

Rep. Tony Cárdenas Testimony:

In September 2018, the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative released a report called [Invisible No More](#). The report highlighted the Smithsonian Institution's failure in implementing seven of the ten recommendations it put forth to improve representation of Latinos in its 25 year old, 1994 report, [Willful Neglect](#).

In 2008, a Presidential commission created by President George W. Bush's administration established a Commission to Study the creation of a National Museum of the American Latino. The 23-member commission issued its [final report](#) in 2011 recommending that the Museum be built near the Capitol and that the museum be part of the Smithsonian Institution. Taken from the report, "The Mall, more than any other public space in our country does indeed tell the story of America, and yet that story is not complete. There must also be a living monument that recognizes that Latinos were here well before 1776 and that in this new century, the future is increasingly Latino, more than fifty million people and growing."

In 2019, Latinos make up 58 million of the population, 18 %, and are the nation's largest ethnic group in America. To this day, the Smithsonian has not publicly presented a plan to build a Smithsonian Institution Museum dedicated to the history and contributions of Latinos in America.

Yesterday, my colleagues and I reintroduced The National Museum of the American Latino Act. This bill is bipartisan and bicameral and would act on the Commission's report by initiating the process of establishing a new Smithsonian museum on the National Mall dedicated to highlighting the American Latino experience to the world –from serving in all American wars to influencing our economy, the arts, and sports.

In its current form, this bill would be referred primarily to House Administration, with additional referrals to Natural Resources and Transportation & Infrastructure. I ask for all overseeing committees

to consider this bill and as one of the overseeing committees we urge the Committee's consideration of the National Museum of the American Latino Act in this session of Congress.