



Honoring Our Past, Envisioning Our Future

September 16, 2015

Dear Friends, Supporters & Volunteers,

Since 1992 Raíces Culturales Latinoamericanas, Inc. has fulfilled its mission to support, promote, and increase public awareness of the richness, beauty, and diversity of Latin American cultures and their roots through performing and visual arts, and dynamic educational programs. The Board of Directors, after extensive consideration, has made the prudent and responsible, though difficult decision in this economic operating environment to close the professional operations of Raíces Culturales Latinoamericanas Inc. effective December 31, 2015.

This was a difficult decision, but a necessary one when considering the best interests for the organization and our community. The focus of philanthropic funding and resources has changed dramatically in recent years and the competition for these resources continues to increase. While Raíces received tremendous support and participation, our model of operations is no longer sustainable. We are proceeding at this juncture while we are able to fully meet all of our obligations and bring closure responsibly and without outstanding liabilities. Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the multitude of passionate artists, performers, volunteers, staff, funders, and community and civic partners who committed their time, talent, resources and most of all, their heart and soul to Raíces over these 24 years. We admire and salute you all.

A group of committed individuals, led by Raíces' founders Michael Esposito and Yolanda Alcorta, have joined together to explore the potential of continuing Raíces' legacy. Their plan is to launch Raíces...Returning to Our Roots in January 2016. You will be hearing from them in the months to come. We wish them great success in their efforts.

We are proud that we were able to reach close to half a million people in the Latino community and community at large with *Tertulias*, cultural and educational performances and showcases; workshops, classes, community jam sessions (*descargas*), interactive arts programming and festivals. Our goal is still to give voice to those who are often not heard within our society, to challenge stereotypes and to empower, stimulate and inspire individuals and communities to explore diverse cultures and seek common ground. We are proud to have met this goal for the past 24 years and know that this will live on through the partnerships and individuals it was our privilege to serve.

Very truly yours,

Harry Perales
President, Board of Directors

Mary Rivera
Executive Director

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