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## These 10 Major Cities Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month Through Latino Film Festivals



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Palomitas, refresco and familia could all collide across the U.S. to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15 at local theatres across major U.S. cities.

With one <u>source</u> citing that 29% of movie tickets sold are to Latinos, despite their underrepresentation in film, another <u>study</u> citing that Latinos go to the movies more often than other groups, and with the recent movie "<u>Blue Beetle</u>" starring a Mexican family, it's apparent that Latinos like movies.

With that, the Latin Times compiled a list of various film festivals in major cities across the U.S. this National Hispanic Heritage Month. Below are what various cities are doing to celebrate Hispanic Heritage through film.

## **New York City**

Warner Bro's Entertainment presented their "New York Latino Film Festival" in New York City from Sept. 15 to Sept. 25, 2023, across various theatres. The first day of festivities is Friday, Sept. 15, 2023, with the premier of the film "Cassandro," by Roger Ross Williams, which is already sold out.

Sept. 19, 2023, is considered the opening night, starting the festival with the film directed by Aristotle Torres, "Story Ave," starring Asante Blackk, Luis Guzmán and Melvin Gregg. The film, set in The Bronx, follows Kadir, a young graffiti artist mourning his brother's passing, who turns to living a delinquent life. He tries to rob an MTA conductor, "Luis," which results in Luis giving Kadir all of his money on the condition they have lunch together. After speaking with Luis, Kadir realizes his graffiti skills could be an aid to help him live a better life.

In addition to various Latino-made films, the festivities include panels teaching beneficial skills for film enthusiasts.



27 Latino Movies To Be Considered for Inclusion to the US National Film Registry

## Los Angeles

In the city of Angels, NewFilmmakers Los
Angeles presents "NFMLA's Film Festival
InFocus: Latinx & Hispanic Cinema Film
Festival" in Hollywood, California, on
September 23, 2023, from 1 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

The featured speakers and moderators are Steven Vargas–LA Times, Max Cea–Esquire Magazine, Emily Uribe–Content Creator and

Carlos Aguilar-The Wrap/LA Times.

The event begins with a program dedicated to the work of filmmakers from São Paulo, Brasil. According to the NFMLA website, these films explore life and death, grief and hope, changing landscapes, poverty and marginalization, resistance, joy and the echoes of the past. Following this, there are three more programs showcasing various short films created by Latin American filmmakers with different themes such as interdependence, the unexplainable and through the eyes of youth.