



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 Mikaela Selley | Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Award Education in the Community

Members of the Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Awards Committee:

I am honored to recommend Mikaela Selley for the 2024 Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Awards in the *Education in the Community* category. Mikaela is an extraordinary individual whose contributions to the preservation and promotion of Hispanic heritage have had a profound impact on the Houston community.

As the Archivist and Program Manager for the Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage Project at Arte Público Press, Mikaela has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to educating the public about the importance of our shared cultural history. Through her leadership in roles such as project manager for the *Periodicals in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region* project, she has helped digitize and preserve vital historical records, ensuring that future generations will have access to these important materials. Mikaela's dedication to this work has had a direct impact on the education of countless students, whom she mentors in archival processing and historical preservation.

Mikaela's curatorial projects further illustrate her commitment to educating the public and enriching the community's understanding of its heritage. Notably, her work on the exhibition *A Civil Rights Milestone: President Kennedy's Visit with LULAC in Houston* brought to life a significant moment in our city's history, allowing visitors to engage with Houston's legacy in the civil rights movement. Community feedback from her exhibitions has consistently praised her ability to make history accessible, relevant, and engaging for people of all ages.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Mikaela's work embodies the values of community service and empowerment. She has played a critical role in fostering greater awareness of Hispanic history and creating educational opportunities that inspire pride in our heritage. Her contributions to preserving the cultural identity of the Hispanic community through education are invaluable, and her impact will be felt for generations to come.