

News Release



California Arts Council

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Contact:

Mary Beth Barber

(916) 322-6588

Mexican Heritage Corporation of San Jose Receives Grant from California Arts Council

"Artists in Schools" program designed to integrate community arts resources into schools and augment arts education

SACRAMENTO – The California Arts Council is pleased to announce that the Mexican Heritage Corporation of San Jose has received an "Artists in Schools" grant. The program is designed to support artists in residency activities that take place in schools, both in the classroom and in after-school settings.

"The California Arts Council is dedicated to supporting arts education in California schools," said Muriel Johnson, Director of the California Arts Council. "It's important that children work with experienced artists to augment the day-to-day instruction of the visual and performing arts education. The Artists in Schools program from the California Arts Council helps bring professionals to the school setting."

The Mexican Heritage Corporation of San Jose received \$10,000.00 of Artists in Schools funding for 2006-07. Over \$800,000 in funds was awarded to 102 organizations throughout the state. The intent of the new Artists in Schools program is to integrate community arts resources – artists and professional arts organizations – into a comprehensive, standards-based program that

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underscores the critical role that the visual and performing arts play in shaping students' overall well-being and academic achievement.

The California Arts Council's 2005-2006 strategic planning process reaffirmed the agency's commitment to the arts in education and the importance of sequential arts instruction in California schools. The resulting plan, which will guide the Council's efforts for the next three to five years, outlines a program direction ensuring at least 50 percent of the California Arts Council's program funds are allocated in support of arts-in-education priorities.

The Artists in Schools program is supported by proceeds from the sale of the Arts License Plate, a specialty plate designed by noted California artists Wayne Thiebaud, as well as funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information on Artists in Schools, the California Arts Council's Strategic Plan, or the California Arts License Plate, contact Mary Beth Barber at (916) 322-6588 or mbarber@caartscouncil.com.

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