



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Luis R. Sepúlveda

## For the First Time in History: New York Senate and Assembly Grant Highest Recognition to 'Premios Soberano' and ACROARTE

LUIS R. SEPÚLVEDA March 12, 2024

| ISSUE: **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

In a historic day, the New York Senate and Assembly granted for the first time the highest recognition to the "Premios Soberano" and ACROARTE, marking a unique and unprecedented moment in the legislative history of the state. Resolution No. 1915, which highlights the profound impact of "Premios Soberano" and its President, Wanda Sánchez, on the Dominican community in New York, was adopted today, showing exceptional recognition for their cultural contributions and visionary leadership.

This bicameral effort was led in the Senate by Senator Luis Sepúlveda and in the Assembly by Assemblywoman Amanda Septimo, both emphasizing the significant contribution of these awards and their organizers.

Senator Sepúlveda, who is currently in the Dominican Republic, will attend the Premios Soberano ceremony in Santo Domingo tonight, alongside his Dominican counterpart, Senator Alexis Victoria Yeb. This gesture highlights the depth of the cultural ties between New York and the Dominican Republic. Additionally, Wanda Sánchez and ACROARTE have been formally invited to the city of Albany, New York, to receive proclamations in a special event honoring their contributions.

Rusking Pimentel, Senior Advisor and Director of Communications for the New York Senate, SD32, highlighted the importance of this recognition, stating: "Conversations are currently taking place to make a significant announcement regarding this event. This forthcoming announcement is a testament to our commitment to recognizing and celebrating the rich cultural contributions that strengthen and enrich our communities."

This recognition not only highlights the promotion of Dominican culture globally through "Premios Soberanos" and the leadership of Wanda Sánchez but also their significant influence on the multicultural environment of New York, including the renaming of a street in Washington Heights to "Camino de Premios Soberano".

Senator Sepúlveda expressed the honor of recognizing "Premios Soberanos" and the extraordinary efforts of Wanda Sánchez, highlighting the importance of cultural expression in fostering community connections. Upcoming announcements are anticipated that will celebrate and reaffirm the relationship between New York and the Dominican Republic.

This historic milestone underscores New York's commitment to celebrating the achievements of the Dominican community, strengthening cultural ties, and enriching the state's diverse cultural fabric. Following the adoption of the resolution today, Wanda Sánchez, President of Acroarte, will receive a specially adorned copy, symbolizing the state's gratitude and recognition of her valuable contributions.