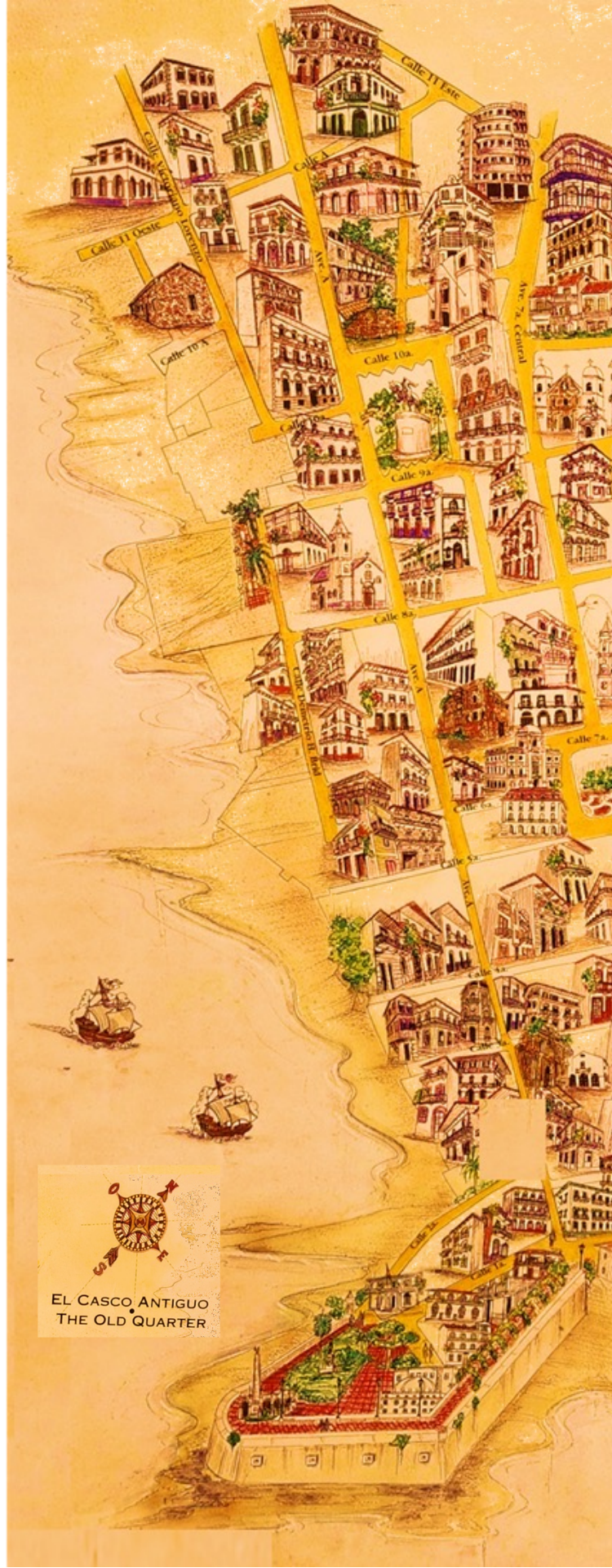
Don Miguel Francisco de Marichalar, envoy of the Viceroy of Peru, estimated the number of 3,000 deaths from the invasion. He came with the first aid sent to Panama, sailed from El Callao in March with 2,500 men and arrived in April; with this to give us an idea of the distances and speed of communications in the seventeenth century.

On January 28, 1671, the privateer Henry Morgan and his troops had faced the colonists in an unequal fight commanded by Governor Juan Pérez de Guzmán at the Battle of Matasnillo, on the outskirts of the city.

Panama City was moved as a result of the atrocious attack on Panama Viejo by the English privateer Henry Morgan that unleashed a fire, which ended the city two years earlier. Under the authority of the Governor, it was ordered to put barrels of gunpowder in the houses to detonate them when the outlaws entered to steal, with the consequent fire that devastated the place. When the smoke dispersed, there was only a great desolation interrupted by vestiges of a few houses, institutions, convents and churches. Some exhausted survivors tried to bury the bodies while others tried to save some belongings by digging through the ashes that remained in the fire.

By decision of the viceroy, ratified by the Council of the Indies on September 8, 1672, and then on October 31, the queen governor, Mariana of Austria, on behalf of her son Carlos II, issued the royal decree ordering the transfer of the city.

It was Don Antonio González de Córdoba, Governor, Captain General of the province of Tierra Firme and president of the Royal Audience of Panama who complied with this provision.



To Casco Viejo: 350 years



OLD PANAMA CITY RUINS

Don Antonio Fernández de Córdoba, made the official transfer on January 21, 1673, culminating two years of arduous work for the relief and transfer of the city; although the construction of the walls and buildings took many more years, the city was relocated to the site we know today as the Historic Monumental Complex of the Old Town of Panama City.

On January 21, 1673, the people, from their religious and governmental institutions, were formally moved to a site with a safer location. The new occupants were compensated with tax-free plots. To build and fortify the new city, material recovered from the old city and another stolen from a nearby quarry were reused. The urban layout drew a perfect grid, the axiality towards the four cardinal points gave centrality to a Plaza Mayor, which would be surrounded by wooden houses with their same religious orders. With spaces reserved for the Cabildo, the Cathedral, the Royal Audience and other government buildings, select places were also given to residences for wealthy families.

The convent of La Merced erected in 1522, which was saved from the fire, turned out to be an example of continuity, since it was dismantled stone by stone and rebuilt where it is today.

The walled city would extend further, towards the suburbs of Malambo and Santa Ana, outside the defensive position, and as part of the division of social classes: intramural and extramural. Don Antonio Fernández de Córdoba, an expert in military constructions did not live to get to see this defensive work.

There in front of a sea with rocky relief, 8 kilometers to the east was left behind Panama La Vieja, although archaeological references show the population continuity of those who resisted leaving what they considered their home.

Centuries later, the Municipal Council of Panama, through Municipal Agreement No. 59 of May 13, 1953, officially declared August 15 as the date of the founding of Panama City and considered January 21 as the date of its transfer and move.

Casco Viejo, today declared a world heritage site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and one of the main tourist attractions in the country.



Congo Queen & King



Queen Isabel Tenorio

King Emilio Howell

Isabel Anayansi Tenorio was born in Thousand Oaks, CA, and currently resides in Oxnard CA. She studies art and graphic design at Oxnard College. Isabel has volunteered to teach dance and tutor homeless children. She has always been fascinated by discovering all the different Panamanian cultures, especially the Congo. One of her favorite places is Portobelo, Colon.

Emilio A. Howell is a new member of the VPO and its Ballet. He was born in Panama City, to parents Dr. Antonio R. Howell, Sr. & Mrs. Marcia E. Howell. His older brother is Dr. Antonio R. Howell, Jr. MD. Emilio attended El Colegio Javier and Panama School: Escuela Panama. He received a bachelor's degree in journalism from The University of Texas at Arlington. He is a Physician Recruiter at Kaiser Permanente and lives in Woodland Hills, CA; and he enjoys swimming and exercising.

The Congos of Panama inhabit small villages and towns on the Caribbean coast of the isthmus and along the trans-Isthmian highway, concentrated mainly in the Province of Colon. Congos are descendants of cimarrones or Africans who liberated themselves by fleeing to the mountains and rainforests during the colonial period. Once free, they established Palenques or fortified villages, from which they set out on raiding parties against Spanish settlements and caravans.

The cimarrones became a culturally mixed group, since they consisted of Africans from various ethnic groups who intermarried. The Queen Congo has the biggest crown of the dance and is the matriarch of the Palenque. She shares the Congo dance with her King, Juan de Dios, her partner and protector. They have two children: Pajarito and Juan de Diosito. She represents the woman who guided the afro-descendants exiled people in the Isthmus and administered the government and justice in fugitive settlements in the jungle.

The Congo dance is considered the oldest musical drum genre and dance of the Isthmus of Panama, Pollera Congo is of a simple confection compared to the Santeña gala skirt, but equally beautiful and colorful; made with pieces of different contrasting fabrics and are usually printed with floral designs and different colors. The scraps of fabric used were those left over from the clothing of their masters in colonial times.

Srta Viva Panama



Elizabeth Itzel Tenorio was born in Oxnard, CA, and resides in Oxnard, CA. She recently graduated from Oxnard College with an Arts and Humanities Associates Degree.

She will be attending UC Santa Cruz in the fall of 2023 to study Animation and Computer Programing.

Elizabeth is experienced in ballet, tap, modern dance, and hip-hop dance.

She currently works with Hip Hop Mindset and teaches dance at several public elementary schools in Oxnard.



Thanks to our friends



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So Good so Delicious by Chef Mabelline

I started to develop my passion for cooking and culinary art from the age of 8; however, my first dinner was for my family at the age of 12 ,and that same year, I premiered cooking for more than 10 people making rice with chicken for my sister's high school graduation.

I arrived in California in 2006 and developed a position as Catering Manager and trainer for other employees of the team. At that time, I made videos of my recipes and every time, I made a dish I published it!

I am passionate and I love cooking and creating fusions of flavors for other people... It is the love and passion for culinary art that always motivates me to share with other people !!

Tonight's sweet-treats were provided by Chef Mabelline.



Mabel Mosquera (323) 333-0053. mabmosquera@gmail.com



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