



Christina Morales

State Representative • District 145
Harris County

September 5, 2024

Jackie Schuessler-Kimsey, City of Houston
Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Awards Committee
901 Bagby St
Houston, TX 77002

RE: Nominating Veronica Cabrera-Moreno | Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Award Arts in the Community

Members of the Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Awards Committee:

It is my pleasure to nominate Veronica Cabrera-Moreno for the 2024 Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Awards in the *Arts in the Community* category. Roni's exceptional contributions have not only elevated the arts but have also celebrated and preserved the rich cultural heritage of the Hispanic community in Houston.

Ms. Cabrera-Moreno's dedication to promoting Hispanic heritage through the arts began in 2012, when she committed herself to using creative expression as a tool for healing and empowerment. As the Founder and CEO of HTX Art and Art in the Heart, she has prioritized ensuring that Hispanic culture is at the forefront of her work. From the vibrant murals she has created across the city to her leadership in organizing cultural events like the *Sabor del Northside Festival*, Ms. Cabrera-Moreno has used art to foster pride and unity within Houston's Hispanic community.

Her large-scale murals, often featured in prominent locations, showcase the stories, traditions, and experiences of the Hispanic community. Notable projects, such as her mural for the Houston Furniture Bank and her work with mission-driven organizations, incorporate themes of family, resilience, and heritage—central pillars of Hispanic culture. Through her art, Ms. Cabrera-Moreno creates a visual narrative that celebrates our community's history, contributions, and identity.

Beyond her artistic creations, Ms. Cabrera-Moreno's dedication to preserving Hispanic heritage extends to her educational programs. She has worked tirelessly to engage children and families in underserved communities, teaching cultural arts and integrating Hispanic traditions into her workshops and events. Her Art Bus initiative, which brings art directly into neighborhoods, ensures that Hispanic children are given the opportunity to learn about and celebrate their cultural heritage. By making art accessible, Ms. Cabrera-Moreno not only empowers individuals but also strengthens the cultural fabric of the Hispanic community.

Ms. Cabrera-Moreno's work through *Art in the Heart* has also been instrumental in fostering civic engagement and promoting Hispanic culture as a source of community pride. Her organization serves as a hub where art and heritage converge, providing a space where the Hispanic community can come together to celebrate, reflect, and

build upon the legacies of their ancestors. Her efforts to ensure that Hispanic voices are represented in the arts have left an enduring impact on Houston's cultural landscape.

Ms. Cabrera-Moreno's leadership, creativity, and commitment to the Hispanic community make her an outstanding candidate for the *Arts in the Community* award. Her contributions have enriched and nurtured the creativity within Houston's Hispanic community, ensuring that our heritage continues to inspire future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christina Morales". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christina Morales
State Representative
Texas House District 145