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CONTACT:
Irasema Romero
Luisa.romero@dallascityhall.com
214-671-0049

**The Latino Cultural Center Joins the Largest Collaboration of
Quilt Exhibits with Molas of the Kuna Indians of Panama**

November 1, 2008 to February 14, 2008



DALLAS, November 5, 2008 – The Latino Cultural Center presents a collection of Molas from the Kuna Indians of Panama as part of Quilt Mania, the largest collaboration of quilt exhibits, from November 1, 2008 to January 15, 2009.

The meaning of the word mola – clothing or shirt – is given based on their use in traditional Kuna costumes. The mola originated from the tradition of Kuna women painting their bodies with geometrical designs, using available natural colors. Today, molas are woven in cotton, finely sewn by hand, and later sold individually or incorporated into colorful clothing.

The 38 molas on display at the LCC are on loan from Reverend Isaac V. Pérez and Alicia C. Pérez’s collection. The Pérez’s family has been collecting molas since Reverend Pérez began traveling to San Blas, Panama in the early 1950s.

“Viewers will immediately recognize molas as a very special art form,” says Elva Pérez, daughter of the collectors. “Molas reflect a distinct creative style involving the complex design and construction of a multi-layered work of art that tells a story, conveys a particular belief, or reflects the artist’s world.”

Gallery Talk

Elva Pérez will discuss her family’s collection of molas and their cultural meaning November 15, 2008 at noon in the Latino Cultural Center multipurpose room. Both the exhibit and the lecture are free and open to the public.

The Latino Cultural Center is a division of the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs. The mission of the Latino Cultural Center is to serve as a catalyst for the preservation, development and promotion of Latino arts and culture in Dallas. The Center is located at 2600 Live Oak, Dallas, Texas 75204.

LCC hours: Tuesday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For additional information please call 214-671-0045 or visit our **web site at, www.dallasculture.org/latinocc**.