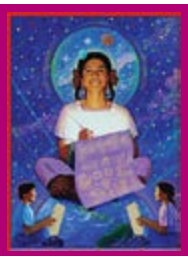
We sincerely invite you to be a part of the

28th Annual International

Latino Book Awards Ceremony

Saturday, October 3, 2026 at California State University San Marcos Ballroom



International Latino Book Awards

Since Empowering Latino Futures created the International Latino Book Awards (ILBA) in 1998, the awards has recognized the greatness of magnitudes more books by and about Latinos than all the other book awards in the USA combined. This year it took 292 judges to evaluate all the book entries and help recognize the winners.

The ILBA has grown over the last 28 years to become the largest Latino literary and cultural awards in the USA. The 87 categories include Children's, Young Adult, Nonfiction, Fiction, eBooks, Design, Translation, and Best First Books – and the ILBA is now one of the five biggest book awards in the USA. The books are written in English, Spanish, Portuguese or bilingual formats.

In 2020 we created special Legend Awards named after literary and community notables. These include Isabel Allende, Rudolfo Anaya, Nora de Hoyos Comstock, Charlie Ericksen, Alma Flor Ada, Juan Felipe Herrrera, Dolores Huerta, Hank Lacayo, Mimi Lozano, Julian Nava, Luis Valdez, Victor Villaseñor, and Raul Yzaguirre.

❄ **Why it's important.** The Awards recognize the greatness in books by and about Latinos around the world. Winners have included the major Latino literary stars and nurtures those starting their writing career and will be the stars of tomorrow. Most of all, the Awards encourage thousands of developing authors.

❄ **The Growth.** In 1980, there were less than 300 books a year being published in the USA with Latino authors. By 2000 around 2,800 books a year were being published in the USA with Latino authors. Today, that figure is well over 33,000 books per year by Latino authors in the USA. We are very proud of that evolution. This year, Latinos in the USA will spend over $780 million on books in Spanish and English.

❄ **Media Exposure.** Every year coverage of the Awards has grown. Last year over 1,200 media outlets around the world downloaded the ILBA Ceremony Press Release.

❄ **This is ELF's ONLY Fundraiser.** Please help our programs meet their full potential.

ILBA Rising Star Honorees

Over the last 28 years, the International Latino Book Awards has honored thousands of books, changing the perceptions of tens of thousands of people toward books written by and about Latinos.Since 2020 a minimum of 12,000 people in the United States and all over the world have tuned in for our virtual Awards Ceremony.

The four Rising Star Honoree categories are Children's, Non-Fiction, Fiction, and Poetry books. The Rising Stars will be chosen from authors who are not yet making a full-time living as an author and who are Gold Medal winners in a corresponding categories for each of the four Awards.

Each prize winner will receive a $3,500 package that includes a check for $1,000, distribution of an article about their book to 450+ Latino media outlets, a press release focusing on the four Rising Stars, a special award, and billing as a representative of the next generation of 'Must Read' authors.

Empowering Latino Futures

The **International Latino Book Awards** program is part of **Empowering Latino Futures**, a 501c3 nonprofit founded in 1997 by Edward James Olmos & Kirk Whisler, with programs like:

Latino Book & Family Festivals. 79 have been held around the USA with a combined attendence of 960,000+. Author, Children's, Community, Education, and Health Villages. Current Festivals are in Oceanside, Sacramento, and San Bernardino.

North County Informador. a bilingual monthly magazine serving 48,500 in North San Diego County

Education Begins in the Home. Has given 310,000+ books to underservered youth since 2015.

Latino Books into Movies Awards. Honoring 199 books or scripts. We're working towards the day when we have more Latinos both in front and behind the camera.

Kids Succeed When Parents Read. Our newest program focuses on helping Latino families read more often to their pre-school children. Stay tuned for more on it in 2027.

ELF is also an Affiliate of the American Library Association, UnidosUS, Somos el Poder, CalNonprofits, and other organizations. Over **425 volunteers** contribute over 24,000 hours of time annually to help ELF achieve it's goals.

Without our partners and volunteers our programs could not exist. Please consider becoming one of our partners.

NORTH COUNTY INFORMADOR

Public Service Journalism on Health, Education, Civic Engagement, & Financial Empowerment

The Awards Ceremony Program

1:00 pm:	The doors open
2:00 pm	The first ceremony begins including:
	The Mariposa Awards (6 categories)
	The Children's Book Awards (9 categories)
	The Chapter Book Awards (3 categories)
	Portuguese Book Awards (4 categories)
	Translation Awards (7 categories)
	Digital Awards (2 categories)
	Design & Marketing Awards (6 categories)
	The Young Adult Awards (9 categories)
3:20 pm:	Childrens & Poetry Rising Stars will be honored.
3:30 pm:	Our meal with a special presentation
4:20 pm	The final Awards:
	The NonFiction Awards (23 categories)
	Best Themed Book Awards (10 categories)
	The Fiction Awards (19 categories)
5:30	Fiction & NonFiction Rising Stars will be honored
5:45	Final group photo

EMPOWERING LATINO FUTURES

With Empowering Latino Futures we are working hard with unique programs that impact communities & perceptions

Partnership Packages

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS MAKE OUR EFFORTS POSSIBLE AS WE ADVOCATE FOR MORE BOOKS BY AND ABOUT LATINOS

ELF CHAMPION PARTNER $35,000

- ✓ All Gold Partner benifits plus:
- ✓ Your company name would be featured in association with the Rising Star Awards. You would be presenting two of the awards.
- ✓ Featured single entity banner at ILBA Ceremony.
- ✓ Let us know if you need more than a table of 6.

LATINO BOOK PUBLISHING PARTNER $10,000

- ✓ All Gold Partner benifits plus:
- ✓ One of the new "Rising Star" Award would be 'Presented by' by your company
- ✓ Let us know if you need more than a table of 6.

GOLD PARTNER $5,000

- ✓ Logo on event banners
- ✓ Name in Press Releases
- ✓ A Featured Table of 6 at the Awards Ceremony. If you are not using all six seats we can place some Award Winning Authors with you

SILVER PARTNER $2,500

- ✓ Logo on event banners
- ✓ Name in Press Releases
- ✓ 3 all event Ceremony tickets with priority seating.

BRONZE PARTNER $1,000

- ✓ Logo on event banners
- ✓ Name in Press Releases
- ✓ 2 Ceremony tickets with prioity seating

CONTRIBUTING PARTNER $500

- ✓ Name in Press Releases
- ✓ Logo in Ceremony Program
- ✓ 2 Ceremony tickets with priority seating

MEDIA PARTNER*

- ✓ Logo on event banners
- ✓ Name in Press Releases
- ✓ Logo in Ceremony Program
- ✓ 1 Ceremony ticket
- ✓ *Call Kirk on these*

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

- ✓ Table of 6: $600
- ✓ Individual tickets: $100

EMPOWERING LATINO FUTURES

WE APPRECIATE YOUR PARTNERSHIP

_____ ELF Champion Partner **$35,000**

_____ Latino Book Partner **$10,000**

_____ Gold Partner **$5,000**

_____ Silver Partner **$2,500**

_____ Bronze Partner **$1,000**

_____ Contributing Partner **$500**

_____ Table of 6 **$600**

_____ Individual Ceremony Ticket **$100**

Empowering Latino Futures Board

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Lisa Montes, Secretary
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The Federal ID number for Empowering Latino Futures / Latino Literacy Now, a 501c3 nonprofit, is 33-0868486.

EMAIL OR MAIL YOUR FORM:
kirk@whisler.com | 760-579-1696

SEND PAYMENT: Amount: _____
Make checks payable to **Empowering Latino Futures**. Mail to:

Empowering Latino Futures
624 Hillcrest Ln.
Fallbrook, CA 92028

www.EmpoweringLatinoFutures.org
www.LatinoBookAwards.org

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