



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MUSEUM OF LATIN AMERICAN ART (MOLAA) IN LONG BEACH
RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS
TO EXPAND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS INTO RIVERSIDE AND SAN BERNADINO COUNTIES**

Long Beach, CA – The Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) is pleased to announce that they have received a \$12,500 grant from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians to support the expansion of the Museum’s Aprende con MOLAA School Tours and Art Workshops program into Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The grant will allow the Museum to provide gallery tours, art workshops and lunch to Inland Empire schools at no cost, serving a total of over 600 students. Currently, MOLAA serves an average of only 1 Inland Empire school per month, or 9 during the academic year.

MOLAA President and CEO Stuart Ashman said, “Even as educators have realized the importance of art education to overall academic success, deep cuts in funding have disabled many arts programs in our area schools. This grant allows the Museum to provide students in the Inland Empire with our signature arts education program, so critical in maximizing their future academic achievements. I would like to thank the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians for their support and commend them for recognizing the importance of both art education and multiculturalism in our society.”

“As Southern Californians we share in a rich cultural history that should also be celebrated and taught through the arts,” said San Manuel Chairperson Carla Rodriguez. “Art education and exposure to the diverse cultures that make up our community helps children better understand and embrace the uniqueness and strengths of our region.”

Aprende con MOLAA is an important educational adjunct curriculum that meets and exceeds the State of California’s curriculum requirements for the visual arts and is available to Southern California schools. MOLAA’s education department delivers standards-based pre- and post-visit educational materials to teachers. These lesson plans allow teachers to reinforce learned

material in multiple environments, dramatically increasing students' ability to retain information. Additionally, MOLAA's accredited instructors and trained volunteers employ Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS), an innovative learner-centered teaching methodology that enhances students' visual literacy and increases language proficiency through facilitated discussions.

For its School Tours and Art Workshops program, MOLAA's trained docents and education staff provide grades K-12 classes with interactive guided tours of the Museum galleries and creative hands-on workshops. Tour leaders review material previously discussed in the classroom setting, encouraging students to connect newly learned concepts to the personal experience of viewing fine art first-hand. For many young people, the gallery tour initiates their first exposure to fine art. Guided tours are followed by hands-on art workshops led by professional artists and arts educators. Students are introduced to elements of Latin American art and experiment with authentic techniques through various media including watercolor, charcoal, graphite, collage and sculpture.

The key elements of the program supported by the grant include conducting research to identify key school districts in San Bernardino, Ontario, Riverside, Fontana, Victorville and Moreno Valley to participate in the program; building a distribution list of key school districts/administrators/teachers in the target communities; performing outreach to the targeted Inland Empire schools to inform them of the availability of funds to participate in MOLAA's School Tours and Art Workshops program and eliminating the visitation barrier by subsidizing the cost of transportation to and from the Museum.

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Museum of Latin American Art, 628 Alamitos Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802

MOLAA Hours: Sun., Wed., Fri. and Sat. 11:00am – 5:00pm Thurs. 11:00am 9:00pm

Admission: \$9.00 General/ \$6.00 Students (w/ID) and Seniors (65+)

Members and children under 12, FREE

About the Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA)

The Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) was founded in 1996 in Long Beach, California and serves the greater Los Angeles area. MOLAA is the only museum in the United States dedicated to modern and contemporary Latin American art. Since its inception, MOLAA has doubled in size and continues to expand its permanent collection, ranging from works by Tamayo and Matta to Cruz-Diez, Los Carpinteros and Tunga. With its physical expansion complete, MOLAA's focus is on strengthening its position as a multidisciplinary institution providing cross-cultural dialogue.

About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as a sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Since time immemorial, the San Manuel tribal community has endured change and hardship. Amidst these challenges the tribe continued to maintain its unique form of governance. Like other governments it seeks to provide a better quality of life for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. Today San Manuel tribal government oversees many governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment.