



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Cinema. Cultura. Comunidad.

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A CULTURAL INTERVENTION TO A POLITICAL CRISIS.—SEPT. 27

Los Angeles, CA - On Saturday, September 27, **Cinema. Cultura. Comunidad.** takes over the historic [Gardena Cinema](#) for a daylong indoor/outdoor showcase using art and activism to unite against today's political and social crises. On the heels of the **U.S. Supreme Court's** decision to lift protections against immigration raids in Los Angeles, this gathering serves as both peaceful resistance and community celebration. **Cheech Marin** donated to our raffle and auction, and **L.A. County District 2 Supervisor Holly Mitchell** has invested in this vision with a grant to expand access. Pay what you can and join us!

WHO: Latina filmmaker-led, immigrant family-focused, and anchored by the award-winning feature documentary [Backstreet to the American Dream](#), this people-powered gathering will ignite conversations around cultural pride and civic engagement in everyday life.

WHAT: Launching Hispanic Heritage Month with momentum:

- Three curated blocks of short films by Latina directors supported by grassroots organizations: [@ChicanaDirectorsInitiative](#) | [@MentoringLatinaFilmmakers](#)
- Live music and live poetry by Matt Sedillo and Iris De Anda
- Lowrider showcase by [@Notorious Entertainment](#)
- Artisan vendors, open mic, all day raffle/silent auction
- Street food from a 24-year-old USC grad sustaining his family's immigrant dream
- Agency tabling and community outreach (LA Metro, L.A. County Registrar-Recorder, Public Counsel)
- **6:30–7:30 p.m. Panel Discussion:**

NASA astronaut **José Hernández** and **Rick Telles**, executive producer of *A Million Miles Away*, join **Civil Rights Attorney Jaime Gutierrez** and **Gina Amato Lough, Esq., Directing Attorney of Public Counsel's Immigrants' Rights Project**, to discuss how Latino representation in Hollywood shapes stereotypes, policies and policing, and the urgent need for Latino communities to reclaim their narratives. Moderated by **award-winning filmmaker and journalist Patricia Nazario**.

- **7:30 p.m. Spotlight Screening:**
Backstreet to the American Dream - Championed by **Jarritos** and **Executive Producer Dolores Huerta**, this 90-minute bilingual odyssey, set at the peak of the food truck boom, offers an immersive look at race, labor, and immigration in modern-day Los Angeles.

“It’s heartening to see culture being used as both celebration and resistance, and I applaud your vision and commitment to uplifting our community in such a powerful way.”

— **José M. Hernández**, former NASA astronaut

WHEN: Saturday, September 27, 2025, 11 a.m.–9 p.m.

WHERE: Gardena Cinema, 14948 Crenshaw Blvd, Gardena, CA 90249 – a nonprofit 501(c)(3), woman-of-color-owned business.

WHY: Supporting immigrant families in L.A., a portion of all proceeds will go to [Public Counsel's](#) pro bono and advocacy work on the frontlines. It's part of a larger movement sparked by *Backstreet to the American Dream*.

For interviews, press credentials, or media assets:

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📎 Full Production Deck is [here](#). | 🌐 [PatriciaNazario.com](#) | 🌐 [BackstreetFilm.com](#)

