

Contact: San Jose Mariachi and Mexican Heritage Festival

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

National Endowment for the Arts Honors San José Mariachi and Mexican Heritage Festival

*Top Arts Agency Awards Prestigious
Access to Artistic Excellence Grants to San Jose Festival*

San José, CA—December 15, 2009—The Mexican Heritage Corporation, producer of the annual San José Mariachi and Mexican Heritage Festival, today announced the festival's selection by the National Endowment for the Arts to receive NEA's prestigious grants in support of Access to Artistic Excellence.

"I am delighted that the National Endowment for the Arts is recognizing the San José festival with this prestigious grant," said Festival Artistic Director Linda Ronstadt. "A measure of a festival's success is its commitment to and recognition for outstanding programming. Year after year, the San Jose Mariachi and Mexican Heritage Festival provides opportunities for local residents and visitors to experience the diversity and depth of Mexican music, culture, cuisine, media and visual arts."

The grant received by the Mexican Heritage Corporation is \$30,000. Access to Artistic Excellence grants support the creation and presentation of work in dance, design, folk and traditional arts, literature, media arts, museums, music, musical theater, opera, presenting, theater, and visual arts. Projects include commissions, residencies, workshops, performances, exhibitions, publications, festivals, and professional development programs.

"We're honored to be recognized by the country's leading arts agency as a presenter and producer of the San José Mariachi and Mexican Heritage Festival," stated Marcela Davison Aviles, President and CEO of the Mexican Heritage Corporation. "The Festival has grown significantly over the past three years and achieved a level of artistic excellence that San Jose and the nation may be proud of. We look forward to announcing the artist roster and creative theme for the 2010 festival in the first quarter."

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About the Mexican Heritage Corporation 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 San Jose Mariachi and Mexican Heritage Festival, and MHC visit www.sjmariachiefestival.org and <http://www.mhcviva.org>.