

*Before the*  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington D.C. 20554

In the Matter of )  
 )  
Preserving the Open Internet ) GN Docket No. 09-191  
 )  
Broadband Industry Practices )

**Comments of**  
**National Association of Latino Arts and Culture**

**Maria Lopez De Leon**  
Executive Director  
NALAC  
1208 Buena Vista  
San Antonio, TX 78207  
210-432-3982

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The National Association of Latino Arts and Culture (NALAC) are pleased to offer these comments in the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Preserving an Open Internet.

NALAC is the nation's leading nonprofit organization exclusively dedicated to the

promotion, advancement, development, and cultivation of the Latino arts field. In this capacity, NALAC stimulates and facilitates intergenerational dialogues among disciplines, languages, and traditional and contemporary expressions.

NALAC was founded in 1989 by a group of Latino artists, activists and administrators in response to a need for a service organization for Latino arts and cultural organizations and artists in the United States. NALAC serves more than 700 Latino arts organizations and hundreds of artists in diverse communities in the United States. Services offered by NALAC include a grant program, regional and national convenings, technical assistance programs for artists and arts organizations, a Leadership Institute, publications, and advocacy efforts on behalf of our community.

Since our inception, we have sought to establish a cultural landscape that fully values and integrates the essential contributions of an expanding Latino arts field and its dynamic workforce. As technology has evolved, it has become paramount that our community — particularly our artists and cultural ambassadors — has access to the same communication platforms enjoyed by other members of the public. The views and perspectives of Latinos are as diverse as our artistic expression, and our ability to participate in the broader cultural conversation depends increasingly on access to the open internet.

NALAC welcomes the FCC's work to ensure that the internet remains open to all. The ability of artists to engage with audiences in our community and beyond has been greatly

enhanced by the internet, which provides a platform for speech, artistic collaboration and commerce. This is incredibly important to our community, which has been traditionally disadvantaged in terms of economic opportunity and access to traditional media. The internet gives artists and their communities a powerful tool for communication, which in turn demonstrates to the world the value of our creative and cultural expression. The artificial limits once placed on our community have been lifted; in the marketplace of ideas that is the open internet, the voices of our community now echo across the globe.

Unfortunately, there is a lot of work to be done to ensure that we have access to what has become a crucial technology. Recent reports have shown that a mere 37 percent of Latinos have broadband service at home. It would be a tragedy for such a significant and growing population to continue to be unable to participate in the full range of opportunities that the digital age has to offer. From employment to education to expression, the future is networked and online. Therefore, NALAC supports FCC efforts to expand broadband access to more communities — particularly those that have historically been underserved.

Yet it isn't enough to simply provide service to Latino communities. We must have some basic assurances that the network itself remains an open platform for expression. It would be devastating to our arts community in particular if we could no longer compete on an equal technological playing field with better capitalized enterprises. In the past, we have too often found ourselves foreclosed from participation in the marketplace, which has contributed to the more unfavorable conditions that many members of our community

still endure. It is critical to the health and vibrancy of our community's culture that we enjoy the same basic platform for creativity and commerce that others enjoy.

The internet is the most incredible platform for communications in human history, and everyone should have the right to participate in its continued evolution. For NALAC, the open internet is among the best tools we to educate and inspire the world through our abundant artistic expression. We are encouraged that the FCC has undertaken the important work to preserve the open internet, and appreciate the opportunity to comment in this historic proceeding.

Respectfully submitted by the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture