

Survey

LGBTI people from Latin American & Hispanic backgrounds.

These are the results of an exploratory survey of 9 participants at the first meeting of the LGBTQ Latinx project. The in English language written survey consisted of 6 open-ended questions, and an 'other comments' question. This design was chosen to encourage full and meaningful answers and provide participants to identify new issues not captured in the questions.

- Participants would like to be a supportive, strong community that organises social events, celebrates Latin American culture, and represents their voices.
- Participants are passionate about: meeting others, reciprocation of support, challenging discrimination, and continuation of culture.
- Participants would like to organise: Latin dance nights, same-sex salsa dancing, sharing of food, movie nights and cultural celebrations.
- Participants would like other organisations to be involved.

Three participants provided answers in Spanish, indicating a need for bilingual surveying in the future. The results should be interpreted as a starting point of exploration in the LGBTI Latin American & Hispanic community in Melbourne. A possible limitation can be identified in participant diversity, most participants either identified as same-sex attracted, male or of Colombian background. This means that the results of the survey might not reflect the opinion of people who, for example identify as bisexual, are transgender, or are from Brazil. Therefore it is necessary to review the outcomes of the survey when there is a more diverse representation within the project. Until then we are committed to, and expect an increase of diversity within the project.



GLBTI PEOPLE
FROM LATIN AMERICAN &
HISPANIC BACKGROUNDS

HISPANIC BACKGROUNDS

Full analysis

What you want

You want a place, to form a community that has access to resources.

A place: to meet new people, socialize, share food, dance, celebrate Latin American culture, maintain Spanish proficiency, and network.

Be a community: be a representative body, that advocates, participates, organises, and build on strengths, and experiences of Latin people by Latin people.

Resources: form an advocacy and representative body, have a newsletter, an orientation guide, information about studying, work, tax, visas, and orientation about coming out.

A participant wrote: *'Un lugar donde los Latinos nos sintamos comodoss de ser parte y expresarnos confortablemente.'* (A place where Latinos fit in and feel comfortable to express themselves.)

What you need

A group that provides support, represents, and promotes Latin American culture.

A support group: to socialize and have meaningful conversation.

A representative body: to have our voice heard and to promote Latin American culture in the community.

A participant wrote: *'Just a support group where I don't feel exotic.'*

Your expectations

You expect a supportive, strong community that organises different social events.

Support: You expect to feel supported and provide support for those who need it, such as new members and students.

Form a Community: You expect a strong group.

Events: You expect to organise social events, activities for the social good, and events that offers opportunities to educate the Latin community, and the further community about Latin American and Hispanic LGBTI.

Other answers: consultation meetings when advocacy opportunities arise and making friends.

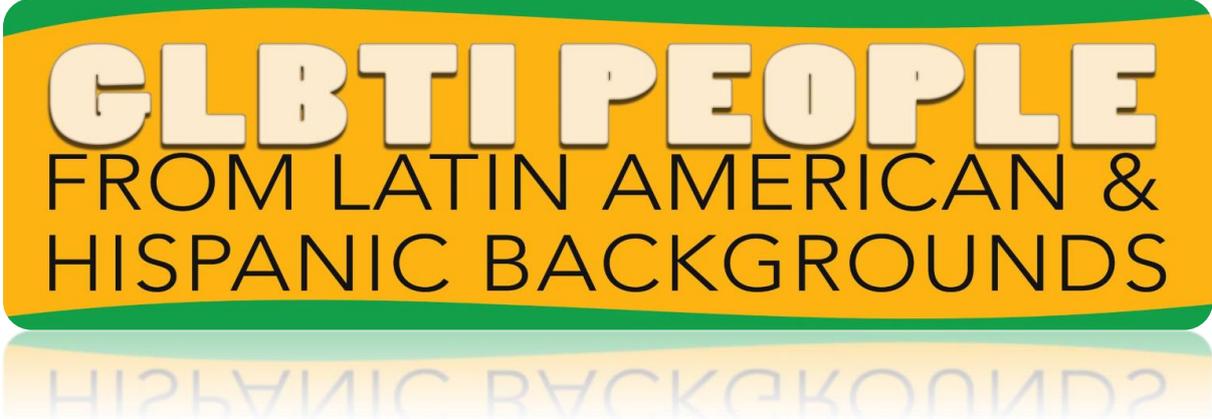
A participant wrote: *'I hope a strong group is formed in order to support those who need it.'*

Who else you like to be involved

Other organisations such as LGBTI and Latin American organisations.

Other answers: friends, others that need the space, and people who have an interest in other cultures. Four people did not answer the question.

A participant wrote: *"Partnerships with other established LGBTQI organisations"*



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What you are passionate about

You are passionate about: peer education, helping, creating a queer community that challenges discrimination and whitewashing within Latin American communities, sharing of culture, and meeting others with similar interests.

A participant wrote: *“A lot of people can share their own experiences and learn from others.”*

Existing programs we should try

You would like to organise a same-sex salsa and a Latin queer dance night. Other ideas were a Latin-themed community dinner, Spanish/English language tutorials, and outdoor activities. Five people did not answer the question, which might be interpreted as resulting from limited knowledge about other existing programs.

A participant wrote: *“Dance nights, in Boston USA was a weekly queer Latino night – it included Latino drag queens + salsa dancing.”*

Other Comments

You expressed some concerns and shared your opinions, shared ideas for activities and two comments are to be interpreted as encouragement of the project.

Concerns expressed: Because Latin people in Melbourne generally blend in with the general population, are often international students, and might not have much spare change for group activities, it will be challenging to form a strong group. Ask for gender pronouns in intentional introductions. Set clear responsibilities and timeframes.

Ideas for activities: Latin club night, salsa, movies, an event to share food from Latin American countries and casual coffee dates with other Latin Americans

A participant wrote: *‘Viva Peru’*. Another wrote: *‘No se rindan, que el que perservera alcanza’* (Do not give up, keep trying to achieve).

This survey analysis is a joint effort of the volunteers of the project.

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