

JOAQUIN CASTRO
20TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT
COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4320

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2241 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TEL: (202) 225-3238
FAX: (202) 225-1915

DISTRICT OFFICE:
727 E. CESAR E. CHAVEZ BOULEVARD
SUITE B-128
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78206
TEL: (210) 348-3216
FAX: (210) 979-0737

August 15, 2023

Dr. Carla Hayden
Librarian of Congress
101 Independence Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20540

Dear Dr. Hayden and Members of the National Film Preservation Board,

Thank you for your consideration of the nominations below. The National Film Registry is a national treasure that preserves films of historic, cultural, and aesthetic significance for generations of audiences, filmmakers, and scholars. The films selected for preservation are a crucial part of our shared national heritage. Given the film industry's continued exclusion of Latinos, we must make a special effort to ensure that Latino Americans' contributions to American filmmaking are appropriately celebrated and included in the National Film Registry.

The continued exclusion of Latinos in the film industry affects Latinos seeking opportunities in the industry and shapes how Latinos are perceived, stereotyped, and misunderstood in American life. This is why the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and I launched a nationwide call earlier this summer for Latino-driven films to nominate to the National Film Registry. Below, you will find the outcome of our nationwide call. The films below are a diverse set, ranging from one film that tells a story about a man starting his life in America in the 1920s and raising a big family in Los Angeles, to another film featuring a female director's debut and a lead actress's debut telling a story about a young woman training as a boxer in Brooklyn.

The nominations are as follows:

- *My Family* (1995)
- *Like Water for Chocolate* (1992)
- *... and the Earth Did Not Swallow Him* (1994)
- *Blood in Blood Out* (1993)
- *Raising Victor Vargas* (2002)
- *Frida* (2002)
- *I Like it Like That* (1994)
- *Walkout* (2006)
- *Mosquita y Mari* (2012)
- *The Milagro Beanfield War* (1988)
- *Under the Same Moon* (2007)
- *American Me* (1992)
- *Tortilla Soup* (2001)

- *Mi Vida Loca* (1993)
- *Instructions Not Included* (2013)
- *Maria Full of Grace* (2004)
- *Girlfight* (2000)
- *La Mission* (2010)
- *Sleep Dealer* (2008)
- *Alambrista!* (1977)
- *Our Latin Thing* (1972)
- *Up in Smoke* (1978)
- *A Better Life* (2011)
- *'Gun Hill Road'* (2011)
- *In the Time of the Butterflies* (2001)
- *Clemente* (2008)
- *The Longoria Affair* (2007)

Movies remain a crucial form of storytelling, and movies are uniquely accessible to the public. The media and entertainment industry is the narrative-creating and image-defining institution in America. We look forward to continuing to work together to expand diversity and Latino representation in the National Film Preservation Board and across the Library of Congress. Your mission – of telling and preserving American stories – has never been more important.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JOAQUIN CASTRO". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress