

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **New Library series celebrates history and culture of Louisville's immigrant and refugee communities**



**Louisville, Ky. (October 23, 2023)** -- Louisville is home to more than 53,000 internationally-born residents, representing countries and communities from all over the globe, with more newcomers arriving each day. In the new series *Celebrating Our Neighborhood*, the Louisville Free Public Library (LFPL), in partnership with Kentucky Refugee Ministries and Americana World Community Center, will celebrate the history and culture of our immigrant and refugee populations. In November, the series will spotlight Cuban Americans, Louisville's largest and fastest growing immigrant community. Through four free events at LFPL's regional and Main libraries, programs will explore Cuban history, dance, music, and cuisine.

### **THE HISTORY OF CUBA: The 1959 Cuban Revolution**

**Wednesday, November 8, 6:30 pm • Main Library, 301 York St.**

University of Kentucky Professor of History and African American and Africana Studies Devyn Benson will explore the precedents, processes, and legacies of the 1959 Cuban Revolution. This program aims to give a better understanding of Cuban history from 1898 to the present, with special attention to the experiences of Black Cubans and their fight against racism.

### **THE DANCE OF CUBA**

**Thursday, November 9, 6:30 pm • Southwest Regional, 9725 Dixie Hwy.**

Join us for a lively evening of dance showcasing the rich and diverse Cuban culture, including salsa, rumba, mambo, and more. Plus, get a chance to learn some steps – no partner or experience required. Just bring your enthusiasm and your dancing shoes.

### **THE CUISINE OF CUBA**

**Wednesday, November 15, 6:30 pm • Northeast Regional, 15 Bellevoir Circle**

With its burgeoning Cuban population, Louisville has seen an explosion of Cuban restaurants in the past few years. In this program we'll learn about Cuban cooking traditions and discover how to make a staple Cuban dish with Sweet Havana Restaurant. There will be a vegetarian-friendly option. Space is limited and registration is required: [LFPL.org/OurNeighborhood](http://LFPL.org/OurNeighborhood) or (502) 574-1623.

### **THE MUSIC OF CUBA**

**Thursday, November 16, 6:30 pm • South Central Regional, 7300 Jefferson Blvd.**

Celebrate the diverse rhythms and melodies of Cuba. This live musical presentation will have your feet tapping as you learn about the roots of salsa, mambo, son, rumba, and others.

Spanish language interpretation will be available at all *Celebrating Our Neighborhood* programs. To learn more about the free series or to register for any of the programs, visit [LFPL.org/OurNeighborhood](http://LFPL.org/OurNeighborhood), or call (502) 574-1623.

### ***Want to learn more about Louisville's International Community?***

Join Emilie Dyer, Executive Director of the Americana World Community Center at the Main Library on Wednesday, October 25 (6:30 p.m.), as she delves into the history of immigration in Louisville. *New in Lou: Immigration and the International Community of Louisville* is a free Library Fast Class that will explore answers to questions like, "How can we support and welcome the newest members of our community, who have come from all over the globe?" and "How does immigration status affect their integration into the community?" It is a great introduction to LFPL's new series, "Celebrating Our Neighborhood." Registration is requested online at [LFPL.org/MyLibraryU](http://LFPL.org/MyLibraryU), or by calling (502) 574-1623.