THE MINNESOTA LATINO COMMUNITY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Latino population of Minnesota has grown dramatically since 1980, and in particular during the period from 1990 to the present. The Latino community is one of the largest and most important in the state, and is particularly noteworthy because its growth has not been confined to the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

The Minnesota Historical Society and the Chicano Latino Affairs Council formed a partnership to create a major project of oral history interviews with Latino community leaders statewide. The project is intended to help chronicle the history, successes, challenges, and contributions of this diverse and highly important group of Minnesotans.

During the past twenty years the Minnesota Historical Society has successfully worked with many immigrant communities in the state to ensure that the stories of their arrival, settlement, and adjustment to life in Minnesota becomes part of the historical record. While the Society worked with the long established Mexican-American community in the Twin Cities in the late 1970s and 1980s, this new project has created an expanded record that that better represents the Latino community and its importance to the state.

The project could not have succeeded without the efforts of a remarkable group of advisors who helped frame the topics for discussion, and the narrators who shared their inspiring stories in each interview. We are deeply grateful for their interest and their commitment to the cause of history.

Lideres Latinos Oral History Project
Minnesota Historical Society