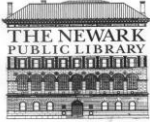


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P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Contact: Ingrid Betancourt: 973-733-7772 /973-733-3637

**The Newark Public Library Pays Tribute to Mexican Culture
During Hispanic Heritage Celebration 2011
Exhibition “*Journey from Aztlán: Mexican Heritage New Jerseyans*”**

The Newark Public Library’s 2011 Hispanic Heritage Celebration pays tribute to the history and cultural traditions of Mexico and examines the presence and contributions of Mexican heritage New Jerseyans—a community that has become an integral part of the state’s growing multicultural mosaic.

The opening reception for this year’s exhibit and public program series takes place on **Wednesday, October 5, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Main Library’s Centennial Hall** and will feature traditional mariachi music performed by Mariachi Oro de México, a New Jersey-based group. The keynote speaker will be Felipe Galindo (Feggo), renowned Mexican artist and illustrator. Other special guests include Carlos Manuel Sada Solana, General Consul of Mexico in New York, and Teresa Vivar, activist and Executive Director of the organization Lazos America Unida in New Brunswick.

The exhibit, ***Journey from Aztlán: Mexican Heritage New Jerseyans***, explores how this evolving community is part of the rapidly changing demographic-economic face of New Jersey. Original artwork by contemporary Mexican-heritage artists in the tri-state area and original prints from celebrated Mexican artists (Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros, and Rufino Tamayo among others) from the Newark Public Library’s Special Collections will also be on view. The exhibit was co-curated by Guest Historian Darius Echeverría, Rutgers University and Ingrid Betancourt, NJ Hispanic Research & Information Center at The Newark Public Library, in collaboration with a Mexican Community Advisory Committee.

Journey from Aztlán: Mexican Heritage New Jerseyans, Second Floor Gallery, Main Library, will be open to the public during regular library hours through December 31. To schedule guided tours of the exhibition in English or Spanish, please call 973-733-7772 or email ibetancourt@npl.org.

Felipe Galindo (aka Feggo) is a renowned fine artist, illustrator, cartoonist, and animator. Born in Cuernavaca, Mexico, he studied Visual Arts at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, and currently lives and works in New York City. His drawings have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Newsday*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, and many other publications.

This year's exhibit includes a *selection* of six works from Galindo's "Manhatitlan," an ongoing project that includes works on paper, exhibitions, animations and the book *Manhatitlan: Mexican and American Cultures Intertwined*, winner of the International Latino Book Award 2011.

"In my project Manhatitlán, I explore through humor the encounter of Mexican and American cultures in the context of the immigrant experience. The project explores the role of ethnic traditions in this era of multiculturalism and globalizatio," explains Felipe Galindo (Feggo).

Galindo's award-winning animation *The Manhatitlán Chronicles* will be screened at the Newark Library on October 15, as part of this year's Indocumentales/Undocumentary film screenings.

Guest Historian, Dr. Darius Echeverría serves both the Department of History and the Department of Latino & Hispanic Caribbean Studies at Rutgers University. Professor Echeverría also serves as a visiting scholar at Montclair State University, contributing in the classroom and on the advisory board of the university's Latin American and Latino Studies Program.

Mariachi Oro de México, will kick-off this year's celebration with music that embodies the essence of Mexico and its people, but which is enjoyed around the world. Although mariachi is a genre of music from the state of Jalisco in western Mexico, the ensemble, with its violins, trumpets, classical guitar, *vihuela* (high-pitched, five-string guitar), *guitarrón* (large acoustic bass guitar) and musicians dressed in silver-studded *charro* outfits with wide-brimmed hats, has become emblematic of Mexican music worldwide.

The Newark Public Library's 2011 Hispanic Heritage Celebration programs are made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and administered by the Essex County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs. The exhibit, *Journey from Aztlán: Mexican Heritage New Jerseyans*, was assisted by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.

The opening night event and all Hispanic Heritage activities will take place at the Main Library, 5 Washington Street. All programs are free and open to the general public. For more information, please contact ibetancourt@npl.org.

Additional Programs:

A special performance, *Dancing Across Mexico*, will be held on **Saturday, October 8 at 2:00 p.m.** in Centennial Hall at the Main Library. The Calpulli Mexican Dance Company presents a vibrant showcase of traditional dances from different states and ethnic regions in Mexico, each with its unique costumes and music. Calpulli Danza Mexicana captures the essence of Mexico with joyous dances and music in this exciting show. The lively performances, framed by a descriptive narrative, will offer the audience an interactive musical tour of Mexico.

An afternoon screening of four new documentaries followed by a dialogue with some of the featured filmmakers and other special guests will be presented on **Saturday, October 15 at 1:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.** This event is presented as part of the US/Mexico Interdependent Film Series on immigration and related issues, *Indocumentales/Undocumentaries*, a collaborative series of documentary film screenings and dialogues, co-presented by *what moves you?*, Cinema Tropical, and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at New York University.

Los que se quedan / Those Who Remain (Juan Carlos Rulfo, Carlos Hagerman, Mexico, 2008, 96 min. In Spanish with English subtitles) **Those Who Remain** shines a light on the families left behind by loved ones who have traveled North for work.

Subterraneans: Norteña Music in New York (Gaspar Orozco and Karina Escamilla, US, 2010, 26 min. In Spanish with English subtitles) Five musical groups from south-center Mexico survive playing music in the subways of New York.

The Manhatitlán Chronicles / Crónicas de Manhatitlán (Felipe Galindo, Feggo, US, 1999, 7 min.) A digital animation that narrates an imaginary migration of a group of Mexican people to the US, inspired by Aztec mythology and American history.

The Manhatitlán Codex (Felipe Galindo, Feggo, US, 2008, 5 min.) A humorous view on how Mexican and American cultures playfully intertwine.

A film screening and discussion focusing on a unique part of New Jersey history will take place on **Saturday, October 29 in the Main Library's Auditorium at 2:00 p.m.** Produced by Juan Carranza and Javier Vargas, the one-hour film, *Flying with Emilio*, takes you to a small community in New Jersey, where every year tribute is paid to a virtually unknown hero, Captain Emilio Carranza.

On July 12, 1928 one of Mexico's greatest aviators fatally crashed his plane in the New Jersey Pine Barrens during a thunderstorm while flying a historic goodwill mission from New York. The members of American Legion Post 11 in Mount Holly recovered the body of the fallen aviator and held a memorial service in his honor. For over 80 years Post 11 has continued to honor Captain Carranza, who has been dubbed "Mexico's Charles

Lindbergh." with an annual memorial. Robert Barney, member of the American Legion Post 11, will provide introductory remarks and host a Q&A session after the film. An exhibit of photographs of Emilio Carranza, his plane, people and events related to the 1928 crash will be on view.

Mexican authors in the northeast will be featured at a literary event on **Saturday, October 22 at 2:00 p.m. at the Main Library in the Auditorium**. Engaging conversations with Mexican authors (to be announced) will be presented in partnership with the NY Latin American Book Fair.

A Day of the Dead program featuring arts & crafts and a dance performance will be held on **Saturday, November 5 at the Main Library in Centennial Hall from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.** El Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a colorful Mexican tradition to honor and remember loved ones who have died. Make traditional crafts: Papel Picado [perforated paper], Calaveras de Dulce [sugar skulls], and flores de papel [handmade paper flowers], to create a collective Ofrenda, a Day of the Dead altar. The afternoon-long festival includes hands-on activities, games, brilliantly decorated altars, and a live performance of Aztec dances by Calpulli Huehuetlatolli. The festivities will close with Mexican appetizers and a *champurrado*, a Mexican chocolate drink, tasting.
