

42nd Chicago Latino Film Festival **April 16th - 27th 2026**

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THE INTERNATIONAL LATINO CULTURAL CENTER OF CHICAGO ANNOUNCES THE WINNER OF THE 42ND CHICAGO LATINO FILM FESTIVAL POSTER CONTEST

Inspired by a recent visit to Chicago, Eduardo Mejía's winning entry offers a bold, cinematic language that reflects film as a living, collective experience.

Featuring close to 100 feature-length and short films, the 42nd edition of the Festival will take place April 16th-27th exclusively at the Landmark Century Center.

CHICAGO (January 26, 2026) – The International Latino Cultural Center of Chicago (ILCC), producer of the **Chicago Latino Film Festival (CLFF)**, announces the winner of the Festival's annual poster competition: Washington D.C.-based Salvadoran visual art designer and photographer **Eduardo Mejía**.



With a Master's Degree in Advertising and a Bachelor's Degree in Graphic Design, Mejía specializes in the creation and development of brand concepts, online advertising, and social media. His experience includes collaborating with various brands on branding projects, commercial and artistic photography, social media content creation, and editorial material design. You can see Eduardo's full portfolio at edmejiastudio.com.

“The poster design was inspired by my visit to Chicago last summer, where I witnessed the city’s iconic Chicago theater signs and its strong structural and geometric architecture. The experience left a lasting impression on me. I translated those visual rhythms into a bold, cinematic graphic language. At the center is the filmmaker —the action storyteller behind the lens— captured in motion as the driving force of every film. The composition emphasizes process, movement, and collaboration, honoring not only the director but the entire team whose combined effort makes each story possible. The design reflects cinema as both a crafted structure and a living, collective experience,” said **Mejía**.

“Our last ten posters have celebrated moviegoing as a communal experience, and both films and the camera as a weapon against racism and the many misconceptions that still exist about Latin America and of the many Latinos who are now part of America’s colorful quilt. Don’t let the simplicity of Ed’s magnificent design fool you: as those past posters, it speaks about the power the camera gives moviemakers to tell our stories and to bear witness the many abuses inflicted on our community,” said **Pepe Vargas, Executive Director of the International Latino Cultural Center and Founder of the Chicago Latino Film Festival**.

The ILCC received over 750 submissions from Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, El Salvador, India, Ireland, Mexico, Portugal, Russia, Taiwan, Turkey, Uruguay, and the United States, among other countries.

The poster will be the *face* of the Festival, as it will be on the cover of newspaper schedules, invitations, t-shirts, a range of merchandise, the Festival’s website, PSAs, and more. The winner receives a \$1,000 cash prize.

Featuring close to 100 short and feature-length films from Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, Spain, Portugal, and the United States, the **42nd Chicago Latino Film Festival** will run from **April 16th thru April 27th**, exclusively at the **Landmark Century Center, 2828 N. Clark St.** including Opening and Closing Night.

Program announcements will be made in late February/early March. In the meantime, visit latinoculturalcenter.org for more information on this and other events.

ABOUT THE ILCC

The International Latino Cultural Center of Chicago is a pan-Latino, nonprofit, multidisciplinary arts organization dedicated to developing, promoting, and increasing awareness of Latino cultures among Latinos and other communities by presenting a wide variety of art forms and education, including film, music, dance,

visual arts, comedy, theater, and culinary arts. The Center prides itself on its outstanding multidisciplinary local and international cultural programming which spans Latin America, Spain, Portugal, and the United States.

Born out of the Chicago Latino Film Festival, The International Latino Cultural Center of Chicago also produces other programs, including the Chicago Latino Music Series, which is celebrating its 20th edition this year; Film in the Parks, also in its 20th season; the monthly Reel Film Club, already in its 18th year; the Chicago Latino Dance Festival, now in its fourth year; and many more.

All in all, the audience has grown from 500 people in 1985 for the first Chicago Latino Film Festival to more than 50,000 (Latinos and non-Latinos) who enjoy the year-round multidisciplinary cross-cultural exchanges offered by the Center.