

Carleton College, Office of Intercultural & International Life

Charter for La Casa del Sol

Mission of La Casa del Sol

La Casa del Sol is a house designed to serve the Latino community at Carleton, as well as the larger Carleton and local Northfield community, through education and programming. We welcome the Carleton Community to come and celebrate our diversity. La Casa is an integral part of the Latino community at Carleton because it encourages academic success and community development.

Goals for La Casa del Sol

I. Education:

La Casa del Sol is the central element for unifying and empowering our Latino students, staff, and faculty at Carleton. Residents of La Casa del Sol work together to educate themselves first, and the Carleton Community second, in the diversity of Latinos throughout the United States. This is done through various activities and programs conceptualized and developed by House Residents. Program ideas have included but are not limited to hosting dinners and movie nights, inviting guest speakers, and other social activities in order to bring together the community to discuss issues facing Latinos today. La Casa is also provides an ideal setting for meetings, and has been host for Northfield Community projects that House residents participate in.

II. Serving the Latino Community:

The Latin American Students Organization (LASO) has been influenced by the existence of La Casa del Sol. La Casa has been the center location for this organization's meetings, as it provides the comfort and availability that is needed for all organization members. Also, many social events have taken place at La Casa such as potluck dinners, which are attended by different communities at Carleton. Also, some events held at La Casa are co-sponsored with other student organizations in order to draw a unity among Carleton students.

III. Serving the Northfield Community:

ACT, in particular the Latino Outreach Program, historically benefited from the educational purpose of La Casa. By creating a bridge of communication between the Latino community in Northfield and Carleton students, members of La Casa have established and maintained a working relationship of service and trust with the Northfield community. By providing a usable space and volunteers, La Casa aids the Latino Outreach Program of La Escuelita. La Escuelita is designed to empower Latina/o youth, with an emphasis on social justice and cultural values. By exposing students to a college environment, it will encourage students to pursue higher education. La Escuelita also provides role models for the Latino youth in Northfield.

IV. Admissions/Recruitment:

To coincide with Carleton's commitment to increase diversity in the student population, La Casa residents will continue to work with the Admissions Office by retaining the Latino student population. Through effective outreach and hosting of prospective Latino students, La Casa will be a key component towards the achievement of this goal. Direct, open and honest contact between La Casa residents and prospective students we will attract more Latino students to the Carleton Community.

Selection Process

The Offices of Intercultural Life and Residential Life will work collectively on the selection process each academic year. Applicants will be expected to complete an application and interview with the selection committee. Selection of house residents for the upcoming year will be made on an individual basis, as opposed to group selection based on existing friendships.

Procedures for Removal

Any member of the house who is disruptive or fails to contribute to the community goals will be removed from La Casa del Sol. The following procedures will be used when conflict or disagreements arise:

1. All house members will attend a meeting for the purposes of reviewing expectations and resolving conflicts.
2. If conflicts or disruptive behavior continues, a mediation session with an Intercultural Life and/or Residential Life staff member will be required. Any house member under review may bring an advocate or supporter.
3. The Intercultural Life/Residential Life staff member will determine how to resolve the conflict, which may include removal of a house member.