



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

IN MEMORIAM: ELBA CABRERA (1933–2024)



As the Hostos community knows, a recent cybersecurity incident created difficulties in communications of the College. It also delayed sharing some terribly sad news: our beloved Elba Cabrera, the last surviving member of *Las Tres Hermanas*, passed away on May 10. She was 90.

The delay has given us the opportunity to once again marvel at what she and her older siblings, Lillian López and Evelina López Antonetty, accomplished during their years on this planet. Their impact on the cultural, educational, artistic and social life of NYC's Puerto Rican and Latino communities was – and remains – phenomenal. Their unstinting efforts over the years helped to make this a more equitable, just, and better-educated city.

What a force for good was Doña Elba! Known as *La Madrina de las Artes*, Elba poured her heart and soul into her work as an administrator, community organizer, and television and radio host. She served with distinction at – to name only a few – the Lehman Center for the Performing Arts; the Association of Hispanic Arts; the Girl Scouts of the USA; and Hostos Community College, where she was a member of the Hostos Foundation Board.

These and so many other organizations and institutions benefited from her passionate advocacy. CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez recently described her accomplishments to the *New York Times*: “Elba opened the doors of opportunity to hundreds of artists, particularly Puerto Rican and Latino ones, through her institutional roles or through her personal networks. In a world full of bitter rivalries and conflicting egos, Elba provided a unifying voice and trusted ally that brought people together and got things done.”

Hostos agrees with Chancellor Matos Rodríguez. How grateful we are to have known this powerful, dedicated woman; how blessed was New York City to have her on its side. Her name lives on in our hearts. Her legacy endures.

In sorrow,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President

Office of the President
Eugenio María de Hostos Community College
475 Grand Concourse, A-Building, Room 341, Bronx, NY 10451
718-518-4300 | PRESIDENTSOFFICE@hostos.cuny.edu

