

Groundbreakers



Women Who Inspire

WE ASKED, AND YOU TOLD US ABOUT THE GROUNDBREAKING LATINAS IN YOUR COMMUNITY. MEET THEM HERE.

by Rosa Calves

Every year, CATALINA and the National Association of Latina Leaders (NALL) celebrate Hispanic women who have demonstrated groundbreaking leadership and success in the Hispanic community, and beyond. Throughout the year, we received more than 500 nominations and suggestions from you on who we should recognize. Researching and discovering amazing women from coast to coast is a job we embrace with pride. The following are the women who you suggested, and the National Association of Latina Leaders chose as this year's groundbreaking Latinas:

GROUNDBREAKING LATINA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Marilyn Milian – Judge Milian is the first and only Hispanic and female judge on the top-rated, nationally-syndicated show *the People's Court*.

GROUNDBREAKING LATINA IN MUSIC

Ana Maria Martinez – Ana Maria is a Grammy-winning Puerto Rican opera singer who recently toured with mega star Andrea Bocelli. She is one of a few Latina sopranos touring the world.

GROUNDBREAKING LATINA IN ENTERTAINMENT

Carmen Osbahr – Carmen is the personality and voice for the puppet Rosita on *Sesame Street*, and is the first Latina puppeteer on U.S. television.

VOLVO'S GROUNDBREAKING LATINA IN LEADERSHIP

Elsa Mantilla – Elsa is a full-time entrepreneur who founded the non-profit Latino Women in Action of NJ, which empowers Latinas, and the Dominican Parade, which raised more than \$20,000 for children in Jimani, the Dominican Republic.

Who Do You Recommend?

Did we leave someone out? Do you know a groundbreaking Latina? Introduce us! E-mail your recommendation/suggestion to info@catalinamagazine.com. Your groundbreaker may be featured on our web site, in the next issue of CATALINA, or during our next annual award ceremony.

Honorable Mentions

The following **15 GROUNDBREAKING LATINAS**, selected from your many nominations, have won an honorable mention from the National Association of Latina Leaders. From politics to community leadership, they are truly inspirational.

1. **ANA ESCOBAR CABRAL** – the U.S. Treasurer and highest ranking Latina in the Bush Administration.
2. **ALBA COLÓN** – the top engineer for GM's NASCAR Chevrolet's racing program.
3. **RIMA CORRAL** – the first Latina to create a children's bilingual PBS reading television program.
4. **DR. CHARLEY FERRER** – the "Latina Dr. Ruth," who promotes open dialogue on sex in our community.
5. **NELIDA GARCIA** – the highest ranking Latina at the international financial company, AXA Group.
6. **REVEREND CARMEN HERNANDEZ** – the co-founder of the Bronx Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the "back 2school jam block party," benefitting children.
7. **ROSANNA KINGSTON** – the co-founder of the Give a Kid a Backpack Foundation, a nonprofit which helps children who live in poverty.
8. **THERESA MENDOZA** – the first Latina vice president in the California State University system.
9. **LINDA NIEVES POWELL** – the creator of the off-Broadway shows, *Yo Soy Latina* and *Jose Speaks*, which empower Hispanics and tackle stereotypes.
10. **SONIA ROSADO** – the first and only Latina freeholder in Passaic County, New Jersey.
11. **CARLINA TAPIA-RUANO** – the first Hispanic to be elected president of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.
12. **THERESA SALAZAR** – the only Hispanic teacher in her entire school system.
13. **DR. ELBA ELISA SERRANO** – an associate professor of biology who established the first molecular and developmental neurobiology laboratory at New Mexico State University.
14. **LINDA VALDEZ THOMPSON** – the highest ranking woman and Hispanic at DFW International Airport.
15. **MOLLY XIMENEZ** – a breast cancer survivor who founded the "Cup of Love" for Breast Cancer survivors.

Company Awards

GROUNDBREAKING COMPANY OF THE YEAR Deloitte –

Deloitte has demonstrated groundbreaking contributions through time and resources to help empower the nation's professional Latina community. Deloitte's commitment to the Hispanic community is evident in its on-going partnerships with Hispanic organizations, its presence at national and regional Hispanic events, and its understanding of the needs of the Latina community.

GROUNDBREAKING COMPANY OF THE YEAR Volvo Cars of North America –

Volvo Cars of North America has demonstrated groundbreaking contributions to the Latina community, including the co-creation of the nationally-recognized Latina in Leadership award in 2002. Volvo's commitment to the Hispanic community is evident also in its on-going partnerships with Hispanic organizations, its presence at Hispanic events, and its understanding of the needs of the Latina community.