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The Latino community has joined together on occasions of celebration and occasions of protest. Throughout the year, Latinos have celebrated the accomplishments of outstanding individuals in television, film, theater, and journalism.

NHMC continues to push with all media avenues to allow Latinos to connect and share their stories, be it through our advocacy, Television Writers Program, Latino Scene Showcase, or our policy advocacy work to expand affordable access to open communications systems and Latino ownership of media outlets.

However, the Latino community still faces discrimination and exclusion, which limits opportunities for our talent both in front and back of the camera. Concurrently, NHMC aggressively confronts hate speech against Latinos and other vulnerable community members to ensure that it is not tolerated, nor allowed to limit our inclusion in media or have access to communication systems.

2017 will be a landmark year in the work to demand that media corporations include Latinos at all levels of employment. Latino talent and expertise is there, but television networks, film studios, production companies and talent agencies must make a concerted effort to tap into it and make Latino inclusion an immediate business imperative.

With your support, NHMC will continue to be an organization at the forefront of American Latino media advocacy. It is at the table with key decision makers in Hollywood and Washington, D.C., pushing to ensure that Latinos across the nation are treated fairly and have access to all opportunities in the media.

Alex Nogales
President & CEO
National Hispanic Media Coalition
NHMC Television Writers Program
The application period for the NHMC Television Writers Program was unique. This year, we asked some of our closest friends and allies to join in on the first ever NHMC’s TV Writers Program application deadline countdown to help promote the application period to the program! Adam Rodriguez, Andrea Navedo, and Jorge Gutierrez are just a few of the people who helped spread the word. To see all of the posts from the countdown, click here. The annual 5-week program simulates an actual writer’s room, led by former NBC vice president of story and writer development, Geoff Harris. Since 2003, the TV Writers Program has prepared and connected more than 100 graduates and 35 percent have earned positions on TV and online shows featured on ABC, NBC, CBS, FOX, CW, BET, HBO, Disney Jr., Hulu, Amazon, Lifetime and Netflix.

In July, the Disney Channel premiered Elena of Avalor, the channel’s first Latina princess. The head writer of the series, Silvia Olivas, is a graduate of NHMC’s TV Writers Program and wrote a blog on our Medium Page - LatinxMic - about her experience in the program and the impact Alex Nogales has had on her career.

POLICY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
This year, NHMC was fortunate enough to bring on three bright students to participate in their paid internship program - Cristina Contreras from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, Alejandra Salazar from Stanford, and Aitza M. Haddad Núñez a Ph.D. candidate in the Communication, Culture and Media Studies Program at Howard University. Past fellows have hailed from distinguished schools like Harvard, UCLA, Berkeley, and Georgetown. Fellows are guided through legal and policy research, analysis, writing and public speaking. The students are not only enhancing the advocacy work NHMC does, but build skills that will help them in their careers. Former NHMC fellows have gone on to judicial clerkships, the FCC, media companies, non-profit organizations, and law firms.
Latino Scene Showcase

In November, NHMC and the Los Angeles Theatre Center presented the 4th Annual Latino Scene Showcase. The showcase featured seven scenes written by NHMC TV Writers Program alumni and performed by Latino actors before an audience of 150 television network executives, agents and managers. The annual event aims to infuse more Latino talent into the Hollywood pipeline.

For photographs from the showcase, view the NHMC Flickr page. To view all of the scenes from the showcase, visit the NHMC YouTube channel.
NHMC Impact Awards Gala
The 19th Annual NHMC Impact Awards Gala honored actor Luis Guzmán (Code Black, Carlito’s Way), actress Andrea Navedo (Jane the Virgin), Hulu original series East Los High, anchor John Quiñones, actress Stephanie Beatriz (Brooklyn Nine Nine), and ESPN for Outstanding Commitment and Outreach to the Latino Community. Jackie Guerrido, host of Variety Latino and weather forecaster for Univision Network’s Primer Impacto, and Nicholas Gonzales, star in Resurrection Blvd. and Bordertown, were the evening’s masters of ceremonies. Ivonne Coll of Jane the Virgin presented to her on-screen daughter and Wilmer Valderrama, star of That 70’s Show and El Rey Network’s From Dusk Till Dawn, presented to friend Luis Guzmán. The annual NHMC Impact Awards Gala always brings together friends and colleagues from the entertainment industry working to increase the positive portrayals of Latinos in film and television.

NHMC Los Angeles Impact Awards Luncheon
In September, NHMC celebrated its 14th Annual NHMC Los Angeles Impact Awards Luncheon, recognizing local talent and community leaders in Los Angeles for their achievements and contributions to the region’s Latino community. This year’s honorees included poet Luis J. Rodriguez, creator of comic strip “La Cucaracha” Lalo Alcaraz, Telemundo52 Los Angeles’ Dunia Elvir, ABC7’s Sid Garcia, and KTLA’s Elizabeth Espinosa. This year’s Masters of Ceremonies were Big Boy, Laura Diaz, and Rick Garcia.
In November, the 7th Annual Washington, D.C. Impact Awards Reception took place at the National Association of Broadcasters headquarters. NHMC honored Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez, then-Congressman Xavier Becerra, and media policy advocate Cheryl Leanza (right), for their contributions toward policies that bridge the digital divide and protect the interests of the Latino community and other people of color. The event honors individuals from the Washington, D.C. area who are working to enact policies that benefit people of color.

In its 2nd year, the NHMC New York Impact Awards Reception honored local Latinos for their leadership and contributions to the Latino community. This year, NHMC honored Fox News Latino; Fox 5 reporter Jessica Formoso; Telemundo 47 anchor Jorge Ramos; and LatinoJustice PRLDEF. Lynda Baquero, Consumer Reporter of Better Get Baquero at NBC 4 New York emceed the event. Last year, NHMC decided that an Impact Awards Reception was needed in New York City to honor the individuals and groups from the area who are working to benefit the welfare of the Latino community.
Unfortunately, the lack of diversity at the Academy Awards was prevalent this year, just as it was in 2015 when Alex Nogales published an op-ed on the Fox News Latino website, regarding the lack of diversity. Following the announcement of the 2016 Oscar Nominations, a hashtag on Twitter - #OscarsSoWhite - started a national conversation all over social media on diversity in the film and television industry. Members of the Multi-Ethnic Media Coalition held a press conference to discuss their new initiative aimed towards the film studios to increase diversity.

This past June, following the #OscarsSoWhite controversy, the Los Angeles Times published 100 diverse influencers making a difference in increasing diversity in Hollywood—submitting the names to Academy leaders for consideration. The newspaper highlighted Alex Nogales as a candidate for the Associates branch given his three decades of leadership in opening doors for Latinos behind and in front of the camera. To read the Q&A profile with Alex Nogales, click here.
The Coalition Against Hate Launches

NHMC forms a Coalition Against Hate that aims to #breakhate

In 2016, NHMC relaunched its national campaign against hate speech in media, following the rise in hate speech during the presidential campaign, and Donald Trump’s statement that Mexicans are “bringing drugs,” “bringing crime” and “are rapists” and his other statements that have brought extremist, alt-right racism and xenophobia into the mainstream.

In December, NHMC convened a multicultural coalition of more than 50 organizations to dialogue, strategize and organize against racism in media - the Coalition Against Hate. The mission of the group, which is continuing to grow, aspires to #breakhate. The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), Free Press, Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF), and Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) are just a few of the groups part of this coalition. Hate speech often goes unnoticed in the media and it negatively impacts society on a daily basis. Since election day, hate crimes and hate speech have continued to increase throughout the country and the Coalition Against Hate wants to bring attention to this. The group released a press release urging president-elect Donald Trump to eject extremists from his inner circle including appointees Senator Sessions, Representative Mike Pompeo, and Steve Bannon. For the most recent updates from the Coalition, visit them on Twitter @AgainstHate.
Affordable and Open Communications for All

Lifeline Modernization
In March, the FCC voted to modernize the Lifeline program, and expanded the modest $9.25 subsidy that low income families could use to afford basic landline or wireless phone service, to now include broadband. NHMC filed comments and reply comments to encourage the FCC to pass this reform, which is the most comprehensive federal government effort in history to bring low income Americans online.

On December 1st, NHMC hosted and moderated a briefing on Capitol Hill that aimed to provide tools and guidance to public officials who want to help connect their constituents to affordable broadband.

Speakers Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (CA-18) and then-FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel spoke to the importance of the modernization order, which now allows low-income Americans to apply their Lifeline discount to broadband internet plans. This vital reform will help close the digital divide, as non-broadband adopters most often cite high cost as the primary reason for not subscribing to internet service. To view videos from the briefing, visit the NHMC website.

Net Neutrality

NHMC has helped protect the FCC’s 2015 Open Internet decision by providing educational resources to counteract misinformation about Net Neutrality. NHMC has focused its efforts on developing research and analysis on how the reclassification of broadband as a common carrier under Title II helped pave the way for the modernization of the Lifeline program, educating consumers on how to file a net neutrality complaint with the FCC, and providing information on appropriations that threatened to undermine the net neutrality rules. NHMC also produced a fact sheet to, in part, encourage the FCC to protect consumer privacy on the internet.

NHMC’s other Net Neutrality fact sheets are available here, here and here.
Advocating for more affordable and accessible communications

NHMC filed comments with President Obama’s Broadband Opportunity Council (BOC), urging 25 Executive Branch agencies to implement recommendations that will spur broadband adoption. NHMC also briefed the BOC and White House offices on Lifeline during a widely attended phone meeting. Ultimately, the BOC’s findings highlighted many of NHMC’s recommendations.

Throughout 2016, NHMC tackled various, unanticipated opportunities to reduce structural barriers to media ownership diversity. For instance, NHMC filed reply comments to urge the FCC to consider rules to help diverse, independent programmers combat the barriers they encounter in acquiring television carriage. In addition, NHMC went on the record in support of the FCC’s set-top-box proposal to provide opportunities for diverse, over-the-top content providers to reach a larger audience, and to eliminate set-top-box rental fees. NHMC also organized Latino content providers to support set-top box reform, including Entravision Communications and Mitú Network.

NHMC Defends “Correspondence File” Requirement

In August, NHMC fought to preserve the FCC requirement that broadcasters maintain and make publicly available a correspondence folder at their stations. Correspondence folders contain letters and emails from the public to the stations, and have proved to be useful tools for community organizing against stations that engage in racism and otherwise fail to serve local communities across the country. NHMC filed comments and reply comments, and six other national organizations signed onto its reply comments, including AFL-CIO, Communications Workers of America, the Center for Media Justice, Common Cause, Free Press, and Public Knowledge. NHMC also filed a letter rebutting claims made by the National Association of Broadcasters questioning NHMC’s experience with the public file. The correspondence folder is a vital resource that allows the public a means to hold their local broadcasters accountable to their communities.

Encouraging the FCC to tighten media ownership limits to allow for a diversity of voices on broadcast TV and radio

NHMC’s former VP of Policy, Michael Scurato, testified before Congress to advocate for more equitable broadcast ownership rules. He urged Congress to reinstate the Minority Tax Certificate and to push the FCC to strengthen media ownership rules and perform research and analysis. NHMC’s written testimony is available here.
Final Thoughts

The actions of 2016 were arduous, yet encouraging to see what we can do when we all work together. In 2017, we have even more challenges already presenting themselves. NHMC is up to the challenge and will report on those by year’s end.