

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 28, 2007

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Latino Geniuses Reunite in San Antonio October 4-6, 2007

Historic Think Tank of Locos, Dreamers, & Visionaries

18 Latino MacArthur Fellows participate in discussions and events
at San Antonio Campuses and Cultural Venues

SAN ANTONIO, TX – It's not every day that you are in the same room with a genius. A dream team of 18 *MacArturos*, aka Latino/a Geniuses, are convening with local Locos, Dreamers and Visionaries at a wide array of venues throughout San Antonio Thursday, October 4 through Saturday, October 6. All events will be free and open to the public.

The *MacArturos* come from fields as diverse as politics, labor, performance, literacy, housing, history, the visual arts, and health, among other areas. Their aim is to unite with local Locos, Visionaries and Dreamers and to imagine San Antonio ten years forward.

The group first met along with eight other Latino MacArthur fellows in October of 1997. It was called "*Ofrendas del Alma, del Corazón, y de la Mente.*" Efforts this time are aimed at creating a think tank, and encouraging thinking outside the box. For this purpose the *MacArturos* are mixing disciplines, and creating "Dream Circles" with local and invited experts in various fields, as well as the community-at-large. "Dream Circles" will be held at six of the city's colleges and universities, ArtPace, San Fernando, Esperanza Center, Jump-Start, the Guadalupe Cultural Center, Texas Diabetes Institute, McNay Art Museum and the Central Library.

Poet and novelist, Sandra Cisneros, who was awarded the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship in 1995, dreamed of this gathering and invited her fellow *MacArturos* to gather in San Antonio.

The 18 *MacArturos* are: **Joan Abrahamson**, community development leader; **Luis Alfaro**, writer and performance artist; **Joaquin Avila**, voting rights advocate; **Ruth**

Behar, cultural anthropologist; **John C. Bonifaz**, lawyer and voting rights advocate; **Sandra Cisneros**, writer; **Guillermo Gómez-Peña**, writer and interdisciplinary artist; **Pedro José Greer Jr.**, physician and community health specialist; **Ramón Gutiérrez**, historian; **John Jesurun**, playwright and director; **Rueben Martinez**, bookseller; **Amalia Mesa-Baines**, artist and cultural critic; **Hugo Morales**, radio producer; **Cecilia Muñoz**, civil rights policy analyst; **Hipolito (Paul) Roldan**, community developer; **Maria Varela**, community development leader; **Baldemar Velasquez**, farm labor leader and **Camilo José Vergara**, photographer.

About *Los MacArturos*

Los MacArturos are Latino recipients of the MacArthur Fellowship, the "genius grant." The group's mission is to assist each other in their individual activist efforts, and to share their creativity and expertise within and across *la comunidad*. The *MacArturos* first united ten years ago in San Antonio with the goal of inspiring Latino youth. Since then, the group has nearly doubled in size to include people from all walks of life, but each a catalyst for change. *Los MacArturos* is sponsored by the City of San Antonio Office of Cultural Affairs.

About The MacArthur Foundation

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation is a private, independent grant making institution dedicated to helping groups and individuals foster lasting improvement in the human condition. Through the support it provides, the Foundation fosters the development of knowledge, nurtures individual creativity, strengthens institutions, helps improve public policy, and provides information to the public, primarily through support for public interest media.

The MacArthur Fellows Program awards five-year, unrestricted fellowships to individuals across all ages and fields who show exceptional merit and promise of continued creative work.

Public Event Schedule

Thursday, October 4

- 2:00 pm** **Press Conference and Reception** **Esperanza Peace and Justice Center**
922 San Pedro
Contact: Graciela Sánchez 210-228-0201
- 6:00 pm** **Reception and Opening Ceremony** **UTSA, Downtown Campus**
Buena Vista Building
501 W. Durango Blvd.
Contact: Ellen Riojas Clark 210-722-0024

Friday, October 5

- 10:00 am** **Border Crossers: Art in a Time of Crisis** **Jump-Start Performance Company**
108 Blue Star
Contact: Paul Rodriguez 210-227-JUMP
- 10:00 am** **Dream of a Perfect World: What is San Antonio's Vision for the Future?** **University of the Incarnate Word**
4301 Broadway
Marion Hall Ballroom
Contact: Rosie Castro 210-273-7942
- 2:00 pm** **Envisioning a World Without Borders** **Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center**
1300 Guadalupe Street
Contact: Dan Gonzalez 210-271-3151
- 2:00 pm** **Honoring La Madre Tierra** **San Antonio College**
1300 San Pedro
Loftin Student Center, Fiesta Room
Contact: Oscar San Miguel 210-733-2496
- 5:00 pm** **Brujas Locas: Photo Exhibit of First San Antonio MacArturo Gathering** **Esperanza Peace and Justice Center**
922 San Pedro
Contact: Graciela Sánchez 210-228-0201
- 8:00 pm** **The Spirit The Moves Us: Testimonies and Songs of the Spirit** **San Fernando Cathedral**
115 West Main Plaza
Contact: Jo Azios joazios@hotmail.com

Saturday, October 6

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| 10:00 am | Heroes and Saints:
Looking Backwards
And Forward
<i>Contact: Arturo Madrid</i> | Trinity University
Holt Conference Center
(Corner of Shook and Oakmont)
amadrid@trinity.edu |
| 10:00 am | Dreaming of a Space
of Our Own

<i>Marisela Chavez</i> | Our Lady of the Lake University
411 SW 24 th Street
Providence Hall, Providence West
Social Room
chavma@lake.ollusa.edu |
| <i>continued</i> | | |
| 10:00 am | Dream of Well-Being:
Body, Mind and Spirit
<i>Contact: Jo Azios</i> | Texas Diabetes Institute
701 South Zarzamora Street
joazios@hotmail.com |
| 10:00 am | Voto y Voz

<i>Contact Rosie Castro</i> | St. Mary's University
One Camino Santa Maria
Conference Room A
210-273-7942 |
| 3:00 pm | Latin@Genius: Our Visions

<i>Contact: Ellen Riojas Clark</i> | UTSA, Downtown Campus
501 W. Durango Blvd.
Room: BV 1.326
clark_ellen@sbcglobal.net |
| 8:00 pm | The Mexorcist 2:
American's Most Wanted Inner
Demon (Theatre Performance)
Marisela Barrera | UTSA, Downtown Campus
501 W. Durango Blvd.
Theatre, Room BV 1.326
210-289-0219 |

A complete schedule of activities, background information, and updates are posted on www.mysanantonio.com key word Genius and at www.sandraxisneros.com.

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