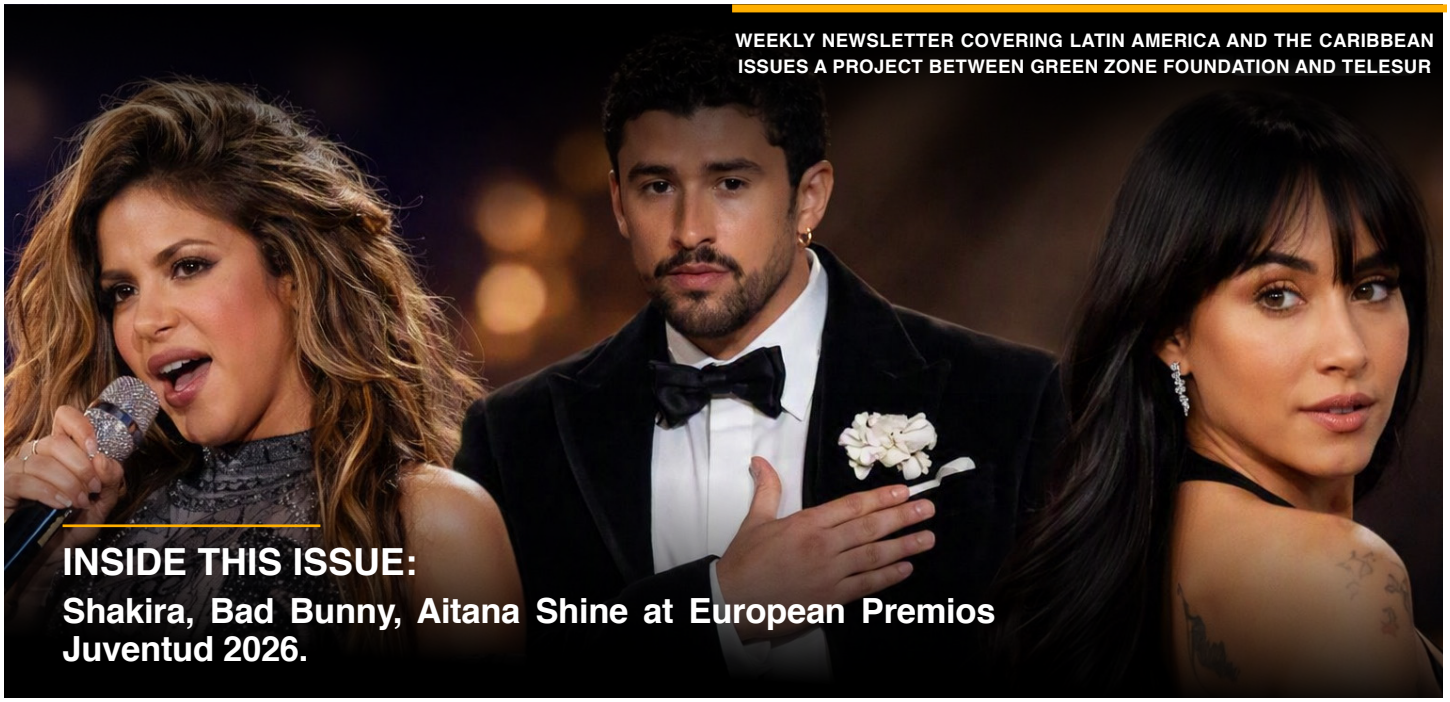
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NEWSLETTER

A VISION OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER COVERING LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ISSUES A PROJECT BETWEEN GREEN ZONE FOUNDATION AND TELESUR

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GREEN ZONE FOUNDATION

American Latino Museum to Have Its Permanent Home in the Smithsonian Institution.



The project aims to preserve and share the culture, history, and contributions of the Latino community.

On Tuesday, Jorge Zamanillo, Director of the National Museum of the American Latino (NMAL) reported that his institution will have its permanent home in the historic Arts and Industries Building of the Smithsonian Institution.

Zamanillo celebrated the decision as “a major milestone for a dream forged over decades” and emphasized that Latino history will occupy a central place in Washington, D.C.

The project aims to transform the 19th-century building into a state-of-the-art museum dedicated to preserving and sharing the culture, history, and contributions of the Latino community in the United States.

The initiative had faced delays due to a lack of funding, exacerbated by the 2025 budget cuts imposed on the Smithsonian Institution by the Trump administration, amid accusations of “ideological indoctrination.”The Smithsonian Board of Regents ultimately chose this location, avoiding the option of land controlled by the National Park Service, which would have required approval from the Republican-majority Congress.

The Museum was created in 2020 by an Act of Congress as part of the Smithsonian Institution, which also established the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American Women’s History.

Its board is composed of 19 citizens, the Smithsonian Secretary and Assistant Secretary for Museums and Culture, a member of the Smithsonian Board of Regents, and two members of Congress. They assist in fundraising and advise the Board of Regents on matters related to the museum’s development.



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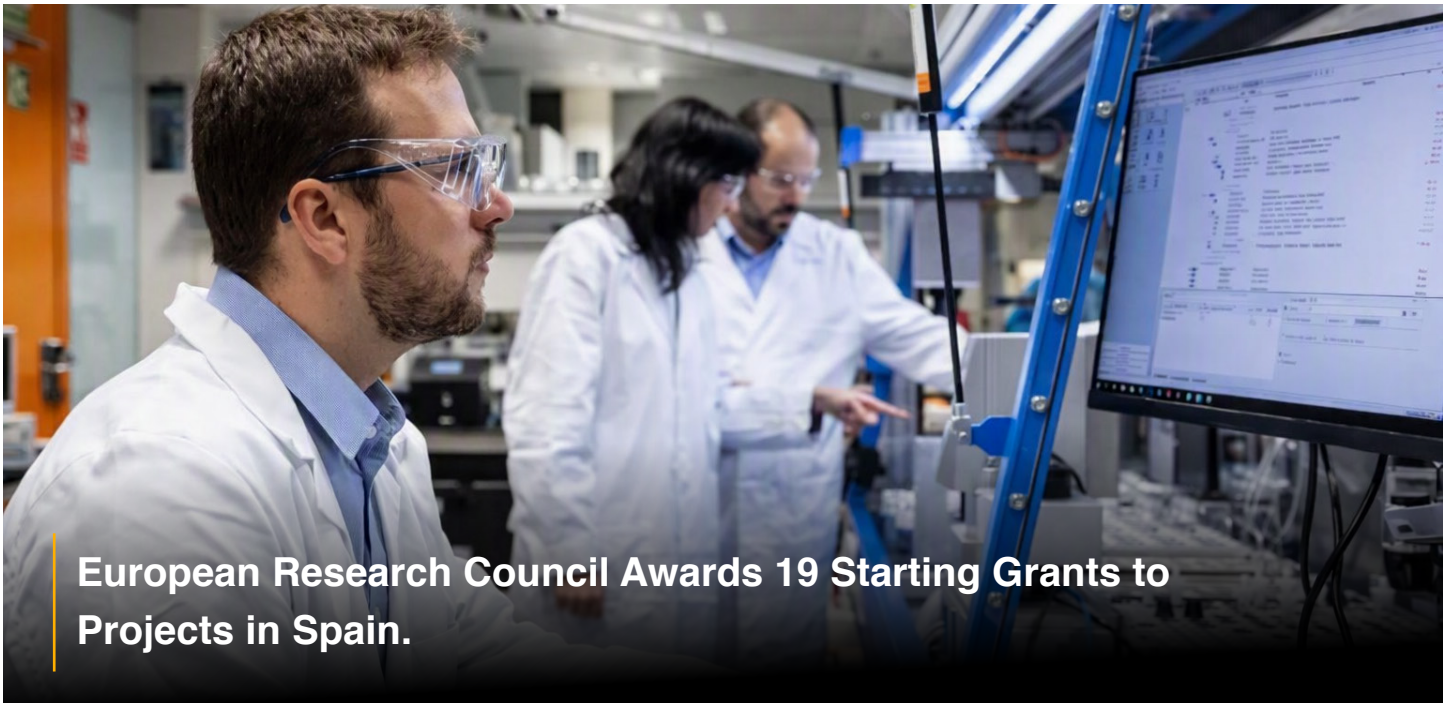
Colombian sculptor Gabriel Beltrán will take his ‘Neurons’ series, composed of 12 medium-sized figures, to Germany for an exhibition at the artist Jo Köser’s studio, on the outskirts of Hamburg.

The international exhibition, which also includes works by Köser, Karin Weissenbacher, Dieter Koswig, and Petra Rös-Nickel, takes on special significance in the wake of the earthquake. “At this moment, amidst the catastrophe we experienced from the earthquake that struck Colombia on August 10th, resilience is what makes us great and strong,” Beltrán stated in a press release.

The ‘Neurons’ pieces are constructed from burnished steel and polyurethane-painted steel, based on a reflection on neurons as essential elements for the body’s energy and communication within the human being’s internal networks.

“We think that life is outside, but life is also within ourselves, which is vital: the life of movement, of reasoning, of being human,” the artist explained. The exhibition in Germany will also feature sculptures between one and 1.2 meters tall, displayed as outdoor garden pieces.
Beltrán emphasized the cultural significance of this tour: “For me, it’s also about taking the name of Colombia to northern Germany, so that we can be united,” he noted, while acknowledging that the presence of Colombian art is still limited in this European circuit.

Trained at the School of Arts in Bogotá and the National Pedagogical University, the artist has spent more than three decades exploring the tension between matter and time through iron, bronze, and steel.
His career includes more than 300 exhibitions in Colombia, the United States, Spain, Italy, China, the United Arab Emirates, and other countries.



European Research Council Awards 19 Starting Grants to Projects in Spain.

The European Research Council awarded 19 "Starting Grant" scholarships to projects based in Spain and recognized 24 Spanish researchers, in a record-breaking call for applications.

On Thursday, the European Research Council (ERC) awarded 19 grants to projects to be carried out at Spanish centers. This funding round will distribute €705 million (US$817.87 million) among 421 early-career researchers across Europe. Spain is the most represented nation with 24 of the awardees, making it the fourth most represented country, surpassed only by Germany, Italy, and France.

Of the 19 grants based in Spain, eight are in Life Sciences, eight in Physics and Engineering, and three in Social Sciences and Humanities. The disciplines range from cosmology, with research on the use of gravitational lensing and multiple probes to study the accelerating universe, to quantum physics, with projects on neutral atom simulators.

The Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) is the Spanish institution with the most grants, with four projects, followed by the University of Valencia, which receives two. The remaining grants are distributed among the University of Santiago de Compostela, the University of Granada the Catalan research institute IREC, the CNIC (National Center for Cardiovascular Research), Hospital del Mar, the University of the Basque Country, Complutense University of Madrid, and Carlos III University of Madrid.

Among the selected projects, the ERC highlighted the "SynCity" project by María Isabel Navarro Mendoza, a Ramón y Cajal researcher who will join the University of Murcia. Her research will focus on Mucorales fungi, which cause mucormycosis, or "black fungus," an infection with high mortality and resistance to most antifungals.

"More than 50 nationalities are represented among these researchers," stated ERC President Maria Leptin, who added that the grants "will give them the independence and support they need at the beginning of their careers to expand the frontiers of science."

Furthermore, 20 of the 21 awardees currently residing outside Europe are from the United States. European Commissioner for Research and Innovation, Ekaterina Zaharieva, stated that this reflects Europe's "growing attractiveness for cutting-edge research."

Each Starting Grant provides up to €1.5 million (US$1.7 million) for up to five years to early-stage researchers. The call for applications broke records with 4,807 proposals, 22% more than the previous year, of which only 8.8% were funded.



Peruvian Ritual Figurines Provide Evidence of Inca Expansion Practices.

Archaeologists discover stone figurines called ‘illas’ at the Kuélap fortress, which provide new insights into fertility rituals and political-religious interactions between the Chachapoyas and the Inca State.

On Monday, a group of stone figurines with shapes representing animals with female sexual characteristics were found during recent archaeological excavations at the Kuélap Monumental Archaeological Complex, the great fortress of the pre-Inca Chachapoya civilization. This culture flourished in the northern Peruvian Andes between 800 and 1570.

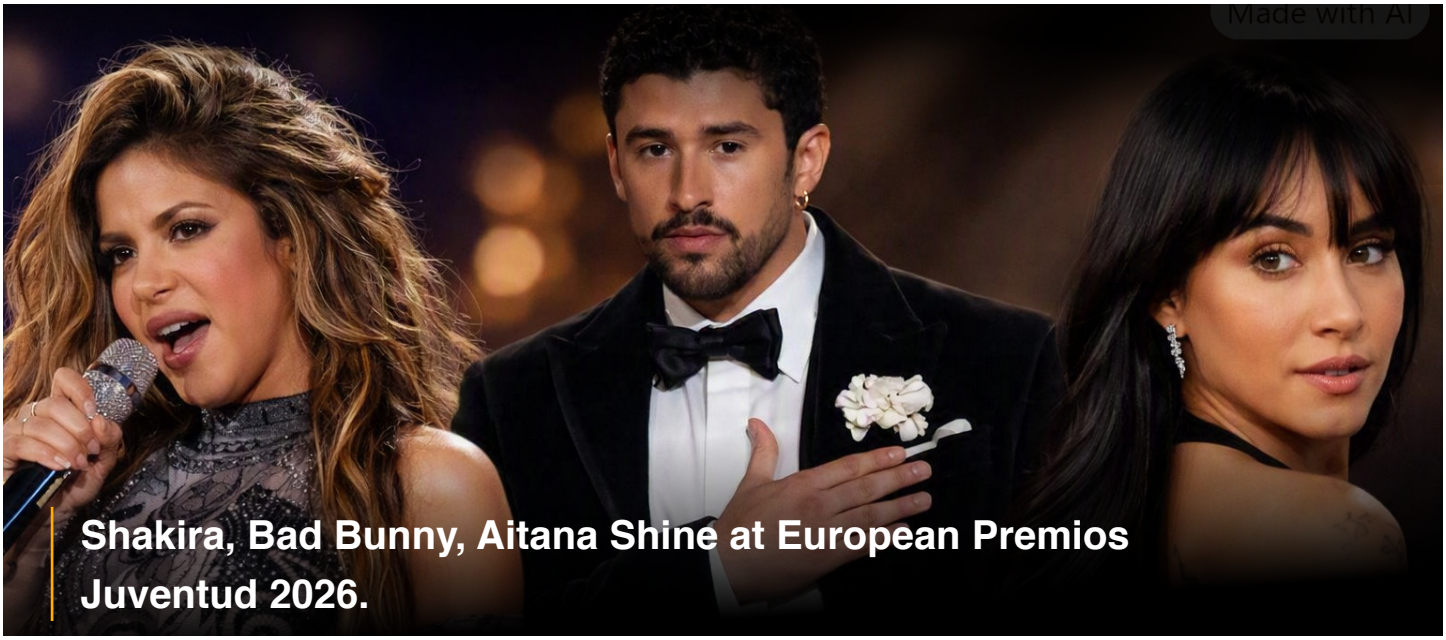
These sculptures, called ‘illas’, “constitute an important contribution to the study of ritual practices linked to fertility,” reported the Peruvian Ministry of Culture through its Decentralized Directorate of the Amazonas region.

The pieces exhibit characteristics that allow them to be related to the so-called ‘conopas’. These are small sculptures, generally made of stone and representing camelid forms, widely documented for the Inca period. They were associated with ritual practices intended to promote fertility, abundance, and the protection of herds, crops, and the well-being of the household.

According to archaeological research, they also formed part of the political-religious dynamics developed during the Inca state to strengthen relationships between families, sacred sites (huacas), and state power. Therefore, these objects expressed relationships of reciprocity, balance, fertility, and protection. In the case of Kuélap, the discovery of ‘illas’ (small figurines) representing animals with female sexual characteristics opens new lines of research. These figures may be evidence of the Inca Empire’s relationship with the Chachapoya, also known as the “warriors of the clouds” for inhabiting the cloud-covered peaks of the Andes and for being one of the peoples who most fiercely resisted the arrival of the Incas to their territory.

The Peruvian Ministry of Culture noted that Kuélap shows evidence of occupation corresponding to the Late Horizon period, linked to the presence and expansion of the Inca state in the region. This allows us to consider this evidence within the framework of the interactions between local ritual traditions and those linked to the Andean region.

Kuelap, which has been nicknamed the Machu Picchu of northern Peru, is notable for its walls up to 12 meters high. These structures protect some 500 circular dwellings on the summit, within a perimeter of about seven hectares, high atop a mountain some 3,000 meters above sea level.



Shakira, Bad Bunny, Aitana Shine at European Premios Juventud 2026.

The first European edition of the Youth Awards consolidated Spain as the link between Latin culture and Europe, among its awards it recognized artists as Agents of Change for their cultural impact.

The first European Premios Juventud gala was held on Thursday in Marbella (Málaga), establishing Spain as a link with Europe in a night celebrating Latin music and culture.

The event marked a historic milestone thanks to the alliance between the organizers, TelevisaUnivision and Starlite Marbella, after previously touring various locations such as Los Angeles, Miami, Houston in the United States, and Panama.

In the main awards, Shakira took home three prizes, including Best Female Artist and Best Pop Song for 'Bésame' with Alejandro Sanz. Bad Bunny won two awards: Best Male Artist and Best Tour for his 'Debí tirar más fotos world tour'. Local artist Aitana was honored with three awards: Best Euro-Song for 'Superestrella', Best Pop Album for 'Blue Bedroom', and Couple Goals for 'Plex'.



Karol G also won Album of the Year for "Tropicoqueta," as well as Best Urban Rhythmic Song for "Rose Summer" with Feid. Alejandro Fernández won My Favorite Track for "It's hurting" (Me está doliendo) with Carín León, Best Pop Ballad Song, and Best Mexican Banda Song. Prince Royce and Romeo Santos took home three awards for their collaborations. The list is completed by another thirty artists such as Beéle, Bizarrap, Quevedo, Camila Fernández, Greeicy, Farruko, Daddy Yankee, Morat, and Lola Índigo.

A key part of the awards was the presentation of the "Agents of Change" recognition to Antonio Banderas, Marc Anthony, Yandel, and La Oreja de Van Gogh for their cultural impact, their community service, and their influence on different generations of Hispanic audiences. Marc Anthony celebrated the Latin race, while La Oreja de Van Gogh reminisced about their thirty years of friendship and music, during which they have grown up together and traveled the world. Yandel thanked Spain for its affection.

The ceremony, hosted by Spaniard Jesús Vázquez, Mexican Alejandra Espinoza, and Dominican Clarissa Molina, included dozens of performances. Colombian Camilo exclusively premiered the global release of "Árbol," a preview of his album "For When They Grow Up" (in Spanish Para cuando sean mayores).



Marc Anthony performed his global anthems. Elena Rose presented “Side Effects” (in Spanish Efectos Secundarios), and Farruko, Juan Magán, and DJ Rous headlined the opening number with “Marbella Nights,” the official anthem of Premios Juventud 2026.

The 2026 edition featured 50 categories recognizing artists in music, television, streaming, and pop culture, adding the new Creator category from Spain. The broadcast reached over 150 countries, gaining new audiences in Europe, Asia, and Africa, thanks to TelevisaUnivision’s broadcast agreement with RTVE. PJ Fest continues with performances by Wisin and Manuel Carrasco at Starlite.


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