We are heartbroken over the loss of founding advisory council member J.J. Saldaña.

It's impossible to imagine Idaho without his influence and even more unthinkable to imagine the world without him.

J.J. was a beloved friend, mentor and tireless advocate for the advancement and uplifting of Idaho's Hispanic and Latino communities. Like so many other endeavors, Voces would not exist without his vision, unceasing work ethic and generous spirit.

He'd often repeat the motto: "You can't be what you can't see."

He fiercely believed in the importance of making sure Idaho Latinos were faithfully and truthfully represented in Idaho media and the public sphere — work he started long before Voces was even an idea. And he somehow found time to help many of our interns and welcome new journalists to the community.

J.J. never sought the spotlight or demanded credit for the work he did for so many, instead leading by example with an unfaltering dedication to raising others up.

The void J.J. leaves in Idaho and in our hearts cannot be filled. We offer our deepest condolences to his family and everyone who loved him.