

**Teatro del Pueblo**

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### About Teatro del Pueblo

Teatro del Pueblo is a small, nonprofit Latino theatre company located in St. Paul, MN. Based in the West Side's Latino community, Teatro del Pueblo promotes Latino culture through the creation and presentation of performing arts. Teatro develops and supports Latino artists, provides educational opportunities for all to experience Latino culture, and promotes cross-cultural dialogue.

Teatro was founded in 1992 by a group of Latino artists and community members on the West Side of St. Paul, in the heart of the city's Latino population. One incident called upon Teatro to create a theatrical presentation addressing a local school shooting. Several in the community were leery about our plan, but after the presentation, many of the people became our most ardent supporters. This event sealed Teatro's fate as a forum for the community's marginalized voices and an advocate for social change.

Teatro remains housed in the West Side of St. Paul, and because of its initial foundation in a largely under-served community, the company is committed to providing affordable ticket prices for all of their shows. In the years since its inception, the demographics of Teatro's audience have changed to include not only Latinos, but a mix of cultures such as European-Americans, Somali, and Hmong. In addition, Teatro's work embraces immigrants, students, families, seniors, and residents of greater Minnesota and Western Wisconsin. Over the past fifteen years, Teatro has staged over 50 plays, developed collaborative relationships with a variety of organizations, and toured to over 50 schools throughout Minnesota. They are currently the only professional Latino theatre company providing artistic and educational programming in the state of Minnesota, and to some degree the states of Iowa and North and South Dakota. Teatro hopes to continue this tradition to promote education about Latino culture and diversity in ways that strengthen communities.

Teatro del Pueblo's artistic vision is informed by its desire to create a fusion of cross-cultural artistic expressions, understanding the extent to which other cultures intersect with Latin American, Latino, Chicano, and Meso American cultures and histories. This underscores their mission statement of promoting cultural diversity in the arts, education and pride of and in the Latino community, and developing and supporting Latino talent.

Teatro actively seeks out strategic collaborative relationships with other institutions and individuals who are committed to the same ideology of cultural fusion, yet respect the desires and individuality of each culture they meet.

Because of their dedication to a diversity of cultural aesthetics, conventional mediums of expression do not confine them. Artists and collaborators have the freedom to redefine original theatrical forms and artistic expectations, creating fascinating fusions from which emerge new cultural aesthetics. Teatro's productions and projects have, over the years, testified to the company's artistic visions and the cultural aesthetics that shape its work.