



September 19, 2024

Casey Wasserman
Chairman, LA28 Olympic and Paralympic Games

CC:
Hon. Karen Bass, Mayor of Los Angeles
Hon. Lindsey Horvath, Chair, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Dear Mr. Wasserman,

We, the undersigned coalition of Latino and Asian organizations, are writing to express our deep concern and disappointment regarding the lack of Latino and Asian representation in the recent handover of the Paris 2024 Olympics to the LA28 Olympics. While we celebrate the inclusion of two Latino Olympians in the press release and video, we believe that the event missed a significant opportunity to highlight the diversity that is the strength of Los Angeles.

Los Angeles County is home to one of the most diverse populations in the United States. As of November 2023, Latinos make up 49% of the county's population, with 4.84 million individuals identifying as Hispanic. The Asian community, comprising 15% of the county's population, includes 1.45 million people representing a wide range of ethnic groups, such as Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Taiwanese, Cambodian, Thai, Indonesian, Sri Lankan, and Burmese. This rich tapestry of cultures and traditions is what makes Los Angeles unique and deserves to be celebrated on such a global stage.

The omission of Latino and Asian entertainment in the handover event is a glaring oversight that fails to represent the communities that contribute so significantly to the fabric of Los Angeles. With over 37% of the County population speaking Spanish, and over 10% speaking Asian and Pacific Islander languages, the handover event missed a clear opportunity to reach this diverse audience. As the city prepares to host the world in 2028, it is imperative that the LA28 committee accurately reflects the diversity of our city in all aspects of its planning and execution.

We respectfully request a meeting with you and the leadership of the LA28 committee, along with representatives from the Latino and Asian communities of Los Angeles, to discuss how we can work together to ensure that future events fully represent the diverse population of our City and County. We believe that by working collaboratively, we can avoid such oversights in the future and present an Olympic Games that truly embodies the spirit of Los Angeles.

We look forward to your prompt response and to the opportunity to work together in making LA28 a celebration that includes and honors all of Los Angeles' communities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Manjusha Kulkarni
Executive Director
AAPI Equity Alliance

Vanessa Aramayo
CEO and President
Alliance for a Better Community

Connie Chung Joe
CEO
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