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**The Latino Cultural Center Travels to Latin America with New Exhibition
*Dichos: Words to Live, Love, and Laugh By in Latin America***

March 26, 2009 – April 25, 2009

DALLAS, March 4, 2009 – Truck and bus drivers across Latin America delight in inscribing *dichos*—sayings or amusing expressions—on their vehicles. Hand painted in an endless variety of graphic styles and colors, dichos address subjects ranging from religion and love to puns and earthy humor. Unfortunately, with the emergence of corporate trucking, this vibrant folk art is gradually disappearing.

Dichos: Words to Live, Love, and Laugh By in Latin America offers an engaging look at this endangered tradition. The exhibition draws from the private collection of Grant La Farge, M.D., of Santa Fe, New Mexico. For over a decade, La Farge braved encounters with suspicious drivers at truck stops across Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Panama to document the many variations of the dichos tradition.

“The driver of the vehicle always has a mission, to beg protection from God, to express love or anger at a lover, to tell a joke (preferably off-color) ... even to imply, by writing a different girl’s name on each of his vehicle’s windows, that he’s a real Don Juan,” LaFarge said.

Visitors to Latino Cultural Center will experience this tradition through 27 color photographs accompanied by select miniature dichos-laden vehicles, including one painted by well-known Latin American artist Arturo Sosa Perez. In addition, full-size metal bumpers featuring dichos appear with the four thematic text panels: *Love; Faith and Devotion; Wit, Commentary, and Egotism; and Buses of*



Panama City, Panama; 1984, Photograph.

Opening Reception

March 26, 2009

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Panama. The exhibition is curated by Barbara Mauldin, Ph.D., curator of Latin American folk art at the Museum of International Folk Art, where the exhibition was organized.

“The works represented in *Dichos* combine myriad graphic styles from artists with varying degrees of talent, and text conveying a wide-range of beliefs and ideas,” said Dee Harris, director of Visual Arts and Humanities, Mid-America Arts Alliance. “*Dichos* explores a unique and fascinating style of Latin American folk art rarely experienced outside of its native environment.” The exhibition is organized and toured by Mid-America Arts Alliance through its ExhibitsUSA national program. ExhibitsUSA sends more than 20 exhibitions on tour to more than 100 small- and mid-sized communities every year. Mid-America is the oldest nonprofit regional arts organization in the U.S.

The exhibition is free and open to the public.

This exhibition is a program of ExhibitsUSA, a national division of Mid-America Arts Alliance with The Texas Commission on the Arts and The National Endowment for the Arts.

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.

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