



## *A Salsa Museum honoring Bobby Cruz will be created in Puerto Rico*

Publicado el: 1 de noviembre de 2016



**HORMIGUEROS-** Mayagüez-Aguadilla District Senator Gilberto Rodríguez-Valle and the Hormigueros Economic and Sociocultural Development Corporation (CODESCH) announced today the beginning of the process to establish the Roberto “Bobby” Cruz House Museum, dedicated to this renowned Hormigueros-born musician. During the press conference, Hormigueros mayor, Pedro García, also announced the municipality’s support to this initiative.

“Western Puerto Rico will become the meeting point for salsa lovers around the world. We are very thrilled to sponsor this initiative; today, CODESCH begins the process to acquire a structure next to the house where Bobby Cruz was born here in Barrio Jagüitas, Hormigueros,” expressed Senator Rodríguez-Valle.

Famed musician Bobby Cruz, who was present at the press conference, announced his interest in donating to CODESCH all the memorabilia he has collected throughout his career. “Among the things that I would like to leave to my beloved Puerto Rico are the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Best Tropical Album Award that I received at the 2006 and 2007 Grammys, respectively. I will also donate to the House Museum everything related to my induction into the Latin Music Hall of Fame as well as all documents pertaining to the granting of the Republic of Colombia’s citizenship. There are many objects and documents that I will dearly give to my town of Hormigueros, as a token of appreciation for all the love and support that I have received,” expressed Cruz.

Meanwhile, Mayor Pedro García announced that he will take all the necessary steps to have the House Museum Bobby Cruz included in “La Ruta de la Salsa” an initiative launched by the Puerto Rico Tourism Company this year. “La Ruta de Salsa” is designed to show tourists and Puerto Ricans alike iconic places that have served as the stage for the most prominent performers of the music genre that distinguishes us as a people. Tourists would certainly want to come to this House Museum and visit the sights of Porta del Sol, a tourist concept of which we are part,” stated Mayor García.

Singer Roberto “Bobby” Cruz (79) was born in Hormigueros, Puerto Rico and raised in humble surroundings. His father was a sugar cane field worker who later became a labor union leader. When a child, his parents moved to New York City where he was educated. In New York, in 1963, Bobby Cruz met Ricardo “Richie” Ray with whom he formed the Richie Ray and Bobby Cruz Orchestra. In 1965, they released their first professional hit: Comején. This song became a big hit

in New York, crossing over to Latin America and all over the world. Together, they have had a significant impact on the music industry and are considered one of the most popular salsa duets in the world.

In 1974, they won first place in the Festival of Orchestras for the composition “La Zafra,” whose lyrics describe the struggles of sugar cane workers in western Puerto Rico. Later that year, Ray converted to Christianity when Ray invited him to join church. They both created their most popular song to date: “Juan de la Ciudad,” in which Cruz’s lyrics narrate the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Ray and Cruz have founded over 20 Christian churches since they retired from popular music. Both musicians are highly esteemed in Puerto Rico.

**XXX**