

January 2006

Dear NALIP Members, Supporters and Friends:

Seven is a magic number. Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, Seven Ages of Man, Seven Seas, Seven Sins. Seven ashes from seven ovens in medieval magic. Seven days in a week — and Seven Dwarfs! And Seven years since the Latino media leadership and visionaries met to plan the Conference and community that became NALIP.

I have been with the organization only since 2001, but I feel a surge of energy at planning our Seventh National Conference. Will we grow to 700 attendees? Will the Lucky 7 Loteria kick start some great development project or complete the edit on a wonderful documentary?

7 holds promise. And so does NALIP's 7th year.

I like to announce successes, celebrate accomplishments, and applaud NALIP members and staff in these regular Executive Director letters that accompany the Board of Directors meeting minutes. As you can see from the attached, NALIP's Board met again in December in order to advance our business and elect new members, after a 3-day retreat just 6 weeks prior, in October. They want you to know about their work and deliberations. Our next minutes will report on the March Board meeting, officer elections and national conference. I will also tell you about our presentation to the Trustees and funders, our keynotes and Gala awards, and our member success stories as they are shared during our annual reunion.

But in this letter, I want to remind you of who we are, of what we have for NALIP members, and I want to challenge you to take the maximum advantage of your organization. These 7 years have been a building time, a bold assertion of Latino media voices and talents, a creation of programs and community, an expansion into the NALIP organization that we are today. Now, it's your turn.

The Latino Media Market™ is *your* opportunity to do business that advances your careers. All we did was to build it: we secured funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, our partners in providing a top-quality script and documentary marketplace for Latino/a writers and producers. You have to create excellent projects, packages, pitches and you have to come.

The Latino Writers Lab™ is now a 10-day, 2-part skills development workshop that provides the in-depth mentoring and project support that you asked for. 16 writers completed the first expanded program in 2005: their projects are being optioned, they have drafts and revisions, they have connections and representation. We just built it: we have the support of the Rockefeller Foundation, the Writers Guild of America, East, MTV Networks and, in 2006, Time Warner to provide you with scholarships, stewardship, support. You have to apply with great stories, treatments, drafts. You have to come.

The Latino Producers Academy™ is an unparalleled 10-day intensive each August. In 2006 we will have 4 feature producer-director teams that rehearse, shoot, score and edit scenes from their upcoming productions with professional crews, casts and hands-on mentors. We will also have 3-5

feature producers who are developing and packaging their projects to shoot in the future. We will have 4-6 documentary makers that attend with their rough cuts and editors, along with another 3-5 documentary development or production projects that receive the finest mentoring on proposals, budgets, fundraising, editing and scoring. We just built it: we have professionals who return each summer to the desert, committed to your success; we partner with pedagogical friends in the University of Arizona Media Arts Department and UCLA Professional Certificate Program in order to provide curriculum and facilities; we found community partners from the Tucson Film Office to KUAT, from Access Tucson to the Arizona Theatre Company that provide resources for our NALIP artists; and we secured funders like Time Warner and the Walt Disney Company, Univision, the Rockefeller Foundation, and Nielsen Media Research who help us deliver this program to you for the price of a membership.

Regionally, we now have 14 chapters or chapters-in-formation. We provide the 501-c-3 and the staff support to develop your infrastructure: you need to attend the development workshops at each Conference and determine what you really need, in your community. Then you need to provide the leadership and fundraising (it doesn't take make for great results!) to deliver on member programs that advance your projects and careers.

What NALIP becomes, in 2006 and beyond, is up to you. Let's start by celebrating our Seventh Year, and networking at NALIP Conference 7, March 9 — 12. And see where we all go from here!

Warm regards,

Kathryn Galan
Executive Director
NALIP