

August 2006

Dear NALIP Members, Supporters and Friends:

I am sure that your summer has been as busy as ours, and that Fall is jumping up to meet you with more work, projects and adventures.

We began the summer with the graduation of my son, Wynn Vicente, from Elementary school — he had just finished kindergarten when I started at NALIP! And then I spent two weeks as part of a prestigious Executive Learning program for non-profit arts leaders at Stanford, underwritten by our terrific Los Angeles County Arts commission and the Stanford School of Business. This was a lot of work — being a student again! 6 am to class, study groups to 10 pm, then homework every night! — but a fantastic opportunity to reflect on NALIP, our organizational mission, and best practices for stability and growth. I long for more reflection time, like most busy executives — take it, if you can!

I think that our vision, what we do to make the world better, is quite irresistible: to support the greater quality and quantity of images by and about Latino/as everywhere we see media. But what is our BHAG — a Big Hairy Ambitious GOAL — that inspires us to accomplishments in the next five years? What are the “Veuve Cliquot” moments where we can actually say YES, we *did* that, we *completed* that step, we *made* that mark on the field and our filmmakers? The Board and Staff will continue to think about that at our meetings this fall.

I also thought about our 2006 Budget, which is just over a million dollars and looks like an imposing number after beginning at around \$300,000 when I began work here. But it is a great number for two reasons: one, it represents the cost of providing so many quality programs and opportunities, so much direct support to our member makers and their projects; second, it is a mark of stability in the non-profit world that suggests NALIP has attained a level of maturity that will permit us to be around for the foreseeable future.

What is that future? Well, the Summer included the remarkable 4th Latino Producers Academy. We welcomed 9 Feature and 9 Documentary projects from all around the country, including 4 feature directors and 4 documentary editors on projects that were more advanced. We will post a summary of the curriculum and the work soon at www.nalip.org — watch *Latinos in the Industry* for an announcement. Our future is to build on that, while preparing for the completion of the 2006 Latino Writers Lab this September in Santa Monica and the start of our fourth *Latino Media Resource Guide*.

Our Future is a new regional program called “Doing your Doc: Diverse Voices, Regional Visions” that we will do in collaboration with Latino Public Broadcasting, National Black Programming Consortium, Native American Public Television, PIC, the Austin Film Society, Documentary Room, the Miami Film Festival and others. It is a 3-day documentary development workshop in areas not often accessed by professional mentors, and designed for docs makers at any stage from all the communities of color. Let’s get our voices heard!! The first is in Austin, October 13-15 welcoming filmmakers from all over Texas. The second is in Miami, November 11-13. The third will be in Chicago in the Spring.

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Our Future is our committed, creative and caring staff. Please give membership coordinator Monica Espinosa a call, if you haven't met her already — she loves to provide support and information to all of you members. Octavio Marin continues spearheading our successful National Signature Programs with Mateo Nagassi starting his second year as Production Manager. Tery Lopez returns as Conference Director after working on LPA 2006 as a Team production manager. Hector Ceballos makes our website work and our eNewsletter handsome while producing for his MFA at USC Film school. And a host of interns just completed summer work that made our Latino Lens and LPA programs polished and supportive of the artists that participated. Thanks to Tony and Stephanie, Alyssa and Jacob, Matt, Yaniv and Sooyeon, Echo and Bill, Stephanie J and Charity: they made this summer a bright look into our dynamic future.

And, of course, our Future is another fantastic National Conference. Conference 8 will be held March 8 — 11 in Newport Beach, California, and focus on the mobile media revolution — title to be announced shortly. What do you think of “Movies on the Move: Latino Life on Three Screens”?? Put Us On Your Calendar!

To a shared future together --

Warm regards,

Kathryn Galan
Executive Director
NALIP