

News Release

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¡Mano a Mano Festival Mexicano!

PRESS CONTACT: ANGELICA DIAZ

phone: 646-765-0619 email: angelica_a_diaz@hotmail.com

The Mexican Community Cultural Initiative at the **Center for Traditional Music and Dance** in collaboration with the **Mano a Mano Committee** and the **Instituto de México in New York** is planning an exciting community-based celebration of Mexican culture, **Mano a Mano Festival Mexicano**, to be held from noon to 7:00 pm on Sunday June 15th at the Taller Boricua Gallery, on Lexington Avenue (between 105th and 106th Streets). A day of fun-filled cultural activities has been planned to reflect the range of talents and interests of the Mexican community living in the New York area.

The festival will be an all afternoon affair, with workshops and informative exhibits as well as scheduled performances. The event will culminate with a Gran Baile. Here is a taste of what is planned. (Program is subject to change.)

El Show: Performances in the Auditorium. A full program is planned with music, played by the Mariachi Real de Mexico and by students at our own Mariachi Academy of New York, and música ranchera, featuring Yolanda Leticia. Dance performances will include the Ballet Folklórico de Nueva York, Cetiliztli Nauhcampa Quetzalcoatl en Ixachitlan, (dancers in the Aztec tradition) and a troupe of Chinelos. Radio personality Rosy Oros (Rosita) will emcee this exciting survey of Mexican creative forms.

El Tianguis: Workshops and Exhibitions. Visitors will enter into a large open air market filled with booths, or tianguis, with paper cut flags fluttering above and a range of ongoing activities. Highlights will include demonstrations on the different types of chile used in Mexican cooking and traditional medicine, playing the lotería, making paper crafts, masks and pre-Columbian arts, and face-painting inspired by the sacred animals of the Aztecs. Visitors can get their pictures taken “a la Mexicana” and find important information on community services.

Gran Baile. The day will conclude in the early evening with a festive Gran Baile. Suspenso del Norte will electrify dancers with their stunning mix of música norteña, cumbia, quebradita, huapango, polka and rock. This culminating celebration may begin with a raffle to benefit the Mariachi Academy of New York. The Gran Baile will be an exciting dance celebration for the whole family to enjoy!

Antojitos mexicanos. Food is always a key element in celebrations and arrangements are being made to assemble a host of vendors who will sell favorite Mexican finger foods: tamales and tacos, elotes (roasted corn-on-the-cob), Mexican soft drinks and licuados (fruit drinks), cotton candy, churros (flour fritters), raspados (flavored, shaved ices) and multi-colored gelatinas (gelatin desserts) are possible offerings.

We look forward to welcoming you at Mano a Mano Festival Mexicano on June 15th. For program information and updates contact Project Director, Emily Socolov at esocolov@ctmd.org or 212-571-1555 x35.

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