



AMISTAD
POR EL BIENESTAR Y LA EDUCACIÓN
www.elcentroamistad.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 1st, 2026

20 Years of Latina Leadership in Colorado: El Centro AMISTAD Announces Landmark Compañeras Summit Featuring Lila Downs

Boulder, CO at a time when Latino and immigrant communities across Colorado continue to demonstrate resilience, strength, and deep cultural richness while navigating evolving challenges in access to care, economic stability, and spaces that honor their language and lived experiences, El Centro AMISTAD is proud to mark a powerful milestone: the 20th Annual Compañeras Women's Summit and Cumbre Juvenil Youth Conference, taking place September 4th & 5th, 2026, at the University Memorial Center (UMC) at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Under the theme *"Weaving Our Voices: 20 Years in Community,"* the summit will convene more than **350 Spanish-speaking women and youth** for a dynamic, intergenerational experience that includes culturally relevant workshops, leadership development, and opportunities for collective reflection and empowerment.

For 20 years, the Compañeras Summit has served as a trusted and transformative space rooted in culture, identity, and resilience. Since its founding in 2007, the event has engaged over 5,000 participants and delivered more than 400 workshops focused on health equity, education, leadership, and emotional wellbeing. Each year, over **80% of participants report increased confidence, strengthened cultural identity, and improved ability to navigate systems impacting their families' wellbeing.**

Special Guest: Lila Downs

Internationally acclaimed artist Lila Downs will headline the event as a special guest, bringing a powerful and deeply personal voice to this milestone gathering. As a proud Oaxacan descendant of Indigenous and Mexican heritage, Downs has built a global career rooted in honoring ancestral traditions, language, and identity bridging generations through music, storytelling, and cultural preservation.



Through her artistry and advocacy, Downs has consistently uplifted Indigenous communities and amplified the experiences of women navigating identity, migration, and belonging. At the Compañeras Summit, she will share reflections on her journey as a woman, artist, and cultural bearer offering participants an opportunity to engage with themes of resilience, dignity, and the transformative power of embracing one's roots.

Her presence represents more than a performance it is a moment of collective recognition and inspiration. By centering her voice within this space, the summit reinforces the importance of cultural pride, intergenerational knowledge, and the leadership of Latina and Indigenous women in shaping more just and inclusive communities.

A Timely and Urgent Conversation for Colorado

As Colorado's Latino population continues to grow and shape the state's cultural and economic future, the Compañeras Summit stands as one of the few culturally grounded, Spanish-language leadership spaces dedicated to advancing equity, wellbeing, and opportunity for Latina women and families. Local leaders, advocates, and participants will engage in conversations around:

- Mental health and emotional wellbeing in the current immigration climate
- Economic mobility and leadership pathways for Latina women
- Intergenerational healing, identity, and cultural pride
- Access to healthcare, education, and community resources

Media Contact:

Spanish:

Elena P Aranda
Co-Director, El Centro AMISTAD
Director Cumbre de Mujeres
elena@elcentroamistad.org
303-443-9899

English:

Maya Sol Dansie
Clinical Director, El Centro AMISTAD
Director Cumbre Juvenil
mayasol@elcentroamistad.org
303-443-9899

2338 Broadway Boulder, CO 80304 - P.303.443.9899

