

City of Dallas News Release

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Celebrate Mexico's Independence with Fiestas Patrias at the LCC September 16 & 17

A night filled with poetry and music to celebrate Mexico's Independence

DALLAS, Sept. 7, 2011 – On Sept. 16-17 at 7 p.m. the Latino Cultural Center will host *Fiestas Patrias: A night of Mariachi y Poesía* in celebration of Mexico's Independence Day. With Mexico's victory over Spain, Texas became part of an independent Mexico and the "Lone Star" of hope for a second democratic, multicultural Federal Republic in America. The holiday is a milestone in independence for both Texas and Mexico. This lively and patriotic early-evening event will include poetry readings and mariachi music inspired by the Mexican Revolution. Admission is **free and open to the public** on a first-come, first-served basis.

The popularity of mariachi exploded during and after the time of the revolution. There was a surge of nationalism found in Mexico and mariachi became the country's most patriotic musical expression. Denton-based **Mariachi Quetzal** headlines the LCC celebration. The talented ensemble of accomplished vocalists and instrumentalists are all students or alumni of the University of North Texas College of Music and have performed across the U.S., collaborated with the Grammy Award-winning band Brave Combo and enjoy an annual appearance at the Texas State Fair. Songs will include such classics as *Mexico Lindo y Querido* and *Viva Mexico*.

Each year in Mexico, the President rings the bell of the National Palace in Mexico City. After doing so he repeats a cry of patriotism based upon the "Grito de Dolores" and ends with the threefold shout of "¡Viva Mexico!" from the balcony of the palace. A similar celebration occurs in cities and towns

all over Mexico and in Mexican embassies and consulates worldwide. In that spirit, the LCC celebration will feature readings of "Grito de Dolores" performed by accomplished poet and radio personality **Josué Gabriel de Montemayor**. A resident of DFW and native of Mexico, Montemayor has published 4 books and has participated in the creation of four anthologies, the last one of them, the Anthology of American Poets published by the Library of the United States. Currently, he hosts *Letra y Música* on Univision's 990AM.

About the Latino Cultural Center

The Latino Cultural Center is a division of the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs. Established in 2003, the LCC's mission is to serve as a regional catalyst for the preservation, development and promotion of Latino and Hispanic arts and culture. The LCC offers a year-round season of programs, including visual arts exhibitions in two galleries and more than 50 dance, theater and music performances annually in the Oak Farms Performance Hall. The LCC's signature family programs include Target Second Saturdays, the Día de los Muertos Celebration, and the annual Posada. 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/latinoculturalcenter.

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