

For Immediate Release

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**Mexican Heritage Corporation
San Jose Redevelopment Agency
Complete \$1 Million Capital Improvement Program**

Refurbishments and Upgrades to Mexican Heritage Plaza

San José, CA—January 3, 2008—The Mexican Heritage Corporation (“MHC”), operator of the Mexican Heritage Plaza, along with the San Jose Redevelopment Agency (SJRA), today announced the completion of a more than \$1 million dollars of capital improvements to the Plaza’s physical plant and landscape.

“We’re thrilled to conclude this critical work to improve, upgrade and refurbish the state’s largest Latino cultural center,” stated Marcela Davison Aviles, President and CEO of the Mexican Heritage Corporation. "This work has been achieved due to the hard work of MHC, SJRA and City staff, who combined to form a great team, working over two years to complete these badly needed improvements.”

The improvements were paid for from three grants secured by MHC -- \$1 million from the State of California, and \$75,000 from Santa Clara County and the SJRA to make capital improvements and landscape refurbishments to the Mexican Heritage Plaza and gardens. The project is now in the final stages of closure and will be completed by the end of the calendar year.

"I am pleased that Agency and City staff were able to collaborate with the Mexican Heritage Corporation staff to complete this project,” said Harry Mavrogenes, Executive Director, San Jose Redevelopment Agency. “The upgraded facility will not only better serve the community as a cultural and entertainment venue, but will continue to be a positive economic catalyst for the area.”

“The Mexican Heritage Plaza continues to be a cultural destination for both the residents of San Jose, and the Bay Area. The new upgrades will ensure that this magnificent building continues to serve our community for years to come.,” stated San Jose City Councilmember Nora Campos.

Improvements will include the following:

- Design, fabrication, and installation of new signs on the tower façade.
- Repainting and sealing of the tower.
- Installation of additional track lighting in La Galeria.
- Installation of a new security camera system throughout the facility.
- Redesign of the administrative offices.
- New paint and carpeting in the administrative offices.
- Repainting of the theater lobby and classrooms.
- Installation of a new HVAC system in the theater.
- Installation and implementation of more sophisticated control of the HVAC systems throughout the facility.
- Installation of new lighting at the base of the palm trees and flag poles.
- Various electrical upgrades, including installation of additional lighting and electrical outlets in key locations throughout the facility.
- Adjustment of the decorative grates around the palm trees to allow for their growth.
- Upgrades on the hinges of the decorative gates around the perimeter of the plaza.
- Installation of new floor grates in the Pavilion.
- Refurbishment of the garden, including the installation of new soil, new sod, new garden plantings, and new tree lighting.
- Installation of security card readers on office doors.
- Upgrades to interior door hardware throughout the facility.
- Upgrade of the water line and installation of a new ph controller in the fountain.
- Leveraging equipment donated by Hewlett Packard, upgrades to the network infrastructure of the plaza, including installation of wireless internet service throughout the Plaza.

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About the Mexican Heritage Corporation

MHC is the non-profit operator and arts programmer of San Jose's famed Mexican Heritage Plaza, one of the largest Latino cultural centers in the nation. With a mission to affirm, celebrate and preserve the rich cultural heritage of the Mexican community and showcase multicultural arts within the region and nationally, MHC both presents and produces a vibrant array of multi-disciplinary arts programs in theatre, dance, and music education and in the visual arts. To learn more about the Mexican Heritage Plaza, visit <http://www.mhcviva.org>.

About San Jose Redevelopment Agency

The San Jose Redevelopment Agency is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all who live and work in San José. Governed by the City Council, the Agency facilitates and oversees comprehensive programs for development to revitalize and strengthen quality of life and competitiveness for San Jose's downtown, neighborhoods, and industrial areas. For more information on the San Jose Redevelopment Agency, visit www.sjredevelopment.org.

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