

IBA caps 50th anniversary year with gala benefit

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción (IBA), the non-profit organization that founded and operates the Villa Victoria affordable housing complex, arts center and a host of services for all ages, brought an elegant and jubilant close to its 50th anniversary



Continued on page 3 Vanessa Calderón-Rosado speaks. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

Rain fails to dampen South End voter turnout

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

Lines were reported at polling stations across the South End as voters cast ballots for U.S. House and

Senate seats, Governor, state senate and other state-level positions on Tuesday, November 6. Two changes of the guard were officially ratified in the general election, namely the

September 4 primary upsets of city councilor at large Ayanna Pressley over longtime incumbents Michael

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Gov. Charlie Baker Wins 2nd Term in Massachusetts But challenger Jay Gonzalez wins Boston.

State-Wide Final Results

*BAKER and POLITO	581,953	66%
GONZALEZ and PALFREY	803,525	34%
Total	2,385,478	

Results from Secretary of State

City of Boston Final Results

GONZALEZ and PALFREY	110,187	50.55%
BAKER and POLITO	107,108	49.14%
Write-in Votes	665	0.31%
Total Number of Precincts Reporting:	255	100.0%

Total Votes: 217,960 Number of Uncast Votes: 5,177

Results from City of Boston Election Department



Tremont Street near Rutland. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

South End tricks and treats

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

Halloween across the South End brought out plenty of witches, superheroes, tigers, clowns, princesses and the like, as well as houses, cars and trees festooned with cobwebs, skeletons, colored lights and the occasional mist machine, including one house decorated with a politically themed tableau inspired by current political leaders and the midterm election.

A few family groups were decked out in themed costumes this year, with one family spotted in front of Café Quattro, 817 Harrison Avenue, dressed as "The Incredibles" and a mother with a mother and her little girl strolled Tremont Street, both dressed as bunnies. Titus Sparrow and Ringgold Parks once again held early-evening Halloween gatherings for children, although the

Boston Fire Department's Engine 22 firehouse at 700 Tremont Street was not open to trick or treaters as it has been in previous years.

One South End townhouse was cleverly and elaborately decorated as the "Capitol Hill Lunatic Asylum", with figures of President Donald Trump flanked by Russian president Vladimir Putin and North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un, all clad in hospital gowns and scrubs.

Below, figures of White House Kellyanne Conway in a nurse's cap and presidential press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders in scrubs stand over a chained Statue of Liberty holding a sign that reads, "Help Me Vote." The house attracted many visitors, photographs and some local news coverage.

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IBA

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year with a formal, gala fundraiser held at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the Senate at UMass Boston on Saturday night, November 3.

Approximately 350 guests, many in black tie and evening gowns, enjoyed passed appetizers and buffet-style treats from an array of popular Boston chefs and eateries; an open bar with beer, wine, cocktails and soft drinks; anniversary cake and desserts; remarks by elected officials and other prominent Bostonians and music by Eric Germán and his Orchestra. WCVB veteran reporter Jorge Quiroga emceed the event.

While eating, socializing and dancing took place in the spacious lobby and corridors of the Institute, a slideshow and remarks commemorating IBA's history and achievements and a salute to IBA's 50 for 50, a roster of Boston Latinos who have contributed significantly to the local community and the city. Tickets cost \$250, and according to event spokesperson Kate Daigle, the preliminary fundraising total is \$450,000, "as a culmination of year-long efforts." Daigle said, "IBA will dedicate all funds raised to providing more affordable housing, as well as promoting economic mobility, artistic enrichment and educational opportunities for the city's most vulnerable citizens."

Guests included South End residents as well as neighborhood and citywide public servants including Mayor Martin J. Walsh; city councilor at-large and U.S. House representative-elect Ayanna Pressley; 9th Suffolk District state representative-elect Jon Santiago, M.D.; District 2 city councilor Ed Flynn; Boston Center for Youth and Families (BCYF) commissioner William Morales; and Mass Housing director of community services Thaddeus Miles; and Boston Police Department (BPD) D-4 community service officers Javier Pagán and his former D-4 partner, Jorge Dias. Governor Charlie Baker delivered his congratulations on IBA's anniversary and accomplishments via video.

The evening began at 7:00 PM with mellow cocktail music by Eric Germán's ensemble while guests arrived and socialized. Around 7:45 PM, guests were called to the lobby for introductory remarks by Quiroga, Walsh, Pressley, Edward M. Kennedy Institute president Mary Grand and Goya Foods director of public relations, Rafael Toro.

Kicking off the night's remarks, emcee Quiroga said, "It is fitting to celebrate IBA's 50th anniversary here, because like Senator Edward M. Kennedy, IBA and Vanessa Calderón-Rosado have been an unstoppable force in support of families." Recalling the members of the Emergency Tenants Coalition that fought in 1968 for affordable housing in an area that was slated for destruction under urban renewal, Quiroga said, "The tenants that stood up and stopped the highway are an inspiration to all of us." Mayor Walsh announced that the city will release a housing report this week stating that 48 per cent of South End housing is income-restricted, and crediting IBA with the development and management of a significant portion of that affordable housing. Referring to Calderón-Rosado's



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(Top) IBA 50 honorees, Jovita Fontanez and Vanessa Calderón-Rosado, center. (Right Center) Jorge Dias, BCYF's William Morales, Javier Pagán. (Bottom Left) Ayanna Pressley (Bottom Right) Jorge Quiroga & Mayor Martin J. Walsh. Photos by Michele Maniscalco

Halloween

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Photos by Michele Maniscalco

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IBA

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long hours in her office and at Villa Victoria events, Walsh also thanked “Vanessa’s husband and sons for lending her to the community.”

In her remarks, Pressley said, “IBA defines the word, ‘resistance.’ We struggle to honor diversity. Diversity means shared power. Thank you for modeling resistance and resilience.” She also noted that between 2014 and 2017, the Latino vote grew 71 percent, and 54 percent of Latinos who voted in the 2018 primary were first-time voters. Toro quipped, “I am not going to speak for very long because never let it be said that someone from Goya kept people from eating!” He added, “The thing that IBA and Goya have in common is that we both bring people together.” After the well-wishes, guests sampled the wares of chef José Duarte of Taranta; Brian Poe of the Tip Tap Room, Rodney Murillo of Davio’s, Nicole Rivera Suarez of the Ritz Carlton, Daniel Bojorquez of La Fábrica Central and others. Food offerings included traditional favorites such as tostones (fried plantain slices), guacamole and guava and cream cheese bites, as well as novel treats including vegan Greek-style pastries by Danny Garcia of Eva’s Pastry.

After the dining hour, guests entered the Institute’s Senate Chamber to listen to remarks from Calderón-Rosado and other speakers and view a slide presentation of IBA’s 50 for 50 honorees. The slide show included images of the original Emergency Tenants Council;

excavation and construction of Villa Victoria, and more recent milestones such as the groundbreaking for the renovation of Plaza Betances, with the late Mayor Thomas M. Menino and 9th Suffolk District state representative Byron M. Rushing joining Calderón-Rosado in lifting a ceremonial shovel.

Calderón-Rosado proudly reviewed her organization’s contributions in providing affordable housing and community services from day care to job training and arts programming at Villa Victoria Center for the Arts, and recalled the leadership of Jorge Hernandez and also proudly citing the achievement of current Villa Victoria resident Randy Echavaria, a high-achieving Boston Latin Academy alumnus who is now studying engineering at UMass Boston. Calderón-Rosado announced each of the 50 for 50 honorees, including Jon Santiago; former USES chief and community activist Frieda Garcia; former city councilor and register of deeds Felix D. Arroyo; 2nd Suffolk district state senator Sonia Chang-Diaz; Jovita Fontanez, first female Latina election commissioner in Boston; Red Sox manager Alex Cora; and renowned radio broadcaster José Massó, longtime host of WBUR-FM’s “Con Salsa!” program.

Lin-Manuel Miranda, creator and original star of Broadway’s wildly successful, historical musical “Hamilton,” donated tickets to “Hamilton” as a fundraiser for IBA. During Saturday night’s gala, a “Hamilton” in Boston evening package including tickets to the musical at the Boston Opera House courtesy of Miranda, dinner for two at Taranta Ristorante

and a night at the Four Seasons were auctioned off for \$5,000.

In a written statement, Miranda said, “My family and I are proud to support IBA and the incredible work they have done for half a century for Boston’s largely underserved Latino community. This year, we have been particularly inspired by and thankful for IBA’s tireless efforts for those displaced from Puerto Rico by

Hurricane Maria who have found themselves so far from home. Here’s to another 50 years of progress, leadership, and meaningful change.” After the presentation, guests repaired to the lobby for cake and desserts, coffee and drinks while Eric Germán and His Orchestra amped up the beat with driving salsa music, filling the dance floor until the end of the festivities.

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Voter Turnout

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Capuano for the 7th district House of Representatives seat and Jon Santiago’s victory for the 9th Suffolk District state house seat occupied by Byron Rushing since 1983.

Other races yielded more expected results, with U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren retaining her seat against Republican challenger Geoffrey Diehl; the handy re-election of governor Charlie Baker; attorney general Maura Healey; secretary of state William Galvin; state auditor Suzanne Bump and treasurer Deb Goldberg. While Baker took an early, approximately two-to-one statewide lead against Democratic challenger, Jay Gonzalez, who conceded shortly after poll closing, Gonzalez actually bested Baker in Boston, winning 51 percent of the city’s vote versus Baker’s 49 percent.

Boston voters decided on three ballot questions: Question 1, which proposed a state-mandated ratio of nurses to hospital patients; question 2, which would establish a volunteer commission from Massachusetts to advocate for a constitutional amendment to

limit corporate election spending by overturning the 2010 Supreme Court ruling, Citizens United. Question 3 was a referendum on a 2016 Massachusetts law banning discrimination against transgender persons in public accommodations, with a Yes vote upholding the discrimination ban and a No vote rescinding it. Question 1 had nurses’ groups on both sides of the issue, but on November 6, it failed statewide by 70 percent and in Boston by 64 percent. Question 2 passed by 71 percent statewide and by 78 percent in Boston. On Question 3, 68 percent of voters said Yes statewide, and in Boston, 77 percent of voters said Yes to uphold the anti-discrimination law.

Some South End voters were briefly confused and concerned when news outlets reported that a “South End” polling place was closed due to the delivery of an unknown white powder in an envelope holding an absentee ballot, bringing the Boston Fire Department out to investigate. The polling place was located at 735 Shawmut Avenue, near Ruggles Street in Roxbury, and BFD investigators quickly determined that the white powder was baking soda and re-opened the location for voting.

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