Colombian Mochila

*Mochila* means “bag” in Spanish. In Colombia, there are two popular types of mochilas, and each is considered a symbol of Colombian identity. The mochila Arhuaca is a bag made by the Arhuaco people of the Sierra Nevada mountains in Colombia. The bags are woven from natural fibers in earth tones such as brown, beige, black, and grey. In contrast, Wayuu mochilas are crocheted in bright colors by the Wayuu people in La Guajira, Colombia.

Arhuaco Mochilas

Wayuu Mochilas

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CultureFest 305 is presented with the support of the National Endowment for the Arts, The Pérez CreARTE Grants Program, Miami Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, and the Cultural Affairs Council.

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What you’ll need:

- A paper bag
- Markers
- String or yarn
- Hole puncher

Instructions:

- Select a paper bag.
- Using markers, paint a design on your bag.
- Select 3 pieces of yarn. Hold them together at the ends and tie a knot leaving extra string to create tassels.
- Using a hole puncher, make 2 holes on each side at the top of the bag. Be sure not to punch the holes too close to the edge.
- Slide the ends of the string through the holes and tie a knot on the handle. Make sure the knot is larger than the hole.
- Repeat on the other side of the bag.
  (Option: Braid the handle before tying the second knot)
- Enjoy your bag!