



Minnesota Humanities Center

**Encore Community Screening of “Nuestro Norte” Film Scheduled to Follow Sold Out Premiere at 45<sup>th</sup> Minneapolis Saint Paul International Film Festival**

**APRIL 16, 2026—ST. PAUL, MN** — LatinoLEAD and the Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC) are proud to announce that their collaborative film project, *Nuestro Norte*, is premiering to a sold-out crowd this weekend at the 45th Minneapolis Saint Paul International Film Festival (MSPIFF45). **To build on the excitement, MHC is hosting a second community screening and celebration at The Heights Theater on May 20th from 6:30-8:00pm.**

Tickets for the community screening on May 20th can be found on [MHC's website](#). The community screening will include a panel discussion with leaders, storytellers, and the award-winning filmmaker Martín Blanco.

**Featured Storytellers in the film include:**

- Patricia Tototzintle: Former CEO of Esperanza United and matriarchal justice advocate.
- Tahiel Jimenez Medina: Queer filmmaker and founder of Mamá Papaya.
- Aiyana Sol Machado: Afro-Indigenous healer and cultural strategist.
- Dr. Otto Sánchez: Senior Scientist and advocate for immigrants in STEM.
- Jessica Lee Velasco: Third-generation Chicana organizer rooted in Worthington, MN.

*Nuestro Norte* is a cinematic portrait that interweaves the lived experiences of five Latine leaders with symbolic fiction and original musical performances. The film marks a significant evolution from LatinoLEAD's 2020 Voices series, transforming community stories into a powerful narrative of belonging, ownership, and agency in Minnesota.

"This film is a bold reclamation of the term 'El Norte'," says Melissa Gonzalez Vazquez, Communications Manager at LatinoLEAD. "It moves the Latine narrative from one of arrival and seeking to one of rootedness."

"Film is a powerful storytelling medium that can help people explore new perspectives and facilitate social change," said MHC CEO Kevin Lindsey, "we want to thank the Northwest Area Foundation for their generous donation that helped make this project a reality, and also the Minnesota Legislature for appropriating funds that allow us to issue grants to filmmakers and organizations that create visual stories of the people and communities that call Minnesota home."

The film will premiere to a sold-out audience at The Main Cinema on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at 11:15 AM, serving as a centerpiece for the Minneapolis Saint Paul International Film Festival's "Collective Action Day."

[View the trailer for Nuestro Norte and read more information on the project.](#)

### **About LatinoLEAD**

LatinoLEAD is the largest network of Latine professionals in Minnesota, representing over 4,000 leaders across all sectors. As a community-governed organization, LatinoLEAD works to drive collective action and systemic change by creating a platform for Latine leaders to connect, grow, and influence the state's future. Through initiatives in narrative change, leadership development, and cross-sector collaboration, the organization seeks to empower the Latine community to lead with authenticity and agency. LatinoLEAD serves as a bridge between community talent and institutional power, ensuring that Latine stories are instrumental in shaping Minnesota's social and economic landscape.

### **About the Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC)**

MHC, an affiliate to the National Endowment for the Humanities, was founded as an independent non-profit organization in 1971. MHC strengthens our society by promoting the humanities and increasing shared understanding of our collective pasts. MHC creates a wide variety of humanities programming in collaboration with individuals, creators, scholars, and organizations to build a more curious, inclusive, and connected society. MHC has a long history as a grantmaking organization and operates a full-service event center in a historic building in St. Paul. More information is available at [mnhum.org](http://mnhum.org).

### **About Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment**

The Minnesota Legislature passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment (Legacy Amendment) in 2008 to ensure clean water, preserve opportunities for Minnesotans to enjoy nature, parks, and trails, and to appreciate arts and culture that exists within the State. The Legacy Amendment increases the state sales tax by three-eighths of one percent to create the Legacy Fund – 19.75% of the Legacy Fund is dedicated to the arts and cultural heritage fund.



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