

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (September 5, 2018)

Dreaming Forward/Soñando
Alex Paul Loza – First Latino Mural of Chattanooga

Chattanooga, TN – Local visual artist, Alex Paul Loza will showcase a new mural inspired by the diversity within the Latino/Hispanic community in our Scenic City of Chattanooga. The mural unveiling is Sunday, September 16th at 3:00 PM on the pedestrian walkway of Carniceria Loa prime location, 1500 Broad Street, Chattanooga, TN.

This mural is part of Arts Build Equity in the Arts grant program to integrate public diverse art into our community space. The grandiose 40'x 11' mural will celebrate the Indigenous, African, European and Asian influences in the Latino culture depicted in large figures of children, our city's present and future. The mural imagery made with a colorful palette with indigenous textiles as the children aspire to dream of their future.

“One of the great values of Alex Paul Loza’s mural project, is the opportunity for our community to celebrate a cultural group in Chattanooga that hasn’t been recognized. The infusion of Loza’s Peruvian heritage and background enriches his murals. He is an arts educator and has been extremely accessible to the community by providing artist talks and demonstrations. It is also important to recognize that the quality of his artwork is exceptional.” said Rodney Van Valkenburg, Director of Grants and Initiatives from Arts Build

“As a Latino and visual artist, I felt compelled to create a public artwork in which Chattanooga’s Latino community, specifically our children, can see themselves as part of the community and find inspiration as we all help pave the path for their future. This mural can serve as a talking point by connecting cultural heritage to contemporary life as it beautifies our neighborhood, increase residential empowerment and teach equity.” said fine artist and muralist, Alex Paul Loza.

The event will include a speaking program by artist Alex Paul Loza, Rodney Van Valkenburg, Director of Grants and Initiatives from Arts Build and the inauguration of the mural.

This free event is family friendly and open to the public.

About the Artist: Alex Paul Loza is a visual artist based in Chattanooga with his heart for social advocacy and a deep appreciation of figurative narrative art. He received his BFA from the American Academy of Art in Chicago (2001). With more than 15 years of experience, Loza has been commissioned to paint portraits for private collectors throughout North and Latin America. He has lead, created and collaborated with national muralists in several public art projects in Chicago and Chattanooga. Learn more, alexpaulloza.com.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (March 5, 2020)

CHI Memorial Hospital Named as Chattanooga Red Wolves SC First Professional Soccer Stadium

Chattanooga, TN - In a press conference this afternoon, CHI Memorial Hospital announced naming the first professional soccer stadium to open in Tennessee.

CHI Memorial Stadium will host the Chattanooga Red Wolves Soccer Club, the Chattanooga Lady Red Wolves, occasional professional men's and women's exhibition games, USL League Two Dalton Red Wolves, and college national championships. In addition, the stadium will host year-round non-sporting events such as festivals, concerts, family-friendly activities, and community gatherings.

"We are excited to be able to contribute not only to the appreciation and growth of soccer but to the community as a whole," said Janelle Reilly, CEO of CHI Memorial Hospital. "We've been fans of this project since its inception and are excited to take our dedication to health and wellness to the next level through this new partnership."

The 5,500-seat CHI Memorial Stadium will be a state-of-the-art, soccer-specific facility, including sky suites, concessions, merchandise, staff offices, locker rooms, and team meeting space. In addition, the player area will include the following:

- Five locker rooms.
- A film room.
- A satellite gym.
- A physical therapy and recovery room.
- Coaching offices.
- A dining hall for players.

"CHI Memorial is a great fit for this partnership," said stadium developer and Chattanooga Red Wolves owner Bob Martino. "They share our values and vision for the area and consistently demonstrate a philanthropic commitment to bringing people together and building community. It has been important to us to privately fund the stadium so public funding can support public schools and city infrastructure. Major partnerships like this make that possible. We look forward to joining their mission of encouraging a stronger, more connected community."

CHI Memorial Stadium will anchor the \$125 million surrounding development, spurring over one thousand new jobs and millions of dollars of investment into the development and Hamilton County as a whole. Since the original stadium announcement, Top Golf, Champy's Chicken, and Jonathan's Grill have announced investments in the surrounding areas. When the development is complete, the economic halo effect is expected to generate between \$6 to \$7 million in tax revenue each year.

"This partnership continues to elevate the single largest private investment and economic boost in the history of East Ridge," said East Ridge Mayor Brian Williams. "We appreciate their decision to invest not only in East Ridge but Hamilton County and the state of Tennessee. Their decision has inspired other local and national companies to choose East Ridge for future investments, all while utilizing private funds. Today, we thank them for their shared vision and leadership."

On top of economic growth, CHI Memorial Stadium will serve as a spark in turning the area into a sports tourism epicenter.

"This innovative regional venue and Chattanooga Red Wolves professional soccer team have already provided the opportunity to pursue multiple new sporting events that will drive incremental community benefits through sports tourism," said Tim Morgan, president of Chattanooga Sports Committee, a division of the Chattanooga Visitors Bureau.

CHI Memorial Stadium is expected to host games for the Chattanooga Red Wolves' upcoming second season in USL League One. The naming rights deal marks a massive step forward for the development, including hotels, restaurants, bars, retail, condos, apartments, office space, and a convention center.

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About CHI Memorial Hospital

CHI Memorial is a not-for-profit, faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to the healing ministry of the Church. Founded by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and strengthened as part of Catholic Health Initiatives, it offers a continuum of care, including preventative, primary, and acute hospital care, cancer and cardiac care, and orthopedic and rehabilitation services. CHI Memorial is a regional referral center of choice with 3,500 associates and more than 600 affiliated physicians providing health care throughout Southeast Tennessee, North Georgia, and Northwest Alabama. To learn more, visit www.memorial.org.

About Chattanooga Red Wolves SC

Founded in 2018, Chattanooga Red Wolves SC is a professional soccer club in Chattanooga, Tenn. The USL League One founding member is led by business executive Robert Martino and President Sean McDaniel. The club is constructing a state-of-the-art 5,500-seat soccer-specific stadium in Chattanooga for the 2020 season. For more information, visit <https://www.chattanoogaredwolves-sc.com/>.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (March 28, 2022)

Latino Artist Alex Paul Loza Makes History by Creating Sculpture of Civil War Abolitionist and the Father of the 14th Amendment Thaddeus Stevens

Chattanooga, TN – The Thaddeus Stevens Society will unveil its first commissioned monument of Pennsylvania’s Representative and father of the 14th Amendment, Thaddeus Stevens in a celebration commemorating Stevens 230th birthday from April 1 – April 4, 2022, in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The celebration will debut the life-size bronze monument on Saturday, April 2, 2022, in its permanent home outside of the Adams County Courthouse (NRHP - National Register of Historic Places) located at 111 Baltimore Street, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. *“This is a giant step in honoring a man who did so much for Gettysburg, the state of Pennsylvania and the nation,”* said Ross Hetrick, president of the Thaddeus Stevens Society. *“The statue is a magnificent work capturing the spirit of the Great Commoner by a magnificent artist,”* he said.

Stevens, who lived from 1792 to 1868, was the most powerful congressman during and after the Civil War and was instrumental in liberating the slaves and then defend them after the war. He is also the father of the 14th Amendment, the single most important Constitutional amendment requiring equal treatment—including former enslaved people—under the law and extending civil liberties to the state level. Stevens is buried in Lancaster, PA, where he lived from 1842 to 1868.

What makes this monument historical is not only the legacy of Stevens, but the artist who was chosen to complete this project from a nationwide search by the Thaddeus Stevens Society in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Alex Paul Loza, a Latino artist born in Lima, Peru who resides in Tennessee is known as a multidisciplinary artist and for the many works where he incorporates history and equity in each of his pieces. From creating Chattanooga’s first Latino public mural called *“Dreaming Forward/Soñando”* and the first and only life-size bust of Dr. Emma Rochelle Wheeler, Chattanooga’s first African American physician, Loza embraces history and celebrates change.

“Stevens utilized his knowledge and political influence to serve, defend and empower oppressed communities to bring equality and justice. I want everyone who sees my sculpture of Stevens not only see his tenacity and admirable beliefs but to be inspired in making change in their communities. I can relate with Stevens because as an artist, I use my artistry and voice to serve and empower my community and other unrepresented communities through storytelling. And the more I read about Stevens and spoke to Ross Hetrick, it made it easy to name the sculpture, “Men in Pursuit of Justice Must Never Despair”, a quote from his 1866 speech fighting for the 14th Amendment,” said Loza.

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About the Artist, Alex Paul Loza

Alex Paul Loza, a multidisciplinary artist born in Lima, Peru based in Chattanooga, TN has a heart for social advocacy and a deep appreciation for figurative narrative art. Loza had produced portraits, murals and sculptures which includes historical monuments that are exhibited throughout the world and for private art collectors. To learn more about the artist and his works, visit, www.alexpaulloza.com.

About The Thaddeus Stevens Society

The Thaddeus Stevens Society is a non-profit group started in 1999 to promote the memory of Thaddeus Stevens, the most powerful congressman during and after the Civil War and a champion of freedom and equality. We hold seminars, have trips to historic places associated with Stevens and support efforts to restore sites related to Stevens. To learn more, visit www.thaddeusstevenssociety.com.

Latina Professionals of Chattanooga Announces its New Status as a Nonprofit Organization

Chattanooga, TN – In a social media post this week, Latina Professionals of Chattanooga Executive Director and founder, Jocelyn Loza announced that the organization is celebrating an organizational milestone as of November 5, 2021, with the news that they are a fully-fledged nonprofit organization registered in the state of Tennessee.

“I am so grateful for the dedicated efforts of our supporters, our new Board of Directors, and community partners. Together, we are lifting the issues of pay inequities for Latina women and addressing significant barriers that Latinas in our community face in order to advance in their careers.” said Jocelyn Loza, Executive Director and founder of Latina Professionals of Chattanooga. “The future is so bright, and we are more than ready to advance our work to serve Latina women in the Chattanooga and surrounding communities. Our immediate priorities: meeting with community partners and supporters discussing ways we can work together and seeking financial support because when you invest in our community of Latina women, you’re investing in a more vibrant future for our city. This and future efforts will help set the table for the next generation of Latina professionals.”

Latina Professionals of Chattanooga was founded in January 2018 and has held several networking events and has collaborated with several local businesses. They will resume to hold in person networking events in 2022 following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations. The programs explore how Latina Professionals of Chattanooga will support Latina women advance in their careers regardless of their industry, education, or experience level. These programs encompass professional development and mentoring opportunities.

The Latina Professionals of Chattanooga podcast Amiga Circle (Friends Circle) will continue to highlight local and national Latinos. Each season of Amiga Circle will venture down a new learning path, giving its listeners the insights into the most relevant issues Latinas are facing in society today and sharing the go-to resources Latinas can rely for success. Season 3, episode 1 of the podcast will be announced on Latina Professionals of Chattanooga’s social media and website.

“It is an exciting time to be active with Latina Professionals of Chattanooga. The connections and networking opportunities with other Latina women in Chattanooga have helped me feel connected and empowered. I know our networks will only become stronger.” Vivian Anderson-Barrera, Latina Professionals of Chattanooga Board of Directors and Board Treasurer.

Latina Professionals of Chattanooga will continue to serve as a partner for organizations and individuals who support the advancement of Latina women and girls in the Chattanooga area, the Southeast and Northwest Georgia area. “I truly believe when we work together, we all thrive, our communities thrive.” said Jocelyn Loza, founder and Executive Director of Latina Professionals of Chattanooga.

About Latina Professionals of Chattanooga Founded in 2018, we are a growing community of Latina women across Chattanooga, the Southeast and Northwest Georgia area. We come together to work, connect, and thrive so that we don't have to overcome obstacles in silos. We partner with individuals and organizations whose work supports the advancement of Latina women and girls. For more information, visit <https://www.latinaprofchatt.com/>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (July 11, 2022)

Artist Alex Paul Loza Creating the First Life Size Sculpture of America's Sweetheart Little Debbie

Chattanooga, TN – This year, McKee Foods and the city of Collegedale announced breaking ground on a new park that will be built on 10 acres owned by the city of Collegedale behind Collegedale Commons. Mike Gloeckler, McKee Foods Communications and Public Relations Manager, said plans include more than 400 trees and 5,000 shrubs, greenway connections to and through the park, a large pavilion with restrooms, several small pavilions, a playground including a life-size sculpture of Little Debbie.

The life-size sculpture of Little Debbie was confirmed, and local artist Alex Paul Loza was contacted to create this historical piece. Loza said, “This sculpture will be of Debbie McKee-Fowler at age 8, illustrated on the company’s packaging. She will be holding a tray of the famous Swiss Rolls snack cakes. I’m honored to be part of this new park, as my family and I have been living in Collegedale for several years. Not only will many families enjoy this new park, but children will also be able to take photos with Little Debbie and see themselves in her.”

Visitors will have the opportunity to view the Little Debbie sculpture at the opening of the Little Debbie Park at the Commons. Construction of the park is estimated to take about a year.

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About the Artist, Alex Paul Loza

Alex Paul Loza, a multidisciplinary artist born in Lima, Peru, based in Chattanooga, Tenn., has a heart for social advocacy and a deep appreciation for figurative, narrative art. Loza has produced portraits, murals, and sculptures that include historical monuments exhibited worldwide and for private art collectors. To learn more about the artist and his works, visit www.alexpaulloza.com.

About McKee Foods

McKee Foods, a family bakery with annual sales of about \$1.4 billion, is a privately held company based in Collegedale, Tenn. The McKee Foods story began during the height of the Great Depression when founder O.D. McKee began selling 5-cent snack cakes from the back of his car. Soon after, he and his wife, Ruth, bought a small bakery on Main Street in Chattanooga, Tenn., using the family car as collateral. Today, the company employs more than 6,250 people in Collegedale, Tenn.; Gentry, Ark.; Stuarts Draft, Va.; and Kingman, Ariz. It creates and produces Little Debbie® baked goods, Drake's® cakes, Sunbelt Bakery® snacks, and Fieldstone® Bakery food products. Visit www.mckeefoods.com for more information.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (September 1, 2022)

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**Latina Professionals of Chattanooga Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with Several Events
Featuring Latin American Music, Food and Special Guests**

Chattanooga, TN – Latina Professionals of Chattanooga will mark the start of Hispanic/Latinx Heritage month on September 15 with its first annual Hispanic/Latinx Heritage month events celebrating the Hispanic/Latinx culture and contributions to our local community and nation.

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated nationally in recognition of the contribution and influence Hispanic Americans bring to the history, culture, and achievement of the United States. Originally adopted in 1988 by the United States Congress, the resolution designated September 15 through October 15, coinciding with the date of the independence of several Latin American countries.

This year's Hispanic Heritage Month theme is Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation. "To demonstrate that together we're a stronger community, we'll be hosting several events in September and October at different venues around the Chattanooga, TN and Dalton, GA area. Each event will feature Latin American music, cuisine, and special guests discussing their experiences and sharing their stories." said Jocelyn Loza, Executive Director at Latina Professionals of Chattanooga.

All events are family-friendly, free, and open to the public. Guests attending these events are not required to wear masks, however it's recommended as part of COVID-19 safety precautions.

For a full list of Hispanic Heritage Month events, visit, <https://www.latinaprochatt.com/lpc-hhm-events-calendar>

Special thanks to the following event sponsors for their generous support during the 2022 festivities:

- ArtsBuild
- EPB
- First Bank
- Steam Logistics
- The University of Tennessee in Chattanooga (UTC)
- Tennessee Valley Federal Credit Union
- Tennessee Valley Authority
- Unum

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About Latina Professionals of Chattanooga Founded in 2018, we are a Tennessee nonprofit organization that promotes the advancement of Latina women and girls in our community. And provides Latinas the resources and community they need to thrive in their careers and education. For more information about us, please visit www.latinaprochatt.com or follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [TikTok](#) and [LinkedIn](#).