



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL

FOLK ARTS & HERITAGE PROGRAM

FIELDNOTES

Fieldworker(s) [(Initials) Name]: (CF) Carlos Fernandez, ()

Accession Numbers:

CF-04-18-FN

Fieldnotes

CF-04-18-D

Audio recordings

- - -CS

Photographic documentation

- - -M

Additional materials

Initial Contact: 6/19/2004 Contact Date: 6/19/2004

Related Accession Numbers: - - - - -

Individual/Group/Event: Isabel MelendezAddress: [REDACTED]City: [REDACTED]Zip: [REDACTED]County: [REDACTED]Phone: Daytime: [REDACTED]Evening: [REDACTED]E-mail: [REDACTED]Website: [REDACTED]Contact person: [REDACTED]Title: [REDACTED]Location of Interview: Voters in ActionStreet Address: [REDACTED]City: [REDACTED]Zip: [REDACTED]County: [REDACTED]Special Needs (including translation): Interview in Spanish

Traditions documented on visit (traditional art/skills, occupational experience, ethnic or religious community): Experience immigrating to Lawrence from Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico. Experiences working in textile factory and as a small business owner of Casa Melendez, a clothing store on 115 Newberry Street.

Traditions noted for follow-up: [REDACTED]Other Possible Contacts: [REDACTED]

Summary Description: Interview took place at Votantes en Accion a new project that Ms. Melendez has developed to encourage the Latino vote. She discussed her upbringing in Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico, immigration to the U.S. and work in textile factories. Ms. Melendez helped establish the Club Juana Diaz Ausentes, a mutual assistance club composed of other Puerto Rican immigrants from Juana Diaz,

in 1974. In 1967 she established a softball league among Latinos and began contacting the Greater Lawrence Community Action Commission in order to assist Puerto Rican newcomers. In 1970-73 she became a small business owner, establishing Casa Melendez, a clothing shop. In 1973 she was hired as director for the Hispanic Program at the GLCAC. She helped establish the Robert Clemente Softball League in Lawrence in 1992 and in 1998 she began producing her own program, La Voz del Pueblo ("The Voice of the People") on AM 800. See CF-04-18-D for audio tape index and transcriptions.