

PRESS RELEASE / FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Linda Ronstadt to Lead Silicon Valley Arts Contingent to National Arts Advocacy Day in Washington D.C. – March 30 and 31, 2009

San José, California – March 24, 2009 --- Linda Ronstadt, the multi-Grammy award winning artist and the Artistic Director of San José's Mariachi and Mexican Heritage Festival will use her voice in a new way when she leads a contingent of Silicon Valley arts leaders to Washington D.C. next week. This contingent will participate in critical arts advocacy activities as part of the Americans for the Arts 22nd Annual Arts Advocacy Day 2009, in conjunction with the Congressional Arts Caucus and more than 83 national co-sponsors.

This is not just another gig for Ronstadt, San José's newest arts ambassador. Her participation, jointly facilitated by San José's Mexican Heritage Corporation and Arts Council Silicon Valley, will include providing key testimony at the Congressional Hearing on the Arts regarding two of her favorite topics: music education and the importance of arts funding.

While in Washington, the group will also meet with key leaders to raise awareness and support for the Festival and other key Silicon Valley arts programs and organizations. Also participating in Arts Advocacy Day with Ronstadt on her trip to Washington D.C. are Silicon Valley arts leaders including: Bruce Davis, Executive Director, Arts Council Silicon Valley; Marcela Davison Aviles, CEO, MHC; Anjee Helstrup-Alvarez, Executive Director and Curator, MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana; Gillian Moran, President-Elect, Board of Trustees, Arts Council Silicon Valley; Jeffry Walker, Executive Director, Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA); and Anna Weldon, Director of Communications, Arts Council Silicon Valley.

"We are honored to have Linda Ronstadt lead our contingent of Silicon Valley arts leaders to Washington D.C. as we advocate for crucial arts funding as part of the National Arts Advocacy Day 2009 proceedings," said Bruce W. Davis, Executive Director of Arts Council Silicon Valley. "Our collective presence in Washington D.C. at this time will certainly have an impact on the new administration's economic support of the arts. Right now, we can use all the help we can get."

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As the newest member of San José's arts community, Ronstadt has become increasingly engaged in local outreach, performing for pre-school students at the Gardner Elementary School and meeting with community gardeners at Mayfair Community Garden. As the Artistic Director of the San José Mariachi Festival, she has participated as a performer, as well as an advisor to the programming and music education of the festival.

"Linda Ronstadt has given her voice and her music to the world for years. She is very interested in contributing to the community in any way she can," said Marcela Davison Aviles, President and CEO of Mexican Heritage Corporation and the producer of the 18th annual San José Mariachi and Mexican Heritage Festival. "We hope her testimony in Washington will help the National Endowment reach its funding goals."

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About Arts Council Silicon Valley

Arts Council Silicon Valley is an independent, nonprofit arts agency dedicated to providing funding, advocacy support, and marketing services to the region's arts organizations and artists. As the official state/local partner with the California Arts Council, the County of Santa Clara, and the National Endowment for the Arts, Arts Council Silicon Valley is the largest nonprofit arts council in the state. Since the organization's inception over 25 years ago, the Arts Council has provided nearly \$24 million in grants and services to local arts and cultural organizations, individual artists, schools, and community groups. Arts Council Silicon Valley is located. For more information on Arts Council Silicon Valley go to: www.artscouncil.org

Americans for the Arts

Americans for the Arts is the leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America. With offices in Washington, DC, and New York City, it has a record of 48 years of service. Americans for the Arts is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. Additional information is available at www.AmericansForTheArts.org.

About the Mexican Heritage Corporation

The Mexican Heritage Corporation of San José exists to affirm, celebrate and preserve Mexico's rich cultural heritage and to showcase multicultural visual arts, performance arts and cultural events. MHC realizes its mission with a multi-disciplinary education and artistic program that celebrates Mexican culture and illuminates and explores the diversity within Mexico, the influence of Mexican culture on other communities worldwide and that of international and indigenous communities on the culture of Mexico, through the visual, performing and media arts. For more information visit mhc viva.org