

Lifting Up BUSD Latine/x Voices



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"Way before I was born, my parents came to California from Chihuahua, México and made a home in a little city in south LA called Lynwood, even though they didn't know anyone besides my dad's brother and his wife. By the time I was born, my parents had obtained their citizenship and were able to travel back home. I remember road tripping to Chihuahua every summer, where we'd spend weeks playing with our cousins, eavesdropping on the adult conversations, falling asleep to loud music at family parties, and eating deliciously. Even though we only spent the summers in Mexico, I grew up with a strong sense of connection to all of my cousins, tías, and tíos. It wasn't until I was a little older that I started to wonder what life would have been like if I had grown up living in Chihuahua where my abuelitos lived - in their house, on their street, or even in their neighborhood. What would it have been like to get to hear their voices, their stories, their joy more than a few weeks every summer? I feel this nostalgia now, but the truth is, I'm so lucky to have grown up with a mom who made sure my siblings and I felt truly connected to all of our family in México even though we lived so far away and only visited once a year. I remember sitting in the living room while Sábado Gigante played on TV, working hard on a letter to my abuelita, and learning for the first time that the city she lived in was NOT spelled "Chiwawa". Unfortunately, the school I attended was English only, but we spoke Spanish at home and my mom was our Spanish spellchecker. Now, I go back to visit my family as much as I can. Some of my tías, tíos, and cousins still live in Chihuahua, but a lot of them now live in various other parts of México - DF, Colima, Guadalajara. Some of my cousins live closer (San Jose, Fresno, & Temecula!) and I get to see them more often. There's also technology that allows for us all to be in one giant 40-person group chat. I love my family, and I'm grateful that as it grows, we stay connected no matter the distance."