



HON. MICKEY IBARRA, FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN

**Remarks by Xolo Mariduená
The Cafecito Series**

**March 25, 2021
Virtual**

Xolo Mariduená: Thank you Mickey, for the nice words. I'm super grateful and excited to accept this Rising Star Award. Thank you to the Latino Leaders Network for giving me this opportunity to kind of have a platform for myself and have Latinos celebrating other Latinos.

Well, I guess first off, let me apologize for this very casual background. I'm in Atlanta filming right now so I couldn't get into a nice suit. I didn't bring any nice suits with me in Atlanta. I figured we'd just be filming, but I just wanted to say thank you, one.

And, two, I guess it's having this opportunity is a big deal for me just because this is one of the first awards that I've ever received, but also because it means a lot as a Latino to be in this position to have *Cobra Kai* being a show that I work on. I never would have imagined in a million years that this show would blow up the way that it has, and I think a lot

of that is because of luck with quarantine and us moving to Netflix and all of that. But at the same time, I just wanted to mention that to anyone - I don't know who is going to see this, but if there's any young aspiring people or even just people who aspire to be in this industry, I understand and I acknowledge that it sometimes feel as very distant. I grew up in Los Angeles. I grew up in East L.A., but Hollywood felt very distant. It felt very hard, and that's because there's a lot of favoritism in this industry, and there's a lot of nepotism, and there's a lot of people who just love reusing the same kind of people. And I think while there is room for that, there also is a lot of room for new people to be in this industry and to have their voices be heard.

So I hope that this award can just be the very beginning of more Latinos in this industry. I hope that this can inspire at least person, but I hope that I'm not the last young Latino in this industry, and I know that I'm not. I see so many talented faces in so many different shows. Fabricio and Mr. Iglesias, Marcel Ruiz and *One Day At A Time*, I know that there are so many young voices out there that deserve to have their voices heard and I hope that this is just one step in the right direction.

So, yeah, thank you very much, Mickey. Thank you, Latino Leaders Network and I'm excited for the rest of the day. Thank you.