



DR. MARTA MORENO VEGA, founder and president of the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute (CCCADI), established the center in 1976, inspired by a vision to create an international organization to promote and link communities of African descendants wherever they are present. Most recently, she has guided the completion of a capital campaign for the renovation of the landmark firehouse at 120 East 125th Street that will be the Center's new home.

Dr. Vega has been a staunch advocate of cultural education and integration for years, as former director of El Museo del Barrio, and among the founders of the Association of Hispanic Arts and the Network of Centers of Color and the Roundtable of Institutions of Colors. She has conducted extensive research in Yoruba belief systems in the African Diaspora and has organized numerous international conferences uniting scholars and leading experts on African Diaspora religions. She is also co-founder of the Global Afro Latino and Caribbean Initiative (GALCI), a program of Hunter College/Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program.

She is chief editor of *Women Warriors of the Afro-Latina Diaspora* (Arte Publico Press) and author of *The Altar of My Soul* (One World/Ballantine, 2001). She is director and co-producer of the documentary *When the Spirits Dance Mambo: Growing Up Nuyorican in El Barrio* and has written a personal memoir by the same name (Three Rivers Press, 2002). Dr. Moreno Vega also co-edited *Actualidad de las Tradiciones Espirituales y Culturales Africanas en el Caribe y Latinoamerica* with Maria Elba Torres Munoz and *A SNAP SHOT: Landmarking Community Cultural Arts Organizations Nationally* with Dr. Sonia Bassheva Manjon. Dr. Vega is currently working a documentary focused on African based spirituality in Puerto Rico - *When the Spirits Call* - working title. She is also working on a children's book - *Dos Islas* a young Puerto Ricans view of Puerto Rico and Manhattan Island.

Dr. Vega is a professor at El Centro de Estudios Avanzados Puertorriquenos de Puerto Rico y El Caribe in San Juan, Puerto Rico and an adjunct professor at New York University's Department of Arts and Public Policy. Previously, she was an adjunct professor of Afro-Caribbean Religions and Afro Latinos in New York City at Hunter College, City University of New York where she was acting director of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program.

Dr. Moreno Vega was and as a Latino Pioneer and Visionary in the Best Buy honoring for Latino month 2012 and was featured in the 2011 HBO documentary "The Latino List."

A native of Spanish Harlem (El Barrio and the Bronx), Dr. Vega began her career as a New York City public school teacher. She is a graduate of New York University and received her Doctorate from Temple University in 1995.